

HARVEST *Asia*

Testimony from East Asia field

“The devil will put some of you in prison to test you...Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.” (Rev 2:10)

Pastor K and his wife both graduated from ACOM East Asia. ACOM Yunnan was closed by the local authorities. Thankfully this did not deter Pastor K and his wife’s determination to serve. Five years ago, they went back to their hometown in Yunnan after finishing their studies to serve in a family church seminary. Apart from serving local ethnic minorities they also share the gospel with Myanmarese refugees.

Since it is hard to make a living locally, Pastor K works in Kunming (capital city in Yunnan) regularly to make money to support his family. His wife stays in their hometown to share the gospel with Myanmarese women who have come to the mainland because of marriages. Last year Pastor K’s wife had twins along with an older son. They were expecting joyfully for the birth of the babies.

Very sadly Pastor K’s wife suffers from a congenital heart defect (their firstborn son also went through cardiac surgery). Sadly, the pregnancy ended. Nevertheless, they hold on to their calling. The tragedies were like the breaking jars of clay so that the light of the treasure within them may shine through. We lament with them during their time of grief and loss.



Myanmarese refugees in Yunnan



Pastor K’s first born son after the cardiac surgery

Good news not good advice

Pastors and ministry leaders will graduate with a Master of Divinity (MDiv) through Asia College of Ministry (ACOM) Indonesia this month. Three areas of their learning experience are good to consider.

Firstly, in teaching and learning define the purpose. For instance, in the great teaching of The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) we would miss the point if we thought Jesus is merely telling people how to behave properly. He's not simply saying 'try hard to live like this.' He is saying that people who already are like that are in good shape. It is gospel : good news, not good advice. It is blessed to live like this because we are shaped by the kingdom.

Secondly, ACOM aims to establish long-term (deep) learning outcomes. ACOM students and graduates always learning and applying who they are in Christ. Just as the Sermon on the Mount teaches, those who follow Jesus continue to live by the ways of God's kingdom here and now into eternity.

Thirdly, learning which creates tasks which motivate and inspire students towards outcomes. To provide students with the knowledge, personal development and skills necessary to prepare them for a successful vocation in Christian ministry. 'You are the salt of the earth! You are the light of the world! That is how you must shine your light in front of people! Then they will see what wonderful things you do, and they'll give glory to your Father in heaven.' (Matt. 5:14-16). I want to thank all those who gave of their time to teach on ACOM, to give of their finances to enable this vital ministry to function, and to gird this ministry in prayer. At present we are training local trainers, which includes some of these graduates, to extend ACOM in other parts of Indonesia. There is a great need to offer practical and vocational ministry training to strengthen the church and for the gospel to reach Asia.

Pastor Matt Hall



Australian
and International Training Director



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Asia Evangelistic Fellowship International is an indigenous international 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 setup in each country under the pastoral care of the AEF International Office.

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East Asia Mission

ACOM East Asia students and alumni have been sharing the gospel with local ethnic minority groups and Myanmarese refugees. This includes children and families. Reaching families of ethnic minorities is how they come best to Christ. Yunnan province is known for its ethnic diversity. It is home to 25 of the 55 ethnic minorities in East Asia. The emerging missionaries and leaders are giving their own funds for ministry. There is always the risk that because of their faith, authorities may oppose these Yunnan believers sharing of the gospel.



Testimony from East Asia field (2)

“The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” (Lev 19:34)

Last March, Liang came from the mainland to Singapore and works in a shipbuilding factory. He was excited about the new job because there is less pressure, and the pay is more than in the mainland. However, he recently contracted Covid and stayed in the hospital for over a week. After the discharge he often felt fatigue like long Covid. His chest also felt tight when he smelt the paint or volatile chemicals in the factory. Liang stopped working for over a month. The doctor only prescribed a painkiller every time he went to seek consultation. The situation did not get any better.

The AEF Singapore team met Liang during a visit to a migrant workers' dormitory. He worried that his family would lose major support if he lost his ability to work. A volunteer doctor in the team provided him with some advice that he could seek consultation from a government clinic which handle post-Covid symptoms. After a few visits the AEF Singapore team have built friendship and trust. Liang allowed the team to pray for him including sharing of testimonies and the gospel. In June, he was referred to a hospital for a detailed check-up and found lymphadenitis in his armpit. The doctor did not rule out the possibility of cancer and advised to have it removed immediately. We invited him to pray to God with us. He had surgery in August. We accompanied him to the hospital and invited him to look to God in prayer.

We pray that God will cure his body and save his soul; pray that he would encounter God at the end of the road. Please keep our foreign workers in prayer. Pray that they will come to know God in the place of sojourn.



Migrant workers Singapore



Migrant workers Singapore



Migrant workers Singapore

Message about Christ like a rich treasure

“Let the message about Christ live among you like a rich treasure. Teach and correct one another wisely. Teach one another by singing psalms and hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing to God with thanks in your hearts”. Colossians 3:16

One of my memorable moments in ministry has been witnessing ACOM students in Kalimantan, Indonesia singing heartfelt songs of worship. Their passion in the presence of the Lord is a gift the Dayak believer shares with those who have the privilege to teach and train them.

This month a group of the original ACOM students from 2015 will graduate through our partner theological college Kadesi Seminary (Yogyakarta, Java). Each of the graduates will receive a Master of Divinity after 7 years of part-time study and interruptions due to Covid. All of them have been ministering alongside their studies as church pastors and church planters.

It is a great joy to see these graduates persevere and grow through their ACOM studies. They have received teaching with lecturers from Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. They have proved to be mature ministers in their scholarship and contextual cultural sensitivity. We are thankful for these graduates who have a faithful commitment to serve the Lord in humility.

We trust the Lord will continue to work with them to share the gospel and grow the church by His grace. It has been an honour to be part of their development. Their humour and passion for the good news of our Lord in trying times has been a huge encouragement. May the Lord strengthen and sustain them.



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