

“The sense of unity among diverse Baptist delegates was absolutely thrilling...”

IM Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson

INDIA MISSION SUMMIT

From October 2-5, 2014, over 5,000 Indian Christians plus guests from the U.S., Thailand, South Africa, Myanmar, and Indonesia gathered in Kohima, Nagaland to celebrate the past and envision the future of Christianity in India. Despite different social and cultural backgrounds, the summit participants are all thankful for the American Baptist missionaries who started gospel ministries in India over 175 years ago.

While celebrating the 200th Anniversary of American Baptist International Ministries (aka the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society), the

delegates united to bless India and the global world. The delegates participated in joyful worship, close fellowship, serious biblical reflection, and workshops on critical issues facing the Indian Church in the 21st century. In a major move to shape the future, the delegates adopted a visionary Declaration, contained on the inside of this

brochure. A follow-up task group, the India Mission Coordination Committee, was formed to lead the implementation of the Declaration.

The 1,200 official delegates came from 12 well-established Baptist conventions and organizations representing more than 2 million baptized members, who continue to serve the poor and the oppressed, bringing them educational, social, health, economic, and spiritual transformation.

“The Declaration calls for united voice and action to uphold religious liberty, oppose human trafficking, and empower women and youth,” said Trulson.

GET INVOLVED

Help Shape India's Future

- Pray for God's guidance as summit member organizations and partner Christians across India implement the Declaration.
- Read the Declaration and share it with your church!
- Participate in forum and commission activities. Visit <http://indiamissionsummit.weebly.com/declaration> for information.
- Share feedback, ideas, and resources with the Coordination Committee.

India Mission Coordination Committee Members

- Samaresh Nayak (Convenor, Bengal-Orissa-Bihar)
- Solomon Rongpi (Northeast India)
- Victor Emmanuel (South India)
- Taku Longkumer (International Ministries)
- Benjamin Chan (International Ministries)

India Mission Summit Member Organizations

- American Baptist International Ministries
- Abundant Life Ministerial Associates
- Banjara Baptist Sanghever Malawo
- Banjara Development Trust
- Baptist Convention of Telugu Churches
- Bengal Orissa Bihar Baptist Churches Association
- Council of Baptist Churches in North East India
- Arunachal Pradesh Baptist Convention
- Assam Baptist Convention
- Garo Baptist Convention
- Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention
- Manipur Baptist Convention
- Nagaland Baptist Church Council

The India Mission Summit 2014 was hosted by the Nagaland Baptist Church Council on behalf of the Council of Baptist Churches in North India.

INDIA MISSION SUMMIT 2014 DECLARATION

“I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH...”

Revelation 21:1

CONTACT

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THANKSGIVING

We, the Baptists of India, thank Almighty God for sending the American Baptist International Ministries with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our land. Our conventions have remained in close partnership with American Baptists striving to bring God's blessings to communities. The Gospel has transformed the lives of people in India through education, healing ministry, theological education, economic development, and spiritual nurture. We take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to all the missionaries who have come to India. We continue to appreciate and acknowledge their sacrificial lives and ministries. We acknowledge the historical significance of this gathering of the 13 Partners, the fruit of the American Baptists Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) ministry, from South, Central, and Northeast India.

We express our deep appreciation to the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India for hosting the 2014 India Mission Summit to mark the culmination of the year long celebration of the ABFMS formation 200 years ago. In particular we acknowledge our deep appreciation to the Nagaland Baptist Church Council for being gracious local hosts. The hospitality extended has made this summit an unforgettable experience of

3500 guests

1200 delegates

300 volunteers

13 partner organizations

1 DECLARATION

CONFESSION

While celebrating the past during the summit, we have become painfully aware of our failures and shortcomings as the Body of Christ.

Therefore...

WE CONFESS TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

That we recognize and are deeply disturbed by the reality of human trafficking in our regions.

That we have not protected our women and children from being trafficked in bonded labor, slavery, or sex trade.

That we have not addressed the root causes that create vulnerability to trafficking.

WE CONFESS TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

That we have failed our youth in their quest for life and meaning in Christ.

That we have failed in our responsibility to be effective mentors and role models.

WE CONFESS TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

That we have been unaware and indifferent to the suffering and persecution of fellow believers in our nation.

WE CONFESS TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

That we have failed to provide opportunities and avenues for women to exercise their God-given gifts and abilities in ministry.

WE CONFESS TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

That we have failed to be living witnesses to our friends and families.

That we have failed to be faithful stewards of all the resources God has entrusted to us.

CALL TO ACTION

In light of the above, we therefore recommend the following actions to be considered and adopted.

WE COMMIT

- To seek** God for His vision for the extension of His Kingdom and to continue the legacy of being sacrificial, living witnesses within our communities and beyond.
- To encourage** our churches to adopt practices that promote integrity, transparency and accountability in the stewardship of resources God has entrusted
- To promote** and strengthen the Baptist network and address issues facing the church in India, we recommend convening future India Mission Summits.

WE RECOMMEND the formation of...

- a **Baptist Partner Commission on Religious Freedom** to promote functional unity within the Baptist family in addressing these issues through a network of prayer and victim support and to provide a platform for proactive initiatives.

WE RECOMMEND the formation of...

- a **Baptist Partner Commission on Human Trafficking** to enlighten and empower churches to tackle the root causes thereby reducing vulnerability and prevalence of trafficking in our regions and to engage in the rescue and restoration of the victims of human trafficking.

WE RECOMMEND the formation of...

- a **Baptist Womens' Forum** to promote women leadership and gender equality in ministry.

WE RECOMMEND the formation of...

- a **Baptist Youth Forum** to empower the youth to engage their generation in their quest for identity and purpose in life and to understand their role in passing on the legacy of Christian faith.

PLEDGE

We, the delegates of the 2014 India Mission Summit, affirm and agree with the Call to Action and thereby pledge, by the grace of God and the power of His Holy Spirit, to seek to bring it to fulfillment.