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3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter



# Spotlight

Voice of Northeast India Union Of S.D.A



Feature:

AWR Retreat 2024



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**Spotlight : July, August, September 2024**

**Editor** : Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh

**Member** : Pr. Graceson Kamei

**Cover design** : Mr. Nathaniel Phanbuh

 neiuspotlight@gmail.com

 <https://sdaneiu.org.in>

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## “REACH OUT AND TOUCH THE LORD,” THE CENTRAL CIRCLE ADVENTIST YOUTH FEDERATION



Psalm 84:10 says, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

In line with the commission given to humanity, and under the theme “REACH OUT AND TOUCH THE LORD,” the Central Circle Adventist Youth Federation (CCAYF) successfully organized its 4th Evangelistic Meeting at the SDA Campus in Tarung from July 23rd to 28th, 2024.

Leading up to the event, local youth took the initiative to distribute invitation palm leaflets to every household and personally invite community members. The meeting was aimed at students, youth, and the wider local community, including fellow believers and church

members. Various programs were conducted, such as morning devotions, chapel classes, and family worship sessions in the evenings.

The event was blessed with a large turnout and the participation of many believers. We are deeply grateful to the Manipur Conference of SDA, the church, the school, the SDA Church in Tarung, and the Youth Director of the Manipur Conference of SDA, along with the dedicated speakers who graciously worked for the Lord. Above all, we thank Almighty God for the blessings He bestowed upon the program.

We believe now is a crucial time to become prayer warriors in these final days. We trust that the seeds we have sown will, by God's grace, multiply and produce abundant harvest.

In another noteworthy event, the quarterly gathering of the Central Circle Adventist Youth Federation took place on August 31st at SDA Church Tarung. Approximately 280 members, including visitors from nearby churches, came together for a blessed Sabbath. Youth from various churches participated in the program, fostering a deeper connection among our brethren.

During the Adventist Youth (AY) program, we were blessed to hear the living testimony of Mr. Tashing Ningshen. Despite his age, he found the truth and stands firm in his faith—a great lesson and challenge to all of us in our spiritual journey. We pray that those who thirst for the gospel and truth will be guided by the Holy Spirit and led to the right path.

As young people, it is our duty to reach out to those in need.

*Reported by: Gaingam Gangmei, CCAYF Secretary*

## NEIU CHILDREN SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINING



On August 4, 2024 Northeast India Union Children Sabbath School Teachers Training was conducted under the leadership of our Northeast India Union Children Ministries Director, Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh. Although we didn't physically gather in one location, we had a successful Zoom meeting, with 69 people from various units attending.

The training started with a devotion and the message was presented by Pastor Tawkthanga, the President of NEIU, he delivered a lively and encouraging message, emphasizing that Children Sabbath School teachers play a crucial role in children's spiritual development within the church, beyond their parents' influence. He cited Psalm 127:3, highlighting that our skills and abilities alone are insufficient—we need God's protection and guidance as we take care of the children.

Our resource person, Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh, reminded us of the responsibilities of the Sabbath school teachers. Key points she emphasized include:

*Heart Preparation:* Sabbath school teachers must prepare their hearts before teaching the children. This preparation helps them to present the story in an effective manner.

*Prayer and Spiritual Growth:* Sabbath school teachers should maintain a consistent prayer life and focus on personal spiritual growth.

*Engaging Stories:* Teachers should use relatable stories from children's lives to make learning more interesting and that will help to convey the good news of salvation to children.

*Transformation Teaching:* The sabbath school lesson teaching should not be just for information but that transformation should come about in the lives of the children.

*Exemplary Behavior:* Teachers should be punctual, timely, and exemplary, earning children's trust that they will follow what they are teaching.

*Personal Recognition:* Sabbath school teachers should know the children by name outside the church as well. This practice fosters positive relationships and strengthens the sense of community.

*Bible Study:* Sabbath school teachers should encourage children to deepen their knowledge of God and His grace by studying the Bible daily. Regular engagement with Scripture helps them grow spiritually.

*Expressions of Love:* Children should be guided to express their love for God through words, prayer, and faithfulness in their daily lives.

After the presentation, Mrs. Graceton Marak, Teacher of Hillview School, Tura shared her experience of teaching memory verses to the children. Her approach to teaching memory verses is commendable. Recognizing and rewarding children who learn verses with stars is a great way to motivate them further.

Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh, Mrs. Lethina Sangma, Mrs. Tani Hauzel, Mrs. Rahel Panmei, Mrs. Ningthaimei, and Mrs. Lalrindiki presented children's songs for all of us that can be taught in the sabbath school.

These songs shared added more meaning to the training. These insights will be valuable for Children Sabbath School teachers as they continue caring for the children.

We would like to thank Mrs. Moite for chairing the meeting.

