

in deed and in truth

# Let Your Light Shine

Seed project stories  
from the Church in

*Asia*



Dear Reader,

LETTING OUR LIGHTS SHINE. ... LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS ... These themes resound through the pages of this small book!

In this collection are wonderful stories of what God has done through local churches and followers of Jesus in Asia who trusted God, obeyed Him, and creatively used the resources He gave them to love their neighbors. You will also see the beauty of Asia, her church, and her people.

Most of the stories in this booklet are about very small projects—we call them seed projects. They are small projects that can be accomplished in a small amount of time and that do not require large resources. A few of the projects in this booklet are not small—but they began as little expressions of God’s love. Isn’t that like seeds? Seeds are small but, when we plant and nurture them, they grow into something else—whatever their designer intended.

In some stories, we discover how to help someone by praying and listening—even to barking dogs. In others, we learn to ask people what they need—from weeping widows to town mayors, from flood victims to head monks.

Our thanks go to Zach Cann, a photo-journalist who is taking a two-year journey to document how the church of Jesus around the world is “letting its light shine.” Our thanks to the servants whose stories are told here—and to our hospitable and dedicated staff in Asia who live what they teach and equip the church to serve.

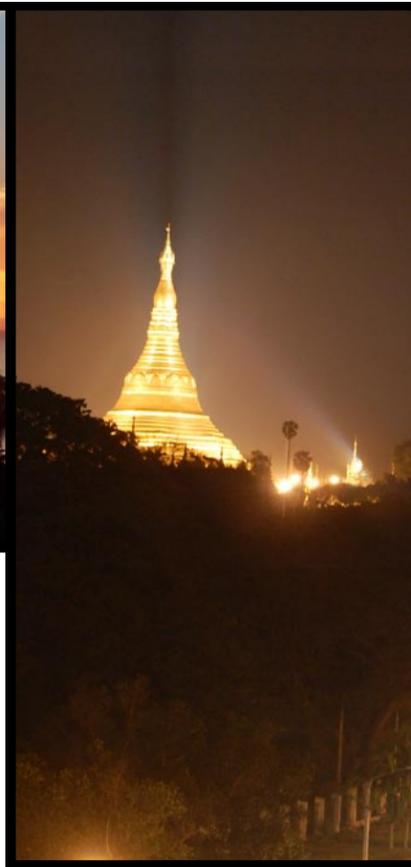
We pray that what you will see and read here will expand your vision of what is possible. We also trust that these stories and photos will encourage you to give to God what He has already given you and your people—to bring glory to his Name and to extend His Kingdom.

Let your light shine!

Thanks,

The Harvest Team

in deed and in truth



# Let Your Light Shine **Asia**

## STORIES

- 4 »» FISHER OF MEN
- 8 »» BRINGING CHRIST TO SCHOOL
- 11 »» BIG VISIONS START SMALL
- 12 »» FINDING A CURE
- 16 »» PLANTING SEEDS
- 20 »» CEMETERY ROAD
- 24 »» FLOODS OF COMPASSION
- 26 »» BRIDGE THE GAP
- 30 »» ARE YOU MY NEIGHBOR?
- 34 »» WEEPING WIDOW
- 38 »» BUKANG LIWAYWAY
- 42 »» SERVING TIME IN MCJ

## EXTRA RESOURCES

- 46 »» SEED PROJECT STEPS
- 47 »» HARVEST RESOURCE PAGE

\*Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are from the New International Version © 1984 International Bible Society.



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# Fisher Of Men



Pastor Ratnakar works in the district of Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh. The people there love him. But it has not always been this way. At first, the people of the village intended to kill him. They did not want a church in their community, so they went to the mayor and asked for permission to kill him. The mayor agreed. In desperation Pastor Ratnakar called his mentor, Caleb Rayapati, and asked him to pray. Miraculously, the village decided to wait to see what kind of man Pastor Ratnakar was before killing him. For the next two years Pastor Ratnakar loved the community, and in doing so, he won their affection. And the mayor who once wanted him killed is now a good friend.



## How God Used a Church to Transform the Life of a Desperate Fisherman

Andrew has been a fisherman his entire life. He was raised in a very poor Hindu family in Andhra Pradesh, India. At an early age Andrew became an alcoholic, like his father. Instead of using his hard-earned money to support his family, he spent it on alcohol. The habit controlled him. He soon had a bad reputation in the village of Desaipet. He was known for his foul temper, obnoxious behavior, poor hygiene, and dishonesty in business. It was not long before Andrew was poorer than he had ever been. He could no longer earn a living. His money was gone, his fishing net

had large holes in it, he was an alcoholic, and—worst of all—he had no friends. No one loved Andrew...at least, that is what Andrew thought.

At that time, Ratnakar was the pastor of a small church in Desaipet. He and the church had faced great hostility from rival religious groups and government officials. Ratnakar had learned from a Vision Conference that the best way to convince people of God's love is to show it in practical ways. To do that, the church organized several free, one-day dental clinics. The mayor of the village, who once wanted the church to leave the community, now saw the need for it. After the church members had earned the approval of the people, it might have been easy for them to stop serving—but this was only the beginning of the transformation they wanted to see.

The church members had heard about Andrew. They knew of his alcoholism and his long list of problems. Several in the church had personal encounters with Andrew that were not pleasant.

The rest of the village had rejected Andrew—they decided to serve him. They saw in the Bible that Jesus often spent time with those who were rejected by society. When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees and Bible teachers of His day why He ate and drank with tax collectors and sinners,

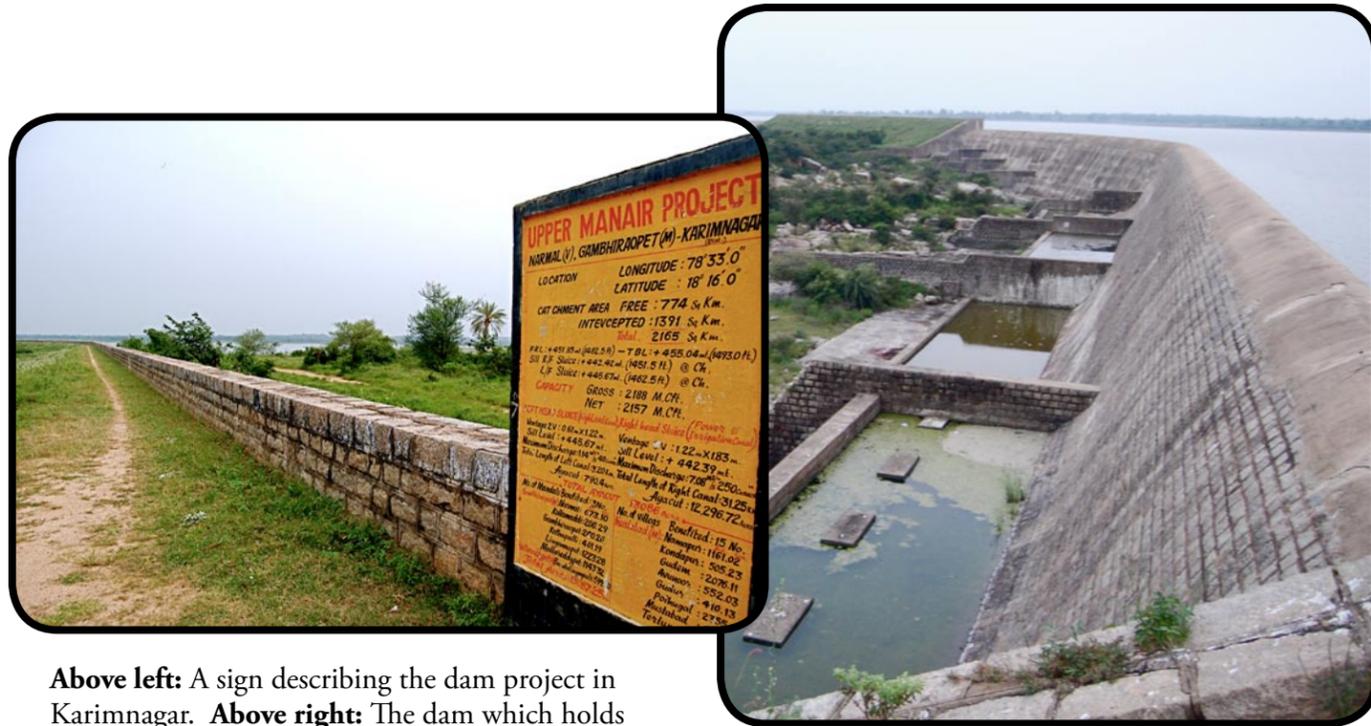
“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 5:31-32



