

# Living Faith News

August 2015

Maligne Lake, Jasper, AB

Volume 50, Issue 2

## Progress at LFBC Nagaland



Pastor Paul Reich  
President of LFBC

Departing from Canada on Sunday evening, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, my wife and I together with Pastor Cliff and Donna Stalwick had a very fruitful and rewarding three-week ministry trip to Nagaland. We were also joined in Delhi by Dr. Jim and Hkaw Win Humphries who had just completed two weeks of ministry in south India. From there, the six of us traveled to Calcutta and then to Nagaland, arriving in Dimapur on Wednesday morning, where we were greeted by Pastor Motsuo Ngullie.

Over the past fifteen years, we have built a strong relationship with Motsuo, the founder of Bethel School and the

Prayer Church in Wokha. In addition, he has conducted evangelistic crusades and revivals in many cities and villages throughout Nagaland and he is well respected by other Pastors and by government officials.

Our ministry time in Nagaland began with a Wednesday evening service at a Bible college in Dimapur where we were well-received by more than 100 students. We also had a rich time of fellowship with the founder of the college, one of Motsuo's disciples from many years ago. Thursday morning we flew by military helicopter to Wokha where we were based for the next two weeks. This twenty minute trip saved us six hours of driving on the rough Naga roads!

Thursday evening was the beginning of a four day crusade in Wokha where God did amazing things at each service. Most significant, was a lady who was



One of the services  
at the revival crusade.

delivered from demonic oppression and who later gave a powerful testimony of God's delivering power in her life. After the crusade, weekday mornings typically began with us speaking at chapel services in Bethel School, a K-12 Christian school with 138 students located on the main campus. The afternoons and evenings were either filled with traveling and preaching in remote villages or with

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## Please Pray with Us

These are challenging times for many Bible colleges in North America. While some Bible colleges with strong denominational, cultural or constituent connections are still doing well, many Bible colleges, including Living Faith, have experienced a decline in student enrollment over the years. A significant number of Bible colleges across Canada, even large ones are experiencing enrollments that are 25% to 50% of their glory years. In addition, at least six long-standing Bible colleges just in Alberta and Saskatchewan have closed in the past five years.

Primary reasons for this decline in Bible college enrollment include the following:

### 1) The current spiritual climate in North America



The 2011 *Hemorrhaging Faith Report* reveals that of the children who grew up attending a Protestant church in Canada, only one out of three 18 to 34 year olds still attend. Simi-

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# Nagaland

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teaching in the new extension campus of Living Faith Bible College in Wokha.

Right: Pastor Cliff Stalwick teaching at the LFBC extension campus in Wokha.



Left: Dr. Jim Humphries sharing at chapel

It was a great blessing having a team of leaders to share the preaching and teaching load. We scheduled a preaching rotation for Cliff, Jim, and me. The practice we adopted at each revival service was to have the wife of the main speaker bring a five to ten minute greeting with an inspirational devotional thought before the sermon. This system worked very well as it gave each of our spouses a ministry voice on a regular basis. Donna, Lynn, and Hkaw Win were all well received by the Naga people.

Our trips to the remote villages were wonderful adventures of traveling on mountain roads that were as rough as river beds. To give you an idea of how bad the roads are in Nagaland, it took us 3 hours to drive 57 kilometers to one of the villages. Having four-wheel drive is a must. In spite of the roads, every trip was filled with breathtaking scenery and we were welcomed by passionate and spiritually hungry people everywhere we went. Each service closed with a strong response of people at the altar for prayer.

One village highlight was our last Sunday afternoon service in Sunglup, about 3 hours from Wokha. We were the very first white people to have ever visited their village. After the service, there was a holy sense of God's presence with many people at the altar, praying and crying out to God. There were also a good number of village people watching through the windows from outside the church and even some of them got saved! After returning to Canada, Motsuo told us that daily revival meetings went on in that village for over five weeks. These believers are even reaching out to other villages around them. PTL!



Singing as people gather in the Sunglup church — the village where revival broke out.

In addition to ministry, much of our time was spent building relationships with Motsuo and his family, some of his staff, some of the intercessors, and a wide variety of people ranging from adults to youth to children. We also enjoyed the opportunity to go to market on two separate occasions and to watch an artisan make bowls out of molten aluminum.

