

HARVEST *Asia*

“God with Us” - Emmanuel Centre NE India

It has been a miracle of God that the Emmanuel Training Centre is nearing completion. In December 2018 we reported that funds were low due to the need to invest in an earthquake resistant foundation. A prayer request went out to ask the Lord to bring the finance needed so that the 4-storey secure building could be dedicated on the 18th of April 2019. Although it was approximately a year later, according to the Lord’s timing, the funds were generously given to near completion. Some plumbing and other building costs (around \$25,000 AUD) are still required but it is a miracle that Emmanuel Training Centre will soon be available.

The purpose of the centre is to train in agricultural methods and to reach neighbours of surrounding regions. Food and other essential items have been given to families that are struggling due to the recent lockdown. The presence of the Lord has kept His people safe. There have been many opportunities to show and share the love of God. May the Emmanuel Centre be used for the glory of God.



God's Protection for those Who Trust in Him

Left to ourselves, we are helpless, but certainly far from being hopeless, because the Word of God assures us that the Lord God Almighty is our refuge, fortress, stronghold, shield, rock, and deliverer. These are the resounding notes of the Hymn Book of the Old Testament (The Psalms). "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me." (Ps. 23:4).

Since the COVID-19 lockdown my ministry team and I have shut down all our field ministries. Among them were seven Evangelism Deep & Wide Seminars in the countryside which would have lasted until early October. But the Lord has been so gracious in opening new ministry avenues and opportunities for us. We have an ongoing Online Bible Study for mostly pastors and leaders of small local churches. We also conduct online Sunday Services for our people and friends. We have numerous counseling and times of prayer for people who call us over the phone. My emailing ministry keeps me busy in the mornings. A middle-aged couple who are diehard followers of a big religious cult have opened up and asked for a Bible study and they are on the road to becoming followers of Jesus Christ. Opportunities for expressing the love of Jesus Christ to the least and needy are countless. Daily we are confronted by the faces of hopeless and helplessness right around our neighborhood. We can only do so little for them, but we believe the message of the Cross is going out to them for which we are most thankful.

A week ago, we just ran out of food stuff. Two reasons - food supply is getting scarce and neither one of us could go out to make purchases. At that time of need some kind-hearted person placed some fruit and vegetables right in front of our gate. It lasted us until the next order came. Until today, we do not know who provided those boxes of goodies. But the Lord knows not only those donors but those who needed help. Miracles do happen all the time. Praise the Lord!

As "senior adults" (Ina is 83 and Met is 85) we are classified by the health department as most vulnerable and so we are completely confined inside our house. Feeling isolated? Yes, indeed, but by the grace of the Lord we are blessed with strength and with some work to do indoors besides the ministries mentioned above. I am revising my book "Let's Plant Churches," published in 1991 as a manual for church planting in the Philippines. I have added three chapters to it, and I plan to complete the manuscript by the end of May. I am also putting on the finishing touches of the final portion of my missionary story, "From Village to World Mission: A Filipino Missionary's Journey." My prayer is that these two books would be printed as soon as publishing funds are provided.

We surely appreciate your prayers, concerns and support. These mean so much to us. We also assure you of our prayers for you especially during this time of uncertainty. In the end God gets all the glory.

Yours in the cause of Christ,

Rev. Dr. Met Castillo
AEF International Consultant Director
for East Asia Region



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Asia Evangelistic Fellowship International is an indigenous, interdenominational mission founded in 1960 by the late Dr. G.D. James.

AEF identifies, trains, and commissions national workers to carry out pioneer mission work in their own Asian countries. These national workers are organized, supervised and supported by national boards set up in each country under the pastoral care of the AEF International Office.

Executive President: Dr Jonathan James
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The medical mission clinic in Cambodia led by Dr. Felipe Castro Jr. is active. The clinic is open three mornings a week to give local people from different backgrounds access to medical treatment and care. At the time of writing there were no known COVID-19 cases.

**"The LORD be exalted, who delights
in the well-being of his servant."
Psalm 35:27b**

Shaken, not removed, but planted.

