



TOGETHER
ON THE EDGE
IN GOD'S
MISSION

**Connect.
Collaborate.**

AttaliSai

ED's Message

God's Catalysts to Accelerate Mission Movements

By Rev Chan Nam Chen (PhD)
Executive Director

Sunil, our Co-Mission Partner (CoMP) from South Asia was sharing about frontier church-planting. He tells of that occasion when in a single day, he baptized 200+ new believers in a river. I cheekily asked, "Why only 200?" Sunil quickly answered, "there were more, but I could not baptize more because my back was really aching."

This story is illustrative of current realities - a time when the Holy Spirit is moving in powerful and unusual ways in different parts of Asia. Events such as the above are not uncommon. They are but the tips of the icebergs; indicators of undercurrents and spiritual movements where God is shaping situations and working deeply in the hearts of people in different places.

**In this year's magazine, we reiterate what AsiaCMS seeks to do -
be God's catalysts to further accelerate these movements.**

Key to these movements are local mission leaders whom God has sovereignly called and raised. They are the spearheads in their spheres of mission. They are unusual men and women of faith and unique abilities, individuals who take God at His Word as they choose to live out God's call. They sacrificially lay their lives and that of their families on the line, trusting in the Holy Spirit's empowerment and provision. They are instrumental to these movements.

The stories of these local mission leaders and workers describe the contexts for these movements. AsiaCMS has the privilege of walking alongside this great company of people in missions. We try to encourage and resource them as best as we can. In addition, we bring them together, leaders across different movements. We seek to forge '*AsiaCMS missional communities*.' We believe that the resultant relationships, connections and cross-learning will be catalytic in spurring further growth - in the leaders' personal lives, in what they do and in the movements that they are engaged with.

Playing a catalytic role requires a shift to approaches and perspectives that aspire beyond growth and effectiveness within ourselves and our own spheres. It is about how we can help others - helping others find their place in God's mission and grow in their ministries and scopes of influence. This stems from a bigger heart for God's mission, one that is nurtured through personal involvement with grassroots missions, be it working with the urban poor or outreach to refugees, etc.

Playing a catalytic role requires intentional collaboration - where we are not only personally collaborative, but we also seek to help others connect with each other, facilitating their collaborations. This is because effective mission is always integrated mission in that it draws from highly diverse fields and types of expertise. This can range from mission theology to donor engagement, cross-cultural communications, disciple-making, advocacy to safeguarding etc.

Intentional collaborations require humility and appreciation for the larger Body of Christ. Different organisations and church traditions have different strengths in mission. People in mission also have different starting points in their personal journeys. God's mission is best served when we humble ourselves to learn from each other and draw from each other's strengths. It is biblical servanthood in action. It is also an antidote against the false sense of saviourhood and exclusive kingdom-building that, too often, plague what happens in the mission field.

In short, we need to ask ourselves:

- How may we help them do what they do better?
 - How may we pray more precisely for them?
- How can we help to encourage them and care for them and their families so that they continue growing over the long-term?
- How do we connect them with the right resources, people who can help them, and with more learning opportunities?
- How do we help them build their capacities and strengths?

About Us

Who We Are

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 live in a rapidly changing world. With changed realities, it is no longer 'business as usual' for churches, Christian organisations and Christians engaged in God's mission.

We must change and adapt 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 the changed 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



Chairman's Message

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed

Rev Vinod Victor
Chair of the Board of Trustees

“With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? Jesus asks in Mark 4:30-34, and responds: It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Celebration of Smallness

Asia CMS is a significantly small entity in the global mission scenario, yet we are confident that despite our small size, we are making indelible marks in the missional contexts where we are called and placed to minister. Even though God is the God of the Universe, He is also the God of small things who loves the small things the best. All we are called to do is to perform the small tasks entrusted to us with love, joy, and faith. We are reminded never to despise anything small but to engage with all our hearts, minds, and souls, reaching out to the last, the least, and the lost, especially those pushed to the fringes and edges.

Celebration of Possibilities

In the culture in which I grew up, breaking mustard seeds was always the first step in cooking. With the fire lit and the pan with some oil on it, the cook would prayerfully add mustard seeds. They would crackle in the heat, creating a soundscape for a delicious culinary experience. The broken mustard seeds primarily added flavour and fragrance to the cooking, influencing the texture and sensory delights of the dish. The aromatic tempering also had healing possibilities.

What touched me more was what my mother used to say: “Each time we start cooking, the breaking of the mustard seed is accompanied by a prayer of thanksgiving in our hearts. We remember our parents who passed on the taste to us, all the sweat that went into each element of the food reaching our table, the gift of being able to eat and having someone to cook for or with, and those denied the privilege of a meal for various reasons. This breaking of the mustard seed is a sacrificial and therapeutic experience of thanksgiving.”

In mission terms, the mustard seed reminds us to be thankful for all those who toiled before us and handed over the torch of the gospel, for all the global efforts for the gospel's cause, and for all those who work alongside us in mission. It reminds us of the sacrificial breaking of the seed and that the breaking has a purpose. The call is to add flavour and fragrance to the corners where we are placed and to be a healing presence that affects the very texture of the whole. The possibilities and potential hidden in a seed are inexplicable. In every seed is hidden an orchard that can impact generations.

Celebration of Diversity

Acknowledgment and appreciation of diversity should be part of the ethos of mission. The parable of the mustard seed reminds us that the smallest of seeds grows to be the largest of shrubs where birds of the air make their nests. A close look at any tree or shrub where birds build their nests amazes us with its variety.

We live in a context where we seriously discuss intercultural churches for a multicultural world and mission practices that are sensitive to diversity. I took a close look at the tree in our garden that almost branches out to my balcony. I was amazed at the variety of birds found there - sparrows, doves, woodpeckers, robins, blackbirds, tits, swallows, cuckoos, goldfinches, and several more.

A closer inspection revealed squirrels and their nests in the tree, numerous insects, varieties of spiders with webs, and small fungi like mushrooms on its bark. There were also bats, bees, butterflies, and moths, as well as snails and different plant species, including epiphytes and parasites. There could be thousands more microorganisms that I could not see. Some stay, some visit, and some watch from afar.

