

‘Hymns and Race: Agency, Mobility, Coloniality’ Virtual Study Day
22 October 2021

**‘Means to an End: The Role of Tonic Sol-fa
in promoting Hymn Singing in the
Indian State of Mizoram’**

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Faculty of Fine Arts and Music
The University of Melbourne



Sarah Anna Glover (1785-1867)
Norwich Sol-fa method



John Curwen (1816-1880)
Tonic Sol-fa method

KEY E. Exercise 28.—A ROUND FOR FOUR VOICES. (M.) M. 112.

d : d | d : d | d : -r | m : - | m : s | r : s | m : - | :
 Come and sing a mer-ry song, Wake the cheer-ful glee;
 En - vy, an - ger, hence a - way, E - vil pas - sions fly;

m : m | m : m | m : -f | s : - | s : d¹ | d¹ : t | d¹ : - | :
 Now the joy - ous tones pro - long, Hap - py, hap - py we.
 Why should we in - duge them, say, Why should you or I!

: d¹ | s : m | d : d | d : m | s : m | s : - | - : s | l : t
 Oh! hap - py we, Oh! hap - py we, Oh! hap - py, HAP - PT

d¹ : - | - : - | - : - | : | d¹ : t | l : s | s : f : m : r | d : - | :
 we; . . . Hap - py, hap - py we.

D.C.

John Curwen, *The Standard Course of Lessons on the Tonic Sol-fa Method of Teaching to Sing*. London, England, Tonic Sol-fa Agency, n.d. (c.1866): 19–20.



Glover's Sol-fa Ladder



Curwen's Tonic Sol-fa Modulator

MANUAL SIGNS OF TONE IN KEY.

NOTE.—The diagrams show the hand as seen from the left of the teacher, not as seen from the front. Teachers should particularly notice this.



soh

The GRAND or bright tone.



te

The PIERCING or sensitive tone.



me

The STEADY or calm tone.



doh

The STRONG or firm tone.



ray

The ROUSING or hopeful tone.



lah

The SAD or weeping tone.



fah

The DESOLATE or awe-inspiring tone.



FINGER SIGNS FOR TIME.

As seen from the Teacher's point of view, the back of the hand being shown to the pupils.



taa.



taatai.



tafatefo.



taatefo.



taaf.



tafatai.



-aa.



-aatai.



saa.



taasai.



saatai.

Ex. 195—6.

FIFTH STEP.

93

FORGIVE THINE ENEMY.

Ex. 195. KEY G.

D. t.

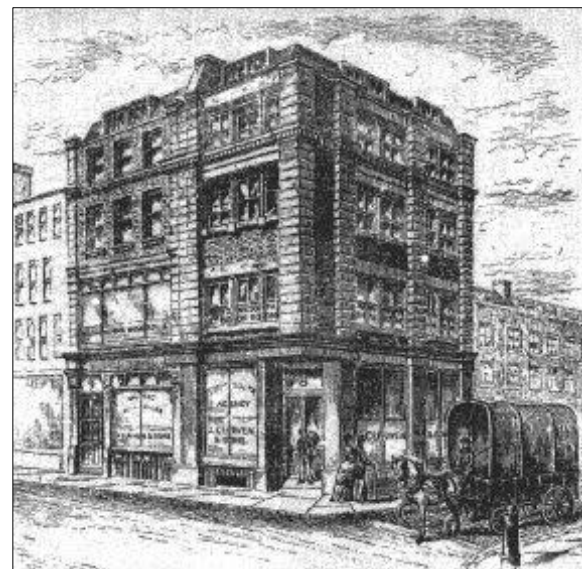
Fuchs.

