



Faith2Share Leadership Consultation

29 April – 3 May 2013

Bangkok Christian Guest House, Bangkok, Thailand

Fifty leaders empowered for mission

Almost every year since 2000 mission leaders from around the world have gathered under the facilitation of Faith2Share to support each other in prayer, to learn from each other, share resources and debate contemporary issues in world mission. In 2000 it was just six of us. Our gathering in Bangkok this year was our 15th Leadership Consultation and the first with over 50 leaders present. Leaders came from five different continents, Asia, Africa, Latin America, North



America, Europe and Australasia and represented mission work in over one hundred different countries. Much was shared and learnt but we also have lessons to learn about how we meet in future and meet the needs of such a wide range of mission leaders with such different levels of experience and facing such different challenges. As we now plan ahead for our next Leadership Consultation in Addis Ababa in October 2014 we are designing new processes which will hopefully respond to the needs we saw in Bangkok.

Participants and Visitors

Most of our member agencies were well represented at this year's Leadership Consultation

Network Members

AIMS Sri Lanka, ARDF Australia, Antioch Mission, Asian Outreach International, BORN, Church Army Africa, Church of Nigeria Missionary Society, CMS Africa, CMS Australia, CMS, CMS Ireland, Friends Missionary Prayer Band, Global Teams, Indian Evangelical Mission, Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association, Mission Together Africa, Mission Together Inc. (Canada), New Zealand CMS, SAMS Ireland, SAMS USA, SOMA UK, The Sheepfold Ministries, T-Shed

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although we did miss the contribution of a few of our American (South and North) and Irish members. We also had a good representation of the emerging mission movements with whom we are currently working and benefited from the input of several key visitors who brought to us expertise which we lacked within the group. In particular we were grateful for the contextualised input of leaders from Thailand and Myanmar who helped us understand the mission changes and opportunities of the region in which we were meeting.

A full list of participants can be found at appendix 1 on page 10

Presentations from individual sessions If you have not received a flash drive (or access to our remote document file) from the *Faith2Share* office, you can download the presentations from the *Faith2Share* website once you are logged in as a member. (If you do not have a username and password consult the Faith2Share office.)

Day 1 – Focus on Mission in Islamic Contexts

An important aspect of all Faith2Share gatherings is the generous time we give to listening to each other, hearing our stories and praying for one another. During our opening sessions Faith2Share trustee, Steve Maina, enabled us to listen to each other, build new relationships and discover what a breadth of understanding and experience we had within the group.

In the evening we came to a clear focus on mission in Islamic contexts with a presentation by Allan Matamoros (left) of PMI and a response from Mabud Chowdhury (right) of Isa-e Jamat.



Allan spoke out of the experience of the growing number of Latino missionaries that God has been calling to work across North Africa, in the Middle East and in other Islamic contexts. He drew attention to the specific cultural sensitivities required in this mission and the importance of good training and preparation of missionaries so that they are equipped to



respond not only to religious issues but also cultural and ethical issues within Islamic communities. Responding, Mabud spoke out of a very different context, as a Christian leading a large movement of followers of Isa (Jesus) in Bangladesh. He encouraged us to see how many people from Islamic backgrounds are interested in the character and teaching of Jesus but find it difficult to enter the church. He challenged the use of the term 'Muslim background believer (MBB)' saying that we should not treat these believers any differently from 'Catholic background believers' or 'Materialism background believers'. The key is to help enquirers and new believers to study the scriptures, pray to Isa, and discover their own ways in worship and daily discipleship within their own inherited culture.

Day 2 – Focus on (a) Mission Context of South East Asia and (b) Leadership in Mission.

Each day during our consultation we began with worship and Bible study. We benefited from worship from different cultures and managed to learn some new songs in the process. Our Bible studies were taken from Ephesians and helped us to approach this text from different cultural perspectives.

