



# 感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會

Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission

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UEN S62SS0068H

MCI(P)No.: 008/08/2016

3rd Quarter 2016

## Vision • Mission • Passion

Rev Dr James Lai

Executive Director of CNEC

A God given vision is a sensing and an anticipation of that which will and may come to be. To one who sees the vision, it is a call to respond to the mission in a given generation. A vision enables a person to perceive not only the contemporary needs, but also the future trends. In the Old Testaments, when prophets were given visions or when they prophesied, the visions have a double reference. The visions may have a near or a distant view. Such prophecies if fulfilled, may encompass current and future events.

Similarly, the vision of CNEC incorporates its mission in the 40's and a forward outlook of the future trends of global missions. This could be seen in the way CNEC's name evolved over the decades. CNEC was originally known as China Native Evangelistic Crusade. CNEC began in China and it shouldered the mission and the responsibility of its generation to help Chinese Christians fulfil their missions. The vision of CNEC also transcended that generation, both temporally and geographically. When its vision shifted from China to China's neighbouring countries, extending its mission to the Chinese communities in Southeast Asia, CNEC became known as Chinese Native Evangelistic Commission. This vision further empowered the Chinese Christian communities in Southeast Asia to reach other races and ethnic groups. Today, CNEC progresses beyond China and the Chinese communities to become an international mission organization, known as Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission.

The vision of CNEC, beginning with China and subsequently the Chinese communities in Southeast Asia and beyond, clearly demonstrates that a God given vision is not confined to an era or a geographical region. God transcends time. He desires His church to move beyond its geographic boundary to global outreach; beyond its present outlook to an eschatological outlook. A God given vision anticipates that which may come to be and impels the church to move in the destined direction.

Having gone through decades of trials and growth, with a more precise understanding of the vision which God has entrusted CNEC, we are now able to refine our mission statement to reflect the needs and conditions of the current generation. The mission of CNEC is therefore

defined as: *"We win, nurture, equip, send and empower the nationals to reach their own people in the remotest and least Christian areas, building indigenous communities of faith through the holistic approach, with the ultimate aim of empowering them to be self-sufficient, self-supporting and self-propagating."*

Although we originally see church planting as the way to fulfil the vision, now we see establishing faith communities in every people group as the way to fulfil the Great Commission. Most of the times, the greatest resistance and objections to the Christian faith lies in the "remotest and the least Christian areas". In these areas, there are political restrictions which make setting up churches and erecting church buildings openly an impossible task. Nevertheless, albeit the limitations, faith communities can still flourish in these areas. These faith communities can be found worshipping in schools, student centers, children homes and even in the homes of local communities.

We believe that there will be chaos and corruption leading to the end of the age. Jesus warned us in Matthew 24 that there would be great tribulation and moral perversion. We would be living in a hurting world. As such, our mission should encompass both aspects: to fulfill the cultural mandate by exercising stewardship over creation (Genesis 1:26) and to save the lost in this fallen world (Matthew 24:19-20). We would have truly served humanity when we fulfilled both mandates. Every person has a holistic need - the body, the mind and the spirit. Therefore when churches seek to fulfill the Great Commission, we should bear in mind the holistic approach in meeting human needs and sufferings.

There will be no action without vision. Neither does it work when there is vision without action. It is analogous to someone who is remorseful yet without repentance. Since we have received our vision from God, we should concretize our vision with our commitment. To meet the holistic needs, we employ these five strategies:

1. We win them by leading them to Christ.
2. We nurture them by giving them opportunities to receive education.
3. We equip them through discipleship training and theological education.



4. We send them to win their own people.
5. We empower them to become self-sufficient, self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating.

It is a great challenge to employ all five strategies. However as the saying goes, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Who is that willing person? He/she is one who sees the challenging needs in missions and stands up to meet the challenge. We need passion to put our vision into actions and

perseverance to fulfill the Great Commission. As Apostle Paul said in Romans 12:11, "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." I earnestly hope that more Christians will share the same vision as CNEC; identify with our strategies; and most importantly become the "willing person" in missions.

Is your heart kindled to reach the lost and hurting world?

## Now, What Do You See?

**Rev Dr Clement Chia**

*The Principal of Singapore Bible College*

**W**hen uncertainty looms over the global economy, there are those who will save their money for a rainy day, some who will invest in products with long-term returns, and some who will look for new opportunities to make money. But no one can be sure of what will happen next.

Two thousand years ago, as the 72 disciples were sent out by their Lord Jesus, He told them, "The harvest is plentiful ..." What would they have seen in the field? You could imagine that the disciples gazed as far as they could. They fixed their eyes on a plentiful, golden harvest. They noted the opportune time for harvesting will soon be gone. They performed a quick mental calculation of how much they could earn from the crops —total income minus expenses for labour and tools ...

