

Ban Tbeh Jingshai

To Kindle The Light . . .

A quarterly newsletter of the Education Committee, UUNEI

Volume 1 Issue 1

September - November 2009 Issue

This issue of the newsletter **Ban Tbeh Jingshai** is specially produced by the Education Committee for the benefit of the teachers serving at our Unitarian schools in Meghalaya and North East, India.

Inside this issue

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Teachers, Students and others are requested to send their **write-ups** for the next issue of the special newsletter of the Education Committee, the **Ban Tbeh Jingshai** to the Secretary of the Education Committee, Dr. C Nongbri or by email to: creamlimon@gmail.com khlor678@gmail.com or dvonne@gmail.com. All write ups in this newsletter are not intended to hurt the sentiments of anyone but merely a means in which the Education Committee wants to improve the quality of education in Schools run by the Unitarian Union, North East India.

MESSAGE



It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the Education Committee of the Unitarian Union of North East India in collaboration with the Bowland Trust is bringing out a newsletter on its various programmes and activities.

I am sure that this publication will receive a warm welcome and support from all quarters. I hope that this newsletter will not only strengthen the spirit of friendship and partnership in their service to the under privileged and the needy.

I share in your joy and look forward to working together with you to further your yeomen and commendable service.

On behalf of all Unitarian Congregations in North East India, I send my blessings and best wishes.

May God the Heavenly Father shower His blessings on each and everyone involved in this project.

TO NANG ROI



Rev Derrick Pariat
President, Unitarian Union, NEI

Members of the EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ms N Nongbri (Chairperson)
Dr (Ms) C Nongbri (Secretary)

Members:

Ms Moltifera Rani
Phromiwell Lyngdoh
DKB Mukhim
Ohiwot Laloo
Teibor Passah
Wanpher Muttyen
Player Marboh
Ms Karuna Lamar

Ex - Officio members

General Secretary UUNEI
Financial Secretary UUNEI



Students praying before meal at school



Ms N Nongbri, a retired Lecturer at the Lady Keane College, Shillong, has been serving as the Chairperson of the Education Committee for many years now. Besides being its founder secretary, she is also the Executive Member of the Unitarian Union, North East India. She has been instrumental in the publishing of this newsletter, **Ban Tbeh Jingshai**.

DKB Mukhim (Khlur), a Lecturer at the Lady Keane College, Shillong, is also a co-founder of the successful SAS program along with Rev Eva Cameron during 2002.

Despite his busy schedule, he has been instrumental in the process of publishing the **Ban Tbeh Jingshai** newsletter.



Ms M Rani, a retired Teacher at the Shillong Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Shillong, is a founding member of the Education Committee of the Unitarian Union. Her long valuable service to the Committee is acknowledged. May God bless her.

PREFACE

The Unitarian Union of North East India had created the Education Committee in 1980 to oversee the establishment and proper functioning of Unitarian schools. This committee comprises of voluntary members of the Union to perform its duties and responsibilities entrusted to it as per its directives. The committee also performs its duties as expected to the satisfaction of the Union. Initially, for more than 15 years the committee faced many problems in its journey especially with financial matters, but luckily it has overcome most of these difficulties. The list of some of those who have greatly helped the committee includes the IARF (international association for religious freedom), the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association, USA), the GA (General Assembly, UK), some concerned individuals from America and England and also many kind hearted members of the Union and members of the Education Committee. The Bowland Trust deserves special mention as it encourages the Committee to publish its own Newsletter. The Committee is very grateful to the government for its encouragement and great financial assistance.

The Education Committee strives very hard to bring its schools at par with other schools in the state. The schools are doing well in state examinations and have shown their discipline during school meets, sports and other activities. The Committee is always alert to guide the teachers and has conducted several trainings for their benefits and make them aware about the changes made by the Government, since its inception the teachers welcomed these trainings and worked with sincerity and dedication, forgetting their small salary and their hard work pays as such the committee was able to upgrade many schools, from lower primary in the beginning then to upper primary schools and upto secondary schools, which are considered to be an achievement in our standard.

The committee has full faith in the teachers as students are doing well and numbers are growing from year to year. The teachers are taking full responsibilities for the upliftment of the poor students to become responsible citizens of the country as they have shown in these last two decades.

This newsletter also contains an extract from the Training manual of the then State Council of Educational Research and Training. I am sure this issue of the Newsletter and subsequent issues will give its readers the information they require and they are welcomed to enquire the performances of the teachers, students and committee and together we all work in tandem.

We are confident that through the Newsletter we shall be able to bring closer the relationship between teachers and students, and to put in writing all materials relating to improve the teaching and learning process. It will also serve as reference material for teachers not only in Unitarian schools but for all concerned in the state.