Over the four days we looked at:

Ephesians 3:1-20 from a European perspective
Ephesians 4:1-16 from a North American perspective
Ephesians 4:17-32 from an African perspective
Ephesians 5:1-21 from an Australasian perspective

(Peter Cook)
(Nancy Sturrock)
(Bishop Samuel Ezeofor)
(Peter Rodgers)



South East Asia

Our first focus was on our host country, Thailand. Gregg Nicholson, representing the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand brought us a very helpful overview of the growth of the church in Thailand and the challenges of unequal growth in different parts of the country. In particular he spoke about the positive reception of the gospel amongst tribal groups but the very slow nature of the work amongst the majority Buddhist population. (His powerpoint presentation is available.) This presentation was followed by another by Ching Wah, the Anglican Dean of Thailand within the Diocese of Singapore. He shared with us the strategy adopted by the diocese for church planting in Thailand and particularly reaching out to areas where there are few churches and little Christian witness. This will include a major church plant near the airport and university in Bangkok. (Ching Wah's presentation is also available).



After some discussion of the situation in Thailand, Hung Ling Dai and Manaai Cheng, (left) two mission leaders from Myanmar presented their own context in a country which is experiencing new found freedoms but where churches suffer from major under-resourcing for ministry as well as mission. (Presentations made at this time are available.) Hung Ling and Cheng both presented us with similar challenges for mission in Myanmar, which included:

- The re-evangelisation of tribal groups who were converted to Christianity a hundred years ago but are now largely nominal in their faith
- The need to focus on the 'hard core' Buddhist community (C.f. Thailand)
- The fragmentation of the church, the inevitable duplication of effort, and the need for collaboration and joint strategic planning
- The difficulty of getting resources into the country (Christian books, for example, are

- often seized at the border)
- The desire of Christians from Myanmar to be part of the global mission movement and to reach out to China and elsewhere.

After lunch participants split into two groups to visit (a) The Well project (working amongst sex workers) and (b) the varied ministries of Christ Church, Bangkok.

Leadership in Mission

It had been hoped that K Rajendran would lead a session at this point on leadership in mission but at short notice he was unable to join us. Instead three experienced mission leaders were invited to be interviewed (panel style) on their own experiences of mission leadership. The three willing volunteers were: Dennis Tongoi (CMS Africa), N Prabakar (FMPB) and Philip Mounstephen (CMS). Many useful insights were shared which it is impossible to record here but we were given two helpful images to take away:



Banyan tree leadership
– when the big tree smothers all other growth

Bamboo tree leadership
– when we all grow together.



Day 3 – Focus on Evangelism and Discipleship

After the Bible study and worship (see above) the theme for the day was opened up by John Wesley (below), General Secretary of IEM. (Wesley’s powerpoint presentation is available.) Having reviewed with us a number of biblical passages related to evangelism, Wesley then challenged us to think about the difference between evangelism and discipleship, in



particular, what outcomes we are looking for as a result of people coming to Christ. In an interactive session participants identified a wide range of discipleship issues which need to be addressed as part of the mission process after evangelism has taken place. It was stressed that a believer in Jesus should change in Belief, Belonging and Behaviour and that there were certain basic changes which should be observed in the life of the new believer before baptism was offered. Wesley suggested that the discipleship process involves building relationships; being a model; systematic teaching and training; creating opportunities; correcting and coaching/ mentoring.

After a tea break, Philip Lepcha and EY Mathew reported on what had been learnt through the first Faith2Share “Depth Discipleship” consultation which was held in Mirik, India, in

November 2012. (A report of this consultation is available from the Faith2Share office.) Philip also reported on the work of the Leadership Transformational Training Institute (LTTI), a training unit of Himalayan Good News Networking Ministry. Philip is the leader of LTTI and his powerpoint is available.

A key aspect of the current focus within Faith2Share on “Depth Discipleship” is the acknowledgement that following Jesus involves changes in every aspect of our lives and there can be no sacred/secular divide. To teach this will involve a holistic approach to mission which refuses to separate what has traditionally been thought of as “evangelism” from “development”. At the end of our morning Kim Smith, the Director of the Anglican Relief and Development Fund of Australia gave a presentation on Holistic or Integral mission. Having pointed out the dangers of dividing mission he then quoted the Micah Declaration which says, “It is not simply that evangelism and social involvement are to be done alongside each other. Rather, in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world, we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world. Justice and justification by faith, worship and political action, the spiritual and the material, personal change and structural change belong together. As in the life of Jesus, being, doing and saying are at the heart of our integral task.”



