

## Sri Lankan CPI grads' inspiring faith

Pages 6-7

God's  
blueprint for  
Panabo

Pages 7-8

GTIS  
celebrates  
10th year

Pages 2-5







# Glad Tidings Int'l School Cambodia celebrates 10th anniversary

By Richard Toh  
*Executive Director, ICM Singapore*

What a glorious day it was as we alighted from the coach that brought us from the capital Phnom Penh to the school in Kampong Speu Province.

Sitting on 1.7 hectares of land is a magnificent four-storey building and tower that houses 16 classrooms, a large football field and a two-storey auditorium with a canteen below. The neighbouring adjacent land houses three blocks of two-storey dormitories for the school staff.

We were greeted by singing and cheers as we entered the WTJ Auditorium that easily seats 600 people.

Named after our benefactor, Mr Wong Toon Jin, who has since left for his heavenly mansion, WTJ also aptly stands for "Way to Jesus". And it is upon the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ, that the school was built.



Glad Tidings International School building complex

The students performed skits and dances much to the pride of their parents who were among the guests. Besides the provincial dignitaries, our invited guests included past principals and trainers

from Australia, Malaysia and Singapore. We are grateful for their support, especially the trainers who come every year to upgrade the skills of our local teaching staff.

I was greatly moved to tears when our students led in the worship. I couldn't imagine that years ago, we could hardly hear them speak, let alone sing in English.

This day, as we stood in the auditorium, two of them were on stage leading the audience in worship, and down below the stage were three students playing the guitars and drums. The auditorium was filled with echoes of "How Great is Our God" and "Great is Thy Faithfulness". God must be well pleased!

We have indeed come a long way even though 10 years might seem a short time to some. The Glad Tidings International School or GTIS, as the school is fondly called, is a project God laid upon our hearts to



Grade 4-11 students



build. With no experience or resources, God amazingly chose us to start a school in a sprawling village ten years ago.

Our only resource is the Lord and the willingness to obey despite the odds. To say it's a miracle is short of what God has done.

From three students when we opened our doors in 2007, the student population grew to 350. The two-storey building then was bursting at its seams, and the Lord again inspired us to build what we see today.

Along the way, Pastor Wendy Ng laid down her life just when the new building was completed in 2013. Painful though it was, we know her blood spilled on the grounds of the school is crying out for the salvation of the people of Cambodia.

The Deputy Governor of Kg Speu Province, in his speech at the celebration, remarked that over the last 10 years, Kg Speu has progressed tremendously. From being the butt of jokes on how backward the province was, he said that the province is now the talk of the town for its transformation.

Its infrastructure and economy have improved tremendously – all thanks to education! He thanked us for making an impact in the community, and during my interaction with him over the lunch table, he was very

*Continued on Page 4*



With our former principal and senior teacher – Geoff and Marcia

# The GTIS Journey

- 2005**
  - Purchase of land for Hope International Primary School (HIPS)
- 2006**
  - Construction of HIPS
- 2007**
  - Opening of Hope International Primary School (HIPS)
  - Three pupils and four teachers started off the new school year. This grew to about 30 pupils by month end. By 2011, it was bursting at its seams with 350 students!
- 2010**
  - Purchase of 1.7 hectares of land
- 2011**
  - Construction of new building
- 2012**
  - HIPS renamed as Glad Tidings International School (GTIS)
- 2013**
  - Completion of teachers' and expatriate dormitories
  - Move to new 4-storey school building with 16 classrooms. Commencement of high school classes
  - Pastor Wendy Ng, who dedicated her life to the school, remembered and honoured
- 2015**
  - Completion of school auditorium
- 2016**
  - First batch of Grade 12 graduands
- 2017**
  - 10th anniversary of GTIS
  - The school runs classes from Grades 1 to 12 for 498 pupils, employs 25 full-time teachers and five support staff. Grade 10 to 12 classes have ceased temporarily due to shortage of qualified teachers.



Team member sounding the trumpet



Principal Myrna giving out the award



Skit by Grade 11 students



Dance item from the students





Dancers from Singapore welcoming Yeshua, the King of Kings!



ICMS President delivering his address

*Continued from page 3*

pleased with GTIS. He noted that the school has produced good students, some of whom are among the top in the national exams!

It is upon this vision that the school was built – transforming a nation through education.

*“A country cannot develop when its people are uneducated. Education is the most powerful weapon to change a nation” – Nelson Mandela.*

The school continues to produce good results in the G9 national exams. All our 23 students who took the recent 2017 G9 national exams passed with 1 ‘Good’, 15 ‘Above Average’ and 7 ‘Average’ grades. All glory to the Lord! We believe that one day, the office of the Prime Minister of Cambodia would be filled by one of our students!

