

# FAMILIES on **MISSION**

**Quarterly Newsletter of Missionary Families of Christ India**  
Formerly known as Couples For Christ India

Bishop Emeritus on  
MFC Dibrugarh

Pg. 4

MFC Creates a Ripple Effect:  
Bishop of Dibrugarh

Pg. 9

MFC Builds Stronger Families:  
The Priests of Dibrugarh

Pg. 13, 14 & 15

## THE STORY OF **MFC DIBRUGARH**



**For Private Circulation Only**



RENEW THE LIFE AND FAITH OF  
YOUR FAMILIES



# INVITE MFC TO YOUR DIOCESE

## JIMMY XAVIER

Country Servant, India  
Indian Diaspora and Indian  
Subcontinent Coordinator  
Southern India Mission  
Coordinator

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka,  
Kerala, Tamil Nadu,  
Telangana, Puducherry  
+91 98459 66222

## ELVIS COUTINHO

East, North and Central  
India Mission  
Coordinator

Uttarakand, Jharkand,  
Odisha, Chattisgarh,  
Andaman &  
Nicobar, Jammu & Kashmir,  
Punjab, Delhi, Haryana,  
Himachal Pradesh,  
Chandigarh,  
UttarPradesh, Madhya  
Pradesh & Bihar  
+91 99226 22904

## FRANCIS MENEZES

Western India Mission  
Coordinator

Maharashtra, Goa, Kolkata,  
Gujarat, Rajasthan, Daman,  
Diu and DNH  
+91 99234 03514

## PRAJWAL PINTO

North East Mission  
Coordinator

West Bengal, Darjeeling,  
Meghalaya, Tripura,  
Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim,  
Nagaland, Assam,  
& Arunachal Pradesh  
+91 98450 99319

## LEVIN GOMES

Live Christ Share Christ  
Mission Coordinator

Live Pure, Live Life, Live  
the Faith and Liturgical  
Bible Study  
+91 9373649298



# From the Country

## Servant's Desk

---



Dibrugarh, known as the "Tea City of India," is a land of warmth and resilience. People here value their traditions while also adjusting to modern life. Beyond its rolling tea estates and bustling townships, Dibrugarh has also become fertile ground for the gospel, thanks to the dedicated work of Christian missionaries. The journey of Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) in Assam began with a simple invitation. In 2005, the late Br. A.V. Jose from Patna was approached by Fr. Nestor Guria under the guidance of Bishop Joseph Aind, the current Bishop Emeritus of Dibrugarh. Recognizing the need for spiritual renewal in the region, they invited Br. Jose to bring the gospel to the Northeast. He simply said, "Here I am," and traveled boldly to Tinsukia, laying the foundation for MFC in Assam that same year.

The early days were filled with challenges. Assam was experiencing political unrest, with frequent Naxalite activity and statewide *bandhs* that could halt transport at any moment. Roads were unreliable, and travel meant passing through dense jungles that were infested with wild elephants—a danger that some villagers still face today. Many communities lacked electricity, proper toilets, and access to clean water. Language barriers added to the difficulties; at the time, Hindi was not widely understood. Yet despite these obstacles, Br. Jose never gave up. Though he did not speak the local dialect, he preached in Hindi, trusting in the Spirit to bridge the gap. Carrying Hindi Bibles, he met people where they were—tea garden laborers, struggling families, and communities searching for hope.

MFC's growth in Assam was made possible by the dedication of its early missionaries, who endured great hardships to spread the gospel. Some cycled 10–20 kilometers after a full day's work in the tea gardens, crossing rivers and lakes on foot or in makeshift boats to conduct Christian Life Seminars (CLS) in remote villages. These gatherings often took place at night, as villagers spent their evenings driving away elephants and other wild animals that threatened their homes. Even during strikes and unrest, MFC missionaries remained steadfast. Many walked or cycled for miles just to attend programs, enduring hunger and hardship along the way. In those early days, meals were simple—often just a piece of bread and black tea before the long journey home. Yet their faith never wavered.

Momentum grew quickly. MFC expanded to Rajgarh Ali (Tinsukia, Assam) and Rajanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) in 2005, followed by Bhagjan (Doomdooma) and Philobari Parish in 2006. These early efforts laid a strong foundation for MFC's presence in the diocese. Today, the movement is active in numerous parishes. Bishop Emeritus Joseph Aind has been a strong supporter, recognizing how MFC has helped families grow in faith and brought new life to parish communities. MFC has also gained the trust of the clergy by remaining faithful to Catholic teachings and the sacraments.

