

Blessed Hope International Mission - Chaplains for Christ International Mission

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Mission trip to Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma) and Turkey Hope for Asia

January 17th – January 30th, 2016

The beginning of the year 2016 comes with new mission challenges, assignments, and divine guidance to fulfill the purpose of our Holy God. It is always our desire to do everything according to God's will because our Christian commitment is to have God and keep God in the center of everything; what we say with words and do with action so we can continue to experience His favor and blessings living a life of obedience in the center of His will. I began the New Year with the blessings of continuing my studies at the Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee, where the Lord guided me divinely in 2013 to pursue a masters degree in mental health counseling. During the week of study at the seminary, I received a call from brother Andrei from the God Will Provide organization, urging me to join him and his team on a mission trip to Bangladesh, a place where he joined God and started an orphanage 3 years ago in a very remote place in south Bangladesh, a predominately Muslim area. I was hesitant to give a quick response, not knowing how I would manage to finish my work, my assignment papers at the seminary, and the work that was awaiting me at home. I only had one week to complete all the tasks before the departure to the mission trip would ensue. As I was thinking of all the work I had on my plate, while still silently on the open line with Andrei, I asked the Lord if He is willing to allow me to join the team. Suddenly a thought came to my mind about a country that the Lord had impressed upon me last year to visit but I could not fit into the schedule. The country is now called Myanmar, formerly Burma, and is a Buddhist country with a generation very hungry for the true God that brings real lasting life and transformation. When the thought of Myanmar came to my mind, the desire to go there was revived and just like that the silence was broken. I told Andrei that I would go join him and the team on the condition that we go to Myanmar as well because I sensed that the Lord wanted me to go there more than he did Bangladesh. I noticed and discerned that the Lord had a plan and wanted me to join Him there, so we agreed and pursued with making the necessary arrangements, obtaining the visa, and purchasing the airfare tickets. With the plans set and the time for departure fast approaching, I gained confidence through the Holy Spirit that I would finish all my work before leaving. The team that would travel to Bangladesh was composed of multicultural brothers and sisters in Christ. Myself, from Blessed Hope International Mission representing Golgotha Church; Alex from Belorussian Slavic Church; Andrey representing God Will Provide Mission from Chicago; Jacob from New York; Anna, Oksana, Artem, and Olga from Portland; Ben from Denver; Alex from God Will Provide in New Jersey; Daniel, Sergey, Ross, and Migle from Germany; Yangchen from Bhutan; Johnny Buia from Hosanna Church in Detroit.

Those that came from these various places met in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, and had accommodation arrangements in the apartments that were rented by the mission organization as the center for the Bangladesh mission. Every morning we started the day with worshipping the Lord of life, devotion with teaching, and imparted the living Word of God as we received fresh revelation from the Holy Spirit for team preparation and we moved to prayer for the cultivation and activation of the received Word from God that worked transformations and ignited good motivations for the team to work, thus, extending the Kingdom of God in Bangladesh. In the beginning of the mission I did not completely understand my role and contribution but as I sought the Lord together with the team, I realized that I am among them, most who were very young, to help them rid of the baggage that we all carry throughout the cycle of generations and press on for an intimate relationship with God that gives us abundant new life towards radical transformation and formation of Christ in us. Beside the reason for extending and helping the Kingdom of God in Bangladesh, the mission team's agenda and desire was for a deep relationship with God who can only really satisfy, give meaning and significance to humans beings. After some quality time spent in the Word of God and in the presence of the Holy Spirit, the team divided up and each day we went to different places to share the living Word of God through the Gospel, Good News of Jesus Christ, and bags of rice. One evening I preached the gospel to a village where people from Muslim and Hindu denomination were present and I again realized how hard it is to get to the core of the heart and speak the Word of God in situations where they are to receive solution, life and healing.

For the purpose of being efficient in the evangelism and especially to effectively and efficiently evangelize people to be indoctrinated by the traditions of religions, we need to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of the Living God. I saw people that came to the meetings also came with issues, concerns, were broken, angry, and sad, stemming from the following of the fallen nature with a substitute of religion (Hindu, Buddhist, Islamism, etc.), trying to find reason and meaning and techniques to cope with the problems of life. Their reality was that

the only real and lasting solution is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. People need and want to hear about the words that are relevant and put them at peace because everyone experiences guilt.

