

CRUSADE ON NAGA MORALITY



261.1095417
261/6/25
NUH
006001
ICSSR

COMPILED BY
REV. DR. V. K. NUH

CRUSADE ON NAGA MORALITY

Compiled by

Rev. Dr. V. K. Nuh

Research Wing,
Council of Naga Baptist Churches,
Midland, Kohima, Nagaland.

(C) 1996 COUNCIL OF NAGA BAPTIST CHURCHES

All rights reserved, no part of this publication may be reproduced, in any form, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the written permission of the author / publisher.

First Edition (1996)
3000 Copies.



006001

Published by : Research Wing, Council of Naga Baptist Churches, Midland, Kohima, Nagaland.

Contents

- Opening Convocation : Rev. Z. Terhuja 1
- Welcome Speech : Mr. Shurhozelie, MLA 3
Kheddi Baptist Church
- Response : Rev. Dr. V. K. Nuh 7
General Secretary, CNBC
- The Prophetic Role of the Church : Rev. Dr. P. Dozo 13
Director, Outreach Challenge Ministry, Delhi
- The Biblical Concept of the Anointed One : Mrs. K. Terhuja, 20
Principal, CES, Dimapur
- Symposium : Witnessing the Truth in Society : 1. Rev. Piano Pani, 26
Principal NTC
2. Mr. Takuyaba, Former MLA 30
3. Rev. L. Suohie Mhasi, 37
Pastor, Rüsoma
- A Study of the Kingdom of God : Dr. Takatemjen Ao 46
Dean, CTC, Aolijen, Mkg.
- The Biblical Concept of Human Rights : Rev. K. Lasuh 59
Principal, BTC Pfüterso
- Reconciliation and Human Existence : Rev. L. Bizo 67
Director, CRDS
- Human Struggle for Freedom and Peace : Dr. Visier Sanyu 74
Head, Deptt. of History, NU
- Reconciliation Through Moral Living : Rev. Dr. Tuisem A. Shishak 81
Principal, Patkai Christian College, Chumukedima
- Facing the Truth : Rev. Dr. Wati Aier 86
Principal, OTS, Bade
- Declaration and Commitment 97
- "Here we are, Use us Lord": V. K. Nuh, Wati Aier, 99
L. Bizo, Tuisem A. Shishak
- A Reflection of the Meet : Mr. Neiwete Chirhah 102
- Appendix — "In Search of a Theological Statement" 106

**ALL NAGA ORDAINED MINISTERS MEET
FOR
“CRUSADE ON NAGA MORALITY”**

held at Kohima, 1st-3rd September, 1995.

Theme : *“The truth shall make you free”*

RESPONSE AND INTRODUCTION

Rev. Dr. V. K. Nuh

The Most and Right
Reverends and Delegates,

It is my profound joy to respond on behalf of all the Ordained Ministers and delegates to the welcome speech of Mr. Shurhuozelie, so graciously expressed on behalf of the hosting church, Kohima Baptist Local Church.

May I first greet our hosting church saying that we are proud and exceedingly glad to be here for the first and most historic meet of all Naga ordained ministers for a “Crusade on Naga Morality”. This is indeed a memorable land mark in the history of the Naga churches since the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ came to our land.

I take this occasion as unusually significant for all of us. Words cannot fully express the feelings, we experience when we come together in this very historic church. This is one of the oldest churches in central Nagaland and has a long tradition of planting and helping many churches in many parts of Nagaland.

A further uniqueness of our Crusade is that this is the first time we are going to recapitulate the Naga fate and are

going to confess our failures to God. In a time like this, when the nation is going through a great turmoil; when everything has gone wrong; when our churches and society is so much in confusion, the Kohima Baptist Local Church has come forward to shoulder this responsibility and welcome us not as a burden, but as a blessing. I am so much thrilled and am thankful from the depth of my heart to the hosting church. In humble prayer I sincerely invoke the rich blessings of our Omnipotent Lord upon this church.

Let me also acknowledge with deep appreciation to Mr Imchanlemba, Member of Parliament (M. P.), his generous contribution of Rs. 20,000 towards the sponsoring of this Crusade Program.

On this auspicious occasion, we have been blessed with many good preachers and scholars to speak to us during this crusade. In order to save time I am not going to introduce them individually. They are the chosen people of God from among us. I surely believe that their contributions are going to be greatly significant to our gathering. I heartily extend a warm welcome to them and look forward to hear challenging messages from them.

I express my sincere thanks and appreciations to all the Program participants and the choirs-Kohima Baptist local Church Choir, Sema Baptist Church Choir, Tangkhul Baptist Church Choir, O.T.S. Choir, K.B.C. Choir, the Herald group, and Naga Reformation Singers, and the Soloists, Ms. Linda Solo, and Ms. Neibano Vamuzo, for their kind co-operation in making this Crusade Program a grand success.

