

# MANIPUR THADOU KUKITE LAH'A HOUBUNG KIPUMKHAT DING TOHGON (*Ecumenical Effort among the Thadou Kuki in Manipur*)

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## **THUMAKAI**

Manipur gamsung Thadou Kukite lah'a Christian sakho (religion) hi Missionary Society ni in ahin pohlut ahi. Sahlam (North/Sadar Hills) gamkai sunga Christianity hinlhutna chu Arthington Aborigines Mission (AAM) ahin, phat chomkhat jouvin AAM ten a Mission'u chu American Baptist Mission (ABM) henga 1896 kumchun apedoh taovin, chule William Pettigrew chu Baptist missionary masapen ahung hitai. Lhlanglam (South/Churachandpur) gamkai sunga Christianity hin polut chu Thado Kuki Pioneer Mission (TKPM) kiti Independent Welsh Mission ahin, Missionary masapen chu Watkin R. Roberts ahi.

### 1. THADOU KUKITE LAH'A ASSOCIATION HUNG KIPHUDOH

American Baptist Mission Society natoh'a konin Manipur Thadou Kukite lah'a dinga Association masapen Kuki Baptist Association (KBA) chu 1950 kumin South Changoubung muna ana kiphudoh'in, Head Office din Motbung (tu'a TBA compound) ana kimangin ahi. Association ani channa North East Kuki Baptist Association Manipur (NEKBAM – tu'a Chongthu Baptist Churches Association ti'a kihe) chu 1955 kumin ana kiphudoh'in, Head office chu Phaicham (Yaingangpokpi) anahi. Lhlanglam Manipur gamkaija TKPM (1923 kumin TKPM chu North East India General Mission – NEIGM tin akikhel tai) 'in anaphudoh Houbungho chu pao (language)'in akikhenin, Thadou Kuki langho chu Kuki Christian Association (KCA – tu' Evangelical Churches Association, ECA ti'a kihe) tin akiminvo'un ahi. Khonungin Denomination jat chomchom tapi jong ahunglutnin, aumsa jong akikhen jalin ahi.

### 2. KIPUNKHOM NATOH CHULE ALOSAM

#### **i. Kuki Baptist Convention**

Kipum khat ding natoh (Ecumenical effort) masapen chu Kuki Baptist Convention (KBC) kiphudoh ahi. KBC hi Tujangwaichong muna March 16, 1958 kuma KBA and NEKBAM kigom khoma ana kiphudoh ahi. Hitichun headquarter din KBA centre Motbung man anahin, chuleh Phaicham NEKBAM centre chu Bible School Bible School (Ngulhao Memorial Bible School – tu'a NTS) dia man anahi. Hinlah 1967 kumin KBC sunga gam le go, pao le ham jeh'in boina/kihet khelna anasoh doh tan; hijeh chun KBA le NEKBAM chun 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1967 'apat KBC le adanpi chu akisumang tai tin ana phongdoh tan ahi. Hitichun NEKBAM chu NEKBAM ahikit tan, KBA chu KBA ma ahikit tan ahi. Achungchonin hon phabep chun KBC chu ache jom pi paipaijun, Association ni chu thum akiso lotan ahi.

## **ii. Kuki Christian Council**

Kipumkhat ding tohgon ani channa chu Kuki Christian Council (KCC) kiphudoh chu ahi. KCC hi 1959 kuma Christian literature lampang, adeh'a Bible ledohna leh Hymn book (Labu) semdohna dinga denomination chomchom: Presbyterian Mission, Halflong, Cachar District, Assam; Baptist Mission, Nagaland, Manipur le Burma; NEIGM to kitho'a kilokhom KCA, Manipur; chule Methodist Mission, Burma kigomkhoma kismdoh ahi. Hinlah vangset umtah'in April 8, 1979 kumin Chalwa Baptist Church muna 'Council' chu 'Church' a heidoh ahin, "Kuki Christian Church" ti'a phudoh ahung hitan, Denomination/Association thah ahung sohdoth tan ahi.

## **iii. Kuki Chin Baptist Union**

KCBU hi Baptist Houbungho kiloikhomna dinga ana kiphudoh ahin, Kuki-Chin Baptist leaders' ho kihoukhomna'a kon hung pengdoh ahi. Hiche'a kiloikhom houbungho chu Kuki Baptist Convention (KBA), Chongthu Baptist Association (Ch.BA), Chin Baptist Association (CBA), Thadou Baptist Association (TBA), Vaiphei Baptist Association (VBA) chuleh Komrem Baptist Churches Association (KRBCA) ahiuve. Hinlah KCBU hin ning thuma losamna aneijin ahi. Amasapena, Baptist denomination ho kiloikhomna bou ahin; anina'a, mipiho chun kipunkhom/kipumkhatna ding lunggel sangin ama ama jat le nam sung akhohsah'un; chule February 25 - March 1, 1993 kuma Keithelmanbi muna Conference kichai chun natoh aban jom loudia phonlhah anahitai.