In many areas, a single parish serves 20–30 villages, while in some cases, one parish covers as many as 50–60 villages. Village sizes also vary—some have just 20 Catholic families, while others are home to over 100. Serving in places like Dibrugarh, where parishes are scarce, has not only strengthened the faith of the locals but has also deepened our own—especially for the full-time missionaries who have traveled there to serve. This edition highlights the inspiring stories of full-time missionaries who have given up everything to serve Christ's mission in this beautiful diocese. Their sacrifices, struggles, and victories are woven into the very fabric of our mission, which continues to expand, bringing hope to even the most remote corners of Assam and beyond. MFC is now home to over 1,000 active members in Dibrugarh.

We are deeply grateful to Bishop Albert Hemrom for His continued prayers and support for MFC's mission in Dibrugarh. His encouragement strengthens our resolve to continue this work with even greater dedication. Last year, the MFC India Servant Council made it a priority to visit Dibrugarh, witnessing firsthand the vibrant faith flourishing in the region. While roads have been developed and basic provisions are more accessible, many villages still remain remote and difficult to reach. With some parishes requiring up to four hours of travel between them, evangelization continues to be a significant challenge. As we move forward, MFC remains committed to its mission—to bring Christ's love to every family, no matter how far, no matter the cost.

**In Christ,  
Jimmy Xavier**





MFC National Council leaders with His grace  
Emeritus Bishop Joseph Aind and Fr Shaji

XXXX

# Bishop Emeritus Joseph Aind Recounts the Story of MFC in Dibrugarh

**By Bishop Joseph Aind SDB,  
Emeritus of Dibrugarh**

Dear friends of Missionary Families of Christ,

I am extremely delighted to share with you about MFC and the good work being done among the families in the Diocese of Dibrugarh. As you know, the MFC was known as Couples for Christ (CFC) in the Diocese of Dibrugarh. As the Bishop of Dibrugarh, I visited the villages; my eagerness to help the Catholic families in strengthening them in the faith grew day by day.

Many of our Christians have not been in the faith for long, though some have migrated from Jharkhand or other places. Our priests, religious, and catechists were far too few to cope up the work of strengthening the faith. Besides, our Christians were living among other non-Christians, and so there was every chance of following the worldly way of living with all the bad habits of drinking and other ways of life. The only way of helping them was to form them in groups with their own leaders among them.

An opportune time came, some twenty years ago, when Fr. Nestor Guria SDB, came across Mr. Jose A.V., the leader of Couples for Christ (CFC) from Patna. Fr. Nestor enquired about the group and

asked them about their willingness to come to Assam. They did accept the invitation very willingly in 2005 and arrived at Tinsukia. Fr. Nestor Guria welcomed them and started to contact some good Catholic families in different villages and form groups in Tinsukia Parish in the Diocese of Dibrugarh.

The CFC leaders came from Patna, Mangalore, and Jharkhand and gave their input sessions to the leaders chosen from among the parishioners at Rajgarh Ali T.E. within Tinsukia Parish. Some good and able leaders were chosen with conviction and asked to meet the Christians on Sundays and late evenings as the Christians were working during the day. Surprisingly, by the grace of God, the CFC grew and spread to other parishes and bore much fruit.

The Christian families desired to deepen their faith and live it fully in the midst of others. This became an opportunity for them to support one another. On Sundays and in the evenings after work, they gathered in village chapels or suitable locations with their CFC leaders to discuss ways to improve their Christian life, particularly in overcoming harmful habits like



excessive drinking. They reflected on the negative effects of drinking and other behaviors that harmed family life and resolved to give them up. They also realized that their families were struggling economically and that they were not living out their Christian faith as they should. Many children were not thriving due to a lack of proper care. Through prayer and the dedication of committed leaders, families experienced transformation. Their renewed Christian way of life became visible to others.

Seeing the better living in Christian life and in the family, some other villages too asked the dedicated leaders, now full-time missionaries, to come and form such groups in their villages. From the Diocese too, there was a request that the parish priests could take such advantage of inviting these dedicated MFC leaders for improving the lives of the Catholic families in their parishes.

Today these Catholic families have become the inspiration in deepening the faith in the villages; these families group together in order to encourage the lapsed ones and help them to come back and live the religion.

