

Clemente Newsletter

March 2017

(David is teaching Asian Free Methodist leaders and helping them to prepare for ordination. Mark is one of these leaders. The following is his testimony about participating in a Young Leaders Mission Congress 2016:)

My name is Phearom and my English Name is Mark. I am from Cambodia and I am a youth leader at Life and Light Prek Thie (FM) Church, Cambodia. I would like to share with you that I really enjoyed very much that I have the chance to join the APFMMA (Asia Pacific Free Methodist Missions Association) Young Leaders' Congress 2016. As I remember, this is my second time joining the Congress. The last time was in the year 2000.

After I joined the Congress, my heart was filled with the Spirit of God that completed my need of the passion of serving Him as a leader. I learned a lot during the Congress and was touched with different topics from many speakers. Moreover, it was inspiring for me to be at each session. I could say that all those kinds of great materials are so useful for me to guide my leadership skills of serving God as a youth ministry worker in Cambodia. As I attended this Congress it really has completed my perspective of serving God. And for sure I know that as leaders, we somehow face a lot of problems, and at the same time, there is a need to fix some of these problems. Thanks to God for this Congress. It is really helpful.

As I grow as a leader, I am really aware of what is the calling from God. And I believe God would work out a period of time for me. I never went to a Bible school, and sometimes I also face struggling times. I have no idea what to do. This is the best time for me to be attending the Congress so I can find out more of God's teachings through the speakers at the Congress. I noticed that all the plenary sessions are great for me. I realized one session out of all of the sessions was a very helpful one to me. This is a session on "Pursing Justice in the Community" with Dr. Kevin Austin as the speaker. I love this session because as I am a leader working with youth, so I need to get to know more of how to lead young people to get to know and understand God's justice.

At the session from Kevin Austin, it also includes the word "service," which is the best message for me as a Christian. It is really important for me to motivate young Christians in Cambodia for serving God. Somehow, it is related to our culture, that serving someone is the best way to do it. But in biblical terms, it is really hard for young people to act in ways that is serving other people. In the Bible, in Mark 9:35, Jesus called the twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." It reminds me of leading people by serving the other who is living with injustice and poverty in a community.

Finally, I would like to say thanks for all who were involved in working out (the plans) of APFMMA and to prepare this Congress with the theme "CHARGED." This theme really motivated me to keep going on to serving God among the young people of Cambodia. It really charged my heart and my spirit with the filling of LOVE, HOPE, JOY and PEACE, and of inspiring our young people. May the Lord bless you all for this Kingdom of God! God bless you all.

(Phearom Mark)

Going Where God Is Moving

My name is David W. Clemente and I am a missionary teacher. The following is a description of what I do in Asia.

God is calling me to a life of teaching in Asia. I am obeying our Lord by going to Free Methodist (FM) congregations located in Southeast Asia and helping their local pastors and church leaders become better servants of the Christian gospel.

This year I will be assisting FM leaders in Asia as they prepare for ordination. I will be going to Cambodia and Nepal to lead seminars on Wesleyan Theology and other Bible courses. I will be working with several other missionaries and teachers. Our goal is to empower our Asian leaders to be better servants of God's church in their localities.

In the past, I have visited Light and Life Bible College (LLBC) in Yangon, Myanmar and Light and Life Graduate School of Theology (LLGST) in Butuan City, Philippines. Both are FM training institutions. I will still continue my time of ministry in these schools and provide theological education for our FM pastors. I look forward to learning together with our church workers and seeing through their eyes what God is doing in Asia.

I am also still teaching at Holy Light Theological Seminary in my capacity as an Adjunct Faculty. I enjoy teaching inside a classroom, but God's call in my life is to go to where our pastors and FM leaders are and help them in their work as God's servants of the local churches in Asia. I go where our Lord calls me to go to be a resource for our Asian Free Methodists around the world.

Mandarin Musings

孔子曰：有酒食，先生饌。(Translation) "Confucius said: When the young have wine and food, they set them before their elders."

The Chinese students here at the seminary practice this cultural saying above when they are with their teachers. Now you all know why David is gaining weight.

Praises and Petitions

***** Pray for Mark Phearom, a youth leader at Life and Light Prek Thie (FM) Church, Cambodia. Pray for their desire to organize a youth sports camp in September 2018.

***** This year, David will have several opportunities to go to Asian countries to help our FM workers prepare for ordination. Pray for David's preparations. He will work with a team of FM missionaries, going to Cambodia, Nepal, and other countries. Pray for God's leadership.

***** Pray for David's brother, Tito, and God's continued healing in Tito's life. He is going through cancer treatment.

***** Pray for wisdom in planning our family's return to the U.S. this June and July for a time of building new partnerships and strengthening old ones.

Thank you for your prayers and support!!

God bless,
David, Sarah, Carmen and Jacob

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