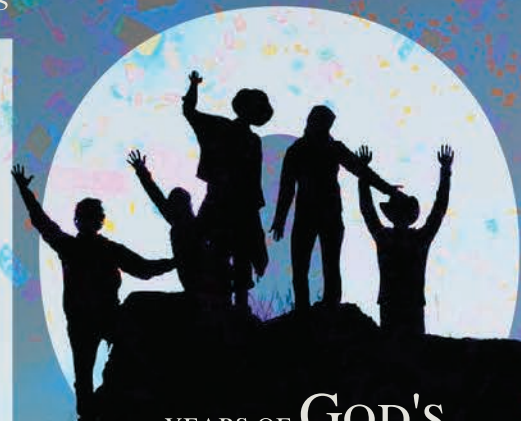




TOGETHER
ON THE EDGE
IN GOD'S
MISSION

Celebrating



YEARS OF **GOD'S**
FAITHFULNESS
2022

Connect.
Collaborate.
Catalyse.

Content

Message from AsiaCMS Executive Director	04
About Us	07
Meet our Team	08
Message from the Chairperson – Board of Trustees	10
Meet the AsiaCMS Board of Trustees	12
Our History	14
The Face of Missions	16
Programs We Support	18
Safeguarding: Standing in the Gap for the Vulnerable	20
On the Edge in God's Mission: Co-Missions Partners Program	22
Meet our Co-Mission Partners: South Asia Hub	24
Our Presence in Asia	30
Meet our Co-Mission Partners: Mekong and Nusantara Hub	32
10 Years of God's Faithfulness	36
Building Missional Communities	38
Kingdom Value Videos	40
Leading with God's Love	42
Ministry in the Mekong	44
Red Light Redemption	46
Introducing Nusantara	48
A Heart for the Poor	50



AsiaCMS

10th Anniversary: Building on the Past, Changing for the Future.

The 10th Anniversary of AsiaCMS coming into being is a story of many people journeying together. The idea of AsiaCMS as an autonomous entity within the larger global CMS network was conceived much earlier in the hearts of the leaders in the Church Mission Society (CMS) in Britain under its principles of D.I.R. - Decentralisation, Internationalisation and Regionalisation. That idea crystallised further when a group of mission leaders from across Asia was invited to add their collective wisdom. That led to the birth of AsiaCMS in 2012 as a legal entity, registered in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Tan Kang-San, the first Executive Director, laid its initial foundations with the pioneering team. In recent years, I am privileged to serve as Executive Director. We expanded the scope of our activities through a highly committed and capable core-team that collectively shaped the broad vision and implemented the specific plans. All through this journey, CMS-Britain has not wavered as a committed partner. Alongside is the founding Board of Trustees, drawn from that initial group of Asian mission leaders who provided the necessary governance and strategic input.

Reflecting deeper, the story of AsiaCMS mirrors the changes in global Christianity, global mission, and the challenges that lie ahead in a post-pandemic 21st century world.

Christianity and contemporary mission movements are now truly global

In many ways, global Christianity today is the fruit of the Modern Missionary Movement that has its origins in the West. CMS-Britain, started in 1799 (then *Church Missionary Society*), alongside a host of other Western missionary societies from that era and into the twentieth century sent people to share the gospel, plant churches, schools, hospitals, and other institutions across the globe.

Through their sacrificial efforts alongside that of national workers, Christianity today is no longer a Western faith, but one that is truly global, quite evenly distributed. About 67% of all Christians now live in the global South - 15% in Asia, 27% in Africa, 24% in Latin America. Only 22% live in Europe with another 11% in North America. This is a stark contrast to 1910, when the first '*World Missionary Conference*' was held in Edinburgh. Then, less than 20% of all Christians lived in the non-Western world.

A resulting positive development - Missions is *no longer from the West to the rest, but the rest with the West reaching all the rest*. The 'rest' that needs to be reached now includes the West. Mission movements have mushroomed in non-Western churches, crossing cultures and national boundaries. The 600,000 strong Presbyterian Church of Mizoram, India alone sends out 1,000 + cross-cultural mission workers to other parts of India, and other countries. One will find Filipino mission workers in the Middle East. Churches from countries such as Nigeria and Indonesia are planting churches in North America and Europe. In these lands, they are not just reaching their own people groups, but other people groups as well.

Contemporary mission movements are increasingly trans-denominational and multicultural

Effective mission movements often traverse ecclesial boundaries. They may be described as '*trans-denominational*' - engaging with what God is doing within and through established churches, yet also engaging the in-between spaces. They draw and leverage on the legacies and strengths of the diverse Christian traditions and churches. Effective mission is less about ecclesial boundaries, but more about shared vision, passion, obedience, and commitment to God's mission to His world.

In the same breath, these mission movements are also often multi-ethnic and multicultural in composition. Unlike the past, today's mission movements are no longer represented singularly by white and Western faces. This reconfiguration fulfils Christ's high priestly prayer in John 17:11 "that they may be one." They foreshadow that heavenly climax where a great multitude "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages" (Rev.7:9) will stand in worship before Christ.

Complex realities call for relevance to local contexts and integrated approaches

Regardless of whichever aspect of mission that one seeks to engage in, effective mission is always shaped by ground realities. It is impacted by situational factors such as the local configurations of socio-cultural, economic, religious, and political realities. These are fluid and sometimes can suddenly change. This was the case with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine conflict, and more recently, the Sri Lanka crisis - authentic missional engagement required a response to the immediate needs.

While local contexts differ in the specifics, countries in Asia do share some similar contextual realities and challenges. Foremost, Christianity is largely a minority faith in most parts of Asia. This calls for wise and sensitive engagement in the face of rising religious fundamentalism and extremism in other faiths. In some places, persecution and even violence are harsh realities.

Contemporary mission is also more urban than rural. Human migrations and urbanisation processes (if not well-planned) often lead to slums, exclusion from resources, crime, and other attendant problems. Effective mission in these contexts requires an integration of gospel proclamation, incarnational lifestyles and ministry approaches that engage holistically with all the complex needs.

In addition, global socio-economic inequalities that are accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic have widened the inequalities of income and life opportunities between countries. These contribute to the emigration of Christians away from places where they are most needed. These realities require a rethink of how long-term, cross-cultural mission workers may be placed, and what can be done to encourage the best national mission leaders and workers to continue serving where they are most needed.

Together on the Edge in God's Mission

This is our tagline. We seek to complement the efforts of churches and other Christian organisations in connecting, collaborating, and catalysing within the parameters of a 3-fold focus:

- Engage the unreached and least-reached people groups with the Gospel.
- Engage in spheres of mission that are overlooked and critical for national and regional contexts.
- Facilitate collaborations for fresh insights on Asian mission concerns by Asian Christians.

As AsiaCMS steps into its second decade of service in mission, we acknowledge that we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, especially those in the CMS family. We also walk alongside the many who seek to serve His Mission; to proclaim and incarnate the Gospel of Christ in a changed 21st century post-pandemic world.

In His mission,

Rev. Chan NamChen (PhD)

Executive Director

¹Statistics on global Christianity in this essay are based on categories and data compiled by the *Center for the Study of Global Christianity* at <https://www.gordonconwell.edu/center-for-global-christianity/resources/>.

AsiaCMS

About Us.

Asia Collaborative Mission Services (AsiaCMS) is a trans-denominational mission movement based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and established in 2012. AsiaCMS is associated with the Church Mission Society in the UK and the global CMS network.

We now live in a rapidly changing world. With changed realities, it can no longer be business as usual for churches, Christian organisations and Christians engaged in God's mission. There is a need for change and adjustments to some of the traditional mission approaches and priorities, especially for Christians in Asia who seek to be both effective and faithful according to Biblical mandates.

Our tagline, **Together on the Edge in God's Mission** is formulated in the light of these realities.

To move ahead in the coming years, the breadth of God's mission and the changed global realities demand the cooperative efforts of all of God's people with all of their diverse strengths and resources. Therefore, AsiaCMS seeks to multiply the mission efforts of churches and Christian organisations in a 3-fold focus:

1. Engage the unreached and least-reached people groups with the Gospel.
2. Engage in spheres of mission that are often overlooked, but critical for national contexts.
3. Facilitate collaborations for fresh insights on Asian mission concerns by Asian Christians.

Some Of What We Do:

CO-MISSION PARTNERS: Our Co-Mission Partner Program connects mission workers with local and national churches, mission organisations and needs in the field. We value partnerships to pioneer new missional initiatives and provide resources for those who are serving in the mission fields.

SUPPORT & TRAINING: We add to the efforts of churches, mission leaders and workers to sharpen their involvement in God's mission. AsiaCMS facilitates seminars, training programs and missions education from introductory to post-graduate levels.

God's Mission is from Everywhere to Everywhere.

AsiaCMS Team.



Rev Chan NamChen (PhD) - Executive Director

Dr Chan is the Executive Director of AsiaCMS. He holds a PhD in Intercultural Studies with a focus on Missions and Leadership in cross-cultural situations. He has been in ministry in the past as a cross-cultural church planter, trainer, senior pastor and denominational leader. Dr. Chan desires that churches, Christian organisations and Christians from diverse backgrounds collaborate to fulfil God's mission - the unreached engaged with the gospel, churches planted and the love of Christ demonstrated in practical ways.



Stephen Edison - Regional Hub Leader (South Asia)

Stephen heads the ministry in South Asia. He has an M.Div., an MA in International Relations, a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights and International Humanitarian and Refugee Law, and a BA (Hons.) in History. He has worked extensively in the area of peace and reconciliation, and has a breadth of mission experience, including development. Stephen is based in Delhi, India.



Rev Tony Chuang (PhD) - Regional Hub Leader (Nusantara)

Tony was born in Taiwan, is a citizen of Canada, and earned a PhD in the USA. He is an international preacher, ordained pastor, and published writer. Together with his wife, Dr. Esther Shin, they have travelled to multiple countries across four continents, training local leaders and reaching non-Christians. He lectures at Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary and serves on the executive committee of Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education. His research interests include missiology, Chinese folk religion, and homiletics. Tony has two children who make life unpredictably interesting.



Suzane Christie - Communications Manager

Suzane has over 20 years of experience in the publishing and media industry, both as a writer and editor. She holds a BSc in Communications and is currently pursuing her theological education. Prior to joining AsiaCMS, she was a freelance writer and editor. She is also an author of a devotional book and contributes to several Christian publications, both locally and in the United States. Suzane serves at her local church on the worship team and also heads their budding Online Bible College program.



Eddie Leong - Finance Manager

Eddie has been working in the field of accounting for more than 25 years in the commercial sector. He also serves as an assistant treasurer of a local church in Kuala Lumpur.



Low Chee Teng - Finance Compliance Office

Chee Teng's primary role in AsiaCMS is to assist within the Treasury and Compliance functions. He graduated from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand with a Bachelor's in Commerce and Administration. He is a member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants and the Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand. He holds an MBA with Distinction from IMC, U.K. He has served in a local church as a parish leader, and in committees including Missions, Membership & Evangelism. He has over 30 years of working experience, including serving as CFO of a public listed company.