Through my experience I comprised a few tips that evangelists need to be aware of and apply:

- The gospel needs to be presented in a way that is relevant to the crises of the people and in which speak the proclaimed words of life to the roots of the issues, like John the Baptist calling the vipers asking them “who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” People flooded to hear His speech. We need to know the inner crisis.
- The evangelist must interact with the listener's physical and emotional state.
- Listeners are more prone to accept the message when the evangelist quotes scripture to validate the message.
- Proclamation of the message must be performed with boldness.
- Insert a testimony in the message that proves that the Bible is practical. Jesus gives the people the sign of Jonah that referred to a resurrection power that resurrects people from the life of sin and gives new Life and new desires to do God’s Will.
- Illustrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave.
- Display your resurrected life as you were raised from a powerless lifestyle that is actually as much as a place of death as the tomb where Jesus Christ laid before being resurrected.

After the meeting, the team gave everyone bags of rice and other goods that are very necessary for life but the most importantly, the necessary living Word of God that was given to them as encouragement to stay in the Word and live by the Word which creates a Godly and healthy philosophy of a blessed life. As we ministered to the people on the streets, coffee shops and stores, people came and some, very attentively, listened to the Words of God that imparts Life. One day I went to an appliance store and the owner was so ready to accept the new life but I saw the problem that he and others were struggling with; the denial from the family members and community. Jesus warns about the price that must be paid to become His disciple and some people, even though they are in agreement with the Word of God, do not surrender and remain in their traditions and sin. When the mission began the work in Bangladesh, the strategy was to recruit young people that receive the born again experience, encountering and immersing in the presence of the Holy Spirit; while also wanting to work for the Kingdom of God with commitment, dedication and determination as they are marginalized by their own family.

One night as I returned to the mission base from ministering to sick people in the Dhaka hospital, when one of the younger brothers from the team told me his testimony about of his family persecution and how at the recent funeral of his father (the Muslim leader of the village) the villagers pressured him to deny Christ in the front of the village community. Because he was by himself, the only Christian believer in the family and community, they pressured him and he was forced to accept the denial with his mouth but not in his heart. He told me, "As I was ready to speak the words of denial, suddenly when I opened my mouth to speak, the following words of faith came out instead: "I love Jesus Christ and will never give up on my faith in Him." Much to his surprise, after the words flowed out of his mouth, the village did not react with anger but left him alone. He came back to Dhaka after his father’s funeral and rejoiced in the Lord and inspired those that trust in Him because; *"for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."* Luke 6:45. *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* Proverbs 4:23

If we accept and love Jesus in our heart, then Jesus speaks the right words in the right time through our mouth.

After a few days of ministering around the city of Dhaka and the surrounding villages, the mission team separated to travel to their base in South Bangladesh where they had already purchased land to build an orphanage with the purpose of outreach in this very poor, isolated area, and a civilization infested by the radical doctrine of Islam, a very spiritually dark area. However, the Spirit of God moved the mission to bring the marvelous Light of the Kingdom of God; *"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."* Isaiah 9:2. We held an evangelistic crusade where over 500 Hindu and Muslim people attended and we prayed for them and gave bags of rice and other goods that were purchased with the money donated by our friends from the USA. Because not many foreign people travel in this area where a lot of radical Muslims live, the local government provided police to assist and protect us until we left the area. Another mission assignment was to visit the homes around the land that was purchased for an orphanage and introduce ourselves to the people. We divided in teams and went from house to house and much to our surprise, families came together to hear us and we prayed for them in the Name of Jesus Christ. After a few days spent in the South Bangladesh area, half of the team returned to the base in Dhaka with a ferryboat that took 14 hours because of the thick fog. I had a cabin and rested very well, received words of inspiration and revelation from God, and was able to share them with a Muslim movie producer that works in the movie industry.

Mission Trip in Myanmar

After twenty years of Suu Kyi’s party being oppressed and members jailed by the military dictatorship that had been in power, 2016 has become the dawn of a new era for the people of Myanmar when her political party won a landslide

victory. This was a huge breakthrough for the people of Myanmar and for the church. Even though Suu is a devoted Buddhist, her grandfather converted to Christianity. Even though the situation is fairly new, we believe the culture of Myanmar will change and the freedom of choice will be given and the Church will expand in this very hungry nation for the Word of God. After our blessed time Bangladesh, Andrei, Jonny and I flew to Yangon, Myanmar and continued our mission and journey in this isolated, former Buddhist communist country, also formerly Burma, but recently changed to Myanmar because the democratic leadership wanted to change everything and did not want to remember the horrible history. This was the country that I had heard was very open for change and has a young generation very hungry for the God of the Bible, which gives purpose and meaning to life after many generations that live in a great state of confusion and idolatry.

