

HARVEST ASIA WEST

Torture and imprisonment but number of believers grows!

The present regime in Vietnam has existed for 31 years and throughout this time great persecution has been brought against Christians. Many hundreds of Christian leaders are in prison; many are being tortured; some have died, and many tribal villages were burnt to the ground. But the faith of our brothers and sisters has remained firmly established in the Lord. The number of believers has increased from 200,000 to nearly 1.4 million during this time. Praise God!

These believers use the slogan, "The greater the persecution, the greater the number of believers in Christ." In North Vietnam there are about 300,000 Hmong believers. In the Central Highlands there are about 20 different tribes with a total of 600,000 believers. In the cities and the Mekong Delta there are over 500,000 Christians, mostly meeting in house churches.

AEF works alongside the Vietnamese Evangelical Church of Australia in supporting pastors of two house churches in Vietnam.

Pastor H saw 152 people come to Christ last year. After three months studying basic Bible doctrines, 72 were baptised. Training of lay-preachers and key workers has commenced. Pray that God will bless each of them as they go out to evangelise. Pray for Pastor H and his family for health, safety and spiritual direction. Funds (about \$1500) are urgently needed to repair the church buildings.

Pastor V has seen 25 people come to Christ, 9 of whom have been baptised.



27 people accepted Christ last Easter.

Pray for the Lay Training course to be held later this year. The plan is for 20 people to attend a two-week training seminar. The cost will be about \$240.

Pray for the Tribal pastors who are in prison. Several hundred are in the Central Highlands Prison and at least another hundred are in Nam Ha prison in North Vietnam.

Pray too for Pastor Peter, from Sydney, who plans to visit the work later this year. His visit will be a real encouragement to the believers.



Last year, 72 believers were baptised in Yang Nah Spring.



Kam Butter church urgently needs more repairs



**The
INTERNATIONAL
DIRECTOR
writes:**

NEW YEAR... NEW BEGINNINGS

God, in His mercy has ushered us into a new year of grace. How should we approach Him during these days of opportunity and challenge?

Thanksgiving

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Th 5:18).

God has poured upon us multi-dimensional blessings – physical, material, emotional, psychological and spiritual. Let's give Him thanks for all these blessings. Even the trials, traumas and tribulations that we experienced in 2006 were filtered by His loving hands for a purpose (Rom. 8:28). Thanksgiving is not just an action but an attitude based on the fact that our loving God is in control of every detail of our lives.

Confession

"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:9).

As we reflect soberly on the year that is past, we realize that we have failed the Holy God by our sins of commission and our sins of omission. It is time for us to come before God in humility and seek His face (2 Chr 7:14). 2007 can be a year of new beginnings in spite of past failures.

Faith

"God is our refuge and strength . . . therefore we will not fear" (Ps. 46:1-3). "Trust in the Lord with all your heart . . . and He will direct your paths (Pr. 3:5-6).

As we face the challenges of 2007 we need to anchor our lives on God, His Word, His unfailing promises and His presence.

Faithful Service

"Therefore be steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your service is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Co 15:58).

The apostle Paul exhorts us, in light of the resurrection and the second coming of Christ, to be fixed and faithful in our service, working hard in our praying, giving and sharing because our service has eternal value.

Let us give ourselves wholly to the Lord in 2007 as we begin a new chapter of His grace in our lives.

Jonathan James
International Director

**International Director's
Movements**

About 500 conferees gathered at Stanwell Tops (near Sydney) from 28th to 31st December for the annual Conference of the Vietnamese Evangelical Church of Australia where the AEF International Director, Jonathan James, spoke at both the general assembly and the youth conference. Some 20 young people dedicated their lives to the Lord at the youth sessions and several more at the general assembly meetings. The highlight of the time was hearing the amazing testimony of a Pastor from Vietnam who was imprisoned for 5 years. Jonathan and Elizabeth also had wonderful fellowship with Deaconess Doris Fletcher, a marvelous, godly lady who has spent years ministering to the Indo-Chinese people in Australia and abroad. We are presently seeking God's direction as AEF plans to work with Doris and the South East Asia Assistance Committee more closely in the coming years.

Recordings for **Destiny Radio** re-commenced on 25th January (every Thursday night thereafter). Jonathan plans to visit India, Philippines, Germany and England in the next few months. Please pray that the Lord will anoint the spoken word. Also remember the PhD thesis he is working on as the deadline is October 2007.



Jonathan speaking at the Stanwell Tops conference

AEF Dinners in Australia

The following AEF Dinners for prayer partners, supporters and friends have been planned for 2007:

- Melbourne: August 18th,
- Perth: August 25th,
- Sydney: September 15th, and
- Adelaide: October 6th (to be confirmed).