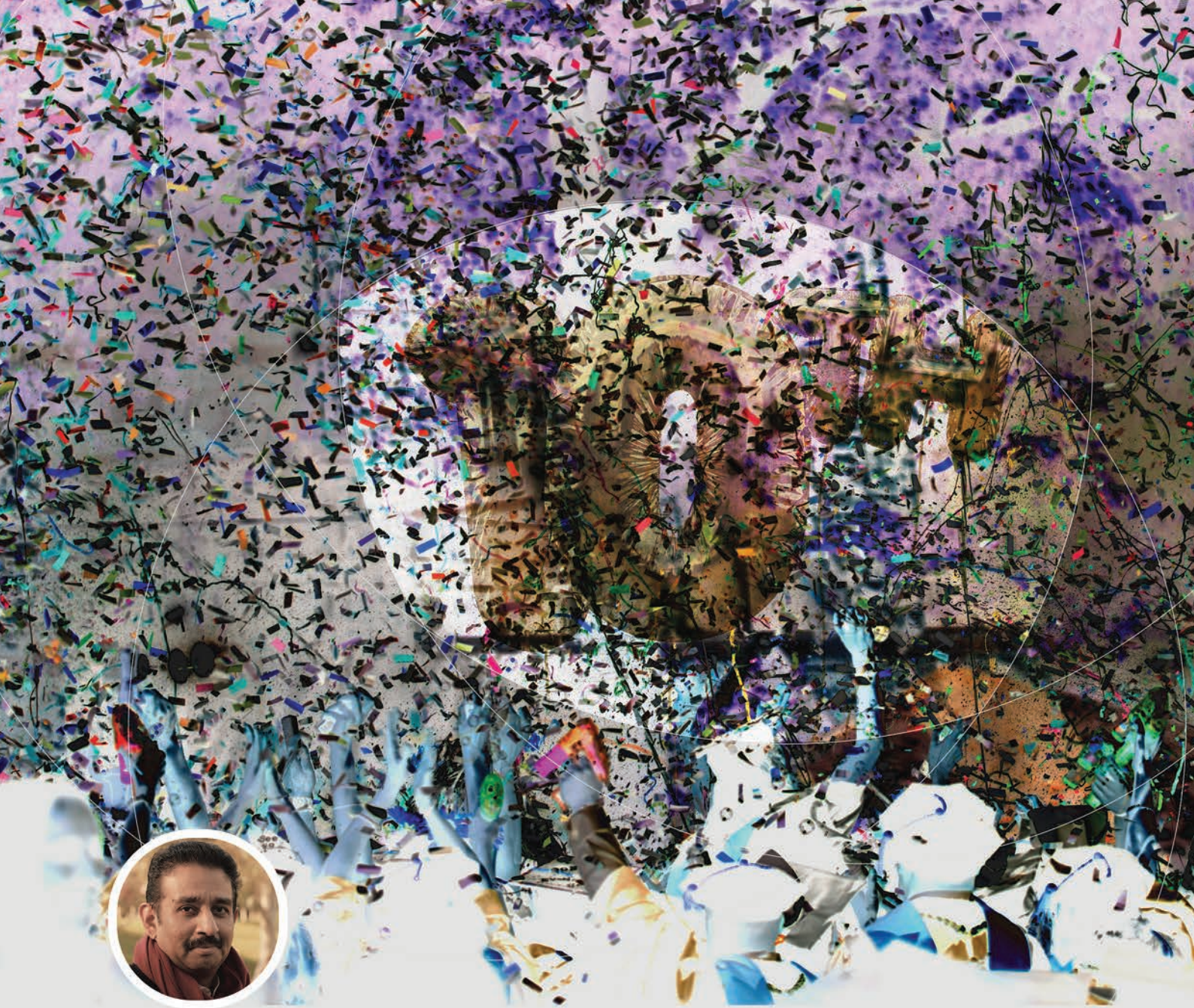
Esther John - Safeguarding Manager

Esther's heart gravitates towards the wellbeing of children. She is a Mental Health and Psycho-social practitioner with expertise in Child Protection and Safeguarding. Based in Sri Lanka, Esther is also an independent consultant for the non-profit sector in Sri Lanka.



Eleena Thomas - Co-Missions Partner Program Manager

With a background in Human Resources, Eleena enjoys meeting people and building long-term connections. She has a passion for children's ministry and was actively involved with her local church in teaching, coordinating, and supporting this ministry. Eleena is also musically inclined and a long-standing member of her church choir. Having lived and studied in other countries, she has a good understanding of interacting with people across cultures. Eleena has recently relocated to Sydney from Bangalore and is looking for ways to continue serving God and His people in the place where she is.



Chairperson's Reflections

Therefore, let us Celebrate.

(1 Corinthians 5:8a)

It is with hearts full of deep gratitude to God and to many of our co-sojourners - both past and present - that each one of us look back at the last ten years of the life, work and witness of AsiaCMS. The decennial celebration, therefore, is primarily a milestone of thanksgiving. We look back, count our blessings, name them one by one, marvel at the miracles of the Almighty and offer our thanks to God.

We look around and realise that the call to mission is as relevant today as in any other generation and therefore, we are challenged to commit ourselves to a more engaged involvement in mission. We look forward, with the hope and prayer that the seeds of missions we plant, and water today will find fruit in the life of the communities 'yet to be' and 'beyond'.

Let Us Celebrate Christ

Christ was always the centre and the focal point of mission. When Paul calls the Ephesian church to celebrate, after calling them to cleanse themselves of the old yeast, he puts forth the core reason of celebration in the statement - For Christ our Pascal Lamb has been sacrificed.

The Pascal lamb always took upon itself the burden of the sins of others and the sacrifice was “on behalf of”. The cross event, which was the ultimate sacrifice that achieved the redemption of creation once and for all, had to be proclaimed beyond the borders of time and space so that every generation could appropriate it. This was possible through the strengthening of the Holy Spirit. Constant renewal and persistent revival have therefore, always been the hallmark of mission. Our prayer as we celebrate ten years would be for God to grant us a passionate heart of sincerity and truth, as we continually engage with the Mission of God - the *Missio Dei*.

Let Us Celebrate Continuity

One of the first mandates to the disciples of Christ was to go the ends of the world to proclaim the salvation that is available in Christ to all. Century after century faithful people took on this commission. The Church Mission Society was a key initiative in this faith journey by people who loved the Lord. Missionaries were sent to different parts of the world, and they brought in transformation of lives. Darkness turned to Light in the nooks and corners of the world. In due time, the discussions on Decentralisation, Internationalisation (Indigenisation of mission, as I would have preferred) and Regionalisation of mission movements (the DIR process) that birthed Asia CMS was part of the efforts to make mission more relevant and effective. AsiaCMS therefore, is part of a continuum. We have received the baton of this relay race from those athletes who ran ahead of us, and we have the responsibility to hand this over to the next generations, who would run the next lap in the journey to build the kingdom of God, here and now and in the hereafter.

Let Us Celebrate Community

Building the Community of Christ has always been one of the focal goals of mission engagements. This had implications on the sending community, the sent community and the communities influenced by the ones sent. Mission was therefore about Connections, Collaborations and Communication. AsiaCMS took upon itself the priority of people on the edges and the unreached or least reached. A catalytic collaboration and a competent missional community were in our minds as we constantly prayed the “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer. We always had our neighbours in mind and therefore, insisted that mission should be sensitive and sensible. The journey forward as a mission community would be focussed on building the kingdom community.

Let Us Celebrate Challenges

Mission across the years sought creative ways of expressions and did face challenges. At one point, it was West to the Rest and with time, it became everywhere to everywhere. But as we look at mission today, there are several challenges that we should be aware of. The primary challenge is to help younger generations own the responsibility of mission. In a context where more and more people are signing up to a No-God culture, we need to affirm the importance of a God-centred life. Religious fundamentalism is another challenge we need to navigate with care. Technology offers both challenges and opportunities, and the pandemic was a clarion call to look at new and creative possibilities of reaching out to people. In the post-scientific age, traditional models of doing mission should be supplemented with creative and futuristic mission methodologies. All forms of exclusion must be addressed, corruption in all its variant forms totally done away with, and the care of the environment understood as a core value as we journey on. The challenge for mission agencies and churches to collaborate and understand mission as the responsibility of all, need to be addressed more intensely.

Therefore, let us celebrate. Let us celebrate our history. Let us celebrate our possibilities today and let us celebrate our common vision for the future.

Rev. Vinod Victor

Chair of the Board of Trustees



AsiaCMS

Board of Trustees.

AsiaCMS Berhad is a company limited by guarantee in Malaysia. Its board of directors comprise Rev. Pax Tan, Andrew Khoo and Francis K. Tsui. They manage the legal and regulatory requirements to comply with Malaysian laws. We have a group of trustees to preserve, protect and promote the values, vision and principles of AsiaCMS. They have wide skills and missions experience, and provide guidance and governance for AsiaCMS to fulfil its mission and purpose. They are led by Rev. Vinod Victor as Chair.



Rev. Vinod Victor (Chair)

Rev. Vinod is an ordained minister in the Church of South India. He has long been involved in social outreach and mission work in India and further afield. His church is actively involved in social ministry and runs several homes for children.



Andrew Khoo (Vice Chair)

Andrew, based in Malaysia, is a practising Barrister specialising in human rights law. He is also a Lay Canon in the Anglican Church.



Francis K. Tsui

Francis was born and raised in Hong Kong. Francis works in finance but also has been actively involved in mission across Asia for many years. Prior to joining AsiaCMS, he served as International President of Asian Outreach.



Rev. Pax Tan

Rev. Pax pastors a local Baptist church. He has a long history of involvement with social action and leadership with the Malaysian charity Malaysian Care.



Rev. Aeduk Kim

Rev. Aeduk is the Rector of West Incheon Anglican Church in South Korea and is actively involved in various mission-related initiatives in the Korean Anglican Church.



Rt. Rev. Pradeep Samantaroy

Rt. Rev. Pradeep is the Bishop of Amritsar, Church of North India. He has a wealth of experience in senior church leadership and understanding of the church in Asia.



Dr Haroon Laldin

Dr. Haroon is a medical doctor, based at a mission hospital in northern Pakistan. He is also pursuing a doctoral studies in mission with a particular interest in engaging with other faiths.



Juliate Keya Malakar

Juliate is the Executive Director of Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB), the lead ecumenical development agency of the nation. She has hands-on operational experience and expertise in managing different kinds of interventions in the developmental and humanitarian sectors.



Rev. Dr Lee Il Ho

Rev. Dr Lee Il Ho is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Korea in South Korea. He began his ministry as a Senior Pastor of a church in Busan. Dr Lee comes on board with a rich experience as a grassroots mission worker.



AsiaCMS History.

The origins of the Church Mission Society (CMS) go back to 1799 in London, UK, when a small group of Anglican evangelicals with a passion for worldwide outreach met to pray. They included John Newton, who wrote Amazing Grace, and William Wilberforce, who was a leader in abolishing the slave trade in England.

They founded the society with a purpose of sending missionaries to Africa and the East, with some early missionaries going to Sierra Leone, Kenya, China, India and Japan.

When CMS was founded, China was closed to all missionaries, yet this didn't stop CMS from sending Robert Morrison as its first missionary to China in 1807. Travelling in defiance of the Chinese authorities, he distributed tracts wherever he could, but it wasn't until after the Opium War that five Chinese ports were opened to European missionaries in 1842 that mission began in earnest in China, setting up schools, founding dispensaries and appointing church leaders.

“We are a community of people in Mission”

When CMS began work in India the British East India Company would not allow missionaries in the areas which it administered. William Wilberforce (the first Vice President of CMS and famous campaigner for the abolition of the slave trade) led a movement for the revision of the East India Company charter to enable missionaries to preach the Gospel to the Indians.

By the time a Charter Bill was passed in 1813, CMS already had missionaries training for work in India and by 1814 the first two CMS missionaries arrived in Madras. CMS subsequently worked extensively in India establishing schools, printing Bibles and appointing church leaders.

CMS has a strong legacy of evangelism, church planting, mission schools and hospitals across Asia and Africa. Today CMS UK is still involved in sending mission partners overseas but also pioneering church work in the UK. CMS is committed to seeing indigenous CMS missions established globally - enabling local mission leaders to follow God's leading.

In 2008 it established CMS Africa as an autonomous mission movement based in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2012 AsiaCMS was established as an autonomous mission movement based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the first Executive Director, Dr Tan Kang San.