**The CFC is now rightly known as Missionary Families of Christ (MFC).** So far, the families were living as couples for Christ. Now as the entire Catholic Church is looking forward to families being missionaries and not only as couples. I have great hope that MFC will be true to the new movement in the Catholic Church. I pray to Jesus to come to each Catholic family and others too to bring joy and happiness as He did at the wedding feast of Cana. God bless MFC!

## Building Strong Families: Two Decades of MFC in Dibrugarh

**By Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB**  
**Rector of Don Bosco School, Dibrugarh**



When I was appointed as the Parish Priest of Tinsukia for the first time in February 2002, I was looking for a lay movement that could effectively catechize the faithful across different groups—adults, youth, children, men, and women.

In this search, I chanced to meet (Late) Br. A.V. Jose of Patna, a dedicated member of Couples For Christ (CFC) in January 2005 in Dorma parish of Jharkhand. It was from him that I first learned about CFC. Inspired by the mission and vision of CFC, I invited the movement to my parish in Tinsukia believing it could strengthen marriages, deepen faith, and build a Christ-centred family life

Immediately, CFC members traveled to Tinsukia in March-April 2005, where they visited the vibrant community of Rajgarhali and emphasized the importance of faith-filled marriages and family unity. The parishioners eagerly participated, moved by the teachings and testimonies shared during the sessions. At the end of the program, families were invited to join the movement, and about ten couples stepped forward to commit themselves to the mission of CFC.

To encourage spiritual growth and fellowship, the village was divided into groups of five families. Each group would gather daily for prayer in one family's home, with the prayer centre rotating weekly to another household. This structured yet intimate approach fostered unity, mutual support, and a sense of belonging among Catholic families in Tinsukia. Reflecting on this initiative, I say that it was the vision and mission of CFC that urged me to invite them because the best way to catechize couples is to strengthen the marriage bond and deepen the faith of families. Recognizing the challenges faced by families, I saw CFC as a powerful tool for renewal and evangelization.

The movement continued to grow, and after a month, a second round of animation took place. Br. Bijender Kumar and his team took the initiative, traveling to different villages to spread the message. Their preaching touched the hearts of many, leading to a wave of enthusiasm as people followed them from village to village. Given the nature of life in the tea gardens, where people were free only in the evenings, most of these animation programs were conducted after sunset, ensuring greater participation.

After each animation session, I celebrated Mass, reinforcing the teachings of the movement.



As a dedicated and prudent pastor, I closely observed the CFC teachings, ensuring they were aligned with Catholic doctrine. I was extremely pleased to find that the movement was fully in line with the Church teachings, leading me to fully support and encourage its expansion. Many locals received training in Patna, while Br. Jose's frequent visits to Tinsukia provided ongoing formation. As a result, the CFC movement firmly took root in Tinsukia Parish and later expanded to Margherita, Rajanagar, Philobari, and Tongna.

This spirit of love, unity, and faith-sharing became the hallmark of CFC in Tinsukia and beyond. Families found strength in one another, growing together in their faith and making their homes centres of evangelization. This happened due to its inclusive spirit. In the family along with CFC there were YFC (Youth for Christ) and KFC (Kids for Christ) thus involving everyone in the family.

A key factor in the success of CFC was its emphasis on family prayer and the small faith-sharing groups (household). The clusters of five families not only provided spiritual support but also created a strong sense of community, much like the early Christians described in Acts 2:42 & 45-46. Through daily prayer, shared faith, and small Christian communities, CFC provided spiritual nourishment and a sense of belonging to everyone, echoing the early Christian way of life.

Today, the legacy of CFC in Tinsukia lives on, proving that when families pray together and support each



other, they become a living testimony of Christ's love. The movement continues to inspire and transform lives, fulfilling its mission to renew families and strengthen the church. Owing to my higher studies in catechetics, I firmly believe that among the various groups in the church, CFC is the best at fulfilling the catechetical mission. If parish priests with a catechetical background take responsibility for CFC, it will flourish even more. **The community now bears a new name—Missionary Families of Christ, but its mission remains unchanged.**



INDIA

**Missionary Families of Christ**

Defending Faith, Family & Life



From left to right: 1. First MFC Hindi Youth Conference in Tinsukia 2. Br. Tony and Br. Jose played a key role as the earliest MFC missionaries in Dibrugarh 3. MFC Servant Council of India with Fr. Nestor and Fr. Jonas

# A Full-Time Missionary in God's Vineyard

**Br. Joakim Tirkey, Dibrugarh | 15+ years.**

## Interview Excerpts by Kelvin Castelino

### 1. How has MFC made a difference in your family life?

Through MFC, our lives have undergone significant changes, especially in our understanding of marriage and family life. When my wife and I got married, I didn't have a deep understanding of the sacrament of marriage. As a result, I struggled to comprehend the obligations and responsibilities of a husband, both in spiritual and other aspects.

