

ICMlink



APRIL 2017 | INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSION SINGAPORE

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Winning Thailand for Christ



By Thomas Seah and
Team Thailand

"We face a humanity that is too precious to neglect. We have a remedy that is too wonderful to withhold. We have a Christ too glorious to hide. We have an adventure too thrilling to miss ... that's missions."

John Garlock

The final command from our Lord Jesus in Matthew 28:19 was to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Praise the Lord for ICM Singapore. In 1988, ICM established the Christ for Thailand Institute (CFTI) bible school at Bang Saen in Si Racha, about two hours Southeast of Bangkok. The bible school was later relocated to an unfinished golf course in PakChong, two hours' drive East of the capital. Aside from church-planting, equipping of leaders, and discipleship training, one of the main strategies of CFTI was to raise local nationals to preach the gospel to "Win Thailand for Christ".

Through the years, so many of our CFTI graduates went on to serve all over Thailand and some have gone beyond the shores of Thailand to neighbouring countries, namely Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and even to China.

Fast forward 28 years later, the CFTI alumni have since raised and equipped the second, third and fourth generations of leaders and pastors for God's service and glory. As a result of the partnership with our CFTI alumni, more than 30 bible schools and 500 churches were established and planted all over Thailand. In addition, many orphanages, children's homes and even youth hostels were built.



Today, we have befriended over 100 mission partners, including business professionals and executives in the marketplace from various local and foreign churches for short-term missions to "Impart Love and Impact Lives".

We partner with our alumni and their co-workers to arrange regular trips for Team Singapore to visit their provinces to witness and preach the gospel to their villages, tribes, communities and public schools all over Thailand. Projects include:

- Project "Jesus LOVE the little children" where the local church and neighbouring public schools jointly share God's love through songs, skits, art and craft, English lessons, sports equipment sponsorship, poor and needy sponsorship, soup kitchen, etc.
- Project "Clear Vision", an outreach programme in which free spectacles

were distributed to the community, fostering love, care, bonding, relationships and rapport between the churches and local community.

Another important strategy we adopted is through "Transform Lives" in Community Development. We introduced micro-credit and micro-financing projects with locals, including cashew nut farming, fish and frog breeding, pigs and cows, cattle rearing, chilli and pepper farming, fruits planting, etc. These projects transformed villages and create employment for poor and newly converted believers. Hence, these projects make them self-sufficient, improving and raising their standard of living and hygiene and earning them the good reputation as "Blessed Christian Villages".

Do you want to **make a difference**? Come and join ICM in one of our many trips. It will transform your life. Your life will never be the same again ... Amen!





Mission to transform lives



By Esther Lai

The recent mission trip to Nepal led me to ponder why God's blessings and anointing are always so rich when we are out there in the mission field. I am sure many of you would have heard by now how God worked so powerfully for the Timothys and for us as well. I remember Charles Vun sharing with me that whenever he is out on mission trips, God uses him to perform miracles. I actually felt the anointing and the power as well. So did everyone in the team.

God worked in unique ways for different people on the trip. One thing He had done in me during previous trips was deposit enduring verses from His Word. But recently He has started depositing chapters after chapters of His Word.

Whole passages from the Bible would suddenly become so incredibly clear and the messages would completely transform my life.

This happened to me on the flight to Nepal.

I was reading the book of Philippians, my favorite epistle and the most beautiful Paul has written. Philippians 3 is a chapter that fascinates me the most. Here, Paul described himself before conversion and after. Until then, I had not really understood how he could have been transformed from a person who was prideful about his heritage; boastful about his understanding of the law; and arrogant about his religious achievements and fervor to become someone who is willing to throw all those away to follow Christ. He was like a new person overnight.

In Philippians 1:21, he said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." This guy was willing to die for Christ.

While I was reading Philippians 3, God's message for the Timothys became so crystal clear. It was such a powerful experience of His love for

me and the Timothys that after I received and grasped everything in His message, I cried.

The key words in this whole passage is in the words 'know' and 'knowing' found in Philippians 3:8, 10 (NASB). In fact, they are the key words for the entire book of Philippians. In verse 8, Paul talks about the "surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ..."

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:8

No one who has encountered Christ will ever remain the same. The transformation is so powerful that Paul in Philippians 3:10 talks about not just knowing Him but wanting to know the power of His resurrection



(the power that brought forth life to Christ and all those who believe Him), to share in Christ's sufferings and to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Paul grew hungrier and hungrier for Christ and this included a hunger to suffer for Him.

... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10

So God's message for me to the Timothys is about our hunger to know Christ. The CPI topic I was tasked to teach was "How to Avoid Burnout as a Christian Leader" and the key message was delivered in a series of questions I asked the Timothys: Do we hunger for the success of our ministry more than Him? How much do we hunger for God alone and nothing else? Do you know how much God longs for you? How much time are we willing to spend waiting upon His Presence? Have we experienced Him recently?

But there was only one question that was meant to be answered: "What does His Presence feel like?" One old man described seeing mist and clouds; he knew that God was there. A young man felt a floating sensation when God is in the room with him. Another young man described the feeling of joy in his heart.

To all those who encountered Him, I asked, "When was the last time you felt His Presence?" You see, we were never meant to be burnt out for Christ if we get our ministry right. This was the question that had an unusually huge impact. In our prayer ministry later that afternoon, God met with some of the Timothys.

That passage in Philippians also had a great impact on my own spiritual formation. God gives special anointing and grace to those who are willing to do God's work, especially in the mission field, despite the risk of their own vulnerabilities.



The mission field is where few Christians want to venture and the needs there are very great. God always blesses people mightily when they are willing to leave their family, community and country to serve Him in a foreign land. Abraham was one such example. God used him mightily after he left his own people.

Paul is the other example. God not only used Him mightily in all his missionary journeys but his experiences of God was powerful beyond his imagination. God's power and provision were greater than Paul's weaknesses. His experience of God in the mission field was so exceptional that he became boldly willing to be God's soldier, constantly risking his own life for the Gospel.

On the last night of our trip, Charles gathered the whole team for a

debrief. ICM debriefs are always about what God did for each of us.

We carried out the work for the Timothys so it was necessary to hear about how God had cared for us. Charles has an incredible optimism that no one can embark on a mission trip and not have a life-changing experience.

It was very apt. We realised that there was one thing we all had in common – we are all people who have been through many painful experiences in life that threaten to break us. What we could offer God was not our might but our brokenness. He showered us with His richness and His power.

Love has come to heal the broken hearted, made the blind see and the lame walk. Suddenly, we could stand ten feet taller because of Him.



Mission Trip to Nepal in Pictures

Photos by Esther Lai

“And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”

Mark 12:29-30







God's love heralding new and mighty things in Nepal

By Lye Fei

Father God has blessed us much. We have witnessed His greatness in granting salvation to many people in Nepal, increasing the population of His people from a mere 0.1% in year 2000 to an estimated 3% now. God had impressed on both brother Charles Vun and me that we need to focus on the Timothy alumni whom we trained. We need to encourage them, empower them, and communicate our Father's heart to them. God has placed in our heart over the years to share about His Holiness through details of the Tabernacle; Discipleship; and this year, His First Commandment conveyed in Mark 12:29-30:

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

At the end of 2016, both Charles and I felt that God is going to do new and mighty things this year in Nepal. We obeyed God and held the Advance Timothy program at a town in South-eastern Nepal known as Bardibas, in a church started by two mighty men of God, Hanok and Simeon from the first batch of Timothy graduates in 2001.

So, with the message of First Love from the Lord, Peter Sim, Sarah Sari and me prepared seven sessions for 87 past Timothy graduates. God led us with Peter receiving three dreams and three messages for our brothers and sisters in Nepal.

The three sessions titled "Commandments", "Love" and "Bless-



ings" flowed seamlessly with the other sessions prepared. Sarah, after affirmation that Father God wanted her to be in the team, came up with two messages: "Focus on the Call" and "Life led by Power."

Bardibas is located about 170 km from Kathmandu, and when we arrived in Nepal late on Tuesday February 14, Pastor Nehemiah met us and drove us directly from the airport to Bardibas! The journey was miraculously smooth with much prayer for God's angels to guide us. We arrived in Bardibas within five hours and checked into a nice hotel.

The next day, after our morning devotion brought us back to the first love Yeshua commanded us, we were all set for day 1. After a 10-minute drive, we arrived at the small church in an open ground with two tents set up for the program. All in, 87 Timothys managed to squeeze into the church.

After a devoted worship session, I started off with "First Command-

ment" and the Holy Spirit led me to set aside 10 minutes of quiet time to appreciate the love of Yeshua and to express our love for Him.