After lunch and prayer groups much of the afternoon was spent in regional working groups looking at the implications of our understanding of “depth discipleship” in each region of the world.

At the end of the afternoon we heard three encouraging cameos of effective, and sometimes challenging, discipleship from Somalia, the Punjab and amongst students in Europe. These were presented very powerfully by Livingstone Nyanje who is working with The Sheepfold Ministries amongst refugees in the camps of northern Kenya, Vijay Isaac who reported on the work of FMPB in the Punjab and Peter Rodgers whose agency, CMS Australia, has a very significant commitment to working amongst students in Europe.



In the evening we made two more visits to mission programmes in Bangkok. A smaller group went out onto the streets for a prayer walk in the 'red light' district with the MST project, whilst the rest of us went to Shalem House, a very impressive hostel established by one woman with a vision. The hostel offers a place of refuge to parents and relatives who come to Bangkok to care for relatives in need of hospital treatment. The project has even helped to arrange treatment for those in need from Myanmar and remote parts of Thailand.

Day 4 – Focus on Training for Contextualised Mission

Our day opened again with worship, prayer and Bible Study (see above) before we turned our attention to how we contextualise our mission in different settings and how we provide training for these different contexts. During the day we were to focus our attention on how we engage with human trafficking, with those who are working in the business world, with children, and with Buddhists. We also considered the contribution of Korean missions and how emerging missions are resourced.



As most of these presentations have powerpoint presentations or notes that are available from the Faith2Share office they will only be reported on very briefly here.

Human trafficking

During this presentation Jennifer Tunehag reminded us that globally 32 million people are believed to be held in bondage, many more than before the abolition of the slave trade in the early nineteenth century, and most of these have been trafficked away from their families and communities. 79% of cases involve sexual exploitation although trafficking for cheap labour is on the rise as is the trafficking of men. Jennifer's presentation was a challenge to churches and missions to respond with both preventative and palliative action.



Business as Mission

The main reason people are vulnerable to trafficking is poverty and a lack of employment opportunity. In giving his presentation on Business as Mission (BAM), Mats Tunehag suggested that Christians who create employment opportunities through entrepreneurship can make a major contribution to God's mission in many contexts. He stressed the quadruple bottom line of BAM – financial viability, social enhancement, spiritual health and environmental protection.

4-14 Window (Children and Mission)

In many parts of the world at least half the church is composed of children and young people. How are they engaged in mission? Do we just see children as those who need to be evangelised and disciplined or do we also see them as missionaries, those who can disciple their peers and others? These are the issues being addressed by the global 4-14 Window movement. In this session Mark reported very briefly on the recent 4-14 Window missiology consultation in Korea and then Tushar Manna, the 4-14 Window Coordinator for West Bengal, shared with us the ways in which churches in his region are beginning to resource children in mission.

The Role of Korea in Asian Mission

Andrew Kim gave us a very helpful history of the Korean mission movement with some reference to the theological streams which have shaped it. He reminded us that today Korea sends out around 24,000 cross-cultural missionaries. He was very candid about some of the shortcomings of Korean mission but also pointed out some of the strengths of Korean character and culture which makes them effective missionaries. He appealed for partnership with Korean missions which will enable them to be more effective as well as strengthening others.

Training for Mission in Buddhist Contexts



Kang San Tan (right of picture), the Director of AsiaCMS and himself a Buddhist convert to Christianity, led an interactive session looking at the training needs of those whom God calls to work in Buddhist contexts. Having asked us to try to 'understand Buddhism on its own terms' and then set it in its context amongst world religions, Kang San then spoke about five elements of Buddhist belief and

how we might respond to these as Christians. This led into a discussion about models for mission training.

Resourcing Emerging Mission

Duncan Olumbe, Director of Mission Together Africa led this session. Participants shared their challenges in resourcing missions in different contexts and of struggling with the obvious disparities in resourcing. The session also attempted to explore alternative resourcing models.