Pastor Ratnakar with his church in Desaipet.





**Above left:** A sign describing the dam project in Karimnagar. **Above right:** The dam which holds back the lake Andrew fishes in. **Below:** Andrew with his fishing “boat” on the lake.



Jesus responded, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

The church prayed about how to show love to Andrew in a practical and strategic way. Several of the believers started praying for his deliverance. After some time, they befriended him and invited him to church. They provided him with shelter and food and shared the Gospel. After a few days, there was a noticeable change in the man. He appeared to have stopped drinking, and he showed interest in learning about Christ.

As the believers talked to Andrew, they learned he had given up his vocation as a fisherman

because he lacked financial resources and proper equipment. The believers then contributed from their own resources and purchased a fishing net for him. Grateful for the gift, Andrew went back to fishing, and he soon began to earn enough money to support himself. Although the money from his new friends had been provided without expectation of repayment, Andrew gradually paid back the money he had received.

Andrew has come to a personal relationship with the Lord, and is now an active member of the local church.

“The transformation in my life is because of the experience I have had with Jesus,” Andrew says with a smile. “His love is great!” In a world that had abandoned him, there was still someone who loved Andrew. When asked how

“I have learned how to give out of my nothing. I am nothing, but I can still share this love of Jesus with others.”  
-Andrew

this love has changed his life he simply answered, “I have learned how to give out of my nothing. I am nothing, but I can share the love of Jesus with others.” Andrew first experienced God’s love when God’s people loved an unemployed and troublesome fisherman. He is still a fisherman, but now he is also a fisher of men.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16



# Bringing Christ to School



## A Church Helps a Local School Battle Disease

Hyderabad, India, is a city with a population of almost 7 million people. The streets are crowded with vehicles and people. During the day the city is alive with people working, buying, selling, and begging. But as with any major city, crowded conditions have great potential for disease unless there is proper sanitation and hygiene. In a city where people live closely together, disease can spread quickly.

In the fall of 2007, there was an epidemic of conjunctivitis—also known as pink eye—in sections of Hyderabad. It hit the hardest in poorer parts of the city, where people are less able to afford antibiotics. Children are often susceptible to conjunctivitis, so it spread rapidly through the schools.

The Maranatha Full Gospel Prayer House is located in the industrial area of Hyderabad known as Shapunagar. The church building is one block from a public school. As conjunctivitis became a large concern in the community, the Maranatha Church decided to do something about it. The pastor, Pastor Yohan, spoke with the mayor of the community. He asked if the church members could go to neighborhood school to teach basic hygiene and bring medicine. The mayor, who is a devout Hindu, agreed to Pastor Yohan's proposal and offered to help.

The Maranatha Church began raising money for the project. Every week they set aside money from the offering to purchase medicine for the children at the school. Several members even offered to buy toys to give to students.

The principal of the school was delighted to have the church members come. He knew that the medicine and basic hygiene instruction would make the school a safe place—and this would encourage more students from the community to attend.

"I am so thankful that God has brought Pastor Yohan and the church to this community... [His Church] loves our community." - Mayor of Shapunagar

Below: Pastor Yohan and the Maranatha Full Gospel Church





The day of the project was like a holiday! The church members made the short walk from the church to the school. Once inside the school, the entire student population welcomed them—approximately 300 children. The walls and ceiling were decorated with pictures and streamers. All of the teachers, the principal, and several city officials were present for the occasion.



Pastor Yohan greeted the children and presented the gifts of medicine and toys to the school. The church also gave Bibles to each of the teachers in appreciation for their hard work. The Hindu mayor insisted on personally handing the Bibles to each of the teachers!



“I am so thankful that God has brought Pastor Yohan to this community,” said the Mayor. “His church is patriotic and loves our community.”

The entire ceremony at the school did not last any longer than an hour. The church members left the school as quickly as they had come. However, the impact of their love for the community will, no doubt, be felt for years to come.



Above: Church prays for the school children. Below: The mayor of Shapunagur helps the church distribute Bibles to teachers.



## Big Visions Start Small

In some parts of Hyderabad, the poor live in tents that look like they were put up yesterday, but they have been there for decades. These encampments, which can be found in alleys or on the side of roads, look temporary, but are very much a permanent fixture in Hyderabad. It is hard to know where to begin to serve when needs are so huge. The sanitation is poor—human filth flows through the streets. Sickness is prevalent and spreads rapidly because of close living quarters and filthy drinking water. Who can possibly help them and make a difference?

Mrs. N. Jhancy Paul and her husband have worked with the poor for nearly 15 years. It is impressive to walk through the slum communities they work in. There are several elementary schools, a nursing school, churches, and even a clinic. They have over 20 staff that supports a student population of nearly 400. In addition to the schools they have several housing and feeding programs. But it was not always this way.

Back in 1991 Jhancy began her work by simply visiting the slums and talking with the people. In 1993 she began teaching classes to children underneath a tree.



Mrs. Jhancy Paul at her desk.

Not many people wanted to help Jhancy Paul in her ministry to the poorest of the poor in India, the “Untouchables.” But the small church within the slum communities began to see the power of holistic ministry and began to join the cause. By the end of 1993 they started work among uneducated children and unemployed adults. The programs grew slowly. It would be five years before they would be able to construct a building, and the medical clinic and nursing school would not begin until late 2004.

The process has been anything but easy, and often painful, but the smile on Jhancy’s face tells another story. She remembers well how the Lord has provided through tough times, but she prefers not to dwell too much on the past. There is so much to do in the present. Jhancy currently works as the principal of the nursing school and has plans to establish a small hospital with several small hygienic programs in the surrounding slums. The Lord has done great things, not through of great sums of money, but through the simple obedience of his servants, his church. Jhancy smiles because there is great hope that God will complete the work he has begun. She knows the joy in our lives is not dependent on whether we are rich or poor. God does not want or need our money or our plans. He wants us—our obedience and love.



Students at one of Mrs. Jhancy’s schools pray before lunch.



A Thai woman feeds her pet dog.