That diversity and variety reflect the nature of the Kingdom of God. In mission, we cherish this diversity, always aware that God is not colour-blind but colourful. God welcomes worshippers from every ethnicity, culture, people group, and language, as we read in Revelation 7:9. God's plan of redemption is for all the peoples of the world in all their rich diversity. The Kingdom of God has space for all. In mission, we are called to be ambassadors of welcome and invitation, creating spaces where all people feel safe and included without prejudice. In mission, all means ALL.

Celebration of Adaptation

The imagery of the branches that provide nests for birds is often associated with the cedars of Lebanon (Psalm 104:16-17). Jesus subverts this imagery by replacing the cedars of Lebanon with the mustard seed and shrub.

Post-colonial re-readings of empire methodologies challenge us to reimagine the kingdom or reign of God and our mission methodologies. Decolonizing theologies involve examining the impact the empire and kingdom concept had on “the already and the local,” how it affected existing systems and structures, and how it redefined power dynamics.

The efforts to deconstruct hegemonies and re-story mission narratives also call for a hermeneutics that interprets Scripture with sensitivity to the cultural and historical contexts of local peoples. We acknowledge with humility the criticism of being an “imported and potted plant that fails to integrate with the local soil” as we adapt and reconfigure our mission focus. The parable continually reminds us that the mustard seed is “sown on the ground.”

As AsiaCMS continues to minister “together in the edges of God’s mission,” I thank each one of you who are part of this journey in various ways. I appreciate those on the ground for their dedication and commitment, acknowledge those whose generosity makes the work possible, and pray for God’s wisdom and guidance for our pathways ahead. We are confident that faith as small as a mustard seed has the potential to move mountains, and it is for that faith that we pray.

May the mustard seeds continue to challenge us.

AsiaCMS Programs

Some of the Programs that 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 the practice of their Christian 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 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.

Asia Gateway Training

This intensive one-month programme lays a firm foundation for intercultural mission that combines practical experience with theological reflection. With lecturers and students from different nations, it further equips for intercultural impact. This programme is a partnership that includes the Methodist Church of Malaysia, the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia, Interserve, STM and AsiaCMS.

In addition to dialogues with leaders from other faith traditions, participants are exposed to models of how God's people can engage missionally with people in need, in ways that are practical and holistic.

The Modules taught includes:

- A Missional Hermeneutic of the Old and New Testament
- Gospel, Culture and Integral Mission
- Gospel in the Pluralistic Society
- Trends and Challenges in Contemporary Missions

There are also other learning activities outside the classroom such as a 2-day visit and ministry at a Refugee/Migrant Centre, sharing and preaching opportunities in local churches, and also a dedicated time for personal development through an assigned mentor in prayer & reflection.

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.

Mental Health Program

The COVID-19 era exposed deep-seated mental health challenges within the church and broader society in South Asia. AsiaCMS' South Asia hub team recognized the access to a wealth of expertise in the psycho-social field through our Co-Mission Partners, SACYN alumni, and other connections in the region. In response, we initiated a project led by our partners and collaborators to develop contextual toolkits and study guides, which have become invaluable resources across the region.

This endeavour underscored the challenges and needs associated with mental health within the church context. It also highlighted the importance of a missional body taking the initiative, as this approach can potentially garner a more positive response from the church compared to secular efforts.

To date, the project has published three toolkits, each available on the AsiaCMS website. The project team also coordinates and contributes to mental health training and initiatives within church and broader social contexts in the region. Toolkit 4, currently under team review, based on feedback, will be the next in the series.

Vietnamese Advanced Theological Initiative (VATI)

The Vietnamese Advanced Theological Initiative is a visionary initiative poised to reshape the theological landscape of Vietnam through the development of an innovative curriculum and comprehensive training programs.

The primary mission is to revitalize theological education in Vietnam. As Vietnamese Protestantism seeks to establish a firm footing in contemporary society, the need for educated and visionary leadership becomes increasingly apparent. The project aims to infuse emerging leaders with critical reflection skills and cultivate practical ministries that effectively address the challenges faced by Protestant churches within Vietnam.

The central goal of the Initiative is to develop a comprehensive MTh and PhD program, designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of theology, equipping them for leadership roles within religious institutions, academia, and related fields. The curriculum's uniqueness lies in its contextualization—tailored to the cultural and social milieu of Vietnamese students.

The program will encompass core courses in theology, biblical studies, and the history of Christianity in Vietnam. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to delve into elective courses that align with their specific interests.

As the visionary project unfolds, it promises to redefine theological education and leadership in Vietnam, sparking a transformation that will echo through generations to come.

AsiaCMS Safeguarding

Catalyzing a Culture of Safeguarding

By Esther John
Safeguarding Manager

Safeguarding is a biblical mandate to uphold the rights of children and the vulnerable. It is not a new concept but something that has existed from biblical times. In Exodus 1:15-22, we see how two midwives named Shiphrah and Puah took on the role of safeguarding every boy born to Hebrew women. They were willing to defy the King of Egypt who had ordered the midwives to kill every boy born. Their act of obedience to God was a reason for Moses to live.

AsiaCMS has been on a journey towards creating safe spaces for the vulnerable in churches and organizations. Over the last few years, AsiaCMS has been working on strengthening safeguarding systems within its working parameters. In the process, AsiaCMS has been able to respond to some of the needs that arose from external organizations and partnerships as well. Therefore, whilst strengthening internal safeguarding systems, AsiaCMS has stepped out to respond to some of these requests.

In 2023, AsiaCMS was able to develop specific safeguarding resources that are contextualized for Asia and in the simplest forms of language where any person will be able to read, understand, and teach others. Towards the latter part of the year, AsiaCMS conducted a session on the biblical mandate of safeguarding for organizations and churches in Nepal.

Additionally, AsiaCMS partnered with other like-minded organizations in the region to conduct safeguarding training among indigenous and migrant communities in East Malaysia. This training encompassed the concept of safeguarding and safeguarding systems in the simplest terms, using stories and activity-based lessons. Moreover, the training provided resources and skills for teachers and childcare workers on how to teach children to protect themselves through a simple pictorial story.

In envisioning the way forward, AsiaCMS plans to respond to requests for training in East Malaysia and Nepal.

These training sessions will be conducted in partnership with other like-minded organizations and within multi-denominational mission contexts. The recipients of the training will include Sunday school teachers, church leaders, learning centre teachers, and staff of organizations that work with children and adults at risk, such as migrants, persons with disabilities, and the displaced.

