

ICMlink



APRIL 2020 | INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSION SINGAPORE

The Enchanting Cherry Blossom ~ Japan

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A Humble Beginning

PHILIPPINES

ELEN DEE

In the midst of the emerging novel corona pandemic which first hit China, Singapore, Japan and the cruise industry, last March 5-7, 2020, ICMP together with ICMS conducted the first Bible School in a Bag Training The Trainers in Greenhills, Metro Manila. This training pushed through after much prayers and with the firm confirmation from the Lord that we should push through. Why? Because of the uncertainty that our brethren from ICMS may suddenly find themselves on a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Manila.

The training went very well and the trainers were refreshed and revived. The trainers came from 5 different church groups from the North, South, East and West of Metro Manila and was composed mainly of senior pastors, bible school teachers and prayer intercessors/trainers. We had trainers from Christ our Banner church; Destiny Church; Baptist Bible College of Asia; Light of the World; Prayer Academy for a total of 35 trainers.

As we were looking forward to organising this team of trainers, our country went on an enhanced community quarantine that took effect on March 16, 2020. The cycle of life came to abrupt halt and all

gatherings were suspended including school and work both in the public and private sector. All group gatherings were disallowed including church services. Only food supply chain, financial institutions and health/medical fields remained open. The population was given limited public mobility with one quarantine pass per family to buy food and other essential supplies and all means of public transport was completely stopped. Checkpoints were put up between cities and only those with authorisation can pass the checkpoints. Curfew is imposed from 8pm to 6am. I want to show you a picture of life in Metro Manila and most parts of the Philippines from March 16 - April 12, 2020. As of this writing - today April 6, the government is deliberating if our quarantine will be lifted or extended.

So what are the Trainers doing now? Most of the trainer graduates are involved in small acts of kindness. The group of Christ our Banner church is giving away food packs to hospital frontliners; other churches are involved in other outreaches mostly to alleviate hunger; intercede in prayer; provide medical supplies for health care workers. Worship services are all for on-line viewing only.



PANABO CITY

LIM KOK PING

CPI Training & Graduation,
Day of Prayer & Vision Casting
March 9-16 2020



PANABO IS THE BANANA CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES.

In March a team of ICM directors and Mission partners arrived into Panabo city to complete the final module of the CPI training and celebrate the graduation of the 5th Batch of CPI trainees to be sent into the field.

In this trip, we were very thankful to God as we had a Team of 5 (John Chu, Leong Mun Wey, Ong Lay Hong, Laurence Ong and Lim Kok Ping) teaching the important lessons on God's Glorious Kingdom. It is also very encouraging to note that 2 of them are teaching for the 1st time with us!

CPI TRAINING & GRADUATION

As we commissioned the students of this 5th Batch of CPI students, we were reminded of God's faithfulness in leading them these last 8 months. The graduation message was not just one of sending them into the fields, but more importantly, one to stay close to God, seek Him in the secret place daily and enjoy intimacy with Him.

Please do continue praying for these 24 graduates, that God will use them mightily as laborers to harvest the ripen fields!



DAY OF PRAYER & VISION CASTING

On 12th March, we rallied the local Pastors for a Day of Prayer & Vision Casting, attended by more than 20 pastors in Panabo and the neighboring cities. The purpose was to wait upon the Lord and look for His guidance to take the 7 mountains for this city for Him.

During the session, there was a strong Presence of the Lord as we prayed and we are thankful that the Lord laid on many of the Pastors the need to come together to pray and seek Him, a consistent reminder of 2 Chronicles 7:14 to return to Him first. *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14

As we conclude the session, Colonel (Retired) Mon Sawan stepped out and raised his hand to lead a core group of Pastors so that they can plan, meet, pray and activate the leaders across



Panabo City to arise and take the city for the Lord!

This exciting trip ended with a ministry time with the local CPI Trainers and the 'Man of Peace' Pastor Erene and a Team of dedicated pastors and leaders for Panabo. The Lord is doing a new work across Panabo city, pray along with us and do join us in our next trip as we journey with the Lord to win this city together for Him!