“TONANG ROI”

N. Nongbri
Chairperson, Education Committee
UUNEI

A History of the A. Margaret Barr Children's Village

- by *Catie Scudera*



When Dee Idnani (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax) visited the Khasi Hills in 2004, she was met with a sizable request from the Unitarian Union: aid to help build and support a Unitarian-run orphanage in Meghalaya. At the time, Reverend Nangroi Suting had registered about 20 orphans in the Unitarian Khasi/Jaintia community who were in need of a new home.

Starting in the fall 2006, Kong Dee and I partnered to raise funds in the U.S., while in Meghalaya, UUNEI members worked to find the perfect location for our Children's Village. In spring 2008, Kong Dee and I reached our funding goal. As well, the UUNEI decided on Kharang Village as the new orphanage's location. British Unitarian Annie Margaret Barr was an active social worker in Meghalaya in the 1930's until her passing in 1973. One of her many social projects was an orphanage in Kharang, which was disbanded after her passing. We believed that a new Kharang orphanage named in Kong Barr's honor would be perfect. The Kharang Rural Centre (also a project of Kong Barr) donated a significant plot of land in the summer of 2008, and construction of the A. Margaret Barr Children's Village began in August.

For six months, I worked with the UUNEI's Orphanage Management Committee, led by Carleywell Lyngdoh, on architectural designs, policies for accepting children, and finding excellent "mothers" to take care of our orphans. Our construction workers have also done an admirable job, and are close to completing our very sizable house. We hired two "mothers" from Wahmawlein, and both of them completed six weeks of training in Shillong and in New Delhi through the S.O.S. Children's Village organization before taking their post.

On February 28, 2009, we had our Inauguration Ceremony to officially open the Children's Village. All of the attendees dedicated themselves to the sustention of the Children's Village. We are currently taking care of 14 children from Mawlat, Nongkrem, Padu, Puriang, and Wahmawlein. Our youngest child is almost 3, and the eldest child is 15. All of them are enrolled in local Unitarian schools, Mawsynjri Lower Primary or Kong Barr Secondary School.

Please read my blog (<http://cmskhulei.wordpress.com>) or contact me (caties@gmail.com) or Dee Idnani (didnani@yahoo.com) for more information.

ANNIE MARGARET BARR SECONDARY SCHOOL, KHARANG

- By Wanpher Muttyent,
Secretary, SMC

Rev. A. Margaret Barr and the people of the Phra-Shnong villages i.e. Kharang, Pingwait, Dienglieng, Mawlien, Tanglei, Umsning, Syniasya and Nongjrong with one goal to uplift and remove the backwardness of the area as a whole and under the able leadership of (L) Filhope Pohshna, Phromiwel Lyngdoh and others had setup the School in the year 1968 so as to be able to educate the poor students of this area who are not able to go for further studies outside the above villages.

As a mark of remembrance for her dedication, upliftment, even before the school is setup so the

Phra-shnong took up the responsibility to carry on the work of (Late) ANNIE MARGARET BARR in educating the people of the Phra-shnong area by founding THE ANNIE MARGARET BARR SECONDARY SCHOOL, KHARANG formerly known as KONG BARR MEMORIAL PROCEEDING HIGH SCHOOL, PHRA SHNONG which was up graded from the UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL in the year 1988, after the school was free of the financial burden to run and maintain the Upper Primary School, the Managing Committee under the able leadership of the (late) Secretary SHRI FILHOPE POHSHNA and the President of the school SHRI PHROMIWELL LYNGDOH.

The Upper Primary Section was placed in the Government Deficit System in the year 1984 whereas the Secondary Section is still in the Adhoc Pattern, the Secondary Section was recognized by the MEGHALAYA BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION on the 12th May 2005. Within the school campus there is also a hostel

ENROLMENT OF THE STUDENTS FOR THE LAST 11 YEARS

ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

Year	Class V	Class VI	Class VII	Class VIII	Class IX	Class X	Total Enrolment
1999	27	26	17	29	14	11	124
2000	34	24	19	19	20	09	125
2001	27	25	18	12	13	10	105
2002	26	24	17	15	09	07	98
2003	32	26	17	18	10	09	112
2004	31	25	26	12	11	20	125
2005	51	32	24	29	12	15	163
2002	26	24	17	15	09	07	98
2003	32	26	17	18	10	09	112
2004	31	25	26	12	11	20	125
2005	51	32	24	29	12	15	163
2006	53	38	26	45	20	12	194
2007	53	47	38	35	35	19	227
2008	42	45	42	41	34	30	234
2009	58	45	44	48	41	27	263

PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE ARE :-

SL.NO.	NAME OF THE MEMBERS	DESIGNATION
1.	Mr Phromiwel Lyngdoh	President
2.	Mr Wanpher Muttyent	Secretary
3.	Mr Player Marboh	Joint Secretary
4.	Smt. Ailand Lyngdoh	Teachers' Representatives
5.	Smt. S. Nongpluh	- do -
6.	Mr Maharot suting	Parents' Representatives
7.	Smt. Phrein Kharbithai	- do -
8.	Mr M.N. Mukhim	Donor
9.	Mr D.K.B Mukhim	Nominated members
10.	Mr Kobar Suting.	- do -
11.	Mr Yesroi Pde	- do -
12.	Mr Galander Kharmudai	- do -

meant for girls coming from distant villages. The hostel was build from the donation received from Rev. John Rex, a Unitarian Minister from USA and this being the first contribution/donation received from outside.

