



感恩与代禱 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會

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Life of the Wheat

Rev Salathiel

Principal of Myanmar Lisu Bible Seminary

“Hua Hua!” in our Lisu language means “Peace to you!” Lisu people love singing and enjoy choral singing. Although you are thousands miles away, you are partnering with us in the Gospel. We thank God for you.

All of Grace

Recently we had a series of Jubilee celebrations for the Lisu people. In 2012, with thankful hearts Lisu congregation gathered for the 50th Golden Jubilee of the “Bible in Lisu language”. On that day, without musical instruments accompaniment and sitting under the bamboo shed, I led the Lisu Church congregation as they sang the Handel’s “Hallelujah chorus”. It was solemn and glorious! In 2013, Lisu congregation attended the dedication ceremony for the contextualized ‘Lisu Study Bible’. This was part of the Golden Jubilee celebration. I am thankful that I participated in the writing of the study notes for some of the biblical books. Last December, my wife and I took part in the “Hundredth-year Thanksgiving celebration for Lisu script devised by Rev James O. Fraser” held in Myitkyina. With deepest love, Lisu people always remember Rev James O. Fraser! We thank God for giving us the Gospel of Eternal life through him, a British missionary. With the script devised by him, we are able to read and learn the Word of God. As of today, we are still witnessing and proclaiming the Gospel.

About Lisu Bible Seminary

The turbulent political situation in 1966 caused many missionaries to leave Myanmar. Lisu people took the lead and responsibilities to share the Gospel with their countrymen. Though there were many Lisu Christians, only 2% of the believers were being shepherded. There were few pastors in the backward rural areas. The imperative to reap the harvest resulted in the founding of the Lisu Bible Seminary in 1986. The seminary is located in a valley surrounded by mountains. We have nine teachers and over ninety students representing different provinces in Myanmar and China. Students are from Lisu, Lahu and other ethnic groups. Our teaching is done in Lisu and Burmese.

Because of the needs of highland people, our 4-year Theological training includes Theology and practical training. Therefore, teachers lead students in farming and I lead students in building

a simple hydroelectric-generator (to provide electricity to the Seminary), the subsequent maintenance and exploring for new water sources. I also teach students how to use the computer and the electric piano (keyboard) to prepare them for the ministry.

Self Reliance and Self-propagation

Our Seminary tries our best to be self reliance and we commit the results to the Lord. We cultivated vegetables and raised pigs to be self-sufficient. We also produced sermons and hymnals (composed by our Seminary) CDs, printed hymn books and Christian books for churches and to raise funds. In 2011, CNEC granted an interest-free loan to our Seminary for green tea cultivation. On the fourth year, we harvested the first crop. We offered our first-fruits (crops) to CNEC co-workers’ retreat. In the following years, income generated from selling the tea sustained the Seminary’s ministry. The loan that we received was one-time loan, but His grace is flowing freely. Praise the Lord! Our tea plantation has grown - from 3,000 to more than 25,000 shrubs. Now we are also planning to grow more macadamia nut trees.

Every School vacation and weekend, teachers and students in groups of two, will partner with the local churches to minister to the needy, from village to village. For villages which are not accessible by motorbikes, they will cross the mountains and rivers on foot.

Over the years, we have been sharing in faith with local churches of the need to expand the school buildings and dormitories. We will fix our eyes unwavering on Jesus, and trust that He will provide.

Rich in Faith

Although majority of the believers are poor, we encouraged them to give sacrificially by faith. Not long ago I was invited to preach at a church building dedication ceremony in Myitkyina. I witnessed their “giving in faith” for the church building in spite of the extreme poverty they are in. On Thanksgiving day, I shared in my church. After the service, I received a sack of fruit and a sack of rice. With the two sacks of gifts in my hand, I also thought of the Christians at Myitkyina who gave beyond their ability. I thanked



At Golden Jubilee celebration, I led the congregation singing “Hallelujah chorus”

God for them because they have been encouraged by God's grace and reveal that grace in their lives.

