

LMA Conference Report

The 2014 Spring LMA Conference was held in New Delhi, India, from May 1 to May 3. Around 150 local saints and leading brothers from overseas attended the conference. The general subject was "The Inward Recovery of Life and the Holy Building of God in the Book of Ezekiel".

The Book of Ezekiel is divided into four sections: The first section (Ezek. 1) presents a vision of the appearance of the glory of the Lord, revealing how God moves and administers through the coordination of the four living creatures. The second section (Ezek. 2-32) reveals God as the consuming fire to judge His people and the heathen nations. The third section (Ezek. 33-39) speaks of God's recovering His people by life after the judgment, and the fourth section (Ezek. 40-48) concerns the holy building of God. Thus, the whole Book of Ezekiel begins with the appearance of the glory of the Lord and ends with the holy building of God. Based on these four sections, the brothers spoke three messages, which are "God's Recovery of His People by Life", "The Breath of Life Coming into the Dry Bones to Enliven God's People and to Make Them an Exceedingly Great Army", and "Being Governed and Controlled by the Vision of the Holy Building of God", respectively.

The first message speaks of how God recovers His people by life. The second message shows us that we were once dry bones. But the breath of life entered the dry bones to enliven God's people and will eventually make the dry bones an exceedingly great army to fight for God's interests. The third message reminds us that life is but a procedure with building as the goal; life is for the building. Therefore in our service, we should be governed and controlled by the vision of the holy building of God.

The brothers had a very strong burden to remind the brothers and sisters serving in the various countries that Ezekiel reveals the recovery by life with the move of the Lord. If we are void of the Lord's move within us, then whatever we do outwardly is but man's movement and not God's move. We call what we are doing in the Asian countries "the Lord's move to Asia", but a brother asked us, "In the past three months, was there a clear and definite move of the Lord within you? Our God is an active and energizing God, but have you allowed Him to first be the active and energizing One within you?"

The brothers also helped us to see that the longest section of the Book of Ezekiel concerns God as the consuming fire judging His people and the nations, which reveals to us that the move of God in man is often through His judgment. We treasure God's recovery of His people by life when we read Ezekiel, but we must not forget that the recovery of life does not come until after the judgment. If we do not open ourselves to the Lord's shining and judging, the Lord will have no way to heal and recover us. We desperately need to heed the warning as seen in Matt. 7 and open to the Lord's judgment that the Lord could carry out the true recovery by life in the Asian countries through us.

The brothers also charged us to live a life of being revived every morning and then go on to prophesy to the dry bones around us, just like what Ezekiel did (Ezek. 37:4). The situation in the place



where we are may seem disappointing, but all the more we need to preach the gospel and prophesy with all boldness to speak forth the Lord and minister the Lord to others. Such prophesying will enliven the dry bones and eventually make them an exceedingly great army.

One thing that made this conference different from all the previous LMA conferences was the four seminars designed for the saints to discuss and learn from one another regarding gospel preaching, the establishing of churches, literature work, and the perfecting of the saints based on the saints' actual experiences in the various countries. The serving brothers from different countries fellowshipped with one another how to preach the gospel to and shepherd people of different races and religious backgrounds, and how to raise up churches and perfect the saints in each country with its particular culture and customs. For example, in countries that recently experienced political turbulence, military dictatorship, civil wars, etc., such as Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, to preach the gospel one must first become friends with his gospel contacts. So some brothers and sisters in these countries contacted people by teaching the locals computer and Chinese.

In addition, these countries are mostly Buddhist countries and people generally hold a polytheistic view. So even after they are saved, they may continue to go to Buddhist temples for they do not know the truth. Several brothers testified that in the past they scolded these believers sternly. But gradually they were adjusted by the Lord and learned to simply minister life and teach the truth in a positive way. By doing this they were able to help the new believers experience the Lord in a subjective way and know Him as the only true God.

In Muslim countries such as Bangladesh, Kuwait and Pakistan, people often hesitate to receive the Lord for fear of persecution from their families, even though there may be no written law against preaching the gospel. Pakistan is special in that it has a Christian colony in nearly every city as a result of people getting saved by households under British rule in the 19th and 20th centuries. Believers in these colonies never knew that God was



enjoyable and therefore are very open to the high gospel preached by the saints. In one year 3 churches were raised up. Up until now in Pakistan the saints' contacts are mostly Christians from denominations. The saints are desperately seeking the Lord's leading to also gain some unbelievers.



Literature work is a crucial yet challenging part of the saints' labor in the Asian countries. In countries such as India, Vietnam and Myanmar, the testimony of the Lord's recovery began by some saints getting a hold of ministry books. Thus each country pays much attention to the translation of the ministry books. However, translation work is particularly challenging in countries with multiple official languages, such as in Myanmar and India. In some places the saints actually have more difficulty understanding the terminology in the local language than in English. Despite the challenges, a brother in Myanmar shared an encouraging report with the saints. The Bible Society of Myanmar recently launched a five-year plan to print one million copies of Burmese-English parallel Bible and will use the Recovery Version for the Burmese part of the Bible. All the saints were greatly encouraged by such a report. May the Lord continue to lead and bless the literature work in every country that His word would grow mightily and prevail.

Praise the Lord! His move is indeed fast. May He raise up saints everywhere who would cooperate with Him to first let Him move in them that through them the Lord would bring in more recovery by life and gain the holy building of God in Asia.

