



CEF[®] ASIA PACIFIC FAMILY NEWS

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Come Over and Help Us!

When I visited Myanmar last November 2009, I had a chance to "come over" to an island where the poor population of Yangon lived. Waiting at the ferry terminal for the ferry that would carry us to the island, I saw a boy about the age of my first son, Joseph. Almost the same height, he was skinny as my boy. He was sleeping on the dirty, muddy terminal floor while the strong afternoon sunshine beat down on him. His face was covered by nasty flies but he was sleeping very soundly. It seemed the pressure of life had been heavy on him. Observing, a thundering question came to my mind, "Who will come over and help this poor boy, and the many other boys and girls like him?" That moment, the theme for the upcoming AP conference "Come over and Help us!" (Acts 16:9) came about.

WHO SHOULD COME OVER?

In Acts chapter 16:9, we see Apostle Paul having a vision from the Lord. In this vision, he saw a Macedonian man beckoning him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." I believe this vision was repeated again and again throughout the church history, though the details of the vision must have varied according to the needs of the age. William Carey had this vision and went to India; Hudson Taylor had this vision and went to China; Mr. O had this vision and started *Child Evangelism Fellowship*[®] (CEF[®]). The list goes on. We should be asking ourselves then, "Do I have this vision?" If not, we should ask another question, "Why don't I have this vision?" Let me tell you why.

Almost always, visions are given to Christians when they pray. In this regard, we can safely conclude that Paul was praying that night when he had a vision of a man from Macedonia. If we pray, we will be given visions. If we pray a lot, our visions will be clearer. If we don't, our visions will dim out. So whether we have visions or not is not the question. The real question is, whether we pray or not! If we have prayed, we will surely have visions. The fact that we don't have a vision prove we don't pray. Remember, only those who pray and have visions in their hearts can truly come over and help.

WHO SHOULD BE HELPED?

There are innumerable pitiful people in the world who

should be helped. Some die of starvation and others die of war. Some die of deadly diseases and others die of crime. The question is "Who should be helped with top priority?" Needless to say, those who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior should be helped first and foremost. Still another question follows, "Who among those who need to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior should we reach first?" A tricky question to many Christians.

That, however, was not a tricky question to Apostle Paul. When he prayed, God showed him a very specific target group. That was Macedonia, which, later, enlarged into Europe, not Asia, at least not at the time of the age.

How about us? Do we have a specific target group? Yes, we surely do! It is a 4/14 window group called children. Precious souls of the boys and girls in Asia Pacific Region. Children from up north in Mongolia to down South Pacific in Tonga.

I believe we, as children's workers, have this strong vision from the Lord, through the leadership of International CEF. The vision is very clear: To open all the nations in the world with CEF ministry by the year 2017. Why 2017? Because it is the 80th anniversary of CEF. Thus the motto, "Around the world in 80 years." Do you envision children in unopened areas of Asia Pacific beckoning to you and saying, "Come over and help us?"

WIDEN YOUR VISION

Interestingly, 16:9 in today's technological term means, a wide-vision. Whereas the term 4:3 means traditional vision, humdrum and the way it has been. By the way, if you look up Acts 4:3 you will read, "They seized ... and ... put them in jail ..." I am afraid if we refuse to accept the vision of Acts 16:9 which the Lord gives us in our time, we might be content to stay in the safe zone of our old vision and the progress of gospel among the boys and girls in Asia Pacific Region might "be seized and put in jail."

Dear friends and co-workers of CEF, let us not allow that to happen! Please come over to the AP conference in Cambodia (*please see page 4 for details*) and catch this vision of helping the unsaved children of Asia Pacific. When you truly grasp this vision, your ministry will never be the same!

Rev. David Ra

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