AsiaCMS CoMP

Empowering Mission Work: AsiaCMS' Co-Mission Partner Program

By Eleena Thomas
Programs and Partnerships Manager

The Co-Mission Partner (CoMP) initiative was established to fulfil a core objective of AsiaCMS: reaching and engaging with unreached people groups across Asia. This program operates over a structured six-year period, during which AsiaCMS provides partial financial assistance for partners' personal allowances. This support enables partners to fully immerse themselves in their mission work, foster community relationships, and develop effective outreach strategies. Beyond covering living expenses, this assistance provides stability, allowing partners to focus clearly and commit wholeheartedly to their ministry goals.

Emphasizing sustainability, the program encourages partners to establish robust foundations for future work. By the end of their tenure, partners are expected to have cultivated local support networks and resources, ensuring the longevity and growth of their impact even after the formal partnership with AsiaCMS concludes. In 2024, we welcomed seven new Co-Mission Partners across Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, Brunei, and Vietnam, bringing our total partners to 31 between the South Asia and Southeast Asia hubs.

We maintain regular fellowship and prayer sessions with our partners via Zoom to ensure continuous communication and support. Moreover, our hub leaders have made field visits to many partners to provide encouragement, explore collaboration opportunities, and gain firsthand insights into partners' progress and challenges.

This year, we successfully appointed country coordinators in Pakistan, Vietnam, and Nepal, along with the existing coordinator in Sri Lanka, to develop and strengthen connections and relationships with churches and mission workers. These coordinators have expanded our missional community, fostering a supportive network that shares resources and fellowship among those involved in our mission.

Each country coordinator focuses on developing specific areas within their respective countries, working alongside the mission partners:

1. **Nepal: Discipleship and community engagement with a focus on theological education and training at the grassroots level.**
2. **Sri Lanka: Sharing Christ's love in post-conflict communities (focus on Northern Sri Lanka) with an Integral Mission approach. The existing partnerships and projects mainly focus on vulnerable children.**
3. **Pakistan: Prioritizing education and training for economic and social empowerment in underserved regions, Integral Mission, and discipleship.**
4. **Vietnam: Engaging youth through faith-based initiatives to cultivate purpose and community. VIMI and MIMI training, which focus on tribal church leaders in the restricted areas along the border between Laos and Vietnam.**

The work of coordinators is instrumental in our mission's growth and impact, enabling us to reach more people and effect lasting change in these regions. It is a privilege to witness God's work through our mission partners. We pray for God's sustenance and protection for them and their families amidst challenges.

Together with our Co-Mission Partners,
we are committed to making a meaningful difference,
journeying on the edge in God's mission
to bring hope and transformation
to those in need of Jesus.

AsiaCMS CoMP

Our Presence

Our Co-Mission Partners are spearheading initiatives in building national capacity and providing leadership in critical spheres of mission that contribute to reaching the least-reached and marginalised.

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

- BRUNEI • CAMBODIA • INDIA • INDONESIA • 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 • LAOS • MYANMAR • PHILIPPINES
- SOUTH KOREA

AsiaCMS SA Hub

Building Missional Communities in South Asia

By Stephen Edison
South Asia Hub Leader

We give thanks to God for His ongoing work through the AsiaCMS South Asia Hub team over the past year. Our greatest resource and strength lie in our people and relationships. We continue to grow as a close-knit team, engaging with what we term the 'AsiaCMS Missional Community' in each country where we operate. This community encompasses our Co-Mission Partners, both past and present, alumni of the South Asia Christian Youth Network (SACYN), project partners, and key relational links in churches and like-minded Christian organizations. Everything AsiaCMS undertakes in each country is done in collaboration with and under the primary leadership of the local Church and Mission.

The South Asia Hub team comprises Stephen Edison (Regional Hub Leader), Eleena Thomas (Programs & Partnerships), Daniella Varghese (Communications & SACYN), Esther John (Sri Lanka Country Coordinator & Safeguarding), and Ashish Christian (Nepal Country Coordinator). The diverse skills and gifts each member brings to the table have been pivotal in fostering shared leadership and expanding AsiaCMS' ministry in South Asia.

AsiaCMS ministry is guided by a threefold focus in our two regional hubs: South Asia and Southeast Asia. In South Asia, this includes contextual outreach, discipleship, and theological capacity building, alongside addressing strategic missional needs identified for the region and specific country contexts. Looking forward, we envision Missional Communities, led by country coordinators, taking a proactive role in shaping the future direction of AsiaCMS' ministry in the region.

Starting in 2020, the hub team embarked on a journey to deepen connections by organizing monthly country-specific prayer and fellowship meetings for our partners in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. These gatherings have strengthened relationships amongst partners within each country and fostered organic, and collaborative ministry efforts among partners. These meetings have not only facilitated collaboration but have also enriched the hub team's understanding of AsiaCMS' ministry.

In Nepal, a retreat held toward the end of 2022 brought together the Missional Community, fostering a blessed time of fellowship within the broader CMS network in the country. In November 2023, during a lunch gathering, Ashish Christian was introduced as the new country coordinator. Looking ahead to November 2024, we plan to host a one-day retreat to further engage the community, reflecting on future mission partnerships and incorporating valuable input from Nepal.

In Sri Lanka, Esther John's appointment as country coordinator in 2023 led us to focus prayerfully on the north of the country, a region deeply impacted by decades of armed conflict and enduring significant economic, social, and spiritual challenges. Starting in 2024, Esther has initiated engagement in the north through Co-Mission Partnerships and project links, integrating existing partnerships with new initiatives. We appreciate prayers for her and the hub team as they work to unite the AsiaCMS Missional Community in Sri Lanka.

Looking ahead, we request your prayers for:

- God's wisdom and provision as we raise resources crucial for sustaining and expanding AsiaCMS' ministry in the region.
- Divine guidance as we discern the future direction for India, including appointing the right coordinator and developing an effective framework for a missional community in this vast and diverse geographical, missional, and cultural context.
- Our renewed engagement with Bangladesh as we explore ministry opportunities in the country.
- God's protection over the AsiaCMS team, our partners, and the Christian community in South Asia as we navigate increasingly challenging times.

AsiaCMS SA Hub

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 and/or spheres of mission, who are not featured here.

INDIA



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.

