



The Necessity of Partnership — Kent Odor ACS Board Chairman

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."
Ecclesiastes 4:9



Kent Odor with Paul Seng Ahn

The mission of Asia Christian Services has been a working partnership with many players before and since it was started in 1965. The first partnership was with the converts in China who became the national Christian leaders of China and then Burma while the Morse family lived in those countries.

J. Russell Morse and his sons taught the Chinese Lisu leaders to lead others to Christ and establish churches everywhere they went. In China thousands responded to the gospel through that partnership. The national church leaders took the reins and developed hundreds of churches in southwest China. After the movement of many Lisu and the Morses from China to Burma in 1950, The Rawang tribe was reached and added to the partnership mix. In 1960, the Lisu and Rawang were sent two by two as missionaries partnering with all the Christians in Northern Burma to evangelize other tribes across the country.



Two of the first missionaries in 1960.



When LaVerne Morse left Northern Burma in 1964, he began building partnerships with other Mission Agencies to help the gospel continue to impact the people in Southeast Asia for Christ. One of the very first partnerships was with The Gospel Broadcasting Mission. LaVerne began creating Lisu and Rawang language radio programs produced with help from GBM that aired on the Far East Broadcasting Network short wave from the Philippines. This partnership continues to this day and Bill McClure, the GBM Director, is still a member of the Board of Directors of ACS. Now the broadcasts are in more tribal languages with thousands of listeners growing in Christ through that medium. Partnerships matter!

LaVerne began a partnership with Cincinnati Christian University and began bringing rising tribal leaders to study the Scriptures in the USA and go back to begin Bible Colleges in Burma. Now there are twelve Bible Colleges producing hundreds of well trained "missionaries" every year for the church in Burma and its expanding mission.

LaVerne began a partnership with I.D.E.S., the International Disaster Emergency Services, and through this mission, both the Asian believers were strengthened through difficult trials but also new areas have been opened to the gospel. I.D.E.S. has supported the national missionaries as they served as agents of relief in the times of disaster - in Jesus' name. Partnerships matter.

LaVerne connected with Blessings International who helped established the first medical clinic in Northern Burma. The need for the production of literature led to a partnership with LATM to print hymnbooks and many other resources. The rise of technology led to a partnership with Good News Productions. The ongoing need for better health and medicine led to partnerships with FAME and dental medicine with mPower Approach. Children's ministry needs have led to a partnership with Asian Children's Mission. Partnerships have mattered, and still do! There is much fruit in

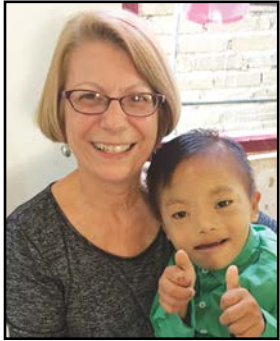


the harvest of the gospel in South East Asia because of the hand in hand work that ACS has experienced with many great partners.

In this newsletter are experiences of two partners who have recently served alongside ACS workers and have returned with joy from all they witnessed. Enjoy their testimonies. And please especially note the final article about Reaching the last 40 tribes in Burma and our new partnership with STADIA. This new partnership will focus on planting churches among Buddhist communities. This very resistant audience will need increased financial support to bring a harvest. Buildings will be more costly and sponsorship for evangelistic teams will be a necessity. Our friends at STADIA are excited to help ACS advance one step further to reach all in Asia. Perhaps your church will be first to join them!

The ACS Board of Directors cannot adequately express it's gratitude for the help that has been received from our partners. May the Lord richly bless the men and women who have made such an outstanding contribution to the Great Commission! We thank you with all our hearts.

FAME - Lonnie Burley –Director of Short-term Trips



Lonnie Burley

In January 2017, I traveled both to the country of Thailand and to Myanmar. I am the Director of Short-term trips with the medical ministry of FAME. FAME is passionate in taking help and hope in the name of Christ to the unreached and underserved in the world through medical evangelism.

While in Thailand and Myanmar, our FAME teams joined ACS missionaries who serve selflessly, faithfully, and tirelessly each day of their lives to bring honor and glory to our living God. There is no other place I would rather be than serving alongside men and women of this caliber.



Young boy working at the trash dump camp in Mae Sot 2017

In Thailand, our medical team had the privilege of serving with ACS missionary, Simon Thaung, who has become a close brother in Christ to those of us at FAME. We held 4 medical camps, including one "over the border" in the city of Myawaddy, Myanmar. The other 3 included Bethany Village (a Burmese refugee community); Emmanuel Christian Church, where over 70 children were given deworming medication, food was distributed, physical needs were met, and Simon shared the Word with the local community; and, our final outreach was held at the "trash dump refugee camp" where adults and children alike make a living sorting through heaps of trash for recyclable "treasures." The flies were absolutely overwhelming!!



