

Prepare for:  
The Asia Pacific  
Regional  
Conference

September 3-7, 2007

Anseong City, Korea

**More Children!  
More Nations!  
(Matt. 23:19)**

*For Registration Details:*

Please e-mail [cefkorea@naver.com](mailto:cefkorea@naver.com)

or send a fax to 82-2-3401-6004.

You can also call tel. no. 82-2-3401-8291.

You will need to pay US\$ 40 registration fee.

Registration Deadline – July 30, 2007

**BLESSED WISHES  
FROM  
CEF ASIA PACIFIC**

to

**CEF THAILAND**

*on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration on July 7, 2007.*

*Thanking the Lord for Mary Reith  
who in July 1957 arrived in response  
to God's call to start CEF in the country.  
Thanking God, Who through the years  
enabled, sustained and blessed  
the ministry.*

*In recognition  
of USA - Sent CEF Missionaries:  
Kent and Becky Bryant  
for 30 years of Ministry in  
FIJI  
We thank you for your life  
of service to the Lord  
for the sake of the little ones.*

*Editor's Box: Family News is a publication of Child Evangelism Fellowship Asia Pacific Region. For inquiries and suggestions, please send communication to 4th Floor Back to the Bible Bldg., 135 West Avenue, Quezon City 1105 PHILIPPINES. Tel. (632) 371-9490. Rev Tan Cheng Huat, Regional Director; Joy S Sidro, Editor; Mona F Abulencia, Consultant.*



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POSTAGE



**CEF<sup>®</sup> ASIA PACIFIC  
FAMILY NEWS**

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2ND QUARTER

APRIL - JUNE 2007

## Behind the Backdrop of Prayer



Rev David Ra  
Asst to the  
Regional Director

In the book of 2 Kings 4:1 - 7, we meet a destitute woman whose husband has died, and her two sons about to be taken away as slaves because of a debt. In human perspective, she had every reason to despair. But she had a refuge that the world did not know of. It was the refuge of prayer. She went to Elisha, the prophet of God, and cried to him. In modern terms, this means she cried to God for help. That was the best thing she could do in that desperate circumstance. God heard and answered her prayer. We are well acquainted with the rest of the story. She went to the neighbors and borrowed empty vessels, poured her little jar of oil into every single vessel she borrowed. The story finishes happily.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?

As we meditate on this old but true story, we are amazed by the complexity of the problem and the simplicity of the solution. How easy it is to just pour oil into empty jars! But wait a minute — is that really so? Not at all! Even though the solution seems too easy, it defies the law of physics which governs the universe. The answer to the woman's prayer was a miracle.

Do you know that every answered prayer is the same as this one? They somehow break the fixed laws of the universe. So next time your prayers are answered, sit down and think about what could have happened behind the backdrop of your prayer. It can give you a moment of heavenly touch in your life. Let me share a little example of mine with you.

When we wanted Joseph (our first son) to learn to play the piano, we prayed to God to send us a piano teacher. The next day, we met a lady in church and asked her if she could teach my son, piano. She said she was not good enough to do it. But said she can give us her second-hand piano. I was surprised by her words. It sounded as if God was saying to me, "If you really want to teach your son how to play piano, you may need a piano!"

I told her I will gladly accept her offer. But I had no peace. I learned that her original plan was to sell the piano because she

had lost her job. A friend agreed to buy it, but at the last minute, changed her mind and informed her she would not buy it anymore. So I could take her piano.

On my way home, I prayed to God, "Dear Lord, I want to give her three hundred dollars for the piano. Please give it to me before this weekend is over." And I waited for God's answer. Sunday came quickly and it was afternoon. Still no answer. Then a deacon invited me to his house and asked me to give a message on his deceased father's 100th day memorial service.

After the service, his wife gave me an envelope. I thought to myself. "This is it. This must be three hundred dollars!" Normally, you can hardly expect someone to give you more than two hundred dollars for a short message. At home, I opened the envelope and I exclaimed to myself, "Father, the amount is different!" Amazingly it was three hundred fifty dollars! I found out later, it took another fifty dollars to move the piano!

