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Nagaland Churches Gather for Intentional Discipleship Convention in Kohima

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Intentional Discipleship, Transforming the World"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

The Indian Evangelical Mission's three-day 61st National Convention opened on Saturday, 14 November 2026, at the NBCC Convention Centre in Kohima, Nagaland, under the theme "Intentional Discipleship, Transforming the World", and concludes on Sunday, 15 November. The convention, hosted by Kohima Lotha Baptist Church, brings together church leaders, mission workers and believers from across India for three days of teaching, worship and prayer focused on a single question: what does it actually mean to follow Jesus on purpose, rather than by habit?

Nagaland is one of the most Christian places on earth, a state where the church is not a minority voice but the centre of community life. A convention about discipleship here is not a theoretical exercise. It is a gathering of people who live their faith in public every day, asking how to live it better - and how to carry it to the rest of India and the world.

NBCC Intentional Discipleship Convention: Speakers And Theme In Kohima

Speakers for the convention include the general secretary of the Indian Evangelical Mission, Rev. Dr. Raja Singh Elias; the general secretary of the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC), Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener; the director of the Nagaland Missions Movement, Rev. Dr. Lipokinba Ao; and the president of the Nagaland Joint Christian Forum, Rev. Dr. Paphino. Together they lead a programme built around the conviction that discipleship must be intentional - deliberate, disciplined and aimed at transformation - rather than something that happens by accident.

The theme itself is a challenge. "Intentional Discipleship, Transforming the World" assumes that the world will not be transformed by Christians who drift, and it echoes the call to a personal, one-on-one relationship with Jesus rather than a borrowed faith, as reported in Alice Cooper: Christianity Is a One-on-One Relationship With Jesus. It takes deliberate choices: to study Scripture, to pray, to serve, to share the Gospel, and to train others to do the same. In a state where almost everyone is a Christian, the question is not whether people believe. It is whether their belief is changing anything.

The convention centre in Kohima has hosted gatherings like this for decades, and the rhythm is familar: mornings of teaching, afternoons of fellowship, evenings of worship that run long into the night. But the theme gives this year's gathering a sharper edge. Discipleship, the speakers are saying, is not a programme to attend. It is a life to live, and the measure of it is not how much you know but how much you have changed.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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