

# Tapasya

ICFAI UNIVERSITY NAGALAND

“...a quest for knowledge”

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## Editorial

### Inspirational dimension of Christmas

*“To imagine life in the posteriori is to necessarily find the meaning of life in a broken world.”*

#### *Kuotsuvian Paradigm.*

It has been almost a decade since I had left the university book review club. The immediate outcome was unsurprisingly obvious. The intensive discussions and reflections seemed to fly past the memory. Nonetheless, all is not lost. In one of the reviews, for instance, I came across a phrase that was striking and the same still boggles the mind for some reasons. The phrase reads; familiarity breeds contempt. For those of us who are already familiar with the concept of Christmas may reconsider the phrase.

It is not impossible for us to carry the same bag for the entire the year and yet not realizing the value of it. Likewise in this day and age, it is highly probable for many of us that Christmas is just as good as a delicious piece of cake or a vastly decorated street without the ‘beholder’. Lest Christmas lost its significance, it is imperative that we as a learning community begin to unlearn the ceremonial extravaganza.

In most events of Christmas, we often see someone on stage to deliver what Christmas means to them. There is absolutely nothing wrong in doing that. The only exception is that we rarely raise the unfamiliar question. On this note, one would like to pause and raise the same. The question is, what Christmas is not? On adding the word ‘not’, the question sounds

not only anti-thesis but also reversal in philosophical sense. In a way, this Theo-philosophical question is an attempt to arrive at a new dimension of Christmas. The rationale to such an attempt is essential in a couple of ways. Firstly, there is a danger of reducing Christmas narrowly to our own convenience. Secondly, Christmas entails a wider dimension that is not exhaustive or exaggerated.

The very many accounts presented to us through the canonical writings aren’t just textual. If it were so, history is as good as dead. Instead, the incarnated person of Christ has provided us a way out wherein the harsh systems of the world are to be confronted at all levels. Given the existing paradoxes within our economy, science, politics, environment and education, we are faced with the enviable task to restore and re-envision the world we steward. In the context of a University like ours, the challenges are even more subtle.

The everyday experience and the encounter within the educational set up is overwhelmingly draining. On the one hand, you are drawn to the one end of the spectrum with the mirage of quality education. The same dream is echoed and sang in every seminar hall. On the other hand, you are dragged towards the opposite end of the spectrum where the seemingly available space is already occupied. In the end, you are left wondering in the manger of disillusionment. Is this phenomenon strange or unknown to us? Perhaps, the psalmist proved to be a reference point here. For easier access to the readers, one may go through the song playlist of the Vocal band, Boney M. It says; by the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, we wept, when we remembered Zion. This sets up the tone for the new era to come amidst captivity, exploitation and injustices.

The book of the gospel of John offers a brilliant illustration of how the Word became flesh. The new dimension once again emerges here in the form of ‘not’. The first chapter of John, verse 13 reads, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision nor a husband will but from God. The inference we draw from it is the redefinition of identity of a person. Undeniably the status quo is questioned here.

Now, looking at the academic space, the question is even more pertinent in our times. As students and teachers of this University, how do we engage ourselves in reshaping and envisioning our world? Perhaps, the story of Christmas offers us a canvass to reinvent or repaint our dreams by proving us the required space and insight. The duality of the critical and the creative thinking emanates from the narrative of Christmas. In a world where truth and justice is veiled with fabricated lies and narratives, the message of Christmas continues to offer us an inspirational dimension to re-align our lives and our world.

To conclude this short reflection, in our quest for knowledge or Tapasya, may we never tire to explore the truth and justice in the face of injustices and scams! After all, the kind of quality education that we talk about can be achieved only if we dare to dream beyond the institutional dimension. Finally, may we find the space and meaning of life through the inspirational dimension of Christmas like the way the Psalmist remembered the nostalgic Zion while still in captivity!

**Thepfulhoukho Kuotsu**  
Asst. Prof. (Political Science)  
Editor



## Words Worth

### 'Tis December

December's breath!  
Cheerless as thou art,  
Although its kiss be cold.  
The winds of midnight moans and sighs,  
On the sward the stubble dies  
The evenings got longer,  
And our hearts' much fonder.  
Gazing up at the shimmering skies  
Of a thousand stars  
Underneath the moonlight.  
With your hearts open, thou shall hear  
The old familiar carols play.  
He then left me there standing,  
With eleven more months of waiting.  
Fragile thoughts scattered around-  
Like the snowflakes;  
With frost, dews and cool breeze.  
It starts underneath the mistletoe,  
And ends underneath the sheets  
The words' crystallize;  
Vaporize  
'Tis December!  
I writhe in the glow  
Of the passionate agony  
You so graciously bestow  
I'm yours 'tis December.