JAPAN

ICM Singapore has been exploring ministry in Japan in the last few years after a clear call from the Lord. The first report on Japan Ministry was published in the April 2018 ICM Link Newsletter. In the recent years, many individuals, churches and parachurch organizations like Love Singapore Network of Churches are also making inroads into Japan.

Japan has a total population of slightly more than 126 million, remains a predominantly Buddhist nation with approximately 70% of the population identifying themselves as Buddhist and practicing Shintoism at the same time in a 2017 national survey. Christianity accounts for less than 2% of its population and 70% of Japanese churches have an average Sunday attendance of less than 50.

Advancing the Gospel in Japan

THOMAS LEE

A. BUSINESS AS MISSION (BAM)

The vision is to create a Platform as a means to fulfill the great commission of evangelization and discipleship. Business as Mission is integrating mission with business intentionally. It is gospel-aligned business goals to bring about maximum spiritual impact to the marketplace and people in various communities. It is the culture of living out our faith, exhibiting biblical values and demonstrating the Kingdom of God in the course of business life. Additionally, it also aims to meet the needs of the community with social and humanitarian programs.

B. CONCEPT : IMPLEMENTATION OF CO-WORKING SPACE/CAFE



B1. HEAVEN'S CAFÉ IN URASA, NIIGATA PREFECTURE

In mid-2019, the Lord led us to meet with a missionary couple in Urasa, Devon & Mie Glenn, who was living in the U.S. when the Lord called them 3 years ago to move back to Mie's hometown in Niigata. With a background as a chef, Devon & Mie started the Heaven's café, Urasa in 2018. <https://www.facebook.com/HeavensCafe.Japan/>

BUSINESS AS MISSION Marketplace and Community Services



Marketplace Outreach

Alpha Course

Work with Church and para-church organisation

Startup Venture

Cafe/Co-working Space

Franchise

Business Consultancy

Community Services

Friendship

Disaster Relief

Poverty



C. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

C1. ALPHA MINISTRY

Alpha series has been one of the most anointed tools for evangelism. In end November 2019, we assisted Alpha Asia Pacific in a two-day event in Tokyo, casting the vision of Alpha Ministry to Church Pastors and Leadership. The event was attended by over 50-70 leaders from various churches and denominations around Tokyo region. The intention is to do a similar event in Kyushu region in the fall season. An exploration trip was made with Alpha representative in Japan in early December 2019 visiting Pastors in the southern region of Kyushu in Oita, Mizayaki, Saga, Kumamoto cities promoting Alpha.

Both Devon and Glenn are Business As Mission practitioners and their café has been a shining light in the midst of this country town resort where skiing has been the top vacation sport during winter time. It is also a venue for regular prayer & evangelism outreach meeting. The Lord open the door of opportunity to minister in the International University of Japan (www.iuj.ac.jp), a 15-minutes drive from their cafe. The International University of Japan was founded in 1982, to train professionals who can actively contribute to the international society with a high level of interdisciplinary and specialized knowledge. Through this no boundaries community platform, many have the opportunity of hearing the word of God, saved and baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

As they share the same BAM vision, we have decided to work together under the umbrella of the of the Co-working/Café concept, creating a platform to connect with the community, to evangelise and to make disciples of the Lord.

In the meantime, we are exploring expanding the flagship store at Urasa, to incorporate delivery services, additional seating capacity and possibly Airbnb in the longer run.

B2. CO-WORKING SPACE/ CAFÉ PLATFORM IN FUKUOKA (Pause by covid-19)

In second half of 2019, we start looking for possible locations in Fukuoka to start a Cafe/Co-working space. But to-date, we have not found a suitable location and now due to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, plans for a Fukuoka Outlet is now delay. We thank God for His mercy in watching over and preventing us from making any decisions ahead of His timing.



C2. CPI JAPANESE TRANSLATION

We are currently in the midst of sourcing translators to translate our CPI (Church Planting Institute) into Japanese. Training resources in Japanese are scarce and we hope to make the CPI available to the Japanese church pastors and for training Timothy(s).

The road in front of us seems long, and windy, but I always take encouragement in John 16:33 *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world"* and Psalm 2:8 *"Ask of me, and I will make the nations (Japan) your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession"*.



Dear John,

Thank you for your love and concern to our country and each and every one of us.