NEPAL



Rabin Chaudhary - Theological Education

Rabin works as the Registrar in Sarwagin Aguwa Nirman (SAN) Kendra, a holistic 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 organization 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.



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 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.

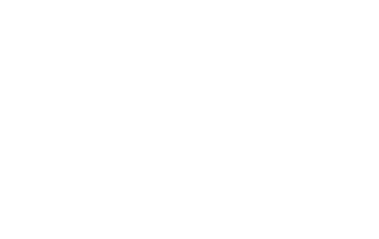


Gopal & Susma Tamang - Leadership Training

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 the 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 trainings 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.



Kumar & Kathryn Aryal - Theological Education

Kumar, a Nepali, and Kathryn, a Filipino-Chinese, have been married for 10 years and have three sons - Kevin (7), Kyle (5), and Kurt (2). After teaching at International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL) in the Philippines as full-time faculty members for almost a decade, they moved to Nepal during the pandemic in April 2021, obeying God's call to serve in Nepal.

Kumar holds a Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity in Community Transformation, and PhD in International Development, and Kats has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Master of Divinity in Leadership Studies with Education emphasis. Their training and experience of teaching at a graduate school for almost a decade prepared them well for their mission role in Nepal.

They currently teach and train pastors and leaders using the Four-fold Bible Study Method, which is an in-depth study of Bible that is easily replicated. The duo meets with pastors and leaders on a regular basis for mentoring and collaborating in community projects such as, medical camps, school projects, livelihood trainings, after-school tutoring etc. within poor and marginalized communities. They run Diploma in Theology and Bible Training Center for Pastors (BTCP) programs to equip lay pastors and leaders. They also run a PhD cohort in Nepal to equip key leaders to strengthen the body of Christ in Nepal. In addition, they have church planting ministry focusing on the unreached people groups in rural villages of Nepal.

They believe that God has placed them in Nepal to help equip pastors and leaders during this time when the Nepali church is more training and discipling. With over 150 people groups in Nepal that are still considered "unreached", Kumar and Kats are stirred to do their part in reaching out to these communities in a holistic manner.

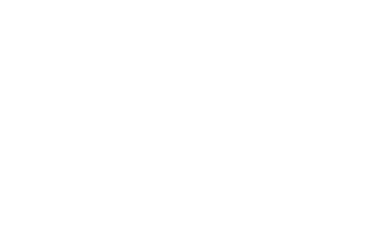


Shekhar Subedi - Leadership Training and Content Development

Shekhar, originally from East Nepal, now lives in Kathmandu with his wife. He came to Christ in 2010 and lived in India till 2022, working in multiple areas of ministry while he pursued his education.

Shekhar now works with a national organisation, Leadership Training Department (LTD), that equips grassroot level church leaders through discipleship and leadership programmes designed for the specific needs of their churches. Shekhar helps in designing curricula, developing teaching materials, providing training and assisting coordination. He helps develop content that is contextually relevant to support preaching, mentoring and theology, alongside conducting classes and seminars.

SRI LANKA

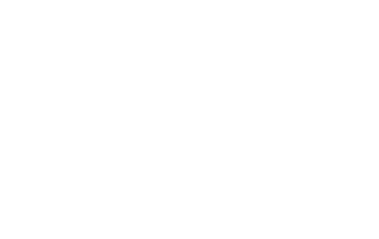


Russell De Alwis - Integral Mission and Church Relations

Russell began working with LEADS as a Child Protection Officer. He is passionate about releasing children from 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. Currently, he is the Manager of Capacity Building/ Church Relations.

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.



Mugunthan Kandasamy - Education for children in poverty

Mugunthan has been part of the Y Gro ministry since 2005 and has over 19 years of experience with their education project. Mugunthan is passionate about working with children in poverty as he himself has experienced many challenges in his own childhood.

Mugunthan's life was transformed at a Youth for Christ meeting and since then he left his job at a government institution and joined Y Gro. Mugunthan heads an education project in Jaffna - Sri Lanka, which is a post war community still in poverty. He has been working with children by facilitating resources for their basic educational needs as well as personally encouraging them to continue their education. Mugunthan also works with the parent/parents of children in building them up towards supporting their children and education. He strongly believes that providing access to education is a means of sharing Christ's love with children.

AsiaCMS SA Hub

Perseverance and Community Building in South Asia

By Suzane Christie

Planting Seeds of Faith in a Bustling City

In 2019, Bro S and his wife embarked on a mission to plant a church in a bustling city in South Asia. Their vision was clear: to establish a strong, faith-based community in an area ripe with potential but fraught with challenges. Just as their ministry began to take root, the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, which not only disrupted their efforts but also impacted many other ministries in the region. Despite these challenges, Bro S and his wife remained steadfast in their mission. Through their unwavering determination and faith, they managed to restore their work, ultimately establishing two small congregations - one in the urban centre and another on the outskirts of the city.

A Vibrant Community Emerges

Today, both congregations hold Sunday services in the morning and evening, fostering a vibrant community of believers. The active participation of women and children in church activities is a testament to the ministry's inclusive approach and its emphasis on family and community. However, the journey has not been without its hurdles. The current socio-political climate in the region has heightened sensitivities around religious matters, posing new challenges for the ministry. Additionally, many male church members, who are engaged in labour-intensive work, find it difficult to attend Sunday services due to the lack of holidays, further complicating their participation in church activities.

Empowering the Next Generation

In February of this year, Bro S and his team took a significant step toward addressing the educational needs of children in their community by launching a Tuition Centre. This initiative caters to 30 children, including those from church members' families and those from outside the church community. Many of these children attend government schools and struggle with their studies due to their parents' illiteracy and the lack of guidance at home.

The Tuition Centre operates from 4:00 pm, following the end of the school day, and provides two and a half hours of focused academic support. In addition to educational assistance, the centre offers nutritious food to combat malnutrition, aiming to improve both the health and academic performance of these children. Bro S, along with a dedicated teacher and a cook, manages the centre, striving to foster holistic growth-ensuring that the children not only improve academically but also grow in weight and height, reflecting better overall well-being.

Equipping Pastors for Outreach

In February 2024, the team initiated a comprehensive training program for twenty pastors overseeing congregations across three districts. This one-year program aims to equip pastors with the knowledge and skills necessary to minister to predominantly unreached and often nomadic communities. Through monthly full-day classes covering thirteen chapters, the program prepares pastors to effectively share the message of hope and salvation with these marginalized groups.

