

The Coming of Christianity

Christianity was a late bloom for Ichum Keirap Village. Prior to 1959, it was still in the dark and its people had not seen the light of life. However, the great light had shined upon its people in the Lord's month of May 1959. This light was brought up by Mr. S.Thadai and Mr. Retinchung and their endeavouring efforts inspite of strong criticism from the local elders. At first, it was futile. Later, S.Thadai together with L.Chengpu, came again to preach the words of God and tried to persuade or convince the locals through their slideshow photos.

Again, in June 23rd 1959, Mr. S.Hmanghrinkhup, Mr.Hmepa, M.Sonjalet alongwith Kha-Aimol BYF (33-members) came to the village to preach about Christ. The elders, being guided by their obstinacy, only allowed them to sing but forbade praying in the name of the Lord. As such, the team went off the village border and prayed for the village-Ichum Keirap.

Realizing their iniquity, in 1960, L.Resemthang with his wife Sailenhoi and some women (Nunghak) began to receive the Lord. Miss:-

- L. Hmangnunchong
- T.Resemhoi
- L.Darsokip
- L.Darsochong &
- M.Neihmunjang

(The above given got baptized in the Lord on 1st June, 1960 by S.Thadai. They were 7 (seven) in number.)

Like a child who needs parents to guide and care upon, the newly converts also desperately need parents or a leader to lead them. As such, S. Lenpu, an LP school teacher came forward to bridge this gap. He taught them Christian hymns, songs, prayers and other activities. However, he left soon after for his native village. At that circumstance, at which, a dynamic leader was very much needed to guide the new lambs, M.Sumneison went to Khoirentak and urged the Komrem Association to provide them a leader who would be capable to tend the people. In compliance to his appeal, the Association sent Mr.M.Sonjalet of Shongpher village to serve as their leader or pastor. He got a pay of Rs.100 per a year as stipend or salary which was indeed a supererogatory act of his soul.

At the beginning, the members were very meager coupled with no place to conduct congregational programmes or worship. Before an autonomous church was constructed, they used Mr. & Mrs. Sumneison' porch where they observed and celebrated ritual occasions like Good Friday, Thaither Lom etc. They were in total 47 in numbers. Consequently, the number of believers grew up in course of time. As such, the need for a Church was felt, Mr. T.Lhutthatsong was deployed for the purpose by paying Rs.20/-for the whole building. It was built on 5th Nov. 1961 and inaugurated on 24th December, 1961 by Sonkhosei Karong. And before its completion, L.P School class room was occupied as gathering place.

As far as the emergence of Christianity in the village is concerned, the various sacrifices and sweat wastes of the former leaders, pioneers and their antecedents are laudable. No eulogies or lamentations could be made for them.....May God bless them.

Little facts:

- Pu M.Sailenson and Resemhoi- The first couple to get Holy Matrimony.
- Pi Tojanghoi Leivon- The last Christian.
- Pu (L) Songhlutson Leivon-The fist Chawkidar.

Pastors
(1961-2011)

1. M. (L) Sonjalet.....1961-1962,1967
2. T.Sonjathang.....1963-1965
3. G.Seikhopao.....1966, 1972-1975.
4. L.Tohmunthang.....1968,1971
5. M. Serkholun.....1969-1970
6. M. Khochonthang.....1976
7. S. Seikhothang.....1977
8. L.Lerkhohmang.....1978-1983
9. M. Serkhohao.....1984-19993
10. L.Relhosong.....1994-1998.
11. M. Neirengthang.....2000-2009.
12. D. Paosat.....2006
13. M. Thangrenson.....1999, 2007-till date.

Savanghei

1. Lamsonthang Serto@ Khonglemba
2. Cheithatson Thingpui@Thatpu
3. Renunsong Leivon@ Songba
4. Resoler Thingpui
5. Sumneison Hmangte
6. Lhutthatsong Thingpui
7. Khochonthang Mangte
8. Darsothang Leivon-2010
9. T.Toneithang-Present