

# HARVEST ASIA WEST

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2005

## Harvesting and Healing in MYANMAR

**T**he AEF Evangelists in Myanmar (Burma) have brought some 180 people to a knowledge of Jesus Christ and together with our partner organisation, Seed Mission administered medical help and relief to some 350 people in the last 16 months.

*"Times of difficulty and helplessness like the recent Tsunami disaster are great opportunities for us to show the love of Christ in practice"* said Rev Robin Khine, the National Director of AEF Myanmar.

### Medical Relief

Teams of 20 – 30 evangelists, volunteers, nurses and doctors travelled to the other side of Rangoon River to Thamada Beach to bring relief, encouragement and medical assistance. Some of the villagers said that the AEF team was truly heaven-sent as their family members have been in despair and pain with no one to turn to.

### Gospel Outreach

In early March this year, a team of 20 believers travelled to Lep-pa-dan Township and conducted a week-long series of ministry meetings for young and old. Several people came to know Christ.

*Continued inside.* ▶▶



*One day Gethsemane Churches retreat by five churches at the Peoples' Park, Yangon. 195 members attended*



*An outreach to Children in a public park*



*Medical teams administer help in villages*



*Our new church dedicated to the Lord in December last year*



## Harvesting and Healing in MYANMAR (cont'd)

Prior to that that Evangelist Tapree led a team of 5 people to Myiptauk Village where some 80 people came to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and several more were baptised.

In the last 9 months 2 Churches have been planted in Seik-Kyika as well as in Shwe pi Tha.

During the "Thingyan" Water Festival in April 2005, AEF conducted a Summer Camp with some 195 people in attendance. We praise God for 42 young people who accepted the Lord and many others who re-dedicated their lives to the Lord.

### Training

In November 2005, AEF will conduct a training programme to equip and sharpen the skills of Pastors in handling the word of God. "People are hungry and thirsty for the Gospel...so we must train more workers to help in the harvest" said Rev Khine.

*"For I will pour water on him who is thirsty. And floods on the dry ground I will pour My Spirit on your descendents... and (they) will say..." I am the LORD'S..."*

Isa 44:3

## The International Director shares...

*"But may it never be that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world."*

Gal 6:14

More than 2000 years ago, God entered the world in the person of Jesus Christ. Christ's main mission was to die on the cross for the sins of mankind.

### The Cross is Central to our Salvation

The difference between Christianity and all other religions is simply this. In the Christian Gospel, self-salvation is impossible. As sinners, we cannot save ourselves or enter into the presence of a Holy God. That is why Jesus had to come to the world to bear our sins and die on the cross:

*"In Him we have redemption through His blood..."* (Eph 1:7)

Someone said that there are many creeds in the world, but only one Cross.

### The Cross is Central to our Discipleship

Our Christian life begins at the cross but it does not end there. Paul declares:

*"I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me..."* (Gal 2:20).

Jesus gives us this challenge:

*"...He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of me"* (Matt 10:38)

Cross-bearing symbolises self denial and death to our interests. This is not a once and for all activity, but a daily exercise. The cross also symbolises suffering. However in His grace He helps us endure suffering and we are promised a crown after we bear the cross.

### The Cross is Central to our Eternal Worship

The Bible tells us that our future worship in heaven will be centred on Jesus Christ – the Lamb that was slain:

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain..."* (Rev 5:12)

Jesus was slain on the cross but now He sits on the throne forever and ever. The picture of the slain lamb (which is spoken of three times in Revelation Chapter 5), is a salient reminder to us that we who are in heaven – are there only because of what Jesus did at the cross!

Jonathan James

# An important ANNOUNCEMENT about AEF Philippines

The leadership of AEF Philippines and AEF International met in Manila on 29th March 2004 for a time of discussion and fellowship.

We praise God for the sense of His presence and guidance at the meeting. We now make known to our constituents the deliberations and decisions of that meeting:

- The ministry and growth of AEF Philippines is a cause for praise and thanksgiving to God. AEF (P) has developed a phenomenal and effective church planting ministry in the last 15 years. It has strong leadership and is poised for further growth and development. AEF International has recognised God's hand upon AEF (P) and feels the time has come for AEF (I) to release AEF (P) to operate as an independent entity with the full blessing of the Asia Evangelistic Fellowship. The relationship henceforth is to be seen not as one between a parent organisation and its daughter, but as a partnership.
- In light of this the following changes are in place immediately:
  - Full pastoral and administrative responsibility for the work in the Philippines is now carried by AEF (P).
  - AEF (P) also has full responsibility for financing its own ministry. It has no obligation to submit its accounts to AEF International.
  - AEF (P) will resign as a charter member of AEF International.
  - As a result AEF (P) will change its name. The Board of AEF (P) is actively working on this change of name. As soon as the name change is confirmed another announcement will be made.
  - AEF (P) and AEF (I) have plans to develop an active partnership in the Ministry of evangelism and mission.
- We praise God for bringing us to this point of maturity and understanding where a redefinition of our relationship is in place.
- We would request churches and the Christian community to pray and support the ministry of AEF Philippines (which will have a new name in due course).

AEF International Board of Directors