Ex. 193. KEY G.				D. t.				Fuchs.			
:	:	:	:	d' :—	t :s	l :t	:	:	:	:	:
d :—	t ₁ :s ₁	l ₁ :t ₁	:	For -	give thine	en - e -	:	For -	give thine	en - e -	:
For -	give thine	en - e -	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
d' :s'	- :f' :n'	- :r' :d'	t	l :t :d'	- :t	d' :—	:	d' :—	:	:	:
my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
n :— :r	d :— :t ₁	l ₁ :— :s	f	r :— :m	d :— :r	m :— :n	:	d :— :r	m :— :n	:	:
en -	e -	my, thine	en - e -	en - e -	en - e -	en - e -	:	en - e -	en - e -	en - e -	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- :f :s :d	r :— :r	d :	:	For -	give thine	en - e -	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
Forgive thine, en	- e -	my, thine	en - e -	For -	give thine	en - e -	:	For -	give thine	en - e -	:
m :d'	- :t :l	se :—	l :m :l	- :se	l :—	:	:	l :—	:	:	:
my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
d :t ₁ :l ₁	f :—	- :m :r	d :— :r :d	t ₁ :— :t ₁	l ₁ :—	f :—	:	f :—	:	:	:
my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
d' :—	t :s	l :t	d' :t :l	t :m :m'	- :r' :l :t	d' :—	:	d' :—	:	:	:
For -	give thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
give thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
f. G.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
d :s' :r :f	m :d'	- :t :l	- :s :f	- :m	r :— :r	d :—	:	d :—	:	:	:
my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:
l ₁ :t ₁	d :t ₁ :l ₁ :m	f :— :m	r :— :d	t ₁ :s ₁ :d	- :t ₁	d :—	:	d :—	:	:	:
my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:	my, thine	en - e -	my, thine	:

John Curwen, *The Standard Course of Lessons and Exercises in the Tonic Sol-fa Method of Teaching Music*. London, England: Tonic Sol-fa Agency, 1872: 93.