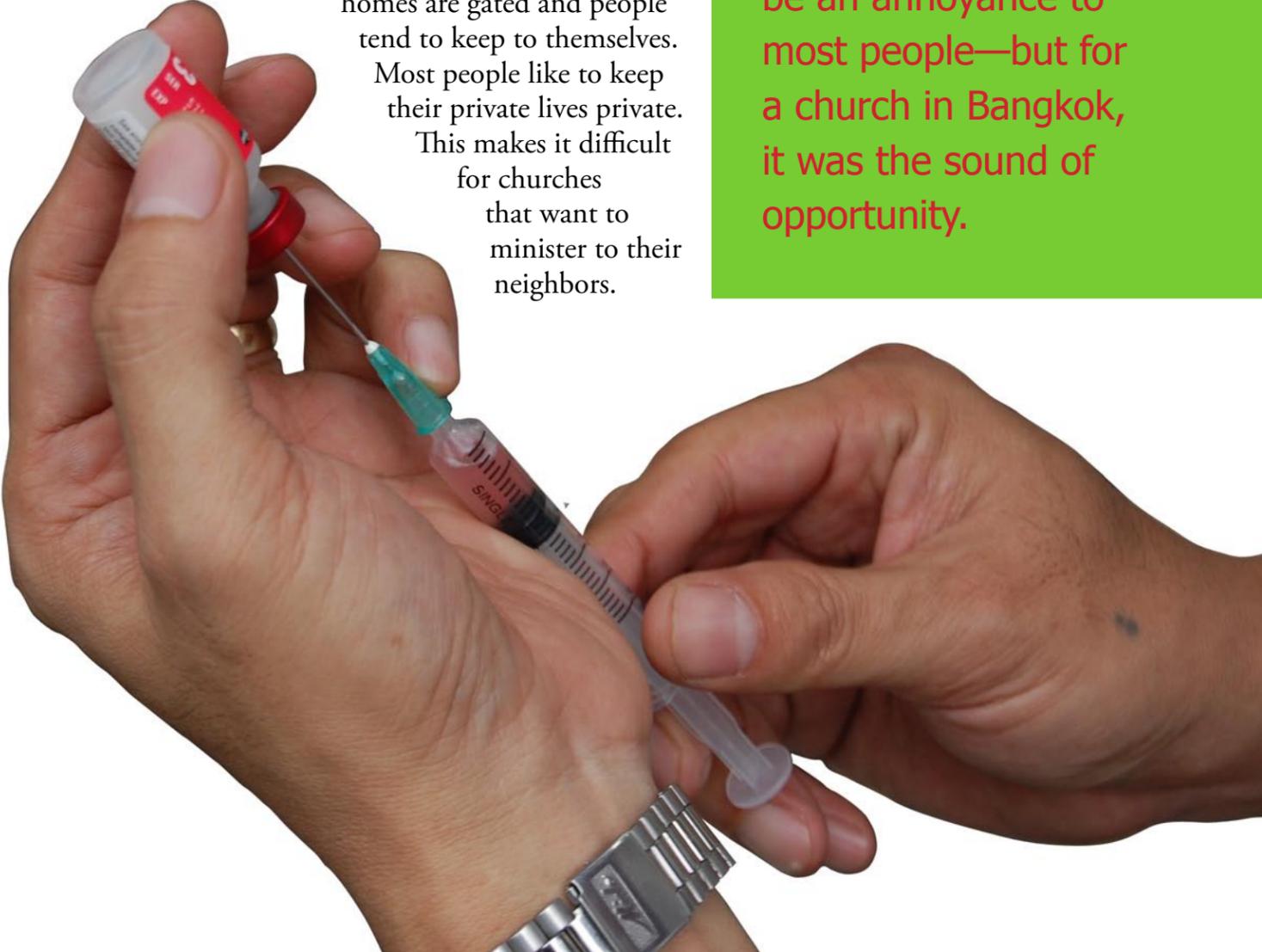


The streets of Bangkok, Thailand

Due to the high dog population in the city and the potential for disease, the government requires that all dogs receive a series of vaccinations. The vaccinations are not very expensive, but it is an almost impossible task for dog owners to transport their dogs back and forth to the clinics. Dogs rarely get the necessary vaccinations.

It is not always easy for churches to go into their communities and meet their neighbors since many homes are gated and people tend to keep to themselves. Most people like to keep their private lives private. This makes it difficult for churches that want to minister to their neighbors.

The sound of barking dogs during a worship service would probably be an annoyance to most people—but for a church in Bangkok, it was the sound of opportunity.



# FINDING A CURE

## A Church Listens to the Needs of its Community

Many gated communities in Bangkok have dogs as guards for their homes and property. Every morning, dogs can be heard barking and howling at one another—even on Sundays. The sound of dogs barking during a worship service would probably be an annoyance to most people—but to a church in Bangkok, it was the sound of opportunity.

One particular church had a hard time seeing the needs of its surrounding community. This was a problem. However, this time the church members could hear the need in its community. It was obvious from the sound of the barking dogs! This was the cure. The church saw (and heard) an opportunity to minister to their neighbors by helping them vaccinate their pets.

A young man in the church and his wife—both doctors—offered to administer the vaccinations to the dogs. They had experience giving shots to patients—although their patients were not usually dogs. Others in the church came forward to plan the outreach. Several volunteers made banners and posters to spread around the neighborhood. A Bible study group at the church offered to keep a list of the neighbors who were interested in having their dogs vaccinated. The church took an offering to help purchase the vaccinations and syringes. Everyone in the church helped out in some way.



**Top left:** Church members go from house to house offering dog vaccinations. **Top right:** They brought all the supplies with them for the job. **Left:** One of the doctors giving a vaccination. **Below:** Preparing a syringe...He had to give the shot through the fence because the neighbors would not permit him to enter.

Some people in the groups had to overcome their fear of dogs in order to help. It was a learning experience for everyone who participated.



The church decided to do the seed project on a Sunday afternoon when most families would be at home. Two groups of church volunteers, each led by one of the doctors, went from house to house and vaccinated the dogs.

It was not always as easy as the groups expected. Some of the dogs were so hard to control that it was almost impossible to hold them still for the shots. Other families had so many dogs that it was hard to keep one dog away from the others. Of course, some people in the groups had to overcome their fear of dogs in order to help. It was a learning experience for everyone who participated.

Despite a few minor problems, the project was a tremendous success. The church was able to unite around a common cause, serve a need in the community, meet its neighbors, and show them love in a creative and practical way.



# PLANTING SEEDS, GROWING FLOWERS

Nam sat down at a table outside his small home in Padaeng, a small village in southwest Thailand. It was time to plan for the upcoming harvest. Nam grows flowers to sell in the flower markets of Bangkok. It is difficult work and is not very profitable, but Nam does not do it for the money. His job is farming, but his passion is Jesus. Nam recently moved to Padaeng to help start the first church in the region.

Nam's work in Padaeng is endless. He works hard on his home. He is also helping construct a new church building. He has partnered with Thailand Food For the Hungry International (TFHI) to implement their Child Development Program in Padaeng. It is a full schedule.

Time is a valuable resource. Nam has learned that sometimes the greatest gift he can give to people is time. Busy as he is, Nam still finds time to serve his neighbors. He takes time out of his day to play with children in a nearby river, or to help his neighbors with their crops.

Nam has encouraged the church people to serve others by giving their time.

As a seed project, the church decided to help a family with its flower harvest. They



Sometimes  
the smallest  
things make  
the biggest  
difference.



Flowers are an important part of Thai culture. They are used for weddings, funerals, special occasions, home decorations, wreaths for honored guests, and religious ceremonies. In Bangkok there is a flower market over one kilometer long. People can be seen buying and selling flowers of every size, shape, and color. The smell is heavenly.