Simon at medical camp in Thailand preaching to Burmese refugees.



Pastors Moses and Simon at Trash Dump Camp pulling teeth.

**A side note: When we arrived at Emmanuel Christian Church, we asked the parents of the school children permission to give their child Albendazole, which is a deworming medication, and they refused! The parents said that when the worms "came out", it scared them. Ohhhhh, the education that is needed!*

Of course, Simon does not include the word "no" in his vocabulary. Moments later, the parents had given their consent!

In addition to providing ministry through medical camps, our team, which included Brother Simon, taught a 1 day "Health Education Seminar" at the Pastor's conference in Mae Sot, Thailand. Topics included Good Health/Hygiene, Clean Water, Diarrhea/Treatment of dehydration, First Aid/Choking, Dental Health (taught by Simon), and God's desire for us, the "whole person," which includes our Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, and Relational health.

**A side note: While teaching at the Pastor's conference, a young man in Bethany village who was attending the seminar, had a seizure. Shirley Alsop, a Clinical Specialist nurse on our team, sprang into action as some of his friends tried to pick him up and take him out of the church building. What a teaching opportunity!! Next lesson on the agenda....what to do if someone is having a seizure.*



Teaching seizure treatment.

While in Myanmar, our **FAME** Health Education team taught a 3 full day "Health Education Seminar" at Hope Orphanage, hosted by **Asian Children's Mission (ACM)**. We served alongside Simon Thauang (ACS) and Josiah Aung (ACM) and had 33 Pastors, Community leaders, and students in attendance. The focus was on disease prevention and wellness.

The team then traveled north to Shan State and taught a



Health Education at Hope Orphanage
-- practicing treatment of fractures.



Health Education at TBC with Pastors and Community leaders.

2nd "Health Education Seminar" at Taunggyi Bible College where approximately 25 Pastors and Community leaders were in attendance. Our team served alongside Aaron Ngwa, TBC's President, and his father Manasseh Fish, Chancellor at TBC.

Biblically based health lessons taught between both locations included: Good Health/Hygiene, Clean Water, Diarrhea/Treatment of dehydration, Choking, Parasites/Worms, Latrines/Refuse/Trash pits, Control of Flies & Mosquitos, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, The Importance of taking Medications Safely, First Aid (including treatment of cuts, bruises, burns, bleeding, fractures), Maternal/Infant/Child Care, and Hypertension, Nutrition and Malnutrition.

My favorite words these days are partnerships and collaboration. We are truly "better together." We, at FAME, are so humbled by the ministry being done through ACS missionaries and their invitation to us to come and serve alongside them. That is an invitation we willingly and graciously accept!

mPower Approach

-- Linda Webster, Executive Director

The following was written after a training trip to Northeast India in January 2017.

mPower Approach is a missions ministry with an innovative approach to missions. They go to the remote areas of the world and empower national believers with the tools and training to share the good news of the Gospel by first meeting the physical needs of their communities. On this trip **mPower Approach** partnered with **Life Care Foundation**. (This is an ACS Team partner of many years.)



Linda Webster

The end of the road. This is where their ministry begins. **Life Care Foundation** covers the most remote parts of the country (North East India), going to far-flung villages where customs, languages, and gods are distinctive in each location. Our ministry friends are intent on taking God's glory to the ends of the earth. They have chosen health care as a means to help their fellow

countrymen and take the Good News with them as they go. They began at the end of the road and are working their way to even more and more remote areas.

To serve the more remote areas, they must hike. Hike many days, through jungles, leech-infested rivers, and precarious terrain but, this is their goal and their purpose. Each of the people we trained is prepared to make sacrifices. They see things differently than the Americans who came to implement training! Discomfort is part of their daily routine. They lead simple lifestyles, minus many of the conveniences that the Western world takes for granted. And, they have a joy that is so genuine and so deep that it makes my heart ache for their simplicity.

Our team of six was prepared for an adventure in Northeast India. Little did we know that three of the team members would be denied visas! So, our small team of three traveled to Miao, where we trained with **Life Care Foundation**. Philip Ngwazaw



Philip Ngwazaw



Preparing to remove a tooth.

is the ministry leader. In the past five years, we have trained 17 of his ministry workers in dental extraction. All of the students are still part of the ministry and still using their dental skills to serve others.

While in Miao, we trained 4 new extraction students and 4 dental hygiene students. We brought 1600 pairs of reading glasses and trained everyone to dispense them. We taught water safety and distributed 11 water filter systems that can serve a whole compound. We also brought blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes for the outposts, as well as Cavity Arrestors, so that they can treat small cavities to prevent them from growing into toothaches and abscesses.

