



A ministry of
the GARBC

WORLD

the **GLS** connection
reviews

Two busses, people packed inside and on top, with a few belongings and a bunch of cabbages—this picture is imprinted on my mind, and the people will forever be a part of my heart. Their destination was Kalemyo, a border city just outside the Chin state of Myanmar. They had made the grueling ten-hour journey over the mountain roads and regarded it as a small price to pay to attend the conference for the Chin Association of Baptist Churches.

Once upon a time . . .

Planning for the conference began in January 2007. As the newly appointed director of GARBC International Ministries, I had asked my predecessor, Dr. Mark Jackson, to accompany me on my first trip to Southeast Asia. It would be a pass-the-baton type of trip. He provided entree for me to the men and ministries with which he was so familiar.

Four Chin pastors met us in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar. They had traveled two days and a night in a crowded bus for the opportunity to share with us their story and a request. Each of the four was pastoring an infant church. Their congregations had left the liberal convention and reorganized as independent Baptist churches. I realized that I was meeting with men who had acted on their convictions, very much like the men who had founded the GARBC. The four had come to Yangon to request that I conduct a conference for their association. It soon became apparent that I would be unable to enter their region, because foreigners are not allowed into their state. They proposed a city just outside their state, Kalemyo, as the conference site.

As preparations fell into place, the conference was scheduled for January 2008. But political unrest in the country delayed the plans. Pro-democracy demonstrations by Buddhist monks against the ruling government closed the country temporarily, and we deemed it unwise to continue on that time schedule.

The big day

At last, on October 1, 2008, as Deb and I stood on a mountain road about nine miles outside Kalemyo, we were anticipating but not prepared for the sight of those dear people. They were so tired and so happy at the same time.

I would not have wanted to ride that bus for ten minutes, let alone ten hours. But God brought them safely to the conference, and He blessed them for their

commitment.

Strange accommodations

For the four nights of the meetings the group from Chin State slept at a hostel, just concrete floors for their beds. The pump at the well outside provided water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. I have not figured out how they modestly bathe in the open with a wraparound skirt called a “lungi” . . .

Deb and I were put up in a hotel about 100 yards from the control tower of the airport. If that sounds disturbing, think again. Only three planes were scheduled to land that week, but none did that we know of. Our movements were closely monitored by the police. We were allowed to venture only three miles from the airport without special permission. Every evening we filled out a police report of the places we had gone that day. In spite of the restrictions, we never felt unsafe. Culturally we were strangers in a foreign land, but relationally we were warmly welcomed as part of the body of Christ.

As the only speaker for the conference, I had a full plate. In the first session each morning, I spoke on the “Tenants of Fundamentalism.” The second half of each morning concentrated on the issues of the charismatic movement. Each afternoon I went over principles of leadership with the men, while Deb took the ladies and dealt with some practical lessons in Christian living. For the evening services I did an exposition of James. By the end of the conference I felt drained, but our brothers and sisters indicated that they were full. That is the reward of teaching, and we give God all the glory.

Dreams and needs

As I probed the men about their dreams and plans, certain needs surfaced. As a believer, you could be a part of the answer to their prayers. The most critical need they expressed was for books for their Bible school. Presently, 60 students attend, and the school’s library has about six linear feet of books. The students need English Bible commentaries and reference books. We will send them to a neighboring province in India about 120 miles from the school’s location. They will arrange for the books to be brought to Myanmar by horse cart. Your gift to Gospel Literature Services designated “Books” will help us fill that need. Commitment is the issue not theirs, but perhaps ours. Will you help?

Their story of separation



A Fresh Approach to Missions in Sumatra



Five professional people with a heart for evangelism met in 2006 with a vision to reach Sumatra, the large western island of Indonesia. Team Sumatra set a goal to plant a fundamental Baptist church in every town on the island by 2021.

God's blessing

God blessed their vision, and by 2009, 42 new churches were started, with seven fully independent, standing for truth, and spreading the light of the gospel. Each new church plant has its own DNA, meets in a unique kind of facility, approaches its community with love, and shares in the commitment to make disciples.