The photos to the right shows the process (from top to bottom) of harvesting marigolds. Nam and several church members help cut the flowers, sort them by size and quality, bag them, and then ship them to market.



**Left:** New church building in a Padaeng village. **Below:** Nam helps a local farming family sort flowers. **Below Left:** A young Thai girl who takes part of the Food for the Hungry Child Development Program.



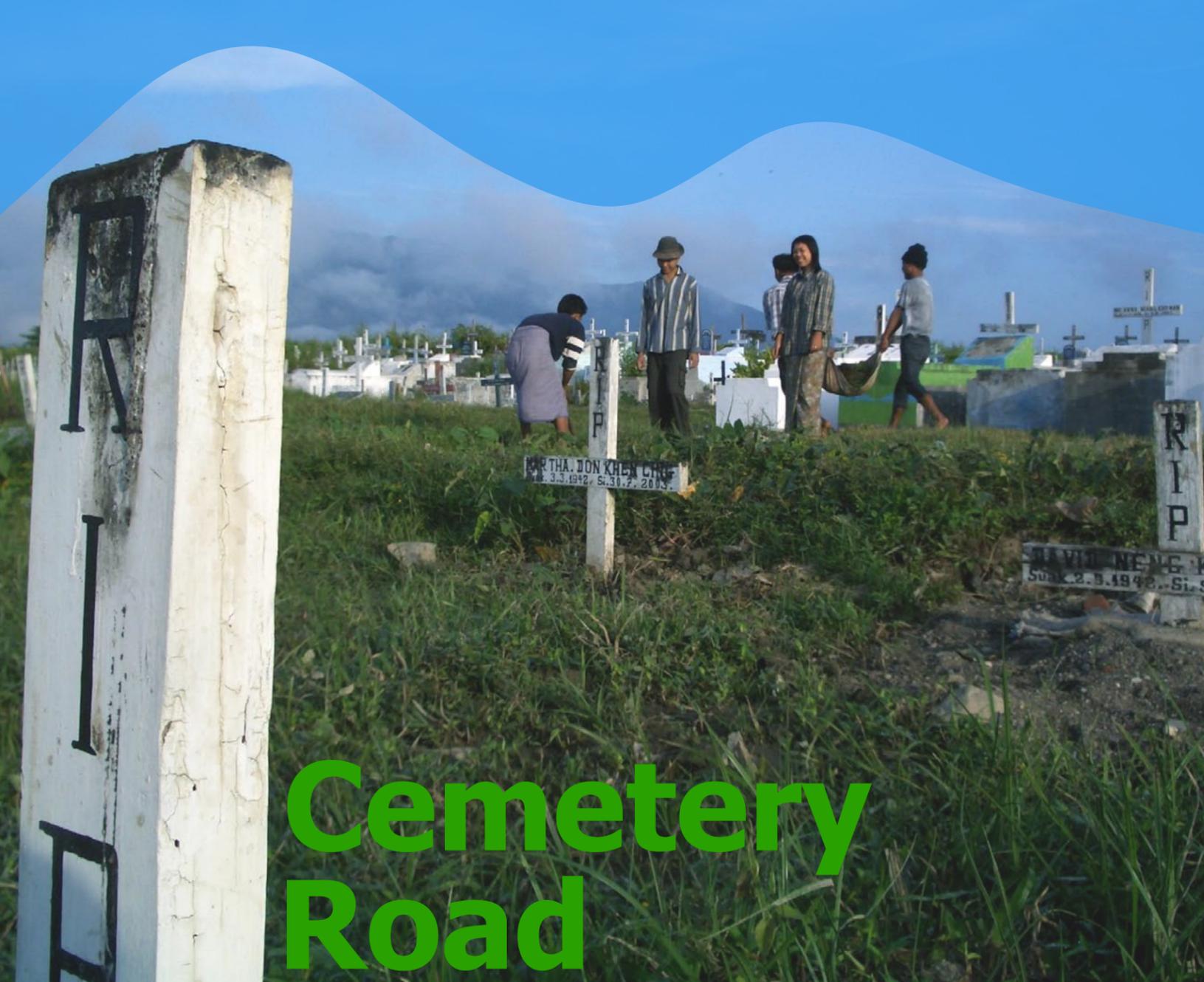
met on the front porch of the family's home to help them sort and package the flowers. Nam came along with several of his Christian friends from Bangkok. Together, there were twenty people. It took more than eight hours before all the flowers from the day's harvest had been sorted, packaged, and loaded onto a truck headed for the city.

As Nam shared this story his face beamed with joy. When asked why he was so happy to give up eight hours of his time in the

midst of his busy schedule, he said, "My purpose here is to help the church. I love these people, and loving them is not a sacrifice."

Nam continues to grow his crops of flowers, support the church, and build his home. That is his job. Sowing seeds for the Kingdom by loving others is his passion...and giving his time for that cause is never a sacrifice.





# Cemetery Road

## Christians Help Fix and Clean a Local Cemetery

Serving others takes creativity! When people think about what it means to serve, they often think of helping the homeless, feeding the hungry, cleaning their community, or treating the sick. These are all excellent strategies for loving your neighbor, but there are many creative possibilities.

One group of seven Christians in Southeast Asia wanted to serve their community. They got together and thought of a unique service opportunity. On the outskirts of their village was a local cemetery. (In many communities, the cemetery is a place many people visit. It is

<< Cleaning up debris from around the graves of a local cemetery.

Digging up dirt to use in the repair of the road leading into the cemetery. >>

“For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life, so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.”

Romans 14:9



public property, so no one takes the responsibility to care for it.) The cemetery in this village was in very bad condition. There were tall weeds growing everywhere, and the road leading into the cemetery was in desperate need of repair.

The Christians decided that the best way they could serve their community was to take responsibility to cut the grass, clean up the debris, and repair the road. When they surveyed the condition of the graveyard they realized it would be a big task. The cemetery is large, so they decided

to focus on the road leading into the cemetery for this seed project.

The planning for the project was minimal. They only needed several trash bags for the debris and a shovel to patch the dirt road. These items were easily collected by members of the church. Before starting the seed project they prayed together that the Lord would use this demonstration of love to affect the lives of those who would come to visit the gravesites in the future. They prayed that, in visiting the dead, they might see the good works of Christians and find life in Christ.

They prayed that, in visiting the dead, people might see the good works of Christians and find life in Christ.

The work began. The Christians took a truck out to the site, bringing their tools with them. They began by walking through the cemetery and picking up trash they found among the gravestones. Then they began the enormous task of trying to make the road more level. It was especially bad near a small bridge at the entrance. There were large potholes where the water had eroded the road near the bank of a small stream.

The holes had to be patched with dirt. The workers had shovels to dig up the earth, but they had no means to transfer the dirt to the road—so they used the trash bags they had brought to carry the dirt



**Above:** The road leading into the cemetery. **Below (Left to Right):** Group of Christians carries loads of dirt to repair the road; Repairing the bridge; Cleaning up debris from among the graves.

to the bridge. Working together, they finished the project before sundown.

No one from the village saw them working. To this day, no one has thanked them for the work they did. However, the Christians have no doubt that God will answer their prayers by using their efforts for His glory. They know that God is always faithful to His Word. His Word calls us to serve—even when we are not noticed by others. We can trust the unknown to God because “God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

God’s Word calls us to serve... even when we are not noticed by others.