About our Timothys, as long as the people that I can reach they are doing well. No covid-19 infected among them or among their members or within their outreaches. But as we have stay at home orders, + (curfew 10 pm to 4 am) all over the nation; We are not allowed to gather more than 4 persons without official permission.

The vegetable markets, super markets, banks, medicine stores etc., are opened. But as, Insein township is among the lock down 7 townships in Yangon Region, only one person per household could go out at a time; going to market or grocery store, bank etc. All the streets are block in the township so that no strangers or gust can get in to the street. (BTW a lady who live (nearby Nilar Win (our staff house), is suspicious of covid-19 virus, so the lady house is under lock down and home quarantine. Due to that we are more cautious about the situation now.(As of today Myanmar has 150 confirmed cases, 6 deaths, and 16 recovered)

HOUSE OF PRAISE

We could not conduct our House of Praise Sunday regular services (as we could not gather more than 4 persons), but rather telecast Live via Face Book. The problem with it is most of our people are too poor that they could not afford to buy mobile phones, some who have phones do not afford to buy internet data, so our

Live worship is only for a few members of our Church and other friends in Myanmar and in other parts of the world. Because of the 'stay at home' order we could not do home bible study, follow up and discipleship. But on the other hand we have more time to pray and rooted in the word of God. We, HOP staffs have P&W and prayers meetings from 10 am to 1 PM, everyday. So it really strengthens our prayer life, faith and our fellowship with the Lord.

Our HOP church need to help our members, who are very poor, for their living as all of them could not go out for work these days. Tomorrow (30/4/2020) we are going to provide 8.5 kgs of rice, Dal (Chick pea), 1.6 kgs, 2 bottles of cooking oils, sardines , and one bar of carbolic soap) to each of the households. If the home stay order continue these people will be starving please pray for them and God will provide their needs. Now is the 3rd time that we are providing.



About our Timothy's condition some reports are as follows.

1. Nanda Thein

His health condition good. During the home stay in March and April 2020, Nanda Thein went to ThanHlin, Kyautdan Township and shared the Gospel to several places. U Hla Sein (74 yrs) and his daughter Ma Khet (30 yrs) both Buddhist received Jesus.



2. Saw Thae Lay Aung

His health condition good. He is now at Mingladon, San Kyi Wa ward. After module 4 in March he shared the good news to 16 people in Thandaunghi and 10 people in Mingalardon San Gyi Wa ward. Among them 5 people accepted Christ. He said, now he could not go anywhere just staying at home reading the Bible and praying. At the same time he help the unbelievers nearby (arms giving, helping, teaching guitar playing, and sharing the good news in various ways.)

3. Tin Tin Mar

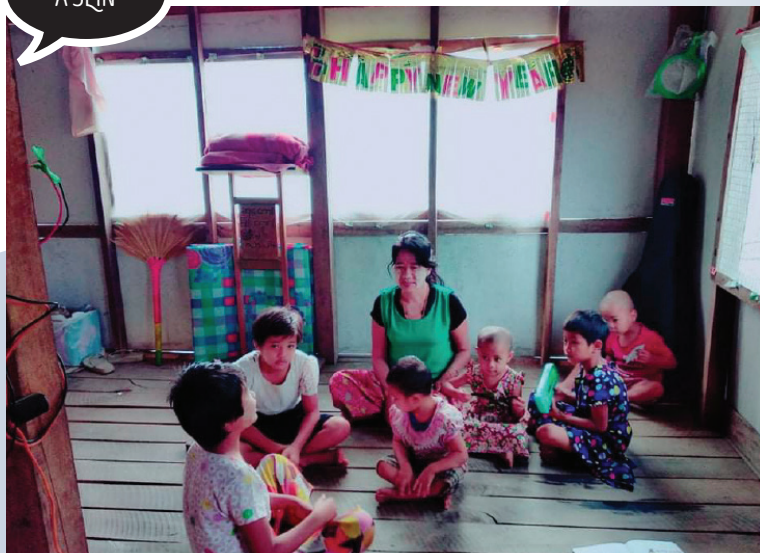
Due to covid-19 she could not gather all the church members. Two by two they worship and did intercessions. But as usual she conducted children Sunday school, as their village is far from town.

