

Gospel and Plough School of Theology



Dr. Sam P. Mathew
School Research Co-ordinator-

The Gospel and Plough Theological College was renamed in 2009 as the Gospel and Plough School of Theology (GPST). It is one of the constituent institutions of Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHIATS), imparting higher theological education to nurture and equip Christian men and women, as pastors, theological educators, leaders in Christian organizations and institutions etc. The vision is to equip them with the Biblical Word view to serve and take the lead in the Church, Society and Nation.

Rev. Prof. Dr. Rajendra B. Lal was the first Dean of Faculty of Theology from 2002 to 2007. Bishop Prof. Dr. J. Masih joined as the Honorary Director, Gospel and Plough School of Theology and Dean, Faculty of Theology from December 10, 2007 to accomplish the mission of teaching, learning, leading and serving. Undergraduate, Graduate, and Post Graduate Programs, are being taught in this college. As a Christian theological community, the school is committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ, in all its endeavors. There are seven P.G. & Ph.D. programs in Theology in Old Testament, New Testament, Christian Theology, Religions, Christian Ministry, History of Christianity and Mission.

Research Activities:

“Role and Significance of Music Ministry in the Church with Special Reference to Sumi Baptist Church, Highway Area, Dimapur”. The study revealed that music is instrumental in worship as well as in the Church Ministry. Knowing the importance of music, the researcher has come out with suggestion that how music ministry can be effective. Emphasis is given on the musical instrument tune, lyric, and music education and the Church should look in the new direction in music ministry.

“A Study of Socio-Religious Situation of Deutero Isaiah and its Relevance for Today’s Context”. Study revealed the authenticity of Deutero-Isaiah through the theological message, date, and literary style etc, Historical background of the book of Deutero-Isaiah with special reference to the socio-religious conditions, factors that influenced Deutero-Isaiah in shaping his message for the Israelites, who were exiled in Babylonian .

The message of Deutero-Isaiah is a challenge to the Israelites' faith in Yahweh as the Creator, Redeemer and Savior God. Yahweh, the God of the Israelites is the Universal God who is also the Savior God not only of the people of Israel but also of the Dalits and other oppressed Communities in India who are comparable to the Israelites who lived in exile at Babylon. There is hope for every oppressed community for liberation if they believe and obey their God.

“The Early Naga Cultural, Social, Political and Religious Life: with Special Reference to the Sumi Naga Tribe”

It was concluded that modern Naga society is becoming alienated from the roots of home, village and society. There is an increase in the breakdown of individual and family harmony. Drug addiction, alcoholism and crimes are found in Naga Society including political corruption. And therefore, education must play a vital role in the transformation of the society.

Foreign missionaries tried to stop Naga cultural activities, however now it is recognized that there is nothing unchristian, in fact it is healthy, harmless, promotes universal brotherhood and make it colorful. Today Christian festivals like Christmas, Easter and New Year are celebrated with traditional Naga Folk Dances and other customary molds of expressing joy. Also Naga art and culture would enrich the tenets of Christian faith and articles of beliefs would enrich both.

“A Theological Reflection on the Historical Significance of the Tuluni Festival in the Lives of the Sumi Nagas”

It was revealed that every human community has its distinct culture and customs that transform and change in course of time. There is some good in the old and traditional culture which needs to be retained and there are also aspects which need to change , which build and strengthen the unity and identity of a community of people. This was the case of the Sumi Nagas of Nagaland.

“The Identity and Role of Sumi Women with Special Reference to the Samaritan Women”

It was observed that Jesus counseled the Samaritan woman and , she became an instrument to spread the Good News, similarly Jesus can change the life of Sumi women and they can be instruments of God to serve people. It was concluded that God has bestowed on women a quality of greater tolerance, patience and love than men ,therefore women should express their thoughts and ideas openly and without any fear and hesitation.

“The Concept of Old Covenant with Special Reference to the Book of Jeremiah and its Relevance to the New Covenant in Jesus Christ”

The study revealed that God made a Covenant with the ancestors of the people of Israel through which He promised to be their God and to bless them. God remained faithful to His covenant partner the Israelites, but the people of Israel failed to remain faithful to their God by following idolatry, and depending on human powers instead of relying on God's rule. So the Old Covenant was renewed through Jesus Christ as the Mediator who loved and forgave human beings of their sins, and redeemed them. The Old Covenant was based on the law while the New Covenant is based on Love, Grace and Forgiveness.

