

ACMS Overview

VISION

To see people in Asia transformed by the love of Jesus Christ

MISSION

- To equip, network and resource local leaders who have a heart for mission and to transform lives through Christ.

- To offer contextual and cross cultural missions training to support national mission movements and churches.

ACMS is a faith based Asian ministry that seeks to walk alongside existing mission organizations, churches and church networks across denominations. ACMS emerged from the Church Mission Society (CMS) as an independent mission body, while continuing to be part of the larger CMS family we now serve within Asia with an Asian Board and leadership. CMS has a mission history which spans over 200 years in this South Asia region. CMS is now a multi-denominational Mission Movement. ACMS shares this heritage and commitment to mission and partnership.



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Letter from the Coordinator

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you from the AsiaCMS family! We deeply appreciate your partnership and prayers for AsiaCMS ministry. We thank the Lord for His guidance and leadership which has made what is shared in this newsletter possible. As we continue to lean on Him for the road ahead we count on you upholding us in your prayers.

The Nepal earthquake and its aftermath has left a colossal need and many have been moved to help in this hour of need. ACMS too has been involved in bringing restoration and rehabilitation to the affected people. It truly has been a humbling experience of standing with people who have lost much as they reach out to help others. If you, your Church or agency are moved to reach out to the need in Nepal do write to us. In the aftermath of the earthquake the country now faces an even more challenging political unrest and blockades which besides hampering relief activity are also causing adverse shortage of petroleum and other essential commodities in the country.

These past few weeks we have been witness and share in the pain and suffering of people in Syria, Africa and France. Let us continue to uphold them in our prayers. Let us also keep in prayers the thousands of Syrian refugees who are facing an uncertain and difficult winter

ahead. We are reminded that we exist as the body of Christ in His Mission not in a vacuum but in the reality of the forces of darkness manifested in injustice, discrimination, persecution and violent conflict.

Let us continue to remember people in mission across South Asia, who continue to serve in increasingly difficult and challenging times. Challenges both direct and subtle continue to grow as religious intolerance, sectarianism, prejudice, discrimination and racism in various forms are on the rise. As we reach out with the message of salvation in Christ may we also be vessels in His hand to heal divisions, which is possible through Jesus (Ephesians 2:14). As we respond to the great commission "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification" (Romans 14:19) as His people.

AsiaCMS works in close collaboration with local and national Church and Mission through training, resourcing and networking. It is our burden and prayer to see this ministry fully supported 'from Asia to Asia', strengthening the Body of Christ in the region. Please continue to pray for us and stand with us.

Yours in Him

Stephen Edison
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NEPAL EARTH QUAKE RELIEF AND CURRENT CHALLENGES



ACMS have worked alongside our Nepalese Co-Mission Partners to help in relief and rehabilitation. Relief materials like foods items, tents and zinc sheets were provided in different parts of Nepal specially to the earthquake affected areas of Dhading, Dolkha, Gorkha, Ramechhap and Nuwakot. We are thankful to God and for the generosity of His people, which allowed us to be a blessing in a small way to help the earthquake victims to have food and shelter as they pieced their lives back together.

We were also encouraged by the support of the South Asia Christian Youth Network (SACYN) youth from India who raised support from their churches and friends for SACYN Alumni in Nepal to provide food and essential supplies to the affected people.

As we move forward, Nepal is facing another big challenge in the form of economic blockages resulting from political

unrest caused by aspects of the new constitution, which are deemed unfair to some ethnic groups on the border between India and Nepal. This has led to an acute shortage of petroleum products and essential commodities from India into Nepal. The situation remains challenging at the time of publication of this newsletter.

Reconstruction of infrastructure is still a pressing need, as many homes, institutional buildings and churches need extensive repairs and reconstruction. Our Co-Mission Partners are committed to meeting this need, and we would really value support which can be raised to help fulfil this key task.

