

AR300

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**asian
report**

A Ministry of Asian Outreach



CELEBRATING
300
ISSUES!

This Issue:
Kingdom Networking
Cross-Cultural Collaboration
Co-Creating & Partnerships

Perspectives:
A Springboard Into the Future

Francis Tsui reflects on the exciting milestone of our 300th issue and the many changes that have been reported over this time, as well as looking forward to the future and the exciting opportunities arising in Asia.

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A Spring-board Into the Future

Last year when I was in Japan, I had the opportunity to meet with the first Asian Outreach Director there, who started mobilizing for the Great Commission in the 1970s. He gave me a very precious part of a collection of his – the first ever printed promotional material of AO ministry. He told me that it is the only surviving copy in his possession.

2 Actually we celebrate the 300th issue of Asian Report this month. As I am reflecting on the implication of this milestone, I cannot help but think about the many changes in the AO movement over the past four decades.

When Asian Outreach started to roll out the Asian Report, the focus of our ministry was primarily for China. In the ensuing decades, God has led us to gradually cover the bulk of the Buddhist-dominated Asia, and now to start stepping into serving the Muslim world. The world has changed significantly in the past forty years and Asia has especially transformed greatly in the second half of the 20th century. Missiologically, Asia has morphed from being the harvest field to becoming sending nations. Over the years, we have also witnessed the more generalist long-term missionaries from the West being joined by an increasing number of specialist short-termers from Asia. The expressions of partnership have developed too, with increasing collaboration with individuals, churches, communities, businesses, organizations, and even governments. Not only with finances, but also with prayer, resources, expertise and practical task teams.



Among all these changes, there are still many constants. The fulfillment of the Great Commission as we articulate it has always been about partnerships, or, as expressed in one of our core values – Kingdom Networking. Asian Report is but a vehicle to bring this to a tangible expression: in communicating the needs from the frontlines and celebrating the latest news together with our partners. There have been many changes even to the Asian Report in the past decades. From the design, to the means of delivery – extending the reach from printed hard copies to electronic versions over the Internet. Yet, the heart and soul of it remains: to proclaim the hope and the goodness of the Good News, to foster partnerships, and to dynamically reflect on God's mission in Asia.

There are other new opportunities for us to achieve these objectives beyond the Asian Report. One such exciting opportunity is this October at the Converge Conference 2010 to be held in Hong Kong, where leaders from over 20 nations will join together to explore afresh how to be relevant in the proclamation, partnership, and in the celebration of the Great Commission in Asia. I invite you to join us there. Let us keep partnering and networking together for the future, until we see the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Until we truly see His Kingdom come.

Global Partnership Giving trends



1 A study of online giving trends based on 2,335 non-profit organizations worldwide revealed that online revenue grew 46% in 2009 from 2008, averaging at US\$144.72 per gift. (Blackbaud Internet Solutions)

2 Eighty-six percent of wealthy American donors said they are most motivated to give by the thought of "meeting critical needs" and 83 percent said "giving back to society" is motivational. (The Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University)

3 In 2008, charitable donations in China rose to about US\$15 billion; three times the amount from 2007. About US\$11 billion of this went to relief efforts after the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake. However, in 2009, Chinese charitable giving decreased 69% from 2008. (NGO Research Center at Tsinghua University, Beijing; 2009 Whole Year Report on Charitable Donations in China (in Chinese), China Charity and Donation Information Center)

4 In India, charitable giving amounted to about US\$7.5 billion in 2009, which is the equivalent to about 0.6 percent of the country's GDP. This figure is higher than Brazil's 0.3 percent and rivals China's 0.1 percent, but is lower in comparison to America's 2.2 percent and 1.3 percent in Britain. (Bain & Company, Management Consulting Firm)

5 Social entrepreneurship, where for-profit organizations engage in global philanthropy, is increasingly responsible for some of the more enterprising and diverse examples of charitable giving. Over US\$5.5 billion is estimated to have been donated from US corporations alone in 2008. (The Global Philanthropy Index, 2008)

Volunteering is a rising phenomenon, but it does not look the same as it did 40 years ago. Today, there is a swing towards partners also setting the agenda for how they are involved with a non-profit organization, rather than being recruited to volunteer for 'pre-set slots.' This is a more satisfying relationship for the partner and provides better outcomes for organizations. (Raising More Money, 2004: Terry Axelrod)

Kingdom Networking with Strategic Alliances



The Need to Network

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According to my postgraduate students, networking is often a bad word and something they would rather not think about. Often misunderstood, and rarely practiced well, networking is something you can only learn by doing. At its core, networking is about relationships, and relationships take time to nurture, develop and build – so if one is to succeed at networking, it is best to stop avoiding and start practicing.