Earlier this year, the ministry celebrated its third graduation ceremony for a training and capacity-building certification program. Nearly 60 students successfully graduated, bringing the total number of graduates to 150 over the past three years. These graduates are now actively involved in ministries across various districts, extending the reach and impact of Bro S's mission.

Strengthening Bonds Through Personal Connections

Beyond structured programs, the team prioritizes personal connections with church members. Once a month, they visit members' homes, dedicating quality time to understand their struggles and offer meaningful support. These visits foster a sense of community and trust, allowing members to share their problems openly. Through these interactions, the team provides counseling and prayer, helping to resolve misunderstandings and strengthen familial bonds. As a result, many families are now living stronger, more harmonious lives.

A Journey of Perseverance and Faith

The journey of Bro S and his wife in South Asia is a testament to their perseverance, faith, and unwavering commitment to their mission. Despite numerous challenges, they have successfully established a vibrant community, launched impactful educational initiatives, and equipped pastors to reach out to marginalized groups. Their story is one of resilience and hope, reflecting the transformative power of faith and community in the face of adversity.



AsiaCMS SA Hub

Empowering Grassroots Leaders: The Impact of the Christian Leadership Training Center in Butwal, Nepal

By Suzane Christie

Butwal, a major economic city in mid-west Nepal, plays a crucial role as an importer for the mid-west hilly regions of the country. Since 2009, Butwal has also been home to the Christian Leadership Training Center, which equips and trains local grassroots church leaders through a three-month residential program under the Leadership Training Department of National Churches Fellowship Nepal.

Purpose and Impact of the Training

The Christian Leadership Training Center aims to equip local church leaders with the skills and knowledge to serve their communities effectively and to ensure transformation takes place at grassroots level. The program focuses on training leaders within local churches that work across denominations, who then return to their communities to take on various ministry roles, such as working with children, youths, women, house fellowships, and branch churches.

Benefits to Local Churches

Local churches benefit greatly from the training provided. Church members and leaders are equipped with biblical knowledge and skills, and resources to strengthen their walk with the Lord, returning to their churches with renewed vision and enthusiasm for ministry. This often transforms hesitant individuals, including pastor's children, who develop a strong desire for full-time ministry.

Transformative Experiences for Individuals

The training centre also brings significant changes to participants' lives, providing clarity about their future and ministry goals. Encouragement, teaching, and life experiences shared by instructors help students develop a clear vision for their future. A two-week outreach ministry offers practical experience, solidifying their commitment to ministry.

Spiritual Growth and Development

A key component of the training program is fostering a strong relationship with God. Participants are encouraged to spend time in prayer and Bible reading, building a strong spiritual foundation and leading to significant personal growth and spiritual maturity. By the end of the training, students develop new habits of daily Bible reading and prayer.

Vision and Ministry Goals - Many students arrive unsure of their future direction. The intensive training helps them develop a strong desire and vision for ministry. Inspired by the program, students take up ministry roles within their local churches. Local church pastors and leaders testify to the positive contributions of the centre's graduates in areas such as church planning, youth ministry, women's ministry, children's ministry, and overall church leadership.

Conclusion

The Christian Leadership Training Center in Butwal, under the guidance of Bro Gopal and his team, significantly impacts local churches and individuals. By equipping grassroots church leaders, the centre fosters spiritual growth, leadership development, and a strong commitment to ministry, playing a vital role in the spiritual and community development of the region.



AsiaCMS SA Hub

Advancing Child Protection and Integral Mission in Sri Lanka

By Suzane Christie

Russell's journey with LEADS, a community development organization in Sri Lanka, began with a clear purpose: to reach and uplift the most vulnerable. His role as a Child Protection Officer was the starting point of a transformative career dedicated to community service and empowerment.

Since 2018, Russell has also served as the Church Relations Coordinator and Training Coordinator, where his contributions have been pivotal in fostering strong networks and connections with local pastors, churches, and Christian academies such as the Lanka Bible College and Colombo Theological Seminary (CTS). Currently, he is the Manager of Capacity Building/ Church Relations.

Russell's efforts are not limited to building relationships. He actively teaches, motivates, and strengthens local church leaders, encouraging them to engage in missions holistically. This approach aligns with the concept of "Integral Mission," which Russell promotes among church leaders across Sri Lanka. Integral Mission emphasizes demonstrating God's love through practical actions that address the needs of communities, thereby fostering a deeper connection between faith and social responsibility.

A significant milestone for LEADS in 2023 was the successful implementation of a series of Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions on child protection for the staff of Cinnamon hotels. This initiative, driven by LEADS, led to John Keells, the management group of Cinnamon hotels, to adopt a comprehensive child protection policy. The policy not only mandated training for all staff but also integrated child protection initiatives into the staff's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This achievement underscores LEADS' influence as a child-focused organization and its ability to inspire major corporations to prioritize child protection.

In 2024, the team conducted a second superhero rally in Ratnapura. This event aims to build rapport with the village community as part of the implementation of the Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) project. Additionally, the team plans to train 20 youth in Ratnapura on the FoRB concept, empowering them to advocate for religious freedom and tolerance.

Furthermore, LEADS will continue its efforts in child protection by organizing another series of TOT sessions for the staff of Walkers Tours, another organization under the management of John Keells. This initiative reflects LEADS' commitment to extending its child protection advocacy to a broader spectrum of industries and communities.

Russell's work with LEADS exemplifies the power of dedicated individuals in driving meaningful change. By fostering strong networks, promoting holistic mission approaches, and advocating for child protection, Russell and his team are making a profound impact on the lives of vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka. Their efforts not only address immediate needs but also lay the foundation for sustainable, long-term development rooted in compassion and faith.

AsiaCMS SEA Hub

Catalysing Transformation: AsiaCMS' Impact in Southeast Asia

By T. GT

Southeast Asia Hub Leader

With the recent inception of a reconfigured Southeast Asia (SEA) hub, AsiaCMS is poised to significantly expand our reach and impact across the region. Currently, the SEA hub encompasses Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos, with plans to deepen and expand operations in these countries and beyond in the near future.

Outreach Initiatives

Discipleship remains at the heart of AsiaCMS' mission to reach the least-reached and unreached people groups with the gospel. Over the past year, our efforts have extended through various avenues including education centers, social justice awareness, and community development initiatives.

