

HARVEST

Asia

Establishing Christ communities in Asia

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2

AEFI's 60th anniversary goal was to launch a 10-year plan to establish 50 new communities of faith in Asia.

We are grateful that encouraging groundwork has already started in 5 countries involving 15 new national leaders who are intentionally sharing the love of Christ to communities in Cambodia, Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The work among the Senoi people in Malaysia resulted not only in a new faith community being established but also the building of a well to bless people in the remote village with clean drinking water.

The work among the Dumagat people in the Philippines is encouraging. New bible studies have started among this people group who have an animistic background. At the recent Christmas gathering, 30 people attended and heard the message of Christ led by Lino and Aurora Timog. Recently, another worker Brother Arvin Guinto was commissioned for service to reach Dumagats in the hills of the province of Rizal, Northern Philippines.

We thank God for the wonderful stories of God at work among various people groups in these five countries. One member, aged 55 who recently became a follower of Christ asked our director: "Why didn't someone tell me about Christ earlier?"

Please pray for the provision for 10 more new workers to establish communities of faith in 4 other countries. The support for one worker per year is approximately AUD \$2,500.



Dumagat tribe, Philippines



Senoi people, Malaysia



Church planter, Philippines

Dr. Jonathan James
AEFI Executive President



Hope Soaked Imagery

“Few books of the Bible have been as controversial in their interpretation as Revelation”.

Through online teaching this past 3 months we have been unpacking the controversy and interpretation with ACOM students in Kalimantan, Indonesia (and beyond). The students, many of them Pastors or involved in ministry and mission, have come with good questions and openness to a balanced view. The big challenge to understanding Revelation is the predominant view that the cosmic imagery is a predictor of future events. It's images are certainly related to an end goal, but it is about the very stuff of our waking and sleeping, dreams and nightmares. The ACOM students were able to quickly discern that this book thick with images confronts its original audience and us with the great “either-or” of human life – the choice between goodness and evil. Their reading was that it's images are the universal images of the human race. Revelation may be one of the easiest biblical books to translate, because it speaks a universal language of images. Life, death, light, darkness, water, sea, sun, horses, war, brides, and thrones. Plague like events and battles for territory – very contemporary. But what gave the Indonesian believers the most encouragement was the hope soaked imagery of Revelation. A vision of a city where all live in grace, love, and justice. Their overwhelming response was that we are called to live this present life guided by this nature of our future hope. That we must seek ways to relate to others now as citizens of the new Jerusalem, with love and justice for all.

As you read through the March 2022 edition of Harvest Asia we hope that you will join with us in prayer and support to witness the actions of the Kingdom. Through the planting of Christ communities and discipling new believers over the next decade; the protection of persecuted believers in South Asia; and the mercy ministry of young Christians in Thailand. These themes are threaded through Revelation informing us that the end goal of God in Christ by His Spirit is to invite us to suffer alongside our persecuted brothers and sisters in Asia today, to answer the call of faithfulness, to humbly work towards healthy, holy, communities of faith, and to share and witness to the grace and mercy of our Lord. The beginning and the end.

Pastor Matt Hall



Australian
and International Training Director



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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
International East Asia Director: Dr Met Castillo
International South Asia Director: Rev Edwin Ponniah
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Chairman of the Board: Dr Ray Dallin

A group of young people in Thailand prepare to share meals and God's love with the homeless and neighbours. Read further on the back page of this story of hope.



Pray for Justice, Peace and Harmony

“They want to remove us from society,” a Christian farmer said of religious extremists. Rising attacks on Christians are part of a broader shift in South Asia, in which minorities feel less safe. Women participate in a secret night prayer meeting at the home church of a villager.



Photo via NYTimes

Thank you for your prayers and kind generosity for the gospel in Asia. We pray that you and your loved ones will know God’s presence and grace.



Photo via NYTimes

A non-Christian lawyer friend of AEF South Asia leader Brother G has acted to post bail and advocate for jailed Christians who have been accused wrongly of anti-conversion offences. As persecution increases, AEF South Asia looks to fund an indigenous worker to reach villages with a contextual approach of the gospel. Please join us in prayer for the faith communities who are living in constant threat by extremist groups who are preventing home worship gatherings. Please also pray for the lawyers, judges, police officials and authorities. That justice, peace and harmony may prevail in the region.



Mercy Ministry in Thailand

“for such a time [like] this” (Esther 4:14)

The Covid 19 pandemic and its variants is shaking the whole world with fear of death, distress, and economic disaster. Many people around the globe are confused and striving for survival. This is happening even among Christ's disciples. However, the Sahatharm Baptist Church in Udonthani Province, Northeast of Thailand is trying its' best to obey God's word – 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:9-10)

We aimed to share Christ under the theme ' Hug De' which means ' love you' in our local dialect. Because of Jesus' love we care and share the Cross screened on the back of our team T-Shirt. At the early stage of the pandemic, we shared a 'basket of love' which contained fresh vegetables and home-grown spice plants. Later we provided a 5 kg. rice sack, seasoning kits and other items for church members to share God's love with their neighbours. Equally, we helped some of our members who own a food store to support their income by asking them to cook fresh food so that our youth could invite and share food and gospel tracts. Praise God at least a few hundred were reached with food and gospel tracts during this outreach. Our young people grasped the vision and were burdened to continue doing good deeds by contributing their small sum of savings and to help distribute fresh fast food, masks, and bottles of drinking water in the neighbourhood and with homeless people.

During the Christmas festival we also shared essential items to honour Christ and make Him known in 7 locations during this season of giving. We pray that God will use our community so that one day the Spirit will bring local people to Christ by our actions, tracts, and words of testimony we share. May the Good LORD continue to work in our hearts to press on in such a time like this.

Love in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Pracha Thaiwatcharamas
AEF Thailand



MY RESPONSE

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

or **Fax to:** 08 9243 5104

Name: _____ Address: _____

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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:

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

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

Gift: Please use this gift for: **Christ communities in Asia – 10-year plan** **AEF South Asia**

ACOM Indonesia **AEF Thailand**

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

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Reaching Asia through National Workers