The Tonic Sol-fa College, Forest Gate, London

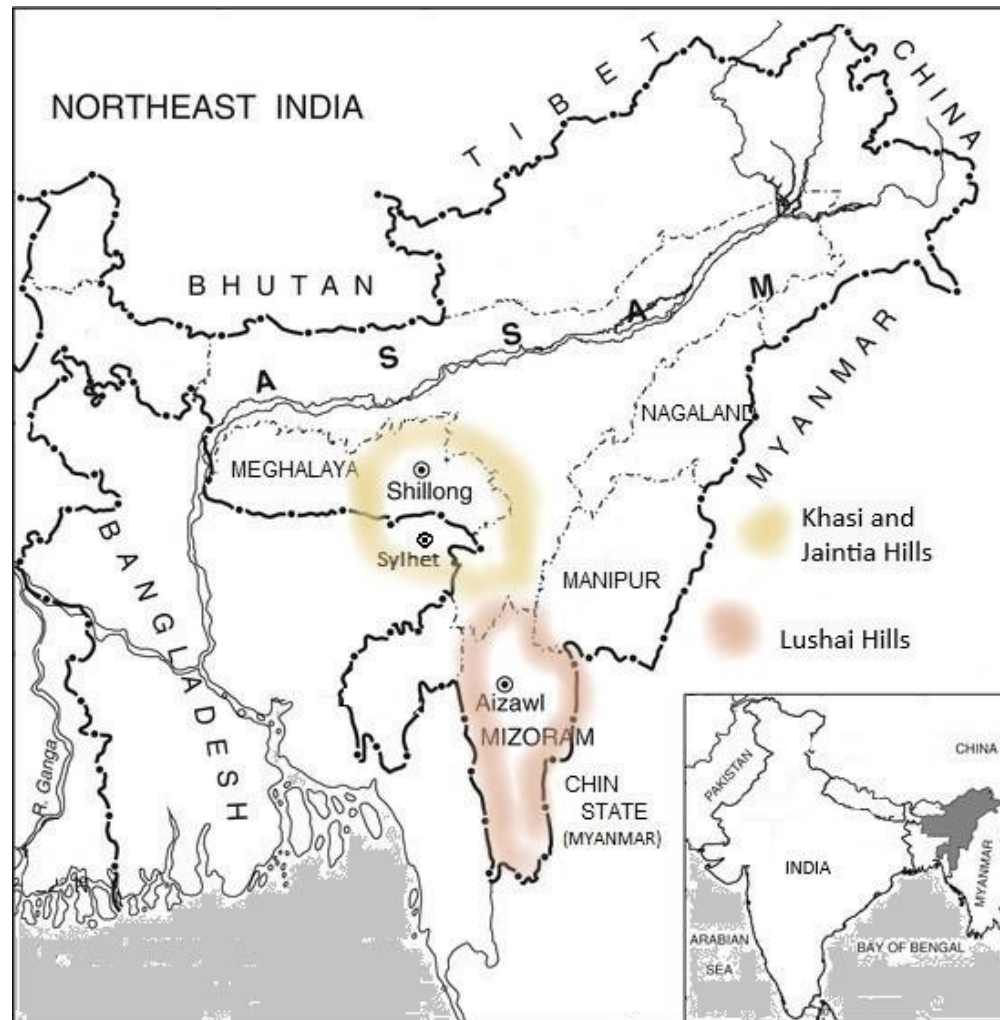


The Tonic Sol-fa Agency building, later J. Curwen and Sons, Music Publishers



A Tonic Sol-fa College Elementary Certificate

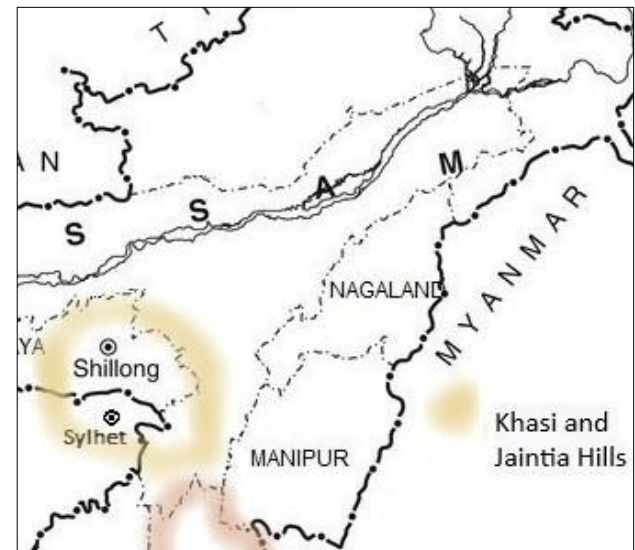




Khasi and Jaintia Hills District

Rev Robert Evans (1849-1916) – Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Mission

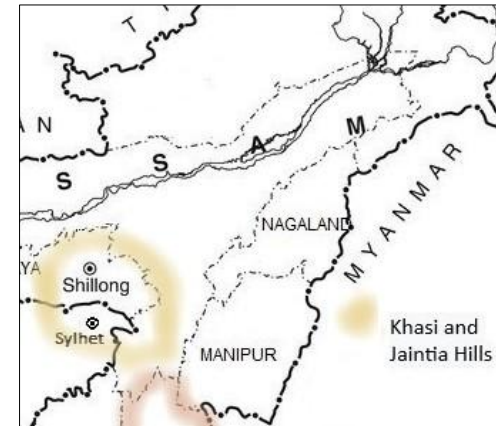
- Published *Solfa bu* (Sol-fa Book) c an instructional method book with vocal exercises in the Lushai (Mizo) language first published in **1910**, later reprinted as *Mizo solfa bu* (Mizo Sol-fa Book) in **1923**.



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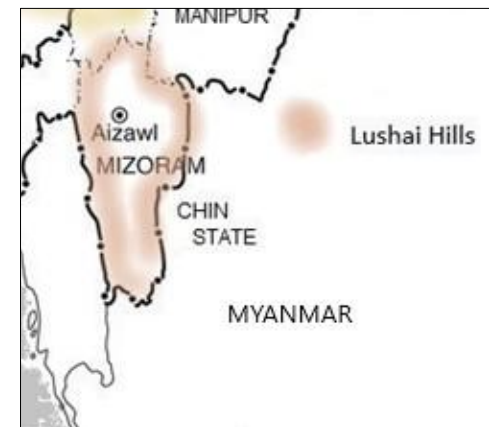


Lushai Hills District

Rev Frederick Savidge (1857-1935) and Rev James Lorrain (1870-1944) – Baptist Missionary Society

Rev David Jones (1870-1947) and Rev Edwin Rowlands (1867-1937) – Welsh Presbyterian Mission

- Published numerous hymn books with Lushai words and with Tonic Sol-fa notation from **1899**.