Simply put, networking is about making connections, building relationships and harnessing trust. Think of a large river with tributaries connecting to it. Like this river, we are all linked in one way or another. In popular culture this interconnectedness is known as the six degrees of separation. Our world is actually so interrelated that a very small number of people are linked to one another in a few simple steps, and the rest of us are linked to the world through those special few.

But unlike an online six degrees generator, networking takes time – something many of us are short on. However, there are a few quick lessons to help make you a successful networker: Be enthusiastic; let your passion flow; be intentional; and view every handshake as important. Sincerity is key to making it work. If you view others merely as a means to an end you will be in trouble. People can sniff out insincerity and disingenuous behav-

Six Steps to Effective Networking

1. Make The First Move
2. Ask Good Questions
3. Go The Extra Mile
4. Give Before You Take
5. Always Follow Through
6. Apologize If Necessary

our, so make eye contact and assume very little. Give yourself a reason to follow up. Get their business card and you are on your way to creating a network of committed people. These people give us a way into worlds and opportunities to which we would not normally have access to.

I remember interviewing an American entertainer for an article I was writing and had promised to send along a copy of the unedited interview on CD as a small thank you. Later that week I sent the CD via registered mail. When it was received two days later, my interviewee followed up with a phone call: “David, thank you. I’ve done hundreds of interviews over the years and you are the only person who has ever followed through and sent me a copy for my archives.” I was stunned. Astounded even. Following through meant committing to something I promised. Not that hard to do really, but apparently not always practiced.

Working in community development in Asia requires a keen ability to network, build new relationships and connect the relational dots. You can no longer achieve sustainable and effective results in Asia without collaborating, co-creating and partnering with others of similar interests, passions and goals.

If you want to begin networking, start today. Commit. Exhibit a passionate heart. Be yourself and the right connections will come.

By Kerrie-Anne Butler,
Communications Manager,
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International Partnering for Local Impact



Our international partners are an integral part of the fabric of Asian Outreach. We love it when an international church partners with a church or ministry in a needy part of Asia, and gets to be a part of what God is doing there. This is what it means to network for the Kingdom of God!

One of our key training and church planting ministries, Great Commission Institute (GCI), is involved in the high-risk region of Pakistan. Training courses for local church planters and pastors are conducted by GCI in partnership with local and overseas churches. A key partner for GCI in Pakistan has been a church in Malaysia, Harvest Christian Centre, who has contributed funds, prayer, and teachers for several years.

The Senior Pastor and a team from the church visited Multan, Pakistan, during one of the training courses, and taught some sessions. The pastor reported to us:

About 30 church leaders attended the GCI leadership training. I taught for two full days on Church Planting and Counseling. The other two pastors taught one subject each.

Previous church leaders that have been trained at the GCI seminars over the past five years have gone and planted about 21 churches in different parts of Pakistan.

The participants were very eager to learn. They enjoyed every lesson that was taught. Some of the participants had travelled a day's journey to Multan just to attend the classes.

The team also visited some of the projects in the area.

We visited the schools among the brick-layers colony, gypsy colony and the public school. We also visited the various

sewing centers that [our GCI church partner] had started through the initiatives of the GCI Network. The young girls were taught trades by which they can make a living from their own homes, as women are not allowed to work in Pakistan. Another center that we visited was the beauty parlor, where girls were taught the art of facial cleansing and some beauty treatments. Some of the girls who had been trained here have graduated and gone on to earn a living on their own. The church in Multan was touching their community in many marvelous ways.

Harvest Christian Centre has been a great blessing to the church in Multan. Bibles in the local language of Urdu have been purchased from money donated, and a new church building has been built with their support. Without the help of international churches like this, the ministry of GCI in raising up church planters, churches and impacting communities could simply not take place.

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You can't do it alone!

It is increasingly acknowledged in aid and development circles that partnering together with both public and private organizations is one of the most effective strategies to implement change. Asian Outreach could not operate without its great partnerships, be they with community health centers, international churches, or local schools. We want to thank all our partners for their incredible input. From Australasia to North America, from Europe to Asia, we have an outstanding network of churches, organizations and individuals that make all the difference to our work.



