



INDIAN PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD NORTHERN REGION

Seva Samachar



Echoing the Gospel in the hills of North East

Siliguri is the gateway and transit point to Darjeeling, Sikkim, Nepal, Dooars, Bhutan and most of the North-East States of India. Tourists travelling to this part of India and beyond have to travel through Siliguri since New Jalpaiguri railway station (NJP), the main railhead of the region, and Bagdogra Airport lie in its vicinity.

Pastor P. J. Joseph, IPCNR North East Zonal President received the call of God for full time ministry in the year 1983. This was the time when he had returned to Kerala after serving in the Indian



Pr. P. J. Joseph,
North East Zone President

Air Force for 15 years and started his own business. Initially he opposed the call, but God in his grace continued to put a deep burden on his heart for North East India. Finally submitting to the call of God, Pastor Joseph completed his Bible School training and came to Siliguri in 1984. His vision was to see natives being trained and equipped for the work in North East India. His call and vision was severely tested when he faced opposition, rejection and severe financial hardships. However he persevered and laboured hard in his task of evangelism and discipleship.

Travelling in mountainous terrain, walking miles on foot due to inadequate transportation and adapting to local conditions were some of the sacrifices he had to make to see God's work making inroads in the North East. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness! Today

many native leaders are in the ministry in this area.

Pastor Samuel Thomas, IPCNR Evangelism Director along with Bro. Neeraj Malik an elder of the Green Park church, New Delhi were in Siliguri with Pastor P.J. Joseph. Here are some of the exciting testimonies they report:

Andrews Biswa was one of the believers whom Pastor P. Joseph baptized and trained at the Bible School at Siliguri. Andrews began pioneering a church in Dhudia, which is a village at the foothills of Darjeeling. Today he is Pastor Andrews Biswa ministering in the church God has established through him. He shared with us many exciting testimonies of how God saved and delivered people from demonic bondage, as the good news of the kingdom was proclaimed. One such testimony is as follows:

"One day I was informed about a lady, Teeka Devi a native of Hadiyabudubhare village in Jhapajilla, Nepal who was chained in a house because she was demon possessed and behaved violently. My wife brought her to our house and



Teeka Devi on left with Mrs. Andrews Biswa



Neera in chains



Delivered Neera with Pr. Andrews

we together prayed and ministered to her for a month. During this time the police came and warned us on the noise and disturbance the lady was creating. Ignoring these discouragements, we continued in prayer for a month and the Lord delivered Teeka. She accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour and took water baptism and went back to her village in Nepal. Like the demonic in Gerasenes whom Jesus healed and who later became the witness in the Decapolis, today, Teeka is a powerful witness for the Lord in her village. Many natives have come to the Lord through her witnessing. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever! He is still a miracle working God!!"

"Neera was another such case. He was a 21-year-old young man under demonic bondage for 7 years. He used to get violent and had to be chained because of his nature of harming himself and others. My wife and I ministered to him in prayer and sharing God's word. Neera was completely delivered and today he fellowships in our church along with his family".

Today the church in Dhudia is growing, as the Lord is confirming his word with signs and wonders.

Their present place of worship is small and it is becoming difficult to accommodate those attending the meeting. They are praying and desiring to rebuild the existing structure



Front and the rear view of the church building at Dhudia

and make it more spacious for worship. They need a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh for this project. Please pray and partner as the Lord leads you.

Pastor Renju Basumatha is another such worker who was trained in the Bible School at Siliguri and disciplined by Pastor P. J. Joseph. He began pioneering a church in Meteli area of Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal. At present there are 70 communicant members and several seekers who attend the Sunday worship service and the weekly meetings. Most of the believers belong to the Subbha, Santhali and Badrik people groups and work in the tea gardens as daily wage labourers. The worship service is held in both Sadri and Nepali languages. As a result of their outreach efforts, the church has been able to establish three congregations at Joranti, Budikoop and Salwadi.

The church meets in a small thatched bamboo shed which is congested when all gather. The village council has sanctioned a plot for them to construct a church.





Various transports used to reach the clothes and blankets to the people

They are prayerfully seeking sponsors who can facilitate them to build a worship hall which will cost Rs. 1.5 lakh.

This year the winter in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri was very severe. At nights the temperature hovered between five and two degree centigrade. The icy winds made life miserable for the tea garden workers and daily wage labourers who are unaccustomed to such harsh weather.

An urgent appeal was sent by Pastor

P.J. Joseph our zonal President to our prayer partners and supporters for help to buy blankets and warm clothes for the poor and needy believers living in these areas. We praise the Lord, especially for the funds mobilized by Grace Pentecostal Church, Philadelphia under the leadership of Pastor Samuel John. The amount was utilized to provide warm clothes and blankets for the believers residing in the hills of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri district.

Pastor Samuel Thomas and Bro Neeraj with Pastor P. J. Joseph took

the blankets and the warm clothes to the villages and distributed it to the people.

One old lady from Metili village expressed her gratefulness to the brothers and sisters in Christ who had contributed to this urgent need of theirs. Pastor Renju acknowledged that this timely relief work has helped protect many poor people in his church from the harsh winter. we are deeply grateful to the Lord for the contributors especially Grace Pentecostal Church in Philadelphia.



Happy Grannies holding the blankets and the jackets



Distribution of blankets and clothes