



# Christ In You

## ***Off To India***

In the Himalaya Mountains in Northeast India churches are scattered in remote villages which are isolated from each other. Some of these churches are a part of the Poumai Naga Baptist Association. Once every five years these scattered churches make their way for a joint convocation. Next month they are meeting together in the "Pentennial Fellowship 2014." They expect a large turnout.

They have designed a website specifically for this event: [www.pnba.in](http://www.pnba.in)

It was a humbling experience and an honor when they invited me to be a keynote speaker at this convocation. The invitation came to me last spring and I was sure that I would not be attending. Reality check: It's the other side of the world!

So I set up my computer to compose a carefully written email to let them know that I would not be attending. I must say it was as if the Lord was checking my fingers as I was making the keystrokes on the computer, as if to say "No, I want you to be there."

Considering this and giving this invitation more prayer, it became clear to me that I needed to accept their invitation.



*Statue of the Beloved Mahatma Gandhi*



The setting is the Northeast India state of Manipur, not far from the China border, adjacent to Myanmar (Burma). It is a beautiful area and culturally different than most of India. The people appear more Chinese than Indian. This will be my third visit to Manipur. On my previous visit we had a wonderful open-air evangelistic meeting and I was privileged to bring the gospel to an

attendance of 10,000 people per night.

My first visit to Manipur was actually historical. Manipur had been closed to foreigners for decades. The people therefore were locked into their own culture. Then in 1999 it was possible for foreigners to get a special access visa to Manipur.

I along with four other American men traveled to Manipur to hold medical clinics and preach the word of God. We entered the northern portion of Manipur in the mountains where 29 tribal groups are scattered throughout the beautiful mountains. From the capital of Manipur we journeyed four hours past soldiers and armed Naga and Kuki strongholds to the northernmost village of Mao.

An Irish missionary, William Pettigrew, was the first foreign missionary to enter Manipur around 1895. He and his wife traveled a very dangerous mission since the tribal people were headhunters. In fact, they rejected Mr. Pettigrew's suggestion of opening a mission station. So Mr. Pettigrew went to a different part of Manipur where he successfully started schools and planted churches.

Many years later the people in eastern Manipur returned to the tribes who rejected Mr. Pettigrew. Many of the headhunters received Christ as their Savior and churches were formed, and of course the practice of headhunting stopped (much to our relief!).



*1999: Soldiers in Occupied Manipur*

In 1999 when Christians in northern Manipur learned that we were coming they called a special reconciliation service and invited other tribal groups to attend. They felt remorse for rejecting the gospel, and they were looking for a new blessing from God. Somehow they saw us as the catalyst for a new beginning.



*1999: School Children in the Village of Mao, Northern Manipur. The First Time These Children Had Seen White People!*

So in 1999 our small team was the first foreign delegation to visit that region in over 105 years! We felt very honored. We were quite humbled when they draped us in handmade tribal shawls and treated us with great honor. There was much

public repentance and prayers of blessing which broke over a century of rejection and shame. Many at that time received Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

What must have seemed a failure to missionary Andrew Pettigrew over 100 years ago has now become a wonderful success.

In 2001 I wrote an account of that trip in preparation for another visit to Manipur. You can read that historical account [here](#).





*Mother and Child*



*Mother and Child*

So the church in the Himalaya Mountains of Manipur is thriving, though they are not without their problems. Life is hard, the churches are poor, and pastors minister with the great handicap of sparse resources.

I will be speaking the word of God to this gathering of tribal churches Friday night, December 12, and Saturday morning, December 13. Please pray that God will speak through me on those important occasions. And also protect me during the trip, with safety and good health.



Though the invitation to Manipur is what has sent me to India this December, an important part of this trip will be to join our ministry associate Simon Haqq in Delhi. Since my last visit to India he and his team have started 26 new churches in the Haridwar area north of Delhi. I'm looking forward to seeing some of these churches as well as

speaking the Word of God to many of these people.

The world is troubled on every front. We truly have wars and rumors of wars around the globe. Disabling diseases and epidemics threaten people on every continent. Moral standards around the world as well as in our own country are deteriorating.

Yet God is doing amazing things everywhere! Those who live in darkness are truly seeing the light. Below the radar screen of daily news and international events, the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ is transforming thousands of people every day. We live in an exciting time!

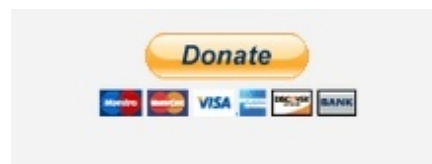
Please [pray!](#)

Follow this link for suggestions on how to pray for me on this trip:

[Prayer letter](#)

Thank you so much!

*Paul Rains*



Web Site:

[www.ciyworld.com](http://www.ciyworld.com)

©2014 Christ In You, Inc. | 430 County Road 792, Ellington, MO 63638

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi](#)®