The new hostel building has been a great help especially student coming from far off areas and also the charging is nominal i.e. at a low rate which till date it is being at a rate of Rs 25/- per month only. The school had been affiliated with the Unitarian Union (NEI) on the 20th October 2000 and thus this paved the way of getting the sponsor a student program from Pittsburgh a Congregation of the UUA, USA which continues till date. Thus this program has greatly helped the people of this area especially the poor students to carry on their study until they finish their tenth grade.

The school is able to keep going under the hard work of the former Headmistress Mrs Rophimai Kharbithai and (late) Mr F. Pohshna, secretary of the Managing Committee along with Mr Phromiwel Lyngdoh as the President.

And in recent years, under the abled leadership of Mr W. Muttyent as the Secretary (2000 till date) / Headmaster (1998) and also Mr Khlur Mukhim as adviser and active member, the school have progressed and developed quickly both in terms of enrolment and infrastructure. In August, 2007 Mr W. Muttyent resigned from the post of Headmaster as he got a government job and in his place Mr P. Marboh, Asstt. Headmaster took over as the Headmaster.

A BRIEF REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- by Dr C Nongbri

Secretary of the Education Committee

The Unitarian Union runs schools as part of its social justice programme furthering the pioneering work of Babu Hajom Kissor Singh, the founder of Unitarian Faith in Khasi, Jaintia and Karbi Anglong. The programme got expanded with the support received from the IARF after the visit of Lucie Meijer and Christine Hayhurst in 1980. Many schools were established then which necessitated the formation of the Education Committee. The Education Committee of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India is a standing committee which is responsible for the oversight of all Unitarian schools in the region. The Education Committee is given the responsibility to run the schools of the Union and to see that they are functioning properly. It takes necessary action to see that quality teaching learning is taking place in the schools.

The Unitarian Union has given the Education Committee the following responsibilities:

- **Appointing teachers**
- **Building/repairing school buildings**
- **Providing furniture for schools.**
- **Providing free textbook**
- **Giving training to teachers.**
- **Any other as per the needs of the schools.**

Each school has its own School Managing Committee, under the guidance of the local Unitarian church. Most schools are located in the church premises or its vicinity, and many use the Sunday school space. Some even use the church sanctuary. All schools are secular and are open to all children of the community. Instruction at the Lower Primary Schools is in Khasi language. At the Upper Primary and Secondary stages, the medium of instruction is English. Most of the schools in the past, received some financial support from the UUA. After its withdrawal of the funds to

the schools, the Union is facing financial constraints. Many of the schools currently receive help from the Government in the form of salary of the teachers, building grants etc. However, there are still some schools that are yet to be recognized and aided by the government.

It is heartening to report that there has been progress in the functioning of the schools and at present there are in

Sl.No.	Name of Schools	Name of Sponsoring Bodies
1.	Unitarian L.P. School, Mawkisyiem	First UU Congregation, Ann Arbor, Michigan
2.	AM Barr Secondary School, Kharang	First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh
3.	Unitarian Secondary School, Puriang	UU Congregation of Fairfax.
4.	AMB Upper Primary School, Lawsohtun	Clearwater FL
5.	Nongtarian L.P.School	UU Congregation of Cedar Falls, Iowa
6.	ULP School, Mawblang(Kyrdem)	River Road UU, Bethesda, Maryland
7.	ULP School, Mawkria	Accotink UU Congregation in Burke, Virginia
8.	ULP School, Wahmawlein	Mankato MN
9.	Mawlatbah ULP School	Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Virginia
10.	Unitarian UP, School Khyndewso	First UU Congregation of Minneapolis,MN
11.	Kharang Friendship and H.K.Singh Smit	UU Congregation of East Shore Bellevue
12.	ULP Kut	UU Congregation of Sterling, VA
13.	ULP School, Padu	UU Congregation of Long Beach, California
14.	ULP School, Nongkrem	First UU Congregation of Chigaco, IL

total 35 schools, 4 of which have secondary sections, 12 have upper primary sections and all of them have Lower Primary and Pre- primary sections with the total strength of 205 teachers. Many of these teachers are sponsored by the Government of Meghalaya in different forms; some of them by the Managing Committee and the sponsors from UUA. The Education Committee, Unitarian Union list of schools is as shown below:

Sponsorships from the Unitarian Universalist Congregations of America (UUA):