However, after joining MFC, we were able to truly discover and understand our roles and responsibilities as a married couple. We came to know God more deeply and realized the importance of His presence in our relationship. MFC helped us understand the role of Christ within our marriage and our family, strengthening our faith and drawing us closer to Him.

### 2. What inspired you to become a full-time missionary?

A long time ago, before joining the Missionary Families of Christ (MFC), I was a member of the Don Bosco Secular Congregation. As a volunteer, I spent three years preaching the Gospel and spreading the Good News, traveling from village to village. I was assigned to a region in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, where I carried out my missionary work.

However, my mother's permanent work was transferred to me as an inheritance, and I had to return to my village to take on that responsibility. This meant leaving the congregation and the missionary work I was passionate about. Though it was difficult, I had to prioritize my family's needs.

Later, I came to know about MFC, which reignited my desire to serve as a missionary. Through this program, I was given the opportunity to become a full-time missionary. I said "yes" because it allowed me to continue preaching the Gospel and spreading Christ's love. My mission now focuses on strengthening family life in different villages, helping people build strong families for the glory of God.



Joakim and his wife at a recent MFC Retreat



Accompanied by Br. Frank Padilla, founder of MFC



Along with the MFC full-timers & Servant Council



### 3. What are some of the places God has taken you to as a full-time missionary?

By His mercy, I have had the privilege of serving in the Miao, Tezpur, and Dibrugarh Dioceses, working in numerous parishes and villages, including Neotan, Rajanagar, Namsai, Tezpur, Dhekiajuli, Mazbat, Golaghat, Tangla, Helem, Barpukhuri, Biswanath Chariali, Ketla, Tinsukia, Pingiri, Duliajan, Jagun, Margherita, Digboi, Doigrung, Bokakhat, Naharkatia, Sarupathar, Lachitgaon and many more. As I traveled through many villages, the journeys were often long, sometimes lasting eight to twelve hours. Along the way, I encountered various challenges, difficulties, and adversities. Yet, despite these hardships, I was able to continue the work of preaching the Gospel. It was only by His strength, that I was able to carry on.

### 4. Can you share about the fruits of your work as a full-time missionary?

Through our work in MFC, I have witnessed significant transformation in families, particularly between husbands and wives. Initially, love and understanding were rarely seen in many marriages. However, after engaging in this mission, I have observed couples growing happier, understanding each other better, and strengthening their bond through Christ. Additionally, in my mission area, the importance

of spiritual life was weak, and many people struggled in their faith. However, through the MFC programs and its evangelization efforts, ordinary men and women from villages have begun to actively participate in spreading the gospel. This has led to a deeper connection with Christ, strengthening their faith and, in turn, their families. As a result, these individuals are not only preaching the gospel but also growing in love and receiving blessings in their family lives.

### 5. What has been your source of dedication as a full-time missionary that has sustained you in your service for over a decade?

The love I have experienced from Jesus Christ has been my greatest source of strength. His love has kept me connected to this mission, giving me the power to serve joyfully, even in the midst of difficulties.

Also, through my work among the adivasi Christian community, I came to realize that many were spiritually weak. Time and again, God revealed to me the ways in which I could guide them and bring them closer to His love. I could feel His voice in my heart, showing me how to lead them on the right path. It is only by His grace that I have been able to serve Him throughout my life, and I will continue to do His work, relying completely on His strength and guidance.



The living conditions in the villages are harsh, with many areas lacking basic necessities like water and proper sanitation. Our joyful missionaries often travel on difficult roads, crossing rivers and deserted lands along the way.





## MFC Creates a Ripple Effect: Bishop of Dibrugarh

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
I am delighted to learn that your next MFC magazine will be dedicated to Dibrugarh Diocese. The Missionary Families of Christ (MFC), formerly known as Couples for Christ, has been a remarkable ecclesial movement in the Diocese of Dibrugarh, fostering the renewal and evangelization of families.

In my experience, MFC has been consistently working to strengthen the spiritual and moral fabric of family life, helping couples and families to live out their Christian vocation with greater commitment.