Grains of Wheat

Since the school was established, our graduates have spread into His harvest field, serving in more than 20 locations in Myanmar, China and North Thailand. They are not only reaching the Lisu but also other ethnic groups, doing both self-propagating and cross-cultural missions. Pastor Esther, a single-female, over 50 year-old is one of them. In His harvest field, she has led more than 300 people to forsake their demon worship to turn to the living God. Pastor Esther has already established churches in China in the early years. Later, she set out for the cold and great mountain ranges on the China-Myanmar border. She became a pioneer evangelist to the unreached people of 'Da Pan Mountain' village. Although 'Da Pan Mountain' village is a small village, it is a place awaiting for harvest. Most of the people living hidden behind the great mountain ranges are Lisu. Some are Pulong and Han people. They worship demons. There were neither Christian nor school in the village. The villagers are impoverished and illiterate farmers who worked very hard on the barren land. Children under



Rev Salathiel (4th from your right) and Teachers of Lisu Bible Seminary

the age of 13 are naked and do not wash their face and body. Within four years, Esther led 20 families to Christ. She also ministers to 3 small churches at nearby villages (more than 40 families). She tends her flock like a shepherd. The Gospel is more powerful than the two-edged sword. The villagers are new creations after they have Christ in their lives. Their lives and living habits have been transformed. In

the great mountain ranges, a Christian community has been established. To Him be the Glory forever and ever!

Recently, due to civil war at the border, we have lost touch with Pastor Esther and the villagers. Please pray for them.

Wheat that Produces Many Seeds

In His harvest field, there are many God's unsung faithful evangelists, sent by Him to sow the Gospel seeds. They believe that there will be a harvest when it is the Lord's timing.

The Story of reaping the harvest does not end here! Let's get together with the Lord, to continue writing new chapters of the story.

School of Missions

You might have heard of getting one's theological training in a theological seminary or in a Bible college, but what about the School of Missions? What is the School of Missions?

In 2005, CNEC adopted Laos as its new mission field. Key indigenous Christians working in Laos agree that training is the greatest need among local Christian workers. Indeed, theological training is indispensable to strengthening pastors and church leaders, and the entire Christian presence in Laos. With this vision of training mission workers and lay pastors to evangelize to their own communities, the School of Missions was born. In 2010, CNEC began organizing theological training for the local church leaders and pastors. The training encompasses twenty-four core modules and two electives which are designed to provide a holistic training in the areas of biblical knowledge, spiritual discipline and ministry skills. Albeit less demanding than a full time degree course, it nonetheless serves as a foundational training and a stepping stone for prospective students who are considering formal theological education in the near future. In 2013, this model was replicated in Vietnam. In 2016, the School of Missions was launched in Cambodia.

Keeping the School of Missions going is not without its challenges. First, we need trainers who have a cross-cultural mindset and who are able to adapt to the local learning culture. We also encourage trainers to raise their financial support such as the airfare for their teaching trips. Therefore, we are not just partnering with an individual but with his or her supporting church. Second, we need to translate all teaching materials into local



Lim Cheng Cheng

Singapore CNEC co-worker (SOM)

languages when teaching in Laos and Vietnam. This requires time and skill. During class, we also require an interpreter to work alongside with the trainer. The local staff assisting with the translation and interpretation will need to be effectively bilingual and have some basic theological training. Not many candidates qualify for this role. Finally, we require funding to support students who attend the School of Missions. In Laos and Vietnam, the students would travel from various provinces around the country to attend the two-week intensive training. They need financial support in terms of transportation allowance, food and lodging.

Despite significant challenges, such as those enumerated above, the School of Missions has benefited many local church leaders and lay pastors. In Laos and Vietnam, many students come from different ethnic minority groups and from remote mountainous regions where access by foreigners is difficult. The School of Missions equips and empowers them to serve their local faith communities more effectively. In Cambodia, students who attend the training are university students living in Phnom Penh. These are the future middle class with great potential of bringing significant impact to their community.

Equipping and training disciples is a way in which the Great Commission is fulfilled. Would you consider partnering with CNEC in the School of Missions? If you have a formal theological training from an institution accredited by the local or regional accrediting agency, consider sharing your specialized field of knowledge with our mission workers and lay pastors. If you know a foreign language such as Lao, Thai, Khmer or Vietnamese, consider contributing your skill and talent in missions. If you are interested, please contact: c nec@c necintl.org

Northern Shan State Union Christian College

Pastor Shwe Ah Mee

Principal of UCC

Our bible school, 'Northern Shan State Union Christian College' is the only bible school in Myanmar which is recognized by Myanmar Baptist Convention and Association of Theological Education of Myanmar. Our school comprise two sections - Chinese and Burmese. All students who graduate from our school can apply for a Pastor's Card from Myanmar Baptist Convention and these pastors are allowed to serve everywhere in the country. The motto of Northern Shan State Union Christian College is 'Teach, train, send, and hand over.'

We have 14 ethnic groups in our school. This implies that we could reach out to more than fourteen ethnic people groups. The spiritual needs are enormous in the country. Many people are dying without knowing the Lord Jesus and Christians are dying spiritually too. It takes us four years to birth a laborer and we need to get them to the harvest field as soon as possible. However, equipping our students with the Word of God before they head to the fields is of utmost priority.