Education is a cornerstone of our mission to empower communities. Through our Co-Mission Partners (CoMPs), we have established several education centers in Southeast Asia, aimed at providing quality education to underprivileged children, supporting Bible school students, and ensuring educational access for marginalized groups such as, refugees.

These centers play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of poverty. For example, a dedicated program for girls in one of our centers has achieved notable success. Formerly at risk of dropping out due to financial constraints, these girls are now excelling academically and pursuing higher education, thanks to the support and resources provided by AsiaCMS.

Our initiatives emphasize building relationships and deepening connections to catalyse transformation, particularly within unreached communities. Our partners actively engage with these communities, embodying the love of Jesus through their lives and actions, often providing the only opportunities for individuals to experience it firsthand.

Social Justice

AsiaCMS is committed to advocating for social justice. This past year, we launched various initiatives addressing systemic injustices and supporting marginalized groups. Our programs focus on issues such as human trafficking, domestic violence, and racial discrimination. A significant achievement was when our CoMP in Thailand collaborated with other organizations and local authorities to organise a forum on online scamming and forced criminality. Additionally, this same partner was selected as the Country Director in a leading global anti-slavery alliance.

Community Development

Community development is integral to our mission of holistic transformation. In the past year, AsiaCMS has implemented numerous projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families. These initiatives encompass healthcare, livelihood programs, and infrastructure development.

For instance, in a country where gospel-sharing is restricted, our CoMP organised a cultural show celebrating the achievements of persons with disabilities. The event aimed to foster inclusion and a sense of belonging among individuals with disabilities and their families, attended by foreign dignitaries and local officials alike.

Southeast Asia Hub

The establishment of the reconfigured Southeast Asia hub signifies a significant milestone for AsiaCMS. As this hub begins to chart its course and develop growth strategies, our focus is on nurturing the next generation of missionaries and facilitating innovative missions work.

Moving forward, we also aim to enhance collaborative transformations with a prayerful community and a diverse, expanding network to support our partners in myriad ways.

Our goal includes identifying and supporting young missional leaders serving in challenging environments and initiating impactful projects that push the boundaries of traditional mission work, leverage technology, and innovative strategies to reach and transform communities, especially those among unreached people groups.

AsiaCMS SEA Hub

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 and/or spheres of mission, who are not featured here.

CAMBODIA



Poline Yeon – 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 Groups of their areas.

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.

HY – Integral Mission: Education

HY 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 HY 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 soon, HY 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 HY's choice. Nevertheless, she continued to pursue Christ and her love for serving Him in the mission field grew.

After four years, HY 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, through home visitation and food distribution.

SF – Integral Mission: Education

SF grew up in a single parent family with her younger sister. She was 17 when she accepted Christ and felt the desire to follow him. During her 4 years at university, through people that God placed to help her, she learnt of God's vision for his people and His heart for those who do not know Christ. She felt a burden and calling to become a teacher, who will also help her students learn about Jesus.

SF now serves in a shelter home for refugee children and women from diverse backgrounds and situations. Apart from this, she also teaches science and value education in a primary school for refugee children. Her roles not only impact the children but also their families as she strives to share the gospel with them through her life.

She also provides 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.

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. Annually, they provide scholarship for 40 children to attend their kindergarten, which includes free uniform, school fees, books.

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 understanding 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.

VIETNAM

Ps T – Ministry Amongst the 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.

Ps. Nguyen – Theological Education

Ps. Nguyen is the program manager for the Vietnamese Advanced Theological Initiative (VATI). He is a practitioner-scholar who is passionate about emerging leaders - that they receive training and theological education that is contextualised for their contexts.

Ps. Nguyen leads the VATI team with his vast experiences serving in Southeast Asia and in North America. They are developing a PhD level program and curriculum that sharpens the students' understanding of the Bible and the practical challenges involved in ministry and mission in the contemporary world. The knowledge and skills may then be channelled into missions, pastoral ministry, academic research and other relevant spheres.



AsiaCMS SEA Hub

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Building Hope and Empowerment: Isaac's Work with Micah Centre in Sabah

By Suzane Christie

Isaac and his wife embarked on a transformative journey from their island hometown in Penang, Malaysia, to Sabah, with a mission to establish the Micah Centre. This cross-cultural mission training school aims 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 plays a pivotal role in recruiting, training, and sending trainees out for various mission works within the rural indigenous community. His efforts are focused on connecting with local churches, particularly urban ones, to provide support and resources for community development projects.

Isaac's responsibilities extend beyond administration; he also preaches and teaches in local churches during his visits to rural communities, particularly focusing on leadership empowerment. Alongside his team, Isaac provides education, economic opportunities, and spiritual empowerment to the rural community, aiming to create a sustainable and self-reliant environment.

Agriculture Project

October 2023 marked the commencement of Micah Centre's first agriculture project: Tilapia Fish Farming. Utilizing an existing pond near their land, the project aims to cultivate Tilapia fish, which will take approximately six months to mature for sale. This initiative serves as a practical learning experience, with the goal of empowering the rural village to start similar agriculture projects for economic upliftment. By gaining hands-on experience, the team hopes to inspire and guide the community towards self-sustainability through agriculture.

Healthcare Ministry

In mid-November 2023, Isaac facilitated a visit by Meridian therapist, Sister Sandy, to the rural area of Ranau. Using a traditional Chinese approach known as the meridian method, Sandy treated nearly 30 villagers suffering from physical ailments such as back pain, shoulder pain, and foot pain. This two-day service not only provided much-needed physical relief but also offered an opportunity to share God's Word and pray for the sick, intertwining physical healing with spiritual support.

Student Ministry

In collaboration with local Christian teachers, Isaac and his team have been working on plans for 2024 to enhance discipleship among Christian students at SMK Ulu Sugut secondary school. Approximately 150 students attend the monthly gatherings of the Christian Fellowship. Noticing a gap in the students' understanding of the gospel, the team decided to initiate a discipleship course focused on the gospel of salvation. The aim is to build a strong foundation of faith among the students. Furthermore, a leadership camp is being planned for the existing student leaders, a group of eight, to strengthen their spiritual practices and leadership skills. This initiative is designed to empower these young leaders to guide their peers in their spiritual journey, fostering a robust Christian community within the school.

