

## What God is doing in Nepal

12th - 21st October 2015 MISSION TRIP

A question-and-answer update by the Mission Team (MT)

**Question: How's Nepal six months after the earthquake?**

**MT:** The road to recovery will indeed be a long one. Many who had lost their homes are still living in temporary shelters.

Almost none has received any compensation promised by the government. Nevertheless, being ever so resilient, most Nepalese have put their lives back together through assistance received from within the community.

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# Restoring, rebuilding Nepal



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## Q: How are ICM's Nepalese mission partners doing?

MT: Rebuilding assistance had reached all our partners in Kathmandu valley and the badly hit districts around it. Rebuilding and repairs were completed at our training centre, school and orphanage. Sponsorship funds had been raised for four new orphans resulting from the earthquake. We thank our Singapore partners for their generous gifts.

In the coming months, assistance will be channelled to the more remote villages. They are now accessible after the monsoon rains. The October to early December period was a critical window for rebuilding as winter stopped all work.

In all that we'd done and will be doing, we acknowledge that our sovereign God is in control and it is He who restores and rebuilds.

## Q: What is ICMS' Nepal mission focus?

MT: Two areas – Timothy Program (TP) and Advanced Timothy Program (ATP).

TP trains about 60 potential village church-planters (known as Timothys) per year. They attend eight one-week modules over a period of 10 months. To date we have trained 14 batches comprising nearly 900 Timothys. They have planted more than 300 churches in rural Nepal. TP is conducted in Kathmandu.

ATP trains around 70 church-planters from the Timothy alumni (known as Timothy graduates) per year. They come to Kathmandu for two days to receive

lessons on disciple-making and spiritual formation. ATP aims to provide spiritual sustenance to the Timothy graduates in the field.

## Q: Has the mission team been affected by the shortages in fuel and food due to the blockade by India?

MT: We'd learnt of the growing crisis several days before our departure. Our Nepalese mission partner, Pastor Nehemiah, was keen that we proceed as our presence would encourage our Nepalese brothers and sisters. We prayed, found resonance in our hearts and left Singapore with God's perfect peace. The situation on the

ground indeed appeared pretty bleak – traffic was extremely light in the streets, long lines of vehicles queuing for fuel, limited food served at eating outlets, and few guests at the hotels. We walked a lot and had instant noodles for dinner!

Nepal and its people were clearly going through a tough time. We met people who were noticeably in despair with the country's predicament. But praise the Lord, all the participants of TP and ATP came! They were upbeat and many had a glow on their faces. There was hunger in their hearts for spiritual food. Throughout our mission trip, we met countless Nepalese believers bubbling



Church service in the village: Crying out to God



CPI training in Nepal



New temporary shelters



Devastation caused by earthquake





A newly established church comprising predominantly young people; growth is happening across all ages



Pastor Gopi (right) from the district of Butwal has planted 5 churches in 4 years ministering to around 600 people



Distribution of warm clothes and blankets for winter to earthquake-hit villages



A retreat conducted for village pastors; they are all graduates of our Timothy Program who have gone on to plant churches



14th batch CPI graduation in Nepal

with hope, and overflowing with a spirit of abundance. They experienced the same shortages and difficulties, but chose to focus on Christ!

**Q: Have the churches been affected by reports of persecutions?**

MT: Reports of persecutions began before the earthquake and persisted until today. Church leaders are alert and prayerful. None appeared shaken or fearful.

The churches we visited in Kathmandu were packed. Church-planting is continuing unabated

in the countryside. Our TP received more than 120 applicants (potential church-planters) for the 60 places available. God is calling out more Nepalese church-planters.

**Q: So, do you plan to step-up your programs?**

MT: We certainly do. Next year, we will start an ATP at a suitable location in Western Nepal. This is to be closer to many Timothy graduates keen to attend ATP but are unable to travel to Kathmandu due to cost or distance. To meet the strong demand for TP places, we will also explore



The graduation ceremony

starting a second TP either in Kathmandu or at a new location. What is really encouraging to us is the Timothy graduates are stepping in to offer us logistics and financial support.

We know they've gone through a lot (and are still going through much), yet there is a spirit of abundance. In the midst of their struggle to rebuild their homes and lives, they want a stake in our church-planting and discipleship efforts. Hallelujah!

Mission Team – Lye Fei, Peter Sim and Charles Yun





# The GTIS miracle



We are grateful beyond words for God's provision and empowerment for the Glad Tidings International School (GTIS) in Cambodia. This school is a miracle!

In September 2015, during the school vacation time, the teachers got together to add colour to the Eco-garden created by students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic. We are thankful for their efforts and the funding of the project.



Glad Tidings International school complex in Kg Speu, Cambodia.



Teachers joining hands to create a little garden.



The fruits of the teachers' and students' labour -- Flowers blooming along the pathway and colourful bricks and plants adorning the school landscape

## GTIS Gallery



"I want to be the Prime Minister of Cambodia one day!"



Classes in session



Morning assembly



A Christmas skit at GTIS





# Christmas celebrations in Cambodia

For the past 15 years, we have been bringing Christmas cheer to Cambodia.

On 3-6 December last year, we had a team of 35 members, a majority of whom were from Covenant Evangelical Free Church, bringing the Christmas message to our school, two villages and a youth rally as well as ministering at two churches.

On 4 Dec, they ministered to 500 students in Kg Speu. Gifts include school shoes and T-shirts

were given out, donated by CEFC. We are grateful for their generosity and partnership.

On 5 Dec, the team was divided into two groups to spread the Christmas message to two villages.