AsiaCMS seeks to draw on the experience and wisdom of the CMS community, but also has the freedom to evolve and develop an authentic Asian mission movement as we follow God's leading and respond to the needs within the Asian context.

Leaders of the global CMS community meet regularly for “Interchange” to encourage, network and support each other. The global CMS network consist of CMS Britain, CMS Africa, CMS New Zealand, CMS Australia, CMS Ireland, SAMS-USA, as well as AsiaCMS.



The Face of Missions.

By Suzane Christie
Communications Manager, AsiaCMS

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. - By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" - John 13:35.

Peter was heartbroken; he had denied his Jesus and stood by as his Saviour was crucified. Peter was still consumed with guilt and disappointment in himself when he and a few other disciples spotted Jesus, walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

The moment Peter heard John say, *"It is the Lord!"* (John 21:7), he leaped out of the boat and rushed over to his beloved Jesus. Peter was in need of restoration. After cooking breakfast for His disciples with their own catch and breaking bread with them, Jesus turned his attention to Peter with one fateful question *three* times (John 21:15-19).

He began first with *"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"* Each time Peter affirms, Jesus gives a command for His mission: if Peter truly loves his Saviour, he is to care for those who belong to Christ.

Three times, Jesus uses the Greek word *agape* in his question, meaning unconditional love. Three times, so Peter could be restored as he confessed his love for Jesus before others, after publicly denying Him. Three times, so Peter knows the importance of what Jesus wanted him to do - to love and feed His lambs. Jesus wanted Peter to understand that the foundation of his mission to care for God's children *must* rest upon God's love. This extends to us in our walk with Christ, but even more so, within the context of God's mission.

God is Love (1 John 4:8); it is *who* He is, and it is His very *nature*.

In dark places where the *name of Jesus* may be controversial and even heretical, the face of Jesus can be accepted because it is one of love; His love will douse darkness. No matter what the agenda, cause or goal, what unites every mission and mission worker is Jesus and His Gospel of grace and love; that is the *only* gospel we should take with us, as we partner with Him in His mission.

"...we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them," - 1 John 4:16.

When we focus on BEING the *face of Jesus*, even when we stand on soil where we cannot speak the *name* of Jesus, the gospel is preached. We will sow the seeds of the gospel when the people of the world see God's face through us because His love can cross borders, cultures, and languages into the darkest corners of the world.

Here at *AsiaCMS*, we walk alongside our Co-Mission Partners and stay the course by remembering that the face of missions is that of Jesus. As we continue to walk forward with the five marks of mission as our foundation, we rest against God's love as our cornerstone:

- We proclaim the good news of the kingdom... **with love.**
- We teach, baptise and nurture new believers... **in love.**
- We respond to human need by living service... **with love.**
- We transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation... **through God's love.**
- We strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth... **in love.**

Our Co-Mission Partners across Asia live out these principles *daily* as they serve God's Kingdom and take His Gospel to the most unreached corners. We have mission workers in the remote hills of South Asia ministering to unreached, marginalised and "untouchable" communities.

We have theological educators across the landscape of Asia, who teach and serve above and beyond their call of duty, and others who work tirelessly to bring hope in places that are crying out for God's love and light amidst the chilling circumstances.

There are mission partners who have made it their life's calling to build up, equip and develop communities with basic living necessities, life skills and provide affordable shelter to those who would otherwise be homeless. There are others who reach out to broken women, drug addicts and individuals who are shunned by society; to bring a balm to their souls and work towards rehabilitating them in love. Then, there are a few who have dedicated their lives to protecting the rights of women and children in a world that never stops trying to rob them of their innocence, dignity and voice.

These are all areas of missions that are on the edge but are increasingly needed. While these types of missional work demand much from those who serve, they also bring about the greatest transformation and restoration, in ways that only God's enduring love can.

Every one of the existing missional efforts here at AsiaCMS and every new terrain we will step onto in the days to come, will wear the face of missions that reveal God's love. This is the only way to move forward with God's mission. We need more selfless mission workers out in the field to be the face of Jesus to the world. To do that, they will need your prayers and support.

Will you partner with us, as we walk alongside them on the Edge in God's mission?

If you would like to sow into our ministry, visit our website at www.asiacms.net to find out more about our Co-Mission Partners and what they do.



AsiaCMS

Programs We Support.

South Asia Christian Youth Network (SACYN)

SACYN is a network of young leaders from South Asia with a mission to build connections. It is all about inspiring, preparing and strengthening young Christian adults to cross bridges to encounter and share their faith and lives with those who are from different circumstances, languages, cultures, ethnicity, nationality, lifestyles, faiths and backgrounds.

SACYN has had trainings and meetings in various countries in South Asia, which has helped to build bridges and nurture strong personal relations between the future leadership of the Church in South Asia. It has also been a useful vessel to train and equip young people in Asia on issues and challenges that are relevant to the Church and Christianity in Asia today.

Over the past 14 years, SACYN has provided a forum for young leaders in South Asia to meet together annually. The mission of SACYN is to facilitate young people in churches to be personally challenged in their commitment to follow Jesus Christ and for each to find his or her role in being a part of God's mission.

SACYN seeks to strengthen and renew regional churches in their faith and their commitment to make Christ known in their engagement in practical mission for the Kingdom of God.

SACYN is committed to help a generation to fully live the kingdom experience and enable them to transcend all possible boundaries that separate people from people. Their vision is to encourage, motivate and enable South Asian young people from the region's churches to link up, overcome barriers and work together for the Gospel and Kingdom of God - a vision for a future South Asia that is different.

Over the course of the pandemic, SACYN continued to provide an avenue for fellowship and friendship between Christian youth leaders, through monthly webinars. These webinars allowed leaders to gather virtually to encourage and learn from each other through a range of topics such as: peace and security, social media and responsible online presence, substance abuse, artistic expressions, and many others.

Mekong Indigenous Mission Initiative (MIMI)

This initiative began in 2019, offering missiological training program. This initiative is focused on churches in the Mekong Region. Designed to transform the missional paradigms and mission practices of churches in the region, it will accelerate indigenous missions and cross-cultural church-planting by local churches.

In 2019, we took a step of faith in initially allocating US\$17,000 for this new thrust, in order to support an annual missions conference for key pastors and leaders (that was held in the first quarter of 2019 with nearly 100 participants), six missional training modules, and networking with local churches. This initiative has expanded from its beginnings.

MIMI has the following components:

- a) Missions conferences to inspire and teach key pastors and leaders for indigenous cross-cultural missions.**
- b) A training program that consists of 6 modules for cross-cultural church planters.**
- c) Support of local initiatives.**



Safeguarding: Standing in the Gap for the Vulnerable.

By Esther John
Safeguarding Manager

When we look around our world today, we see immense human suffering caused by selfish ambition and greed for power. Such acts are destroying nations and more specifically, the most vulnerable and children. It was a similar context during the reign of King Xerxes when Haman requested the King to kill all the Jews because of his own selfishness.

Esther 3:13 highlights the decree issued to kill all the Jews, including all young and old, women and children. Later in Esther 8:11, we see that the same decree was reversed from 'destroy, kill and annihilate' to the 'right to protect themselves'.

This reversal happened when Esther stood on behalf of her people. She 'stood in the gap' risking her own position to safeguard and protect her people – which included those of all ages, even women and children. We see that the need of the hour today is for God's people to 'stand in the gap' on behalf of the rights of others and to reverse decrees and actions that causes the vulnerable to suffer.

At AsiaCMS, we have taken the first step towards 'standing in the gap' to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. In 2020, AsiaCMS recognized the importance of safeguarding and thereafter, drafted a safeguarding policy for the organization. The safeguarding policy has been implemented since April 2021. Staff, consultants, volunteers, Co-Mission Partners of AsiaCMS and the board of trustees are orientated on the policy and have signed the safeguarding policy.

Since 2021, AsiaCMS has been working alongside all Co-Mission Partners and their organizations/churches to promote safeguarding standards within their own mission context. As an ongoing process, they are also provided with knowledge on safeguarding standards and related topics through short trainings.

In acknowledging the importance of safeguarding, AsiaCMS is in the process of implementing safeguarding measures within the organization so that incidents can be prevented. These measures are implemented through regional safeguarding advisors who oversee the South Asian and Southeast Asian regions.

While working on preventing incidents of violence, abuse, and exploitation, AsiaCMS also emphasizes on the importance of reporting safeguarding incidents and therefore, a system has been set up through its regional safeguarding focal points.

It has also been a privilege and a good learning experience for AsiaCMS to connect across the CMS network in sharing knowledge with CMS Africa, as well as providing training for CMS UK's partner organizations in Asia.

In the near future, we hope to work together across continents in knowledge exchange within Asia and beyond. AsiaCMS will also continue to walk alongside its partner organizations and churches across Asia to promote and strengthen safeguarding systems within a missional context.

We at AsiaCMS are committed towards upholding the biblical and legal mandate of safeguarding and 'standing in the gap' on behalf of those who are vulnerable.

Safeguarding Regional Advisors of AsiaCMS:

John and Joyce Ow - Safeguarding Advisor for Southeast Asia

Bhim and Kylie - Safeguarding Advisor for South Asia

For more information on our Safeguarding policy or to enquire about our Safeguarding consultation and training for your church and organization, please email Ms Esther John: safeguarding.manager@asiacms.net



On the Edge in God's Mission: Co-Mission Partner Program.

By Eleena Thomas
Co-Mission Partner Program Manager

AsiaCMS was founded with the intention of partnering with and supporting indigenous mission movements in Asia. Among the programs that AsiaCMS managed, the Co-Mission Partner (CoMP) Program was one of the main ones initiated. At the beginning, this program was designed to respond to the five marks of mission. The aim was to train, equip and support young Asian mission leaders in partnership with their local churches. These people were usually identified by their local church or mission organization as having the potential for future leadership. Our program broadened this scope to include and accompany cross-cultural missions and mission trainers who were leaders in their own context. The core objectives of the program were to make disciples and develop and train pioneer leaders across Asia who were interested or involved in different aspects of Integral Mission.

CoMP Program Structure

The CoMP program is collaborative in nature. Our CoMPs across Asia are co-sent; they are selected and placed by either a local mission agency or church, and AsiaCMS walks alongside them in partnership to offer resource, training, and support. We believe in supporting local mission and want to support what God is doing in the region through our partners.

Our CoMP Program connects mission workers with local and national churches, mission organisations and needs in the field. All partnerships respond to the overarching focus of reaching the unreached people groups, alongside the strategic need identified in each country context.

This is a time bound program of six years, where we provide partial support towards personal allowance. This gives the time required for our CoMPs to focus on their missional calling and build connections towards future sustainability.

Where we are

The leadership and vision of Rev Dr Chen Nam Chen, who was appointed Executive Director of AsiaCMS towards the end of 2017, was pivotal in streamlining and targeting specific areas of mission that the organisation would concentrate on. Thus, the three-fold focus of AsiaCMS became to partner with CoMPs who would:

1. Engage the unreached and least-reached people groups with the Gospel
2. Engage in spheres of mission that are often overlooked, but critical for national contexts
3. Facilitate collaborations for fresh insights on Asian mission concerns by Asian Christians

The CoMP program continued to grow with increasing partnerships from new relationships with churches in our three hubs: South Asia, Mekong, and Nusantara. During the initial years, the hub leaders would personally visit the CoMPs to encourage and check on their well-being. A common gathering once in three years provided the opportunity for the CoMPs across hubs or regions to meet and connect with each other.

The pandemic years made us relook at ways to maintain fellowship with our CoMPs to encourage them in their personal lives, as well as ministry. Many of them were facing challenges on multiple fronts and were in lockdown as well. The hubs started having informal prayer meetings through zoom and this developed into monthly fellowships conducted independently by the different hubs.