Isaac's journey with Micah Centre reflects a profound commitment to community development, spiritual growth, and economic empowerment in Sabah. Through healthcare services, agricultural projects, and student ministries, Isaac and his team are making a tangible impact on the lives of the rural indigenous community, embodying the essence of transformational development.



AsiaCMS SEA Hub

Transforming Communities in Southeast Asia

By Daniella Varghese

Jefri* and his team minister on one of the islands in Southeast Asia. Their mission is to help house churches grow into welcoming spaces where believers can gather, share their lives, and deepen their knowledge of Christ. They encourage their members to reach out to the community, inviting those who do not know Jesus to visit the house churches and share a meal. These relationships foster a sense of curiosity and exploration, allowing the community to understand the unique aspects of following Jesus.

Zara*, a member of the community where Jefri and his team work, comes from a different faith. For her, even considering Christianity poses significant challenges, including potential expulsion from her community if her interest in Christ is discovered. Despite these risks, she remains open to listening when Jefri and his team share the message of Jesus. Many like Zara must conceal their desire to learn more about Christianity and are cautious about whom they interact with. However, God's work continues, making ways where obstacles seem insurmountable.

In one of the villages served by Jefri, the children face limited access to education. The village, located in a forested area, has roads that become muddy and nearly impassable during frequent rains, making it difficult for children to attend schools outside the village. Jefri was moved by the head of the village's explanation of this situation. The village head suggested that a multi-purpose building, including a kindergarten school, could be constructed, if land were available. Shortly thereafter, the village head announced that a piece of land had been donated for the building project. With God's guidance, Jefri and his team continue to move forward with the project, trusting in His faithfulness.

*Names changed to protect privacy

AsiaCMS SEA Hub

Impacting Lives, Inspiring Change

By Daniella Varghese

***Dina works among people with disabilities and their families, as well as people from underprivileged backgrounds.** During the first quarter of 2024, the organisation she works with collaborated with other institutions, individuals, and organisations to promote inclusion and empowerment in their community. This included adapting classes offering a wide range of activities to nurture the skills of people who are differently abled, a collaboration on art for red packets for an event, and calendar design work.

Other activities focused on supplying essential food and giving entrepreneurial and life skill training to families and individuals experiencing financial hardships in a rural part of the country. Furthermore, their youth program, and community service and training focus on understanding and building relationships with marginalised groups, for mutual appreciation and benefit. A volunteer found that the training helped him understand how to better encourage his two nephews who are differently abled.

In February, they hosted a Cultural Show that showcased the music and dance skills of multiple individuals they work with. Guests included members of the diplomatic corps from Bangladesh, China, the Philippines, and Laos, along with the extended community from within the organisation.

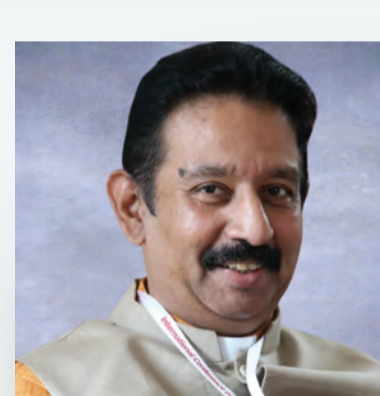
“God chose the foolish, weak, and lowly things of the world to shame and nullify the wise, strong, and mighty things.” (1 Corinthians 1:27)
The event was a testimony to this verse for them. Guests saw the potential of those who are often overlooked. Parents beamed with pride over the courage and abilities of their children, which had often been pushed aside.
The participants themselves were left feeling inspired to undertake new challenges and engage more socially.*

*Names changed to protect privacy

AsiaCMS

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 Victor is an ordained minister of the Church of South India and is now Chaplain of the Anglican Church in Freiburg, Germany on deputation in cross cultural mission. He has been co-ordinating the South Asia Ecumenical Partnership Programme and is involved in social outreach and mission across Asia and beyond. He has been involved with AsiaCMS through the initial phases to where it is now, and closely accompanies initiatives like the SACYN.



Andrew Khoo (Vice Chair)

Andrew, based in Malaysia, is a practising Barrister focusing on constitutional and human rights law, legislative reform, and public interest issues. He is also a Lay Canon in the Anglican Church.



Francis K. Tsui

Francis is from Hong Kong and has been in professional fund management for close to three decades. He is also being called to mission across Asia especially in national leaders development and the BAM space. From 2012-2019 Francis also served as the Chair of AsiaCMS.



Pastor Pax Tan

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



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), one of the largest ecumenical development agencies 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 is an ordained pastor belong to the PCK, South KOREA. He served as Senior Pastor of Shingwang Church, Professor of the Busan Presbyterian Theological Seminary and as Director of the Ecumenical Training Centre, PCK. Now, he is serving as Coworker in CSI and CNI from PCK and as the Coworker for the Anglican Church of Kenya. Dr. LEE comes on board with a rich experience as a grass-roots Mission Worker.



Margaret Loy

Margaret is the CEO of Community Transformation Initiative Bhd (CTI), an NGO based in Malaysia working amongst the urban poor.

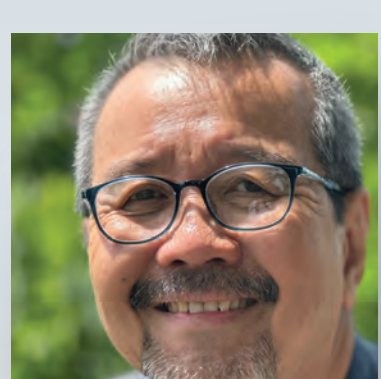


Bishop Andy Shie

Bishop Andy is the Vicar of an Anglican church in the capital city of Brunei Darussalam. He also serves as an Assistant Bishop and an Archdeacon in the Diocese of Kuching which comprises of 50 parishes in Sarawak, East Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

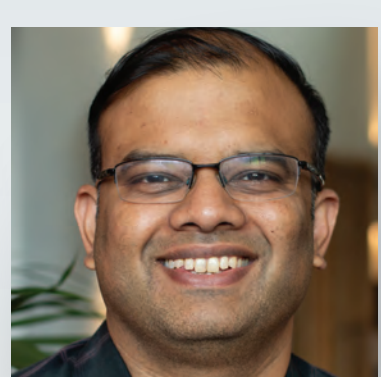
AsiaCMS

The Team at AsiaCMS



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, based in Delhi, India, heads the ministry in South Asia. He has an M.Div., an MA in International Relations, and a BA (Hons.) in History. After a brief stint in the corporate world after university, he has worked extensively in Missions and has a breadth of experience in the areas of peace building and community development in the region.

