

Update on the propagation in Bangladesh

Bandarban is a mountainous area in the southeastern part of Bangladesh where eleven indigenous tribes co-inhabit, each with different traditional cultures, dietary habits and lifestyles. Among the eleven tribes, the Tripura tribe has a history of being receptive to Catholicism since 1957. There are currently about 15,000 Catholics in that region. Although they are believers, most of them do not know the truth of the gospel and still remain in darkness, drifting in the current of the world. The church and the Body of Christ are unknown and hidden matters to them. Yet in recent years, we are witnessing how the true and living God is vigorously operating and working in this area.

In 2008, when some young people from Tripura came to the capital city to study at the University of Dhaka, they came in contact with us. When we preached the gospel to these students, they greatly treasured the truth of the gospel and were baptized one after another. Six students moved into corporate living with us when they came to know the church life, the Body life, and the prayer life. They were very burdened for their hometown and for the establishing of the church life according to the Scripture there. In the summer of 2010, we went back with the students to their hometown to preach the gospel. Through this, the church in Bandarban, the first local church in Bandarban district and the second local church in Bangladesh, was raised up.

In 2011, we returned to that region for the gospel. Many got saved and baptized, and the second local church in the Bandarban district, the church in Antaha Para, was formally established. Since the raising up of these two churches, many local young people began to turn to the Lord. Today, there are 16 households practicing the normal church life in that area.

The Bandarban district is remote and backward. Many school-

age children are not able to receive proper education. Although there are a few primary schools, middle schools and colleges in the area, many young people do not have the opportunity to receive higher education due to limited enrollment quotas and feel they face a bleak future. Thus, many students gather in the town of Bandarban, the center of Bandarban district, with the hope to complete their studies there and continue on to an ideal job for making a living.

The Lord uses such an environment and moves strongly in Bandarban district, bringing a large number of young people to the town of Bandarban for the church life. Currently there are one brothers' house and one sisters' house there, with about 20 brothers and 60 sisters respectively. These young brothers and sisters are studying in the town's middle schools and universities, while also being perfected in the brothers' house and sisters' house. They function in the church life, attend the Table meetings and prayer meetings, read the Bible, and return to their hometown to preach the gospel and bring many to the Lord. Recently, eleven more new ones got baptized, including two households. In January of 2018, a brother from this district completed the Full-time Training in the Philippines. Two brothers are currently in the Full-time Training in Indonesia, and four more brothers will be joining the training there in January of 2019. May the Lord strengthen them and perfect them in all aspects, making them honorable and useful vessels in His hand for the commission of His testimony.

May the Lord through our prayers and coordination gain more saints in Bandarban district and raise up more local churches to build up His Body as His testimony for His return.



India

A Brief Update on the Situation in Kerala

Shortly after the devastating flood in Kerala hit the news in July, we heard some saints in the churches in Kerala were affected by it. An urgent prayer request was sent to the churches. We can testify that the Lord is on the throne. Not only did the seemingly unstoppable rain finally cease, but all 25 families in Kerala who were affected were also safe, albeit material losses. This surely was the result of the Body's intercession. Please continue to remember these 25 families in prayer that their lives would be restored back to normal as soon as possible.

The area most affected by the flood is an area dominated by Orthodox Christianity where people receive and are satisfied with prosperity gospel. The wealth and possessions accumulated by the people were wiped away suddenly by the flood, leaving many people hopeless and in desolation, even doubting their faith. We believe this is for the fulfillment of the Lord's word in Matt. 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come". These people are in need of the higher gospel—the gospel of the kingdom, which tells them that God wants to enter into them to be their life and everything, and to build them up together to be the Body of Christ for His expression on the earth.

There was one seeker who was quite well-off, and his house and the supermarket run by him were greatly damaged by the flood. The saints in that locality, having been in contact with him, rushed to help him clean his house and the supermarket building. Although he is not yet fully in the church life, he was so touched by the love of the saints and testified of "the reality of the Body life".

The Lord also used this opportunity to blend the churches together in love and in intercessory prayers. A brother bought 70kg of rice and distributed it to 7 affected families in one locality. In some places, because the saints' houses were damaged, they had to gather in someone's house or in the meeting hall. Another brother heard the news of the landslide affecting some saints and the accessibility of roads in one locality, and right away drove his excavator to help dig out the mud nearby the saints' houses so

the roads would be accessible again.

Just like in the days of Noah, Noah was charged to preach the gospel as the herald of righteousness and to build the ark, which typifies today's church life. The present situation reminds us to be watchful. Seeing that the day of the Lord's coming is near, we need to labor more abundantly in the preaching of the gospel and live the church life with the saints for the building of the ark today.

Please continue to pray for the saints in the churches in Kerala that through such a situation, many would rise up to be today's Noahs, who are burdened for the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom and for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ through more coordination, fellowship and blending among the churches in the coming days.

Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh is located in the central-east of the country and is a resource-rich state. Chhattisgarh is famous for its power industry and mining industry and is one of the fastest-developing states in India. Raipur is its capital. We contacted a Christian group leader in Raipur who has been studying and enjoying our free ministry books. This brother was very impressed with The Economy of God. He studied and translated it into his local language and shared it from house to house for one full year. He uses the ministry books to teach all the believers under his care, and they practice the church life according to the vision they have seen.

During a visit with the group, the brothers shared with them pray-reading

the word of God, calling upon the Lord's name, a gospel message for the new believers, the significance of the Lord's Table meeting, and serving the Lord according to the vision. They also enjoyed a time of morning revival together and practiced getting into the ministry books and the word of God. As a result they requested thirty copies of the Holy Word for Morning Revival. We were the first Christian group to visit them and also the first they ever received as they had been "very cautious not to be a part of any denomination or organization". May the Lord continue the good work among them that they would see the vision of Christ and the Church and walk according to it. May He solidly establish them as His strong testimony!



