

LMA Conference Report

The 2014 Fall LMA Conference was held in Malabon, Philippines, from October 27 to 29, with the general subject

"The Dream of God's Eternal Purpose". About 500 responsible brothers from 21 countries in Asia attended the conference and testified in one accord that the Lord has indeed done marvelous things in the churches in Asia.

There were a total of six messages. The first message "A Dream of God's goal" shows us God's dream was the dream of His eternal purpose to have the reality of Bethel. In this universe God is doing only one thing—He is building His eternal habitation for His eternal expression. This dream of God needs to become not only our dream, but also a governing and controlling vision to us. In order for this dream to be fulfilled, we first need to eat Christ to enjoy Him (John 6:57). As we are propagating in various localities, we should not merely engage in an outward work. We need to be those who eat Christ. Not only do we ourselves eat Christ, but we also help the saints and gospel friends under our care eat Christ. This will cause us to be replaced by Christ to become the reality of the Body of Christ.

We also need to function. This is seen in Eph. 4:16: "Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love." The speaking brother reminded us all with a very heavy burden that even in the Lord's recovery, this matter of everyone functioning has not been recovered fully. We need to function by prophesying in the church meetings, preaching the gospel, visiting and shepherding ones every week, and then we need to help the saints function in such a way. Otherwise, we are not fulfilling God's desire and dream even though we say we are in the Lord's recovery. We need to stop making excuses for ourselves and have a definite breakthrough in the matter of functioning.

The second and third messages speak of the practical way to fulfill God's dream, which is to build up an organic relationship with God and a vital relationship with man. The relationship God desires to have with man is the

mingling of God with man in love. As a hymn says, "Jerusalem, the ultimate, of visions the totality; the Triune God, tripartite man—a loving pair eternally—as man yet God they coinhire, a mutual dwelling place to be; God's glory in humanity shines forth in splendor radiantly!" God desires to do so much on those who love Him, that they would be the same as God in life, in nature, and in expression. For this we must build up a personal and affectionate relationship with God. "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth" (S.S. 1:2) should be our prayer every day. As we labor in various localities, we should take the lead to be drawn by the Lord.

A person who serves the Lord also must have a proper relationship and proper contact with those in society and in the church. Our relationship with man begins with being friends, and moves forward to brothers, partners, and then disciples. The Lord Himself is our pattern in the matter of making friends. As He ministered on the earth, He contacted all kinds of people, even the ones despised by man. We also need to contact a great number of people for the sake of bearing fruit. In many of the LMA countries, the saints are unable to preach the gospel openly and freely due to the outward restrictions. They can only make friends with the local people first to establish a good relationship with them. This is what the Lord Himself did. Eventually some of these friends would be open to the gospel and become brothers in the Lord, Christ's partners in the divine interest, and the disciples of Christ. Pay attention to Luke 16:9:

"And I say to you, Make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles." If we use money to do things to help others according to God's leading, we will make friends for ourselves and some will eventually be saved.



Furthermore, even though we are laboring in different countries and localities, we must realize that in the Lord's recovery there is only one work—the work of the Body. In the fourth message "Seeing the Body and Doing the Work of the Body", the speaking brother led us to see that all our problems, whether in the church or in our personal life, were due to our lack of seeing the Body. We should not care only for the area which we labor in and neglect the Body. We should always consider how the Body would feel about what we are doing. If we truly see the Body, know the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, do the work of the Body, and keep every principle of the Body, we will be kept from any kind of trouble and division.

The fifth message "Cooperating and Coordinating with Christ for His Up-to-date Move" stresses that for us to participate in the Lord's ultimate move, we must pray in His praying, go in His going, and give in His giving. The emphasis here is not just on praying, going, and giving, but on doing all these in the Lord. A brother charged us to reject our natural thought and goodness of heart and ask the Lord, "How should I give? How much do I give? For what should I pray? Where are You leading me to?" We must move together with the moving God for the fulfillment of His economy.

The last message "The Accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose—the New Jerusalem" shows us the New Jerusalem as the totality of what the Bible reveals to us. We need to apply every point in the New Jerusalem, such as the throne, the golden street, the pearl gate, etc., to our personal and corporate experiences that every local church would be a miniature of the New Jerusalem, and every believer would be "a little New Jerusalem". A brother also encouraged the saints that the principle of a dream is that in it something impossible happens to us. Our God is a God of "impossible"; He never intends for us to do something possible, since we don't need Him for such things. What God wants us to do is always something impossible. Our salvation is impossible; the Lord's recovery is impossible; our propagation all over Asia is also impossible. But in the dream of God, God has turned all these into "possible". Praise Him!

One brother gave a concluding word after the six messages and encouraged us all again to build up a proper relationship with the Lord. The Lord cared more for our relationship with Him than for our work. We may labor for the Lord and yet not have an organic and vital relationship with Him. If this is the case, we are on the wrong track and our labor does not mean much. May the Lord continue to shine on us that this vision of the dream of

God's eternal purpose would shine brightly in us to govern our living and work. May the Lord also keep us in the proper relationship with God and with man that all our labor would have a real and intrinsic meaning.

As in the previous conferences, the brothers serving in various countries prepared PowerPoint presentations to share the overall situation of propagation and prayer requests for each country. Their fellowship testified of the churches caring for the Lord's move in Asia in one accord. Saints from all over Asia participated in short-term gospel moves in the LMA countries, including full-time trainees and middle-age trainees, college students who use their summer or winter breaks to visit the churches and preach the gospel, and young working saints

who take leave from work to attend conferences. There were also sisters who took turns to go to the propagating countries to cook for the propagation teams, saints in the medical field who went and provide free medical care, and responsible brothers in the churches who visited the serving ones. Such mutual care and blending in the Body not only enlarged the capacity and

view of the visiting saints, but also became a great encouragement to all the saints laboring in the LMA countries.

The Lord is moving rapidly in Asia. Currently there are 315 churches with over 16,000 saints in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, Vietnam, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. Besides the need to preach the gospel of the kingdom, there is also a tremendous need for shepherding and the literature work. May the Lord raise up more saints to pray in His praying, go in His going, and give in His giving for His ultimate move, that the word of the Lord would grow mightily and prevail.

Prayer items:

1. Pray for the political and economic situation in the LMA countries that the outward environment would be conducive to the preaching of the gospel and that the saints may lead a quiet and tranquil life for the spread of the kingdom gospel.
2. Pray for the literature work in the LMA countries that the Lord would raise up capable saints to translate the ministry books into the local languages.
3. Pray for the shepherding of the new ones in each country that they would be remaining fruit and functioning members for the Lord's move.