At present, we have a total of 28 partners. Our CoMPs are spearheading initiatives in building national capacity and providing leadership in critical spheres of mission. These include building theological and leadership capacity, reaching least-reached people groups, church planting, engagement with the rural and urban poor through community development, education, and ministry thrusts in arenas of child protection, peace and reconciliation, counselling, and drug rehabilitation.

Where are we going from here?

In the coming years, we would like to see the CoMP program grow, not just quantitatively but qualitatively. Apart from adding more partners across hubs, AsiaCMS would continue to provide member care in terms of spiritual and emotional support for our CoMPs through regular fellowship meetings and prayer, connecting and meeting with them whenever possible.

AsiaCMS should be a place where our CoMPs can: **a) debrief after a hard day, b) practice reflexivity, c) grow in theology, and d) be on the receiving end of ministry.**

In 2022, we focused on building collaboration between partners within a country context. An example of this would be in Nepal, where a couple of the organisations where our CoMPs are placed, connected with each other to share resources and faculty to conduct more effective theological training.

In 2023 and onwards, we would like to see this collaboration extend beyond country and link CoMPs in similar spheres of mission across Asia. The agenda would be to help CoMPs develop a network whom they can work with for the furtherance of their ministries even after their formal term with AsiaCMS comes to an end.

Specific hubs within AsiaCMS may not all focus on the same development strategy at the same time; hubs will have different directions of growth based on missional needs in each context. AsiaCMS will also be focusing on a Missional Community approach that will be formed with our partners and connections in Asia, who will play an integral part in shaping the ministry in each country we are involved in.

The CoMP partner program draws inspiration from this verse in the Bible: *“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-NIV). We would like to see Mission from ‘everywhere to everywhere’ - with Asians being involved in mission not just within Asia but to the Asian diaspora and other people across the globe.

AsiaCMS

Co-Mission Partners.

“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

AsiaCMS focuses on partnerships and supporting indigenous Asian mission movements. Our Co-Mission Partners across Asia are co-sent; they are selected and placed by either a local mission agency or church, and we walk alongside them in partnership to offer resource, training and support. We believe in supporting local mission and want to support what God is doing in the region through our co-mission partners. These are just some of our people out in the field and the ministry they are involved in. AsiaCMS also has several other Co-Mission Partners who serve in more security-sensitive countries, who are not featured here.



South Asia Hub

INDIA



Rev Hemkhomang - Church Leadership Training

Rev Mang serves in a theological college that strives to equip lay leaders of the church who have never had any theological training. Most of their local churches are under the care of untrained lay leaders; that's why this training is crucial. They also train young people who are prospective leaders in the church and in society. His call is to train and equip leaders with a servant's heart for the church and God's kingdom.

He was born and brought up in a devoted Christian family of 10 members. His parents were illiterate with no proper employment at hand and so, Rev Mang grew up in severe poverty with no proper education. However, his parents had a strong desire and commitment to serve the Lord with whatever means they had at their disposal. So, when he was about 10 years old, his parents dedicated him into full time ministry under the guidance of a pastor.

Since then, Rev Mang was constantly in the prayers of his family and church so that someday he would serve the Lord full time. Then, in the year 2000, he heard and responded to God's call. Subsequently, he completed two stages of theological training from 2002 to 2010, first for his Bachelor of Divinity and then, Master's in Theology. His theological trainings have given him a strong desire to serve among the poor and downtrodden, and this commitment has led him to where he is currently serving.



Peter Christopher & Vasantha Peter

- Integral mission: Value Education and Counselling

Peter and Vasantha have a heart to share kingdom values to school children in a systematic way - through films that are thought-provoking, contextual, and relevant to the times. They believe in the idea of rebuilding their nation with biblical values.

Based in Bangalore, Peter conceptualises, directs and produces thematic films and video series. He has also directed several films, documentaries, video series and educational videos for NGO's and colleges. Vasantha provides individual counselling, teaches counselling psychology for colleges and leads a team of counsellors for India's first pregnancy helpline.

Their vision is to create a systematic and adaptable video platform for schools to subscribe and use as part of their mandatory value education curriculum. The thematic series of video lessons along with worksheets can be used to engage children to reflect, think and take action to become responsible citizens with the foundations of Kingdom Principles.



Rabin Chaudhary – Theological Education

Rabin works as the Registrar in Sarwagin Aguwa Nirman (SAN) Kendra, a wholistic training centre in Nepal that provides theological education opportunities to pastors and leaders who are otherwise deprived from receiving formal theological education. This centre works as a bridge between ministry and ministers, offering Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's in Theology in Nepali language.

As the Registrar, his primary responsibilities include maintaining the profiles and academic records of both teachers and students, managing financial records, supervising the online classes, responding to the needs and feedback of all students, monitoring exams, conducting site visits to all the centres, and editing course materials for the online classes.

Rabin accepted Christ in 2001 and shortly thereafter, he began assisting his pastor in ministry work. He then decided to pursue his theological education in Kerala, India and subsequently obtained his M.Div. in 2014. A year after his graduation, Rabin joined the Nav Bharat Mission. He worked as a Bible teacher for one year, after which he got married. He went on to teach in a private boarding school but was not happy in the job.

Rabin felt that there was a great need to educate Nepali church pastors and leaders with quality theological education. He thought that although they have been doing very good ministry, a proper theological education would elevate their ministry to greater heights. This was what led Rabin to pursue a ministry in theological education. He continues to serve his church in youth ministry, leading Bible studies, preaching and in-house fellowships.



Dhana Lama – United Mission to Nepal

Dhana was raised in a Buddhist family and later accepted Christ when she came to know that God loves us and created us in His image. It was a paradigm shift for her and this truth still motivates and excites her today. It is with this love that Dhana's heart was moved to serve the poor and marginalized. She has a passion to help create an enabling environment that unleashes the potential of her Nepali people.

She is the Executive Director at United Mission to Nepal (UMN), an organisation that strives to address root causes of poverty as it serves the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. Dhana's main role is to provide overall organisational leadership and management to ensure fulfilment of the mission and vision of UMN.

Her key responsibilities include ensuring UMN maintains its identity and culture as a Christian organisation centred on its core vision, mission, and values. She oversees to make sure that UMN's work holds together strategically.

Dhana also guides the leaders within the organisation so that each person leads effectively and manages their responsibilities well. When needed, she also engages with government, funding and sending organisations, other INGOs, networks, and Nepali churches at large. Maintaining good levels of trust and open communication with the Board is also a priority within her scope of management, ensuring there is always healthy boundaries and good relationship between the organisation and the Board.

Ashish & Karuna - Theological Education



Ashish and Karuna both serve on the faculty at the Nepal Theological College. They have a similar call to minister for the Kingdom of God through teaching, preaching, counselling and music ministry.

Ashish has completed his B.Th., Bachelor of Divinity and M.Th. in Missiology. He has a deep interest in cross-cultural mission and believes that higher education or professional skills will bring more quality to cross-cultural mission. He is currently involved in teaching and preparing youth for future ministry. He conducts workshops, seminars, and gatherings for churches and uses Music and Media as a tool to promote missions.

Karuna has completed her B.Th., Bachelor of Divinity, and M.Th. in Christian Counselling and is currently pursuing her PhD studies from The Oxford Centre

for Mission Studies in the UK. She is also involved in developing the counselling field, teaching methods of counselling, providing trainings as required, conducting seminars and workshop for leaders and organizing follow-up meetings for sharing and reflection.



Jiwan Bharati - Communication & Administration

Jiwan works in the field of administration for a mission outreach organisation which he joined in 2008. He joined as an Office Assistant and has grown into his current role where he collates valuable information, such as stories concerning the challenges of church planting and fellowship, as well as details of situations faced by Christians in Nepal.

His gift is to encourage people to open their hearts and share their stories. These stories are subsequently shared with the Board of his organisation, who then assess the situation and endeavour to address the difficulties.

Jiwan's call into mission followed the footsteps of his father who served God in ministry. He joined a DTS school and worked there for three years as staff and student. During his time there, he equipped himself with the Word of God and engaged with various cultures.

Jiwan is also involved with the local church, working with youth and pre-teens, sharing challenging stories from his own life. He has a heart to reach people from the Tibetan tribes and to minister among communities in the north of Nepal.



Indira Thapa - Leadership & Missional Training

Indira is leading NMCN, which is a national Christian indigenous, interdenominational, and non-profit social organisation based in Kathmandu. Indira grew up in a Christian family but personally accepted Christ as her Saviour when she was 14 years old. Since then, she committed her life to God and became involved in various spheres of God's mission through different works.

She began working in NMCN in 2005, and it was there she first felt that her missional journey for God's kingdom had truly begun. She became inspired to do something that would make a difference in the lives of people and for them to know Jesus. This led her to go to Bible College with her husband for further theological education.

They both attended the International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL) in Philippines for three years. After graduating from IGSL, together with her husband, Indira started to teach in a Bible College and began conducting Bible study and discipleship with young people.

She helps in their local church ministry, all the while experiencing God's working through them to reach out to others. Indira is grateful for God's faithfulness in every step of her life, which gives her strength to keep working for God's kingdom and being a part of God's mission.



Gopal & Susma Tamang – Leadership Training

Gopal and Susma work with LTD which is the Training Department of NCFN. Gopal heads the LTD Training Centre in West Nepal in a strategic market town which is linked to hill districts in the region. West and far West Nepal are still least reached areas in the Nepal context and economically more at risk. It is also difficult to access missional and theological training in these parts of Nepal. As the Head Training Coordinator, Gopal is actively involved in planning, organizing, and conducting training sessions to equip local church leaders to make their ministry more effective.

Susma assists her husband during training sessions and is also involved in personally staying engaged with the students, providing them guidance and counsel.

The couple networks with church leaders across all denominations, keeping them informed about available training courses. They also oversee the process of selecting students for the training programs and coordinate the schedules and teaching sessions. Besides training local church leaders, they also have training sessions with focus on Christian family life and women in Christian leadership.



South Asia Hub

PAKISTAN



Anila Justine - Drug Rehabilitation

Anila works in drug rehabilitation, as drug addiction is a serious issue in Pakistan. According to estimates, there are more than half a million chronic drug users in Pakistan. Young people are especially at risk of experimenting with soft drugs that are easily available and gradually become hooked on hard drugs as well.

Families suffer socially, spiritually, and financially due to a family member's drug seeking behaviour; and they adopt much unhealthy behaviour. Individuals and families trapped in the vicious cycle of drug addiction need professional help and counselling to break the cycle of dependency.

Anila is actively involved in counselling individuals and families who suffer from drug addiction. She also helps IBTIDA run a residential rehabilitation facility in which men and women stay for longer term rehabilitation before gradually re-entering mainstream life. The project emphasises individual spiritual growth and helps people of all faiths from Karachi and surrounding areas to come off drugs, believing that the best way to stay drug free is through transformed lives.

Besides serving in the residential centre, she reaches out to different communities with a message of prevention to help young people stay off drugs. Anila is passionate about sharing the love of God with those who are struggling with drug misuse and need help to overcome the complexities of drug-related issues.



Dr. Qaiser Julius - Theological Education

Dr. Qaiser is the Director of Open Theological Seminary (OTS), providing leadership to the institution, whilst also assuming teaching and preaching roles. He represents OTS on different platforms, nationally and internationally; teaches Hermeneutics and New Testament Greek at the Gujranwala Theological Seminary; and helps the Langham Expository Preaching program in Pakistan as a volunteer coordinator. Dr. Qaiser’s call is to the field of theological education and under his leadership, the Open Theological Seminary (OTS) has grown to enter a new phase with new initiatives such as a Master Program in Christian Studies.

Dr. Qaiser’s journey began during his time in university when he met a Campus Crusade for Christ ministry worker, who invited him to join their Bible study group. After a year on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, he spent a few years on his theological education at the Gujranwala Theological Seminary, where he completed M.Div. He then worked as a pastor for a small congregation, which provided great experience for his future ministry work in theological education.