We are pleased to note that our brothers and sisters from different congregations of the UUA in the United States have been extending their helping hands under the initiative and continued support of Rev Eva Cameron from the USA and the support of Khlor Mukhim from this end. The programme was started in 2002 and has received further support from Dee Idnani, the Administrator of the Partner Church, who visits almost every year. Some of our schools and churches are being covered under the Sponsor-A-Student Programme and the Partner Church Council Project (SAS / PCC). The following are some of the schools with their sponsors:

In 2004, as the sponsorships through the SAS / PCC Programmes expanded, the Committee brought forward the idea of having the Joint Coordination Office (JCO). The Board of the Unitarian Union gave its approval and a Committee was constituted known as Joint Steering Council (JSC) comprising of the Members from the USA and the Education Committee members. However, the JSC is yet to take up its job. Rev Eva helped the creation of the Website of Sponsor-A-Student Programme (www.uu-sas.org).

Besides the direct funding, our churches/schools receive sponsorships in the form of Foster Children Programme and Scholarships for the needy students pursuing Para-medical and other courses. There are also sponsorships from groups of individuals and individual members.

Meghalaya Education Fund from United Kingdom:

We are pleased to report that the Education Committee received a sponsorship called Meghalaya Education Fund from United Kingdom (UK) in the form of Book Grant through the initiative taken by Barbara Smith, who first visited the Khasi Hills in 2005. She also gave training to teachers in

(continue on page 6)

Teachers serving AMB Secondary school during the last 5 years

1. Mr W. Mutyent
2. Mrs Rophimai Kharbithai
3. Mrs Throida Shylla
4. Mr Bandilson Kharbithai
5. Mrs Nidalin Kharbithai
6. Mr Player Marboh
7. Mrs. Sharila Nongpluh
8. Mrs Kloramai Kharbithai
9. Mrs Ailand Lyngdoh
10. Mrs Pretty Kharduit
11. Mr Nangroi Suting
12. Ms Memorialda Dykes
13. Mr. Raymond C. Khriam
14. Mr Pynshailang Marbaniang
15. Mrs Thwissila Kharbithai
16. Mr Phlin Diengdoh (Peon)

LIST OF UNITARIAN SCHOOLS AS IN MAY 2009

Figures in brackets indicate those teachers sponsored by the school managing committees

A. LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Sl. No	Name of LP/ UP School	Teachers paid by Govt/MC	Teachers paid by SAS/PCC	Teachers paid by UUNEI	Total
01	HKS (Jowai)	6(2)	0	0	8
02	Kurimai (Jowai)	4	0	0	4
03	Ksehrynshang	2	0	0	2
04	Wahjasngi	2	0	0	2
06	Rud Myntdu	3	0	0	3
07	Rev D Edwards6	0	1	7	
08	Padu	3	0	0	3
09	Nongtalang (English)	4	0	0	4
10	Umkhymi	0	0	2	2
11	Rongkimi	0	0	1	1
12	Puriang	2	4	0	6
13	Kut	3	0	0	3
14	Kharang	3	0	2	5
15	Mawsynjri	3	0	0	3
16	Pingwait	2	0	2	4
17	Dienglieng	3	0	0	3
18	Madanlangning	3	0	0	3
19	Mawlatbah	4	0	0	4
20	Mawkria	0	0	2	2
21	Wahmawleñ	3	0	0	3
22	Smit	3	0	0	3
23	Nongkrem ULP	3	0	1	4
24	Hedrik Unitarian	(3)	0	0	3
25	Lawsotun	2	7	0	9
26	Tynring	0	3	0	3
27	Kyrdem	3	0	0	3
28	Khyndewso	5	0	1	6
29	Klew	3	0	0	3
30	Nongtarian	0	3	0	3
31	Nongwar	2	0	1	3
32	Mawkisyiem	4	0	0	4
33	Bowland PAD Loona	3	0	1	4
34	Sunderland	3	0	0	3
35	Friendship, Kharang	0	2	0	2
		87+ (5)	19	14	125

B. UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

01	HKS (Jowai)	(6)	0	0	6
02	Rev D Edwards	4	0	0	4
03	Puriang	0	6	0	6
04	AM Barr (Kharang)	5	0	0	5
05	Mawlatbah	0	3	0	3
06	Hedrik Unitarian	4	0	0	4
07	Khyndewso	0	0	3	3
08	Kurimai	4	0	0	4
09	Nongtalang	4	0	0	4
10	Tynring (Proceeding)	0	1	0	0
11	Sunderland	0	5	0	5
12	HK Singh, Smit	0	2	0	2
		21+ (6)	15	3	46

C. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

01	HKS (Jowai)	3(5)	0	0	8
02	AM Barr	5	0	0	5
03	Puriang	0	6	0	6
04	Sunderland Proceeding	0	5	0	5
		8+ (5)	6	0	24

GRAND TOTALA + B + C = 205

KI KYNDON PYNIAID SKUL KA EDUCATION COMMITTEE**UNITARIAN UNION (NORTH EAST INDIA)**

[Na ka bynta baroh ki Skul kiba hap hapoh ka Unitarian Union (NEI) naduh ki lower primary, upper primary, haduh ki secondary bad higher secondary school]