Then, their Lord Jesus gave them a reality check: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." The window for harvesting is small, so you must seize the opportunity by sending out adequate workers! What would you do? Jesus said, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

Brothers and sisters, do you see the opportunity for ministry? Are you aware of the openings to serve the needy? Do you have enough workers for the task? Do you ask the Lord of harvest to send His workers into the harvest field? Do you realize our Lord cares for the field because it belongs to Him? Right now, it is not what you perceive about the harvest field that matters, instead it is the right actions you undertake that matters.

In 1994, during my MDiv studies at Singapore Bible College, an alumnus told me why he had committed his life to serve the Lord as a full-time pastor. He shared this simple vision: while everyone in the business world spotted opportunities for harvesting properties, he reckoned there were opportunities for harvesting the lost! He asked the Lord what to do next. The Lord answered by sending him and other co-workers to be trained in seminaries.

I realized that one can see the harvest only when one cares for the Lord's kingdom agenda. As the disciples saw the harvest, Jesus sent 72 of them, two by two, into the surrounding towns to spread the good news of the Kingdom of God to the people of Israel. Jesus instructed the disciples with a very specific code of conducts, or dos and don'ts, as they approached the people in any towns, such as "Do

not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road." (Luke 10:4) And to those who received them into their houses, "Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house." (Luke 10:7). For those who did not receive them, "go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you...'" (Luke 10:10-11).

You might wonder why Jesus sent them in pairs. Why did He set such a code of conducts for the disciples? As I studied the passage, with some help from the commentaries on Luke 10, I found that the ancient Mediterranean societies were not individualistic. They have what is called "dyadic" view of personality, by which one's identity is to be recognized by their web of interconnected relationships, such as one's family, place of origin, or occupation (Mark 6:3; 14:70; John 1:46; 7:52; Titus 1:12). With this understanding in mind, the disciples sent in pairs were to be identified as someone from their master Jesus through their conducts, messages, and characters.

To our dear co-workers in CNEC, do your lifestyles and ministry reveal your Master? Your mandate? Your identity as the one sent by Jesus? Or in contemporary cache, do you have the "DNA" of CNEC? Let's recite the mission statement of CNEC: To build indigenous communities of faith in the remotest and least Christian areas through the holistic approach with the ultimate aim of empowering them to be self-sufficient, self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating. Do you own the visionary mission by putting it into every word and deed in your daily activities?

My dear brothers and sisters, look towards the harvest field, what do you see? I ask the Lord to give each of us a mission minded perspective, to recognize that the urgency of evangelizing the unreached. I pray for the Lord to send His workers to the harvest field. Let us seize the opportunity to share the good news of salvation to those who seek a happier and more fulfilled life yet finding themselves lost from time to time. I pray that you are the one who is sent by our Lord to your family, school and market place to harvest the ripened field.

What are you waiting for?



*Inauguration Ceremony for the new principal on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at SBC*



*Rev Dr Clement Chia Mook Soo and family*

# Our Vision, Our Mission and Our Passion

## The historical relationship of CNEC with Association of Christian Evangelical Ministries, Canada (ACEM) and Chinese Community Churches in Canada (CCC)

In January 1975, Rev. Dr. John Kao was sent by CNEC Hong Kong to plant churches among the Chinese communities in North America. He founded the first Chinese church in Toronto Canada, known as the Chinese Community Church (CCC). In a span of forty-one years, through the effort of many, thirteen churches were planted in the Greater Toronto area and some nearby cities. More than eighty pastors serve in these churches, with an average attendance exceeding eight thousand in the Cantonese, Mandarin and English services. In 1988, the Association of Christian Evangelical Ministries (ACEM) was incorporated with the Federal Government of Canada. ACEM coordinates all its thirteen Chinese Community Churches to consolidate resources and promote cooperation among them. The collaborative effort has facilitated both missions and church planting beyond Canada.

### Our Vision and Mission

ACEM and its churches have their distinctiveness in ministries through the following visions:

1. A Community of Unity and Love;
2. A Community of Discipleship Training;
3. A Community of Church Planting;
4. A Community of World Missions; and
5. A Community of Social Concern.

These five visions not only provides the ministry direction to ACEM, they are in fact the mission and strategy of holistic gospel. Incidentally, this is also the holistic approach used by CNEC. CNEC has partnered with several Christian leaders in Southeast Asia to bring about sustainable community transformation. Many practical ministries were developed within CNEC over the years. These include the children homes, drug rehabilitation centers, student centers, micro-enterprises, business-as-missions and sponsor-a-child program. People are brought to Christ through these ministries.