*Reported by: Mrs. Lalrindiki, Children Ministries Coordinator, Tripura Region of SDA*

## ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO RETREAT IN SHILLONG



The Adventist World Radio (AWR) Asia-Pacific Region conducted its retreat for Northeast India Union AWR evangelists and workers in Shillong from August 19-20, 2024. The theme chosen for this retreat was entitled, “Building the Kingdom Together.” Selected delegates from the field attended this retreat. Pr. Robert Dulay, AWR Director of Asia-Pacific Region, Dr. (Pr.) Johnson, AWR Assoc. Director for SUD, Pr. Ramesh Kumar, and Mr. Pratik were the resource personnels for this retreat.

Most of the delegates arrived on Sunday. After dinner, the delegates gathered in the NEIU Conference Hall for worship. During the worship, Ms. Aghali shared a meaningful thought setting the tone upon the minds of the delegates for the AWR related sessions to follow the next day.





By Monday morning, the remaining delegates arrived and after breakfast, all gathered for the morning devotion which was taken by Pr. Robert Dulay. He shared a powerful testimony from his ministry in collaboration with the AWR work in Asia-Pacific Region. It was a meaningful devotion. During the sessions, the resource personnels elaborated the purpose of AWR ministry and the protocols on how it is to be done. Break-out sessions were led by Mr. Pratik and Pr. Ramesh Kumar regarding Center for Digital Evangelism (CDE), and AWR related work.



There was Q & A session also where several questions which were asked by the delegates were answered by the resource personnels. With these activities, the first day of AWR retreat ended.

On Tuesday, after breakfast, all the delegates gathered once again in the NEIU Conference Hall for the second day of AWR retreat. Pr. Ramesh Kumar opened the day with a powerful message about Prophet Nehemiah and his ministry in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. It was a very apt message for that moment. Then, Mr. Pratik took over and explained about CDE. He also engaged the delegates with few interesting games on team work. Finally, Mr. P. Pasi, the Exec. Secretary of NEIU took the consecration service which ended with a meaningful candle lighting ceremony after which, Pr.Tawka C., the President of NEIU offered the prayer of consecration

for AWR ministry in NEIU. It was a meaningful experience and all the delegates were richly blessed. Kindly pray for the AWR ministry in NEIU.

*Reported by: Pr. Barwin Marak, Communication Director, Garo Section*

## NEIU WOMEN MINISTRIES ADVISORY



The NEIU Women Ministries Advisory was conducted at NEIU meeting hall in Shillong on August 27, 2024. The theme of the Advisory was “Reach Out and Touch the Lord”. Mrs. Krupa Victor, Director, Women Ministries of SUD was the main resource personnel for the program. Women Ministries Directors from all the 8 units of the Union attended the Advisory.

The Advisory was very meaningful & Spiritual. Mrs. Krupa Victor spoke on Aims & Objectives of Women Ministries. Mrs. Lalbiakdiki presented about Women Leadership & Outreach, Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh presented on Women Leadership & Certification and Pastor Tawkthanga presented about virtuous Women and conducted the consecration service.

We thank Mrs. Lalbiakdiki, Director, Women Ministries of NEIU for organizing the Women Ministries Advisory.

*Reported by Mrs. Malsawmi Sangma, Coordinator, Women Ministries, Arunachal Region of SDA*

## AWR TRAINING IN AIZAWL FOR NEIU AWR PRODUCERS



The Northeast India Union Communication Dept. in collaboration with AWR, the Mizo Conference of Seventh-day Adventists conducted AWR Training for NEIU AWR producers at the headquarters of the Mizo Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Aizawl, Mizoram from September 8-12, 2024. The theme chosen for this training program was 'Broadcast to Baptism.'

17 Delegates from all the units of NEIU attended this training program.

The main resource personnel for this training were:

1. Mr. Lalmuansanga Kiangte
2. Mr. MS Dawngliana
3. Mr. C Lalmuaka
4. Mr. Zohmingsanga







The following were the topics that were taught by these resource personnel.

1. Introduction to Media Ministry
2. Introduction Internet Radio
3. Audio Recording Technique with Cu-base
4. AWR Program Uploading
5. Radio Magazine
6. Introduction to Adobe Audition
7. Basic Technique of Videography
8. Basic Video Editing with Adobe Premiere

The morning sessions were allotted for presentations and in the afternoon, practical sessions were conducted for an hands-on experience related to AWR. One of the highlights of these trainings included making tracks and inserting voices for all parts for the song “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” It was such an exciting learning experience for all the delegates.

