

## Bangladesh

### Update on Propagation in Various Places

Over the past few months, the situation in Bangladesh has been chaotic. On the one hand, we faced social upheaval and unrest sown by the extremist elements in the form of terrorist activities. On the other hand, we also experienced the inward strengthening and leading by the Lord as He continued to bring us onward through our prayers and trusting in Him. Apparently, the spread of the gospel was hindered; actually, the Lord's work became more intrinsic and subjective. In city after city the Lord Himself affirmed His leading in the work, and the divine life continued to flow forth unhindered.

In May of last year, there was a two-week gospel move in the northern region of Sylhet and Dinajpur. The brothers visited fourteen villages and established four churches. Despite the busy harvest season, many seekers awaited us when we arrived at the villages. Carrying sheaves on their heads and not even pausing to wash their face, they sat on the ground to hear the gospel. Seeing how eager they were, we were moved to exercise and release our spirit even more. In spite of the hot weather, their faces beamed with smiles as they listened to the high gospel.

During the holidays in June, two batches of young students came to Chittagong for the perfecting of the truth. They stayed in the brothers' and sisters' houses and exercised together with the students. The student brothers were responsible for purchasing as well as coordinated to give messages on topics such as God's creation, redemption, knowing the church, the church life, the Lord's Table, the gospel, everyone preaching the gospel, etc. The sisters coordinated in teaching hymns, giving testimonies concerning their salvation, and preparing meals. A total of twelve students received such perfecting, among whom two completed the entire week of the training. By the end of the training, the Lord added seven new ones to the church in Chittagong.

In Khulna, we perfected the students using the book "Seven Wonders of the Bible," helping them on four important subjects: the unique God who is Triune, God's eternal purpose, God's eternal economy, and the exercise of the spirit by calling on the name of the Lord. At the end of the training, we invited the parents of the students for a love feast and had the students share what they had



gained. After they all shared, a mother responded, "I have never seen my daughter speak the truth with such clarity. This training was indeed profitable." By the end of the 3-day training, two students were baptized, their parents witnessing and approving of their baptisms.

In the month of July, three separate perfecting trainings for the students and serving ones were conducted in Dhaka, Chittagong and the training center in Birganj. This was a response by the leading brothers to the terrorist attack that took place in Dhaka on July 1, who felt the need to put more emphasis on the perfecting of the saints at this time of much outward limitation. The trainings made use of the messages from the 2015 Fall International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones—The Crucial Points of the Major Items of the Lord's Recovery Today. We were very touched concerning two points. First, gaining and perfecting the young people should be the main point of our service that the Lord would gain them and make them useful vessels in the Lord's hand. Second, all the saints need the nourishing by the Lord's word. The saints were particularly touched by message three: The Supreme Preciousness of the All-Inclusive Christ. As we pray-read repeatedly Matthew 10:37-38 and 16:26, the Spirit of the Lord operated within each one and the brothers went up to the podium one by one and declared their consecration to follow the Lord.

In Dhaka, prior to Eid al-Adha in September, the saints had spent a period of time blending with, shepherding and perfecting the students living in the brothers' and sisters' houses, bringing them into the fellowship of the Body of Christ, helping them realize they were members of the Body, and encouraging them to function as such members. Then during Eid al-Adha, the student brothers took the initiative to visit and perfect the saints in their home locality. After fellowshipping with the responsible brothers, the students made a plan for a 3-day conference and prepared shepherding materials, and then proceeded to visit the church in their hometown. In the conference in their home locality, the student brothers coordinated for the services related to the meetings. Not only did the saints receive the genuine nourishing, but the students themselves were also perfected and brought into a deeper realization that they were members of the Body.

From December 11-16, we visited 9 villages in Dinajpur, preaching

the gospel to 300 people and establishing 5 churches. The villagers were mostly Hindus; some were Christians meeting with the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Church of the Nazarene, etc. Many of them turned to the Lord's recovery when they heard our preaching.