# FLOODS OF COMPASSION

# SMALL EVIDENCES OF GREAT LOVE



## Supplying Flood Victims with Clothes, Blankets, and Food for the Winter

In November 2007 there was a Vision Conference in Tansen, Nepal. After the conference, churches in Tansen and Butwal started praying for opportunities to serve. They prayed for God's direction in planning seed projects.

They sensed that they needed to do something for victims of recent floods. Heavy rains had caused numerous floods and rockslides, forcing many people to flee their homes. People from the churches visited some of them and learned that many families had lost most of their possessions in the ordeal. They did not have enough food or clothes for the upcoming winter.

They did not have enough food or clothes for the upcoming winter... The need for warm clothing and food is serious.



Winter is harsh in the mountainous terrain of Nepal, and the need for warm clothing and food is serious.

The churches from the area realized they needed to do something immediately! Each congregation collected clothes and funds for food, distributed blankets and warm clothes to over 50 needy families. There was a widow crying while receiving the things provided to her. Through the tears she whispered, "There is somebody who cares for us."

"I needed clothes and you clothed me... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

-Jesus

Matthew 25:36,40



**Above (Large):** An aerial view of the town of Tansen, Nepal.

**Above (Small):** Nepal's mountainous countryside.

**Left:** Christians distributing clothing and blankets to flood victims.

# Bridge the Gap

## Christians Build a Footbridge for a Community

A group of Christians in Southeast Asia met together for training in wholistic ministry. As part of training, the participants had the opportunity to do seed projects in their community. It was a simple way to practice all that they had been learning. They broke into groups of five. Each group had to find a need they could serve together, plan it,

complete the small seed project, and then bring news of their project to share with the other groups.

Eagerly, all of the groups went their separate ways. Many of the groups already had ideas about what projects they would do, but there was one group that had no idea at all. They did not know what to do—so they did what all of us should do when we need direction. They prayed.

**Background Photo:** Bamboo Forest.  
**Photos Right to Left:** Kids play in the dirty water next to their homes; Kids play on the remnants of an old bridge; Christians begin work on a new bridge.



filthy—it was full of mud and human waste. As they surveyed the site, they saw several people walking in the stream of sewage to cross it and get to their homes. This was the project they had prayed for! They decided to build a footbridge for the families so that they would not have to walk through unsanitary water to reach their homes.

The Christians praised the Lord for letting them find such a need. It was a simple need that could be completed in a short time with only a few resources. They immediately purchased several bamboo poles, which were very inexpensive. These poles were to be used for the construction of the bridge.

Before the group could begin building the footbridge, they needed to level out the bank on both sides of the stream. To do this, the men



After praying, they ventured into the community surrounding the place they were staying. They had prayed that God would open their eyes to see how He wanted them to serve. It was not long before they noticed a small stream running beside several homes. The stream was





They did what all of us should do when we need direction. They prayed.

**Pictures (Top to Bottom):** Christians bring rocks and dirt to the stream; Two women carry a load of dirt; Christians and community members help construct bridge supports.



found several large stones, while the women brought dirt from a nearby field. The group worked for several hours to level the ground and make a sturdy base for the bridge. Several children from nearby homes came to help by clearing brush and debris from around the work area.

It was finally time to build the bridge! A few of the Christians got into the dirty water to set bamboo poles as pillars to support the bridge. After that, the only thing left to do was to lay the bamboo poles across the stream and fasten them together.

Many people from the community came out to watch the construction project. As the bridge neared completion, several community people offered to help bury the ends of the poles into the earth to keep them from shifting.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

-James 1:5

The bridge was not very big—no more than fifteen feet long and three feet wide. The entire bridge was constructed in one afternoon. Yet, that small bridge will be used everyday for the next three years—when the bamboo will have to be replaced. Meanwhile, the family members will not be walking in sewage. They will experience the benefits in many ways, and they also experienced God’s concern for their sanitary needs through the student’s loving actions. This project was simple, but it will have a lasting effect.

**Pictures (Top to Bottom):** Setting the bamboo poles and tying them down; Workers pose for a photo; The completed bridge!



# Are You My Neighbor?

## Love and Transformation in an Unlikely Place

One time, Jesus was asked which commandment is greatest. He replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...and love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31).

Another time, a young man asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29) This is an important question.

A group of pastors in Southeast Asia met together for a Vision Conference. During the conference they discussed this very question: Who is my neighbor?

As they talked one of the leaders noticed a group of Buddhist monks playing football (soccer) in a field near the building where they were meeting. “You should go ask the monks if you can play with them,” the teacher suggested. The pastors thought it was a good idea.

Soon the pastors were in an intense game of football with the monks (pictures on page 33). They learned that the monks were practicing for a competition they have with other Buddhist monasteries around the country. The monks were great players and easily defeated the pastors.

When the pastors returned to the conference they all agreed they had

They had made a connection: The monks were their neighbors! They need to see the love of Jesus, too!



fun. Better than that, they had made a connection: The monks were their neighbors! They need to see the love of Jesus, too.

Soon, the pastors were planning ways their churches could reach out to monks in their communities. Almost every town has at least one Buddhist temple. There were numerous opportunities for service—simple ways to show Christ’s love.