The children and her church are OK with food provided by God, so they could eat Daniel's foods. 12 children came last Sunday though according to her list they are 40. She shared the Gospel on 21 April and one lady accepted Jesus as her Saviour. Peggy is better, she is improving. But still need total recovery. Please continue praying for us.

Peggy is better, she is improving. But still need total recovery. Please continue praying for us.

Blessings to you all!

A SEIN



MAY WONG

SCHOOL PROJECTS SPONSORED BY ICM



Glad Tidings International School (GTIS), Cambodia is blessed to have International Christian Missions Singapore as a faithful and fervent mission partner.

Recently, ICMS sponsored some projects that was undertaken for this Academic Year 2019-20. The projects were:

1. Computer Lab
2. Music Room
3. School Field - Re-conditioning and Restoration

COMPUTER LAB AND MUSIC ROOM

A Computer Lab was planned for as far back as 2016. To that effect, we had engaged a teacher with IT background in the hope that we could have a qualified IT Engineer attached to the school. As a result, t. Kong Vaty is now the school's IT software and hardware engineer as well as a teacher. He looks after all matters relating to computers, laptops, printers, security system, PA and Sound equipment, resolves software issues and trouble-shoots for teachers and Administration staff.

During the AY2018-19, GTIS had to borrow the facilities of a nearby NGO, where a small group of students were taught Computer and MSOffice skills. This need and lack was fulfilled last December

"In everything, give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ~

2019 when GTIS set up a Computer lab with 15 desktop computers.

Since January 15th, 2020, ITC classes have been incorporated into the Curriculum for G8 and G9 students. In addition, classes will be offered to G7, G8 and G9 students in future academic years.

The Music Room is situated at the top level of the main school building tower block. The high double storey ceiling and space gives it beautiful acoustics, natural lighting and ambiance. Indeed, a most suitable place for a Music Room.

The students had always loved music and dance and they gave wonderful presentations at school events. GTIS wants to use creative arts as part of the education process to systematically develop the children in their creativity and related skills.

Now that the school has a dedicated Music Room with more instruments to run bigger classes, music and dance will

be incorporated as an ECA program to build up creativity and related skills in the student.

SCHOOL FIELD RE-CONDITIONING AND RESTORATION

Cambodia is a country with distinctive dry and hot, wet and rainy, and cool and dry seasons.

Through the seasons, GTIS has had its fair share of flooded grounds and playing fields, dry sandy playground, mini dust storms, and sun-baked ground. The result was a soccer field that looks like a desert in the hot and dry season and then like a marshland and mini swamp in the wet season.

It was also a nightmare to cut grass during and after the wet season because the lawn mower could not go over the marshy grounds. During this time, the wild grasses, shrubs and bushes would proliferate. There were talks of an artificial grass field costing a lot of money but that would take time to organise. In mid-January 2020, GTIS embarked on a reconditioning and restoration program. By God's grace, we could hire equipment such as a tractor and tiller, a bulldozer and a rolling leveller with help from a former staff who now works with a company that had access to these.





In a short time, the field was cleared of bushes, shrubs, tough wild grass and growth of all sorts, then filled and levelled. The students shall soon be able to use the field for sports and games. GTIS plans to have a soccer club for outreach programs in the future. The field will be ideal for inter-school soccer matches.

COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE & E-LEARNING

The Covid-19 global outbreak was in the news every day towards the end of January 2020.

The leadership at GTIS took the daily developments very seriously. From 28th of January we started to educate the teachers, students and parents regarding the Corona Virus (as it was known then), introduced a Corona Virus Action Plan in February and implemented a Covid-19 Precautionary Action Plan on the 11th of March. From then on, every person entering the School was temperature scanned. In early March, we learnt of an incident at Siem Reap, leading to schools there being ordered to close. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MOEYS) intensified their advisories about the Covid-19. GTIS began its contingency planning.

On Monday morning, 16th of March, the MOEYS issued a Prakas (Official Directive) that all schools and universities in Cambodia would close with immediate effect.

By the grace of God, we were not taken by surprise as we had just concluded a School Closure Plan. The school leadership had met just hours earlier to discuss the possibility of schools being closed on a national scale.