Additionally, we brought two dozen prosthetic hands, donated by another ministry. By the time we arrived, Philip had generated a list of 8 people who were known to need the hands. One gentleman came from two days walking distance...he needed two hands.



Cleaning teeth.



JaNahn Williams, Linda Webster, and Dr. Wayne Lose and the Miao Dental Graduating Class

Philip had done his homework and was able to expertly apply the hands and show the man how to use them.

mPower Approach has been encouraged by the people of **Life Care Foundation** and their vision for the capturing of the hearts of remote India for Christ.



Attaching a new limb.



Two new hands.

Reaching the Last 40 Tribes in Burma - Kent Odor – ACS Board Chairman (A New Partner in Our Asian Mission)

In 1928, J Russell and Gertrude Morse encountered **Christian Lisu** who had already been touched by the work of another pioneer evangelistic group in Southwest China. They found only a small group of converts in what appeared to be a large Animistic tribe. They determined to build upon that good beginning. From that encounter they spent the next twenty years in China working among the Lisu tribe. With the leaders they developed, they saw many tens of thousands of Lisu people accept Christ. When China was overcome by Communism in 1949, the Morse family and several thousand Lisu Christians relocated over the Himalayas to Northern Burma to continue the spiritual development of those believers and expand further pioneer missionary work.

Animism -- *The “animistic” belief foundation of the Lisu was also a part of many of the other “hill tribes” of South-east Asia. Animism is an occultist worshiping of ancestors and is primarily fear based. Animists believe that “spirits” indwell everything. Every rock, tree and plant has a spirit and all must be constantly appeased or bad things will happen. Animists have witchdoctors who give many curses and appeasements to the problems that people have.*

The Morse family embraced a strategy of going to a new village, waiting for a chance to meet the “headman” of the village and then let him know that they were messengers bringing him a message of good news. The message was from “the God who made the rocks and the trees.” It was a message that was almost always embraced with conversion, usually of the whole village. This strategy has been used in some form for over 80 years by the Morse family and all the Lisu and Rawang national missionaries. **Over 30 Burmese tribes** have been reached with this as part of missionary strategy. These are the tribes and the leaders that are in the periscope view of Asia Christian Services.

There are over 135 officially recognized tribes in Burma.

There are currently about 51 million people. A minority of tribes are primarily animists. The majority are primarily Buddhist. The last census declares almost 80% of the country are Buddhist. Almost all of the last 40 totally unreached tribes are Buddhist. Most Buddhist tribes have not been receptive to the message of hope over fear that those who were primarily Animistic willingly embraced.

Buddhism -- *Those with a Buddhist foundation believe in re-incarnation (rebirth). The ultimate goal is to reach the state of enlightenment (Nirvana) and liberate oneself from endless reincarnation and suffering. They live according to fate and can only improve their fate in the next life by doing good works in this one.*

The Buddhism of Burma shows itself in two forms. First are the “intellectual” Buddhists. These as a majority are the monks. They pursue “enlightenment,” following the teaching of “Gautama Buddha,” the one who founded Buddhism. One of our Rawang brothers in Burma has developed a way to present the gospel to a monk that will usually bring him to Christ. It uses the teachings of Gautama and presents Christ as the fulfillment of all those teachings.

The second form of Buddhism could be called “cultural Buddhism.” These are primarily the tribal Buddhists. A number of them also hold on to some aspects of an animistic flavor and some are very superstitious. This group generally accepts that by fate they are what they are, and they can’t do anything about it. This group is very hard to reach for Christ. They are just not interested, except, if something really bad happens. Then, maybe, a “spirit” has done it and any solution may be considered.

The tribal national missionaries and evangelists in Burma have discovered a path to lead “cultural Buddhists” to Christ. It is through “love.” LaVerne Morse taught a class repeatedly over the years that has been translated into multiple languages and is taught in their Bible College classrooms. It was called, “The Seven Sequential Objectives for World Evangelism.” The first objective is, “To meet people, where they are, **with the love of Christ**.”

Disaster Relief... Three presentations of love have proven to be especially useful in allowing the gospel to be received and accepted by Cultural Buddhists. Our ACS Partners have been incredibly helpful in providing fuel to ACS evangelists to help them express the love of Christ. Many tribal Buddhists live in remote areas of civilization. Natural disasters frequently come to Burma, and civil war that displaces villages due to fighting has been constant for years. In those circumstances, Christian evangelists present food, shelter and clothing to meet basic survival needs - with love. The question is often, “Why are you doing this?” The gospel is then presented and sometimes it is received. I.D.E.S., International Disaster Emergency Services, has assisted our evangelists to meet those “needs” - with love. This has resulted in many new believers and many new churches. Having a Christian relief agency as a partner has been more than just life or death for the victims - it has meant eternal life!

