



Keeping you in the loop of communication

October 2008

It was a few weeks ago that Pastor Tin his wife, Anh, and I sat cross-legged on a very small section of roughly concreted floor. The "house", was little more than, what would be considered by Australian standards, a back shed. In this area of around 3.5m by 3.5m, a family lived out their lives.

Pastor Tin Pham, Pastor Vinh-a local leader, and I were visiting people in an under-privileged, Vietnamese area of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We talked about family, work, sickness and daily life. In this same area one woman was hand-washing laundry as her job. She was pregnant and her husband recently died. Her future did not look promising.

As I left the country a few days later I was glad that the C&MA of Australia was able to have some impact in this country. We have been able to bring both practical relief in terms of providing schooling for Vietnamese children but also the good news of Jesus to people in difficult circumstances.

Social ministries and preaching the gospel are sometimes presented as being competing priorities. In fact some have even suggested that social ministry is not something that we should be involved in. Yet in the gospels Jesus routinely cared for the physical needs of people by feeding and healing them and, not all those cared for became His disciples. This gives a clue that Jesus was interested in people's physical well-being as well as their spiritual well-being.

The Scripture is clear that a person cannot be saved except through a vital relationship with Jesus Christ. Often the door to sharing the good news of Jesus is through caring for physical needs. That is the reason that so many missionaries are involved in social ministries as well as teaching and preaching the gospel. As we give a cup of water in Jesus name, we can also share the reason for the hope that lies within us.

Cambodia and Philippines

It was a joy to be able to spend a few days in Phnom Penh with Pastor and Mrs Tin Pham. They certainly have their work cut out for them in this needy land. They are involved in language study at present learning the Khmer language to enable them to better live in Cambodia. They are both very busy with teaching and preaching aside from their language study.



Rev Tin and Mrs Anh Pham

Having travelled in the Cambodian traffic, I better understand why Rev Tin asked for prayer. The traffic there is very different to Australia and the road rules are very, shall we say . . . relaxed.



A floating school on the river

I also had opportunity to meet with the Bells in Manila and even speak at the San Buena church. It was a humbling experience to climb a ladder into a tiny "house" in the San Buena community to pray for a man for healing. God has certainly opened up a door of opportunity for the Cells Alive church as they minister to that community. It is true that the Philippines is by and large "reached" but those in squatter communities represent a huge unreached group. The Bells are having an impact in reaching these people

It was good to meet with the team who are serving the Southern Philippines. I was there for a review of the ministry which went very well. During the visit I had first hand opportunity to see what God was doing through the work there. The fish farm and Scripture translation are integral parts of this work serving the people in the Southern Philippines. The C&MA of Australia have the privilege of supporting believers in Jesus in this culturally very different part of the world.

Cells Alive Manila Seventh Anniversary



Roger Lang and I had the privilege of attending the seventh anniversary of the Cells Alive Christian Fellowship Manila recently. It was a joy to see what God has done over the years through this church. A government official addressed the church congratulating it on its impact in the community.

The Ereses and the Bells continue to have a very powerful ministry in Cells Alive and in the new San Buena church working in a squatter community.

RJ - Roland Lumawag's Son

I sent out a request for prayer to some of you a while back for RJ, Roland Lumawag's son. Roland is the Regional Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific region of the Alliance World Fellowship. RJ had experienced some chronic health issues with his back that required medical treatment. A number of people supported this need financially.

Roland asked me to pass on that on behalf of his whole family, they deeply appreciate your sacrificial giving and the demonstration of concern and support in time of need. He said "may the good Lord richly bless you all". He went on to say that RJ is now doing very well. He said that over the past weeks he was no longer experiencing back pain. However, he is still undergoing therapy. Praise God for His wonderful way of healing RJ's slip disc.



Have you thought of having a video ministry in your church, or an outreach called 'Cafe Aja', or how about sharing a study of biblical principles in morality and the glory of God with a Muslim family? In the past few weeks each of these ministries has been planned, developed and run through our Alliance churches as a result of our training program, LEAP.

In particular, Hills Alliance Church has adopted LEAP as the primary mover to develop their next generation of leaders and to stimulate working partnerships with the whole pastoral team and eldership. Here is what Rev. Terry Davidson has to say:

'Members of the Board of Elders and Deacons along with the ministry teams and students have been studying Leadership 1 & 2 at Hills together this year through LEAP. This has enabled us to work as one in a learning and coaching community. As we learn leadership concepts we are able to put them immediately into practice. Because each of the ministry leaders works with a coach, usually an Elder, there is a closeness of communication and active participation in developing new and innovative ministries. In this way LEAP provides a double whammy as both leadership and coaching skills are developed. In leadership 2 folk have had to come up with their own ministry plans. We've been surprised by the extent and diversity of the vision God has given His people.'

Terry and Ingrid have led this group in an exciting and committed way and it has made huge impact in their church. Lives are being changed, ministries being developed, and relationship connections are being made at every level of the church. We praise the Lord for His work.

Blessings
Diana Williams
Director



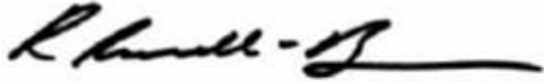
Terry Davidson Coaching Students

Our Overseas Workers

Below are some points of prayer and information for our overseas workers.

A print-friendly version of In the Loop is available on the C&MA website.

Serving Christ together,



Rod Russell-Brown

Prayer Information for International Workers

Bells:

- the San Buena community has stabilized after possible eviction. Pray as lawyers are still trying to scare the people into moving.
- Bright Lights has started well for the new school year with good attendance by the students and involvement by the parents.
- For good health, especially whilst there is a lot of Dengue cases at present, and wisdom for what to do and what to not do!
- Mayfields outreach. Pray as Maria gathers a team for the ministry and plans together with them to begin in September.

Michael:

- There are 250,000 bangus fingerlings (a type of small fish) in the nursery pond and there is hope to harvest about 50,000 of them in the next few months. This will enable the business to continue site development, invest in the next harvest and possibly expand its operations to include an additional 15 hectares. This is a critical time for the business

Kim:

Praise:

- For the five orphans who attended the recent Vacation Bible School. These are the five who had a 'shower' in August recently. They seemed to understand more about their relationship with Jesus.
- For Solomon's spiritual growth. Thank you so much for praying for him and his studies. He still faithfully comes for lunch and study of His Word afterwards, every Sunday afternoon.
- For the short-term teams who came for the English Camp during the summer and leaving their footprints behind!
- For finally being able to finish checking/revising the Mandarin primers!

Prayer:

- In May 2009 I plan to take the Mandarin primers to another province, to a couple who has the vision for literacy – teaching people how to read Mandarin, so that they can read their own Bible and to teach un-believing non-readers and introduce them to Christ! Two brethren from the USA ('Literacy International') had approached the government about printing the primers – please pray for permission to print.
- For knowledge, understanding and wisdom as we deal with the different aspects of the orphan and student work.
- For creativity as we 'follow up' the English campers by providing time for English Corner for those who are interested in improving their spoken English – on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons
- For Nancy who has not been able to come to study His Work in recent weeks due to pressure of study?!

The Green Zone - Short Term Mission Trips

- A team from the Southside International Church will probably be going to the Philippines at the end of next year. Details: roglang@bigpond.net.au

If your church has a short-term mission trip coming up, please let us know.

Important Dates

National Board Meetings 2008:
Tues 18th to Thu 20th Nov.

Canberra Council 4th - 7th February 2009

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