Just then, a couple of Timothys, including another pioneer Timothy graduate Go Baharder, testified how they felt God's love and were recharged and restored from the many tasks that had tired them out. God renewed their strength to strive for greater works that He will do through them.

Peter's second session on "Commandments" in the morning outlined the commandments God gave us and how we failed His instruction that lead others to His salvation out of His Love for us.

In the afternoon, the Holy Spirit led Sarah, who took the first session on "Focus on the Call", to minister to the Timothys as well. Peter's session on "Love" followed. It was a reminder to us that God spared nothing and gave His Son Yeshua because He loves us! Throughout



that day, the Lord spoke to us, refreshed us and led us to know Him more.

In the Day 2 devotion led by Sarah, God clearly spoke to us and placed us right in the centre of His love. My first session on “Second Commandment” was changed to “Hodu l’Adonai Ki Tov” (Give Thanks to God for He is Good).

Peter’s session on “Blessings” then showed the Timothy’s how God poured out His blessings on His people even though they fell short of His commandments, and He continues to bless us today. Sarah committed her afternoon session to the Holy Spirit’s leading, illustrating to the Timothy’s the power of God.

This has indeed been an eye-opening trip as we learned to be fully dependent on Him who called us and sent us. God has been leading me on this journey since 2007,

teaching me to rest in Him and to be broken before Him so that He can pour into me fresh new wine. We left Bardibas satisfied and filled with the knowledge that He is God and to let Him be God.

We reached the outskirts of Kathmandu just in time to have a wonderful lunch at a hotel. During lunch, we were even given the opportunity to share the Good News of Yeshua with the hotel staff. How lovely are you Lord! In the evening, we also had a wonderful time with Pastor Nehemiah and his lovely family at the hotel’s café.

We left Kathmandu the next day on February 18, knowing our Father God has started a new journey for us in Nepal. It is our Abba Father’s desire to not only use the team visiting Nepal in March as vessels to fill our Nepalese Timothy’s with his power but to fill us His servants as well.



Refreshed to bless

By Lee Inn Siew

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25

Our team of six went to Nepal for the Timothy Program (CPI), women’s ministry and visits to orphanages. Prior to the trip, my heart was filled with expectations of the Lord using us to bless the people that we meet. There were to be eight of us.

In the months leading up to the trip, there were issues that came up and we were down to a six-person team. The day before the trip, I was down with vomiting and an unbearable pain in the stomach. But I made it to the airport the next day thanks to the prayers of many people. Having overcome so many obstacles, I knew in my heart and mind that God had planned for us to be used greatly to minister to the people.

CPI started on the second day of our arrival. So did the women’s seminar

where we taught on ‘establishing an effective prayer ministry’. The sessions ended with prayer and ministering to the women.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was strong in the meeting. There was such an outpouring of the Spirit into the women’s lives as we walked around to lay hands on them, asking God to grant them rest and heal them emotionally. I was amazed when a few of them were slain in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

During the chapel (for Grade 8 and 9) on Wednesday, Esther shared her life testimony that left an impact on all who were present. Children who wanted to be prayed for were asked to stay back after chapel.

Many stayed back and asked for prayers for their upcoming exams and family. I laid hands on the children asking God to bless them with wisdom to apply what they learned and for their families to be well. Many children came down from the

classrooms and waited for their turn to be prayed for. I could clearly hear God’s cry for this generation of Nepalese whose lives will be powerful testimonies for God, bringing about a new nation that will love Jesus.

I laid hands on each one of the children and kept praying, “Dear Lord, I pray for healing and forgiveness into your family and salvation. Amen.” When we finished the session, we were exhausted and hungry but satisfied.

We prayed for the Timothy’s, women, children and the nation of Nepal throughout the whole week. God’s love for the people of this nation is so enormous that I know that the labour of love that ICMS has poured in will grow into a new nation of Nepalese. In one of the teachings, it was mentioned that “burnout is like a candle that has run out of wax. God wants to give us a candle that burns and will neither run out of wax nor get shorter”.

When we choose to refresh others and bless others, God will continue to give us the passion and love to bless the Nepalese.



Going forth on God's faithfulness in Yangon



By Queenie Kou

It has been 15 years since I left full-time ministry in a church. God has since led me through some very exciting and meaningful work, not directly church related but absolutely people centered. And I was able to continue influencing lives for His kingdom.