The next 10 years will pose different challenges. Due to rising affluence, wages and maintenance costs will rise. We are facing a shortage of qualified teachers, and as a result, very sadly and reluctantly, we had to cease offering Grade 10 to 12 classes effective next semester.

We are currently short of classrooms, and we need a computer lab, a proper library and a science lab to ‘complete’ the school. Plans for a new adjoining building have been drawn up, and the total cost of construction and facilities is estimated at S\$500,000.

The school offers full and partial subsidy to orphans and poor kids from the community. If you are led to give, please write a cheque to:

**ICM Singapore,  
2 Kallang Avenue,  
#04-13 CT Hub I,  
Singapore 339407**

We give thanks to our Mission Partners, Glad Tidings Church, for providing the resources to run the school, and Sembawang Presbyterian Church, for operating the Edelweiss Kindergarten.



Our kindergarten kids performing a song item



Two of our students leading worship



Our Partner giving his address



Awards to our long-service staff





# Building up our teachers

## GTIS Staff Retreat 2017 at Sihanoukville

By Charles Vun

*“You are not serving as slaves ... but minding our Father’s business as His sons and daughters.”*

This was the message Pastor Richard and I emphasized to the teachers of Glad Tidings International School (GTIS) during their staff retreat on 28 to 30 August 2017.

Training and building up GTIS’ teachers have always been our priority. Since opening its doors in 2007 by ICM Singapore, GTIS’ teachers have been instrumental to the school, providing quality education to the children of Kampong Speu, one of Cambodia’s less-developed provinces. Presently, with almost 500 students and having just celebrated its 10th anniversary, the development of the teachers is continuing in earnest. We believe only good teachers can produce good students.

As a Christian mission school, our approach to teacher-development starts with the teachers’ spiritual and emotional well-being. Hence in this retreat we reminded them that they are sons and daughters of the Most High. When they teach, they must not do so with the mentality of a slave or that of a servant.

The retreat also gave us an opportunity to demonstrate our love and concern for the teachers through prayers and ministry. We also engage them in many sessions of small group chats and even one-to-one dialogues.

The teachers have given much to GTIS over the past decade. We thank God for them and commit each of them to His care. We look to Him for He is faithful.



Group photo



Praying a blessing over the Principal (left) and the Vice Principal.



Brother Charles leading the worship session.



Bonding over dinner



The teachers in worship.



Sumptuous fare at dinner

***“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”***

**Galatians 6:9**



# CPI grads' inspiring journeys of faith

## Sri Lanka trip 07-12 August 2017

By Richard Toh

It's been 15 years since we started Church Planting Institute (CPI) training in Sri Lanka. The pace was slow in the beginning. Questions such as, "Is ICM Singapore going to be here long-term?" and "Is this just another programme?" were constantly in the minds of our Sri Lankan friends.

When graduates of the eight-month course returned to their churches, it was evident that they were bolder in their witness for Christ and their lives were changed inside out. Soon, pastors began to send their members for the training and unsurprisingly, branch churches sprouted out in the villages. Today, our 'Timothys' as the graduates are called, have planted more than 250 churches countrywide. CPI training is now conducted in two centres – one in Colombo and the other in Chitwal.

On this trip, we handed out 68 certificates to those who have completed the course. This is the 16th batch of Timothys from Colombo, and the 2nd batch from Chitwal.

In their colourful saris and men in their neck-ties, they marched up proudly to receive their certificates amidst cheers and claps from friends and relatives. It was a glorious day on 10 August as more than 200 people filled the hall and sang praises to the Lord!

We invited about 25 past graduates for a day seminar specifically for pastors.

There were some pastors who had sad but nonetheless victorious life stories. I will share a couple of these heart-breaking life experiences,



Deep in worship

which you and I in affluent Singapore hardly face.

Swarna lost her husband at a young age. With two children to feed, she began to learn how to brew illicit liquor affordable to poor men looking for a quick fix. Men would get drunk and frequent brawls between them would break out.

These drunks would then molest her and in her struggles to ward off their advances, her whole set of teeth were completely knocked out. The village women would curse and

boycott her for bringing misery to their homes.

One day she met a Christian lady who told her that it was a crime to sell illicit liquor which is also detrimental to the health of all. Convinced of the truth and convicted of her sin, she accepted the Lord, attended our CPI training and subsequently graduated to start a church.

Today, her members support her in her outreach witness for Christ. She is happy and continues to give



Group picture with the CPI graduates



Photos (anti-clockwise from top left) of teaching and ministry sessions.





praise to the Lord – with a full new set of dentures!

