

COURAGEOUS FAITH IN INDONESIA

Planting churches and making disciples

The country of Indonesia is an amazing archipelago of more than 17,000 islands. About 35% of those are inhabited. With a population of over 288 million people, Indonesia is the 4th most populous country in the world. Approximately 87% of Indonesians are Muslim, and about 5% of the country identify as evangelical Christians.

“C” took his first survey trip to Indonesia in 2009 to explore where God might be leading him. He lived in the country for two years before returning to the United States. He currently serves as OTAN’s Indonesia Ministry Coordinator.

C says, “In Indonesia, new believers may be kicked out of families or villages when they become Christians. Some flee with only the clothes on their backs. Some stay quiet while others may openly tell people, ‘I’m following Jesus!’ Once they are baptized, persecution increases dramatically.”

One of the pastors C partners with on his trips to Indonesia not only serves his own flock but offers help to ostracized believers. “He often takes in persecuted new believers who were removed from their villages, and he houses them in a new church building on his property,” he says.

C is also connected with a network of Indonesian believers dedicated to planting churches and making disciples. Using the Bible as their curriculum, he says, “They open these ‘discovery’ Bible studies to anyone who is willing to study the Word of God.”

“Over the past 12 years, OTAN has purchased motor-bikes for traveling pastors who go from church to church on Sundays, preaching and ministering in several of their church plants. I’ve also distributed solar-powered MP3 players with the story of Jesus in various Indonesian languages and dialects. Groups of seekers can listen to the gospel in their heart language which draws many Muslims and Hindus to Jesus,” he says.

He has also helped organize Church-Planting Movement (CPM) trainings. “Recently, OTAN paid for the lodging, transportation, and food for 19 CPM field workers. The training was very encouraging and created a refreshing time of fellowship.”

C has seen the Indonesian church grow over the years and says many Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus. He says, “New church growth on just the island of Java over the past few years is amazing! It is truly the work of God alone.”

One of C’s goals is to help Indonesian pastors start micro-businesses that financially support both the pastor and the believers that are hired. Would you join us in reaching Indonesia? To give securely online to the work in this country, click the GIVE tab at otan.org. Then choose INDONESIA MINISTRY from the giving menu.

FIRST TRAINING HELD IN CAMBODIA

“They needed someone to come alongside them.”



“They’re doing everything they can with the knowledge that they have, everything a church is supposed to do. But they have very little understanding of the Bible.”

When OTAN’s director heard that report about a group of 50+ pastors in Cambodia, he knew that Outreach To Asia Nationals could help. “They needed someone to come alongside them and nurture their knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures,” he says. For almost all of those who attended OTAN’s Cambodia Mobile Bible College this summer, the sessions represented their very first formal training experience.

“When we taught them ways to study and understand the Bible (hermeneutics), you could see the lights come on for them,” Al says. “They broke into small groups to discuss observations in the Scripture. They’ve never had anyone come to help them in this way before.”

“We were expecting about 53 attendees, but we ended up with 83. Many of their wives joined us for the sessions, and they were so grateful to learn anything that would help them in their ministry to other women.”

As the training continued, the students became more confident and responsive. “At the conclusion, several students were assigned a practice lesson...a 5-minute teaching that they would present to the whole group. By the end of the week, they were so excited that they didn’t want to leave,” Al says.

These church leaders live and work in surroundings of abject poverty. Churches often care for the basic, daily needs of their congregations and for the many orphans within local villages. Al says, “When they hear of needs in other villages, they pool together rice and other resources and send ‘care packages’ to their fellow churches. The pastors who receive a stipend from us volunteered to give half of it away to other pastors so that twice as many could be helped. They are amazing people of faith.”

Is the Lord calling you to come alongside the church and its leaders in Cambodia with a gift today? Mail a check with “Cambodia” in the memo line to the address on the back page of this newsletter. Or give online at otan.org. Click GIVE, then choose CAMBODIA MINISTRY from the giving menu. Thank you!

NEPAL MOBILE BIBLE COLLEGE

National pastors put OTAN training into practice

As we write this newsletter, our Nepal Mobile Bible College students are completing their last two books of study. That class will graduate in January, and the next group of incoming students will be in the graduation audience. Our national country administrator tells us:

When OTAN began teaching in Nepal, our prayer was simple: that God would use this training to strengthen pastors and church leaders who have a passion to serve Him but have had limited opportunities for formal biblical education. As we look back on this journey, we are thankful to see how God has answered those prayers.

One of the greatest joys has been watching our students grow in both their knowledge of Scripture and their confidence in ministry. Many came to the classes eager to learn but unsure of how to study the Bible.

