

Fishers of Men Ministries International

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A Mission Ministry of Victory Baptist Church

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November-December 2019 Fishing News

December 16, 2019

Welcome to our end of the year FOMMI news. I am so thankful to report some “good” news in a world of turmoil.

In 1991, through the invitation of Manuel Palit-Ang, I made the first trip to the Philippines and the island of Luzon. Manuel was a church planter and at that time was pastor of Harvest Baptist Church in Agoo, La Union. It was a blessing to walk with him along the shores of the South China Sea and witness to many fishermen as well as many others. Twenty-eight years later, having seen souls saved and churches established, FOMMI still has a presence in this needy country. It was my privilege in November 2019 to visit San Fernando City and our mission station there, Fishers of Men Baptist Church, planted in 1999. Bro. Manuel’s son, Jeph, is pastor now, and is also the administrator of the Bible School. The church has become self-supporting, with Pastor Jeph full time, and even supporting many missionaries themselves. I was privileged to speak at their 20th anniversary service. The day truly brought gladness to this old preacher’s heart. I received many a hug, smile, and thank you. Many graduates attended (I preached for some at their churches). How rewarding to see an investment come to fruition (Ecclesiastes 11:1; 1Corinthians 15:58). Thanks also goes to my travel partner (Henry Vick), a true “fellow laborer” (Romans 16).

To save time and funds, the trip to the Philippines was combined with one to Bangladesh. For a couple of 75-year-olds, this was difficult but doable. (Bro. Jeph from the Philippines accompanied us also. His youth, 54-years-old, propped up us old men.) We were met in Dhaka by our Bangladesh representative, Proshenjit “Lemon” Sarkar. Very graciously he guided us to our destination in the Sundarban region to the port of Mongla and our lodging for 7 days. The days were spent visiting eight of the many village churches that have been started (river locations). Daily we would leave early (7:30 am) travelling by boat; first to the village of Katabogie. Upon arrival we were met by many believers. A lei (flowers) was given to each of us and we were showered with flower petals, which is their normal welcome to visitors. Their church was of no more than bamboo construction, but decorated to give a church look. We were seated in the front and all inside sat on the floor; when the building was full others surrounded the building outside. They sang for us and then all three of us took turns speaking through our interpreter. The villages were either Muslim or Hindu and many non-believers came to hear the gospel story and see the followers of Jesus. Bro. Lemon says it takes many visits for the gospel to be presented to get true believers (not just a trading of religions). The depth of the believers’ experience seems far superior to most I’ve seen here in the USA. Bro. Lemon associates this with their poverty, as most have little to nothing in this world, so the thoughts of forgiveness and an eternity with Jesus in heaven is instrumental in their decision to trust Christ. (PLEASE TURN OVER)

Evangelism
Church Planting

FOM “C” School

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Philippines

FOM Publications
The Cast Net
Nautical Notes
Anchors of the Faith
Tracts

FOM Radio

Bangladesh
Fishing Fields

Village after village revealed the results of our investment. There were new converts in all of them. They showed love to us and gratefulness for our interest in them and willingness to travel so far to see them. Most men were fishermen and spoke of the dangers of fishing in the Sundarbans—tigers, crocodiles, snakes, storms, all taking the lives of many (many stories were told us). The churches have grown from the inside out. One fisherman who was saved two years ago, brought Bro. Lemon to the village of Vetivanga to some fishing friends. The result was the founding of one of our strongest churches. Many have trusted Christ and now have their own church facility. I spoke there with excitement. To see new testament missions working was so encouraging to this preacher.

On and on I could go, but the highlight of the trip was to see our new facility (building) rise from the ground. Two stories of the proposed five are now up and being finished inside. This building will act as Fishing Fields Ministry's office, Bible school, church and housing for our representative. Many young men have already shown signs of a call to the ministry and Bro. Lemon is prepared to train them. This building is centrally located and will act as a strengthening point for the other village churches.

The area we are working in has over thirty million souls. A hundred missionaries would not touch the need, but these people must be won by their own people. (American missionaries are not allowed.) We were only there to oversee. The hourglass of time is running low. Thank you for helping us have a part financially. These people serve with very little income, and what we send is stretched to the max.

Bro. Jeph was used greatly and he picked up the burden for this great work. Bro. Henry participated from his heart and the people responded.

Pray we can gather more support to share with those who show themselves worthy as they labor in this darkened area. We are so thankful for your support in 2019, and the confidence you folk have in this ministry. God has been so good to allow us to reap through years of sowing. You are a part of that.

If you are ever in our LA (lower Alabama) area, be sure to call us to see if we are in town. We would love to see you.

We wish for you a very merry Christmas, knowing this can only be had by knowing Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Perhaps the year of our Lord's return is before us!

Rejoicing,

Dr. A.W. "Fisher" Mund