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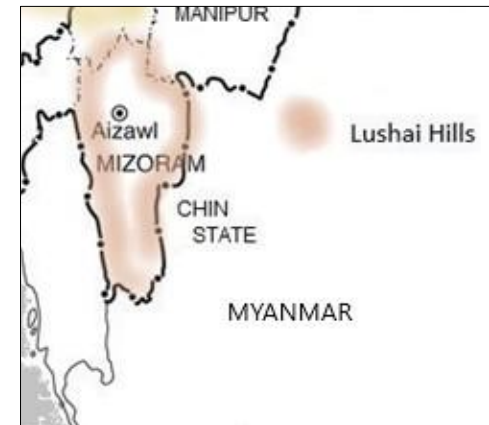
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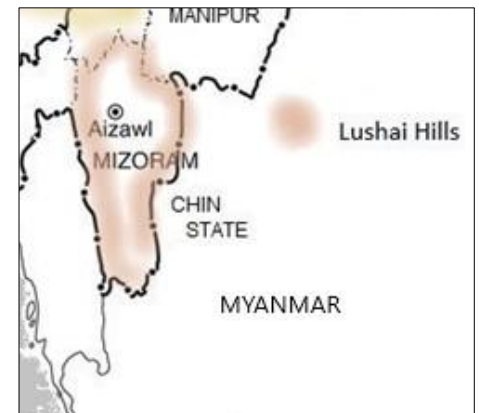


Many Mizos loved to sing, and they found happy companions in the missionaries who came to live in the hills. Quite a few were from Wales and had been sent out by churches with strong choral traditions. Singing became equally essential [to playing instruments] in the churches of Mizoram. As a Governor of Assam, in inimitably essentialist terms, once put it: "The Welsh have a special affinity for the Lushais as the Lushais are as musical as they are." Soon choirs were formed, and these became a fixture of social life that persists today.

(Source: Joy L.K. Pachuau and Willem van Schendel, *The Camera as Witness: A Social History of Mizoram, Northeast India*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2015: 43.)



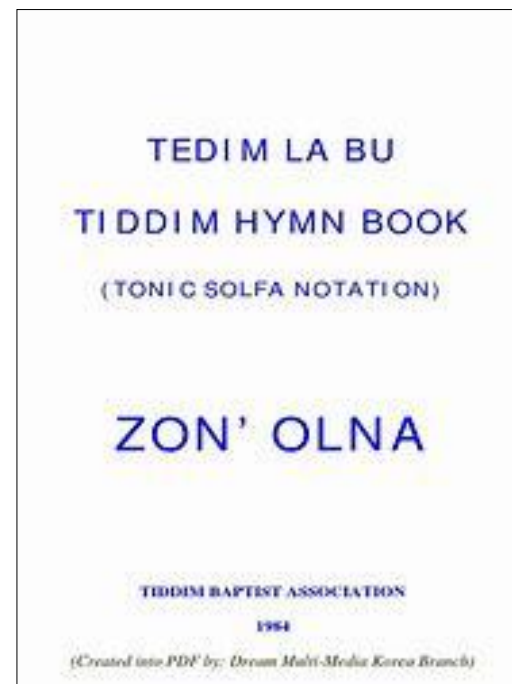
Catherine (Katie) Hughes, ATSC (1889-1963)