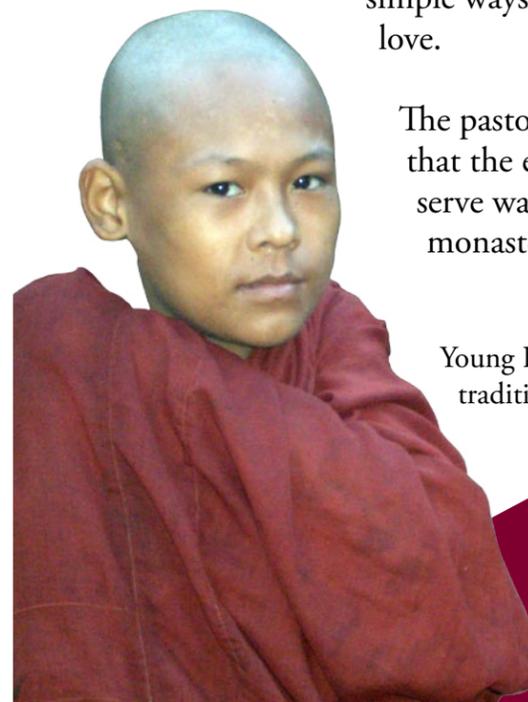
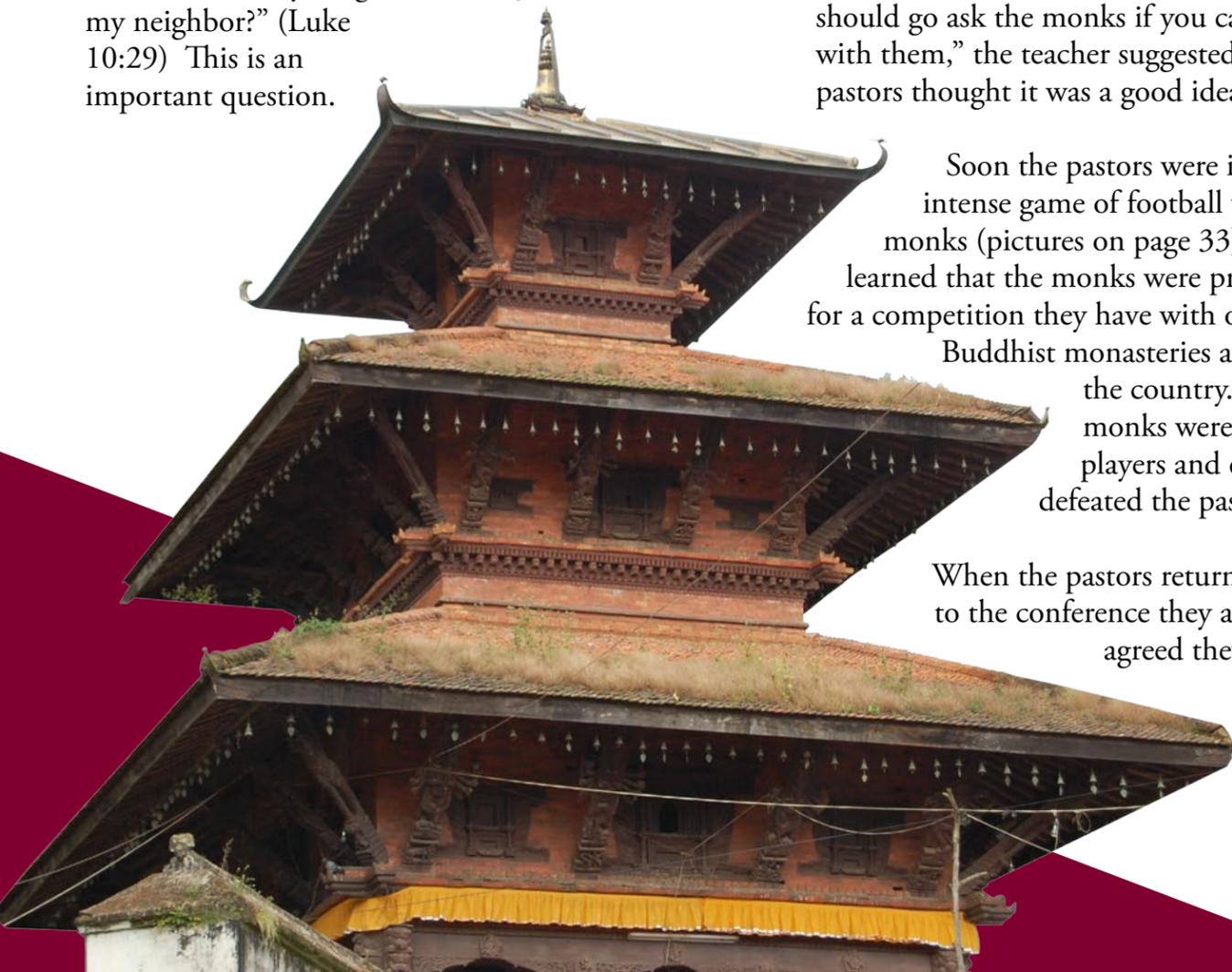
The pastors agreed that the easiest way to serve was to go to the monasteries and ask the

Young Buddhist monks in traditional attire.

head monk if there was anything they could do to help.

One church helped wash the monks’ robes in a nearby monastery. Another church help clean the latrines at a Buddhist temple in their community. Each church found a way to serve.

This was a new perspective for most churches. They had not thought of monks as neighbors, but as representatives of a rival religious group—people the church needs to win converts away from Buddhism. But the church is called to love.





**Photos:** Christian women help clean a monastery; Young Buddhist monks pose with church members; Cleaning monks' robes. **Opposite**

**Page:** Pastors play football with Buddhist monks (top three); Christians help clean latrines and trim vines around outer wall (middle two); Head monk hosts Christians who helped clean floor of his monastery. He even helped wipe the sweat away from the pastor's face who led the seed project (bottom three).



The church does not save people. Christian religion does not save people. Jesus is the only one who can save, and Jesus commands His disciples to "love your neighbor as yourself." The pastors and their churches were overjoyed to gain this perspective and put it into practice.

So, who is my neighbor? When Jesus answered this question, He told the parable of the Good Samaritan—the story of a man who was dying by the side of the road. The only one who helped him was his enemy. Jesus' command to His followers was simple: "Go and do likewise."



## The Parable of The Good Samaritan

Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have. Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:30-37





# Weeping



# Widow

## Christians Reach Out to a Widow and Her Grandson

There are many ways to discover the needs within a community, but sometimes the easiest way is to ask. This is what a group of Christians in a Southeast Asian country learned when they decided to do a seed project in their community.

This small group of Christians—students from a seminary in a small village—had learned about seed projects and about serving their community in a wholistic way.

But they had a problem. They had not looked for these kinds of needs before, and they did not know how to begin.

They prayed and decided that the best plan would be to go from house to house to see if there were needs they could meet. Their plan was to ask each family if there was a way they could help. The Bible says, “A man makes his plans, but the Lord directs his steps” (Psalm 16:9 NIV). This was certainly true for this group of Christians. The first house they came to was the home of a young boy and his grandmother. The boy’s

*She felt helpless. She was elderly, she was raising a young boy alone, and she had nobody to help her.*

mother had died during childbirth, leaving his grandmother, a widow, to care for him. They were desperately poor. The widow’s house was nothing more than a small hut, the roof over her kitchen was collapsing, and the property was full of debris and weeds. There was much to be done.

The Christians explained why they had come. “Is there anything we can do for you?” they asked. The woman stood at the doorway and clutched her grandson. Tears welled up in her eyes. She had felt helpless. She was elderly, she was raising a young boy alone, and she had nobody to help her.

The students went to work immediately. They began pulling weeds, and picking up trash. It took them nearly two hours to clean her yard. Seeing many more ways to serve the widow, they told her they would be back in a few days to repair the kitchen roof.



The Christians came to the home of the widow and her grandson.



There was a lot of work to do. The kitchen was in need of repair.



The property was overrun with weeds and trash.



The Christians brought them food to eat and some hot tea.



They worked to clear the yard of weeds and garbage...



...and eventually came back to help rebuild the kitchen roof.

The group began to obtain materials to repair the roof. A few days later they returned to the widow's house with tools and banana leaves to fix the collapsing roof.

This simple act of service had an enormous impact on the widow and her grandson. In Buddhist culture, there is great emphasis on good works, but nobody in the community had offered to help the poor widow. Maybe the community never noticed her needs. Maybe people in the village were too concerned with their own problems to help their neighbor. Whatever

They did not make an impact on the community because they were affluent, but because they took the time to ask about the needs of their neighbor.

Pictured below from left to right: Widow with her grandson pose in front of their home; Church members clean up yard; Cutting grass in around the widow's home with machetes

the reason, no one had come to help her until the day the group of Christians showed up at her front door.

These students were not rich, they had limited resources, and their studies were very demanding. They did not make an impact on the community because they were affluent, but because they took the time to ask about the needs of their neighbor. Their love and concern changed a widow's life. In fact, she is now a Christian and has helped start a church in her village!





# BUKANG LIWAYWAY DAWN FOR THE URBAN POOR



Bukang Liwayway is a ministry of Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF). It is a phrase that means “Dawn of the Urban Poor.” In recent years, those involved with Bukang Liwayway’s wholistic approach to ministry have witnessed amazing stories of God’s transforming love. This is one of those stories...

## THE MULAGAD

### The Rise of Youth in Urban Slums

The word Mulagad is a conjunction of two Tagalog words: munti, meaning “small,” and alagad, which means “disciples.” Mulagad is a movement of Christian youth in the slums of Manila, Philippines. These Mulagad—small disciples—are refusing to be crushed by their impoverished circumstances and, instead, have chosen to bring hope to their communities through service projects. Youth from slums all over Manila have joined together to encourage one another, work together, and bring transformation to their communities.

