

# HARVEST *Asia*

## Five Church planters commissioned in Thailand

In February 2023, AEF Thailand was formally launched in Udon Thani in Northeast Thailand with Dr Pracha Thaiwatcharamas as Director and a board made up of key church and mission leaders. More than 30 Christian leaders from all over Thailand attended the function which coincided with the official opening of Sanjatharm Baptist Church.

AEF Thailand commissioned 5 church planters - Pastor Nunee in Sakon Nakhon; Pastor Sivichai in Chaiyaphum, Pastor Veeranuch in Kanjanaburi, Pastor Prayong in Nonghai; Pastor Nipa in Nongbualamphu.

During Christmas Pastor Nunee and his wife conducted special meetings and over 70 people attended, and one person accepted the Lord.

Pastor Nipa was able to witness at the local prison and shared Christ with 92 inmates with a few turning to Christ.

Pastor Veeranuch distributed gifts to his community. This was a blessing for many.

Pastor Sivichai conducts special meetings in an open tent. In May, he had the joy of baptising 15 believers.

"We are working in the villages where people are poor, and we must serve them in word and deed" said Dr Pracha our director. It is hoped that Asia College of Ministry (ACOM) when established can train bi-vocational church planters who can support themselves as well as share medical and practical skills to engage and help their poor communities.

Please pray for 2 more church planters who plan to join AEFT as part of AEFI's 10-year goal of planting 50 new sustainable churches in Asia. We are committed to supporting these church planters for AUD \$200 per month for two years before the local church members can be encouraged to take up their stewardship responsibilities.



# The Hope in Us

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

In this edition of Harvest Asia you will read about the launch of AEF Thailand and the Love Malaysia event that was held in KL on the 1st of April. The gathering was an opportunity to give thanks for the way the gospel is changing lives with different groups in the Malaysian context. Later this year 25 leaders from the East Asia region will meet in Siem Reap, Cambodia for the AEFI East Asia Consultation (30 Oct - 4 Nov 23). Representatives from China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand will gather for this strategic event. Emerging leaders will accompany senior leaders. You have an opportunity to pray for and give to enable delegates to attend the consultation.

The importance of these AEFI gatherings is to talk and hear about the initiatives to share the gospel in different contexts. Some of which are challenging, some remarkable, and others less spectacular but whose results may usually last longer. This passage from Peter was addressed to ordinary men and women, some who were newly baptised believers, many of them were illiterate slaves.

This passage enables us to understand a little about early Christian evangelism. Peter states that Christians should be ready for a conversation with their non-Christian neighbours. I wonder whether you noticed "Who speaks first?" Usually we think of evangelism with the Christians speaking first. Especially those gifted for preaching. The apostle Paul certainly did exactly this, and since him there have been many great missionaries and evangelists. In this passage, however, it is the non-Christians who begin the conversation. The topic of the conversation is hope. The context of the conversation is persecution (3:14 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.' cf. Isaiah 8:12).



**Harvest Asia Vol. 26, No.2**  
**June 2023**

Harvest Asia is published quarterly by  
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Print Post Approved: PP643428100

Asia Evangelistic Fellowship International is an indigenous international mission founded in 1960 by the late Dr. G. D. James. AEFI identifies, trains, and commissions national workers to carry out pioneer mission work in their own Asian countries. These national workers are organised, supervised and supported by national boards setup in each country under the pastoral care of the AEF International Office.

Executive President: Dr. Jonathan James  
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Chairman of the Board: Dr. Ray Dallin



The hope of the early Christians was that Christ is Lord. This hope became visible in their daily life. They were even ready to suffer for that hope. In the early church evangelism was not only an organised activity but was often a spontaneous and non-aggressive "gossiping of the gospel". And the secret of it all was the hope in them. The discussion of the events in Thailand, Malaysia, East Asia and beyond is 'how can the hope of the gospel become visible in the mission of AEFI'; and in our lives?

Pastor Matt Hall



Australian and  
International Training Director





# Love Malaysia

AEFI Malaysia (Known as Destiny Communications Malaysia) held a meaningful and informative Love Malaysia event in Kuala Lumpur on 1st April 2023. Praise God for the growth and ongoing ministries of Destiny.

