

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION

In this concluding Chapter the writer makes a few summary remarks about what was learnt through his missionary experience in Liberia and South Africa. An account is given of the goals developed as well as the changes brought about through his 20 years of ministry and study.

6.1 The Liberian Experience

6.1.1 The Power of the Gospel

Chiang and his wife planted a church in Polowu among the Gbandi. Chiang trained a group of disciples. One of these, a previous school principal became the pastor of the Polowu Church when the missionaries left Liberia in 1990. Throughout the 10 years of civil war the church continued with the daily morning devotions and nightly Bible Studies. Now, with peace restored, it seems as if the churches experience a revival. The people are hungry for the truth of the Word.

Research done in Gbandi indicated that about 70% of the Gbandi Christians were converted after they were healed from a specific disease. The love, faith and abundant life of Christians were also attractive to the people. In a few

years time the church has grown from 1 to 20 churches. Strong spiritual power evidenced in the vision was of utmost necessity.

6.1.2 Third World Missionaries

In the SIM Liberia headquarters Mr. John Shea once said to Chiang, “I am so glad to have Asian missionaries joining SIM. I found your culture closer to the black culture than the white culture. Chinese culture is also easier for local black people to accept. We hope more Chinese would come to Liberia and join our mission so that the Chinese can be a bridge between the White and the Black”.

In the more than one hundred years of service SIM has had in general only whites working amongst the blacks, just like there were only black and white TVs in the old days. In recent years, as the yellow race “Chinese” has joined, so SIM no longer features black and white TVs only, but have colour TVs also. As we are approaching the last days, we need to put more emphasis on intercultural and interdenominational missions, in order to beautify our work. For the sake of God's kingdom, we need to break through racial differences. What a beautiful unity it would be!

In the Gbandi tribe ministry Chiang learnt that “If we work among high class people we need to be clever, but when we work among simple people we should be humble”. There the locals don't look at your degree, no matter how high it might have been, but focus on your attitude towards them.

The second thing he learnt was that “when we stay in our own country, only our talent, or our expertise, is useful, the other parts of us seem to be of no use. However, working amongst the Gbandi tribe everything we have learnt before were very useful”.

The third thing he learned is that, this Gbandi people had helped to change his own self-image. He realised that his work is meaningful, useful and he has become a blessing to all the local people. To be a missionary brings out the best out of a person.

6.2 THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE

6.2.1 Strategy for the Indian Mission in Lenasia

6.2.1.1 The God-given Strategy

Muslim evangelisation takes on a strong spiritual warfare. There are many difficulties and obstacles as well as strong resistance and opposition from the Muslim community itself. This leads to many Christians being persecuted – some even lose their lives. This ministry appears to be fruitless and hopeless, causing many missionaries and believers to become discouraged even to the point of giving up.

The Chiang family was new and alone in this mission field. But thank God He gave them a vision. The strategy unfolded step by step and in the process the

prophecies were fulfilled.

- Started a pastor's fraternal prayer meeting in 1994.
- In 1995 united the body of Christ through prayer for unity and revival.
- Trained home cell leaders since 1995.
- In 1996 started Daxina Prayer Mountain (and later others) for intercessory prayer for all the churches.
- In 1997 started a pastor's library for pastors.
- In 1998 started an Indian Church Newspaper.
- Taught in Faith Bible College since 1998.
- In 1998 started daily morning devotion with a group of brothers from different churches.
- In 1999 taught Bible in black high school.
- Organised a March for Jesus with Prayer Mountain partners from 1999.
- In 2001 established a new ICBM Bible College in Lenasia on tertiary level.
- Through the Prayer Mountain ministry started a counseling ministry.

In Chapters 4 and 5 the main emphases of these strategies were discussed. These were basically four: (a) Living among the people, (b) the emphasis on the church and the unity of Christians, (c) an emphasis on prayer and (d) teaching.

6.2.1.2 The Pastor's Pastor

The Indian people – even the Christian Indians – were divided. They did not accept each other. Different organisations tried to persuade the Indian churches to work together, but their efforts were in vain. God guided Chiang towards a new strategy that was to build friendship with the Indian pastors one at a time. This was possible because he lived among them.

