



Transforming the nation through local church



Mr. Samuel Ang
Sec. General, NECFM

The theme for NECF Malaysia's nation-building agenda for the past two years has been to *"Transform the Nation through the Local Church"*. In line with this theme, the Nation Building Team has been busy traveling the length and breadth of the nation to educate, promote an understanding of the theme as well as to share various ways and models by which churches and Christians may play a part in seeking the welfare of the nation. The basic message has been to encourage, nurture and challenge Christians to be *agents of transformation* in the various places and sphere of influence that God has placed each one to be in.

It was a challenging year for the entire NECF nation-building team as we were moving from one place to another, conducting meeting after meetings. Besides that they also organized a national conference on the Missional Church with the theme *"Life Outside the Church"*. The goal was to make an impact to community, society and the nation.

Besides sharing various models for strategic actions, the NECF nation-building agenda also encompassed a prayer component which was effectively carried out through our annual *40Days Fast and Prayer* booklet and campaign. This year's theme *"Uniting the Generation for the Nation"* was well received as it was a call to members of the local church irrespective of age and background to come together, stand united in fervent prayer for the nation.

In all this, we want to thank our great God and savior Jesus Christ for the grace, provision and wisdom as we embarked on this journey to move the local church to be agents of transformation. Amongst the blessings we could thank God for and deserving of mention are:-

- ❖ The commencement of our own internet news portal called *"Goodtimes: A Conscience to the Nation"*. The portal was officially launched on October 1, 2010 and now has a staff size of 6 comprising of writers, journalists, administrator and editor. The aim of this portal is to educate and to infuse Christian values onto issues that concerns public life and interest that affects all communities. Since November, the portal has been carrying articles and features on issues of corruption, national integration, religion and communities and has thus far registered more than a few thousand hits.

The offer of 25 acres of land, 35 minutes drive from the city centre for the purpose of building a vocational school cum campsite. We are currently working on architectural drawing as part of the first phase of the building plans.

- ❖ A conference was held on how churches exercising a missional mandate can bring impact to society in the way they organize themselves to be externally focused.
- ❖ A seminar was held to brief school principals, teachers, parents and guardian on the Islamisation process and how that is affecting the state of our religious liberty.
- ❖ A seminar was held with pastors/leaders on issues of concern such as the Christian and political engagements, helping them to understand the ills and destructive consequences caused through bribery and corruption on institutions of society.



Christian Spirituality Unites

How do you promote Christian unity? How do you

discover that Christ is at work in the life of women and men from diverse denominations? Important questions indeed! All who have participated in the Global Christian Forum (GCF) meetings are witnesses to the fact that in the sharing of our faith journey's with Christ, each participant has discovered the depths of unity we already share. Our walk with Christ is enriched as we listen to the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of sisters and brothers from various Christian confessions.

In its journey to promote Christian Unity, the third Asian meeting of the Global Christian Forum took place from the 12th to the 16th of November, hosted by the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea. The meeting brought together some seventy participants from 19 Asian countries. The Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA) was well represented at the Asia regional meeting of the Global Christian Forum, along with the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), and the Asia Pentecostal Society (APS) were also represented. There was consensus that ecumenism should be understood as an intra-Christian, inter-church movement towards unity, and that being ecumenical is to be on a journey with other churches recognizing that all are not at the same stage.

The members of the Asia Evangelical Alliance along with CCA, FABC and APS also participated at the fifth Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU) in Bangkok Thailand from 2-4th December 2010. The theme of AMCU in Bangkok was 'One in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer' (Acts 2:42), which is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2011.

Prayers are requested as the AEA executive council meets in Bangkok in February 9th and 10th followed by AEA Mission Commission meetings from 10th to 12th. Let's celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dr. Richard Howell, General Secretary AEA

While these initiatives have produced some degree of positive results, we solicit your prayers for ongoing initiatives that will yield further fruits in the days and months to come. In particular, we like to mention the following:-

- ❖ An anti-corruption and bribery conference is being planned to mobilize the Christian critical-mass movement and those in the market-place to do their part against bribery and corruption. In this respect, do pray for our partnership with NGOs and other related agencies as we strive to inculcate practical living and conduct that is unashamedly ethical
- ❖ Joint development projects that would be economically beneficial to the native and indigenous people in the rural heartland of East Malaysia
- ❖ Researching and investigating issues of social injustice for purposes of advocacy and reformulation of just and righteous policies contributing to the greater and common good of society and the nation.

Conclusion

To be effective agents of transformation, Christians must continue to intercede strategically, live as authentic disciples of Christ and engage in intentional mission. The local church must play the role of encouraging, nurturing and enabling believers for this work of mission in seeking the welfare of the city, society and the nation. This is achieved by identifying and connecting all believers, facilitating their roles and empowering them by the Holy Spirit to pursue good in every aspect of human life and interest.

It is NECF desire that Christians will mediate change by proclaiming the Good News, becoming socially involved in issues plaguing society and the sphere of influenced they are in and by engaging the social-cultural institutions for the common good of all people to the glory of God.

May God continue to bless the church and Malaysia!

NECF Malaysia



Church that sends missionaries



Rev. Paul Ueki
Exe. Member, AEA

My ministry has been mostly in theological education. I currently serve the Lord as president of Bible Training College (BTC), a theological institution of Immanuel Church in Japan.

My wife Ruth and I graduated from BTC in 1975. At that time we already had first degrees from other universities. Since graduating from BTC, Ruth and I did pioneer work from scratch to start a church in the Western part of Japan. This pastoral work lasted for seven years and a church was established in Himeji City. In 1982 we were sent as missionaries to Jamaica, West Indies. This was the beginning of our service in theological education. We taught seminary

students from different islands of the Caribbean. Thanks be to God, for our former students are proclaiming the gospel in different countries of the world!

