

God Is Moving in New Ways across East Asia–Pacific

From new countries being launched, to established countries experiencing new growth, to thriving countries leading new collaborative initiatives, **it is abundantly clear that the East Asia-Pacific Region (EAP) is in a beautiful new season!**

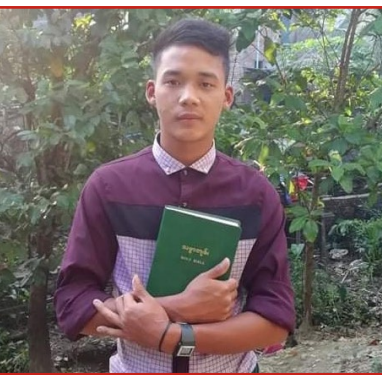
Rather than focusing on just one country or development, in Instagram-like fashion I am going to surf through “pictures” of the region to try to give you a little taste of the many encouraging ways we are seeing God at work in the EAP region.

New Countries Opening

We are very excited about strong potential in Vietnam and Laos.

In Vietnam, leaders were trained recently, translation work is progressing well, and preparations are moving ahead for class launches.

In Laos, Dr. James Sai Ruma, EAP Regional Director, recently had a highly productive time with church leaders. One of them, who oversees 26 churches, shared that he has been praying for six months to have a consistent Bible study program to nurture these churches. When he saw the CBS lessons and method, he said, “God has answered my prayer.”



Tun Win

Established Countries Seeing New Growth

Tun Win, a 17-year-old young man in Myanmar, shared this beautiful testimony: “As coming from a different religious background, I didn’t know about a creator God. In my previous animist religion, when we got sick or wanted to please our god, we made some sacrifices by killing hens or dogs or pigs, according to the commands of our village priest. But when I saw my friends [involved in CBS] praying to God by

themselves, and then joined a C&Y Bible study of Genesis, I came to know that God created everything. In other words, I found God, The Creator. Now, I have my own Bible and am eager to tell about it to my family when I get back home.”

This story is typical of what God is doing in Myanmar, a country that has been an anchor of the EAP Region. God continues to grow the Children & Youth Ministry in this beautiful country.

Not so typical is what we are seeing in Hong Kong, Thailand and Japan—where within the last few months multiple leader trainings have taken place in all three countries.

We are grateful that new Ambassadors have been coming

“No matter the cost, I will follow **Jesus**”

Literally millions of Christians daily risk their lives and their families to be Christ followers in the East Asia-Pacific Region.

In most of the countries, believers are a very small minority. Even in countries that claim to have religious freedom, governments often look the other way when local officials or enemies of the Gospel threaten Christians.

Churches have been raided, with the police logging the names of every participant. One government is even forcibly placing face recognition cameras in churches to better track believers. Authorities have bulldozed some churches and forbidden them to rebuild.

Although much of the EAP Region is experiencing many encouraging developments, many of our brothers and sisters are facing significant challenges and need our ongoing prayer support.

Still, God’s Word is prevailing—as this woman’s testimony illustrates:

“Our CBS study of the Letters to Corinthians has helped me to see my weakness and shortcoming. God’s Word has enlightened me and is helping me to strive to live a holy and victorious life. God’s Word is making me to be a new creation in Christ. By relying on Him, I have joy and strength.”

Please remember to pray for God’s protection and encouragement of our family members in Asia-Pacific and around the world!

alongside our Country Directors to help catalyze and organize these new trainings. *Go Ambassadors!*



Top: Children and leaders gather at C&Y class in Japan. Bottom: C&Y leader enthusiastically teaches kids in Indonesia.

For some time, CBSI ministry in these places had plateaued. It's exciting to see God breathing fresh wind and fire into these nations today. Our Country Directors are looking to the future with joyful anticipation of great things yet to come.

Similar growth is taking place in Indonesia. God has provided a new joint ministry opportunity with a well-known global ministry that focuses on youths and young adults. The potential in Indonesia is quite significant.

New Collaborative Initiatives

South Korea has been a thriving, nationally led ministry of CBSI for some time. And under the creative leadership of our Country Director, Pastor Enoch Rho, the ministry has grown steadily. However, over the last year or so he and a highly dedicated CBSI Ambassador have been making themselves available to assist other countries in the EAP Region in their efforts to establish and expand CBSI. This type of cross-pollination gives me deep joy. It displays the biblical Body Principle—where each part of the Body of Christ supplies what is lacking for the sake of seeing others thrive.

A similar effort occurred when the CBSI South Asia Regional Director, Dr. J.N. Manokaran, traveled to the EAP country of Australia. Along with our Country Directors, Warren and Leanne Van Damme, he conducted trainings among the Tamil-speaking Indians living there.

Obviously friends, all of this new activity requires resources to enable Dr. Sai Ruma, our Country Directors, their teams and CBSI Ambassadors to walk through the many doors God is opening. Could I encourage you to consider CBSI in your year-end giving plans—knowing that your investment in the EAP Region will yield significant return? Whatever you can supply will help empower all this exciting activity.

Grateful for you!

Keith Sparzak, International Director

To partner with us financially, you may donate online at www.communitybiblestudy.org/giving, or by mail to Community Bible Study/790 Stout Road/Colorado Springs, CO 80921.



Last May the CBSI Philippines Children & Youth Ministry Team successfully conducted a first-of-its-kind event on the island of Cebu: Code Red. The conference's title communicates the **urgency of reaching youth with God's salvation message, and discipling those who respond**, so they can be like Jesus and be spared from the efforts of the enemy to destroy their lives.

After many months of conversations, creative coalition-building, and planning with multiple ministries working in the Philippines (Child Evangelism Fellowship, International Justice Ministry, and the 1 for 50 Network, to name a few), Philippines C&Y Director Harry Villoria and the Code Red Steering Committee brought nearly 500 ministry leaders together for three days of inspiration and instruction.

This event not only impacted leaders in the Philippines, but also leaders from other countries in the EAP Region.

Of special note, Americas Region C&Y Director Diana de Rojas flew all the way from Mexico to deliver plenary messages on the theology, philosophy and strategy of C&Y ministry. She also conducted training workshops with her sister, Rebecca, who traveled with her.

Again, we see cross-pollination between CBSI regions yielding amazing fruit! The best fruit may well be the testimony of unity that this ground-breaking collaboration demonstrates.

Code Red was so well received that planning for Code Red 2 is already several months underway. We envision similar events taking place in all of our regions someday soon.