Mizo Tonic Sol-fa Text and Hymn Books

- *Hla sak zir dan* – a Tonic Sol-fa instructional text, in **1927** and **1928** which was re-published in 1935 by the Loch Printing Press in Aijal (Aizawl).
- *Hla leh Solfa*– a selection of songs in Sol-fa notation, printed by the Loch Printing Press in **1935**.
- *Hla lawrkhawn a solfa nen* – a selection of twenty-one songs in Sol-fa notation, printed by the Loch Printing Press in **1937**.
- *Hla leh Solfa* (Songs and Sol-fa) – produced for the Synod of Churches in **1938**.
- *Solfa zirna bu 1-na* (Book 1 of a Tonic Sol-fa instructional method) and
- *Solfa zirna bu 2-na* (Book 2) – published in 1938 initially as single books and from **1948** as a combined book; this publication was re-printed several times during the **1950s** and **1960s**.

(Source: Lalzama, 'Growth and development of the Mizo language and literature with special reference to the made by contribution made by Christian missionaries from 1897 to 1947'. PhD thesis, Gauhati University, India, 1990: 337-8.)



Tonic Sol-fa Hymn book for the Tiddim people, an ethnic group of Myanmar, India and Bangladesh, living in Chin State in Myanmar on the border east of Mizoram, **1964**.



The first Mizo choir to tour northern India, 1929.

Kristian Hla Bu - Apps on Google

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.zofate.kristianhlabu

Unimelb Webmail S... music-ed.net Web... Gmail HP music-ed.net cPane... 2, 134-136 Freight... Optus - Webmail New Tab Optus - My Account

Apps Categories Home Top charts New releases

My apps Shop Games Kids Editors' Choice Account Payment methods Play Points New My subscriptions Redeem Buy gift card My wishlist My Play activity Parent Guide

Kristian Hla Bu

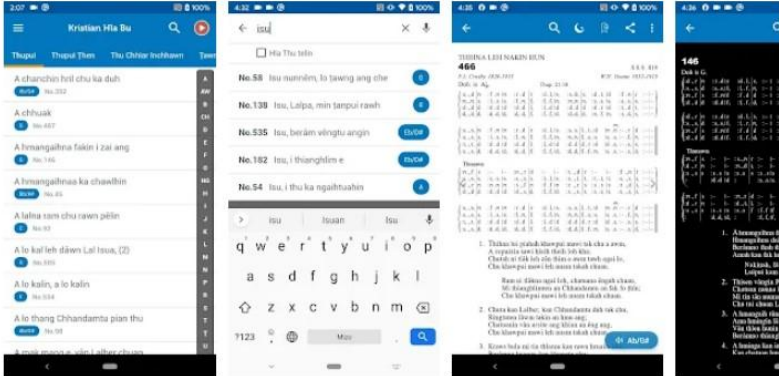
ThetNaing Mizo Books & Reference

★★★★★ 326

Contains Ads

This app is available for some of your devices

Installed



Synod Literature & Publication Board,
Aizawl, Mizoram 2005 Kristian Hla Bu 18th (Revised)

Google Play link to download the *Kristian Hla Bu* App for access to hymns in Tonic Sol-fa notation from the 18th edition of the *Christian Hymn Book* published in **2005**.

CHÂNG KHAT HLA

598

S.S.S. 630

Rev. F.W. Savidge 1862-1935

Asa Hull

Rev. J.H. Lorrain 1870-1944

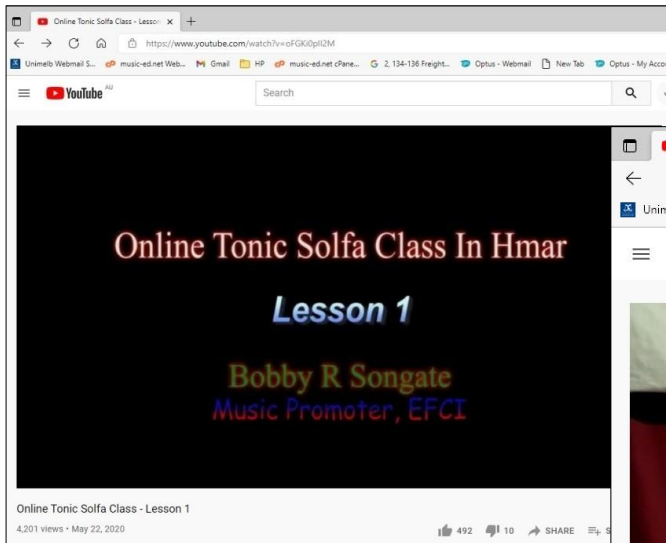
Doh is F.