Isaiah 54: 10

‘Though the mountains be **shaken** and the hills be **removed**, yet my unfailing love for you will not be **shaken**

nor my covenant of peace be **removed**,’ says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

COVID-19 has impacted the world for the future. We will no longer operate as we did before. Overseas travel will change, the way we interact will change, even the way we communicate will change. But how will it impact the most populous, and often the poorest, regions of the globe that do not have the same resources as Western developed nations? If you’ve got a million people living in a slum, you don’t have the capacity to self-isolate, or to contact trace. This quarter, Harvest Asia reports on the fields of Nepal, NE India, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Kalimantan in Indonesia. We will follow their gospel ministry working in regions vulnerable to COVID-19. Although the world has been shaken, the good news is being planted, taking root, and bearing much fruit for the Lord’s glory. His people are bearers of His compassion and the new covenant.



Miracle Ministry in Nepal This is Anosh, a leader. He was delivered from devil possession and dedicated his life for the sake of the good news. He was led to follow our Lord by AEF Nepal’s first planter of new believers, David Rai, who was called to glory in 2002. Anosh is a dynamic man in the mission fields. The Lord has been using him extraordinarily. Many miracles have taken place delivering people from evils spirits and even healing cancer sufferers! He has planted three house community gatherings in nearby villages. Praise God for this work among Tamang, Sherpa, Magar people groups. Thirteen new people among Magar and Tamang were set apart and eleven new Tamnag came to follow our Lord in January 2020. \$8000 USD was collected from local believers to build the new community hall pictured. To raise the money livestock was given by families to be sold for the building. Now there are three such communities and 36 house groups have been planted.



This is Pemba (L). He became a follower led by Anosh. He is a retired school teacher. He came from a tantric Buddhist family. Nepal Community building work in Mid-Western Nepal under Chandra’s leadership (R) has led to the planting of nine community meeting halls and 55 house groups. This is amongst people from an Animistic background.



Yangon street life



ACOM Myanmar: preparing for ministry

How do we interpret the Bible?

How do we interpret the Culture around us?

Just some of the questions that we ask and explore in our Asia College of Ministry classes. The study of Biblical Hermeneutics is the study of listening to God's word in the context of a culture. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "We should listen with the ears of God, so that we can speak the Word of God". How do we approach the Bible? The events recorded in the Bible took place over a span of thousands of years. These events take place in numerous, diverse cultural settings but in relationship with the God of Israel, the Triune God incarnated in the person of Jesus Christ, the same God who is Lord of the Church working through his Spirit and people throughout history. The interpretation and preaching/teaching of the Bible is to enable us to encounter again and again the living God who has come to us in Christ. The Bible has a purpose – Romans 15:4 – for instruction, endurance, encouragement, and hope.

In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the AEF India has initiated relief services in different parts of the Mumbai slums and Tamil Nadu to meet the pressing need of the afflicted, especially the poor and needy who are from the mission fields. The people who are most affected are the daily wage earners who are finding it difficult to meet their daily needs. Hence, AEF India missionaries are distributing food packages. This includes rice, wheat, dal, cooking oil, sugar, salt, tea and spices. A food package may cost around Rs. 1500/- (about \$30 AUD/SGD or RM85) We have already supported 434 families in parts of India. We need support for a further 150 families who are in need. There are similar needs in Indonesia (right), Nepal, and North East India.



MY RESPONSE

Post to: AEFI, PO Box 16, Duncraig East WA 6023, Australia.

or **Fax to:** 08 9243 5104

Name: _____ Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The AEFI secure web-site - www.aefi.asia - can also be used for making general donations to AEFI.

YES! COUNT ME IN

With God's help **I / we*** would like to be a partner in the Gospel with AEF in the following ways:

Prayer: As a Prayer Partner with AEF. Please send **me / us*** updated prayer information.

Sponsorship: **I / we*** would like to sponsor a child. Please send details.

Financial: Please receive **my / our*** monthly quarterly yearly one time donation of:

\$ 50 \$ 100 \$ 150 \$ 200 Other (Please specify): \$ _____

Gift: Please use this gift for: **Emmanuel Centre NE India** **COVID-19 FOOD Relief**
I want to give a gift of _____ to buy ___ food packages @ \$30 AUD/SGD each

Other (Please specify): _____

Method: I would like to make **my / our*** payment by:

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Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

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Reaching Asia through National Workers