Besides teaching the Word of God, our school also emphasizes Church Planting, Ministering in Church and Carrying out the Great Commission. In all these different aspects of ministry, the greatest need is to lay a good foundation in God's Word, because when a door is opened, all kinds of teaching would be encountered. Our people need to differentiate between truth and heresy. We therefore train our students to master this area, so that they are able



to communicate the Truth to those within the church and those that are outside.

The road to evangelising an ethnic people group is long, arduous, and full of obstacles. Burmese is our largest unreached people group. Many churches here have long histories, some have even been around for over a century. A surprise is that there are many Christians who have yet to receive the salvation of the Lord! We need to train more church leaders who know their identity in Christ, walk the Word of God, persevere and flourish in the midst of false teachings, trials, and difficulties etc.

This year, our bible school produced five Burmese pastors. They were then sent into the fields. Although each year we have a group of pastors graduate and yet many churches are still asking for more. We know that the harvest is ripe, the calling from God is urgent, but the laborers are insufficient. Many young people are lost and in darkness due to their drug addiction. Compounding the problem is the long ongoing ethnic wars resulting in many young people quitting school early and thus there is less potential people to enter bible school. Please pray for us.

We are training two groups of people, they are full times pastors/missionaries and lay leaders. We train them so that they can work together with their church pastors in ministering to the members as well as to be trumpet blowers to warn those who go astray. By doing so, I pray that the enormous spiritual needs of Myanmar could be met one day. To God be the Glory!

The Benefits of Theological Training

Luke

Vietnam CNEC co-worker

One of the benefits of having a systematic theological training is that it enables us to have a holistic reflection of Christianity's tradition and history, and have a better understand of how the early saints lived out their faith. At the same time, theological training allows us to clearly see how the Holy Spirit led and moulded Christians through the church in the past.

Let me give you an example. Once there were two university students, John and Paul, who shared a dormitory room together. John's table was always in a mess whenever John leaves the room. His roommate, Paul, would always tidy the table after John because he could not tolerate the untidiness. One day, as John was about to leave the room, Paul said, "John! Do you not know that you ought to put things back in their places?" John replied, "Of course I do!" and continued, "I do know that I should tidy up the things which I have used, but I have so much work to do that I simply cannot afford any extra time to tidy things up!" Paul patiently reasoned with John, "If you could spend a couple of minutes every day to tidy up your things, you would probably complete more work with the time you saved from looking for things!"

What Paul said is very true indeed and I feel that this can be applied to Christian theological training. Many Christian leaders have so much work to accomplish every day - evangelising, planting churches, leading bible studies, etc. It would seem that they cannot set aside time to receive systematic theological training. In reality, if we were to prioritise time for structured theological training, we can certainly serve our God with more effectiveness and efficiency!

Systematic theological training has a very important



function which is to train and enable Christians to think about their faith critically. The Christian faith is not just a theoretical doctrinal system, but it is a holistic and practical model for evangelism. However, we often box the faith in a theoretical and logical framework, neglecting to implement the practical aspects of Christian living and forgetting to entrust our emotions and behaviours to God's will. For example, some Christians are so exhilarated with academic training that their lives become a set of theoretical concepts, paying scant attention to living out their faith practically. To these people, worshipping God, counting their blessings, serving others and being led by the Holy Spirit are secondary because they have completely neglected the reality of living and their personal feelings. We must remember that real faith requires the nurturing of a personal relationship with God and living out the abundant Christian life. Such faith will then be truly beneficial. Therefore, a sound and systematic theological training is both important and necessary.

In short, as followers of Christ we should neither learn for the sake of simply gaining knowledge nor live for the sake of learning. We should aim to understand our faith, through appropriate systematic theological training. This is simply because God's Word is the foundation of our learning and our lives. If we can combine the established traditions of the Church with biblical teachings, it would help us build a healthier church for the nurture of more believers to become effective servants of God and to glorify his Name! As it was written in Mark 12: 30 (NIV), "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Let us be encouraged!

Set Apart

Pastor Rathana Moeun
Cambodia CNEC co-worker

".....Through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations....." (Romans 1:5)

In 2005, I finished my high school and thereafter received a scholarship to study at Royal University of Law and Economics in Phnom Penh. As my family did not have sufficient funds to support me, I was led to one of the dormitories in Crossroads. The dormitories were established by CNEC. This I believe was a move of God.