Within that plan, we had spoken about E-learning and the production of lesson notes, worksheets, teaching videos. The materials would be accessible on Facebook as most Cambodians would have an account. Communication with the students and parents would be via Facebook Messenger, Telegram, email and mobile phone.

Immediately, we stepped up the training of teachers to learn video production and teaching in front of a camera. Christine Ong, the Principal Mentor, led the way forward with our team of trainers comprising trs. Kong Vaty and Quy. She later produced a (rather impressive) demonstration video of herself teaching English!

The teachers had fun learning a new skill and approached the whole matter enthusiastically. Although some were nervous and stressed at the beginning, many eventually produced some good teaching videos.

Lesson notes, worksheets and teaching videos are produced on a weekly basis and uploaded on Monday and Tuesday of the following week. Hard copies are also available for families without internet services.



THAILAND

YARRIS SOH

I was glad to be part of the eleven, committed and trusted God for His leading and protection, went for the trip as per scheduled despite the challenges faced. It was in the midst of the Covid-19. Singapore and Thailand were both considered as the most infected countries outside Wuhan. I am delighted that we made the decision to go as we witnessed first-hand how God moved in His mighty glorious ways, going with His purpose and in His name, God will send us out with His enablement and with His strength.

As for the churches we visited, testimony and message was shared to encourage the body of Christ daily. The pastors were moved by the visitation despite the epidemic of virus. All the pastors expressed their gratitude to the team for the visits. A pastoral team of husband and wife confessed that they were on the verge of giving up but the team's visit helped to boost their spirits to persevere. One of my duties was to do reporting for trip. Every Pastor I spoke with, I am encouraged to know that God has used

MISSION IN NAKON PHANOM, THAILAND
16 - 23 February 2020

During our trip, most of the schools had never been visited by any foreign team. For majority of the students, it was their first time to hear about the story of Jesus Christ. We engaged them with activities to portray the love of Jesus. More than a thousand students were also led in the salvation prayer by the local Thai pastor. The schools were introduced to the nearby local churches and the pastors. The joy and happiness on their faces were another endorsement that God is pleased. We were used as His hands and mouthpiece extended to bring HOPE and GOOD NEWS of our Lord Jesus.

us to encourage the Pastors who are working under very difficult conditions in reaching out to their own people. Even with the School Principal/in charge, one particular incident that encouraged me was to minister to a teacher who is the only Christ follower in the school. She has been transferred to this school for almost a year. She shared her difficulties she faced in the school. In this school, majority of the students do not live with their parents. They are either working elsewhere or most of them are in prison for some reasons. I





**The Lord will fight for you;
you need only to be still.**
~ Exodus 14:14 ~

encouraged her through our interpreter using the example of Queen Esther, for she is assigned to the school for a such a time as this, to share joy and bring hope to the students. With the help of the Holy Spirit, she can overcome the challenges she faced. We prayed with her, she was happy and thanked the team for bringing the Good News through the puppet show, sharing the story of Jesus.

I had witnessed God's faithful love for those who had obeyed and feared HIM. The team was relished with fabulous cool weather, between 18-25 deg. Moreover, we were also welcomed with a football field of sunflowers in one of the schools.

Undeniably, our faithful God has shown us His amazing love and provision during the trip. Hebrews 13:21, "(He) equips you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Victory and glory belong to our Lord Jesus!



SRI LANKA



SHAWN
THURING

Dear Friends,

It is with deep gratitude and joy I write a few thoughts with regards to what the Lord has faithfully carried out in Sri Lanka in the past 16 years through ICMS.

From very humble beginnings in 2004 the Lord has faithfully brought us on a journey of faith and trust.

Today over a 1000 Timothy's have graduated and many of them have gone back to where it matters most, their own respective villages and have won souls and planted many churches in rural villages of Sri Lanka.

In the early years Pastors Ruwan and Kajendran sent many students from their churches and these students were responsible for the bulk of the churches planted.

With over 500 churches planted so far and still counting we celebrate His Goodness and mercies over our land.

Today, with Covid 19 posing a global threat we are patiently anticipating the Lord to turn "evil to good" as He did for Joseph and recorded in Gen 50.

