

# HARVEST ASIA WEST

April ~ June 2001

## NEW MINISTRY IN MALAYSIA AEF Starts Grassroots Work in Kuala Lumpur

Asia Evangelistic Fellowship International has launched a new ministry of reaching grassroots workers in the capital city of Malaysia.

### HOW IT STARTED

Rev. Benjamin Tham, AEF's newly appointed East Asia Coordinator, while being based in Singapore has been travelling to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) every week for the last 1-1/2 years. His purpose - to meet with interested people to share Christ with them on a one to one basis. As a result of these visits some 70 people have come to know Jesus Christ - all from the grassroots sector of Malaysian society. All the converts are Chinese most of whom speak the Cantonese dialect.



*A home fellowship group of new converts in K.L.*

Ah Yoke instructed her 30 disciples to follow her completely and surrender all their possessions including their credit cards to her.

Audrey knew something was not right with her teacher. She shared her concerns with her close friend Lydia. Lydia thankfully was the first convert through Pastor Tham's ministry. Lydia arranged for Audrey to meet Pastor Tham. The very night of the meeting, Audrey gave her heart to Jesus Christ!



*Pastor Tham (centre) with new convert Wong, a street tea-seller.*

### CONSERVING THE HARVEST

AEF's International Director Mr. Jonathan James together with Rev. Tham in a recent visit to Malaysia, met with various church leaders to share and get their counsel about the launch of a new ministry.

As a result of the visit AEF has launched a new work to harvest these grassroots workers. Several of the converts work on Sundays and so a flexible structure is needed for worship and fellowship.

By faith AEF has appointed a full time worker and is looking at renting premises in a shopping area where regular ministry can be carried out.

We are looking to the Lord to provide the monthly support (\$1000 per month) for this exciting project of winning lost souls to Jesus Christ.

*"Truly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also and greater works than these shall he do, because I go to the Father" John 14:12*

### EXCITING ENCOUNTERS

The converts range from street food hawkers and taxi drivers to beauticians and office workers.

**Wong**, a hawker selling Chinese herbal tea near a well established church felt he could never go to church as all the people there had fancy cars and wore nice clothes. Eight months ago Rev Tham shared Christ with him. A week later Wong accepted Christ and burnt all his idols in a simple ceremony.

**Audrey**, a follower of goddess Kwan Yin - highly revered amongst the Chinese, was a disciple of a certain spiritistic teacher by the name of Ah Yoke.



*Some new converts from a beauty Salon who come to Christ recently.*





## THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR SHARES

### Evangelism in the End Times

There is a great danger that Christians are being sidetracked from their primary purpose for being.

The word of God is very clear that our fundamental calling is to "proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" 1 Peter 2:9

This call to evangelise is based on 3 foundational themes of Scripture: the person of God, the plight of the lost, and the program of God.

#### The Person of God

In John 17:5 Jesus prayed to His Father "glorify Thou Me...with the Glory which I had with Thee before the world was" Jesus was recollecting the sweet, glorious and face-to-face communion that He had with God the Father before His mission to planet Earth.

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit had a wonderful, self-sufficient relationship within the Godhead. There was no necessity (humanly speaking) for the Triune God to look beyond for fellowship and communion. But God created man to fulfil His innermost desire to bring love to fruition. Creation therefore is the consummation of divine love.

But alas, man sinned against a Holy God. The Triune God out of infinite love, masterminded a plan of "re-creation" or salvation to save and restore fallen men. That plan was centered around Jesus Christ, who left heaven's glory to enter the world and die for the sin of mankind.

Evangelism, correctly understood is not an invention of the Church - it originates from the very heart of God. If we are filled with God, we will also be filled with an urge to communicate Christ. Correspondingly if we do not have a fervour for evangelism, in all probability we are strangers to the heartbeat of our God.

#### The Plight of the Lost

Jesus Christ said two thousand years ago "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst..." John 4:13

It is impossible to have true satisfaction and meaning in life when we are away from our Creator-Redeemer God. Modern man is seeking to fill the void in his life by accumulating the things of the world - possessions, power and prestige. But like "soap bubbles" they pop and burst right in his face.

People without Christ are in an eternal state of lostness unless and until we go and share the liberating and life-transforming message of the Gospel. God's heart pines for the lost and when even one lost soul is found "there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God..." Luke 15:10

#### The Program of God

When Jesus came to earth 2000 years ago he ushered in the "last days". Today we are living in the last of the "last days". The Bible says that world history will come to a grand climax with the physical, bodily and literal return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Before He comes, there will be a global evangelistic explosion. "...and this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, then the end shall come" Matthew 24:14

God is working through all things - world events and natural and spiritual forces towards the fulfilment of His redemptive plan and purpose. We who live in this last era of missions, can either partner with God and align our lives with His program or be left out of the greatest enterprise in the world - advancing His Kingdom! May God help us rediscover our purpose for being and to be activated afresh for the evangelisation of Asia and the world.

# BUDDHIST TEACHER COMES TO CHRIST

Yangon, Myanmar

AEF's Myanmar National Director Rev. Saw Yo Tha and Director of Ministry Rev. George Tun Maung report that in one of their recent travels to the Pegu division in January this year, they met Myint Wai, a buddhist teacher and supplier of paraphernalia to Buddhist monks.

Myint was deeply moved to hear them share of the Gospel of grace and the saving work of Jesus Christ. After a few days of sharing and questioning, Myint accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and was instructed in the word for several weeks before he was baptised early in March at our mission point in Nattalin.



Myint Wai, the former buddhist teacher in the centre



Myint Wai being baptised.

Myint later invited the 2 leaders to share the gospel with his family. Praise God for His grace upon Myint and his household.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household" Acts 16:31



Rev George Tun (right) shares Christ with Myint Wai's family at their home.