Please continue to keep Nepal in your prayers, both for the earthquake relief as well as for the unrest and shortages, which are now leading to geopolitical challenges.

SACYN 2015, NEW DELHI



Sacyn 2015 Group



Group Work

AsiaCMS is the coordinating partner for the South Asia Christian Youth Network which since 2002 annually brings together youth leaders from churches in South Asia to connect and also for a time of training and reflection on issues relevant to church, mission and society in the regional context.

SACYN 2015 was held at the Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, India, from 16th to 20th October 2015 on the theme 'Spirituality and Integrity in Youth Leadership'. It was a reflective-planning gathering. As the three years of training module was completed in 2014, SACYN 2015 focused on a reflection on the journey of SACYN for the past 12 years, as well as looked forward and planned for the future in the light of those reflections. The reflective-planning sessions were complemented with interactive sessions on Christian leadership, facilitated by senior church and mission leaders.

Twenty-four youths from five countries attended the meeting. It provided an amazing platform for sharing of ideas and casting vision for the future. SACYN 2015 provided a space for interacting and understanding various challenges faced by Christian youths in the region, and also contributed to developing a generation of Christian children and youths. Time for personal reflections, regular worship sessions, prayer time, Bible studies, and input sessions from the resource and case studies on the impact of SACYN to individual churches presented by each of the member churches provided a clear understanding of SACYN's journey and impact at the church level over the years. Also, the evaluation and planning sessions done on the theoretical framework of appreciative enquiry enabled the participants to evaluate the previous sessions of SACYN and to look forward to the future with hope.

ASIA GATEWAY TRAINING 2015

PRAYER NEEDS

- ✠ Please pray for Stephen Edison's visit to our mission partners in Nepal in the month of January.
- ✠ Please pray for the visit of Dr Kang San Tan, AsiaCMS Executive Director, and Lee Loun Ling, Training Director, to India in February, that it may be a blessed time for fellowship, consultation and strengthened relations with our links and partners in Chennai, Bangalore and New Delhi.
- ✠ Please pray for the SACYN youth committee as they plan and prepare for the SACYN 2016 to be held in Nepal in mid-2016.
- ✠ Please pray for God's special wisdom and guidance as the AsiaCMS staff and leadership meet for their annual planning meeting in the last week of February.
- ✠ Please pray for the process of selection of new Co-Mission Partners for 2016.
- ✠ Please keep in prayers the health and protection of all AsiaCMS Co-Mission Partners, staff and volunteers as they continue to serve in the region.



Gateway 2015 Group

Asia Gateway Training is a unique 'Training of Trainers' in Asian contexts offered by ACMS in partnership with other agencies to equip people for mission in Asia. Our South Asian partners who attended this training greatly benefited from it. This year, the training was conducted at the Seminari Theologi Malaysia, Seremban, Malaysia from 21st June to 8th August. Eighteen participants from South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal), East Asia (Malaysia and Cambodia), Western Europe (UK), South America (Brazil) and Australia participated in this intensive seven-week training. The wonderful multi-cultural environment of the training provided a great opportunity to learn from each other.

The majority of the participants were church and mission leaders from diverse backgrounds, agencies, and denominations. The training, which included a one-week

field trip to Cambodia, provided opportunities to understand the cultural uniqueness of Asia as well as the need for mission in this context. Each of the participants was really enriched and motivated to adapt and apply what was acquired from the training to each of their own training programmes in their respective contexts. Dr Kang San Tan and Loun Ling were the resident trainers, who, along with other internationally acclaimed lecturers made the training a memorable one.

This is a great training ground for missions in Asian context as it provided a first-hand opportunity to understand Asian religions and cultures as well as learning with and from people from various regions. If you would like to be trained or would like to recommend this training to others do contact us for more information.