This movement has been instrumental in creating a ripple effect of faith and love that extends beyond individual households to the broader community.

In today's challenging times, the vision of MFC to renew and evangelize families has never been more critical. I encourage all our readers to consider joining this transformative movement. By making Christ the center of your family, you not only strengthen your own home but also contribute to the mission of building a vibrant, faith-filled society. May MFC continue to inspire and guide families in their journey of faith, bringing hope and renewal to all.

With prayerful wishes and congratulations,  
Yours in the Lord Jesus,  
Most Rev. (Dr) Albert Hemrom

## Called to Serve: A Leap of Faith

**Dinus Mundu,  
Chabua, Assam.**

"Before joining MFC, I struggled with drug addiction and selfishness, causing pain to my parents. Through the community, I experienced change and was able to apologize, restoring my relationship with my family. I also learned to control my anger and respect others. With guidance from MFC leaders, I resolved conflicts with my wife, and now we have a strong, happy marriage. I have been serving as a full-time missionary in this community for 10 years. Though I always desired to share God's word, my shyness made it difficult to approach people. However, with guidance again, I overcame my weaknesses. Today, I actively participate in missionary work, and MFC has given me a clear path to God's mission. My fear and shyness are gone, and I find great joy in spreading the gospel, especially in villages, making my service truly fulfilling."



*Restored Marriage*

# A Life Dedicated to Full-Time Mission

## Abinash Lakra, Doomdooma, Assam.

"The MFC community has been a pillar of strength for our family. Through heart-to-heart sharing, my wife and I have learned to openly communicate, bringing us closer than ever. For four years after our marriage, we longed for a child. God tested us many times, and we failed those tests. However, about a month and a half ago, my wife and I decided to commit fully to God's service and said yes to full-time ministry. Soon after making that decision, we went for a medical check-up, and my wife's results came back positive. We thanked God, and my faith in Him grew even stronger.

I had one question in my mind: If we serve God, will He take care of our family? God showed us a path, and as a result, our hearts turned toward full-time mission. This commitment has strengthened our relationship with God and our bond with each other as a family. I want to thank this community for saving our family and our souls and for allowing us to serve God."



*Experienced God's  
Faithfulness*



*Renewed Faith*

## Nicholas Ekka, Dibrugarh, Assam.

"After my confession at the Christian Life Seminar, I left my addictions, and God renewed my faith. Br. Joakim (full-timer in MFC) encouraged me to serve at the CLS in other places, and despite my permanent job at the tea garden, I made time for mission work. In 2011, I met Br. Jose (ex-country servant) in Patna and learned about servant leadership. I had a deep desire to serve but knew little about full-time mission work. When asked if I'd serve full-time, I was unsure. I continued serving alongside my job until 2016, when I fully committed.

At first, I felt like I had to serve alone without support, but through this journey, I found great encouragement from my brothers and sisters in the community. Serving with them, I have witnessed people finding healing, leaving addictions behind, and experiencing God's grace. This inspires me to keep going, wherever the Lord leads."

## Lucas Munda, Chabua, Assam.

"I was once trapped in addiction, surrounded by fights and trouble, unaware that my life could be any different. But in 2015, God led me to MFC, and everything changed. Through the teachings we received, I realized that transformation was possible. Today, I am a new man. I live joyfully with my wife and two daughters, free from the chains that once held me back. The peace and happiness in our home are the fruits of God's work in my life through MFC. If God could change me, He can change you too."



*Radical Transformation*



# Testimonials – MFC Dibrugarh



*Breaking Free from  
Destructive Addictions*

## **Jerome & Balamdina, Tinsukia, Assam.**

Jerome:

"I joined CFC in 2006, but I wasn't truly following the teachings; I was attending out of obligation. At that time, I was involved in many destructive activities—drinking, drugs, and other addictions that I felt trapped in and couldn't break free from. I was completely lost and hopeless. In 2018, my wife encouraged me to attend MFC meetings once again. I returned, and as I listened to the teachings, I felt a profound change within me. I realized I was free from my addictions. I instantly let go of my destructive habits, and I haven't touched anything since then. Now, my wife and I attend every talk together, share our lives, and enjoy a happy life. Jesus has blessed us with peace and healing. I have experienced so many miracles since joining MFC. Thank you, Jesus."

