



Manipur Appeal

“Let us rise up and build”

Nehemiah 2:18

What are the needs of the people of Manipur today?

The immediate **short term** needs at the moment are; food, cooking utensils, warm clothes, blankets, temporary shelters.

The **long-term** hope is to go ahead with second buildings; Homes, Churches, Schools, Colleges, Offices, Communities.



How can I contribute?

Ideally you will share your contributions either by donating on the **EBC website**, or through the **Treasurer of the Presbytery**. Every time you donate remember to enter this special code **'P0167'** and clearly state the Manipur Appeal when making the payment.

What can I pray for?

1. Pray for Peace to the state of Manipur
2. Pray for the Church, that it will regain its normality.
3. Pray that the people of Manipur will be able to exercise their rights, that it will be a safe haven and a home for people of all faiths.

Scan here to contribute



The physical, emotional and spiritual challenges need much resilience, and this can only be experienced by divine grace.

Pray that the Holy Spirit of calm and peace will be with all going through these dark and dreary times.'

Dr Sharon Singsit-Evans



History of the recent conflict in Manipur.

At the beginning of May 2023, the story of persecution against Christians in India hit the headlines here in Wales, following a march asking for tribal unity in the state. At

the beginning of January last year, riots broke out against believers in the state, where gangs of armed Hindu extremists went door to door and attacked Christians.

This is an ethnic conflict between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo tribes. The Meitei tribe, whose roots are mainly in Manipur and nearby Myanmar, the majority are Hindus. The Kuki-Zo tribe are mostly Christians, and therefore a tribe that belongs to the various states of the North East; including those states we know well as Mizoram. The Meitei mostly live in the town and valley of Imphal (the largest town in the state).

What is the impact of the conflict on the state and on the Churches of Manipur?

200 villages burned

7526 homes burnt

151 deaths

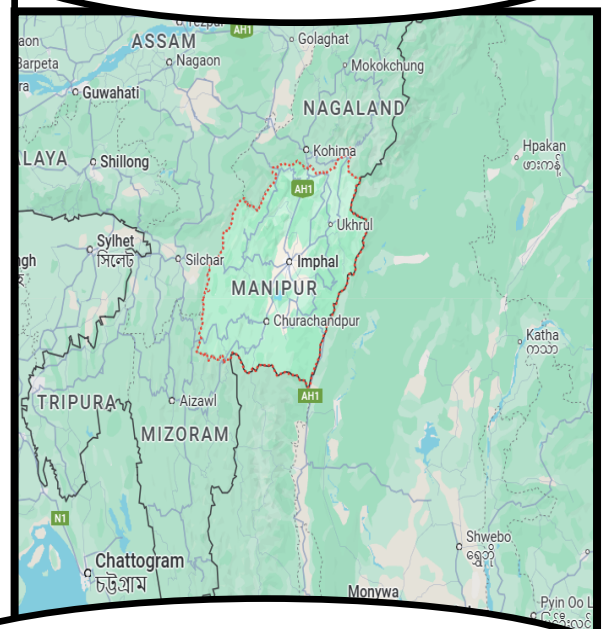
36 Church Headquarters have been burned.

2 Theological Colleges have been burnt

41,425 people displaced, mainly to the Northern State of Mizoram.

400 Churches have been burnt.

Where is Manipur?



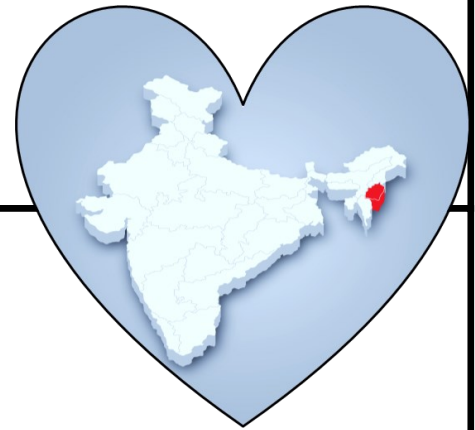
How did the conflict start?

Tensions came to a head when the Kuki-Zo began to protest against demands by the Meitei for official tribal status. The Kuki-Zo argued that this would strengthen their influence, which was already strong on the government and society, allowing them to buy land or settle in predominantly Kuki-Zo areas. Several other factors have increased tensions among them, the migration, which is a result of war in Myanmar. There is pressure on the use of the land, by a rapidly growing population that is also causing fury. At the center of the conflict is the war on drugs and the power with which the money made from that contributes to the complexity of the tribal situation in Manipur.

What is PCWs Connection with Manipur?

Our association as a church and country with the state of Manipur in India goes back to the beginning of the twentieth century. A number of Welsh missionaries were inspired by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Revival of 1904/05 to prepare themselves as missionaries in India. One of those was a young quarryman called Watkin Robert from Caernarfon who accompanied Dr Peter Fraser and his wife Mary Catherine Fraser out to Mizoram at his own expense in 1908. At the age of 22 when he arrived in Mizoram, he got the name: 'Pu Tlangval' (Mr. Young man) a name he kept for the rest of his life.