Another graduate, Sajeema, was abandoned by her family at a young age and went to a middle eastern country to work as a maid. She was abused and raped several times before she managed to escape back to Sri Lanka.

Life was difficult as she had no place to go, and she began to develop a deep hatred for men. Thankfully, a Christian family adopted her and showed her the love of Christ. She came to attend CPI training and today she is pastoring a church of 35 members. She proudly showed us a picture of her modest church built of wood and zinc roof.

She is single in her early 40s and hoping to be married one day.

The Book of Acts continues. The same Holy Spirit of the Bible is hovering over the nations, and many are being ushered into the Kingdom of God.

Will you join us in expanding the work in Sri Lanka for Christ? It costs about S\$400 to enable a trainee to complete an 8-month CPI course. If you are able to go, drop us a line and we'll contact you for the next trip, usually in the month of April or August every year.

Cheques or bank transfers to :

**ICM Singapore**  
**Bank : DBS**  
**Account No.: 033-017373-3**



Prayer of blessing over the CPI graduates



Team enjoying lunch at the training centre



Our guest speaker (left)



Teaching sessions in progress



# God's blueprint for Panabo City

By Hanley Varghese

God is always up to something for us to do to fit into His blueprint so that we can expand His Kingdom and to touch the lives of others to be more Christ-like. Surely, it is a call from God and a privilege for the seven of us from Singapore and one from Manila, as a team, to have the

opportunity to serve and provide our services to the people of Panabo. Panabo is an agro-industrial city in the province of Davao del Norte, Philippines, which is about a 45 minutes' drive away from Davao City.

One of the main obstacles for ministry's growth in Panabo is the

poverty situation that the people, which include the churches and the pastors, are struggling with.

God had laid upon our hearts to bless these people using our resources to contribute and do more for Panabo. We were there from 17 to 23 April 2017.

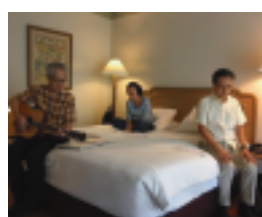
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Meeting over lunch with our partners



Certificate awarded after completion of CPI course



One of the morning devotion before a start of a brand new day



Group photo with Mayor James G. Gamao (4th from left) at his office



Group photo



Continued from page 7

## Sowing seeds for God's glory

Apart from the usual – Church Planting Institute (CPI) training of the new Church Planters and to train the trainers – our trip was designed with programs to include a Pastors Conference and a Marketplace seminar, followed by meetings and site visitation with our partners.

It was a compact three days of teaching and discussions where the workload was shared among the eight of us and sessions were done in two separate conference rooms. All the participants who attended the programs showed lots of enthusiasm and a keenness to learn with a strong desire to put it into application.

Meetings and visitations with our potential partners is a crucial process for our work to help the people in growing their respective ministry. Our main objective was for every individual to be self-sufficient for themselves and at the same time, be able to support the church.

The spinoff at this juncture was to generate a micro-finance fund that will allow selected individual or group to manage small businesses through micro-credit loans.

One of the highlights of our visit that will help us propel to another level in penetrating further into Panabo to fit God's blueprint, was the meeting with the Mayor of Panabo City, Mayor Engr. James G. Gamao. It was a fruitful discussion that will allow ICMS to provide services in training for leadership, management, business, finance, ethics, family, etc.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the Mayor and ICMS to proceed.

This was a worthwhile trip with team spirit to make it successful. It was obvious that God was with us and working through us for His glory. The seeds that we have already sown and will sow in the future for the people of Panabo are all in the mighty hands of God to transform every individual to suit His purpose in expanding His Kingdom, His blueprint! Our next trip to Panabo City is scheduled on the third quarter 2017.

All praises and glory to our Lord whom we serve!



The team praying for the churches and people of Panabo



Altar call



Participants at the Pastors' Conference

## 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 (Cambodia & Myanmar)  
Aug 31-Sep 2 | Singapore | IDMC

Sep 11-16 | Davao & Panabo | CPI Training & Marketplace Ministry

Sep 11-23 | Myanmar | CPI Training (2)  
Sep 23 | Singapore | AGM and BOD meeting

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 1-10 | Cambodia | Annual Christmas Outreach

**Front cover photo caption:** CPI graduands in Sri Lanka worshipping the Lord

Find out more about ICM Singapore events and updates at:  
Web: <http://icmsingapore.org.sg> | Facebook: ICM Singapore | Email: [admin@icmsingapore.org.sg](mailto:admin@icmsingapore.org.sg) |  
Tel: 6336 0019 | Fax: 6224 0750 | Address: 2 Kallang Avenue #04-13, CT Hub, Singapore 339407

