



# NEWSLETTER

**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024**

Dear Friends,

Christmas often feels so familiar that we wonder if there's anything new to say about it. Yet, the Bible reveals that the message of Christ's birth has spoken to people across time in profound ways (Hebrews 1). Among these, Simeon's response to encountering the infant Jesus in the temple stands out to me.

Dr. Luke records Simeon's words:

*"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people."*

Simeon, being a priest, engaged in ceremonial duties. Yet, he recognized that rituals alone could not satisfy the human heart's deepest yearning—for connection with its Creator. He recognised the emptiness of everything else, and hence, the fullness of Christ. St. Augustine famously said, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee" (Confessions 1.1.1).

The word "religion" itself (Latin 're' and 'legion', meaning "to reconnect") reflects this search to bridge the chasm between humanity and God. The Bible identifies the cause of this separation as sin—our tendency to fall short. Simeon saw in Christ's birth the answer to this universal longing, the beginning of a reconciliation of our relationship with God.

Isaiah 9:6 mentions — "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given." The child was born, but the Son—eternal and divine—was given, this season for this very reason. Jesus declared, "I was born into this world for the purpose of the Cross of Calvary."



The Cross, the heart of Christ's mission, embodies God's pure and selfless love, silencing rejection and fulfilling our longing to belong. It is where divine justice meets mercy, as Christ's atonement transforms our curse into blessing. Through His sacrifice, we are clothed in righteousness and grace, bridging heaven and earth, love and justice, and uniting humanity with its Creator.

As someone wisely said:

If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.

Christmas, my dear friends, while an occasion to some and a season for many, is most importantly about Christ and His advent in our lives. While it is about the birth of the baby in the manger, it is more so a reminder that love came down to dwell among us. Christmas invites us to embrace not just the joy of His birth, but the profound purpose of His life—a life given to Redeem, Restore, and Reconcile. Let this season transcend a single moment or day, becoming an invitation to transform our hearts as we embrace the presence of Christ anew!

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

**Dr. Balajied Nongrum**

Lead Consultant & MD

RTB | APAC





# Pre - Christmas event



RTB APAC

UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF THE

## CHRISTMAS

Star

December 12 Thursday  
2024

08:00 PM IST - Online Event

GUEST SPEAKER



PROF. DAVID BLOCK



On December 12, 2024, Prof. David Block, Director of RTB South Africa, presented a thought-provoking talk titled "Uncovering the Mysteries of the Christmas Star" via Zoom. Exploring the significance of the Star of Bethlehem, Prof. Block discussed both its scientific mystery and spiritual implications. He highlighted how the star guided the wise men to Jesus and emphasized the importance of seeking truth with a heart open to God's leading. Prof. Block also addressed audience questions, providing further insights into this fascinating topic. We are deeply thankful to him for sharing his expertise and enriching our understanding of this profound symbol of Christmas.

On November 24, 2024, Zuala addressed the Pre-Christmas Celebration hosted by St. Stephen's Church in partnership with NEHU-EU, an event primarily attended by postgraduate students from North Eastern Hill University. Speaking on the theme "Why Christ Came in the Flesh", he focused on Luke 4:18-19, offering insights into the mission and purpose of Christ's incarnation.





## **Session at the National Conference of Christian Medical Association of India 2024:**

On November 20th, 2024, Balajied had the privilege of addressing the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) National Conference in Shillong. Speaking on "The Role of Christian Apologetics in Missions," he highlighted the importance and scope of apologetics, with a special emphasis on Scientific Apologetics. The session, attended by physicians, nurses, administrators, and staff from various mission hospitals, was very well-received.

Rev. George Chen remarked,  
**"This is exactly what we  
needed, thank you."**

## *Faith & Science*

### **Panel Discussion at the Presbyterian Church, Nongmynsong**

On December 7th, 2024, several churches collaborated to host a panel discussion on "Faith & Science," aimed at addressing the doubts and questions young people often face in this domain. Balajied, alongside two other panelists, engaged in answering these queries while also sharing the vision and mission of Reasons to Believe (RTB). The event concluded with a pastor expressing appreciation for RTB's work and offering prayers for its ministry. We thank the Lord for such meaningful opportunities!





### **Bible Study with Youth Group:**

On November 31, 2024, Brother Zuala led a Bible study on the Book of Revelation with the Youth Group of Chanmari Presbyterian Church, Aizawl. This session was part of the special Tea-o-logy series, combining tea and theology in fellowship.



### **Engagement with Teens at Venglai Presbyterian Church:**

On December 1, 2024, Brother Zuala was invited to speak at the Teens Fellowship of Aizawl Venglai Presbyterian Church. Addressing topics such as "The Existence of God" and "Understanding Evil and Suffering", Brother Zuala responded to the church's requests with thought-provoking discussions tailored to the young audience.



**RTB | APAC's Book Stall at Reach Shillong Ministries Christmas Market**