### Our Passion

To effectively reach out to the current generation, we need to be aware of the global needs and political trends. We need to take a holistic approach to missions. While political unrest, natural disasters, economic recession, democracy movements and rising extremist activities are of concern to us, they also present opportunities to us. In recent years, many Chinese churches and mission organizations have recognised that timely response is essential. Churches should stand in solidarity with those who endure suffering and to weep with those who weep. Churches should comfort the distressed and bring them the living hope in



*Seven students graduated with certificates from ACEM's PEACE Missions Institute in 2015*

## Rev Simon Wong General Director of ACEM

Christ. In essence, churches should put into practice Christ's love in the gospel we preached.

Today, the phenomenon of globalisation has drawn the world closer than before. The happenings in one country can have rippling effect on many. As such, we need to be aware of the different issues affecting the world. We are not just concerned about political, economic and spiritual issues, but also issues affecting the environment, climate change, resources, education, poverty, social justice, world health and more. As we engage in missions today, apart from proclaiming the gospel and saving the lost souls, we also need to serve the unreached by caring for the community. This is the twofold approach modeled by Jesus in his earthly ministry.

Over the years, ACEM churches have worked and cooperated with some of the ministries within CNEC. Short-term mission teams complement national ministries



*Rev Paul Chang visiting ACEM in 2014*



*Rev Simon and Glenda Wong's youngest daughter Sarah being sent to serve in Cambodia by RHCCC in 2014*



*Rev Simon Wong preaching and sharing ACEM ministries*

to reach out locally and the unreached people groups. In recent years, I have visited Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. I have had the opportunity to connect with the local coworkers and conduct training. I am impressed by the faithfulness and the testimonies of the national coworkers. The visits have allowed me to understand the development of different mission fields. I have also witnessed how the coworkers traveled to the remotest parts of their countries to reach the unreached.

Some closed countries such as India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar and Mongolia are now opening up. While they become more receptive to the gospel, North America Chinese Christians are also becoming more aware of the needs in these countries. In recent years more churches are participating in cross cultural missions. Some went beyond contributing financially. They gave their time to serve in the mission fields. There are also Christians who plan for an early retirement to serve in the third world countries with their savings.

God loves the world, not wishing that any should perish but that all should reach repentance. The world is our mission field. Let us seize every opportunity to serve alongside the local coworkers. Be encouraged! "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b, ESV) Let us give every support we can to work together with CNEC and serving alongside our national coworkers. Let God's glory be proclaimed in all the earth.

# Welcome Aboard!

**Mr Lee King Fah**  
Chief Operation Officer of CNEC

I worked with a local company in the oil and natural gas industry for four and a half years before moving on to a multinational corporation in 1995. I stayed on with the company for twenty years and rose from an engineer to a project manager.

I received Christ in 1987 and was baptized in 1991. It had been twenty-nine years since I became a Christian. I attend Logos Christian Church, a local church planted by CNEC in 1969. It was the first church I attended since conversion. Today, I am still attending and serving in this church. When I joined Logos Christian Church, the church was still at its development stage. I thank God that in those years, the pastoral care extended to me in fellowship group and cell group helped nurtured my spiritual growth. The opportunities to serve has allowed me to mature in Christian character. In 2003, I was appointed a church Deacon. At that time, the church was growing and moving onto holistic ministries. I thank God that I had greater opportunities to serve in the children Sunday school, the mainland Chinese ministry, holistic discipleship training, missions equipping and short-term mission trips. These experiences have stretched my faith and taught me to be courageous.

I thank God that He helps my wife and I start a godly Christian family. He blesses me with a good wife and three beautiful children. The whole family grows and serves in Logos Christian Church. I am most thankful that my parents and two of my younger siblings are now Christians. The



*Mr Lee King Fah and family*

journey of faith is always full of challenges but God has shown me His faithfulness as I tread the winding path. I experience God's enormous grace in my work place and in church. In 2010, when I attended a revival rally, I responded to God's calling. I hoped that someday I could enter full time ministry. After serving ten years as a Deacon in church, I retired from the committee in 2013. I continue to seek God, asking Him to open up other opportunities to serve Him. Soon after, God gave me the opportunity to serve in the prison ministry. I joined Christian Counseling Services (CCS) and became their volunteer counselor. During 2010 to 2014, I took my family on three short-term mission trips. We were deeply impressed by what we saw during each trip and the trips kindled our desires to be part of missions.

December 2015 was a turning point in my life. I left my job after working in the company for twenty years. I asked God to lead me and my family onto a new stage in life. After praying for several months and with the guidance of my senior pastor, once again I experienced God's provision. In July this year, I was shortlisted for a few rounds of interview with the Director of CNEC, the Chairman of the Board and two other Board members. I finally joined CNEC. I am still learning about this mission organization and its ministries.

Do pray for me and my family. May the Lord grant me faith, wisdom and courage to take on the challenges which have eternal values.



*King Fah (right) with short-term mission team members*

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

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**All funds received in support of CNEC ministries, not more than 20% is used to sustain the office for ministries' purposes**