Over time, they have gained a clearer understanding of God's Word and have become more confident in preaching, teaching, and leading their churches. It is encouraging to hear them share how the lessons have changed not only the way they prepare sermons but also the way they read the Bible in their personal lives.

When asked what new thing they learned, many students gave a similar answer: "I had never fully understood the importance of interpreting the Bible in its proper context." Learning how to observe, interpret, and apply Scripture carefully has opened their eyes to the richness of God's Word and has given them greater confidence in handling it faithfully.



Nepali rice field workers return home at end of day

Among all the subjects, Bible Study Methods and Rules of Interpretation (hermeneutics) quickly became the favorite for many students. They appreciated that it was practical and immediately useful. The principles they learned helped them prepare more biblically sound sermons and Bible studies, and many described it as one of the most life-changing parts of the training.

The training's impact is already being seen in local churches. MBC students are preaching through passages of Scripture instead of relying on individual verses or personal opinions. Others have started discipling believers and investing more time in developing future leaders. They are putting what they have learned into practice!

Today, please pray for our trainers, for the pastors and leaders they teach, and for the believers who will be ministered to by these MBC graduates. To give a gift to our work in Nepal, go to otan.org, choose the **GIVE** tab, then choose **NEPAL MINISTRY**.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO TRAIN AND EQUIP PERSECUTED PASTORS?

Ministry Managers needed in 3 OTAN countries



In the 14+ countries where OTAN works, our Ministry Managers (MMs) come alongside national pastors and leaders. Working with translators, MMs train and equip these leaders to serve their churches and to spread the good news of the love of Jesus to their communities.

"Our Asian pastors are called of God to preach and plant churches. This is their passion. They automatically bond to those who come and teach because they're so grateful to have someone who will pour into their lives. They just soak it in, and they take what they've learned into their churches and communities. They also mentor other pastors and leaders to do the same," says J, an OTAN staff.

OTAN Ministry Managers live state-side and travel to the countries they serve at least one or two times each year, using established curriculum to conduct trainings. From the US, MMs maintain contact with key national leaders while building support through donors and volunteers, allowing ministry in Asia to flourish.

Currently, full- or part-time MMs are needed in Laos, Cambodia, and Russia. These positions are self-supported. (Our experienced staff can provide practical help and encouragement to assist in the fund-raising process if needed.)

J says, "Our Ministry Managers have a tremendous impact in the lives of Asian pastors and in their ministries. It's an excellent opportunity for someone who really wants to put their Bible college learning to great use. For those who can't pick up and move to another part of the world, it's a meaningful way to serve as an overseas missionary."

Could this be the opportunity that God has been preparing you for? Would you like to know more about serving as an OTAN Ministry Manager? Let's connect and start a conversation. Go to otan.org and click **CONTACT US** on the home page.



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Partner By Giving

Give online at **otan.org** or by check to **PO Box 2440, Winchester VA, 22604**. Please designate your gift in the memo line.

Want to use the text-to-give option? Text "OTANtraining" and your gift amount to 540-274-5524.



Partner By Praying

If you feel challenged or inspired by this update, would you consider praying for this ministry? We're so grateful for your prayers!

Want to learn to effectively pray for missionaries and their outreach? Visit otan.org/pray.



Partner By Going

Not everyone can go to foreign fields, but every believer can ask themselves a very important question: Am I called to go?

Is God calling you into the mission field? We'd love to talk to you about it! Connect with us at otan.org/serve.

PRAYER FROM AN OTAN PARTNER

Recently, we asked friends like you to take a moment to pray for the Goodwin Asia Training Center project. We're so grateful for the many beautiful prayers we received, including this one:

Our Almighty Father, thank You for using OTAN in the lives of so many folks, for their blessing and Your glory. Thank You for Otis and Roxann and the vision You gave them so many years ago. We recall their enthusiasm and their heart for spreading the gospel through the nationals...an enthusiasm that was contagious and inspiring and prompted us to be longtime partners. Now we pray that this outreach will continue in ways that will benefit even more souls. We place all the details in Your hands and look forward to the completion of this building project and the training ministry it will provide. Glory be to the One who loves us and rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of Light. To Jesus we give our praise and thanks! Amen.

~The Lauritzen Family and friends at Grace Bible Church, Wild Rose, WI

To learn more about the center, click on "Training Center" at www.otan.org.

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS

Go ye therefore
and teach
all nations

Matthew 28:19

IN THIS ISSUE:

Courageous Faith in Indonesia
First Training in Cambodia
Nepal Mobile Bible College
Is God Calling You?
Prayer from an OTAN Partner

Busy street market
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

TRAINING AND EQUIPPING
PERSECUTED ASIAN PASTORS
TO REACH THEIR PEOPLE

CELEBRATING

40 OTAN

YEARS OF REACHING ASIA