## **iv. Kuki Christian Leaders' Fellowship**

Kipumkhatna dinga natoh ali chana chu Kuki Christian Leaders' Fellowship (KCLF) kiphudoh ahi. Kuki Christian lamkaiho kahlah'a kum tampi kihetthem louna asodoh nungin, Kuki Christian lamkaihon athah'a kihoucham kit ding ahin ngaito'un, changvala kitomona jouse koidoh'in 1993 kum chun KCLF chu ahin phudoh taovin ahi. Akiphudoh til chun lamkaiho dinga kihouchamna leh tohkhomna goh hilouvin, mipi lah jenga jong kingailutna le kisungse tohna ahin lhutnin ahi. Hinlah chomkhat jouvin kiloikhomna sung ahin changvalla ahin kihetthem louna avelin ahunglut kittan ahi. Tu dinmun hin Association tamjon agal vettho tan, KCC le CBCA anung chon tan, KBC le ECA lamkaiho kiloikhomna sehseh danin aumdoh tan ahi.

## **3. KIPUMKHATNA NATOH LOSAMNA JEH**

### **i. Tribal Identity Issue (tribe hina kicheh lou jeh)**

Among monga Manipur thinghlang gama non-Nagas jouse hi Kuki ahiloule Kuki tribes<sup>i</sup> ti'a kihe ahi. The Schedule Tribe notification order 1956 chun Manipur'a Thadou pao thoho jouse hi Thadou tribe ti'a recognize anabol ahi. Hinlah vangset umtah'in Thadou sunga phung phabep<sup>ii</sup> hin Thadou kiti ding nom louvin jangpetnin Kuki apomun, Thadou paoho Kuki pao, Thadou chon hi Kuki chon, Thadou

von hi Kuki von... atiuvin, Thadou paova kile Bible jengjong “Kuki Reference Edition” tin aminvo un ahi. Achungchona 2003 kuma Any Kuki Tribe<sup>iii</sup> recognise kibol chun tahsa lam kivaihomna ahin, houthu’a kivaihomna lam ahin nasatah’in kikhenna asoben ahi. Amasapena Tribal identity hi suhlhap ahi masang se’a Houthu’a kipumkhatna aumdoh dinghi hahsatah ahi.

## **ii. Phung Ngailut (Clan Centric)**

Phung ngailut hi kiloikhomna’a dinga nat phaloutah ahi. Hiche hin houbung sung ahin houbung polam ahin jong kibungkhen naleh kitomona ason ahi. Thadoute lah’a Association hijat pi’a kikhenna asodoh hi phung’a kikhen jeh ahi kitileh kiseikkel louding ahi. Ngaida umtah ahiji vanga mihom asejiu: TBA hi Sitlhou Lhouvumho’a ahin; CBCA hi Touthang, Doungel le Dimngel ho’a ahin; KCC hi Lunkim, Lenthang, Lhangum, Chongloi le Hangshing ho’a ahin; KBC hi Haokip ho’a ahin, EBCCF hi Kipgen ho’a ahi... khu dihtah jong hiji’a ahi. Ajeh chu asunga khu akisei phungho khu tampen tahbeh’u ahi. Christa’a dinga thingam diu hinam vang het ahipon, hinlah TBA, KBC, KCC, CBCA, etc., dinga thi ngam ding hi mi tama ahi. Pathen le Pathen thu’a kijungkho na sanga phung thu le phung guiya kijungkhona hi athuh behseh jeh’a Kipumkhatna ding tohgon (Ecumenical effort) hi losam ji ahi.

## **iii. Denomination ngailut (Denominational Centric)**

Denomination khatna kibulphu det chet jonghin kipumkhatna ding lampi asutang lleh’in ahi. 1993 kuma KCLF kiphudoh chun Houbung/Association atamjo chun kivaipohna, gam le go, in le lou, thil le lo det tah’in aneigam taovin, chuleh gamdang ahung kondohna Houbung (mother Church) tojong lamchom choma kiguijopna le kithokhomna phatah tah aneigam taovin ahi. Achung chona tahsan kibahlouna jong aumin, hicheho hin kipumkhat ding hatah’in asutangi ahi.