“A Christian Response to the Nuclear Policy of India from an Ethical Perspective”

It was concluded that India's Nuclear policy has been in its four phase of development. There are different aspects of life which have an influence, in our day to day life with an impact on our political life, military power, economics, ethical and moral values public health and also on environmental issues. There is a need to respond to these issues based on biblical foundations and Christian ethical principles as a critique to the nuclear policy for the promotion of life and the created order of God.

“An Analytical Study of Calvinistic Concepts of Salvation and its Impact on the Mizoram Presbyterian Church”

It was concluded that God predestines some people to receive a divine call and they are justified. However faith is the ultimate condition for salvation for whomsoever God elects .The Mizoram Presbyterian Church now holds a view for salvation to whosoever believes in Christ. The church has a theological college “Calvin study center” in Aizawal

“A Study of Hindutva Ideology in Hinduism and the need of Christian Response” It was observed that India, as a nation represents multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious dimensions; all religions propagating their own faith and ideology. The hierarchical caste society has been made equal by the Indian Constitution but not in real life. The emergence of fundamental Hindutva elements have made the situation worse by their communal activities Whenever the Hindus propagate their majority fundamentalism in the name of Hindutva, Ramarajya, Bharat varsa etc, then Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and other minorities try to defend with their minority fundamentalism.

“The Mathew's Concept of Church with Special Reference to Mathew 16:18 and it's Relevance to the Present Context”

It was revealed that the Church was intended to be built based on strong foundation as emphasized by the **Apostle** Mathew on Peter's confession of faith. Today, the church is divided and has become a place of confusion, tension, and barriers for worship. In this context, this study gives a clear picture of the true church which Jesus Christ is talking about in Matthew 16:18.

“The Impact of Evangelical Assembly Church (ECCI) among the Hmar Community in Southern District of Manipur”

The study revealed that the Evangelical Assembly Church (EAC) among the Hmar Community in Southern Manipur is responsible for witnessing the Gospel to them for the first time playing a major role in transforming the life of the Hmar Community in their belief from Pantheism and Heathenism to Christianity. It also brought socio-economic, political, educational and cultural changes from backward to a more civilized standard.

“A Conglomerate Baptist Tradition in Conflict with Naga Cultural, Social, Political and Religious Life: In Historical Setting”

It was observed that the shift of emphasis from Naga to the Western Culture began with the advent of Christianity. It has given Nagas judicious awareness of the world, humanitarian services, literature, education, dress, diet, medical, hygiene, non-violence, slavery, economy, Christian faith and life ethics. This has given the Nagas liberation from many evils namely, fear of evil spirits, animism, ancestor worship and the like

The ethos of Naga cultural life and Christian religion by themselves do not contradict one another. There is a need to reconcile Naga and Church policies with a view to regain and rediscover the disoriented Naga heritage and the development of the Church administration on indigenous lines.

“HIV/AIDS, Gospel & Culture”, A Theological inquiry into interface between Gospel & Culture in respect of Global Pandemic”

The study revealed that the foremost need in the context of HIV/AIDS is to reinforce the culture of caring which has suffered global atrophy in our times. The capacity to care is a true measure of the spiritual wholeness of individual or community. It is also the very essence of our humanity. The exposure of our incapacity to care in the wake of the HIV/AIDS tragedy can prove a blessing in disguise.

The secular scientific approach to HIV/AIDS came to a halt at the “wall of Behavior” for all the heroic good intentions that the secular response is rich with; it has proved itself incapable of

empowering individuals to change their behavior in order to protect themselves from this deadly infection.

HIV/AIDS is a tragedy rooted in culture. It spreads mostly through human choice and action, both of which are culture driven. Family is the fundamental and seminal institution created by God. The health of family as an institution determines the health of society and culture. The emergence and global spread of HIV/AIDS has a poignant reference to the wasting of family as an institution.

“The Impact of Ramakrishna Mission on the Socio-Economic and Cultural Life of the Khasis in East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya”

The study showed that there was a change among the Khasis through the mission that have come closer to their own culture and equal status without hurting their beliefs. Through this mission the Khasi ethos and their world view also have been greatly enriched.