

Congregations Seeking Partners

Umru Unitarian Lower Primary School Khasi Hills, North East India

Umru is a remote village strategically located at the border between Meghalaya and Assam. Politically, it belongs to Assam, but ethnically the people are bound to Meghalaya. The area is dominated by the Nepalese community, with only five Khasi Unitarian families living there. Those families are all farming people, and there is no Khasi middle (“medium”) school in the village. For that reason, it is considered important social outreach by the Unitarian Union to provide vernacular (Khasi language) education to those children.

The school was founded in 2010 by the Unitarian Union to care for the educational needs of the local Unitarian children in particular, and of the Khasi community living in the vicinity of Umru village in general.

The school was initially housed in a thatched building built by the members of the church (see photo, right). After the visit of Rev. Eric Cherry, from the UUA International Office, the Unitarian Union of North East India (UUNEI) sanctioned 50,000 rupees from the Alice Schuman Fund for the construction of a new school building in 2014. That construction is still in progress.



The number of pupils totals 24 in 2015. Most of them are in the Pre-primary (Nursery) class (14), and the rest in grades I-IV (10). The photo at left was taken in 2012. They are being taught by two teachers—each being paid about US\$46.92 per month.