Also please note that the G.D. James Foundation (an entity that was set-up in memory of the founder of AEF, to support ministries in the two-thirds world) is hosting a dinner on Saturday, 2nd June, 2007 in Sydney to launch the foundation.

Kindly contact the AEF office for more details on any of these events.

ACOM (Malaysia) Graduation

On 18th November about two hundred family and friends attended the second ACOM (Malaysia) Graduation Ceremony at the Tropical Inn, Johor Bahru, when 18 students graduated. Four of the students (Rev. Casey, Rev. Anantharaj, Rev. Steven Selvam and Mr. Joseph Ganeson) had previously completed their Diploma and were the first ACOM students to graduate with a B. Th. Degree. A number of those who graduated will continue their studies at ACOM this year to upgrade to either the B.Th. Degree or Master's degree.

Below, Board Members Mr. Anbunathan (left) and Elder Devasagayam present a special award to Rev. Anantharaj



Nepal Teachers Trained

Intensive training took place for the teachers of Nepal's Grace Academy. From 19th to 21st December, our Primary to Lower Secondary level teachers attended a three-day Teacher Training Seminar on Classroom Management and other issues related to Christian value-based education, which was organized by the Academic administrator, Rebecca Thapa. Instructors were well-equipped trainers from the District Education Department of Nepal Government and local highly-reputed educational institutions. We praise God that He is enabling us to further equip our teachers in this way.

Below are some of the teachers at the Training Seminar



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Asia Evangelistic Fellowship International is an indigenous, interdenominational mission founded in 1960 by the late Dr. G.D. James. AEF identifies, trains, and commissions national workers to carry out pioneer mission work in their own Asian countries. These national workers are organized, supervised and supported by national boards set up in each country under the pastoral care of the AEF International Office.

International President: Dr. Met. Castillo

Chairman of the Board: Dr. Ray Dallin

International Director: Mr. Jonathan James

Evangelism in Indonesia



A recent evangelistic meeting in Indonesia

AEF Indonesia has workers, mission points and ministries in Kalimantan (Borneo), Central Java, East Java and the Island of Nias. In this issue we feature our evangelists David and Ruth Rachmadi (right) working in the villages of East Java among the street people.

Read about their exciting ministry on page 4.



By all means win some in Myanmar

AEF Myanmar seeks to reach people in a wide variety of ways, such as:

Mother's Day: Each year the AEF churches gather together to celebrate Mother's Day. As well as sharing the gospel all mothers are given a gift.

Hospital visitation: Every Friday, Saya Martin leads a team visiting patients in the Cancer, Therapy and Neurological wards at the General Hospital. Last year, 15 patients accepted Christ and a number are now doing the follow-up correspondence course.



Above, Rev Saw Tapre preaching at a recent baptismal service, and below, some of those who were baptised..



Medical Treatment: From time to time, AEF joins with Faith Mission to share the Gospel and provide free medical treatment to people in North Dagon. On one recent Sunday, 15 people accepted Christ.

Children's Ministry: Special Children's and Youth programmes are conducted. Recently these included a Leadership programme, and a Bible quiz on Bible Day.

Vocational Outreach: Every Tuesday, three AEF workers visit a local Textile factory where they conduct a Bible study for the workers, and once a month, Rev Saw Tapre teaches the Bible at the Nurses' Quarter.

ACOM: The Asia College of Ministry offers an intensive training programme each quarter. Rev Jim Christensen and Dr Alan Meers both visit twice a year. In February, Dr Meers taught Matthew and in June Dr Christensen plans to teach the Pastoral Epistles.

Reaching the Marginalised in Indonesia



AEF rents this house in a village near Banyumas where new believers can stay and be disciplined before they move on.

Brother David Rachmadi, AEF's evangelist, works among the homeless and street people in Banyumas and surrounding villages near Surabaya (Indonesia). David is an accomplished guitarist and singer and uses this gift in the streets and in public buses which travel from one village to another.

A few years ago Sunni, a young man who signed up to be a suicide bomber was marvelously saved through Evangelist David's friendship ministry. Sunni was at that time disappointed with his family and friends and in desperation attended a recruitment meeting for Jihad warriors. When he came out of the meeting he met saw a group of people singing in the streets and handing out literature. Evangelist David spoke to Sunni and shared his faith in Christ. Sunni came every Friday night to the spot where David and his group did their outreach activities. On the third visit Sunni came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Sunni is now a strong believer and is helping other homeless people in the streets of Banyumas.

Local Government officials appreciate David's ministry as it keeps homeless people away from crime and anti-social behavior.



This photo shows the back of the house which has a large yard.