1. JINGTHUNG KAM NONGHIKAI.

- Kan don ka Selection Council jong ka Education Committee, ka ban kynthup 5 (san) ngut ki dkhot kiba yn jied bad thung hi da ka Education Committee man la ka 2 (ar) snem. Kan kynthup ruh ia uwei u nongmihkhmat na ka Managing Committee.
- Ki nonghikai kiba la thung hadien ka jingtrei kam kane ka Council lane kiba la recommend da ka Selection Council bad thung da ka Education Committee, kin don hapoh ka probation period kaba 2 (ar) snem naduh ka tarik ba ki join ha ka kam.
- Ki kyrdan jingpass ba don kam na ka bynta ki post nonghikai kin long kat kum ka jingbuh na ka Education Department jong ka Sorkar Meghalaya.
- Haba don ki parabangeit bad kiba na kiwei pat ki Balang kiba apply ia ka kam, haba kiwei kiwei ki kyndon ki ia ryngkat,ka jingjied (preference) kan kham long ia ki parabangeit.

Note:Ki School Managing Committee ki bym donkam ia ka Council ha ka ba thungkam ia ki nonghikai ki lah ban don la ka jong ka Selection Committee bad ban thung member ha katei ka Committee kat kum ka jingibit jongki bad ba kin co-opt ia kino kino ki dkhot ka Education Committee.

2. JINGSIEW TULOP NONGHIKAI.

- Ka Education Committee kan buh dor ryntih ia ki tulop jong ki nonghikai ha ki skul ba siew tulop da ka Union ha ki kyrdan bapher bapher na ka por sha ka por kat kum ba la mang ha ka budget ba la pdiang da ka Senglang,Unitarian Union,N.E.India. Ka list ki tulop nonghikai ha ki kyrdan ba pher ba pher ka dei ban don kopi ha u Chairman* bad u Secretary* ka Education Committee bad ha u General Secretary* ka Unitarian Union de.
- Ka Education Committee kan ialeh katba lah ban siew tulop shisien shi bnai ia la ki nonghikai. Ym lah ban siew tulop lypa (advance) ia ki nonghikai namar kane kan pynthut shibun ha ka por ba audit bad ai jingkein sha ki bor Sorkar/sha ka finance committee ka Senglang.

3. JINGIEH NOH KAM.

- Ka Education Committee kan don ka bor ban pdiang ne kyntait ia ka jingieh noh kam ki nonghikai halor ka recommendation jong ka M/C.
- Ka Education Committee ka lah ruh ban pynsangeh kam (suspend) ia kino kino ki nonghikai kiba pynthut ne pyndkoh ia ka jingiaid beit jong ka sku halor ka recommendaton jong ka M/C.
- Ka Education Committee kan don ruh ka bor ban weng kam (terminate) ia kino kino ki nonghikai kiba leh mon palat bad bym kohnguh ia ki kyndon pyniaid kam jong ka halor ka recommendation ka M/C.

(Ban bteng ha ka ishu ka ban wan...)

Shillong, followed by her demonstration classes in selected schools in the following year. She raised fund for giving free textbooks to the needy children. She also visited certain schools and had constructive interactions with their teachers.

Building Grant from Bowland Trust, United Kingdom:

The Committee received a Building Grant in 2006 as one time grant in two installments from Mr Tony Cann through the Bowland Charitable Trust for (1) The Nongtarian L.P. School and (2) Hedrick Memorial Unitarian English School, Nongkrem and (3) Unitarian English School, Nongtalang. The construction of the three schools (namely, Hedrick Memorial Unitarian School, Nongkrem, Unitarian L.P School, Nongtarian, and extension of the Nongtalang English medium school) was fully completed and a utilization report was also sent to the Trust. The school building at Nongkrem was inaugurated on 10th February, 2007. The Education Committee feels indebted to Mr Tony Cann, who has contributed so much for the cause of education. He has recently made further contribution so that the Education Committee can publish its own Newsletter for which this Secretary's report is being prepared.

Training For Teachers:

The Education Committee conducted regular trainings for the teachers and in the year 2008 Mark and Nancy Kinney were the main Resource persons. The five-day training was held at H.K. Singh Secondary School, Jowai. The Education Committee received financial assistance from four Congregations for this purpose. It also collected donations from local Unitarian Union Church members and well wishers. This had helped the Education Committee to have a follow-up training the whole year round thereafter. This year also another teachers' training was conducted in January 2009 at the Adventist Training Centre, Thadlaskein in Jaintia Hills.