Cliff and I spent one Saturday morning with the Board of the Christian school - the same Board that oversees the LFBC extension campus. Among other items of business, we discussed plans for adding a dormitory floor to their present building. For its first year, the college had 14 local students taking courses, but with a dormitory that number would quickly double or triple because Motsuo had received numerous inquiries by interested students from villages throughout Nagaland as well as Asam and other provinces of India.

By the time of our trip to Nagaland, we had already been able to send some money for this dormitory project so building supplies were already being stockpiled for the rainy season when they would have sufficient water to do concrete work. The total cost for this project is estimated to be \$30,000 Canadian. So far, we have been able to send \$16,000 and good progress has been made in the past few months, but an additional \$14,000 is needed for them to finish. This money is needed as soon as possible so that the project can continue without interruption and be completed by October. Once the dormitory is finished, we will seek to raise an additional \$500 per month so they can add a full time Academic Dean and a few part-time college teachers to their currently small college staff. If you are interested in assisting with this building project please send your donations to the address on the back of this newsletter with a note indicating Nagaland dormitory. You may also phone 1-800-838-2975 and give by credit card over the phone.

Progress on the dormitory.



Right: Concrete beams in place.



Above: Pouring the roof.

Right: Bricking the walls



So much more could be shared. It was an amazing opportunity both for gospel ministry and for personal enrichment. It was a special joy to have my wife with me. This is the first time she was able to travel with me for international ministry since taking a team to England in 1988.

Thank you again to all who supported us through prayers and finances. May the Lord bless you!

## Please Pray

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lately, a recent book, *The Great Evangelical Recession*, published in 2013, refers to studies revealing that 70% (Life Way Research) to 80% (George Barna) of Christian young people aged 18 to 29 are leaving U.S. evangelical churches. With this age group being the primary target for Bible colleges, it becomes readily apparent that there are less potential students even considering Bible college.

### 2) Multiplied educational and experiential options for Christian young people



In addition to the Discipleship Training Schools that YWAM offers at many locations around the world, other mission organizations like Teen Missions, Action Teams, WyCliffe, and World Race also now offer “gap year” programs for high

school graduates before they further their education at a college or university. Add to this a significant increase in church-based discipleship schools, Christian camps running gap year programs, and an array of online or distance learning options. These multiplied opportunities are drawing many of the students who would have typically gone to Bible college for one or two years – the one and two year programs being the bread and butter of many Bible colleges over the past 80 years. When combining the current spiritual climate with multiplied options the result is more Christian organizations vying for less potential students. In turn, this diluted student base means that many organizations including Bible colleges are experiencing reduced enrollment and as a result corresponding financial challenges.

### 3) The rising cost of education



The increasing price of groceries, housing, utilities, books, fuel, and more result in higher costs of delivering education and eventually these costs get passed on

to students. Though Living Faith’s tuition and room and board fees continue to be among the lowest of Canadian Bible colleges, \$11,000 is still a sizable bill for students to pay each year. Working minimum wage jobs during the summer months generally does not provide sufficient funds for a year of college so students are left appealing to family or applying for scholarships, bursaries, and student loans to shore up the difference. To avoid incurring debt, many students simply choose not to attend college. Over the past few years, LFBC and the FCA have offered an increasing array of scholarships and bursaries to students to help them offset the cost of education at LFBC.

### 4) Unstable economic times



The evidence of difficult economic times is all around us. The recent U.S. housing crisis, plunging oil prices, escalating national debt, and Greece’s debt crisis are all symptomatic of the current economic climate in our world. In times of financial

recession or instability, people become much more frugal with their money and making money moves up in their priorities. Sadly many Christian parents do not see the value of their children spending one or two years to get grounded in the Word

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and invest in personal spiritual growth. Some are even dissuading their children from Bible college and encouraging them to get a “marketable” education. Hence the increasing trend for Bible colleges to offer a broader range of university transferrable programs and some larger Bible colleges morphing into Christian universities.

Much more could be said on each of these factors as well as others, but it is not the intent of this brief article to explore in depth the multiple factors that have contributed to this decline, only to state their reality. The bigger issue is how is Living Faith adjusting to these realities and is their hope for continued fruitful ministry at LFBC into the future.

Living Faith has always had a multi-faceted approach to ministry including the Bible college, Bible camps and retreats, missions, and rental of our facilities to churches and other Christian groups. In the past, a Christian school (which closed in 2006) and the local congregation (which is alive and well and still meets on campus, but now independent organizationally) were also branches of this same ministry tree. Each of these ministries provide(d) a revenue stream for Living Faith. On top of these ministries, Living Faith’s donor base has provided significant faithful support over these many years.