About five years ago, God led me to painting and I left my job three years later to follow my heart. After settling down to a very happy new routine, I began to feel the desire to use the extra time that I now have to serve God with my gifting in teaching and my training in theology.

So, it was an answered prayer when John contacted me out of the blue and introduced me to ICM. I had not heard of the organization and was a little apprehensive. I was also unsure if I can still deliver. But I believe that when God opens the door, He will also provide.

So I joined the trip to Yangon on 13-17 February to teach three sessions on Leadership following the CPI program. Four of us were in the team and we flew to Yangon on a Monday, taught four sessions a day collectively till Friday and returned to Singapore on Saturday. When I landed in Yangon, my first impression was that it is much like Cambodia, where I had visited three months earlier.

The people's attire told me that they are still traditional but the buildings and transport system are modernising fast. Ya Kun can even be found at the airport already and this brought along a slice of Singapore.

The pretty three-storey House of Praise building where we taught has served the community for a long time. I got to sketch it during a short break in the morning.

We taught on the third floor and had



Myanmar Church Planting Mission Centre. *Illustration by Queenie Kou*

lunch daily at the pastor's house on the second floor. Food was delicious and hospitality was warm. Thirteen attentive and motivated students attended the classes. They were male and female leaders of their own congregation and I was amazed at their ability to follow six hours of lectures daily. I understand they had another week of lectures after we left.

My takeaway from the trip:

1. We had a good team. John the leader was steady, familiar with the people and their needs, relaxed, and has a good dose of humor. My other teammates were gifted, prepared and knowledgeable in their fields. We got along very well.

2. God's work done by locals is the way forward in building up local churches. This strategy by ICM is in the right direction. Those blessed with resources do well to share them to build up this body of local leaders.

3. The local leaders need spiritual guidance and encouragement in the ministry. I did not visit any of the congregations represented in the class but listening to them share some of their struggles, I feel that,

like all ministries, they need to have a regular supply of encouragement and refreshing in the Lord. Should this be done by their local people or "outsiders" like us, I'm not sure yet. But I gather that our fellowship was welcomed by them.

4. Will I go again? God willing, yes. But I would like to visit other setups as well to have a broader view of the work ICM is doing.

5. God's people continue to be faithful wherever God placed them. Thanks be to God!



Church baptismal pool. *Illustration by Queenie Kou*



Freedom in Abba Father's love

By Ng Hwee Phen

Following are testimonies of three Timothy's from the CPI course February 2017 in Yangon. They were ministered to by Pastor Daren Tay's teachings on the Father's Love. ICM trainers stood in as spiritual fathers and mothers and ministered with warmth to the Timothy's. And the Lord set them free to forgive and love again.

Zung Chian from Kachin state

Zung's father had three wives and he was the second wife's son. His mother died when he was very young.

Father was not around much. After he became a Christian and through the years, he had come to forgive his father. But he felt that there was still something missing.

It was only at this CPI course when Pastor Darren taught on the love of the Heavenly Father, and with the impartation of an earthly father's love and blessing, vicariously through Pastor Sein, that he felt complete.

He received the Father's love. and feels very joyful and happy now.

Aung Kyaw Min from Sagaing Region

Aung was raised by his grandparents after his father left home when he was still a baby.

His mother married another man and he never received any father's love. Instead, he had to work hard for his living even from a young age.

When he was old enough to travel, he went to see his father who was in another town. But his father did not receive him well. He felt that his father was like a gangster and he hated his father.

Aung eventually converted to Christianity. He went to see his father to show love to him and to share the gospel. But his father was not receptive.

In this CPI course, there was the teaching about the Heavenly Father's love. When he prayed, he felt the Father was there with him and he heard and felt the Father's love. He now knows that our Heavenly Father is his real father.

Now he is able to forgive his earthly father. He feels very light and free. Praise God.

Ann Kam from Naga Land (Sagaing Region)

Ann Kam grew up with four siblings. He never saw his father who died when he was very young. Then his mother died also. He then lived with his uncle, his father's younger brother, but he never experienced the love of his real father.

He felt that whenever his adoptive family needed something from him,

they would be good to him. But after that, they would be distant and indifferent again.

He felt very controlled by his uncle and he could not do what he wanted. He felt that he had neither hope nor future.

While attending a bible seminar some time ago, he received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Although saved, he still bore resentment and bitterness towards his uncle's family.