Team Sumatra have 80 more churches to plant. After reassessing their strategy and their God-given success, they revised their goal by moving up the final target date to 2015.



Indonesia

is a Muslim-majority country. Church planting meets with resistance. One church planter told how the locals threw rocks at the churchgoers every week for two years. Finally the incidents stopped. Today about 50 gather in that town every Sunday morning at 6:00 to praise and worship and study the Word of God.

The team's request

Team Sumatra is asking God to burden local churches in the United States to share their vision and assist them in the task.

Poverty is a defining feature of contemporary Indonesia. The team need partners.

They envision a partnership of five years to bring a church into existence, provide a building, and solidify the ministry. If need be, two or three churches in a region could assume the role of partners.

Your church could get reports and pictures as you prayed and gave birth to a brand new church in another ethnic group. On a Sunday morning you could Skype to the new church and sing and

pray together.

Perhaps God would enable you to send a team to help on a project or conduct Vacation Bible School. Maybe you could bring the church planter to your church for your mission's conference. A partnering relationship with a local church in another culture will bring faces and fervor to your own missionary zeal. Contact Chris Hindal, director of GARBC International Ministries for a referral and contact information. He can be reached by e-mail at chindal@garbc.org.

The Children of India Cry Out!



rounding them.

Praise God for Christian orphanages and schools that step into children's lives and intercept their downward spiral. The gospel is "the power of God unto salvation" to everyone that believes. Learning to read and write unlocks the revelation of God's truth and brings understanding and hope.

The Devasahayims

Dr. Chatla Devasahayim and his wife moved into a grass-roofed hut in the early 1980s to reach into the broken lives of children and adults. Dr. Chatla's son Wesley serves as the administrator of the Dr. J. Frank Davis orphan home and public school. Wesley Chatla communicated to the Hindals the need to set up a computer lab to equip these students in a relevant way

for their generation. A gift of \$5,000 will meet this need.

The Pousiams

Pastor Pousiam and his wife serve in Noney in northeast India. They started a Christian school and have over 600 enrolled. About 60 of the children are boarded at the school due to their various life circumstances. This dynamic couple has led in the purchase of land, and construction is under way for a ministry center to be used for school, church, and the future development of a Bible training school for pastors. Building continues as funds are available.

Churches and families in the U. S. enjoy so much more material wealth than our brothers and sisters in India. Will you allow God to touch your heart with these needs, and will you respond? Your gift can be sent to GLS and designated "India."



Orphaned children and children at risk through broken homes and through the strangulation of poverty exist in dire hopeless-

ness without the benefit of education. Their dreams of personal development remain fantasies. They do not dare envision a life any different from the thousands sur-

“The Digital Challenge”

With both printing costs and shipping costs escalating, what would God have us do to impact as many people as possible with the life-changing message of the Bible?

The plaguing questions

Regular Baptist Press continues its commitment to distribute Biblically sound educational materials through the international distribution arm of GLS. But how do we increase the circulation of RBP Sunday School curricula, and how do we do it

most economically? Those are the questions that continue to plague the mind of Chris Hindal, director of GLS.

Three challenges

One potential solution is the electronic transfer of files to an international printer. As obvious as that may sound, several hurdles must be overcome.

The first challenge is which files to transfer. To protect the marketability of RBP's products, we cannot send current material. We could send re-

sources that were printed prior to the latest revisions, but foreign printers cannot accommodate the software in which those resources were produced. So we are working on reformatting to make foreign printing feasible.

The next challenge is to produce an inexpensive product within the economic reach of local ministries. They have been receiving materials for free and helping with the shipping costs. While this new approach could potentially reach many more churches in a particular region,

it may not appear a good idea to our current subscriber list. As a solution, we could possibly direct some of our shipping costs toward production to ease the economic factor for them.

The third challenge is to secure a distributor in the region who would also take responsibility for marketing the materials. Please pray as we investigate the possibility of opening a new printing operation in Asia, potentially in Bangkok, Singapore, or Manila.

Printing Soon to Begin in Northeast India



It's just good stewardship!