{	:m	m . r : r	: f	f . m : m	: s	s	:- . m : d . m	r	:-	}
{	: d	d . t ₁ : t ₁	: r	r . d : d	: m	m	:- . d : d . d	t ₁	:-	}
{	: s	s . s : s	: s	s . s : s	: d'	d'	:- . s : s . s	s	:-	}
{	: d	s ₁ . s ₁ : s ₁	: s ₁	d . d : d	: d	d	:- . d : m . d	s ₁	:-	}

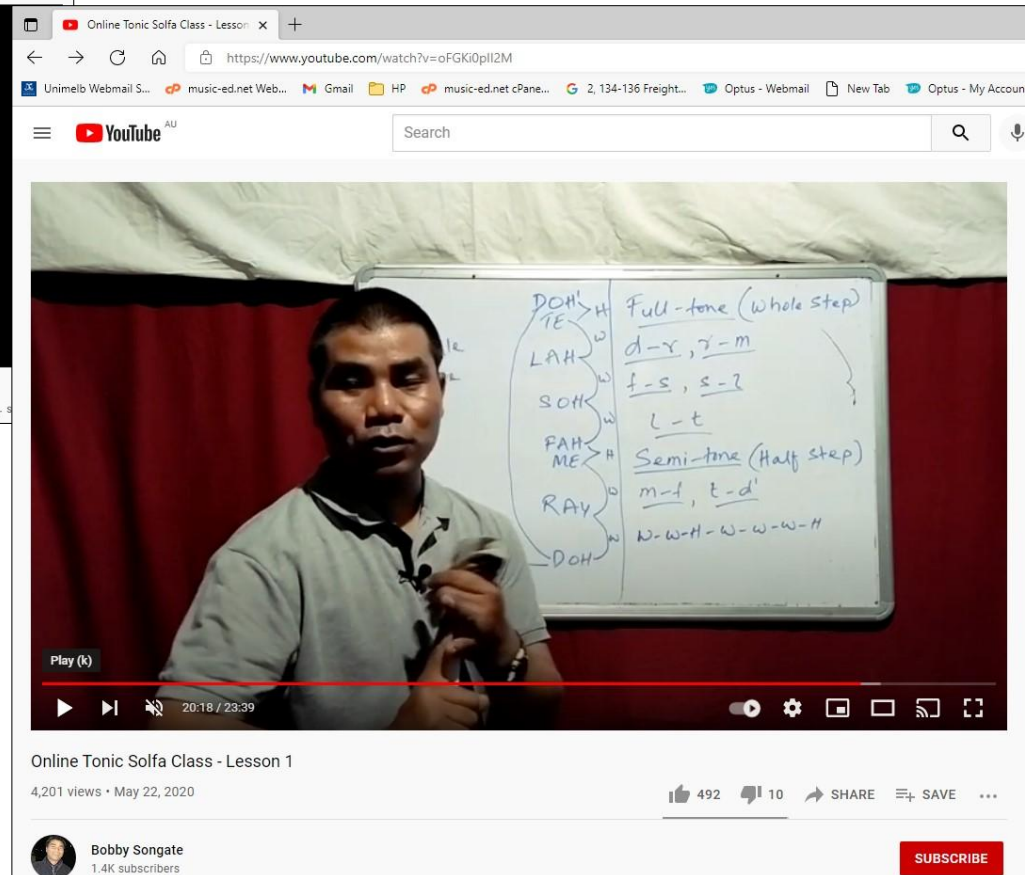
{	:m	f . s : l	:- . l	l . s : s	: s	s	:- . s : f . r	d	:-	
{	: d	d . d : d	:- . d	d . d : d	: d	t ₁	:- . t ₁ : t ₁ . t ₁	d	:-	
{	: s	f . m : f	:- . f	f . m : m	: m	r	:- . r : r . f	m	:-	
{	: d	l ₁ . s ₁ : f ₁	:- . f ₁	d . d : d	: d	s ₁	:- . s ₁ : s ₁ . s ₁	d	:-	

Tûnah ka awih, ka awih ang e,
 Ka tân Isua a thi;
 A kraws-ah an khêngbet ta e,
 Kei min chhandam tûrin.