Days later, I meditated on this incident and thought about what could have happened behind the backdrop of my prayer. I could feel the hand of God controlling the hearts of men and the situation. First, He made a lady determine to buy a second-hand piano and at the last minute changed her mind. Second, God called a man to Heaven exactly one hundred days before this specific Sunday. Third, He inspired the deacon's wife to give an unusual sum of money for a short message. All these harmonized to have my prayer answered. What an awesome God we serve!

### THEN, WHY NOT PRAY?

My dear workers, do you want to enjoy the privilege of imagining the backdrop of your answered prayer? Then do pray! It is our job to pray and follow instructions God gives us just like the widow who followed Elisha's instruction. Sometimes, God's instructions may seem a little odd, like borrowing empty jars. (What good are empty jars when there is nothing except a little oil in a jar.)

When we do our best according to His will, then it's His time to work. When He works, he can easily break the laws of the universe to fulfill His purpose because He is the Creator of everything. And you will be amazed to see His mighty hand working for your benefit. How do we see it? Of course, by meditating the backdrop of our answered prayers!

ASIA PACIFIC COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA • CAMBODIA • CEFRO (CH) • CEFRO (IC) • FIJI • HONG KONG • INDONESIA • JAPAN • KOREA • MACAU • MALAYSIA • MICRONESIA • MONGOLIA • MYANMAR • NEW ZEALAND • PAPUA NEW GUINEA • PHILIPPINES • SOLOMON ISLANDS • TAIWAN • THAILAND • TONGA • VANUATU

New Zealand has had many exciting training courses this year. First was an Instructor of Teachers (IOT) 1, in Auckland last February, with one Instructor and student joining from Australia. Thess Llorente from Tonga was also Instructor, along with Pamela Brooking and myself. The week was great with students and staff from five countries. The next two weeks was IOT 2 at the beautiful campsite in Parua Bay. Thess helped in teaching and we enjoyed the three students.

One more week was a CEF Leadership & Strategy training in Whangarei. Later, there was a National Board retreat and training. It was held also at the beautiful Parua Bay. On the Sunday was special occasion as Roland and Ruth Stark were commissioned by their church as they begin full time ministry with CEF New Zealand. Pam and the national board members were present.

Following it was the Teaching Children Effectively™ (TCE™) 2 course for the three students from IOT 2 who were to be supervised. Praise God for all that is happening in New Zealand.

In March, it was to Papua New Guinea for a special training for a village church. My sister Verna who is in PNG shared how one of the ladies testified that she had been praying: "Papa God, please send someone to teach us how to teach these kids about You." What an exciting seminar for these teachers faithfully teaching the children, but have no resources. Now they know how to teach God's Word to touch the children's hearts.

# TRAINING IN THE REGION

*NZ Instructor of Teachers Level 1*



*NZ Instructor of Teachers Level 2*



*NZ National Board Retreat and Training*



*Commissioning of Roland and Ruth Stark, NZ workers.*



*Special Training for Church people.*



## Papua New Guinea



*Leadership Training Institute*



## Taiwan



*Preschool Course*



## Philippines



*Leadership Training Institute*



## Macau



## Korea



*Preschool Course, April 16-21.*



*Instructor of Teachers Level 1*



February this year, Philippines began their first Institute in the Mindanao area. How exciting to note workers from the area training students from within Mindanao. All did well, students and staff. God provided a wonderful training site, right by the beach. We could hear the pounding of the waves as we taught. The workers were excited and have been teaching many TCEs since graduation. Towards the end of May was the preschool course in Manila. The eight students went away more burdened than ever, recognizing the great need of reaching the little ones.

Meanwhile, Taiwan was finishing their Institute, having had nine weeks last year, and the final three weeks this year. All the staff came back for a refresher course. It was wonderful to have Rev Tan and Rev Ra teaching with me.

Korea is celebrating their 50 years of ministry this year and doing many special things. One was the preschool course for many of their workers last April 16-21.

It is always exciting to see so many workers who have a vision and burden for the little ones. As we went out to do the teaching practicums in a preschool, many children received the Lord.

Macau held their first IOT 1 last April 23-May 4. Students and staff from Hong Kong came to Macau for the two weeks. On the weekends, the staff conducted evangelistic Children's meetings for a school. So many children came and received the Lord. What great days in Macau. Please pray for them as they are planning their first Institute set for next year. - Jan Johnson

PHOTOS BY JAN JOHNSON