The Journey Together

I remember the sober words of David Wang, the co-founder and President Emeritus, on that momentous day, “Asian Outreach, today you have made history. You have elected the first female chairman of an international missions organization.”

This journey started as a teenager, when Paul Kauffman, the founder of Asian Outreach, preached in my church. That sermon left an impact on my life as he spoke of the advantage of growing up in a multicultural context uniquely suiting someone to be a missionary. In the years that followed, as my husband and I graduated from dental school and became young working professionals, David Wang became a mentor and spiritual father to us.

When we moved to North America, we lost contact with Asian Outreach. It was years later that we reconnected with AO through an old friend who was visiting Vancouver, Canada. We gained a new perspective of the worldwide ministry of Asian Outreach and the impact it was making all over Asia.

In 2002, we raised a donation from Canada to print 100,000 Bibles and traveled to China with our two daughters, aged 10 and 14, to give out Bibles for Christmas! It was a very cold winter and there was no heating in the numerous Bible schools and churches that we visited. And yet, the faith and commitment of those Christians in the poorest towns and villages warmed our hearts.

The following year, we were hosting dinner for 45 dentists. As it was Christmas, we included an appeal to raise money for the medical ministry in Cambodia. My husband was then invited to visit Cambodia to look at the feasibility of setting up a dental ministry in the villages where medical clinics

were being run. It was very intriguing to be asked to utilize our marketplace skills in dentistry to strategize for ministry. A year later, I went to Cambodia with a team and participated in the village medical and children’s ministry. It was those trips to the mission field that helped us realize the importance of mobilizing people and resources for the work of the ministry. Being asked to contribute and utilize our professional training engaged us at a very different level than just simply writing a check as a donor and raising funds for the organization. It kindled within us a passion for the mission fields of Asia and strong confidence in the work of the ministry of Asian Outreach. Our involvement in the ministry took on a new dimension when I was invited to serve on the international board in 2004 and elected chairman two years later.

When we completed our education in the US, it was our foremost desire to return to the harvest fields of Asia. At that time God closed all the doors and opened one for us here in North America. It was not until our involvement in Asian Outreach that we felt our lives came full circle and that God had a plan in making us a blend of the East and the West to fulfill His call on our lives.

This journey from an impressionable teenager who was impacted by the founder, to mission volunteer, donor, fund raiser, missions mobilizer, to visioning for the ministry and helping others like our national leaders reach for God’s dream for their nation, has been a life transforming experience.

St. Francis of Assisi said, “It is in giving that we receive.” As I look back on the path that God has led me, I reflect that in giving and giving back, I truly have received much more – a joy and completeness in fulfilling God’s call for my life.

Church²: Connecting you with 6,145 churches in Asia

(and still counting)

In mathematics, a squared number is called a perfect square, as it exponentially increases the value of the numbers involved. Imagine the impact if churches in both developed and developing countries came together to see the Great Commission outworked in Asia. We believe in the power of connecting international churches with the local church in Asia. Church² is a platform for facilitating partnerships and greater effectiveness for God's work.

The Asian church is growing at an unprecedented rate. It has been estimated that at least 10,000 people come to Christ every day in China alone. Reports continue to circulate of miraculous occurrences and the phenomenal increase of indigenous churches.

But there is still so much to be done: approximately four billion people in Asia live without the knowledge of Christ's love. People in parts of Asia are amongst the world's poorest, living from day to day without hope for a better future. Large sections of the Asian church do not have the capacity to finance or train workers to minister in the unreached areas of their region. Leaders, pastors and potential missions workers need training, resources, mentoring and discipleship. They need prayer for protection and effective opportunities to minister.

Our heart is to empower, equip and train local leaders to effectively bring the message of Christ to all those who need to hear the Good News. Church² encompasses:

- 1. Sustainable Church Planting:** Supporting church planters to effectively bring the message of Christ to those who need to hear.
- 2. Effective Leadership Training:** Developing leaders, community influencers and church planters to effectively operate in holistic ministries.
- 3. Relevant Literature and Resources:** Providing Christian materials and Bibles in the local language to equip the local church to reach their community.
- 4. Empowering Marketplace Leaders:** To enable partnerships and shared resources with Christian marketplace leaders and professionals.
- 5. Transformational Church Partnerships:** To facilitate the matching of the vision and mission of international churches with those in Asia for effective and sustainable change.