## First nations people (Orang Asli)

Dr Mark Chan one of the Destiny board members interviewed our three workers who serve in the interior of the State of Pahang, West Malaysia. It was exciting to hear from Terry, Jerry, and Hussin and how they conduct nightly week-end Bible studies, Sunday worship and weekday educational activities for the village Christians among the Semai/Senoi people.

## Tamil Pastors' training

Rev Jeyaselan was appointed principal of our Asia College of Ministry (ACOM) after the faithful and long-standing service of our former principal Rev Paul Kerishnan who stepped down due to poor health.

Rev Sathia reported that ACOM is actively resuming its Diploma classes to train Tamil pastors and church and outreach workers. A Graduation service has been planned for 16 June 2023 in Johore Bahru with Bro Jon Cortes as guest of honour/speaker.

## New initiatives

We are looking to the Lord to run ACOM in the local language perhaps in East Malaysia where the need is great.

The board of Destiny also welcomed Steven Choong as new board member and appointed Olivia Lasah who will serve as part time administrator of Destiny.

Join us in prayer for the strengthening of our Gospel witness and its expansion throughout Malaysia.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1: 8).*



# Grace Academy Nepal: **Multipurpose building**

Grace Academy (GA) Nepal serves more than 530 children in Kathmandu, Nepal. For many years we were renting a piece of land nearby to hold all our outdoor events, like school assembly, games, tournaments, and large gatherings.

As the land we are leasing is being sold, AEFI has decided to start extension work on our existing 3-storey training hall adjacent to the Grace Academy premises. We plan to build a multipurpose hall on the top of the 3-storey building.

The 3-storey hall was built with a foundation that can accommodate another level on top of the existing training hall.

When the multipurpose complex is completed, we will be able to hold:

- School assemblies
- Indoor games
- Exhibitions
- Community events for parents
- Final year exams for senior students
- Training programs

Construction work is estimated to be AUD \$35,000 and we are hoping to commence work in November 2023.

Please pray for this project. All gifts for the GA Multipurpose extension building are tax deductible for Australian donors through our arrangement with Global Development Group and the ATO.

For more than 15 years Grace Academy has been providing quality education for the poorest of the poor in the Lalitpur area and surrounds. Thousands of families have been helped educationally, socially, and spiritually. This project will help GA to continue the good work and increase our community involvement.



# East Asia Leaders Consultation

*30 October – 4 November 2023 in Siem Reap, Cambodia*

Beloved prayer partners,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

I am writing to inform you that some 25 leaders from the East Asia region will meet in Siem Reap, Cambodia for the AEFI East Asia Consultation 30 Oct-4 Nov 2023.

Representatives from China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand will gather for this strategic event. Emerging leaders will accompany senior leaders. We are grateful to AEF Cambodia for hosting this event with the help of Dr Felipe Castro of Cambodia.

In explaining the need for this meeting Dr Met Castillo, East Asia director said:

“We meet as a regional grouping to discern what God is saying to us in the East Asia region. The Covid -19 lockdown and other major issues must not keep us from coming together as a fellowship of leaders to discern His will and discover the joy of fellowship.”

**Shepherd-Leadership** is the overall theme of this 4-day event. The emphasis will be on discussing several crucial issues facing East Asia:

- The growing number of cults
- Planting churches in restricted lands
- Sustainability and income generating projects to support AEFI.
- Training and discipleship

While we thank our hosts AEF Cambodia for raising a small portion of the overall funding, we are looking to the Lord to raise a total of AUD \$20,000 for the meeting of 25 leaders. This equates to \$800 per delegate.

As God leads, please prayerfully consider sponsoring one or two AEFI leaders to attend this significant gathering in Cambodia.

Please pray for the organising committee headed by Dr Met Castillo and Dr Felipe Castro and for the Lord to grant peace and safety as these meetings are held in Siem Reap.

Many thanks for your kind partnership in the work of the gospel.  
In Christ,

Jonathan James  
*Executive President*



*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others”*

2 Timothy 2: 2.

## 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](http://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:  **AEF Thailand**  **AEF Malaysia**  **Grace Academy (Tax Deductible)**  **AEFI East Asia Consultation 30 Oct-4 Nov 2023**  Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cheque (payable to Asia Evangelistic Fellowship)  Credit Card  Direct Debit

*If paying by Credit Card:* Type of Card  VisaCard  MasterCard  BankCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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*Reaching Asia through National Workers*