The morning and evening devotions were taken by the following individuals:

1. Pr. Rodingliana C.
2. Pr. Barwin Marak
3. Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh
4. Pr. Malsawma Tochwawng
5. Pr. R. Lalramnghaka
6. Pr. Lalrohlua Fanai
7. Pr. Kadirei Kamsuan
8. Mr. Amri Lyngdoh
9. Pr. Biakzidinga Renthlei





In addition to the training sessions, it was a wonderful privilege for the delegates to tour the city of Aizawl all the way up to the highest view point in the city. From this view point, the entire city of Aizawl can be seen. The view was spectacular as the sun began to set in the western side and the night view was even more amazing! This memorable visit ended with a sumptuous meal and a devotion at this view point. It was a reflection of God's wonderful work of creation.

On September 13, 2024, all the delegates bid each other good bye and headed to their respective destinations. We would like to thank the Mizo Conference for their dedication and willingness to impart the knowledge and expertise towards the growth of AWR evangelism in

NEIU and AWR for sponsoring this training. May God bless them abundantly.

*Reported by: Pr. Barwin Marak, Communication Director, Garo Section*

## A NEW LIGHT: RECONNECTING WITH GOD



My name is Devakanda Maibam, and I am from Oksu Ningthemcha Khul. This is my story of how I got reconnected with God. Everyone has their own spiritual journey and their unique way of connecting with Him. Today, I am sharing mine in the hope and prayer that it may help others who are searching for God to be blessed as I have been.

This is not the first time I have walked with our Lord Jesus Christ. I am a trained theological evangelist, having graduated in 2003 from Gospel for Asia, Manipur. With the sponsorship of STNBA, I served wholeheartedly for years, sharing the light and strength I had received in areas like Tumakhong, Meitei Etham, and Moirang Buren. Through God's grace, I was able to plant and establish three churches during

my ministry. However, the path I was on didn't lead to the outcome I had initially hoped for, and my spiritual journey took an unexpected turn.

I first met Evangelist Wungreingam Leisan in 2000 during our theological studies. Afterward, we went our separate ways. But in 2009, through God's providence, we crossed paths again. From that point on, we began communicating regularly, sharing our faith in Christ whenever we could. It was through Wungreingam's teachings on the true meaning of the books of Daniel and Revelation that I began to truly understand the nature of salvation. Even though I had paused my ministry and taken on other work to support my family, I had been praying for a partner to rejoin me in spreading God's word. No one else, except Pastor Wungreingam, continued to reach out to me with that same mission.

Then, last year, a significant turning point came when I was involved in an accident. This incident forced me to stop and reflect on my life and my calling. It was during this time that Evangelist Wungreingam shared with me that he had been praying for me ever since we reconnected, nearly 15 years ago. I realized that all along, this was the answer to the prayers I had offered, a calling to God's Family, though this time as an Adventist.

One of the key lessons I've learned through this journey is that experience cannot be taught, bought, or given; it must be earned through trials and struggles. However, by keeping our faith and opening our hearts to God's true word, we are led closer to Him.

Having found new light, my wife and I, who has been with me every step of the way, were baptized on September 14th, 2024. Our family has once again recommitted our lives to serving the Lord. We humbly

ask for your prayers and support as we continue spreading God's word. As the Bible reminds us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

May God bless you all.

*By: Devakanda Maibam*

## NEW TURA PATHFINDER CLUB'S WORLD PATHFINDER DAY



This year, the New Tura Pathfinder Club commemorated World Pathfinder Day by organizing a pre-Pathfinder Day Week-of-prayer, held from 15th to 21st September 2024. The week-long event

culminated in the celebration of Pathfinder Day on the 21st of September. Throughout the week, both the pathfinders and counselors actively participated in various activities, contributing to the success of the event.



### *Week-of-prayer Overview*

The Week-of-prayer, themed "Jesus Camps with You," ran from 15th to 21st September 2024 and concluded with the Pathfinder Day celebration. Each day's meeting was enriched by special songs presented by the pathfinders, further inspiring the congregation. The messages delivered throughout the week drew parallels between camping and the Christian journey, making each session both relatable and spiritually uplifting.

### Day 1: *"Called to Camp"*

Counselor Kenil Marak opened the Week-of-prayer by sharing how God has called His children, from the time of Adam to the present, to “camp” with Him.

### Day 2: *"Camping Gears"*

Treasurer Sengchote Sangma spoke about the importance of choosing the right "camping essentials" for the journey. He emphasized that just as campers should travel light, Christians should avoid carrying the burdens of this world.

### Day 3: *"Camping Trip"*

Chaplain Donald Ch. Momin shared how the journey to a campsite may be challenging due to difficult conditions. However, he reminded the audience that God is with us throughout every step of our Christian journey.

### Day 4: *"Boot Camp"*

Club Director Milton R. Marak delivered a message comparing the hardships faced during camping to the trials Christians experience in life. He emphasized that these challenges are meant to refine and strengthen us, just as boot camps bring out the best in campers.