Collaboration in Mission

In the evening we 'changed gear' and focused on some of the success we have seen within Faith2Share in building collaboration between different missions. Five stories were shared with some questions and discussion following. These were:

- a. **SOMA UK and New Life for India** : Pranab Kumar told us that having met the Director of SOMA UK, Stephen Dinsmore, at the Faith2Share Leadership Consultation in Turkey in 2012, he invited SOMA UK to send a team to work with New Life for India in Odisha. He described the visit in the autumn of 2012 and how this joint working in quite a challenging context in India had been a blessing to both missions.
- b. **CNMS and CMS Africa** : Lucy Ochieng of CMS Africa told us that after the leaders of the

Church of Nigeria Missionary Society had met CMS Africa leaders at a Faith2Share consultation there was a desire to see whether they could work together to try to overcome some specifically Anglican challenges in mission such as the 'clericalism' of the church and how this can inhibit mission. This had resulted in a visit by CMS Africa staff to Nigeria in late 2012. Their cooperation is on-going

c. **Samaritan Strategy in Pakistan and Kenya :**

Dennis Tongoi (CMS Africa) and Aamir Shahzad (AsiaCMS) (pictured right) shared with us how they had identified the need to 'export' the Samaritan Strategy work which had been so influential in Kenya and other parts of Africa, to Pakistan. A small team from Pakistan travelled to Kenya to see the work first hand there and to receive training. The training is now completed and a very active Samaritan Strategy movement is beginning to take off in Pakistan.



d. **Indian support for an emerging mission :** John Wesley, General Secretary of IEM, shared with us that at a Faith2Share gathering leaders of his mission had met up with emerging mission leaders from a neighbouring country. As a result it had been possible to offer training facilities for these leaders at the IEM outreach training centre near Bengaluru.

e. **Burundi reaches out to Japan :** Although not directly related to Faith2Share we were greatly encouraged to hear Deogratias Niyonzima tell us how his agency, Christian Community Development Burundi, had taken relief and Christian ministry to Japan after the recent earthquake and nuclear accident there.

Day 5 – Collaboration in Mission and the Role of Faith2Share



The business of the day began with a very dynamic session led by Steve Maina (pictured left), the Mission Director of NZCMS and a Faith2Share trustee. During this session participants worked in groups to identify the resources they require to carry out their mission objectives and also the resources that they might be able to share with others. By circulating lists from table to table we were able to quickly identify some resources which others could use in different contexts. Further 'matches' were made when the work sheets were later displayed on the wall. All of these sheets have been typed up and are being circulated to participants so that further 'resource matching' can take place in the months to come.

After a tea break we moved on to look at the specific role of Faith2Share. This session was ably led by Loun Ling Tan of AsiaCMS, also a Faith2Share trustee. After reminding us all of the stated objectives and priorities of Faith2Share she led an interactive session in which participants were able to express their own ideas about how Faith2Share could most effectively enhance the ministry of member movements. The results of this session are being considered by staff

and trustees.

The consultation closed with a session of celebration, worship and praise.

Looking forward - the challenges

Two additional meetings took place which should be reported briefly at this stage.

Faith2Share and IMA

With the growth of Faith2Share in India in particular it was important that we took this opportunity to review our very positive relationship with the India Missions Association (IMA). On Tuesday night the Faith2Share staff and trustees met with the three representatives of IMA and some of our Indian members to consider the future of this relationship. We recognised that both Faith2Share and IMA are going through periods of change and responding to new challenges. As a network of over 240 mission agencies IMA does not always find it easy to meet the needs of all its members but it does have clear objectives and a focus on several priority mission issues in India. We concluded that IMA and Faith2Share are fulfilling different roles for Indian missions and that we should continue to work together in close partnership. IMA is much more contextualised than Faith2Share and can deal more easily with mission issues in Indian churches. It is also much more comprehensive drawing together most of the mission movements in India. Faith2Share is much better equipped to help those missions who are called to work trans-nationally and to help Indian mission respond to global challenges in world mission. Faith2Share is especially well placed to help Indian missions form international partnerships in mission.