T. GT - Regional Hub Leader (South-East Asia)

T. GT has more than 15 years of on-ground voluntary and full-time mission experience in reaching the next generation and using tech for good. His current role of managing various media platforms and doing missions work is an amalgamation of his unique experience and history. He has a Masters in Sustainable Development and uses that knowledge to provide consultation to businesses for socio-economic growth for communities. At his local church, he leads the university-students group and intentionally mentors the next generation in faith.

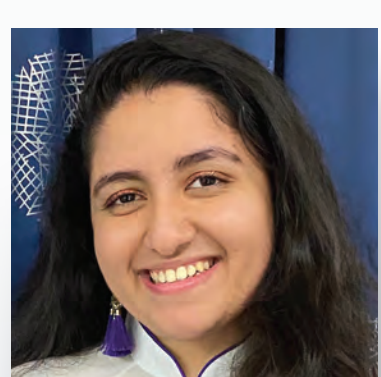
Joshua Thai - Country Coordinator (Vietnam)

Joshua Thai is ordained as an elder in his church in Vietnam and has been faithfully serving there for many years. He is a businessman who joined AsiaCMS in 2022 on a voluntary basis as the Country Coordinator for Vietnam. He passionately works with other churches and ministries around the country.



Eleena Thomas - Programs and Partnerships Manager

With a background in Human Resources, Eleena thrives on meeting new people and building lasting connections. Having lived and studied in various countries, Eleena has a good understanding of cross-cultural interactions, enhancing her ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds. She is based in Sydney and actively serves in her local church's ministry, participating in both the worship and welcome teams. Motivated by a growing interest in Integral Mission, Eleena has recently enrolled in a Master's program in Transformational Development, eager to see how God will guide her with the skills she will gain in this field of ministry.



Qarlene Rishiqa Dharminder - Communications Manager

Qarlene (Q for short) is the newly appointed Communications Manager for AsiaCMS. As someone who loves reading and writing, she believes that all forms of communication are important, especially when building and maintaining a relationship with God! Q might be a comms manager by day, but she's a local radio host by night and has also been actively serving at her home church & community for the past 14 years, primarily in the worship team and children's ministry.



Esther John - Safeguarding Manager / Country Coordinator (Sri Lanka)

Esther is passionate on working towards the wellbeing of children. She is a 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.



Ashish Christian - Country Coordinator (Nepal)

Being a part of Theological Education, Ashish is based in Kathmandu and closely connected with Theological Institutions. He studied Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Divinity, and Master of Theology (Missiology), and is presently pursuing a D. Min. at Asbury Theological Seminary. His passion for preaching, visiting churches, and meeting youth strengthens his weekend ministries. With a musical background, he leads the choir and oversees the recording studio with the accompaniment of students. Ashish believes that mission is not only writings on paper but also being available in the field, among people, as a part of the community and society to represent God in action.

Kayla L. - Country Coordinator (Pakistan)

Kayla holds master's degrees in several fields, including Theology, Divinity, and Mass Communication. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Biblical Studies with several published papers to her name. Her educational background and experiences as a lecturer in Bible colleges and seminaries across her homeland makes her a valuable theological educator. Coupled with her extensive networks and heart for her country, she is a boon to God's mission in the region.



Cynthia Cheong - Operations Manager

Cynthia has over 20 years of experience in the audit and accounting field across multiple industries. However, her heart has been gravitating toward the call of God, and she seeks to be a channel of His love; as much as she previously invested her energy into marathoning which has now been replaced with hiking and swimming, she puts her whole heart into serving in the mission field wherever she's called.



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 treasurer of a local church in Kuala Lumpur.



Low Chee Teng - Treasurer & Compliance Officer

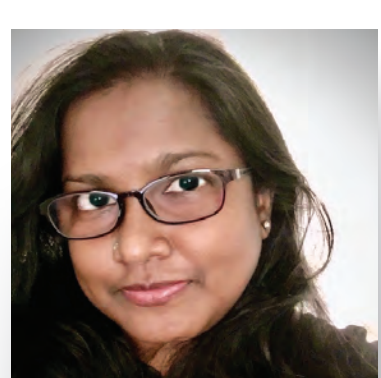
Chee Teng's primary role in AsiaCMS is to assist within the Treasury and Compliance functions. He graduated from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand with a Bachelor's in Commerce and Administration. He is a member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants and the Chartered Accountants Australia & 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. He currently is a Board Member of the YMCA of Kuala Lumpur.



Daniella Acca Varghese

- Communications Coordinator (South Asia Hub)/ SACYN Coordinator

Daniella consistently seeks to learn new things. From a very young age, she has loved working with children, a calling that grew into a focus on special education. She embraces challenges as opportunities for growth, knowing that in time, God can and will use the gifts He has given her for His glory. This has given her a wide range of skills to adapt to the various roles she has at church, the work she does with children and youth, the duties she fulfils for the South Asia Christian Youth Network as one of the coordinators, and with AsiaCMS - leading communications for the South Asia Hub.



Suzane Christie - Editorial Consultant

Suzane has over 25 years of experience in the publishing and media industry, both as a writer and editor. She holds a BSc in Communications and a Certificate in Christian Ministry & Theology. She has authored a devotional book and contributes to several Christian publications, both locally and in the United States. She also heads the Online Bible College program at her local church. Suzane is currently a full-time abstract artist who enjoys creating vibrant paintings and teaching art workshops.

AsiaCMS

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-Britain has a strong legacy of evangelism, church planting, mission schools and hospitals across Asia and Africa. Today CMS-Britain is still involved in sending mission partners overseas but also pioneering church work in the UK. CMS-Britain 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 global 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, SAMS-Ireland, as well as AsiaCMS.



TOGETHER
ON THE EDGE
IN GOD'S
MISSION



connect.collaborate.

catalyse.

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



www.asiacms.net

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

AsiaCMS Berhad

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

+603 7490 7849
office@asiacms.net
<https://www.asiacms.net>

