

Dear Partners, Family and Friends!

We pray you have all enjoyed a blessed celebration of Christmas with your families and churches and a hope-filled and refreshing start to the New Year.

WE WANT TO BEGIN THIS NEW YEAR WITH A HUGE *THANK YOU* FOR YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS SUPPORT THAT HAS ENABLED US TO SERVE THE LORD AND MINISTER HIS LOVE AND PEACE HERE IN INDIA.

Now to catch you up with what is happening with us here.

The final two months of 2017 were filled with consecutive training programs with different groups of our Indian partners. We were blessed to have several of our Missionary Partnership Team members and other friends from the US come and join in teaching.

This past year we traveled frequently by flight for ministry with our partners in South and Eastern India and by train and road for work with our North East India partners. Often we were home less than one week in the month. By the end of the year the schedule was beginning to take a toll on our health. Thankfully, we have not suffered any major illness, just nasty cases of the flu and malaise, perhaps exhaustion.

We were committed to minister over Christmas in Changtongya Village, sharing the preaching in five services Dec 23-25. Katie was not well enough to make the grueling journey and spend extended days in the cold mountain village, so Taku made the trip alone. He endured the cold and rustic conditions doing all the preaching and speaking in another program on the 29th, while Katie retreated and recouped spending several days in bed.

We shared a restful New Year's together in Dimapur and are now ready to begin this year's ministry. We will be flying off to South India Jan 8, returning the next week to attend Taku's brother's wedding in the village. This brother lost his wife to cancer in 2015 and is now remarrying.

February we look forward to the influx of many of our US friends and colleagues coming to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church among one of our NEI partner bodies. Following the celebration we will journey again to South India for meetings with leaders all our partners who work together in the ministries of the Commissions and Forums addressing issues and matters regarding Anti-Human Trafficking; Religious Liberty; Women; and Youth; while also continuing the organization of the next All India Baptist Leaders Summit in 2019.

We are rejoicing in the opportunities we have for ministry this year. Looking a bit further down the road, in March we will be baptizing several new believers from Muslim backgrounds and conducting training for new believers from Bhutan. In May we have been invited to teach on mission at the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches Biennial, as a follow-up to our ministry with them last year in Hong Kong. We'll send more details and stories in the coming days.

Please continue to uphold us in your **PRAYERS**

- for grace and strength as we traverse the skies and rough roads to share the Word of God with our partners here in India.
- Please pray for our partners as many are encountering increasing persecution and opposition to the Gospel. Despite this, hearts are open and there is amazing church growth taking place within each of our partners ministry.
- Our Brother-in-law (Taku's sister's husband) has just been diagnosed with final stage stomach cancer that has spread to the pancreas. Please pray for the family
- PRAISE THE LORD that Taku's brother, Imkong, who was suffering with throat cancer, is now cancer free!
- Pray for our family: Katie's parents health and well-being (Mom now 82)
Our kids: Lima is considering coming to live in India with us this summer.
 Meren and his family (2 yr old Liam, and Laura) in Illinois
 Senti and her husband Zack, in Denver

Since our ministry has expanded to all India, our ministry expenses for travel have increased. Please do continue to give that we may move forward, assisting our Partners in the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

Rev. Katie Longkumer
Country Co-Coordinator for India
International Ministries