Balamdina:

"I began attending CFC in 2006, but my husband stopped coming. I continued attending all the meetings and kept praying to God, asking Him to touch my husband, heal him from his vices, and bring him back to join me. In 2018, my prayers were answered when my husband agreed to attend an MFC meeting. That was the turning point for him—he changed and gave up all the wrong things. Now, we attend all the meetings together, spend time praying, and I am grateful that God has answered my prayers. He has filled our lives with His blessings."

## **Prakash & Rebecca, Dhuria, Assam.**

Prakash:

"I really want to praise and thank God for all the wonderful things He has done in my life since joining the MFC community. I joined MFC in 2015 and began serving in 2017. My wife and I struggled with childlessness for five years, but after joining MFC, we were blessed with the gift of a child—our son, Aryan. It was the greatest miracle and blessing from God that we received. Because of His goodness, I will continue to serve the Lord with all my strength and might, for He has brought so much joy into our lives."

Rebecca:

"I knew about Jesus, but I didn't truly understand His love. After joining MFC in 2015, I learned so much about faith, the roles of a husband and wife, and our responsibilities toward our family. The teachings helped us become better people, and I felt so blessed to receive this guidance. After five years, I conceived, but during delivery, the doctor told us that due to complications, I would need a C-section. I was afraid, but we turned to prayer. The entire MFC community prayed for us, and we received an overwhelming love and support from everyone. By God's grace, despite the complications, our child was born through a normal delivery. God has been so kind and merciful to us in every way. I will always bless the name of the Lord and follow His ways. Just as the MFC community supported us in our time of need, I will continue to help and serve others. I will never stop praising the Lord, who has filled our lives with so much joy."



*God Worked a  
Mighty Miracle*

# Testimonials – MFC Dibrugarh

## Nicholas & Jacinta, Dhuria, Assam.

Nicholas:

"I was trapped in many addictions and vices, spending most of my time away from home, lost in a life I thought was happy. But while I was drowning in my own ways, my family—my wife, my children, and my mother—were suffering because of me. Then, MFC started in our village, and I began to see changes happening around me. As I listened to the teachings, something stirred within me—I felt the presence of God in my life. That moment changed everything. I decided to quit all my addictions completely. Today, I am a transformed man. I am always with my family, and together, we attend all the meetings. I have left my old life behind and now live a beautiful life, praising Jesus always."

Jacinta:

"My life was filled with darkness, and I had nowhere to turn. I was completely lost, trapped in sin, and unsure of what to do. But everything changed in my family when we allowed God to work in our lives. Through MFC, I came to know Jesus in a truly beautiful way. Today, our children love and obey us, and our home is filled with joy and happiness. I praise Jesus for bringing me out of darkness into His light. Thank You, Jesus! Praise You, Jesus."



*Breaking Free from  
Destructive Addictions*



*Experienced the Power  
of the Holy Spirit*

## Althanisus, Tinsukia, Assam.

"Before attending the youth camp, I struggled to spend time in prayer and often found myself getting angry over small things. Many times, my anger kept me from speaking to my family. However, through the youth camp, I received guidance and support from the team members and discovered the power of the Holy Spirit. I realized I was on the wrong path and, in my personal prayer, asked the Holy Spirit to help me overcome my weakness. Looking back now, I am grateful and joyful for the transformation that has taken place in my life. Jai Yesu."

## Alice, Doomdooma, Assam.

"Before joining MFC, my life was different. I prayed, but I often felt unsatisfied with the Bible verses I would open randomly after prayer. However, after joining the community and attending the meetings, I listened to the sessions and felt a sense of peace. The turning point came when I started reading the Bible daily instead of opening it randomly. The verses helped me reflect on my situation and guided me in practicing self-control, especially in managing my anger. One of the most beautiful experiences was discovering the lives of the saints and drawing inspiration from them. I am truly grateful to MFC."



*Understood Scripture &  
Learned About Saints*



# THE IMPACT OF MFC IN MY LIFE

**By Fr. Shaji Valiaparampil SDB**  
**St. Joseph Church, Doomdooma, Assam.**

I have been in close collaboration with the MFC family since 2007. It has been a very enriching journey. I have been touched and inspired by the dedication with which the MFC animators lived their daily lives and shared what they received from God by traveling on foot, bicycle, and motorcycle, crossing treacherous rivers.

Whichever parish I served, I gave first preference for MFC in our evangelization and faith building. It is through the instrumentality of the MFC that we built up committed Christian communities. They have played a major part in transforming the lives of the people. I made it a policy that every couple will be a member of the MFC family.