### Day 5: *"Camper on a Mission"*

Deputy Director Winfrey Sangma discussed how campers, like Christians, are on a mission, not for self-interest, but for a greater purpose. She referenced John 20:21, where Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

### Day 6: "Not Always a Camper"

Club Secretary Bijoy Roy concluded the series by reminding the audience that just as campers eventually return home, Christians will one day return to the home that Jesus has prepared for them.

### 'Pathfinder Day'

On Pathfinder Day, the pathfinders took an active role in leading programs from the Sabbath School to the Adventist Youth (AY) program. During Sabbath School, pathfinders presented a feature talk and a mission report. The divine service message was delivered by Club Director Milton R. Marak, who summarized the key messages from the Week-of-prayer and emphasized that Jesus desires to camp with each of us.

After the divine service, the congregation enjoyed a potluck, where everyone contributed whatever, they had, coming together as one united family.

The day's activities concluded with the AY program, where pathfinders performed a skit directed by Bijoy Roy. The skit highlighted the importance of respecting others, regardless of their circumstances, as not everyone enjoys the same privileges. Following the skit and a special song by the pathfinders, Club Chaplain Donald Ch. Momin led a fun and engaging game, marking the end of the celebration.

The New Tura Pathfinder Club's World Pathfinder Day 2024 was a spiritually enriching and memorable event, inspiring pathfinders and participants alike to continue their journey with Jesus as their guide.

*Report prepared by: Mr. Milton R. Marak, Director, New Tura Pathfinder Club*

## THE NEIU ONLINE MASTER GUIDE INVESTITURE SERVICE



The NEIU Online Master Guide Ministry was initiated to meet the units' needs of Master Guides. Many members and workers wanted to complete the Master Guide program and be equipped to be active in Youth Ministries and in order to set up Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs in their churches.

Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh, the Northeast India Union Youth Director, was very concerned about the need having more qualified Master Guides in the different parts of the NEIU of SDA. After much prayers, God opened the way to meet this need.



After online classes brought in by the pandemic, the idea of this online program took root. God answered the leaders' prayers by bringing in the willing services of Dr. Ranjith Kingston and Dr. Carol Kingston, who spent much of their precious time in this program. We would like to thank them for their valuable service.



The office bearers were:

Facilitators – Dr. Ranjith Kingston and Dr. Carol Kingston

Director – Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh

Instructor – Pr (Dr) Lionel Ford Lyngdoh

Secretary – Mr. Milton Marak

Treasurer – Pr. Aibor Sokhlet

Chaplain – Pr. Barwin Marak

Social Program Coordinator – Mr. Micheal Sangma

The program could run smoothly and successfully because of the dedication and hard work of these office bearers. The MGT orientation and registration was conducted on March 11, 2023, and the Induction ceremony was on April 1, 2023. From then on, classes were conducted through the Zoom platform every alternate Sabbath evenings up to December 2023, followed by a beautiful camping at Shella, Meghalaya, from 26th to 28th December 2023. The investiture service was scheduled for February 17, 2024, but this could not be conducted on time as most of the Master Guides Trainees could not submit their assignments to the google classroom on time.

In the beginning, 72 trainees registered for the program, but due to the ethnic clash in Manipur in May 2023; the trainees from the Manipur Unit (which consisted of the most prominent group) could not continue. There were other problems that came up too; some found the assignments tough; some could not manage their time to attend the online classes because of their busy schedules, and some got transferred and moved far away to be able to participate in their unit classes and the camp in Shella.

As most of the trainees could not complete their assignments before February 17, 2024, three deadlines for completing our assignments were given. Many of us might not have completed the program if this grace time had not been given. The final deadline was set as 30 August 2024. In the end, 25 trainees were able to complete their requirements.

The NEIU Online Master Guide Investiture service was conducted at Life Spring Corner, Dimapur, on September 21, 2024 during the AY; officiated by Mr. Prosperity Pasi, NEIU Secretary, Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh, NEIU Youth Director, Mr. Daniel Thaimai, Manipur Conference Youth Director, Pr. Laljuala Reang, Tripura Region Youth Director and Pr. Kadirei Kamsuan, Circle Leader in Nagaland Region.

Among those who completed the Mater Guide were pastors, administrators, teachers, and other lay members, including a government workers. The trainees were young unmarried youths, parents with small kids, and older ones with bigger children.