The Vadimkholod Myanmar mission team; Oksana, Alla, Dimitri and Pek, a professor of Betel seminary, welcomed us to the country. First we went to the mission center (a house that is rented for the missionary) and we had an evening of fellowship that encouraged the missionaries to be strong in the Lord and to focus on God who called them to join Him in the blessed work that the Lord entrusted them to do in this challenged country. We pray for them and they were so happy to see that God cares for them and moved us to come and be a blessing for them. We were not, however, permitted for accommodation in the homes of this country because the type of visa we had required living in government hotels and so we booked a room for the time being in Myanmar. Together, with the mission team, we prepared bags of rice and goods to deliver to the people that came to our evangelistic meeting. The meeting was held outside the Yangon city in a very poor area where about 60 people came to attend to hear the Word of God and receive bags of food. Because many women came to this meeting, I preached about the woman at the well in Samaria that met Jesus. This woman was thirsty for the living water and nothing could satisfy her life, not even the 5 husbands that she had. Jesus revealed her immoral life to her and informed her that God is a Spirit and true worshipers must worship God in the Truth and in Spirit. Jesus then physically assisted her to obtain the Water from the Well of the Holy Spirit (John 4). After we showed the Light of abundant life, we told them that the way of getting new life is through repentance and we proceeded to lead them to repentance, but did not force them. Most of the women were thirsty for the life in the Spirit and almost all repented and ignited a desire to receive the real life in connection and relation with the Holy Spirit and understand the real worship in the Truth and the Spirit that transforms our broken fallen human nature after God's image because humans become like the object that they worship. Every one of us worships something and we are transformed, molded, shaped by the subject that is in the center of our worship. If we worship the living God, He imparts His life that gives satisfaction to our soul and we become like Him. At the conclusion of the meeting I gave them money to buy bibles and blessed them with bags of food and prayed for the sick. A woman that accepted Christ some time ago has a mentally challenged daughter and we felt very compassionate to pray for her healing and when I saw the conditions of the home the family was living in, I was moved to give her a donation toward home repairs. She was so touched by this donation and expressed a face with tears streaming from her eyes full of thanks and gratitude. At night we visited the world's largest Buddhist temple from Yangon and felt compassion toward seeing so many people misled by the Buddhist tradition of idolatry, which does not bring people to relationships with the Creator of the universe but is just a substitute to fill the void for human desire for divinity, after lost paradise.

The next morning we were invited to speak to the students from Betel Theological Seminary in Yangon. After a time of preaching and teachings that challenged them "to become the Godly person after God's heart with the mind of Christ," we exhorted the students to prayer. From there we went to professor Pek's home and visited "the morning star children care and development" where his wife is doing a great work teaching these children in their home. We helped them with a monetary donation and other charitable goods. Many poor families lived in this area that our long-term missionaries worked with by preaching the gospel and so we went to visit them, prayed for them, and extended a hand of financial charity in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Among the families that we visited was a family that had an orphanage in their home taking care of about 17 children. We spent some quality time with the guardian's parents and these children guiding them to a life of obedience, teaching and prayer that will align their life with the Will of God that will give them blessings and purpose for this life and eternal life as a result of having Christ in the center of life. We offered the guardians of this orphanage a financial donation. Another family that we found interesting in our visit was a divided worship home between husband and wife. In one half of the room the husband worships Buddha and he has his idols and performs his rituals, and in the other half of the room the wife worships Mary, the mother of Jesus and has the elements of worship such as a picture of Mary icon, crosses, candles etc. We encouraged them to pray for a divine revelation, to understand who the true God is and to know the true subject of worship, which is Jesus Christ. Even though this was a short mission trip to this large Buddhist country, we could not underestimate the impact that the Lord did through us to empower our long time committed missionaries and then other mission activities, evangelism and charity. Oksana, the long-term missionary in Myanmar said that when the Lord put in her heart to come and join Him in the blessed mission work, a lot of people tried to discourage her and make her afraid to come, but the Lord kept the desire so strong