It was during his pastoral ministry that he received an invitation from the Open Theological Seminary, which he accepted and within a short period of time with OTS, Dr Qaiser realised that was the place and area of ministry where God wanted to use his gifting. He joined OTS in 1999 and since then, God has been using his skills in different capacities within the institution.



South Asia Hub

SRI LANKA

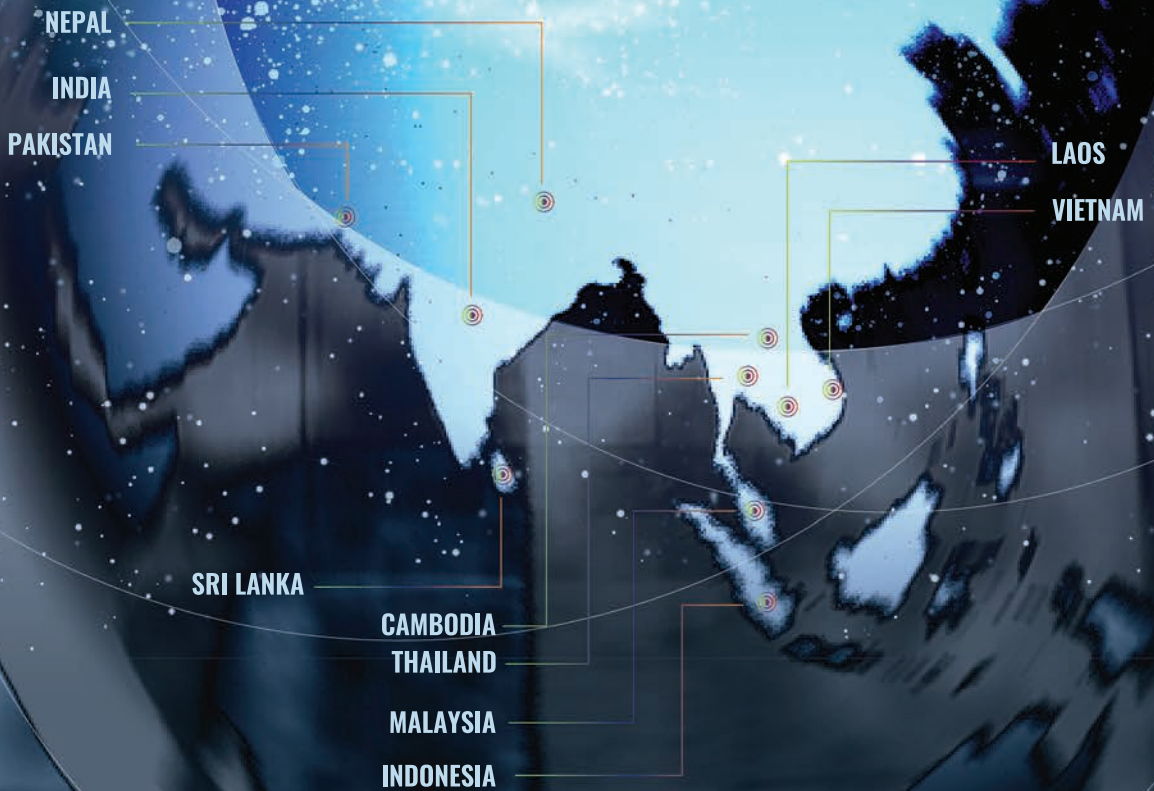


Russell De Alwis - Integral Mission and Church Relations

Russell began working with LEADS as a Child Protection Officer. He is passionate about bringing children freedom from abuse and oppression, whilst educating and creating public awareness on how children should be better protected.

He has always had the heart to serve God through missions - serving communities who do not know Christ. During his theological education and learning more about Integral Mission, Russell gained more depth and understanding on how he can do this. Since 2018, he has been serving as the Church Relations and Training Coordinator at LEADS.

Russell’s work involves building connections and establishing a network of church and seminary leaders across Sri Lanka. He teaches and encourages local church leaders to engage in Integral Mission, such as demonstrating God's love through helping people who are in need in their respective communities.



AsiaCMS

Our Presence.

Our Co-Mission Partners are spearheading initiatives in building national capacity and providing leadership in critical spheres of mission.

These include building theological and leadership capacity, reaching least-reached people groups, church planting, engagement with the rural and urban poor through community development, education and ministry thrusts in arenas of child protection, peace and reconciliation, human and sex trafficking and drug rehabilitation.

- CAMBODIA
- INDIA
- INDONESIA
- LAOS
- MALAYSIA
- NEPAL
- PAKISTAN
- SRI LANKA
- THAILAND
- VIETNAM

Our Aspirations and Vision

We aspire to extend our presence to walk alongside national churches and indigenous movements in furthering God's mission. We seek to establish strong regional hubs in South Asia, South-East Asia, East Asia, China and Central Asia to facilitate God's mission in these countries

- AFGHANISTAN
- BANGLADESH
- CHINA
- MYANMAR
- PHILIPPINES
- SOUTH KOREA



Mekong Hub

CAMBODIA



Poline Yean – Cross-cultural Mission Training

Poline accepted Jesus during his last year of high school and felt called to ministry soon after. He began with involvement in the youth ministry at his church and later, as a translator of leadership training books and materials. As he grew in his faith, he sensed the Lord guiding his heart to serve the rural churches in Cambodia, revealing what their needs were and steering him towards equipping and training the people there. While serving as a trainer to church leaders, Poline felt led to study Missions abroad for two years.

Upon returning home, his ministry launched the Antioch Institute for the purpose of equipping and training local missionaries through collaboration with local churches. They have trained leaders from across denominations, both men and women, in discipleship, evangelism and church planting. The institute also provides training for rural churches within remote communities. Since its inception, several thousand church leaders have graduated from Antioch Institute through its carefully designed training curriculum.

Based in Phnom Penh, Poline also collaborates with local churches to send local mission workers to reach unreached people groups in Cambodia. He connects, mentors and networks with key church leaders in different parts of Cambodia to fulfil one vision: to see Cambodia come to Christ.

One of Poline's key role is to facilitate a network of like-minded church leaders in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. He also trains and equips core trainers, who will in turn, train local missionaries to reach the unreached people group of their areas.



Mekong Hub

LAOS

James Pham – Church Planting

James hails from one of the neighbouring countries in the Mekong region based in Laos. His primary area of mission is to share the gospel and plant new churches for his native countrymen who are living in Laos.

He was born and raised somewhat in poverty, but God saved him and led him to pursue a life in ministry. James is grateful to have led a life immersed in the Word of God and having had the opportunity to learn and eventually teach the Word, lead a small group in worship and be involved in missionary training.

Over the past three years, God has blessed him in his preparation for this ministry. He now fluently speaks the Lao language and has fully acclimatised to the local climate and culture. This has allowed him to be more effective in preaching in the local language and reaching out to the people in Laos.

His vision is to share the gospel and goodness of God with as many people as possible, plant new churches, promote unity among different groups of people from his native country and support the Lao church. James also plays a role in supporting training program for the Lao and his native churches in Laos.



Mekong Hub
THAILAND



Helen Avadiar-Nimbalker

– Integral Mission: Trauma Counselling and Rehabilitation

Helen is a Malaysian based in Northern Thailand, with a heart to see God's people live an abundant life free from oppression and bondage. Helen has been an advocate against human trafficking for many years and was involved with various projects related to the cause in Malaysia, including organising Malaysia's first Walk For Freedom in 2017, in partnership with A21. Her passion is to now delve deeper in human trafficking and exploitation providing rehabilitation and trauma counselling to survivors.

Since beginning her ministry in Chiang Mai in 2018, Helen has spent much of her time equipping herself in learning the Thai language, understanding the local culture, establishing a community of intercessors to pray for the cause of human trafficking, whilst completing her higher certification in Trauma Counselling. She has also been building friendships with many of the women who are trapped in the sex industry.

Along with her husband Vincent Nimbalker, Helen developed a Transformation Program and opened Baan Romyen - a Center for Women that provides employment opportunities for women who are at risk, vulnerable, exploited or impacted by trauma and for those who choose to leave the sex industry to start their lives over. So far, 14 women have left the sex trade and have accepted Christ, and there are many more who are actively engaged with helping Helen reach out to others through the transformation program.



Mekong Hub
VIETNAM

Ps T – Ministry amongst hearing impaired community

Our Co-Mission Partner Ps T serves and reaches out to the hearing impaired community within the Mekong region. He was born into a Buddhist family but they subsequently accepted Christ whilst living in a refugee camp, after the whole family fled their home due to civil unrest. The family eventually returned to their home country and endured continual religious persecution. Nonetheless, the intensity of the persecution intensified his faith and Ps T considers that season in his life to be a real blessing and time of growth.

He eventually heard the call of God when he was a freshman in university and enrolled in Bible School. Upon his graduation, Ps T was sent to a church located in a rural area for 16 months as a trainee pastor. After he was ordained, he was assigned to a church with several members who were deaf and mute.

When he realised that communicating with these members was next to impossible, Ps T began learning sign language. He believes that God gave him that gift to quickly comprehend and master sign language. Soon he became proficient enough to use sign language to teach the Word of God to his hearing impaired congregation. Since then, his one congregation has grown and he now oversees churches in four different provinces - all focusing on the hearing impaired community.

Currently, there are around 2.5 million deaf people in the country he serves and he considers that to be a big mission field in need of God's Word. Ps T is married with two children.



Nusantara Hub
INDONESIA

Ps J – Community Development

Ps J works amongst an unreached people group in one of the Indonesian islands. Whilst studying in Singapore for his Masters in Missions program, he received a revelation from God that he will serve and reach out to the unreached ethnic group.

He had a vision of a fisherman in a boat and on top of the fisherman there were seven lights, which spoke of the perfection of the Holy Spirit. This vision really encouraged him and strengthened his calling to reach the unreached ethnic group.

His ministry helps poor people in rural areas within the island and they help the community by providing education - starting from kindergarten, with a free tuition centre. With so many children who are orphaned around them, they also adopt these children and provide them with accommodation and free education.

Every year they give out scholarship for 40 children to attend their kindergarten, which includes free uniform, school fees and books.



Nusantara Hub
MALAYSIA



Isaac Goh – Cross-cultural Mission Training

Isaac and his wife were sent to Sabah from their island hometown in Penang, Malaysia to begin Micah Centre - a cross-cultural mission training school. The focus is to mobilize urban churches and equip young people to empower the rural indigenous community in Sabah through transformational development.

As the principal of Micah Centre, Isaac recruits, trains, and sends trainees out for various mission work within the rural indigenous community. He connects with local churches, particularly urban churches to give support and resources for community development projects.

Isaac also preaches and teaches in the local churches during his visitations to the rural community, especially in leadership empowerment. Along with his team, Isaac also provides the rural community with education, as well as economic and spiritual empowerment.



Jesuthason Selladurai – Missions Mobilisation

Raised in the small town of Taiping in Malaysia, Jesuthason moved to a larger city at the age of 17 to pursue his studies. Growing up in the city taught him many things about life and he was exposed to the local missions and several pioneer mission workers. He soon joined in two short-term mission trips that changed his life and after much prayer, Jesuthason decided to commit his to a life in missions.

He went on to pursue cross-cultural trainings in the Philippines and eventually, spent 15 years in Thailand as a mission worker reaching out to a minority unreached people group. Witnessing life-changing experiences in the field filled him with so much joy in his call to continue to faithfully to serve God and His people.

Jesuthason is passionate about bringing the message of the Gospel to unreached people groups and to mobilise and bring awareness to the churches. He also has a heart to provide member care, support and supervise field mission workers. Currently, he serves as a Missions Director for Malaysian Missionary Movement (MMM) to serve, assist, and mobilize 54 churches to participate in the Great Commission.