During my stay at Crossroads, I joined the Bible study and fellowship group regularly, and in 2006, I became a follower of Jesus Christ. After my conversion, God changed me – from a self-centered individual to a Christ-centered one and from a study-oriented person to a caring person.

In the year 2008, God gave me a clear vision to spread the Gospel using a dream. I dreamt that our fellowmen were suffering. A child came up to me and wanted to take away my Bible. I woke up with a deep regret of my refusal to the poor child. I then prayed for God's guidance and finally, God spoke to me through the scripture stated in Isaiah 6:8 – "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" At that point I decided to dedicate my whole life to God.

After my graduation in 2009, I joined CNEC as a fulltime co-worker. I have since served for five years, and arising from this, felt a strong need for theological training. So I prayed hard to God. Thank God that in 2013, He answered my prayer. There was a discussion about theological training for me between Singapore CNEC and Cambodia CNEC. I was then sent to Asian Theological Seminary in Manila, Philippines to pursue Masters in Divinity.

By God's grace and many prayers' support, and with much financial support from the Timothy Scholarship, I completed the four-year theological studies in Manila. I graduated with Honors and also received the Theological Award. I returned to Cambodia in 2017. During my training, I also received much help from Rev. Lau P. S from Singapore.

The Theological training had a great impact on me and I realized that the knowledge gained is a blessing from God as it enables me to have an enhanced future ministry in Cambodia. The Seminary training is useful and very practical. It has helped to maintain my spiritual life and has also given me a biblical perspective of the Lord's ministry.

My country suffers from wars and poverty. There are also numerous oppressive elements such as corruption, exploitation, injustice and others. The theological training helped me to realise that such oppressive elements are not Biblical and that God wants to liberate prisoners of such an environment. Luke 4:18-19. My training has also helped me to share the Good News effectively in such a context. Thus theological training has transformed my perspective in a very significant way! It has been beneficial in educating and also in equipping me to be a faithful and humble servant. I am made to be aware of my limitations as a sinful human, but saved by God's grace. I have learnt how to embrace life and its problems with His power and presence as I carry the cross daily. I have learnt to be responsible and be the team player God meant me to be, in relation to my position and also in relation to those around me.



One of the benefits of

MISSION FESTIVAL
宣教讚美會

GLORY TO THE LAMB OF GOD

- 瞻望宣教趨勢
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- 點燃宣教熱忱
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- 共享宣教策略
Sharing Mission Strategies
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Shouldering Mission Responsibilities Together

8 JUN '18, FRI, 20:00
EXHIBITION & REFRESHMENT
21:30 - 22:30
JOHOR BAHRU VISION PEELING CHURCH
新山昇家教會柏林堂
27, JALAN NEZ 3/5
TAMAN NUSA BESTARI 2
81300 SKUDAI, JOHOR

9 JUN '18, SAT, 19:30
EXHIBITION 19:30
REFRESHMENT 20:00
NEWTON LIFE CHURCH
頓頓生命堂
18 NEWTON ROAD,
SINGAPORE 307965

theological education is that it guides and brings holistic well-being, for ourselves and this is to be shared with people within our influence. In Cambodia, we have only 1.5% Christians out of the total population of 16 million. The ethnic identification with Buddhism is the main obstacle to people who are considering the Gospel. One of the major barriers to the gospel among Buddhist and animistic people is the misconception that Christianity is a foreign religion. They are reluctant to reject their own identity and culture to follow Jesus. Therefore to overcome this misconception, we have got to have a church in a Khmer village and practice Christianity in typically Khmer ways, in gathering, celebrating and to communicate the Good News and worship the Creator in ways the Khmer can appreciate and identify with.

Cambodia is also a developing country and I can foresee a growing need for Christian education. Responding to this need, my four-year theological training enables me to reach out to the younger generation, as well as the university students in the urban setting. This would facilitate raising more Christ-centered disciples, some of whom we need to train to be future Christian leaders. And through such a proper discipleship making, it would help in rebuilding and restoring Cambodia for God's glory!

Please pray for me. I do hope one day I may be able to help and serve in any local bible school for training lay pastors and local ministry leaders. I pray that besides serving as a pastor at Crossroads Church, we could have community transformation through community works in the rural areas. May the Lord help us and call us as His faithful servants to fulfill our passion and carry out the Great Commission!

MINISTRIES: INDIGENOUS CHURCH, BIBLE SCHOOL, TRIBAL WORKS, SPONSOR-A-CHILD MINISTRY, CREATIVE ACCESS MINISTRY, HOLISTIC MISSIONS

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