I have witnessed only success stories with the help of MFC. Families are liberated from various bonds in which they have been living. Men are able to give up their bad habits and give their prime time to be with the family to pray together and share together. Children are able to look upon their parents as role models and grow gracefully.

MFC has brought dignity to the lives of the Christian couples to live their lives meaningfully and joyfully. They instill in the lives of the couple the zeal and enthusiasm to reach out to others to share their liberated experience.



I very much appreciate it because MFC is sacrament-centered, where they give prime place for well-prepared confessions and active participation in the Holy Eucharist. I encourage and exhort every priest and every couple to be a part of this family. I am indeed proud to be a close collaborator of the Missionary Family of Christ.

## RENEWAL OF FAMILIES THROUGH MFC

**By Fr. Paul Thettayil**  
**St Martin De Porres Church, Dhuria, Assam.**



In 2023, I was approached by MFC Couples to discuss on how to renew families in our parish through this family movement. The first session took place on October 1st, 2023, at St. Martin De Porres Church, where 17 catechists from 17 village communities

participated. After sitting through their sessions I invited MFC to implement this program across all village communities over two years, setting a clear goal: the renewal of families.

Full-time missionaries from MFC shared their to transformed marriages. The program directly addressed concerns faced by the couples such as fidelity, unforgiveness, ego clashes, male dominance, and a lack of emotional and spiritual warmth. Participants were led to deepen their commitment to each other and to God.

Following a series of successful programs in Dhuria, Basapathar, and Borbam, I encouraged catechists to become MFC animators. I've witnessed that those who joined MFC lived a more harmonious family life. They became fervent in receiving the Sacraments more regularly and encouraged their children to do the same. This is exactly what I wished and prayed for because children are the ones who suffer most from strained relationships between couples.

Through MFC programs, we are witnessing the revival of Christian family life, laying the groundwork for a stronger and more faith-filled parish. The fruit of this is clearly visible in small Christian communities with family prayer, regular Sunday services, a thriving catechists association, and a more active youth group. Our parish has established various initiatives, and MFC members actively take these programs forward, helping to build strong families that sustain and grow the Church's mission.

# CLERGY SPEAKS



*MFC needs to grow in the Church*

## **Fr. Cyril Purty Diburgarh**

"The missionary Family of Christ truly stands out as an inspiring and impactful organization in my parish. Their dedication to fostering a deep, Christ-centered faith in individuals and families is commendable. Through their various programs and activities, they have successfully helped countless people strengthen their spiritual lives and draw closer to God. Their emphasis on family values and relationships with accomplishment is truly admirable. They have made a significant impact on the well-being and happiness of countless families in the parish."

## **Fr Nathaniel Tirkey Doigrong**

I witnessed the MFC program in Kathoni Basti, which is located approximately 10–12 kilometers from the parish in a remote forest area. The MFC team visited house to house, interacting with the people who work in the tea gardens and farmlands. It is very difficult for these people to take time off from their work for three days to attend the program. They are poor, live in mud houses, and face numerous challenges in their daily lives. Without work, they cannot survive.

They work hard to provide for their families and educate their children, but their wages are meager. Despite these difficulties, they took the time to attend the program. The MFC team visited these families, staying with them and conducting a program. Based on my experience and witnessing their work firsthand, I was deeply impressed. MFC missionaries teach villagers basic catechism, Christian responsibilities, and the importance of the Gospel and family life. Parish priests often face challenges in gathering people and making them understand these teachings, especially since priests may not always be aware of the specific challenges the families are facing. However, the MFC team goes door to door, speaking personally with families. During their fellowship, they teach the villagers about the Christian way of life and how to live with faith and integrity according to the teachings of the Catholic Church. I am personally touched by their dedication.

In the future, such programs should be expanded to reach more villages, and parish priests should support these initiatives. Missionary work is not easy. The living conditions in the villages are harsh, with many areas lacking basic necessities like water and proper sanitation facilities. Conducting retreats in such circumstances is challenging, but the MFC team perseveres. They adapt to the conditions, even though they come from distant places. Many areas lack proper houses, roads, or even churches, so programs are often held in the open or in very cramped spaces. Despite these difficulties, MFC continues to visit remote villages, providing spiritual guidance to improve the family life and circumstances of the people. The work is challenging, but with persistence and faith, MFC continues to make progress. I wish MFC great success, and I am deeply grateful for their efforts.