BHUTAN VISIT AND WORKSHOP



Thimpu Valley

Stephen Edison in September made the first official visit from AsiaCMS to Bhutan. Bhutan is the only remaining Himalayan kingdom in which Christianity is not recognized and the local church, though growing, continues to face challenges. As an outcome of the visit, a local committee of younger leaders was formed to organize a leadership workshop for younger leaders from different churches in November, which was facilitated by Raj Patel

(CMS UK) and assisted by Stephen.

Given the sensitivity of local context we cannot share pictures or more specific information here. If you and your church are interested in knowing more about the Body of Christ in the country and want to stand with them in prayers, do get in touch with us by email.

Continue to keep Bhutan in your prayers.



Group work by Youth Leaders

CO - MISSION PARTNER PROGRAM (COMP)

In this issue we shed some light on the ministry of some of our Co-Mission Partners who are witnessing Christ by addressing very important key needs in their local contexts by walking alongside those who suffer and to find the Peace of God both within themselves, their churches and in the wider community.

Support to Abused Children

Partner: Esther Gnanakan

Organisation :LEEDS

Location: Colombo, Sri Lanka



In Sri Lanka, as in India and other South Asian countries, the rate of child sexual abuse is very high. LEADS is a Christian organization based in Colombo,

Sri Lanka, which provides holistic support for children who are abused. Esther Gnanakan serves with LEADS as part of its ESCAPE programme through her service as a child psychologist bringing healing and hope to them. It has been a privilege to walk alongside Esther and LEADS these past three years. Do continue to keep Esther in your prayers as she finishes her commitment within the Co- Mission Partner Programme and continues in her ministry. We wish her the best and every blessing in her personal life and also in her ministry.

Community Outreach and Training

Partners: J.Saidingliana Sailo & Melody K.Lalbuatsaihi

Organisation:ACN, Pokhara Bible School

Location: Pokhara, Nepal



Melody and Sailo are based in Pokhara, Nepal and serve alongside Asal Chimeki Nepal, which is the social arm of around 40 churches in the city. They arrived in

Nepal in April of this year and within a couple of weeks of their arrival the earthquake struck Nepal. After the earthquake, political and ethnic unrest continues to be a challenge in the country. Please keep the family in your prayers as they study the Nepali Language and begin their ministry in the region.

Melody, who is a trained staff nurse, works with the health team and with the home for women in substance abuse. Sailo is teaching at the Pokhara Bible College which trains grassroots missionaries and rural pastors from villages and districts surrounding Pokhara. They are also connecting with local churches and request prayers for their time in Nepal to be a blessing to the body of Christ in the region and to witness Christ through their lives and service.

Peace and Reconciliation

Partners: Chitra & Rabbi Jayakaran

Organisation: Peacemakers

Location: Bangalore, India

In a world torn by violence and conflicts, Rabbi & Chitra are involved in peace and reconciliation ministry bringing restoration and reconciliation to individuals, families, organizations and communities. They are involved in teaching and training in colleges, seminaries and organizations on conflict transformation and peace building. Rabbi is currently teaching peace and conflict resolution studies in Christ University and also pursuing his MPhil in Peace Psychology. They are beginning rehabilitation work with women prisoners and their families and request prayers for this work.



CO MISSION PARTNER PROGRAM (COMP)

AsiaCMS partners with local mission movements in supporting and equipping local leaders to engage in mission.

The Co-Mission Partners are serving in challenging places bringing the hope of Christ to people in difficult circumstances. We are privileged to currently partner with churches and mission organisations across South Asia to send out 20 Co-Mission Partners serving in different parts of India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. They are doing amazing work, making Christ known through evangelism, discipleship, drug rehabilitation, counselling for abused children, training church leaders, equipping first generation believers, HIV-AIDS rehabilitation and more. Alongside here is a glimpse of the work of three of our partners bringing hope, healing and transformation in the lives of people facing difficult circumstances.

Support the Mission:

Cheques in favour of Asia Collaborative Mission Service India can be sent to: Post Bag No.13 , Patel Nagar , New Delhi 110008.

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