He is also in charge of training, equipping and leading mission teams from churches to nine ministry fields, as well as to network and foster connections for long-term ministry commitment. Jesuthason also works on creating sustainable livelihood projects to help the community, bringing in holistic trainings to empower local leadership and raising up new resident mission workers and pastors.



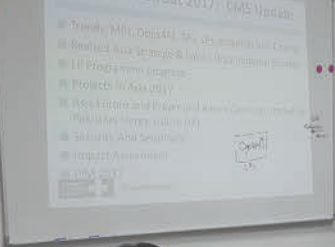
Liew Hoi Yan – Integral Mission: Education

Hoi Yan was raised in a strictly Buddhist home and did not know Jesus until her first year of college when she moved from her small hometown to the big city. Watching her college roommate read her Bible everyday made Hoi Yan curious and she began to ask questions. She was introduced to another friend, a staff at Campus Crusade for Christ, who shared the gospel with her, and Hoi Yan accepted Christ.

She then began to join in all the fellowships, prayer meetings, discipleship, trainings and mission trips. However, her family knew nothing about her conversion. After a year, she told her family who did not favour Hoi Yan's choice. Nevertheless, she continued to pursue Christ and her love for serving Him in the mission field grew.

After four years, Hoi Yan graduated university and subsequently began working with refugees. She is currently a secondary school teacher, field worker and home guardian at a centre for refugees.

She takes care of the girls at the home, buying the groceries, accompanying and caring for them, praying for them, and guiding them in their homework. She also maintains contact with refugees in different areas within the Klang Valley, through home visitation and food distribution.



10

YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS 2022

2012 - 2017

- ASIACMS WAS FORMED WITH DR. TAN KANG SAN APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF ASIACMS
- THE LAUNCH OF THE ASIA GATEWAY TRAINING PROGRAM
- SACYN TRAINING MODULES WAS PILOTTED
- THE FIRST PARTNERS IN MISSION GATHERING WAS HELD AT PORT DICKSON, MALAYSIA
- THE INITIATION OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS IN BOTH SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA
- TEAM RETREATS AND PLANNING
- THE SECOND PARTNERS IN MISSION GATHERING WAS HELD AT PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
- 2017 MARKED A TRANSITION PHASE OF LEADERSHIP AND TOWARDS THE END OF THAT YEAR, REV DR CHAN NAM CHEN WAS APPOINTED AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

2018 - 2020

- OFFICIAL INSTALLATION OF REV DR CHAN NAM CHEN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.
- FIRST PLANNING TEAM RETREAT WITH A NEW TEAM AND LEADERSHIP, WITH A REDEFINITION OF THE VISION OF ASIACMS.
- THIS SET THE PARAMETERS FOR A CLEAR DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE, WITH A NEW TAGLINE FOR ASIACMS: "TOGETHER ON THE EDGE IN GOD'S MISSION."
- A NEW HUB IN THE MEKONG REGION WAS FORMED.
- IMPLEMENTATION OF A DECENTRALIZED MODEL FOR HUBS WITH HUB-LED DECISION MAKING.
- GROWING SUPPORT OF CHURCHES FROM ASIA
- THE START OF ZOOM FELLOWSHIPS WITH PARTNERS WITH THE ONSET OF COVID-19 AND GLOBAL LOCKDOWNS
- A NEW HUB IN THE NUSANTARA REGION WAS FORMED.



2021 - 2022

WITH THE ESCALATING NEED FOR RELIEF AND SUPPORT, ASIACMS COLLABORATED AND CONNECTED WITH PARTNERS ON THE GROUND TO PROVIDE AID FOR RELIEF EFFORTS THROUGH OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE.

AS A RESPONSE TO THE SRI LANKAN ECONOMIC CRISIS, ASIACMS INITIATED A FUNDRAISING EFFORT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT THROUGH PARTNERING ORGANISATION ON THE GROUND.

ASIACMS CELEBRATES ITS 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND LAUNCHES A BOOK - "JOURNEY OF HOPE: FIRST 10 YEARS OF ASIACMS" - TO COMMEMORATE THE DECADE.

SACYN COMPLETES 20 YEARS.

THE FORMATION OF ASIACMS MISSIONAL COMMUNITY IN NEPAL - NOVEMBER 2022





Building Missional Communities.

By Stephen Edison
Regional Hub Leader (South Asia)

The early phase of AsiaCMS South Asia hub ministry was shaped by contextualisation and streamlining programs and initiatives we had inherited from CMS Britain, which included the Co-Mission Partner (CoMP) program and the South Asia Christian Youth Network (SACYN). In the first five years, we focused on building links with historical partner churches, with whom we shared a common CMS heritage, and initiating fresh expressions of ministry to build capacity of Asian churches and mission movements through training and partnership.

The CoMP program allows us to partner with local churches and mission organisations to support and co-send people involved in different aspects of mission. This is a time-bound program with a maximum term of six years. These six years allows the partners to build networks, grow in their sphere of mission and work towards sustainability.

The South Asia Christian Youth Network (SACYN) is an informal network of youth leaders from across South Asia which AsiaCMS helps coordinate. This was a network which grew organically out of a CMS Britain and USPG initiative in the early 2000's. It aimed to bring together South Asian youth leaders of member churches across South Asia in an increasingly challenging situation between and within South Asian countries. SACYN over the years has been a catalyst in encouraging connections, collaboration, shared learning and contributing to member church youth ministries.

Revisoning and Redirection

When Rev Dr Chan Nam Chen was appointed as the Executive Director in 2017, there was a revisoning, which led us to the new tagline for AsiaCMS: *“Together on the Edge in God’s Mission”*. Regional hubs would now have a breadth of autonomy to spearhead and grow mission initiatives in their respective regions.

In South Asia, aligned with the three-fold focus, the hub team identified strategic missional needs in each country context we were involved in. These together, would guide our regional and country-specific mission initiatives.

Alongside the CoMP program and SACYN, South Asia hub developed country-level strategic projects, which would contribute to missional initiatives by our partners and links. We also supported initiatives by historical partner churches and national networks that have multi-denominational involvement. Over the years, we have witnessed growth in ministry, as well as expansion of the hub team in South Asia. Besides partnering with the historical partner churches, we also began building relationships with newer churches in the region, especially in India.

Building Missional Communities

The South Asia hub team began reflection on the formation of 'AsiaCMS Missional Community'. The term emerged amidst discussion on AsiaCMS ministry in countries we worked in during the 2018 team planning meeting. The purpose of the formation of Missional Communities is - to knit together AsiaCMS people in mission in each country to connect and collaborate in their spheres of mission, to be catalytic in responding to the missional challenges in their country context involving the wider body of Christ and finally, to found locally sustainable AsiaCMS mission initiated by them. Eventually, we hope to raise country-level leadership and structure reflecting the same decentralised relationship, currently between our headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and the regional hubs.

During the first wave of COVID-19, migrant workers, as well as urban and rural poor in South Asia faced the brunt of the immediate lockdowns in all countries. They faced vulnerable and desperate situations for many weeks and in some countries, for months. AsiaCMS responded to their needs, and this was possible because of the generous response from churches in Asia.

Our longer-term response to COVID-19 impact was to address the psycho-social needs. We collaborated with mental health professionals amongst our partners across South Asia. Key issues in each country and region were highlighted. In the scenario of colossal mental health needs, AsiaCMS focused on developing mental health care toolkits. The AsiaCMS COVID-19 Mental Health Response for South Asia 2020 led to the development of three toolkits that blessed many in the region and beyond.

The second wave of COVID-19 hit South Asia hard, leading to loss of life and overwhelming medical facilities at a scale unprecedented. Amid this dark time, AsiaCMS, through the generosity of Asian churches and the Asian diaspora communities was able to respond by extending support to the families of pastors and missionaries who had lost their lives in this devastating wave.

Even in midst of this challenging time, we experienced God at work. The monthly prayer meetings with partners in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka deepened into fellowship meetings and was a source of emotional and spiritual support. We saw collaboration between partners as training and ministry moved online removing geographical boundaries. Within the AsiaCMS team we were able to focus on and upgrade our administrative and operational capacity.

Looking to the Future

This year, AsiaCMS completes ten eventful years in Mission. The past ten years have brought with them their share of blessings and challenges. Through it all, God has been faithful in walking alongside us. As we embark on the road ahead for AsiaCMS in South Asia, we continue to lean on Him for provision and guidance. Looking to the future, we hope to see growth in AsiaCMS ministry in South Asia.

Our greatest resource and strength are people and relationships. We are a close knit, collaborative, and growing team, who are committed to AsiaCMS and its vision. We are at a point where we are doing all we can in ministry with what we have. To continue to grow, we need to prioritize building hub sustainability. This will be a key area of focus moving forward. Over the next three years, we will be working towards forming Missional Communities in each country context we work in, which we hope will spearhead local expressions of AsiaCMS mission in the future.



Kingdom Value Videos.

Covering relevant topics from social media to leadership and child protection, **Edupier Project's videos** are produced for India's school-going children and integrated with kingdom values based on God's Word.

Seven years ago, a dream was planted in a young man's heart. It was the summer of 2014, and under the blistering heat of Bangalore's scorching sun, Peter Christopher saw little hands and feet sneaking into his apartment building's garden. These young girls were the daughters of construction workers, living in a nearby building site. Their clothes worn and tattered, they quietly slipped into the garden in hopes of filling their little jars with clean water to drink.

"The children living in our building asked them to leave the premises, probably because they were shabbily dressed. As the girls were pleading to fill at least one jar of water, I intervened and convinced our children to let them fill all the jars as we have nothing to lose," Peter said.

After the incident, Peter shared with the children how clean water is a necessity that should be accessible to all, encouraging them to allow the girls to fill their jars whenever they came by. A week later, he saw one of the boys from his building protecting the girls from the others and allowing them to fill their water jars.

God's hand has covered the project from the very start

An idea began to form in Peter's mind. "I thought, why not make short films on basic values that are both biblical and universal for schools to use as part of their curriculum? I saw that children do listen to us when they can relate to what we're saying, when we provide the context," he recalled.

That summer, Edupier was planted as a seed in Peter's heart. And through the years, God's hand has covered this project, especially during difficult times when others failed to catch the vision. "We felt like misfits in the Christian circle, trying to convince leaders and churches of the need for relevant films in these changing times," he said.

It was God who planted the seed, and it is God who makes things grow

Today, Edupier is led by Peter and his wife, Vasantha, a trained counsellor who journeys with individuals and couples. In the midst of hardship and a pandemic, God's faithfulness continues to be seen in small and big ways.

By April 2022, Edupier will have produced almost 80 video episodes covering relevant subjects such as child protection, environment care, leadership, identity and social media by experts in the field. Peter and Vasantha hope that schools will use these creative resources to equip their students for real life beyond the classroom.

"We want to see Edupier as a pier not just for a child to be prepared to face the world with right values inspired from the Bible, but also be a bridge to helplines, ministries and churches, to connect. The journey hasn't been smooth so far, but God has been in our journey," he said.

This article was first produced and published on <https://www.faithour.com>. Faithour is a Malaysian digital platform that is faith and impact-focused with a vision to propel Christ-followers to live out their faith in relevant ways. Through inspiring stories and data-driven information, Faithour challenges Christians to be informed, get equipped and take action. In 2022, AsiaCMS became the platform's first official donor to kickstart this vision.

Peter and Vasantha are AsiaCMS' Co-Mission Partners based in Bangalore, India and work within the sphere of Integral mission: Value Education and Counselling.



Leading with God’s Love.

The first Nepali ever to hold the position of Executive Director at the United Mission to Nepal is also a woman, who holds the *Imago Dei* sacred and is spurred to work against injustice with that in mind.