From December 9-13, three brothers visited 8 villages in the area of Sylhet. They preached the gospel to 200 people and establishing 2 churches. They also preached the gospel in Jaflong near the border of India.

From December 18-24, two brothers visited Chittagong and Bandarban. Currently there are 12 churches with 1200 saints among the ethnic minorities in Chittagong. Among the 11 minority tribes in Bandarban, many people of the Tripura tribe have turned to the Lord's recovery, and the gospel has been preached to several other tribes. As we went from house to house to proclaim the gospel, we also visited the homes of the chieftains, who welcomed us warmly.

### The Construction of the Training Center

As more and more people are turning to the Lord's recovery, there is an urgent need to perfect the saints to live a normal church life.

#### Prayer Burden

1. Pray for the various needs to be met for the construction of the training center in Birganj.
2. Pray for the translation and printing of the ministry books by the Gospel Bookroom in Bangladesh.
3. Pray for more saints to be perfected by joining and completing the training.
4. Pray for a quiet and tranquil situation in Bangladesh and for the safety and visa of serving ones from overseas.

For this we obtained a piece of land in Birganj to build a training center. As of now, the perimeter walls are erected, and the security office and the restrooms are built. But the fund for the construction of the main building is still lacking. Our hope is to build two stand-alone buildings with two floors each.

### The Situation in Bangladesh

The terrorist attack that took place in Dhaka last July resulted in a death toll of 20 persons, most of whom were foreigners. In the ensuing months, it was not easy for foreigners to go out to public places. Foreign establishments slowed down, schools were closed temporarily, and a few international schools were shut down. Some foreigners decided to return to their home countries. Long-term visas were hard to obtain for security reasons. Yet in November peace and order were restored, opening the way for us to resume our visitation and gospel-preaching in the villages. We could again meet openly, and the Lord continued to prepare for us open doors. What we can do is just cooperate with the Lord in preaching the gospel with all diligence that more saints would be gained to be functioning members for His building.



## Turkey

Barely a week into the New Year, two terrorist attacks took place in Istanbul and Izmir. Outwardly, the situation seemed to be getting worse. Foreigners and even local people are leaving the country. Some brothers and sisters also left during the past year. But we believe in the Lord as the Sovereign One in the heavens who arranges all things! As we behold the glory and beauty of Christ and the church, we are unperturbed by the external factors. Instead, we are moved to pray much more and are filled with glory and hope in Him!

At the end of December we had a 2-day blending. The brothers and sisters came together to thank the Lord for His blessings of the past year and to renew their consecration for the new year. A total of 17 saints from 3 cities joined the blending. In the evening of the 31st, we enjoyed a time of spontaneous fellowship, sharing, and testimonies, and corporately prayed in the new year with prayers of consecration. The testimonies of the saints were heartening and encouraging, and some were deeply touching. On the second day we had the bread-breaking meeting, the prophesying meeting, and a love feast. We encouraged one another to keep the Lord's word and uphold His name in the new year by reading through the New

Testament once and exercising to call on the name of the Lord for 3 minutes every day.

In the beginning of December, we went to Izmir to visit some saints and gospel friends. We could sense their longing within as soon as we met up with them. Thirteen saints and gospel friends joined the blending meeting the following day. The topic of the meeting was on recovering our first love toward the Lord. During the meeting, we prayed and consecrated ourselves unceasingly. At the end of the meeting, an Indonesian sister who married a Turk voluntarily invited the saints to their home for the meetings in the future. Her husband was also supportive of her. Praise the Lord! May He gain this family!

Also in December a Filipino sister who was formerly a Roman Catholic got saved and baptized. When she met us, we were pursuing a message on the church in Pergamos. After she got saved, she discovered how near the Lord truly was! Her salvation reminded us that the Lord needs overcomers! He is calling people out of different backgrounds to take part in His recovery! May the Lord continue to shepherd us that we may be blended and built together to become His strong testimony in Turkey!