Medical Care... A second presentation of the gospel has followed the work of evangelists who have been trained in “triage first-aid” in general medicine and dental care. These have been equipped with “medical kits of basic drugs and sanitary products and tools to pull bad teeth.” Many have been trained in basic community health education and guide improvement to the living situations in the villages they visit. These evangelists, with love, have brought healing to the sick and have been asked, “Why did you do this? You are not of our tribe?” They answer with the gospel and see converts and churches established.

The need for funding to purchase more medical kits is becoming a more frequent financial appeal from our workers in Burma. This is because it has proven to be so effective in their evangelistic work. Two of our trusted medical mission partners are FAME and mPower Approach. They have just returned from working with our ACS teams in Burma, Thailand and India in January 2017. Loving medical care has been a key to the reception of the gospel from the time of Jesus to this day.

Children... The third effective presentation of the gospel to the cultural Buddhists has come through an unexpected path - the rising of women missionaries and their ministry to children. LaVerne Morse strongly advocated for all Christian Leaders in Asia to be fully educated to their highest potential. He urged the founding of Ministry Centers to train local church leaders and the founding of Bible Colleges to train evangelists and missionaries.

Through the years, women have become part of the student bodies of the Bible Colleges and have become fully trained capable missionaries. There has been a cultural limit to women’s leadership in Asian society and the ministry of women has been somewhat hindered. However, many women have found that they are unhindered in teaching children. The evangelists have discovered that women missionaries are very effective and can soften the hearts of “cultural Buddhists” by loving and teaching their pre-school children about Jesus. When an evangelist church planter with a community preschool, taught by women missionaries, has the children participate in the Sunday gathering, the Buddhist parents always come to watch the children “perform.” The parents will respectfully stay and listen to the speaker. The evangelist presents a gospel message and through this means of love, churches are now being established. Because of this effective strategy, ACS is happy to announce a new partner.

STADIA — A new ACS partner in Asian Evangelism

STADIA has been a primary leader in church planting in the USA for 15 years. From the beginning, STADIA has worked with the understanding that Church planting is the way to reach ALL the lost people in the world. STADIA has determined to plant only church-planting churches—congregations that have multiplication as part of their DNA. For the last 6 years, most of the new US churches planted by STADIA have been helping plant new churches in another part of the world outside of the USA.

Parallel to that strategy, research has provided a piece of information that 85% of everyone who is currently a follower of Christ made their decision to follow Jesus between the age of 4 and 14 years old. With that news, STADIA’s mission has now emerged “to plant churches that intentionally care for children,” and as God blesses the accomplishment of that mission, STADIA’s vision is “every child has a church.”



Buddhist children in preschool praying to Jesus.



Refugee children at Mae Sot

In that context, STADIA was able to establish a partnership with COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL in South America. COMPASSION agreed to sponsor 200 poor children as an outreach through every church that STADIA planted. That work is continuing to this day and over 120 churches have been started with that model in South America in just 6 years' time. STADIA funds these church plants through generous partners, including new churches in the US, more established churches, and generous donors. COMPASSION facilitates the child sponsorship programs from donors around the world. And even more broadly, child and youth ministry has now become a key part of STADIA's church planting efforts everywhere.

Last year STADIA determined to look beyond South America to other places around the world to expand church planting. By the grace of the Lord, conversations led to a visit to Thailand and Burma this past December by STADIA

Leaders Brent Foulke and Mike Gerber with myself and Mark Morse. That visit has now led our two missions to agree to a common Memorandum of Understanding. STADIA will challenge donors, new churches and supporting churches in the USA to fund 10 church buildings for ACS evangelists and missionaries to establish preschools and churches to reach cultural Buddhists in



Mark, Kent, Mike and Brent at Grace Preschool



Preschool supported 12 years by two ACS families.

Burma and Thailand in 2017. ACS will be securing funding to sponsor as missionaries those new church evangelists and preschool teachers. The 40 unreached tribes have received a new open door to the gospel. All of this is a true blessing and we are certain, a gift from our Heavenly Father. If this can prove to be an effective strategy, this partnership could be continued into the long term future.

If you know of ACS friends and family who would like more information, please let me know and I will introduce you to STADIA's team and explore how this new initiative can bring God glory and bring Jesus to many children and their families.

Would you like to partner with ACS?

Kent Odor - 513.923.0928 cell / kent.odor@gmail.com

Mark Morse – 812.583.0290 / markmorse@aol.com

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Asia Christian Services
9378 S Mason Montgomery Rd, Ste 326
Mason, OH 45040-8827

For more information:

phone: 513-229-8886

or

e-mail: erbreuer@aol.com