Appointment of the Office Assistant:

All the officials of the Education Committee have been working voluntarily without any honorarium till date in spite of the heavy workload. Having received the donation from the Big Hearts from Ann Arbor as mentioned above, the Education Committee was encouraged to appoint its Office Assistant and the Unitarian Union's approval was duly obtained. The Union called for applications for the post of the Office Assistant. The advertisement was done, through wide publicity amongst Unitarians and the Walk-in-Interview was conducted by the President and the General Secretary of the Unitarian Union. As no one turned up for the interview, the General Secretary personally contacted Mr D. Banjop Mukhim. He was found fit for the post. He was given the appointment with effect from May 2007 at a fixed salary of Rs 3000/-p.m. to help the Education Committee with an understanding that he would adjust his work with a private company accordingly.

Visit of Dorothy Hewerdine:

Dorothy Hewerdine, the representative of the Bowland Trust (accompanied by her husband, John Hewerdine) visited the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in October 2007 to oversee the construction of the school buildings of the three schools which was sanctioned last year and to explore possibility for future Projects with the Unitarian Union. They expressed satisfaction over the proper utilization of the fund provided.

Contribution from the Members of the Committee:

The members of the Education Committee deserve all appreciation for their continuing support and contributions. Besides inspecting the schools from time to time, meeting the government officials for financial help to schools, the members have voluntarily raised fund for the salary of certain teachers. Some members even paid certain contingencies of some schools without the notice of the Committee. These kind gestures are highly appreciated.

Teachers' Welfare Fund:

It is a matter of pride to report that not only the members of the Committee come forward to help the schools but the teachers also have instituted a general fund named the "Schools and Teachers' Welfare Fund". All the teachers who receive government salary (which is relatively quite substantial compared to non-government salary) donated to this fund for the welfare of the schools and teachers. This has mitigated the financial constraints of the Unitarian Union to certain extent. The teachers deserve a big THANKYOU for their kindness and sense of responsibility to share the burden of the Unitarian Union. This fund has helped to pay the salary of officiating teachers when regular teachers go on maternity/other medical leave.

Donation from the Women's Wing of the Unitarian Union:

The Education Committee expresses its gratitude to the Women's Wing (Seng Kynthei of the Unitarian Union) for their regular contribution towards Education fund, which is another great help.

Utilization of Funds:

It may be mentioned that the Education Committee, UUNEI has been able to carry out many activities because of the support and help it receives from all concerned without which the Committee would have been handicapped. Funds received from Donors are being utilized for the purpose they are meant for. There is no denial of the fact that the Committee has tried its best to improve its style of functioning. But it needs concerted efforts to further strengthen the work of the Committee. So, I appeal to everyone to extend their helping hands in our endeavour to give our young ones the fundamental right to education and help them lead a better life.

The work of the Education Committee requires money, moral support, encouragement, cooperation, constructive criticism and more. In conclusion, I, on behalf of the Education Committee, Unitarian Union, and on my own behalf express sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors, the officials of the Unitarian Union, the teachers, and to all those who have directly and indirectly helped us in various ways.

BAN TBEH JINGSHAI
(To Kindle the Light).

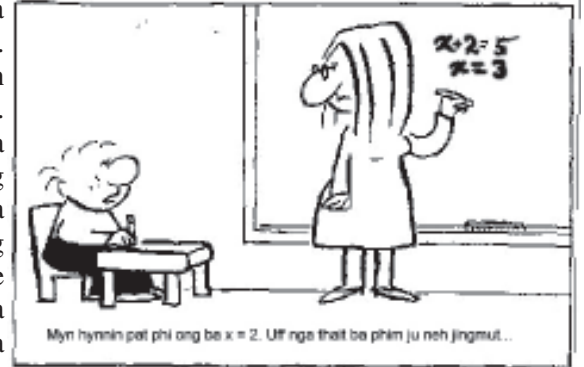
KA JINGHIKAI LA KA MATHEMATICS

Ki jingmut tynrai (concepts) bad ki buit ki lad (strategies)

{ Dr. V P Gupta Dr. IK Bansal, NCERT La pynwan sha ka khasi da I Bah RVR Lyngdoh bad Bah (L) KM Syiem, SCERT, Meghalaya (1997) }

Ka jinglamphrang:

Ha kane ka juk jong ka saians bad Technology (ka jing pyntrei kam ia ka saians), ka nongrim ba khlain na ka mathematics ka long kaba donkam bha. Ka mathematics ka donkam ha kaba hikai ia ki khynnah ban pyrkhath; ban pynshongnia, ban pharia (analyze) bad ban buh ryntih ter ter ia kiei kiei. Nalor kata, ka long ka bynta ba ia snoh bad kano kano ka subjek kaba donkam ia ka jingpharia ba jingpynwan nia. Dei na kane ka daw bala pdiang ia ka mathematics kum ka bynta bym lah lait jong ka jingpule haduh ka kyrdan secondary bad kum ka subjek kaba baroh ki dei ban pule. Ka long kaba donkam eh ban pruiid dak bad pyntreikam bha ia ki bynta pule (curriculum) jong ka mathematics ha ka kyrdan bapher jong ka jingpule ha skol. Dei ka bynta pule bad ka rukom hikai kaba la rai la I khynnah in don ka jingsngewtynnad ne jingisih ia kane ka subjek ha ki snem ki ban wan.