We returned home in 2006 and started teaching at BTC. After teaching in English language for more than twenty years, I have found it more difficult to teach in Japanese. One of the serious reasons is scarcity of evangelical academic books in Japanese language. When I taught in Jamaica I could choose textbooks out of many good books and quote other writers in my classes because the students understood English. In order to teach in Japan I have to choose books available in Japanese language. This shows a short Christian history in Japan. Last year we celebrated

The power of the Gospel

In 2010 &
Celebration of University Bible Fellowship
50th Anniversary in 2011



Dr Samuel H Lee
General Secretary, KEF

Last year we prayed and challenged many obstacles by faith for campus evangelism and disciple making, holding onto Romans 1:16, "The power of the gospel". We witnessed a newly growing work of God among the students on each campus. About 70 missionaries have been sent out this year. In spite of the tension between the North and the South, we delivered food directly to the starving people in North Korea on five different occasions. Personally, I fully committed myself to Korea campus evangelism and to making a breakthrough of the obstacles by holding onto Mark 10:45. We established a "Campus Ministry Research Center" in order to challenge the situation together with all staff leaders. Last year we also prepared with much prayer for the 50th anniversary of UBF.

As general secretary of KEF (Korea Evangelical Fellowship), I have supported the chair, Rev. Myunghyuk Kim, at the monthly presentation and prayer meetings. The main topic we dealt with was repentance and spiritual awakening of Korean churches. In addition, in two occasions, we raised fund to help TB patients in North Korea. We also encouraged Korean churches to build a relationship with about 200 Korean Chinese orphan students in Yunbyun area through continual financial support of their tuition.

For our 2011 key verse, Korea UBF decided to hold to 1 Samuel 7:6 "The Spiritual Revival at Mizpah." As we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of UBF, I pray that our hearts may be renewed, and there will be the work of repentance and revival so that we may continue to be used by God. I pray that we may render all the glory to God for the past 50 years of

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150th anniversary of Protestant mission in Japan. We gave thanks for these years. However the history of 150 years is still short to produce good evangelical academic books.

The present enrollment of our college is 22. Recently many theological institutions find it difficult to have heavy enrollment. One of the reasons is the declining of young population in Japan. I hope it is not due to spiritual declining among Japanese churches.

Please pray for Japanese churches and for theological institutions. We need more evangelical scholars who will write academic books in Japanese. We need more students who dedicate their lives for the gospel's sake.

*Paul Ueki (Rev.) President of Immanuel Bible Training College
Member of Board of Governors of Japan Evangelical Association
Executive Member of Asia Evangelical Alliance.*



Paradigmshift: Wycliffe International in a changing world

Wycliffe International is changing to align with what the Lord is doing around the world. So the Asia-Pacific Area is to do the best in helping in the change process. Wycliffe International has been very successful in recruiting workers and necessary funding – forwarding them to the field operations. This was in the paradigm where church do not take the active role, but rather entrust the workers to mission organizations and send the financial support and prayer support. So there are many Wycliffe organizations that are members of Wycliffe International. In Asia-Pacific Area, there are 14 of them. But we find ourselves in a rapidly growing mission awareness and participation by churches in Asia and Pacific. The distinctions of missionary sending nations and mission fields is not anymore relevant. So we try to with the church and in the church, so all churches be missional churches. We try to be an advocate for minority people groups, Bible related ministry in the languages people can understand the best, and the transformation of individual as and communities in a wholistic way. Now not only Wycliffe member organizations, but there are numerous partner organizations/church denominations that are compassionate about minority people groups, Bible translation in mother tongues, and the wholistic transformation and we partner with them. We try to be open and hope to bring services to those organizations.

Prayer requests:

- ❖ Change is not easy. Please pray for the leadership of Asia-Pacific
- ❖ Wycliffe Area, Wycliffe member organizations, and partner organizations.
- ❖ Please pray for the wisdom and discernment.
- ❖ Please pray that Asians will rise to the leadership roles.
- ❖ Please pray that many ethnic minority people groups in Asia and Pacific will have the word of God in the language they can understand best sooner.

Thank you. Fukudaa



Founded in 1983, The Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA) empowers National Alliances to be agents of transformation in Asia, by uniting evangelical churches for dynamic action in the areas of mission and Church Planting, Theology and Church Renewal, Religious Liberty, Social Concern, Women's Ministry, Youth Ministry and Leadership Development.

University Bible Fellowship

UBF and find valuable spiritual legacies that we must inherit. I pray that we may also find things to discard so that we may repent and hold to God's vision and specific direction for a further 50 years. I pray that I may serve well the succession of leadership in Korea. May God richly bless all the directors' conferences with his word beginning with Oceania on 6th December, and Korea, Africa, CIS, Middle East, Europe, Asia, Latin America, and North America. I pray for the revival of world campus evangelism, for the establishing of disciples, and for the sending out of a hundred thousand of self-supporting tent-maker missionaries by 2041.

Vision and Future direction

First, may Korea be reunited through the gospel of Jesus Christ, and may Korea become the kingdom of priests in the 21st century.

Second, may all of the 313 Universities in Korea be evangelized by the gospel by the next century.

Third, may we raise up as many as 233 national directors in each nation for World Mission, and may 8,000 campuses in the world be evangelized.



Announces

The Gospel & Neighbours of other Faiths Congress

26th to 30th September 2011

At

Hallelujah Community Church
132 Yatap Dong, Bundang Ku,
Sungnam City, Korea