## **MASTER GUIDE INVESTITURE CANDIDATES**

### **New Tura Church Unit**

- Barwin Ch. Marak
- Milton R. Marak

### **Myliem Church Unit**

- Pynkmenbiang Suiam

### **Nagaland Region Unit**

- Khetohozzz Zhimo
- Damei Kameiluh
- Gaibung Panmei
- Gaingampou Gangmei
- Gangchadyan Chamei Gonmei
- Ichiheing
- Kimlyna Lamare
- Chuimei Gonmei

### **Riverside Adventist Academy Unit**

- Sunakshi w Sangma
- Erickson Gonmei
- Fulmani Marandi
- Gongkinlung Kamei
- Luchang Gangmei
- P. Zeena Gonmei

### **Nongpoh Church Unit**

- Heimonmi Mawlong
- Socyevelyn Thapa
- Mevareen Kharmawphlang
- David Bobby Sweetly

### **Arunachal Pradesh Region Unit 6**

- Cathy Chhakchhuak Boro
- Deepak Boro
- Donny Sangma
- Michael Sangma

I want to congratulate the Nagaland unit for having the most trainees who completed the program. It would be important to note that dedicated counselors yielded higher success rates within their units.

We thank the Lord for guiding us throughout the program and the consistent dedication of our NEIU Youth Director, Mrs. Betty Lyngdoh.

*Reported by: Cathy LC Boro, Kolkata, West Bengal*

## NORTH EAST INDIA ADVENTIST YOUTH BIBLE CAMP



The North East India Adventist Youth Bible Camp, held from September 18-22, 2024 at Life Spring Corner, Dimapur, Nagaland was an impactful spiritual gathering attended by more than 165 young people from Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Assam. The theme of this camp was, 'Not Of the world.' This event marked a significant time of revival, reflection, and renewed commitment to mission work for the Lord.

### *Spiritual Growth and Rebirth*

Central to the camp was the theme of \*spiritual rebirth\*, emphasizing the importance of being "born twice" — physically and spiritually. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their spiritual journeys, understanding that rebirth in Christ ensures eternal life. The story of Achan (Joshua 6) highlighted how even hidden sins can hinder spiritual

growth, while Rahab's transformation (Joshua 2) served as a powerful reminder that God can redeem anyone regardless of their past.

### *Prayer and Mission*

Prayer was a focal point throughout the camp, with a renewed understanding that prayer is not only for requesting things from God but for drawing closer to Him. The youth were encouraged to adopt a life of mission, with a clear message that spirituality cannot be separated from the call to share the gospel. Outreach activities further strengthened the sense of purpose, as participants engaged in local missions, embodying the principles of discipleship and evangelism.

### *Testimonies of Transformation*

The impact of the camp was profound, with many participants sharing their testimonies of personal transformation. One delegate from

Manipur expressed heartfelt gratitude:

A delegate from Manipur expressed that it was the most spiritually enriching camp they had ever attended and that their life would not be the same after the experience. On behalf of the Manipur Conference, they thanked the organizers, AWR, AMAZING FACTS INDIA, NEIU for creating such a Spirit-filled Bible camp and expressed hope for more camps like this to inspire, reform, and empower young people for the Lord.

Another participant acknowledged the tireless efforts of the organizers, stating:

A participant shared that the hard work of the organizers, including AWR, Amazing Facts India, and NEIU, had not gone unnoticed and that they felt truly blessed by the experience. They also expressed a prayer

that God would bless and refresh these organizations abundantly for their labor of love in making the event a success.

### *Commitment to Discipleship*

The camp fostered a deeper commitment to discipleship, with participants reflecting on the cost of following Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). Discussions around the importance of separating from worldly distractions (1 John 2:15-16) and living a mission-driven life inspired attendees to pursue personal growth in their faith.

### *Conclusion*

The North East India Adventist Youth Bible Camp was a spiritually uplifting and transformative experience. Through prayer, mission, and fellowship, participants left with a renewed passion to serve the Lord and share His message of salvation. This camp was a testament to the power of spiritual revival, inspiring the youth to continue their faith journey and lead others to Christ.

*Reported by: Martin Mundu, AWR Studios Coordinator*

## ARE ALIENS HERE?



*By Scott Cady*

At a Congressional hearing on July 26, 2023, David Grusch, a former intelligence official turned whistleblower, and two retired Navy fighter pilots answered questions about UAP (unidentified aerial phenomena, popularly known as UFOs). Grusch told a packed room that in 2019, military officials informed him of “a multi-decade UAP crash retrieval and reverse engineering program.”<sup>1</sup> When congressmen pressed him for details, he testified that the US government not only had UFOs in its possession, it also had nonhuman “biologics” from crashed UFOs. <sup>2</sup>

You read that right: nonhuman biologics—remains of formerly living beings—from crashed UFOs. That such a statement could be made in a formal setting is breathtaking. In the space of two hours, his testimony launched UFOs out of folklore and into the public square.

What Do Americans Think? Grusch and his fellow witnesses would be easily dismissed if they were merely tipsy backwater hicks who said they saw something, but each of them is a vetted member of the United States military. They are what most people would call credible witnesses.

And they aren't the only ones raising concerns. Military pilots, commercial pilots, and other professionals are offering their accounts of strange sightings. A phenomenon once mocked by sane people is now being verified by credentialed observers. And though little has been officially acknowledged, recent events seem to indicate that something is lurking in the shadows.