Faith2Share and its older (more traditional) members

At lunch on Thursday we had a very important meeting between the staff of Faith2Share and representatives of some of its longest standing members, including CMS, IEM, CMS Australia, CMS Africa, and FMPB. The call on Faith2Share to work with emerging mission movements was not in question but we were very much aware that in serving some of the leadership of younger movements we were no longer adequately meeting the needs of some of our older members. Those at the meeting encouraged Faith2Share to consider how it might develop two slightly different ways of meeting the needs of these two different groups. In particular we were encouraged to consider having parts of the Leadership Consultation which were designed purely for a smaller group of senior leaders from larger missions. This might be a form of mission leaders' retreat. There could then be an overlap with a larger meeting which included all the younger and smaller members.

Faith2Share was also encouraged to actively seek the participation of a few other 'older' missions that current members would like to meet with regularly. In particular OMF, SIM, AIM and Interserve were mentioned.

In planning our 2014 Leadership Consultation we are already trying to find ways to respond to these needs. We have booked a venue for a longer period and will seek to design a series of interlocking meetings and target invitations to specific non-member missions.

Mark Oxbrow
International Director
July 2013

Faith2Share Leadership Consultation 2013

Participants

1. I K Abraham (FMPB)
2. Niranjan Bardhan (IGOSA)
3. Christopher Bernard (Console Evangelical Missionary Movement)
4. Rogelio Carvalho (PMI)
5. Manaai Cheng (Christ for All Nations Mission, Myanmar)
6. Mabud Chowdhury (Isa-e Jamat)
7. Peter Cook (Christ church, Bangkok)
8. Manik Corea (NAMS Network)
9. Hung Ling Dai (Fellowship Bible Church, Myanmar)
10. Samuel Ezeofor (Anglican Church of Nigeria)
11. Sunil Ferdinando (AIMS Sri Lanka)
12. Willfried Gasser (WEA Mission Commission)
13. Samuel Gorada (Reaching Hands Society)
14. Vincent Tochukwu Ifenna (Anglican Church of Nigeria)
15. Vijay Isaac (Faith2Share / FMPB)
16. Samuel Kibuti (Church Army Africa)
17. Andrew Kim (GCA, Korea)
18. Paul Radha Krishnan (Mahanaim Ministries)
19. Pranab Kumar (New Life for India)
20. Philip Lepcha (Himalayan Gospel Mission Network)
21. Steve Maina (NZCMS)
22. Tusha Kanti Manna (Manna Mission)
23. Allan Matamoros (PMI)
24. E Y Mathew (BORN)
25. Philip Mounstephen (CMS)
26. Prakash Nayak (India Missions Association)
27. Gregg Nicholson (Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand)
28. Deogratias Niyonzima (CCD Burundi)
29. Lucy Ochieng (CMS Africa)
30. Ifeanyi Ifeakandu Ogbueli (Anglican Church of Nigeria)
31. Duncan Olumbe (Mission Together Africa)
32. Francis Omondi (The Sheepfold Ministries)
33. Mark Oxbrow (Faith2Share)
34. Anton Ponomarev (Faith2Share)
35. N Prabahar (FMPB)
36. Debi Lal Prasain (Himalayan Foundation, Nepal)
37. Tek Prasad Rijal (Vision Network, Nepal)
38. Peter Rodgers (CMS Australia)
39. Shakeel Samuel (AsiaCMS)
40. Mrinal Sarkar (T-Shed)
41. Aamir Shahzad (AsiaCMS)
42. Narayan Sharma (Himalayan Gospel Mission Network)
43. Kim Smith (ARDF Australia)
44. Wendy Smith (ARDF Australia)

45. Nancy Sturrock (TEAM)
46. Markus Subba (Himalayan Gospel Mission Network)
47. Kang San Tan (AsiaCMS)
48. Loun Ling Tan (AsiaCMS)
49. Paul Thaxter (CMS)
50. Dennis Tongoi (CMS Africa)
51. Mats Tunehag (BAM Consultant)
52. Jennifer Tunehag (Lausanne Movement)
53. Ephraim Okpara Umeh (Anglican Church of Nigeria)
54. Ching Wah (Diocese of Singapore, Thailand)
55. Livingstone Nyanje Wandah (The Sheepfold Ministries)
56. John Wesley (IEM)
57. Zomingthanga (India Missions Association)



