

the BRIDGE

*Bridging Cultures
for Christ*



Compassion

...as a lifestyle



With quivering hands, Ramie nervously pressed the four digits on the phone just outside the main gate of the APNTS. Things were not well. His emotions were ready to burst. Mark answered the ringing phone, and gave a simple "hello." The familiar sound of Mark's voice fell over Ramie like warm water. There was a moment of pregnant silence until Ramie's quiet words finally came through the handset of the phone, "can we talk?" Mark's face grew solemn as he looked at the clock on the wall. His mind wanted to think of busy schedule of classes and assignments that he had waiting for him early tomorrow morning, but his words warmly met the ears of his friend. "Let's take a walk."

Stories like these inspire us; they warm our hearts, and give us hope. They are stories of compassion, told through the lives of a faith community, and they are as diverse and deep as the lives and relationships out of which they take their form. Our theme for this school year comes from Psalm 145, "The Lord is Gracious and Compassionate." We hope for this year to be an opportunity to explore the depth of Christ's compassion as it is played out in our daily lives and relationships with the community around us.

Last year, our theme was "building new Bridges," which lead us into many new and exciting endeavors. Concerns for children, working with out-of-school youth, and the development of the new HCD (Holistic Childhood Development) master's and doctoral programs were just the beginning, as new partnerships and friendships began to form and grow. Building new bridges inevitably led us to people, and it is with people that our journey begins as we start this New Year.

APNTS president Floyd Cunningham notes, "What compels us to be compassionate is that it is in God's nature." If we are to truly be a community in God's image, then compassion should flow from everything that we do. "Who we are— is what we do... this is innate to us as Wesleyans." So we find that our institutional journey, is not upward to higher and mightier places—on the contrary, it is a downward journey which passes through the streets and alleys, crossing the paths of real humans in real life situations. It is the journey of Christ.

As we walk this path, it is our hope that you will walk alongside of us. Over the next year, (and no doubt onward) we hope to provide windows into the world that we find along the way

Photo: Jarrett Davis

Jubilee:

As a pastor, theologian, writer, and children's worker, Jubilee Thanga's heart still beats for his hurting nation. Leaving APNTS in April of 2002, Thanga headed back to his home country of Myanmar to continue the journey that God started in him long ago. As he returned to the nearly 50 Million people residing in the Union of Burma, Thanga found himself surrounded by a world of ministerial need and opportunity.

The ministry has been wide and diverse, ranging from his present Administrative roles serving as Academic Dean for Myanmar Nazarene Bible College and as District Secretary for the Myanmar Church of the Nazarene to a hands-on work with NCM providing training for relief efforts after a tragic cyclone struck in May of 2008, killing nearly 300,000 people in his area. Thanga's journey in ministry has continued to be marked by faith in action as he continues to build bridges to the people around him. More recently, this journey has led him to specific, intentional work with Children.

Since 2005, Thanga has worked with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries as a project director for "TEACH", a child development project focused on the holistic education of Children. Thanga's desire here has been transformation. Only about 4% of Myanmar is Christian, while nearly 90% are strongly Buddhist, which creates a delicate challenge in the communication of Christ within this context. He believes that

the key to real transformation in Myanmar is the discipleship and mentorship of Children, training them in core biblical values. He comments that, "It is easier to share the gospel to a hundred Buddhist children than to [one] adult Buddhist." With a growing concern for "kingdom impact" in this context, he notes that his interest moves more and more toward intentional ministry to children.

As of this year, Thanga and his wife, Moe Moe have partnered with Hi Kidz International to develop Hi Kidz Myanmar as a foundational children's ministry for their local area utilizing graduates of MNBC as well as other students from other denominations. Through this ministry they hope to train committed leaders for children ministry to serve as short term volunteer missionaries to assist in ministry. Leading volunteer teams in conduct Children Worker's Training Seminars inter-denominationally in Myanmar.

HIS experience at apnts, support
Conclusion!



APNTS

AT A GLANCE

FACTS & FIGURES

President: Dr. Floyd Cunningham
Editor/Design: Jarrett Davis

Visit us at: www.apnts.org
Questions? Email us at:
bridge@apnts.edu.ph

Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary
Ortigas Avenue Extension, Kaytikling, Taytay, 1920 Rizal, Philippines