A sample page from *Kristian Hla Bu* (Christian Hymn Book), 18th edition.
 Aizawl, Mizoram: Synod Literature and Publications Board, 2005.

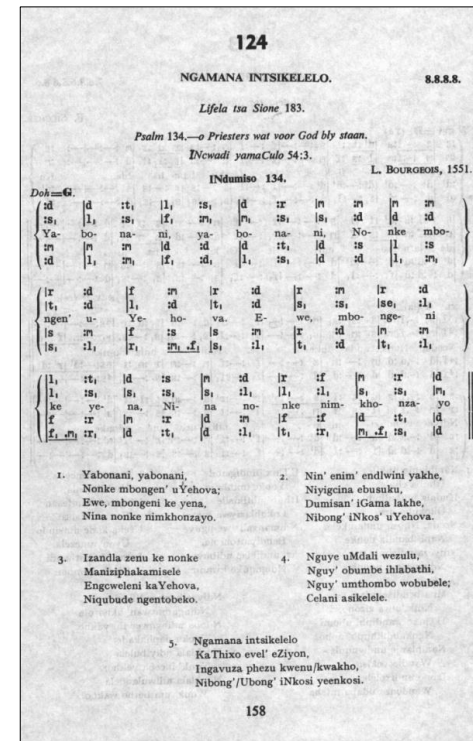
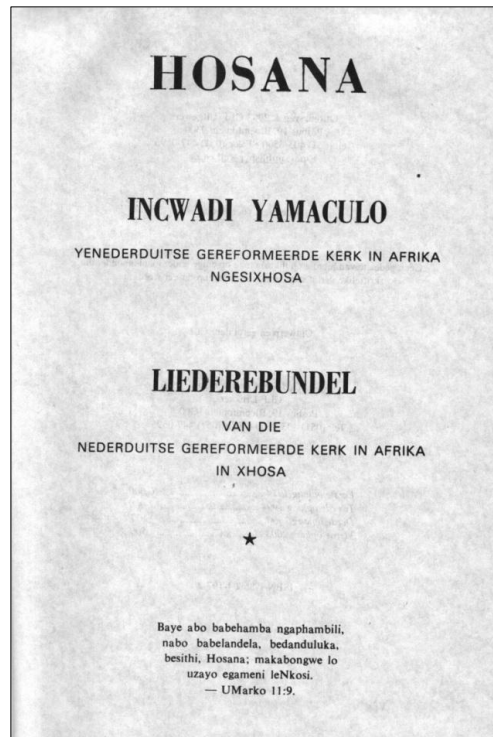


Note: Hmar is a Mizo branch of the Tibeto-Burman language family spoken in Mizoram, Assam, Manipur and surrounding areas.



Conclusion

'exogenous' – a condition caused by factors or an agent from outside the organism or system



Hosana – Song [Hymn] Collection of the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa in Xhosa. Bloemfontein: CLF Publishers, **2003**.

Conclusion



Reference:

Robin S. Stevens. 'A Missionary Inheritance: Tonic Sol-fa in India'
Publication pending in the *Journal of Historical Research in Music Education*.

Contact:

Robin Stevens: r.stevens@unimelb.edu.au

Websites:

- *The Curwen Method (Tonic Sol-fa) website*
<http://www.music-ed.net/Curwen/>
- *The International History of Music Education website* (A History Standing Committee Project, International Society for Music Education)
<http://www.music-ed.net/ihme/>