In 1992 a young man named Patrick Hobbes moved into the slum community of Welfareville. More than 80,000 people live within the slum’s forty-one blocks. According to government records, however, these people do not exist—maps of the city show Welfareville as empty land. But Patrick Hobbes noticed the people of Welfareville and helped to start a church and several Bible study groups in one of the blocks, Block 35. The church, Welfareville Bible Church, now has the vision of planting house churches in each of the forty-one blocks by 2010. In 2007 there were house churches in nine blocks—thirty-two more to begin. This may seem daunting to some, but the church has not lost hope. They have recruited their youth to the effort.

A young man named Fred, the son of a poor animistic family, was raised in Welfareville. He was the first to become a Christian in his family. In his early twenties Fred began to realize the potential of young people in the work of the church. He started a youth group



Opposite Page: Balic-Balic is a slum that runs along railroad tracks in Manila. Above: Marlon Roldan with the Mulagad Team. Right: Mulagad worship at a seed project planning meeting. Below: A group of 5 Mulagad plan a seed project to help teach young children.



with the help of a Filipino missionary, Marlon Roldan, to give the youth a sense of purpose by including them in the mission of the church. The men wanted to recruit youth to a cause beyond themselves and to train them to serve efficiently and effectively. This vision for the youth would eventually become known as Mulagad.



Fred and Mimi are the directors of the Mulagad; Mimi helps organize a Muglagad seed project; Mulagad volunteers during a training session.

The mission began slowly. Fred and several others tried to recruit young people from their churches to help in service projects, but the youth were slow to respond. For several years the program did not grow. Maybe they were doing something wrong, they thought. Finally, someone suggested they pray for this ministry—that God would raise up many youth for His Kingdom work in the slums. After they started praying, the change was immediate. “Before, we worked a lot and prayed little and saw only small results. Now, we pray a lot, and God brings so many youth through our doors that we don’t know what to do with them all,” said Fred with a smile. Evidently, this is a good problem to have.



As the numbers of Mulagad continue to grow so does their ministry. They are now working in several slums around Manila. Their influence is growing. Fred could hardly contain his enthusiasm as he recounted the many things the Mulagad are doing. “They help mobilize educational programs for youth, they personally teach the younger children, they care for the sick, they start local sport teams, and they host community events.”

In the Philippines there is a legend about people who have eagle’s wings on their backs. These legendary beings, like superheroes, bring hope to their nation. They are the Mulawin— the eagle men. Today, there are comics and cartoons depicting the Mulawin and their heroic deeds. No doubt, there are many people who envy the freedom and strength of these superhuman creatures—but they too can have this kind of freedom and strength. They can help save lives and bring hope to their nation. Instead of being Mulawin, they can be Mulagad—small disciples who serve a great God.



**“Even youth grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall, but those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run, and not grow weary; they will walk, and not faint.”**

**Isaiah 40:30-31  
(NIV)**



## PRIMITIVE PROJECTS Dawn of the not-so-urban poor

In the book *Beyond The Great Darkness*, the author, Barbara Flory Reed, gives a detailed account of the first missionary outreach to a tribe of natives on the island of Mindoro in the Philippines. The natives are known as the Mangyans. Today, the Mangyans have a vibrant church and are sending missionaries of their own to other native tribes in the Philippines.

A few of these missionaries are serving in Palawan, an island in the south of the Philippines. The work is dangerous and difficult, even for natives of the jungle. Nonetheless, these missionaries are seeing God do amazing things. What is their secret? They are implementing seed project principles in their ministry.

They tell stories of how they have helped children learn to read and write. They talk of the times they have taught people to grow food and to be resourceful with the little they have. The important thing for them is that, in all they do—big or little—they want to do it in love.

Marlon Roldan, a Harvest staff member who has taught the missionaries in Palawan about seed projects, is always amazed at their creativity in the midst of hardship. “They have nothing, but they still manage to make miracles,” said Marlon.

This is the beautiful reality of God’s love. It is effective among the rich, the poor, the urban, the rural, the West, and the East. God’s love is able to transform any tribe, tongue, or nation. We have the privilege of participating—sacrificially sharing God’s love, in His strength, wherever He takes us.



Mangyan’s in their new church building in the jungles of Mindorow.



**SERVING  
TIME  
IN**

**MANILA  
CITY JAIL**



### Several Churches and Mission Organizations Collaborate in Serving the Inmates of Manila City Jail

Nearly 5,000 inmates reside within the walls and razor wire of the Manila City Jail in the Philippines. The conditions inside the jail are, in most cases, worse than the conditions in the surrounding slums. The wealthier inmates can pay for a small room and a cot. However, many inmates can only afford to sleep on the ground with tarps and newspaper for shelter and beds. The daily budget for each inmate is 35 pesos—not nearly enough to provide for proper meals and medicine. Disease spreads quickly in the jail due to the intense tropical heat, over-crowding, and poor sanitation. Skin diseases and infection are commonplace. The needs inside the Manila City Jail seem endless. How could a church possibly begin to make a difference?

Over the years, different churches and mission organizations in Manila had responded to needs in the jail by offering medical clinics or Bible studies. Since the jail is divided into various blocks, each church or organization would adopt a block and focus only on that section of the





jail. Very rarely did the churches and organizations work together. However, on a relatively cool morning in October, a group of churches and mission organizations did something different.

A group of pastors, missionaries, church members, and medical doctors met on a street corner just outside of the jail. At 8 o'clock in the morning, they started the arduous process of going through security. The guards checked every bag, medical kit, and box. Identification was taken from each person entering the jail. Finally, everyone's arms were marked with a large red stamp. For one hour, more than fifty people and one hundred boxes passed through security.

After they were inside the jail, the workers were taken to a chapel in the middle of the jail and began to set up a medical camp. Those with medical degrees set up a table to conduct physicals and prescribe medication. Those with experience in pharmacy set up a table to distribute medicine and basic first aid. Some had experience as eye doctors or dentists so they set up separate stations. There were many church members with no medical experience, but they prepared to direct inmates to the various stations around the chapel, and they set up a long line of chairs where inmates could come and talk and pray with someone.

**PHOTOS:**  
 (Top to Bottom): Inmate explains a physical issue to a nurse; Pastor prays for an inmate; Exchange of a perscription for medication (notice red stamp on volunteer's arm); Doctor tests an inmate's blood pressure; An inmate is fitted for a pair of eye glasses.  
**OPPOSITE PAGE:**  
 Pastor poses with inmates in front of the jail's chapel.

**"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."**

**Hebrews 13:3**

The atmosphere inside the chapel was busy and exciting as everyone prepared to serve the inmates. The jail guards and staff were excited, too, and many of them helped in any way they could. Even the chief official of the jail came to offer her help and supervision.

Soon it was time for the inmates to enter the chapel, one block at a time. Guards at the door monitored the number of inmates to make sure the stations were never too crowded. Inmates were directed to different stations, depending on their needs. The most common needs were antibiotics, dental work, and tuberculosis medication. Every inmate had the opportunity to receive medical treatment and to talk with a church member about the Gospel. The chapel was filled with people talking, serving, learning, and praying. It was a miracle.

