

Training in the Region

A new year is well underway, but I want to share with you about the last two teachings of 2009. The first is IOT 2 in Myanmar. The course began with 14 staff from three branches, a wonderful class. Six staff were Leadership Training Instructors, with over 20 years of full time experience in CEF. They have been so faithful through the many years trusting God for His provision day by day. What joy to work with these excellent instructors, working so diligently as a team. This class was held in the new CEF office where students from away can stay. The class was held in a nice big training room on the second floor.

Despite a lot of illness and pain during the course among the students and staff, God was their strength and refuge. Two students from outside Yangon shared how they had to sell their pig in order to have money to attend the course. All by God's grace.

The last course for the year was in Papua New Guinea. Pala Sabea, the national director, was so excited to have a course for Preschool teachers in Port Moresby. We were able to get Boxes of Books for the lessons, Korea CEF sent the materials for the popcorn puppet, and Singapore CEF supplied the gloves and "fuzzies" for the fuzzy song and colored visuals.

The course was held at Rev Sione United Church, (named after a missionary who started the church from Tonga many years ago). There were 32 students, but three became ill and were not able to finish. MiSook Hong (Park) from Vanuatu came to help with the teaching. We stayed with Mabata, one of our students who came to CMI in the Solomon's. We taught the preschool children at her place for the two days practicum as she runs a preschool. There were about 60-70 children and 29 received the Lord as their Savior.

One day, while I was teaching, something very different happened. All of a sudden, the attention of the students were behind them. I couldn't figure out what had happened. Finally, I was told that the police were chasing a runaway convict who had come into the church yard. We watched for a few minutes and were able to go on with the teaching.

Now it is 2010. The year began with an IOT 2 and JYC training for the staff in Cambodia. It was held in the new office building. During the IOT course, three staff were Leadership Training Instructor candidates. Their teaching was exceptional and what wonder to watch them put into practice the things they have been taught. Mrs Lee also wanted them to know how to teach JYC, so we spent two weeks working on how to teach the young people. So 2009 ended on a wonderful note, and 2010 is beginning with lots of joy. To God we give thanks!

Jan Johnson



Myanmar IOT 2



PNG Preschool Course



Cambodia IOT 2 and JYC training

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CEF® AP Family News
4/F Back to the Bible Bldg
135 West Avenue, Quezon City 1105
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POSTAGE



CEF® ASIA PACIFIC FAMILY NEWS

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1st Quarter

January - March 2010



Salvation by FAITH, not by ACT

On one occasion, Jesus was approached by an expert in the law. We read in the Gospel of Luke 10:25 that he came to test Jesus. Which means his motivation was not right in coming to Jesus. Even today, there are numerous adults who come to Jesus with such wrong motives. In that sense, they come to test Him, as the passage suggests. Children, however, are different. Children who come to Jesus to test Him are very rare, if not none existent. I believe, that is the reason why Jesus said we need to turn around and become like children. That is why I love sharing the message of salvation with children. They have no 'hidden' motivations.

There was one more thing the expert in the law did wrong. His question was not right. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Because he was an expert in the law which is defined by "Do this!" and "Don't do that!", no doubt he brought up this question out of his expertise. However, he should have asked, "Teacher, how can I inherit eternal life?"

Jesus knew his motivation was wrong and He knew his question was wrong, but He did not rebuke him openly. Instead He gave him a chance to think about his motivation and his question and repent. Jesus did that by giving him a counter question. "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" I could almost see the poor man's smirk on his face. "This man is asking me about the Law! Doesn't he know that I am an expert in the Law?" So he replied with confidence of heart, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'."

With this reply, he might have thought to himself, "This is it. A perfect answer! Jesus' reply was quite straightforward. "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live." Can we take what Jesus said on face value? I don't think so. How on earth can you truly love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind? That is impossible! How can you truly love your neighbor as yourself? That is impossible, too!

Why did Jesus say to him as if it was possible? Of course, Jesus meant what he said, that you can have eternal life if you succeed in loving God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind. The sad thing is, we in flesh, simply cannot do it because we are fallen sinners! I believe Jesus must have expected the expert in the law to confess like this, "Teacher, I have tried that, but I couldn't! Please help me do it." Oh, how I wish he said that! Instead he replied, "And who is my neighbor?" Another wrong motivation here. He just wanted to justify himself.

Jesus started to tell him a story. It is well known as the parable of the good Samaritan. I won't repeat the story since you may know it in detail. At the end of the story, Jesus asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" Out of the general sentiment of hate toward the Samaritans, he could not utter the word "the Samaritan" so he said, "the one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

What a beautiful love story this is! This is truly an example of agape love towards a total stranger. And we tend to think the lesson of this story is "Love your neighbor." Easy and simple. That is half-true, I think. Why? Let me tell you.

In order to get the lesson of this parable, you must remember that Jesus told this story to an expert in the law in response to his wrong-motivated questions. Jesus wanted to tell him that he cannot love God with all his being and, in the same vein, he cannot love his neighbor as himself.

