

Looking forward and running the race for 25 years.

Christ Mission Ashram, Kolkata, India

On February 20th, 1987 Sangyee and I were appointed as missionaries and left South Korea on the 23rd to set foot in Calcutta, the previous capital city of India, on the 25th. Now when we look back, it is hard to believe how fast the past 25 years trickled by.

“But now, this is what the LORD says -
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.”
- Isaiah 43:1-3

This was the passage that God gave us when He called us as missionaries to equip us before sending us out into the mission field, and this was the passage that He continued to share with us throughout the 25 years as we actively served in missions.

I met my wife Sangyee at Chongshin Theological Seminary in South Korea where we both studied theology together, and then God expanded our family by blessing us with four wonderful children: Samuel, Esther, Jemimah and Barnabas.

The day we arrived in India we held an opening service to inaugurate Christ Mission Ashram, and on March 1st, on the first Sunday, we held the first church service of our Calcutta Love Presbyterian Church. This is how God allowed us to open our first page in India missions.

Our outreach ministry was started with only the two of us singing and preaching five times a day in the train stations of India. As we preached and preached the Gospel and saw the endless swarms of people, God overflowed our hearts with love and compassion for these people.

Whether it was in the city buses, interstate buses, mini buses, two story buses and trains, wherever we set our feet on, we would go from seat to seat, compartment to compartment with our bags filled with gospel tracts, seeking out every corner where there were people gathered so that we may share the good news of Christ.

It was not enough for just the two of us to carry on this task, so on April 5th, 1988, after a year since beginning our ministry, God allowed us to start a theological seminary with only 7 students. To these students who had been immersed in a culture of idol worship their whole lives, we taught Bible centered, God centered, Church centered doctrines during the week, setting one day as 'Outreach Day' where we taught how to witness, have all-night prayer, and the meaning of fasting prayer so that prayer may become part of their daily life.

Through outreach we were able to speak the gospel to people who had never heard it before, and through our seminary students, began establishing daughter churches in one place and another. In doing so, there are now 130 churches that have been established and minister to people in remote villages, making sure the Gospel is shared with everyone!

As we spread the Gospel and began churches, we saw a new need for the children of pastors of the daughter churches, children of the Hindu-convert church members, and the neglected children of lepers. A need of Christian education, to raise the next generation of Christian leaders. With that vision, Ideal Mission School was started for children in the ages from Kindergarten to middle school.

Something we are thankful for is that this year, our senior students who had spent one month of evangelism, after they returned to their hometowns for further education, have been witnessing to other young children and bringing them to church, playing an important role in the expansion and revival of church and standing firm as solid pillars in their faith.

As we preached the Gospel to places it had never been heard, we came to know of the Sundarban Islands. They are 38 islands out of which 34 of them had been unreached. By building our 'Eternal Light Boat' and 'Salt and Light Boat' we were able to take the Gospel and start churches in 21 of those islands.

While travelling through the remote villages and rural islands of India where people live in harsh conditions, we met many suffering from various infectious diseases. In order to share about Christ's love, we felt that it was also important to show them His love by providing them with medical relief.

We provide a free medical clinic for the poor every Fridays at our Calcutta Love Presbyterian Church, and 5 Medical health clinics have been built where we send a local doctor once a month. To help numerous cataract patients who cannot see out of both eyes, we provide free cataract surgery once a year so that they may be able to at least see out of one eye.

We perform about 50-70 cataract surgeries a year to open people's eyes so that they may be able to see a new world and accept Christ in their hearts. As we prayed to help all the others suffering from other diseases, God led us to build the Good Samaritan's Hospital which is a 3 story building that can house 50 in-patients and it is near completion.

We are praying for the quick provision of funds and medical equipment so that the hospital may begin functioning as a Christian hospital where not only people's bodies are healed, but also their soul so that all glory and honor may go to God.

During our ministry we also met many young mothers who were abandoned by their husbands and not accepted back by their own families who are too poor to support new mouths to feed. To help these mothers we started a Light and Hope House (crèche/daycare) in two different locations. From early in the morning till evening, we teach, bathe, feed the children and give them naps so that their mothers may work during the day so that they may support their children themselves.

As we did this, we could not help but notice the elderly who are considered as burdens by their children and are left to fend for themselves. We felt that if we could at least provide them with one good meal every day, it would help them sustain their health. Through this ministry which we started a few years ago, these elderly who had served idols their whole lives, threw them away and turned to Christ Jesus as their Savior and received baptism. I think this is why it is written in the Bible "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13).

As I look back, there was never a moment when we felt that Christ was not with us. And even when times were hard and exhausting and death was knocking on our door, Jesus never left our side. As He promised, through rivers and oceans, danger and fire, God was faithfully with us. That is why I think we were able to persevere through these 25 years.

When we started our mission's organization, church and seminary, through different pastors God kept giving us the same message:

"Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be." (Job 8:7). From the beginning until now, it is God who has done everything. And we believe that God will continue to work through us. As promised, we pray and look forward to the day when all of India will follow God.

As we are on our rest year right now, once again we quietly converse with God and meditate so that we may realize what God wants us to do in the future and that we may be obedient. Thank you for your continuous prayer, support and love towards us for the extending of the Kingdom of God in India and we pray and hope that coming year you also do the same.



25th Anniversary Celebration



Ordination



Graduation



Christmas Team 2012 from Martinsburg, WV.



Barnabas Rest Festival



Picture with Rev. Yoon who married SangYee and Sukrit



Sangyee and Dr. Samuel Muffette



Kolkata Mission Centre



Hospital Opening



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year 2013
Sukrit, Sangyee,
Samuel, Esther, Jemimah and Barnabas Roy!

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013!!!

Sukrit and Sangyee Roy
Samuel, Esther, Ranjit, Jemimah & Barnabas Roy
1525 Granville St. Lynchburg, VA-24502
Tel:434-239-5150, 678-233-8955
www.cmacalcutta.org