The service project to the inmates took all day. It took the combined efforts and contributions of everyone from the churches and organizations. The preparation for the event took weeks of planning and coordination. Many people gave an entire day of time and their talents—big or small. Service takes teamwork. Working together is not always easy, but—when people come together in the name of Jesus to serve others—miracles happen.



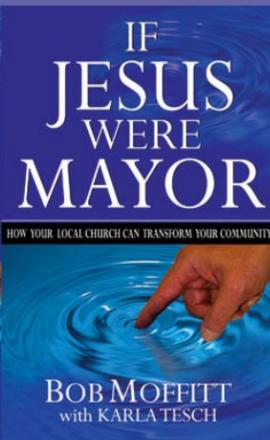
## SEED PROJECTS: PURPOSES

- 1. Wholistic evangelism and lifestyle.** Seed projects are natural components of evangelism and discipleship. They help churches develop a lifestyle of wholistic ministry.
- 2. Freedom from dependency.** Seed projects demonstrate that the local church can do wholistic ministry without reliance on outside resources.
- 3. Experience and confidence for larger, ongoing ministry.** Seed projects provide experience in project planning and implementation. They enlarge the church's confidence for ongoing wholistic ministry projects. They often lead a church to larger demonstrations of God's love.

## SEED PROJECT: CHARACTERISTICS

- 1.** Seed projects should be covered in P\ prayer.
- 2.** They reflect God's heart of compassion—they are not manipulative tools for evangelism.
- 3.** They are motivated by God's intentions and carried out with God's strength.
- 4.** They are thoughtfully planned.
- 5.** They must be simple and short, small and uncomplicated.
- 6.** They are done with local resources.
- 7.** They are directed toward those outside the church.
- 8.** Those who benefit from seed projects should participate in them, as possible.
- 9.** An observable spiritual impact is built into the project where it is appropriate.
- 10.** They are evaluated by Kingdom standards.

## Interested in learning more?

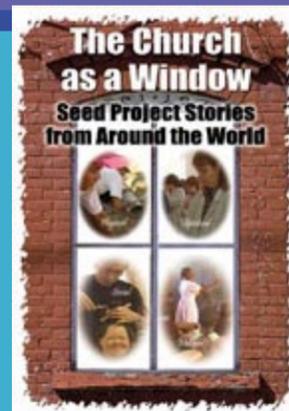


### IF JESUS WERE MAYOR (Monarch Books)

How would your community change if Jesus were Mayor? That is the question Harvest president Bob Moffitt addresses in his action-provoking work about God's intended role for the local church. *If Jesus Were Mayor* describes transformational effects of biblical principles in action. It offers principles, strategies, and tools to help local church leaders equip their churches for transformational service.

### CHURCH AS A WINDOW: SEED PROJECT STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD (DVD)

Seed Projects on video! Six local churches from different parts of the world find practical ways to serve their communities and demonstrate God's love for their neighbors. From a village community in Cambodia to the capital city of Uganda, from a middle-class church group in Hong Kong to an urban slum church in Kenya, love may take different forms but it never fails.

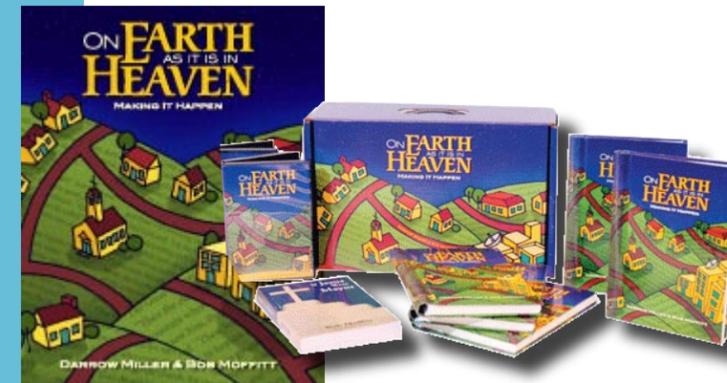
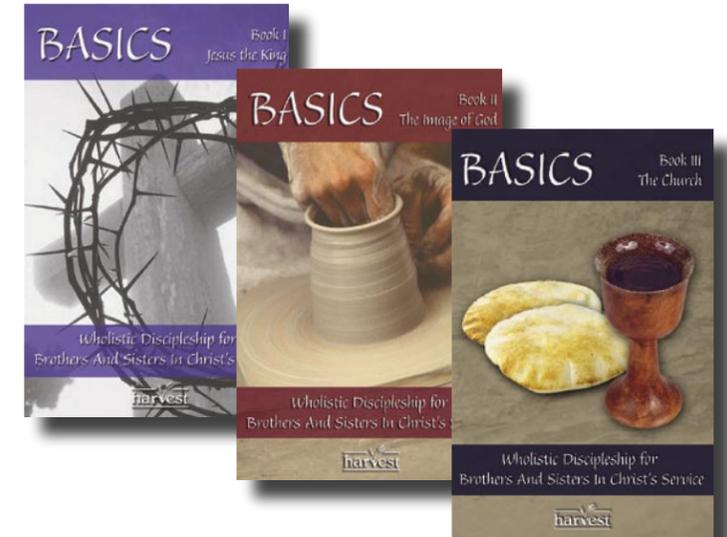


# RESOURCE PAGE



## BASICS discipleship series:

BASICS I emphasizes the relationship believers have with Jesus as their King and encourages them to understand that following Christ has implications in every area of life. BASICS II examines characteristics of God and their implications for those who have been created in God's image and are called to be like Christ. BASICS III looks at what Scripture says about various aspects of the Church, focusing on God's intentions for how we are to live out being the body of Christ.

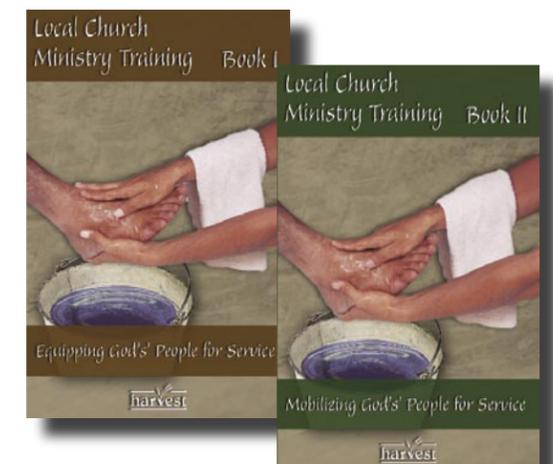


## On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Presented by master teachers Bob Moffitt and Darrow Miller, this 12-session video series is designed to challenge North American Christians to understand the concepts of biblical worldview, Christian service, and God's intention that the church impact its society. It is designed for adult Sunday school classes, Bible studies, home fellowship groups, and training institutions.

## Local Church Ministry Training

Local Church Ministry Training (LCMT) is a two part training series. *Book I: Equipping God's People for Service* uses an interactive teaching format and eleven small group style Bible studies to prepare churches to corporately demonstrate God's love to their neighbors. Participants search the Scriptures for themselves and seek ways to apply the principles they are learning. *Book II: Mobilizing God's People for Service* goes further in helping train churches to be a window for the world to see God's intentions for the healing of our brokenness and the coming of His Kingdom.



**“By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us... Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.”**

**1 John 3: 16, 18 (ESV)**

**“That people look out for themselves is nothing new. It is not news. The news is the Gospel—sacrificial service and unconditional love. It is a myserty to the world.”**

**-Bob Moffitt, Harvest**