I. KI JINGPEIT HALOR KI BYNTA BAN PULE:

(i) Ki kyrdan rit (Minimum levels of learning)

Ha ki kyrdan primary, ia ki bynta pule (curriculum) jong ka Mathematics la pynkhreh /shna ha kata ka rukom ba kin iarap ban wan rah ha ki khynnah ia ka jingsngewthuh ia ki jingmut tynrai da ki jingshem lade lyngba kiei kiei kiba don sawdong jongngi. Ha kane ka kyrdan ym dei ban pynshitom ia I nongpule da ka bynta pule kaba khia palat, namar kine ka lah ban pynraij ia ka pyrkhath jong I bad pyniap syndon ia ka jingsngewtynnad ia ka subjek, khamtam lei lei namar ba kiba kham bun na ki nongpule ha ka kyrdan primary ki dei kito kiba wan na ki iing kiba shitom bad kiba long ruh ka patemg ba nyngkong ban shongskul. Ha ka kyrdan primary, la kynthup tang ia ki bynta ba donkam eh ban sngewthuh bad ia ki jingpyntreikam ia ki sap kiba lah ban iarap ia baroh ki khynnah ban iiohpdiang ia ki jingtip ia ka Mathematics ha ki kyrdan jingnang rit. Ha kiwei pat ki kyntien, ka bynta pule ka ba la mang na ka bynta kane ka kyrdan (primary) la pynshong nongrim sawdong ia ki katto katne ki jingnang jingtiip kiba long ki juh ia baroh ki nongpule ha ka ri, khnang bal ah ban don ka jingryntih ha ka liang ka jingkynjoh ia ki kyrdan jingtip haba kut kawei pa kawei ka klas jong ka kyrdan primary. Ka jinglah ban kot pura sha kine ki kyrdan jingtip kan iarap ia ki khynnah ban pyndonkam ia ki jingtip bad jingnang kiba la iioh ha kaba wad ki lad ban jop ia ki jingeh ki ba ki iashem ha ka jingim ba man la ka sngi mynta bad hadien habud ynda ki la heh ruh.

(ii) Ki buit bad ki lad hikai (Teaching-Learning Strategies):

La shem ba ka rukom hikai ban nang ia ka mathematics lyngba ka jingwad bad jingshem da lade ka long ka ba bha tam. Kane ka rukom hikai ka pynlong ia ki khynnan ban sngewtynnad bad shongshit jingmut ha kaba pule Mathematics.

Ka Maths ka dei ka subjek kaba ia dei bad kiei kiei kiba long tang ha ki jingmut (abstract). Kane ka pynlong ia ka Maths kaba kham shitom ban hikai bad ban nang. Ka jingpyndonkam da ki tiar ki tar ka dei ka lad kaba kham biang ban wan rah ia ka jingsnewthuh ia ki jingmut tynrai jong ka Mathematics bad ia ka jingtbit jingkhein. Ka jingpyndonkam ia ki tiar ka iarap ia ki khynnah ban ioh nongrim bad shemphang ia ki jingshisha tynrai (principle) jingtei (structure) jong ka Maths. Katba ki khynnah ki dang pyrshang ban pynbeit ryntih ne wad da ki tiar, ka Mathematics ka kham don jingmut ha ki bad ka jingiohnang ka kham neh bad shong tynrai. Ka jingpyndonkam da ki tiar ruh ka wan rah ia ki jingmut tynrai, ka ailad ia ki ban wad jingtip ruh shuh shuh hi da lade ia ka rukom ban khein jingkhein bad ia ki ain jingkhein. Ka wanrah ia ka jingsngewhun jong ka jingshem bad jinglah hi da lade bad kane ka nang kyntiew ia ka jingsngewtynnad (interest) ia ka subjek.

(iii) Ka jingpynshongdor:

Kumba la kdew mynshwa, ki jingthmu ha kaba hikai mathematics ha ka kyrdan primary ki long ban pyniar ia ka jingsngewthuh ia ki jingmut tynrai bad ban pynmih ia ki sap jingnang kiba iadei bad kine ki jingmut. Kane ka wanrah ia ka jingkynriah ha ka jingban (emphasis) ia ki rukom pynshongdor. Baroh shi katta, kiba kham buh na ki lad bad rukom pynshongdor ki long kham kongsan kiba tynjuh (test) ia ka jingnang jingtip lyngba ki jingkylli ba shu thoh. Hynrei mynta hi ka jingban (emphasis) ka long ha ka jingsngewthuh ia ki tynrai jingkhein bad ia ki jingpyndonkam (application) ia ki ha kaba khein ia ki jingkhein, bad kane ka wanrah ia ka jingdonkam ban pynshongdor ia ki jinglah ki khynnah da kaba peitthuh ia ki jingtrei jong ki man ka sngi, ban thew ia ka jinglah bad jingnang jong ki ban thaw lad kumno ban jop ia ki jaid jingeh kiba kim pat juh ia kynduh da ka bor pynshongnia bad ban wad jingtip ia ki jingmut tynrai (concepts) da lade hi. Ha kiwei pat ki kyntien, donkam ban ithuh bad ai jingniewdor (credit) ia kito ki khynnah kiba lah ban ialeh da lade kum ia kita ki jingeh.