But after prayer at the recent CPI course, he was able to forgive his uncle for the first time in his life. He also learnt how his bitter feelings toward his uncle affected his own spiritual life. So on that day, he decided to release full forgiveness upon his uncle. Praise God! Jesus has set the captives free!



Timothy's testimonies

An Anglican Bishop James from Sittwe started sending his workers to our Timothy CPI Training a few years ago and in his recent gathering of 18 past CPI graduates, they decided the CPI alumni will meet three times a year for fellowship and joint missions. They encourage more Timothy's to attend CPI Training at the Myanmar Church Planting Centre in Yangon. In addition, the group under the capable leadership of Bishop James will start a New Training Centre in their region by end 2017.

We praise God for their commitment to train church planters to be effective evangelists and disciple

makers. Following are some testimonies:

Myint Tun

I was in the first batch of CPI students from Sittwe. I am a Catechist for AW village, Emmanuel Parish in Sittwe Diocese. I have been serving the village for 10 years and I look after 25 families comprising 10 Anglican and four Roman Catholic families, and families from other denominations as well as non-believers.

This is my first ever training outside my Anglican diocese. Initially, I found everything strange: the language,

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Witnessing and blessings

accommodation, the worship style. But after two programmes, I understood and became familiar with praise and worship and understood more about the Holy Spirit, church planting and practical evangelism.

After graduation, I started witnessing the way I have been taught to my aunty who is a non-Christian. She was always asking whether I brought her gifts from Yangon! When she came to my home, I gave her some gifts, shared what I learnt and the Good News of Jesus with her. After one month, she told me that she would like to read my Bible, so I gave her my Khumi NT Bible. Glory to God! Today, she and her family of four have become Christians. Thank God for ICM partner, St. Hilda's Church, who had sponsored my training.

Dhawn Hawi

I am a Catechist for KPT village, St. Peter Parish in Sittwe Diocese. My

village has 30 families comprising of 20 Anglican families, three Lutheran families and the rest are non-believers.

I am familiar with conducting morning and evening worship services but limited in my ministry skills. I would like share the gospel to unbelievers in my village but I did not know how to start. When I was asked by my Bishop to attend the CPI training in Yangon, I was so excited! I kept reading the letter of invitation again and again. Since then, I have finished three quarters of the training and I will graduate in July 2017.

During my first CPI training session, I faced a major trial. My pastor informed me that my second daughter had passed away.

At that moment, I was very sad and was not sure whether I should continue with my studies. My coursemates and I prayed the whole night at the hostel where we were staying at Insein, Photkan.

The next day, God told me, "You must attend. Continue." I completed the first course. By the grace of God, I completed the second CPI course soon after, and my wife and I were also blessed with a baby son, a big blessing for my family!

After the second course, I started evangelising the CPI way in my village. By the grace of God, two new families of eight have come to believe in Jesus.

I am still trying and praying for more within two years. I really thank God for the support I have received doing His Kingdom's work.



The ICM team at Faith Community Church in Yangon

ICM Singapore Calendar of Events 2017

Note: Please check our website and Facebook page regularly for updates and changes.

Apr 29 | Singapore | Luncheon/2nd BOD

May 3-12 | Central Asia | CPI Training
May 21-28 | Hadyai, Thailand | Visiting ICM Alumni churches

Jul 10-21 | Myanmar | CPI Training (1)
Jul 27-31 | Cambodia | GTIS 10th Anniv Celebration

Aug 7-14 | Sri Lanka | CPI Training/Pastors' Conference
Aug 26 | Singapore | Luncheon/3rd BOD
Aug 31-Sep 2 | Singapore | IDMC

Sep 4-9 | Davao/Panabo | CPI Training/Marketplace Ministry
Sep 11-23 | Myanmar | CPI Training (2)
Sep 16 | Singapore | AGM

Oct 2-11 | Nepal | CPI Training & Advanced Timothy
Oct TBA | Central Asia | CPI Training

Nov 5-12 | Thailand | Annual Fire Conference
Nov 9 | Singapore | ICMS 27th Anniv Dinner

Nov 20-Dec 2 | Myanmar | CPI Training (3)

Dec 7-13 | Cambodia | Annual Christmas Outreach

Front cover photo caption: Children Ministry at Baan Don Sa School in Thailand

Find out more about ICM Singapore events and updates at:
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