*Deeply grateful for the work of MFC*



# CLERGY SPEAKS

## Fr. Norbert Xess Sarupathar

"I personally found the program to be deeply enriching and impactful. During the catechists' meeting, I sought feedback, and it was met with unanimous appreciation. It is truly a valuable initiative that has touched many hearts. I strongly encourage you to continue and further strengthen this program. May God bless and sustain your efforts as you carry out this mission."



*Recommends MFC*



*MFC creates a lasting positive impact*

## Fr. Nicholas Kerketta Bokakhat

"The MFC program is ongoing, and those attending are doing well. While it is taking time to gain momentum, I am confident that it will have a lasting positive impact on people's lives. Many participants are attending regularly, though some are still adjusting, much like in the beginning. To help them grow in their commitment, it is important to maintain constant connection and support. I truly believe this program will bear great fruit in the long run."

## Fr Jonas Kerketta SDB Tinsukia

"I first encountered MFC while serving as an assistant in the parish (2006–2009) when a family from MFC Manila conducted a program for couples and children. As I was involved in media, I recorded the event, giving me a brief awareness of MFC. Later, I became more familiar with the movement through members in Tinsukia. Over time, I saw their dedication, especially in youth and family programs.

Their reverence during Mass, particularly kneeling for the Eucharist, even influenced some youth. Among various groups, MFC stands out as one of the most active and impactful. I was especially moved by a recent couple's event where spouses renewed their commitment. MFC plays a vital role in strengthening families, and I fully support its mission."



*MFC strengthens families*



# Life & Mission of MFC

**Advent retreats** and **Christmas programs** were conducted for Kids, Singles & Couples across different areas such as Goa, Mumbai, Pune, Mysore, Bangalore, Mangalore, Delhi and Kolkata.



In November and December 2024, MFC families across India celebrated **Family Day** with cultural performances, saints parade, music, and interactive faith-based activities.



As part of the **No One in Need** initiative, Chennai and Mangalore shared Christmas joy with those in need through carols, games, and goodies.





# Life & Mission of MFC

Handmaids held a **Theme Day** in Uttan, an **HER retreat** in Mumbai, and a mission in Pune. Youth hosted an FER in Goa and gathered for 'All Mumbai' & 'All Goa' meetings.



MFC Full-Timers led mission outreach in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, and introduced MFC to Rangat, Adazigi, and Mayabander parishes in the Andaman Diocese, reaching over 200 people. They also met with the **Bishops of Siliguri and Mangalore** for upcoming MFC programs.



MFC India actively took part in the **World Marriage Day** programs in various Mumbai parishes. They shared testimonies and also participated in various activities.





# Life & Mission of MFC

Over 500 children joined a vibrant one-day **Kids Village** across Chennai, Goa, Pune, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Bangalore, where trained MFC Youth volunteers rolled out this year's MFC theme.



In the last two months, the life-changing **Christian Life Seminars** were held in Chennai, Goa, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Assam, Chattisgarh, West Bengal, and Andaman dioceses, drawing hundreds of singles, handmaids, and married couples.



Various young couples programs, including **Bond of Brothers, Soul Sisters**, and **Marriage Enrichment Retreats** were held across Shimoga, Chennai, Goa, and Assam.





# Life & Mission of MFC

**HHS Servants Training** (Mumbai), **Speakers Training** (Shimoga), and **Worship Workshop** (Bangalore) equipped new MFC members for mission. MFC also gave a session on the 'Sacraments' at Sannidhi, Shimoga, led by Fr. Simon and the Bishop, with about 50 participants.



Singles participated in **Men of Valor** and **Blessed & Beautiful** weekends in Goa, focusing on purity and chastity, while the 'Real Thing' session in Bangalore prepared them for marriage.



Engaged and newly married couples joined **Vow Factor** a one-day marriage program also offered virtually. **Live Pure** was held in Marcel parish, Goa, and at St. Charles Borromeo Convent School, Kerala.







# HAPPY *Easter* 2025



March 2025 | Printed & Published by Jimmy Xavier on behalf of MFC India  
Love Life and Family Public Charitable Trust, Above Public Cafe, Near Don Bosco, Panjim, 403001, Goa, India |  
Editor: Maria Laveena | Editorial Team: Kelvin Castelino, Levin Gomes, Jimmy Xavier | Design: Kim Xavier  
Email us at [INDIA@MFCWORLD.ORG](mailto:INDIA@MFCWORLD.ORG) | Printed by Bosco Enterprises: +91 98214 63092