Again, when Jesus said, "Go and do likewise," the expert in the law should have cried out, "Teacher, I have tried but I couldn't! I'm helpless on this, too. Please help me!" Sadly, I do not read in the Bible his reaction on Jesus' final command. As it is not written in the Bible, I assume he just went away, thinking that he can love his neighbor like this.

Do you see the whole picture in this dramatic scene? Do you see Jesus trying to correct even the wrong-motivated mind? What is the point here? Eternal life is not to be inherited by our acts. We cannot truly love our God and our neighbor UNLESS we have Jesus' love in our hearts! That is the core of His message here. And that is the message we want to convey to the children.

May God grant us this love for Jesus!

Rev David Ra, Regional Director of CEF Asia Pacific

ANNOUNCEMENT

CEF Asia Pacific Regional Conference

September 13 - 17, 2010
Naga World Hotel Cambodia

Reg. Fee: US\$ 275 (all inclusive)
Early Bird: US\$ 205



CEF Opens in Palau

In 2007, I applied to become a national worker for CEF in Micronesia, based in Guam. My application was approved in February 2008 and I was so happy. But my husband suddenly changed his mind. He said he didn't like to go to Guam anymore and asked me to tell CEF that I will work here in Palau instead.

Thinking I was in Guam, Miss Jan Johnson (AP Region Education Director) wanted to meet me there to help start the ministry. But I was not able to go and did not get to meet Miss Jan then.

God has better plans though. Miss Jan promised to come to Palau the following year, arriving on September 12, 2009. Previously, I talked with several people, including two of my former classmates at the Philippines Institute about the possibility of opening CEF Palau and that of my need for help to organize the work. We also promoted to the churches the seminars that Miss Jan was going to do. The Lord be praised! Some of these people are now members of the national board and serving with me as workers.

Miss Jan had two nights seminar on Teach and Transform, September 15-16 at the Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) church. The first night's attendance was more than 70. On the last night, it was 100 including my husband, Pastor Albert and myself.



Teach and Transform Seminar conducted by Miss Jan, Sept. 2009.



Jo Maldangesang (third from right) with Miss Jan Johnson

God's amazing work indeed. Such a big crowd for an unorganized CEF country. Miss Jan also had the privilege to promote CEF in the two largest churches in Palau - PMA and Koror Evangelical church.

September 16, Miss Jan had a brief seminar to prospective board members: Mrs Enitha

Edwards, Mr Salvador Tellames, Mrs Nenea Jamila, Ms Cecilia Andrew and Ms Stephanie Eungel.

In consultation with Rev David Ra (AP Region Director), I convened the first national board meeting last September 21 at the Emmaus High School. Added to the core group was Tess Ngriraiwet (former CEF Worker in the Phils) and Mrs Lim, our prayer partner.

Another meeting was held in the same venue on September 29; and another on October 7, this time at Koror Evangelical church. Board officers were appointed and two more persons joined in - Mrs Leah Ngrirachemol (CEF Phils LTI batch 2000) and Mr Dodger Kumangai. The following are the officers: Mrs Enitha Edwards, Chairperson (Palauan); Dodger Kumangai, Vice Chairman (Palauan); Nenea Jamila, Secretary (Filipino); Cecilia Andrew, Treasurer (Yapese); Salvador Tellames, Member (Palauan); Tess Ngriraiwet and Leah Ngrirachemol (both Filipinos) members. A volunteer, Stephanie Eungel is in charge of the Prayer Ministry. A month later, Tess and Leah decided to give up their board membership to become full time workers.



A view of the CEF Palau Office

Thank God for additional board members: Eileen Uyehara (Fil-Am) and Peter Jeoung (Korean). Praise, too, for four active volunteers. Pray for Tess as she handle the Literature Ministry; Cheryl (Secretary), Stephanie Bellarmino (Prayer/Promotions/Missions). Pray God will provide for their regular support.

In November last year, we submitted our Constitution and By-Laws to the Office of the Attorney General, and was submitted again last January to include other requirements.

Last January 13, my friend and volunteer worker, Mino Fagolur found an office space for CEF, just the perfect place. Everything we needed was there -



Open Air Evangelism



Open Air Evangelism

bookshelves, a conference table, chairs, an air conditioning unit, a kitchen, bathroom, and a small space to be used as prayer room where I can also stay overnight.

So timely was God's provision through CEF Korea (Masan Chapter) which sent an amount to help us establish this office. We were able to pay the one month rent and deposit of US \$600.

We had our first open air evangelism last February 25 at Ngerbodel, a neighborhood close to our office reaching ten kids. I was expecting these kids in our Good News Club* (GNC*) which opened last March 3. Instead the LORD sent four different kids who

were playing outside the office premises. Cheryl assisted me in teaching the class and we thank the Lord that one of the girls accepted Jesus in her heart.

The following day, another group of

kids (three of them) walked into the office and told me they would like to hear about Jesus! How wonderful is God's work! These three children confessed their sins and received Jesus as their Savior and Friend that day! Please pray that more children will come to the club.

Thank you for putting it in your heart to pray for the newly opened work in Palau.

Jo D Maldangesang,
National Coordinator-
CEF Palau



Good News Club