Watkin Roberts had a burden for the people from the Hmar tribe in northern Mizoram and southern Manipur who had hardly been reached with the Gospel until then. He learned their language, which was very similar to the Mizo language, and secured copies of John's Gospel to send as a gift to the village chiefs of the Hmar tribe. That is an interesting story which says that it was Miss Emily Davies, who gave the £5 to Watkin Roberts who inspired him and enabled him to do this work.



A message came back from the head of the Senvawn village across the border in Manipur asking someone to come and explain what was being said in the book to them and about God. But the village was in another state and missionaries from Mizoram were not allowed to go over the provincial boundaries that had been set by the British government and the Maharajah of Manipur. Despite the dangers and warnings that he would be killed by this fierce tribe, Watkin Roberts secured the permission needed to go there on a short missionary journey in 1910 together with four native colleagues from Aizawl.

After five days of learning about the Gospel there, the chief and four other men from the tribe there announced that they wanted to make peace with the God of the Bible and believe in Jesus Christ. The village of Senvawn in southern Manipur became a center for the Gospel that would have its impact on the rest of the state as a new school and a vibrant church was established there. Although he did not have permission to stay there to work, Watkin Roberts kept in touch with this young church and supported them in establishing a mission which would include the first missionaries from Mizoram itself. Within two generations the Hmar tribe had turned almost entirely to the Gospel and thousands of churches had been established among a wide variety of ethnic tribes across the whole of Maniur Province.

Dr Sharon Singsit-Evans, a girl from Manipur who lives with her family in Birmingham, and works as a clinical psychiatrist in Birmingham, said: ***The physical, emotional and spiritual challenges need much resilience, and this can only be experienced by divine grace.***

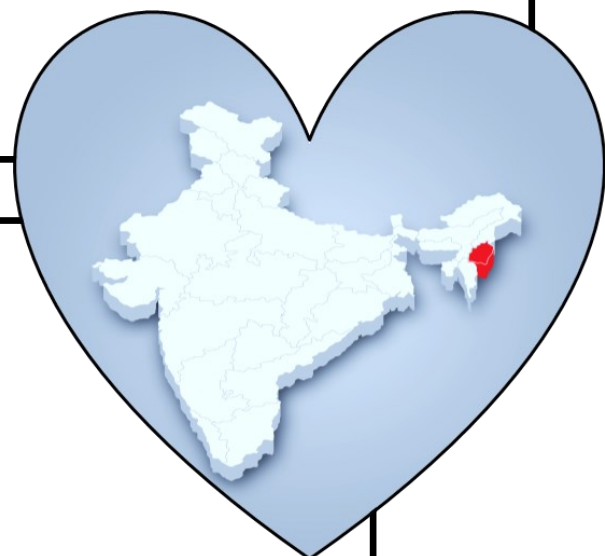
Pray that the Holy Spirit of calm and peace will be with all going through these dark and dreary times.



The Open Doors organisation has encouraged us to pray specifically for the following issues:

1. Form the right government and the right leadership to lead the nation with equality and non-discrimination
2. That the new government will work to support all religions and cultures.
3. For wisdom for the Christian community, and for God's knowledge and protection to face what lies ahead.

What can I pray for?