It was 34 years ago when Dhana Lama first encountered the love of Jesus and discovered that she was made in God’s image. She never forgot it. This revelation was a paradigm shift for her; it was a truth that would go on to shape her character and set her on a course paved with God’s grace and faithfulness. “I became Christian knowing that God loves us and created us in His image; this truth still motivates and excites me today,” Dhana recalls.

In fact, this is what drives her when it comes to missions – to love people and work against injustice because all of us are created in His image and deserve love, respect, and justice. Dhana leads with God’s love - listening to others with her heart and treating every person equally.

When she was first encouraged to apply for the position of Executive Director at United Mission to Nepal (UMN), she knew deep in her heart that it would not be possible without God’s grace. Truth be told, Dhana never considered herself worthy of this position, as it was “a huge role with lots of challenges within and from outside” and one that was always led by expatriates.

She was also quite aware of her inadequacies. Dhana never had any formal theological education - in the early days, it was not possible to go to Bible college in Nepal due to persecution. While she knew that theological training would have served her well, she also believed that God would guide and use her even without it.

To the world, Dhana says, she was merely “an ethnic minority woman with no connections or links with people in power or position, came from a poor family, and possessed nothing that the world admires.”

Yet, her faith was in a great and loving God who can raise her up. She knew that if God appoints her, He will surely anoint her to do the job. So, she applied and then rested in God to guide her path - after all, He had faithfully done just that throughout her journey with UMN since 1987.

Proclaim and Demonstrate God’s Love

Dhana began her time in missions after she received a scholarship from UMN for a paramedic course. “I witnessed people who had limited or no access to basic services for various reasons,” Dhana says. She realized then that she could contribute to address the issue and was stirred to go into full-time ministry. She subsequently served in a remote health post, followed by a position as Programmes Director, where she was responsible for leading the overall program work of UMN and managing the respective team.

From the onset, she had a burden to proclaim and demonstrate God’s love to her people in Nepal. The mission of UMN echoed her heart - to be “inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, in partnership with the Christian community and others in Nepal and worldwide, to serve the people of Nepal, particularly those who live in poverty: to pursue peace and justice for all, to address root causes of poverty and to make Christ known by word and life.”

When she made the transition to Executive Director, Dhana as always, looked to her Saviour to lead the way. In this new position, she is tasked with providing overall organisational leadership and management to ensure that the mission and vision of UMN are fulfilled. This involves both strategic and operational leadership of all UMN’s work, including clusters, hospitals, projects, and central functions.

The journey has not always been easy but it has grown her faith – not just in height but in breadth and depth because “faith in Jesus is the focus as we grow older – the higher you are in position, the lonelier it can be, so faith in God must be your only anchor,” says Dhana.

In seasons of disappointment and struggle, she has found encouragement and support through her close circle of mentors and friends. “I talk to my seniors and turn to friends for their advice and prayers. I sometimes just share with them about how I feel, not necessarily asking for any suggestions. I also pray a lot, listen to God, and take some time alone to reflect and quiet myself. I also love reading!” Dhana says.

In specific times when UMN has faced challenges as an organisation, amidst persecution and opposition, she found encouragement to keep trusting God through Revelations 3:8 - “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name.”

Dhana Lama is AsiaCMS’ Co-Mission Partner based in Kathmandu, Nepal and serves as the Executive Director at United Mission to Nepal (UMN).

By Suzane Christie
Communications Manager



Ministry in the Mekong.

The COVID-19 pandemic that spread throughout Asia caused much hardships; the Mekong region, which includes Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, was not spared. In fact, much of the challenges faced in the last year still surrounded COVID and Post-COVID residues. Nevertheless, the Mekong Indigenous Mission Initiative (MIMI) training programs still carried on - even though many trainees opted not to return for the remaining modules in 2022.

Finding co-workers to expand the core team in the Mekong region has been another challenge. We also had internal changes and transitions when the Mekong hub leader made the move to the United States, which proved challenging for on-the-ground activities in the region. Despite these obstacles, we moved forward by the grace of God - here are some of the highlights in this region for the past year:

Mekong Indigenous Mission Initiative (MIMI)

- Despite the setbacks and challenges posed by COVID-19, we had 25 trainees complete their final training module in September this year.
- These trainees received 11 Certificates of Completion and 14 Certificates of Attendance.

Mekong Mission Training in Laos

- This training focused on further equipping 10 to 15 Vietnamese pastors and leaders in Laos for missions, including our current Co-Mission Partner and his wife, particularly in evangelism and church planting among the Vietnamese. The group was challenged to reach out to the Laos people, especially the remaining 70+ Unreached People Groups (UPGs) in the country.

Indigenous Church Planting Movement

- Through our network of indigenous church planters across Vietnam, especially to the restricted and unreached people groups, the Mekong hub has reached out to several people groups - both in Vietnam and Laos. This includes the Chut, Arem, Cham, and the Khmer people groups.
- Our strategy has always been to connect and encourage the local people and leaders through trainings and seminars, along with prayers and financial support.
- In September this year, we were able to organise a leadership seminar to encourage around 110 pastors and leaders in the central region of Vietnam.

Reaching the Unengaged Groups

- Our Co-Mission Partners also reach out to the unengaged people groups in the region. This includes providing ministry to specific communities in Vietnam, who are hearing-impaired and can't speak; providing rehabilitation and transitional programs to under-privileged women in Thailand, who are trapped in the sex industry and survivors of trafficking.
- We also continue to reach out the Khmer and Cham people in the South, the Chut people in the Central region, and the Arem people in Laos.



Red Light Redemption.

How one Thai woman started following Jesus and now helps others at the edges of society find new dignity and freedom.

Nobody wants to work in a red-light district. But far too many women feel they have no other choice. Like Chinda* (name has been changed) in Thailand. Trapped in an abusive marriage for several years, one day Chinda finally found the courage to escape, for the sake of her two children. But as a single mother, she could barely afford essentials like her son's medication or her daughter's school fees.

Chinda searched and searched for a job that would provide enough money for her family, to no avail. Finally, seeing no other choice, one day she resorted to the unthinkable. It's a far-too-common story. But thanks to God and to generous CMS supporters, that's not where this one ends.

A surprise meeting

"Hi. Want to play a game of pool?" Chinda heard the question, but didn't realise the woman who asked it was speaking to her.

She'd been sitting in the corner of a pub, looking down at the floor, lost in her own thoughts. Meeting the woman's gaze, Chinda thought she seemed friendly enough, plus she was bored. "Sure, why not?" As they set up the table, the woman introduced herself: "I'm Helen."

For the first time in ages, Chinda could see new possibilities ahead. She also started talking to Jesus more and more...

They played a few rounds, chatting a bit in between turns. Chinda figured Helen must know what she was doing in this pub – it was pretty well known and there were other sex workers hanging about, some outside, some inside.

But Helen didn't seem to mind. She spoke to Chinda gently, naturally, as if she saw beyond the surface of Chinda's work. When Helen suggested they meet up again sometime, Chinda agreed.

A growing friendship

Chinda and Helen began meeting regularly for coffee. Chinda learned that Helen was a follower of Jesus and that it wasn't out of the ordinary for her to visit pubs, bars or massage parlours and strike up conversations with red-light workers.

She said she thought Jesus would do the same thing. "You know," she said one day, "Jesus loves you too – and this is not the life he wants for you – or anyone." If Chinda wanted, Helen could help her find a way out of this kind of work.

Chinda was deeply sceptical that Helen could help her and even more doubtful that Jesus could love her. But she kept getting together with Helen, who eventually introduced her to other women who had left the sex industry, learned new skills and found work that didn't make them feel depressed or ashamed. It was tough but they'd done it.

A better path

Gradually, with Helen at her side, Chinda decided she wanted to chart a better path for herself and her children. She finished her education, got her driver's licence and enrolled in some skills training courses. For the first time in ages, she could see new possibilities ahead.

She also started talking to Jesus more and more often and one day, surrounded by Helen and other people at the centre where Helen works – new friends who'd prayed with her, cared for her and shown her she was worth far more than she'd dared believe – Chinda decided to follow Jesus. There were tears, and smiles and hugs. Today Chinda continues to grow in her faith and she has found new confidence in herself.

And Chinda has found a new job too. She now works with Helen, distributing food and starting conversations with women who just need someone to look at them, talk to them like people not prostitutes – and let them know that they have a part to play in God's story too.

Update: pub is now a place of prayer

If you were to go to that pub in the red light zone where Chinda first met Helen, you'd find it much changed. The pub manager was so astonished by the change she saw in Chinda, she asked Helen how she could help more local women. There is now a weekly women's prayer meeting and worship at the pub, open anyone searching for a glimmer of hope.

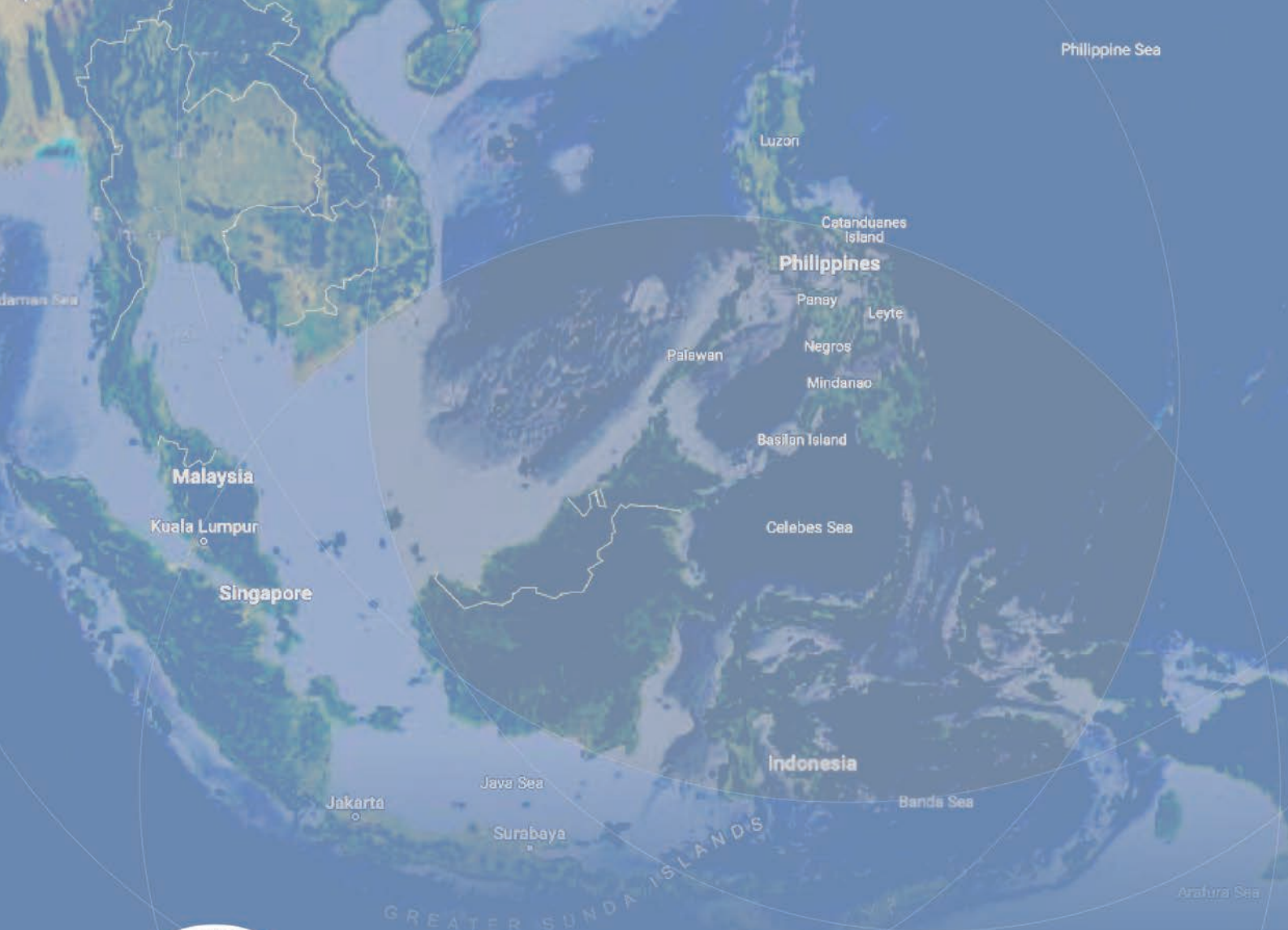
Every day, hundreds of people rush past women like Chinda without giving her a look or a thought. Isn't it remarkable what a difference some time, attention and kindness can make? Jesus intentionally spent time with women like Chinda and thankfully, Helen Avadiar-Nimbalker followed his example and did likewise.