(Ban bteng ha ka ishu ka ban wan...)

Brief Note on the UNITARIAN LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL MAWKISYIEM, SOHRA

- by Khlur Mukhim, Contact Person for Mawkisyiem School

Mawkisyiem is an old village under the jurisdiction of the indigenous Chief of Sohra, one of many Khasi native states. Mawkisyiem simply means “Royal stones” named after a man-made sitting arrangement of rocks for the traditional Chief and his men so that they could take some rest whenever they went through the village.

About a century ago, one of the most prominent socio-religious movements in the Sohra state was the Brahma Samaj, a Unitarian form of Hinduism founded by Raja Ram Mohon Roy, a great reformer of British India. During the last few decades, Brahma Samaj followers have dwindled to a few pockets only. Some of these Brahma Samajis (a.k.a “Brahmos”), residents of Mawkisyiem village found good friends in a likeminded Unitarian organization. With the help and inspiration of late Rev D.Marbianang, a Unitarian church visitor based in Shillong, they started a Unitarian church in 1973.

In January, 1984 a special meeting was convened by the Unitarian church, Mawkisyiem which was also attended by Ms N.Nongbri, the then Secretary of the Education Committee, Unitarian Union of North East India. The meeting resolved to start a nursery school with Ms Riansidora Swer, Secretary of the Mawkisyiem church, as the founder teacher. The Unitarian School was opened in February, 1984. More students came and Ms Melsidora Swer was appointed as a second teacher in the following year. The school kept progressing in which Class IV was added in 1995 and a third teacher, Mrs Shanosha Swer appointed.

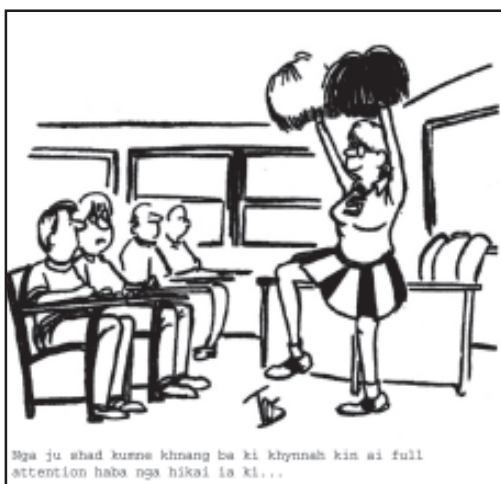


Students having midday meal

In 2001, Rev Eva Cameron from Ann Arbor, Michigan (USA) visited the school with Khlur Mukhim, member of the Education Committee. A leak in the roof prompted her and Khlur to contribute \$20 each. The leak was fixed and more required to be done. Thus an idea was born how to make a stronger partnership between the First UU congregation of Ann Arbor and the Unitarian LP School of Mawkisyiem. The idea was sent to the Education Committee which accepted with gratitude to Rev Eva and created the Mawkisyiem-Eva Project (MEP) Committee. The managing committee of the Mawkisyiem school met on 21 November, 2001 in which “the teachers and the Secretary, managing committee unanimously expressed their willingness to cooperate with the MEP Committee to make the project a successful experience for all concerned...”

The partnership between Mawkisyiem and Ann Arbor has been going on smoothly till date. This generally provides (a) a living wage for teachers [later government salary was sanctioned and currently honorariums are given to teachers once a year] (b) books, nutritious supplements, etc, for children (c) safe and healthy environment that includes better classrooms and toilets (d) winter gifts for all children and teachers. At least once a year children send letters and pictures to their sponsors. This partnership had brought five members of the project from Ann Arbor in 2006 who made a memorable visit and touched many hearts and homes at Mawkisyiem. It also sponsored a visit of a Mawkisyiem contact person to Ann Arbor in January 2008.

Our Mawkisyiem school has witnessed good progress with the help of this Sponsor-a-Student program. Many government officials have been visiting the school and for some years now our school and students have been regularly utilized by the government for teachers’ practice teaching.



Sya ju shad kurne khnang ba ki khynnab kin ai full attention haba nga hikol la ki...

“The test of a good teacher is not how many questions he can ask his pupils that they will answer readily, but how many questions he inspires them to ask him which he finds it hard to answer”
- Alice Wellington Rollins

“If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”

- Ignacio Estrada