



Peace is Possible When Church Takes the Lead

Archbishop Menampampil

22 Oct. 1936, Born in Kelara India

24 May 1955, First Profession

02 May 1965, Ordained Priest

24 nov. 1981, Ordained Bishop

10 July 1995, Archbishop Of
Guwahati

by Fr C. M. Paul, sdb

Church people negotiating peace in a conflict situation may not be considered a 'politically correct act', especially when a Catholic archbishop takes the initiative. But when the Church leaders and eminent citizens from the warring factions join him in the conflict resolution process "it is making the Word of God come alive in the lives of people," says Salesian Archbishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati.

Over the last 15 years, the archbishop has successfully led seven major peace initiatives. The Joint Peace Team (JPT) of Northeast India under his leadership intervened in the following conflicts: Bodo-Adivasi (1996), Kuki-Paite (1998), Dimasa-Hmar (2003) and Karbi-Kuki (2003), Dimasa-Karbi (2004), Bodo-Muslim at Udalguri (2010) and Rabha-Garo (2011).

It all started with a missionary Sister visiting relief camps where over 250,000 took shelter following conflict between Bodos and Adivasis-Santals in 1996.