A total of 72 villagers indicated their desire to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Praise the Lord!



On 6 Dec, the two groups ministered in two Sunday morning services.

## Spreading Christmas cheer in Cambodia



Rehearsing the songs and skit before the team sets out



Children in the village happily showing their Christmas gifts



Lunch being cooked for the village celebration



Drying fish in one of the villages we visited



A Christmas skit at the village



Joy and smiles in the children ministry



# God moving mightily in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka - known as the Jewel in a Crown. God is moving mightily in this beautiful island.

Six of us were there from 13-20 Nov 2015 to conduct the CPI training and to celebrate the 13th batch graduation. We are so blessed to see and taste the fruit of our labour in our time. Oh, what a glorious day it would be when Jesus returns! Sri Lanka, Jesus loves you dearly!



A Sunday church service in a village in Colombo

CPI training in Colombo

## 13th CPI graduation in Sri Lanka



13th batch of CPI graduates in Sri Lanka



Registrants for the new term



The ladies in their traditional dress ready for graduation



The gentlemen getting ready for graduation





## Testimony of Ps Alice Abadies – Graduate of CPI 6th Batch, Davao, Philippines, Nov 2015

I wish to testify how CPI training contributed lots of benefits to my life as well as to my husband. I thought we could not give time to this training due to our very hectic schedules in the ministry.

Besides, we have a 10-year old son, our youngest child, who goes to school and needs our care. We are not used to entrusting his care to somebody else except my mother. Unfortunately, she had to go through an operation to remove cataracts from both her eyes and had to rest 6 to 8 months.

This was right at the time to enrol for the CPI 8-month course. But God made a way for us; He made the impossible possible! That's why my husband and I are here in front of you sitting together as one of the graduating students of CPI course by the grace of God.

For your information, when my



friend, Ps Brenda Escobal, invited us to enrol for this course, time after time we would decline as we could not get away from work and home.

However, one day, we decided to say

yes to Ps Brenda. God placed everything in order, even our regular schedules, because God knew that was the best for us.

On the first day of attendance, one won't know how the Spirit of God worked within me. I struggled. Do you know why? To be honest with you, I had been to many leadership seminars, theological training, and above all else, I graduated from bible school with a Bachelor degree in Christian Ministry, majoring in Christian Education.

I asked myself "why should I attend CPI, which is a certificate course. However, things did not turn out the way I thought it to be. In my 4 years in bible

school, I received head knowledge, but at the CPI course, I am moulded, strengthened and encouraged. I was broken into pieces and formed again to be more useful in ministry. This was what we desire as a couple – to work together in God's kingdom as long as we live. We have no regrets in going through the CPI course.

Through this training, I learned the Bible's basic principles in a very simple way. In fact, I am using the CPI materials to teach and disciple my church members. I also consider this training as my greatest investment for His glory and honour. CPI has helped me so much to change.

Hence, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who organised and facilitated the training. All I can say is "keep up the good work; your time and labour spent will not be in vain in the Lord".

I give God the glory and honour in Jesus Name!



6th batch of CPI graduates in Davao





# ICM Singapore celebrates 25 years of God's faithfulness

ICM Singapore celebrated 25 years of God's faithfulness with a dinner at Fullerton Hotel on 5 Nov 2015. We thank the Lord for all our supporters who sponsored and generously gave towards our ministry. Ivy, one of our mission partners, reports.

In his opening address, the President of ICM, Mr. Dieu Eng Seng, gave an awesome but yet humble message delivered with

sincerity from his heart.

I was also greatly blessed by the inspiring sermon shared by the well-known Christian apologist and great Evangelical leader Dr. Ravi Zacharias.

He used the story of Jonah as the highlight of his message of encouragement to all serving God from the heart!

Dr. Zacharias ended his sermon with a reminder that the problem



Dr Ravi Zecharias at the ICMS anniversary dinner

in our world is not moral but spiritual. He said if we will get in touch with the heart of God, His mercy can change the most resistant heart, and that if we are willing to give up some of our comforts, God is willing to use us to reach the toughest spots in the world.

The Gospel is the only message that could change hearts. It is for all humanity!



Group photo of the ICMS Board

## ICM Singapore Calendar of Events 2016

Note: Please check regularly for updates and changes.

Mar 7-13 | Nepal | CPI training, Advanced Timothy

Mar 26 | Singapore | BOD/luncheon

Apr 4-10 | Sri Lanka | CPI training

Apr 18-25 | Japan | Marketplace meeting

Apr 3-9 | Davao/Panabo | CPI training

Apr 4-19 | Central Asia | Pastors' conference/CPI Training

Jun 9-15 | HCM City Vietnam | Pastors' conference

Jun 25 | Singapore | BOD/luncheon

Jul 11-16 | Myanmar | CPI training

Aug 11-16 | Siem Reap Cambodia | CPI training

Sep 1-3 | Singapore | IDMC

Sep 17 | Singapore | AGM

Sep TBA | Myanmar | CPI 2

Sep 19-28 | Nepal | CPI training, Advanced Timothy

Oct 3-7 | Davao/Panabo | CPI training/graduation

Mid-October | Thailand | Annual Fire Conference

Oct 15 | Singapore | BOD/luncheon

Nov 4 | Singapore | ICMS 26th Anniversary Dinner

Nov 14-19 | Sri Lanka | CPI training/graduation

Nov TBA | Myanmar | CPI 3

Dec 1-8 | Cambodia/Thailand | Annual Christmas Outreach

Find out more about ICM Singapore events and updates at:

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