## **iv. Nei le gou chule panmun (Property, Possession and Position)**

Houbung len le dettah ho deh deh dinga nei le gou gahsuhmang, gahchondoh ding, chuleh thusim jengjong gahsuhmang ding hi thilbai ahipoi. Achungchona houbung phabepmin foriegn’a kon kithopina sum/fund amuhou hi kikipum khat taleh avela amukit diu hinam tijong gelhahsa tah ahi. Achungnung pena kikipum khat hen Houbung khat kihi taleh tu le tu’a lamkai hon atuh’u panmun hi atuh’un, chule asum sanu salary hi asang nadiuven ti jonghi tijat umtah ahin, kipumkhatna asutang lleh’in ahi.

## **v. Mipin ahet them loujeh (Lack of Mass Awareness)**

Ecumenical/union movement losamna khat kit chu amun/local houbung mipiho hetthemsah/hilchet lou leh ahi. Houbung mi tampi dinga Christian ecumenical ahiloule church union movement kiti hi akija khalou le kingaito khalou thil khat ahi. Mipi goh hilou houbung lamkai tampi, adeh’a Bible College

kailou leh asim sanglou ho dinga jong Houbung kipumkhat ding thu hi hetkhah lou le hatchet lou thu ahi. Hitobang tah'a hetkhah lou le hatchet lou jeh'a hi Houbung kipumkhat (ecumenical movement) hi losam ahin, alhangpi le atamjo'a atinga/adoudala hi lamkaiho sanga milhamho agahi nom jouvin ahi.

## CONCLUSION

Thadou Kukite lah'a hung kipolut Christianity sakho hi nasatah'a machal'a kum 100 masanga 100% Christian ihiu ahitai. Hinlah vangset umtah chu lhumlam gama kona hung kipolut Christian sakho hi pumkhat (i.e. mikhat le denomination khat seh'in ahin pohlut) hilouva: tuhil kibanglou, tahsan kibanglou, theology kibanglou chuleh natoh jenga jong kibanglou, akihomkhen/akikehso (divided Christianity) hija ahi. Ahin polut masapen chu American Baptists le Independent Welsh Mission hijeng jongleh, denominational dang dang jong khonungin ahunglut bebe'in, tu le tu dinmun hin mi lhomcha Thadoute lah'a hin vannoi denomination jouse hi aume kiti leh kisei valbehseh louding ahi. Hiche jeh hin kipumkhat nading tohgon ijat aum jeng vangin alosam sohkei nalaijin ahi.

Thadou Kukite lah'a kipumkhatna dinga movement hi alolhin thei nading lampi phapen chu kipumkhat ding akhohdan/apoimo dan mipiho hilchetna hetsah ding hi ahi. Mipiho ahung khahdoh'uva ahiteng amaho husana kona lolhina sohдох ding ahi. Hiche asodoh nadinga angaikhoh chu Kipumkhat/Unity thu hi athu'a ahin, lekha'a ahin, ha lhangsap angaijin; chuleh muntin le gamtin, houbung tina jong Seminar neipi angaijin ahi. Achungchona denomination danga kihen ohlou full term dedicated leader jong apoimon ahi. Ajehchu tuchana ecumenical leaderho hi houbung/denomination khatna lamkai ahiuvin, kipumkhatna dinga phat apeh man lou'u goh hilouvin, midangin jong hetthem hahsa asa lleh'un ahi.

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<sup>i</sup> **Kuki** (Naga to kibang) hi nampi (nation/nomenclature) kiseina ahin, hiche sunga um nam (tribe)ho chu: Lushei, Sukte, Zou, Simte, Thadou, Vaiphei, Paite, Hmar, Gangte, Chothe, Khongsai, Chongthu (Songthu), Lamkang, Anal, Chiru, Kom, Mayon, Monsang, Purum, Ralte, Mate, Thangkhal, Baite, Koireng, Koren, Aimol, etc., ahiuve.

<sup>ii</sup> **Thadou tribe** sunga pang phungho chu: Guite, Doungel, Sitalhou, Singsit/Singson, Kipgen, Haokip, Chongloi, Hangsing, Lamhao/Touthang, Lotjem, Haolai, Tuboi, Sa'um, Khuolhou, Lupho, Lupheng, Misao, Mate, Baite, Lhungdim, Ngailut, Kiloung, Insun, Jongbe, Lunkim, Lenthang, Thangngew, Changsan, Lhangum, Khoungthang, chule Lhanghal/Hanghal, etc., ahiuve.

<sup>iii</sup> 1951 kuma **Any Kuki Tribe**'in ana hop namho chu chung point (i) na'a kisei tribe ho khu ahin, 2003 kuma Any Kuki Tribe athah'a ahung kicho hing kitna AKT noiya tribe ho chu point (ii) na'a kisei phungho khu ahung hitan ahi.