Through your prayerful and financial support, you too have gone to the edges with Helen and helped Chinda discover she could have a new life in Jesus. And she's not keeping this good news to herself.

Today, Chinda is the Director of The Whispering Willow, a non-profit founded by Helen and her husband Vincent. The Whispering Willow reaches out to support women in the commercial sex industry and those who are set free from human trafficking, aiming to break the cycle of gender-based exploitation. The team provide a safe place to Heal & Build women impacted by trauma. Chinda works alongside a team of other Thai women to reach out to those still trapped in a cycle of exploitation, all while sharing the love of her Jesus, who has redeemed her.

This article was first published on <https://churchmissionsociety.org/>

Helen Avadiar-Nimbalker is AsiaCMS' Co-Mission Partner based in Northern Thailand and works within the sphere of Trauma Counselling and Human Trafficking rehabilitation.



Introducing Nusantara.

By Rev. Dr. Tony Chuang
Regional Hub Leader (Nusantara)

Nusantara is an old Javanese term that translates to “outer islands” or “other islands.” In modern day usage, it includes the region of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and a few other countries in Southeast Asia. Within AsiaCMS, the Nusantara region is relatively small in terms of its number of Co-Mission Partners (CoMPs).

Currently, there are four CoMPs in the Nusantara hub: two Chinese, an Indian, and an Indonesian. There is a woman in her mid-20s, as well as a man in his late 40s. Their activities are as varied as their backgrounds. There is a person serving the indigenous peoples of East Malaysia. Another is using education to reach an unreached people group in Indonesia. Another works to help the migrant and refugee community in Selangor. Still another directs the many missionary efforts of the Tamil Methodist Church of Malaysia and has mission workers in nine fields. These four CoMPs cover a wide geographical area of ministry, as well as a decent breadth of ministry types.

There is one common thread tying them all together: *Being on the Edge in God's Mission*. They aim to reach the peoples who are least reached and serve the communities who are often neglected. Some have left lucrative careers to become mission workers to the people God has called them to. One of the CoMPs is a teacher who runs a shelter for at-risk youth with nowhere else to go. After many years of living with these youths, she is seen as their de facto mother. Even though some youths have since graduated from the program, they still keep in touch with this teacher and ask her for advice in life. She has built many such deep relationships with the youth and established lasting impact that will continue for generations.

Our Vision

This kind of deep relationship and lasting impact is a key area of growth for the Nusantara hub. In December 2021, AsiaCMS had only one CoMP in Nusantara. This numerical growth is largely thanks to the work of Rev. Dr. Chan Nam-Chen. As AsiaCMS continues to operate and grow, there will likely be more prospective CoMPs. However, my vision for the Nusantara hub for the next 1-2 years is not width or breadth, but rather depth. I would like to see a community of mission-minded individuals come together regularly to support each other's different spheres of mission. AsiaCMS could provide the Nusantara CoMPs a place to practice: *Encouragement, Reflexivity, and Theologising*.

Encouragement

Everyone needs to be encouraged from time to time, even more so mission workers who are constantly ministering to others. We are all called to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). However, often it is the pastors and ministers who do the encouraging. A fellowship amongst Nusantara mission workers would enable them to receive encouragement from each other and from the head of the Nusantara hub. This community would be a place for them to relax and be refreshed. It would be a much-needed change of pace for them to be on the receiving end of 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Reflexivity

Sociologist Anthony Giddens defines reflexivity as "the routine incorporation of new knowledge or information into environments of action that are thereby reconstituted or reorganised." In the context of missions, this translates to a mission worker doing mission work, reflecting on the work, and revising the work to be more effective. As a result, the environment is itself reconstituted not just in terms of fruitfulness, but in terms of the missionary's perception of the work. In the worst case, it could help a discouraged mission worker view a dry season from God's eternal lens. In the best case, it could shine light on a bad practice that may be hindering the mission worker from greater effectiveness. Without guided reflection, mission workers may be perpetuating a mistake without even realising it. A community of Nusantara mission workers could lovingly reveal each other's blind spots and improve their respective mission works.

Theologising

This is the act of reviewing and nuancing theology. Theology is a product often seen to be originating from Western Europe or North America. Theologising is a process undertaken by anyone in anyplace who is thinking deeply about God. This process may result in a tangible product, or it may simply be a thought exercise that is stimulating to the mind and edifying to the soul. It is time for global theologising to be undertaken by the East, West, and everyone who loves the triune God. The Asian church must learn to theologise more vigorously. This must happen not just from the armchair, but from the trenches. Out of Paul's missionary work came some of the richest theologies of the New Testament. The goal is for the Nusantara community, who are in the deepest trenches, to theologise while on mission as well.

Conclusion

Nusantara translates to "outer islands" or "other islands." The CoMPs in Nusantara are truly together on the *outer* edges of God's mission. Before the region ventures further out, my vision is for them to have an encouraging and enriching place for them to retreat to in times of need. The focus on depth will help build a stronger foundation from which AsiaCMS can better support the labors of our CoMPs for the gospel, all for the glory of the LORD.



A Heart for the Poor.

Isaac Goh finds his calling among Sabah's rural communities

Isaac serves at the Micah Centre in Sabah, a cross-cultural discipleship centre for young Malaysians from Chinese-language churches to minister to the local indigenous communities of Borneo. Born in Penang and trained in software engineering, Isaac Goh is a young man with a heart for the poor. After working in Singapore as an IT professional for more than a decade, he realised his true desire: to connect with people and care for the poor.

So, he quit his job, packed up and returned to Penang in 2014 hoping to decipher the Holy Spirit's gentle nudging.

A volunteering trip that changed everything

Back in Penang, Isaac had the opportunity to join a Christian NGO called HISTEAM on a volunteering trip to Sabah. What he saw there changed the course of his life.

"During my Sabah trip, I was able to visit indigenous communities in rural parts of the state. I was heartbroken to see the needs among the rural indigenous people, especially in terms of spiritual resources, education and livelihoods," Isaac said.

Isaac returned home, burdened with a desire to minister to these communities in the longer term. It was a big decision, and one that warranted prayer and confirmation. For two years, Isaac laid this dream at the altar and continued working, living and serving his community in Penang.

In 2017, he finally received the confirmation he was looking for. And so once again, he quit his job (this time with his wife), packed his bags and travelled across the South China Sea to begin a life of service in Sabah.

A melting pot of cultures and communities

Sabah, a Malaysian state on the island of Borneo, is home to 39 indigenous ethnic groups that make up about 58% of the state's population¹. The largest groups are the Kadazan-Dusun, Bajau and Murut; these three broad ethnic groups make up about 35% of the people in Sabah.

As one of Malaysia's most diverse states, Sabah is also home to ethnic Chinese (9.1%), Malays (5.7%) and communities whose ancestors came from Indonesia and the Philippines². A communal people, Sabahans are widely known for their laid-back vibes, love for family and acceptance of all. It was here, in this melting pot of cultures and communities, that Isaac and his wife made their home.

Away from the city and into the villages

As the sun rises over Papar, a small town south of Kota Kinabalu, Isaac begins his day. The Micah Centre is a cross-cultural discipleship training centre for youths from Chinese churches aged 18-40, showing them what a life of service looks like and providing on-the-ground training.

“Our mission is to recruit and equip young people to serve the indigenous people according to their calling whether it is to become a church planter, missionary, community development worker, social worker, etc,” Isaac said.

At the core of the centre's approach is discipleship: ensuring students obtain a Biblical foundation, master Bahasa Malaysia, adapt to the simplicity of rural living and complete a 3-4 month placement in a village, serving alongside local missionaries. It is an eye-opening experience.

When asked what burden rests in his heart, Isaac said he wishes to see Sabah's own communities rise up as God's people, taking hold of the spiritual authority that rests upon them to bring kingdom transformation to their land.

His anchor Scripture, Micah 6:8 is a verse he holds close to his heart when equipping and training students. “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,” he shared. This is his hope for every student, to become a disciple of Christ who does exactly as the Lord requires.

Through it all, the Lord has never left his side

Life as a missionary comes with stories of God's faithfulness and grace; Isaac believes God has and continues to protect him, his family and ministry as he serves faithfully. He recalls a close shave he had when a large centipede (poisonous species, folks) stung his leg during a trip into rural parts once. The pain was searing, and soon redness and swelling began to spread from the tiny puncture marks left by the creature.

Quickly, Isaac and Carol laid their hands on the wound and prayed Psalm 91 over his leg, asking God for divine healing and protection. In front of their eyes, the redness and swelling stopped spreading. The next day, the pain was completely gone and he could walk normally. At the doctor's, he was given the all-clear.

The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few

Isaac is candidly blunt about what we often see in the support of faith-driven community work: churches are willing to send money, but what field workers really need is simply more hands and feet.

“At the Micah Centre, a challenge we face is the lack of competent and suitable co-workers. I hope the Malaysian Church will not just send money to Sabah's indigenous communities, but also be willing to send their young people or pastors to Sabah, to empower them in their faith and ministry,” Isaac said.

His advice for young people looking to make a difference but unsure where to begin? “Find and join a volunteer service demonstrating acts of justice and mercy, such as caring for the poor, teaching children, fundraising for disaster victims, carrying out disaster relief work and the like.”

As Isaac says, “Volunteering will prepare [you] to see and feel the heart of the Heavenly Father for the broken world.”

This article was first produced and published on <https://www.faihour.com>. Faihour is a Malaysian digital platform that is faith and impact-focused with a vision to propel Christ-followers to live out their faith in relevant ways. Through inspiring stories and data-driven information, Faihour challenges Christians to be informed, get equipped and take action. In 2022, AsiaCMS became the platform's first official donor to kickstart this vision.

Isaac God is AsiaCMS' Co-Mission Partner based in Sabah, Malaysia and works within the sphere of Cross-cultural Missional Training.

We are grateful for you!

The AsiaCMS family is a sacred space for mission workers, churches and organisations to **connect, collaborate and catalyse** new initiatives and new movements that further God's Mission in Asia.

We thank each and every one of you for walking alongside us thus far, and as we move forward, we welcome you to come partner with us - both through prayer and financial support - as we journey alongside others,

Together on the Edge in God's Mission.

To give via a bank transfer:

Bank Name - HSBC Bank
Account Name - AsiaCMS Berhad
Account Number - 359-418407-101
Branch – Damansara Heights, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
SWIFT Code - HBMBMYKL

If you reside in Malaysia, you can also donate via your Touch n Go app by scanning the QR Code below:





TOGETHER
ON THE EDGE
IN GOD'S
MISSION

Connect.
Collaborate.
Catalyse.

AsiaCMS Berhad

Unit 13A -11, Tingkat 13A,
Menara Sentral Vista
150 Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad
Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

T: +603 7490 7849
E: office@asiacms.net
www.facebook.com/asiacms.net/



www.asiacms.net