Ordinarily, this would be big news, but oddly enough, it has barely rippled the mainstream media. And yet, the subject is gaining traction in popular culture, even though there is no widespread consensus. According to an article in The Hill, "An Ipsos3 poll, released on the eve of the congressional hearing, found that 42 percent of Americans believe in UFOs, while 1 in 10 respondents claims to have seen one. A 2021 report by Pew Research found that half of the nation believes military UFO reports constitute probable or definite evidence of extraterrestrial life."<sup>4</sup>

Apparently, Americans are suspicious. They sense there is more to the story than stonewalling bureaucrats are telling them. "No other subject, perhaps, inspires such persistent talk about conspiracies and cover-ups. A Gallup poll in 2019 found that 68 percent of respondents believe the US government knows more about UFOs than it is telling us."<sup>5</sup>



And while there is no proof for Grusch's outlandish claims, the fact remains that reliable witnesses struggle to describe what they're seeing, let alone offer scientific explanations for their observations. This epidemic of uncertainty is challenging many people to reevaluate their worldview. One commentator observes that we're "seeing a complete destruction of bedrock reality."<sup>6</sup>

### *A Biblical Worldview*

If reality is being upended, where does that leave us? Arthur C. Clarke, author of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, is credited with the famous quip: "Two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying."<sup>7</sup> He's right. Both possibilities are unsettling, and it would be nice to leave such concerns to ivory-tower philosophers. But that attitude is not an available luxury anymore. Current events demand that rational people reconsider their place in the universe and give serious thought to their worldview. And what is a worldview? It is simply "a comprehensive conception or philosophy of the universe and of humanity's relation to it."<sup>8</sup>

What does the Bible say about aliens? It tells us that no one is here on our planet without God's direct appointment or approval. The Scriptures name only three types of beings that inhabit Earth.

First, there are human beings. God created Earth in seven days. On the sixth day, He said, "Let Us make man in Our image. . . . So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. . . . Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." (Genesis 1:26–31, NKJV). From the beginning, human beings have been residents of Earth. In fact, Earth was designed as their perfect residence, and all of creation was made to bring them joy and happiness.

Second, there are good angels, or “ministering spirits,” as they are called in Hebrews 1:14. They are a higher order of being (see Psalm 8:4, 5) and are often mentioned in the Bible. They visited Abraham before Sodom was destroyed (Genesis 18; 19), preserved Daniel in the lions’ den (Daniel 6), and delivered Peter from prison (Acts 12).

The last type of being inhabiting our planet is evil angels, the good angels’ counterparts. They were cast out of heaven along with Satan when they rebelled against God’s government. “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So, the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:8, 9, NKJV). The devil’s expulsion moved the great controversy between Christ and Satan from heaven to earth, plunging humanity into an epic battle for survival.

And that’s it. Just three types of beings share our space: human beings, good angels, and evil angels (also called demons). What complicates the subject is that angels can take many shapes. Good angels can appear as glorious beings, as happened at Jesus’ tomb (Matthew 28:2–4), but they can also appear as human beings, as they did to Abraham and Lot (Genesis 18; 19). Evil angels can pose as deceased humans (see the story of Saul, Samuel, and the witch of Endor in 1 Samuel 28), and they often possess human subjects. The Bible states that Satan even “transforms himself into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). Of course, there is plenty we do not understand about angels—both good and bad—but it seems that they can appear in many forms.

These certainties simplify our quest to discover who is behind UFOs. If what we're seeing isn't of human origin and if it isn't from God, then only one option remains according to the Bible: the phenomena must be the work of evil angels performing the will of their leader, Satan.

### *A Way Forward*

As you consider this disturbing topic, here are some things to keep in mind.

1. Steer clear of the paranormal. If you listen closely to those who study aliens and UFOs, their commentary eventually drifts into the paranormal and tales of telepathic communication and mind control. They then declare that the new frontier involves studies in consciousness and life after death. Australian investigative journalist Ross Coulthart typifies this point of view. "I think there's a consciousness story behind all of this, and I'm very early in trying to understand it."<sup>9</sup>

Without fail, aliens and UFOs are linked with the paranormal, giving further evidence that they are not of divine origin. God doesn't play cat-and-mouse games with His children. His will has been clearly communicated in the Bible and through His Son, Jesus Christ. Dabbling in the paranormal to understand aliens is as foolhardy as Eve trying to reason with the serpent in the Garden of Eden.

2. Don't trust your senses. For many people, seeing is believing, which is a good rule of thumb for most major life decisions, such as making big purchases. The principle serves us well in temporal matters, but in spiritual affairs, our senses are not a reliable guide to reality. The devil is a master magician and is making every effort to deceive us. The Bible offers this stark warning: "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying

wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10).