I am convinced by all these provisions that God has a special concern and purpose for the Naga people to bring them together in this manner.

We are gathering here when our society is in great distress and greatly disturbed by all kinds of strife and political upheaval. We are all aware that time is passing away fast but our people are yet to realise the need for reconciliation.

We have come here to find out the root, from where we have started going wrong. The emerging situation is becoming unbearable. I believe that we have come to the turning point, to decide our destiny by transformation of our morality and the whole structure of the society. We have seen that most of the nations have survived when they realized their failures in the midst of suffering and hardship through the church.

I do not want to use this opportunity to rebuke anyone. But looking at the situation of our Naga society today, one is compelled to raise these questions, where is your God? Or where is Naga Theology? Is there any proof that the Naga churches have played fairly in its role of basing on the principles of their faith? Today, the non-Christians are openly talking about the Naga people saying that Christianity in Nagaland has collapsed. If, what you think and are doing is right, then why is Nagaland in such a mess? Yes, Naga people have been passing through many bitter experiences for almost half a century and yet, we could not give any definite theological response to the conflicting situations. A few months back some concerned Naga theologians published an article "In Search of a Theological Statement", but, very surprisingly, no ordained minister or church leader made any comment on it, either positive or negative. Everyone remained silent as if they were deaf and dumb.

Why did this failure happen to us? Is this failure due to over emphasis of our faith to supernatural reality? Or, is it because of turning of our faith to excess secularism? Or, is it due to the failure relating the Christian good news to material poverty? Or, is it because of our uncritical acceptance of traditional religion? Or does the theological superficiality not make any sense to the common people?

We have to find out the true theological stance of our Christian faith. The first century christianity penetrated into the society was revolutionary. They confronted the mighty Roman chauvinism. But, they ultimately brought the Romans to their knees with a declaration : "Ceasar is not Lord : but, Jesus is Lord".

Today, the Naga christians are willing to say, "No" to evil. We tend to compromise with a false theology which says, "Blessed are the arrogant for they shall prosper." We, the church leaders are responsible that till now we could not develop a relevant theology of our own. We must struggle hard to bring out the true concept of our Christian faith and effectively present it according to the need of the new and changing context.

Jeremiah was speaking to the people of his day, "You have departed from the faith of your fathers. Return, return, return, to the old way and old faith". (Jer. 26:13) The same way God wants us to come back to our true faith and forsake our false belief.

I often feel that hardships should revive God's people and lead them to seek peace through repentance and reconciliaton.

The Lord's message is not vague. He sends His servants to particular situations with specific missions to fulfill. He does not use angels to preach the Gospel, but, He uses man. His approach to sinners is a fully human approach, comprehensible with simple minds. It is man to man. The Christian must have a clear message for every situation. The Gospel of Christ is a divine message revealed through human form.

Very unfortunately, many of us have become like prophets during the time of Ezekiel. God rebuked these prophets, "ye eat the fat,... but ye feed not the flock...Because there is no shepherd : and they become meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered". (Ezek. 34:3-5)

Where are the shepherds of the Nagas? For what purpose have we been ordained? We have so many ordained church leaders holding positions of leadership in various ministries. However, most of our ministries are not for God but for self. We pretend to do all kinds of good services and maintain respectability, philanthropy, personal graciousness and the charm of religious observance; but, no power to resist against evil.

The Bible says, "The people of that country chose one of their members to be a watchman...If, however, the watchman sees the enemy coming and does not sound the alarm, the enemy will come and kill those sinners. But, I will hold the watchman responsible for their death". (Ezek 33:2-6)

It seems so simple, but what a terrible warning. "If the righteous man turn to wickedness, he will perish, and if the wicked turns to righteousness he will live..." (Ezek. 33:21)

Today, the nakedness of Naga morality has gone to the lowest ebb. I prayerfully hope that this crusade will convince us more clearly of our failures and lead us to confess before God and ask for His forgiveness and healing to our wounded and broken society.

In conclusion I am deeply moved to see our family reunion. Though we are scattered in all Naga inhabited areas, our common concern for the betterment of our society has brought us together. I believe that this is the provision of God to demonstrate once again the unity of our faith in Christ.

On this solemn occasion, I want to call your attention to National Repentance. Let us make a realistic assessment of our situation. We know that God works whenever man thinks that it is too late. He always uses someone to rescue His people when they repent and plead for mercy. It is true that God uses the broken and wounded persons to be a blessing to others. I see no reason why Nagas cannot be a blessing to others if they really repent, and turn to Him with our broken heart and plead for the salvation of our society from the present situation and impending catastrophe.

Let us search our hearts and ask God to reveal His purpose, so that our stay here for three days may be a healing touch to our society.

May the Holy Spirit melt our hearts and illuminate our minds to discover the true message of the Christian faith which makes man free from all kinds of bondage. Amen.