Ilinika K. Yeptomi

BA(Eng) 3rd Sem

## Lift yer heads.

*Lift yer heads. Hear ye, hear ye!  
'tis not the season of apathy.  
Gather ye presents under the tree,  
And do spend time with the family.*

*Let us sing the old carols of joy,  
Oh, like how we always do every year.  
This be the time to chat and enjoy,  
Cherish the moment, spread the cheer.*

*Ring the bells and shake out the despair,  
It's Christmas time o'er everywhere!*

*Akhangnongba  
MCA 1<sup>st</sup> Semester*

*The trees are all lit, the lights all glow.*

*Families gather, with love to bestow .*

*The days are shorter and the nights are colder.*

*But the spirit of Christmas keeps us bolder.*

*Children are singing carols all around.*

*Come! Let us all celebrate the birth of the Lord.*

*Akivi Awomi  
BA 1st semester, Department Of English*

## **Twenty fifth of December**

*I'd write a cherry Christmas rhyme  
to make the snowflakes carry magic through the air*

*But I'm not going to lie  
it's been a hard year  
And with every step I make  
I feel the strain  
They say I make it look easy  
but it's not  
Christmas cheer  
is what I will have to fake this year  
Carollers sing joy to the world  
my one wish for next year*

**Keneingunuo Kezieo**  
MA(History), 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester

## **The best time of the year**

*The best time of the year is here  
All smiles and loved ones are near  
Aroma of cakes and coffee in the air  
Christmas music all around your ear*

*Christmas the best time of the year  
Smile being everyone's favourite wear  
Slices and sips of sweetness the best share  
Carols and best songs are all you hear*

**Jesa Chiero**  
BA 3rd Semester, English Department

## Galleria



Rethangtong, 3rd Semester, BBA



- A. Manheih. Konyak  
- BBA 3<sup>rd</sup> Sem  
- Department of Management.

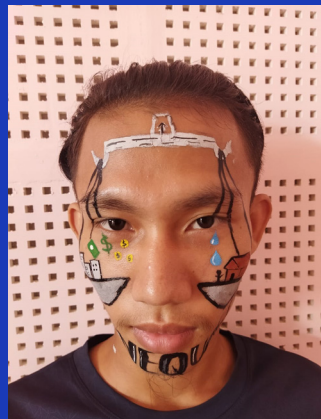
*A Manheih, BBA, 3rd Semester*

# CAMPUS

## ABUZZ

### IUN Sports and Literary Week

On the event of IUN Sports and literary week held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November, students from six teams participated. Matches has been graced by prolific players from all the teams. In literary events, the artistic talents came out effortlessly.

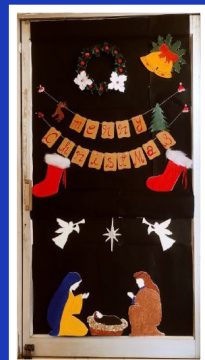
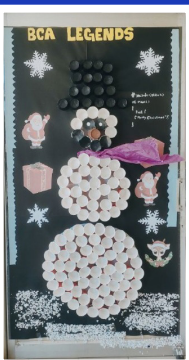


# CAMPUS

## ABUZZ

### IUN Annual Pre-Christmas

The IUN Annual Pre-Christmas was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. Messages, chorals, musical pieces were a delight to the soul. The most exciting and unique aspect of 2022 Pre-Christmas at IUN was the decorations of Classroom doors by respective department, including the doors of faculty and Library rooms





# Campus Interview

## Interview with *Chisile Guing*

*General secretary, Student council, IUN*



### **Q1. What values are most important to you as a leader?**

→ According to me a leader should be authentic, respect as in self respect and also respecting everyone regardless of differences and treating everyone with dignity, empathy and patience.

### **Q2. What are the most important values you demonstrate as a leader?**

→ As a leader I value humility, compassion, selflessness and honesty. Also trying to be organized while dealing with people and perform the best of what I can.

### **Q3. What can you do to motivate a team?**

→ According to me the key to build up or motivate a team is empowerment and giving challenging task and also giving every individual opportunities to grow and appreciating every contribution they make for the team.

### **Q4. Who is your favourite leader and why?**

→ When I contemplate about the most influential leader in my life, the first people I ruminate are my parents. Despite every obstacle they overcame it without fear and with faith and they taught me to always find myself leading and not following others behind and this has helped me to make decisions as an adult and overcome any challenges thrown at me.

## Interview with *Kihi Kchophy*

*President, Student council, IUN*



### **Q1. How familiar are with the role of a leader?**

→ Leader can be of different types which can be good or sometimes bad. A leader is someone who leads the way for his people with clear peace of mind and true heart.

### **Q2. Share the problems that you have solved in a unique and unusual way?**

→ The problems that I have solved in a different way is that, firstly by humbling myself in any situation and keeping my mind in a positive way with smile towards the problems.

### **Q3. ) Any leadership experience outside the campus?**

→ Served as a college representative of student's union.

### **Q4. Who is your favorite leader and why?**

→ One of my favorite leader is A.P.J Abdul Kalam. It is because of his humbleness that he shows towards the people which shows a great example of kindness, and gives great encouragement with pure heart.

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WE WISH YOU A

*Merry  
Christmas*

&

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**