Unfortunately, humans are a curious bunch, making them ripe for deception. In his written statement, submitted to the July 2023 congressional hearing, David Grusch concluded: “The knowledge we stand to gain should spur us toward a more enlightened and sustainable future, one where collective curiosity is ignited, and global cooperation becomes the norm, rather than the exception.”<sup>10</sup> His advocacy for “collective curiosity” and “global cooperation,” though well-intentioned, are precisely what Satan is hoping to take advantage of with his sleight of hand!

For example, a few weeks after Grusch’s testimony, Ross Coulthart was asked, “If a nonhuman intelligence approached you, what would you do?” Without hesitating, he shot back, “I’d get a bloody interview, of course!”<sup>11</sup>

What people don’t realize is that their curiosity, even if it is armed with the scientific method, is no match for the ruler of darkness. Our five senses are easily duped. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:1, 2, KJV).

But if we can’t trust our eyes or our ears or tangible evidence, what are we left with?

3. Test everything by the Word of God. Without the Bible, we are defenseless against Satan’s sophistries. Everything must be measured by God’s Word.

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20, NKJV).

“Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1, NKJV).

“Now the [Holy] Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1, NKJV).

The Bible alone provides the frame of reference for every issue—including aliens and UFOs. Everything must be evaluated by its teachings. There is no way to understand reality except by trusting the light shining from Scripture. The only way forward is to join David in saying, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105, NKJV).

### *A Spiritual Battle*

So, are aliens here? If by aliens you mean visiting beings from other planets, the answer is no. The Bible gives no indication that extraterrestrials have visited Earth, much less taken up residence here. However, if by aliens you mean nonhuman intelligent beings, the answer is an unequivocal yes, in the form of evil angels. They have been here a long, long time, waiting for the right moment to strike. A storm is brewing, and you can expect supernatural manifestations to increase as Satan ramps up his attack on humankind “because he knows that his time is short” (Revelation 12:12). “Your adversary the

devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8, NKJV).

The battle we all face is a spiritual one. The rulers of darkness are hell-bent on your destruction and mine. Our only safety is in Jesus Christ. It’s time to invite Him into your life and accept the protection He offers. “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them” (Psalm 34:7, ESV).

Scott Cady is an editor and the marketing director for Signs of the Times®.

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*Taken from: Signs of the Times, February 2024 Issue*

## THE CASE FOR LEGUMES



By Sanitarium Health Food Company

Legumes are a powerhouse of nutrition, not to mention delicious, budget-friendly, and easy to use. So, here's what you need to know about them, why they're good for you, and how to use them.

Legume is a broad term that refers to all types of beans and peas from the Fabaceae (or Leguminosae) botanical family. These include chickpeas, butter beans, kidney beans, cannellini beans, lentils, and soybeans (plus many more). They come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colours. You can buy them canned or cooked, frozen or dried, and even ground into flour or made into milk. In fact, there are nearly 20,000 different species of legumes.

### THE MANY BENEFITS OF LEGUMES

Legumes can provide nutrients such as B vitamins, iron, and zinc for energy, plus calcium and magnesium for bone and muscle health.



They provide one of the best sources of plant protein. Legumes are a source of gut-friendly fibre, including prebiotics, to support a healthy digestive system and phytonutrients (powerful plant compounds). Legumes are also low glycemic index foods.

Research on legumes has linked regularly eating the humble bean to some big health benefits, including a reduced risk of heart disease and some cancers, better weight management, and longer life.

**Buying And Cooking Legumes** The way you cook and prepare legumes depends on how you buy them.

**Canned:** One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to enjoy legumes is by buying them canned so you have them on hand and ready to go whenever you need them. Simply drain, give them a quick rinse, and they are ready to go!

**Frozen:** You can buy some varieties of legumes frozen and ready to cook, such as peas and edamame.

**Dried:** Dried black beans, chickpeas, kidney beans, navy beans, and pinto beans are among those that you will need to soak before you cook them. It helps them cook faster and more evenly and helps our bodies digest them. However, not all dried legumes need to be soaked in advance. For instance, split peas and lentils do fine without soaking.

**Ready-made:** You can buy a variety of tasty, ready-made legume dishes in your local supermarket, including hummus, baked beans, tofu, and ready-made veggie burgers.

eat legumes often!

Try to include a 3- to 4-ounce serving of legumes at least two to three times per week. But you don't need to stop there. If you're already enjoying legumes, try including them in even more meals to make the most of their health benefits. A serving could be 1 cup of cooked kidney beans, a half can of drained chickpeas, or about half of a 16-ounce block of tofu.

Article courtesy of Sanitarium Health Food Company. For more information and heart-healthy recipes, visit [sanitarium.com.au](http://sanitarium.com.au).