H. C. Stephen, the association representative, reported that most of the printing will be done in English. However, the association intends to print a few items in the hill tribal languages, as they, too, use roman script. The anticipated projects include Sunday School materials, Bible studies, Christian books, booklets, and gospel tracts, as well as a monthly Christian journal. Many of these items will be sold at a price appropriate to the local economy. The gospel tracts will be distributed freely.

Local printing eliminates the cost of shipping, publishes at a lesser quality consistent with other locally produced publications, enables the local leaders to assess the current needs and to publish on an as-needed basis, and makes the ministry less dependent on outside assistance. All of these advantages strengthen the resolve of GLS to challenge our international partners to local publishing and local distribution.

The role of the GARBC is to assist our brothers and sisters at points of special need so they can independently and effectively fulfill the Great Commission. The project funds of Gospel Literature Services pinpoint those special needs.

Set the presses rolling!

While GLS focuses on distributing Sunday School and Vacation Bible School materials around the world, it also funds projects that increase the availability of Biblical resources in other creative ways.

GLS funded the purchase of a printing press in northeast India for the New Testament Baptist Churches Association. Recently it sent \$10,000 more for additional equipment and for funds to get the press rolling.

One Billion!

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).

Technology is making it easier to “preach” to the 6.5 billion people alive today.

Internet audience grows by the millions

The “total global Internet audience” topped one billion visitors for the first time ever in December 2008, claims data from comScore’s World Me-

trix audience-measurement service.

China led all countries with 179.7 million audience members (17.8%).

The United States totaled 163.3 million (16.2%)

Japan totaled 59.9 million (6%).

Germany had 36.9 million (3.7%).

And the UK had 36.7 million (3.6%).

comScore counted as “visitors” the Internet audience who were 15 years or older and using home and work computers. comScore data also shows that Facebook grew a whop-

ping 127 percent through 2008, amassing 222 million visitors.

“The second billion will be online before we know it, and the third billion will arrive even faster than that, until we have a truly global network of interconnected people and ideas that transcend borders and cultural boundaries”, stated comScore CEO Magid Abraham.

Technology—reaching the millions for Christ

At GLS, we are committed to using technology to help missionaries and international pastors reach the lost for Christ.

How have you chosen to use technology? Do you contact your unsaved friends and loved ones whom? Do you plant the seed of the gospel on Facebook or by sending text messages? Don’t be limited by how “it” (i.e., sharing your faith, spreading the gospel) has always been done. Before you know it, billions will be at your fingertips via your computer. Be creative with sharing your faith, and take advantage of today’s tools.

Join GLS as we creatively pursue making technology tools available for believers to reach the lost for Christ.

Technology for Asia Pacific Partners



From October 26 to 31, I had the opportunity to visit Malaysia to help with technology during the Asia Pacific Missions

Congress. The congress was designed to gather Asians together to focus on global missions and local ministry. Participants came from 17 countries and included several missionaries from around the world. I facilitated the formation of a special interest group of techies, as well as helped keep the technology functioning correctly during the conference.

Meeting the internationals was the highlight of my trip. As we talked, I would share with them what I do, and they

would ask questions to see if/how I could help them in their different ministries. One of the young pastors said this to me: “Brother, you are the first and only person that I have met who knows the importance of media and IT in the furtherance of the gospel in today’s world.” It was so humbling to hear, but challenging to think of the huge need to help these pastors use technology. He also said, “India is a land of IT techies, and almost everyone has knowledge of computer. The churches need much help in this area, as it is too expensive to get professional help for any of their endeavors.” So GLS will keep plugging on to help these pastors and missionaries use media and technology resources

for the spread of the gospel.


While in Kuala Lumpur, we distributed over 500 DVDs of different gospel videos in over 30 different languages. These tools were funded by an American donor who was glad to help internationals use technology to spread the gospel. GLS has an international duplication fund which allows us to periodically do this to help international pastors and missionaries with DVD or CD duplication.

I want to thank all of our supporters and donors, who help GLS keep serving in this capacity. If you would like to give to the GLS travel fund, which is used to enable me to travel to train internationals, please contact GLS and request more information.

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