With lower college enrollment over the past years, we have come to rely more on non college avenues of revenue to make up the difference – primarily camp and retreat events, facility rentals, and donations. We have also worked hard at improving promotions, college programs, and facilities wherever possible to be more attractive to potential students. In addition to our excellent core program, we’ve even added a few new programs to draw new students – *The Ugandan Experience*, *Clearwater Creative Arts*, and *Fusion*. Though we have experienced some initial success with students participating in the first two and have received expressed interest in *Fusion*, it’s too soon to really know the long-term impact of these programs.

The reality is that continued low college enrollment has placed financial strain on Living Faith so this spring we had to reduce our staff to a bare minimum. On a positive note, we are anticipating at least sixteen first year students this fall, a 45% increase over last year and the highest first-year enrollment in seven years. This gives us hope for the future in spite of the reasons listed above. Another positive, due to a simplified program and expense cuts, we are projecting a balanced budget for the 2015-2016 college year. Nonetheless, we do have a cumulative deficit from previous years that we would like to clear to move forward with fiscal health. We will share more details on our plans for clearing this deficit in the next few months.

For now, we ask that you would continue to stand with us in prayer and support as we continue to seek God’s guidance during these challenging times. We are planning a prayer and discernment retreat for sometime this fall to which all alumni, event attendees, staff, students, donors, and affiliate pastors will be invited. Our purpose will be to seek the face of God in worship and prayer and to glean from the collective wisdom of His people in order to discern His direction for the next season of Living Faith. Once a date is finalized, we will let you know so that you can pray with us. We hope that many will attend and that those unable to attend would still commit to pray with us from home during that time.

Artlife's second year in Canada was a raging success! 75 kids, ages 12 through college, descended on our campus for an exciting week of creating and collaborating. Campers chose from visual art, photography, creative writing, dance, drama, media tech and music, as tracks of study. They worked hard to learn new skills, experiment and collaborate, under the guidance of their track leaders.

This year, Artlife welcomed three new track leaders! Living Faith alumni and visual artist, Chuck Gasper, reinforced our visual art track and brought great insight to the creative process. Vancouver-based actor, Evan Rein, headed up the Drama track and produced a camper-written show that was both moving and rib-tickling. We were also thrilled to welcome Curtis Smith, a sound professional from Calgary, as our Tech (sound and lighting) track leader.

Artlife received a sponsorship from Alberta Art & Drafting Supplies that boosted our visual art program to a new level of possibility and production. The visual artists were able to accomplish new, beautiful things with the tools Alberta Art & Drafting put in their hands.

Artlife's theme this year was "Belong" and the proceeds from the visual art silent auction went to the Calgary Drop In Centre. Jake Shapka, from the Centre, attended the final presentation and was on hand to receive the proceeds, which were enough to feed 1,200 men and women!

The whole point of a camp like this is to get kids who love art in the same place as adults who love art and Jesus. Artlife's attendee demographic is 30% unbelieving and this camp is a tremendous outreach to those kids. Campers spend hours a day being mentored by track leaders who love Jesus. That kind of personal connection is invaluable. They relate, they connect, they feel safe and they come back. Art is just a tool to reach hearts at Artlife.



### NEEDED (In Good Condition)

- Two commercial gas ranges with burners and grills to replace the aging ones currently in the kitchen.
- Washing machines
- Dryers
- Vacuum cleaners
- Tea towels
- Aprons
- Two mini vans for student ministry and outings
- A wood chipper
- A diesel generator
- Several push lawn mowers
- Domestic gas range with oven
- SKILLED VOLUNTEERS!

### Digital Newsletter

Living Faith News can now be delivered directly to your email inbox in PDF format. Send an email with the word *Newsletter* in the subject line to [office@lfbc.net](mailto:office@lfbc.net) and the next newsletter will be emailed to you.

### LIVING FAITH NEWS

is a publication of

*Living Faith*  
Evangelistic Association

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## Upcoming Events

Aug. 30 (7 pm)	Fall College Kickoff
Aug. 31	Fall Registration
Sep. 1 - 3	Orientation
Sep. 4	College Outing
Sep. 8	College Courses Begin
Oct. 3	LFEA Annual General Meeting
Oct. 12	Canadian Thanksgiving
Oct. 23 - 25	College OPENHOUSE
Dec 17 - Jan 3	Christmas Break
Jan 4	Winter Registration & Kickoff