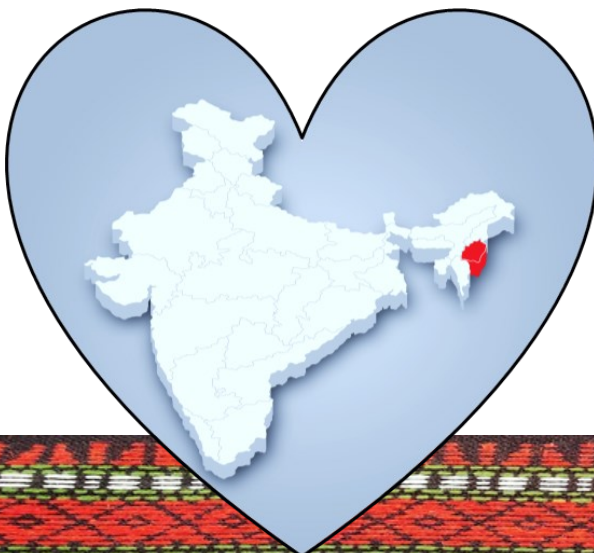
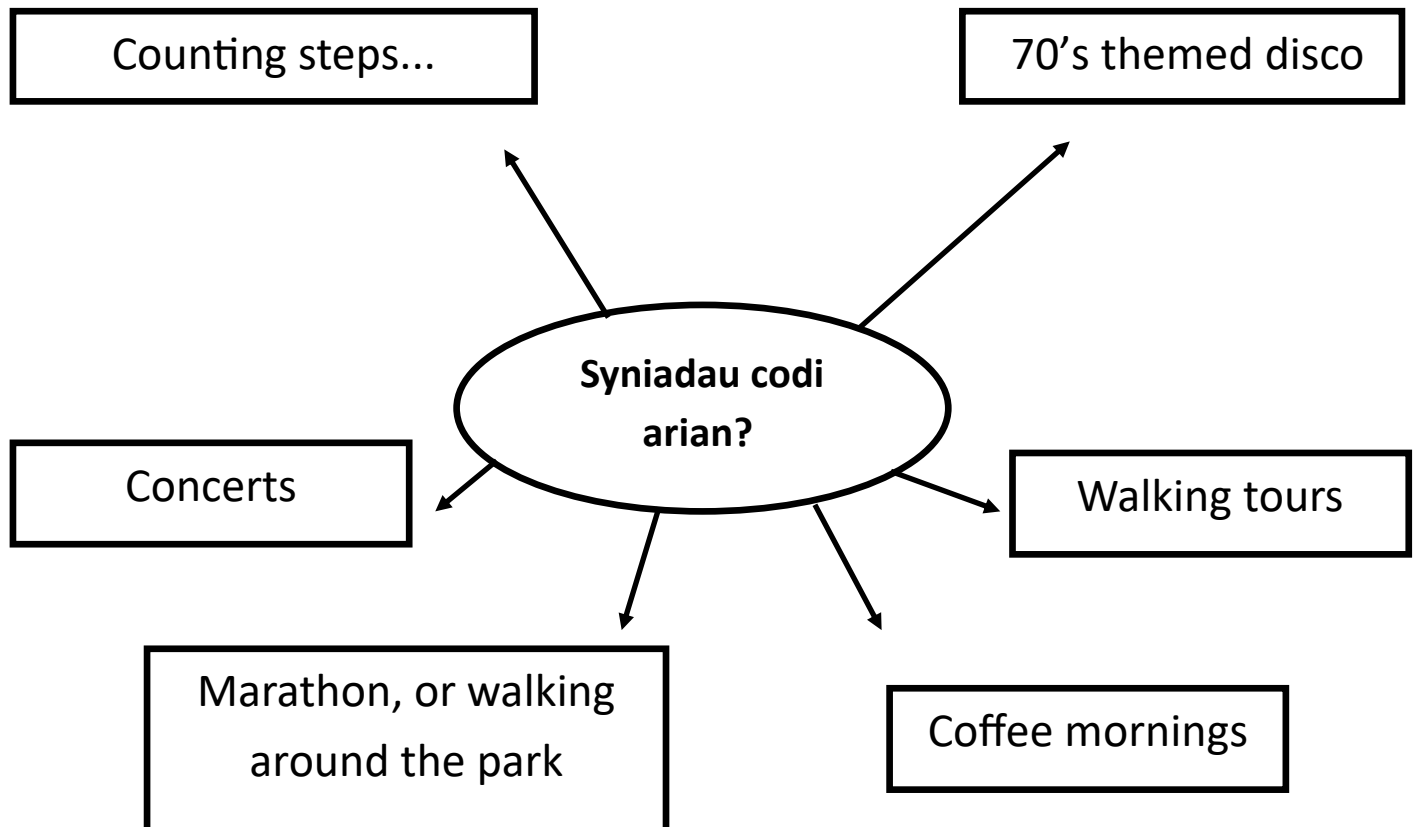


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We look forward to hearing about your ideas and adventures to raise money.

Moderator's Prayer

Lord, we lift our cry for our brothers and sisters in Manipur, from every tribe and background, your children, who face conflict and war.

We pray that you would send Your Holy Spirit in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to transform the hearts of those who choose violence, and to strengthen those who choose peace, that you would protect those who have no protection, and comfort those who mourn.

We pray that you would strengthen your Church, so that she would serve you by your love and power. We ask that her hope in you, the Lord of lords and the Prince of peace, will be sustained. Help us as we seek to help in that great work of restoring hope, and supporting the people of the Manipur province by means of our Appeal, to rebuild that which was lost, the worship places, the Bibles, and the safe space to worship together once again.

We pray for those families that we are familiar with that were torn by violence and murder, for children that were orphaned, and for those who are now fleeing and are homeless.

We give you thanks for the shelter that was provided by your people inside and outside Manipur, and for the constant pleading of your people in intercessory prayer.

Assist us to act with confidence and to give what we have to address the pain and suffering, and to meet the need of brothers and sisters in Manipur. We acknowledge that the need is great, but strengthen us to continue in prayer, and to act with wisdom and an enthusiasm.

We pray that you will grant both church and state leaders your wisdom, to all who have authority and carry the burden of responsibility. We pray, as you taught us, for those who would wish to bring harm to members of your church, to those who are the lowly and innocent from each tribe and language. Guide them to the foot of Jesus' cross, and to the rich mercy that is to be found through his blood, so that violence and persecution might cease.

Please open a way for us Lord, members of the Presbyterian Church of Wales to act according to the strength you provide. Bless each gift that we offer, and all our prayers, for the praise and glory of your holy name, and grant your grace to sustain us, your love as our encouragement, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to act in power through your Church.

We ask all this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