Exciting things are happening in Asia, and you can be involved! Be a dynamic partner with pioneering church planters in the jungles of Kalimantan in Indonesia, or help see Christianity spread like wildfire across the plains of Mongolia. For just US\$10, two Bibles can be printed and distributed in the local language. For US\$60, you can provide a subsidy for a church planter for one month. For US\$80 you can provide practical leadership training for a rural church leader who would not otherwise have access. Give US\$1000, and provide start-up costs and training for a church planter's small business.

We are committed to help you partner in Asia with your distinctive mission, skills, teams, prayer and resources. To discuss a specific plan for your church, please contact your nearest Asian Outreach office.

Please designate donations to Church² (on the reverse of your check), and either send them through your local Asian Outreach office or to Asian Outreach International, GPO Box 3448, Hong Kong. Alternatively you can give online at: www.asianoutreach.org/church2.

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China Watch: One Church Two Systems?



Deng Xiao Ping's "One Country Two Systems," to this day, is still being acclaimed by Beijing as a stroke of genius. Under that overriding policy, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997. The process was peaceful, to say the least. Since then both sides are affecting and influencing each other – for good and for bad. And both sides have coexisted.

Beijing has always hoped that the same policy may eventually lure Taiwan to "come to the embrace of the Motherland." But it is actually economic opportunities that are pulling China and Taiwan closer to each other by the day. And now it appears, it could also be this sort of pragmatism that is causing China's long and bitterly divided official Three Self Church and the unregistered House Church to join hands.

On Easter Sunday, the recently "eradicated" All Nations Mission Church in Shanghai was somewhat "resurrected." More than 500 of its members met for an afternoon of praise and worship, preaching of the Word by their own Senior Pastor Cui, choir, offering and benediction, all conducted without any disturbance from the local authorities.

Everything was back to normal – well, almost. Except that this largest urban house church in China was not meeting in its own premises. Rather, they were hosted in an official Three Self Church in downtown Shanghai. Pastor Cui was adamant to clarify: "We have not caved in and joined the Three Self. We are just using a property that belongs to God and the people."

Since the closure of his church, Cui has gone on a 40 days water-only fast. He has lost 22 kg. He was physically weak. But his members could all tell: "Our Pastor is spiritually stronger and deeper!"

This joint use of Three Self churches was actually first proposed to Pastor Cui from a high official of Shanghai. He stressed to Cui that old church buildings that were returned to Three Self were originally built and dedicated to God by western missionaries. The new ones built were mostly from government funding. "There is no reason why only Three Self should have exclusive use of such church buildings and properties"

This "creative thinking" is in fact becoming popular in China nowadays. "Beijing is soon to recognize the House Church

movement," has been widely circulated. And in practice, a number of house churches in the capital are already meeting regularly in Three Self buildings on Sunday afternoons and evenings.

"We run our own show," a Beijing house church leader told us. "They just open the door and lock up afterward. We don't pay rent. They don't interfere with what we do. We are still an unregistered house church."

Another house church in the south outgrew their Three Self landlord. "We are now in dialogue with them that we use the building on Sunday mornings. They take the afternoons."

This outlandish proposal was not outright rejected, that we know. I also heard that the local religious affairs bureau had stayed out of the discussion, "leaving it to the Christian churches to resolve their own internal issues."

There are several reasons for this new twist. First, harmony is the all-important national drive of today's Beijing. Three Self, ultimately a Party organ, must have been instructed to develop better harmony with the house church.

Secondly, it is generally anticipated that Beijing might soon recognize the numerous house churches in the land. Last November it closed down a house church in the city, yet in April, the same house church was highlighted in the China Daily's article, House Churches Thrive in Beijing!

Thirdly, today's leadership of both branches of the Church in China is younger and more tolerant. They do not carry the weighty, historical baggage of their predecessors.

Lastly, market place people, especially professionals and business leaders, are joining both churches. They are urging for "better use of church buildings." Many of them are community representatives serving in governmental bodies. They have clout, so to speak.

I asked Pastor Cui, "After all these years of hostility, do you think this 'One Church Two Systems' may just work?"

"God has led us thus far...And He knows best." That was his calm and confident answer.