# NORTHEAST INDIA UNION PATHFINDER CAMPOREE



**THEME: 'BELIEVE THE PROMISE'**



**Date:** December 18-21, 2024



**Place:** Bodak, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh



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## Northeast India Union Directory

Northeast India Union of SDA  
“Santana”, Laitumkhrach  
Shillong 793 003 Meghalaya  
(0364) 252-0104/252-2471

President, Tawkthanga C  
(0) 9485175898  
[president@neuadventist.org](mailto:president@neuadventist.org)/  
[c\\_tawka@yahoo.com](mailto:c_tawka@yahoo.com)

Secretary, Prosperity Pasi  
(0) 986 301-4040  
[pasiprospersity@yahoo.com](mailto:pasiprospersity@yahoo.com)

Treasurer, Wungreiyo Shimray  
(0) 8974158122  
[treasurerneu@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerneu@gmail.com)/  
[ayoshimray79@gmail.com](mailto:ayoshimray79@gmail.com)

Departments:

Tawkthanga C  
(0) 9485175898  
Ministerial Association  
[ministeriala@neuadventist.org](mailto:ministeriala@neuadventist.org)

Prosperity Pasi  
(0) 986 301-4040  
India Financial Association/ Religious Liberty  
[pasiprospersity@yahoo.com](mailto:pasiprospersity@yahoo.com)

Wungreiyo Shimray

(0) 8974158122

Planned Giving and Trust Services

[pgts@neuadventist.org](mailto:pgts@neuadventist.org)

Barcley K Momin

(0) 7005223770

Education/ Health / Global Mission

[education@neuadventist.org](mailto:education@neuadventist.org)

[healthm@neuadventist.org](mailto:healthm@neuadventist.org)

[globalm@neuadventist.org](mailto:globalm@neuadventist.org)

[barcleymomin@gmail.com](mailto:barcleymomin@gmail.com)

Graceson Kamei

(0) 961243318

Family Ministries/Stewardship Ministries/Public Campus Ministry/

Special Ministries/Gospel Outreach

[familym@neuadventist.org](mailto:familym@neuadventist.org)

[stewardshipm@neuadventist.org](mailto:stewardshipm@neuadventist.org)

[pcm@neuadventist.org](mailto:pcm@neuadventist.org)

[specialm@neuadventist.org](mailto:specialm@neuadventist.org)

[graceson\\_k@yahoo.co.in](mailto:graceson_k@yahoo.co.in)

Thangliana Fanai

(0) 9862533490

Sab School/ Personal Ministries/Publishing

[sspm@neuadventist.org](mailto:sspm@neuadventist.org)

[publishingm@neuadventist.org](mailto:publishingm@neuadventist.org)

[fanaithangliana@gmail.com](mailto:fanaithangliana@gmail.com)

Betty Lyngdoh

(0) 961 292-6435

Youth Ministries/ Communication/ Children's Ministries

[youthm@neuadventist.org](mailto:youthm@neuadventist.org)

[communication@neuadventist.org](mailto:communication@neuadventist.org), [childrensm@neuadventist.org](mailto:childrensm@neuadventist.org)

[betty.lyngdoh3@gmail.com](mailto:betty.lyngdoh3@gmail.com)

Lalbiakdiki

(0) 7085207291

Women's Ministries/ Shepherdess Coordinator

[womensm@neuadventist.org](mailto:womensm@neuadventist.org)

[shepherdessc@neuadventist.org](mailto:shepherdessc@neuadventist.org)

[bdicolney@gmail.com](mailto:bdicolney@gmail.com)

Emdor Kharkongor

(0) 8837339381

Assistant Treasurer

[assttreasurer@neuadventist.org](mailto:assttreasurer@neuadventist.org)

[assistanttreasurer.neiu@gmail.com](mailto:assistanttreasurer.neiu@gmail.com)

Amit Sonar, Accountant cum Auditor

Cell #: 8257907934

Email- [auditneiu123@gmail.com](mailto:auditneiu123@gmail.com)

Name: Ela Luikham, Office Secretary

Cell #: 6009268298

Email: [luikhamela@gmail.com](mailto:luikhamela@gmail.com)

Sorinchon Shimray, Office Secretary

Cell #: 8787574850

Email: [sososhimray.ss@gmail.com](mailto:sososhimray.ss@gmail.com)

Tinbor Kharbteng, Cashier  
Cell #: 8794317054  
Email: kharbtengtinbor@gmail.com

Hamarjingmut Sayoo, Office Driver  
Cell #: 8787845437  
Email: mut92sayoo@gmail.com

### Spotlight Consultants :

Barwin Marak	Garo Section of SDA
Prosperity Lamare	Khasi Jaintia Conference of SDA
Runio Arche	Manipur Conference of SDA
R. Lalramnghaka	Mizo Conference of SDA
Lalmuansanga K	Mizo Conference of SDA
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