One by one Chiang began building relationships with each of the churches. He played the role of a friend and a servant. He found that, for over half of the pastors, the church ministry was only a part-time job and many of them had no theological training. They were working alone and they needed a lot of encouragement and help. He hoped that eventually these churches might be strengthened and united together

He focused on the unity of the churches in Lenasia and in the nearby areas. Chiang started off by preaching in various Sunday services and by training Home Cell leaders, especially for the small churches. Realising that many of the pastors had few books to use in preparing their sermons, he set up a small library in his home to help the pastors.

Chiang also taught them how to use the computer to study the Bible and encouraged them to take Bible College courses. He prayed for and with them in person and on the telephone. When they were sick, when there was a funeral or a wedding, when the church had problems or crises, he was always there at their sides. After he had established an excellent relationship with the pastors, he was then invited to preach in 40 different churches and to train disciples in 15 of them. In each church, he spent 4 months in conducting a cell leader-training course.

Another new ministry for unity is the "March for Jesus". A large number of people from a variety of churches attended the Marches that were organised by a group of young mountain prayer warriors. This did much to foster unity among Christians.

Through this Indian ministry the writer learned how important is a servant attitude. The Indian people are quite opposite to the Chinese. The Chinese people respected the westerners, submitted to them and leant on them. The result was that the Chinese church took 180 years to be independent. But Indian churches seem to have learnt from Mr. Gandhi. They are inclined to reject outside leadership. When a missionary has taught them about 30% then they believe that they knew everything. They want to be independent. They are not humble, they think they can do better than white people. They are very proud and not willing to serve under anybody. To work among them one has to be humble with a servant attitude, otherwise one will not be able to cope with them.

Chiang thought that Indian men would not be able to go to the Prayer Mountain like the Koreans had done before. But the Indian people made it. They are the same as Korean Christians with their zeal for the Lord. This was wonderful and surprised the writer.

6.2.1.3 Prayer

The spiritual strategy followed naturally leading to prayer. This had the ingredients of:

- Personal prayer in a sustained way.
- Morning devotions with a group of friends. Every morning from 5 – 6 am they come together to study God's word and pray before going off to work. They are growing in the Lord and are on fire for Him. They also witness for Christ among their friends.
- The establishment of Prayer Mountains for common prayer on Saturday mornings at 6 am. Four Prayer Mountain groups have been established so far with a group of prayer warriors each who continue to pray faithfully. Another Prayer Mountain group is about to be started.

6.2.1.4 Teaching

In 1998 God opened a door for Chiang to start teaching at Faith Bible College. In 2000 God opened another door for him to teach at the International College

of Bible and Mission and the Moses Marian High School. In the latter the high school students are taught the word of God and the teachers are trained to teach the Bible to the students. There are 2 000 African students in this school. There is a lack of teachers to teach the word of God.

Theological training is needed for the growth and planting of churches. After the March for Jesus in 2000, Chiang encouraged the prayer warrior and several pastors to realise the need for establishing a higher standard and united the Bible College for all denominations on a tertiary level. In February 2001 a new ICBM Bible College was started in Lenasia.

Mention has already been made of the training given to cell group leaders in a number of Lenasia churches. This became the basis for renewal in many churches. But also Grace Chiang did much training among the women, especially by the in-service training of a number of ladies. In the past months, they have been working together with Grace on a regular basis. A few other sisters also joined in to do outreach work. They teach the Bible as well as doing follow-up work at the squatter camps, the drug areas. They are able to lead disciple-training courses and do visitation by themselves. One of the women from the Anglican Church has even started a women Bible study group in her own church.

6.3 THE FUTURE OF THE CHINESE CHURCHES

The principals of the Baptist Theological Seminary and the Dau Sen

Theological Seminary came to see Chiang and asked him to be their full time teacher. The future chairman of the Chinese CCCOWE (Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism) also asked him to work for the CCCOWE mission department. This organisation aims to move the Chinese Churches around the world for world mission. This vision is bigger than both Chiang's original plan and his geographic area.

Chinese churches have been silent for 50 years since the Communists took over because they had to go underground. Millions of intercessors had travelled in prayer for the long-delayed breakthrough. Now is the time of harvest. May the whole land be evangelised.

The Dragon is not only alive and awakened now but also has abandoned the isolationism that cut the Chinese people off from the rest of the world for centuries. This giant, with more than 1,2 billion people, is joining the world family of nations. China's new openness and turn outward to the West may well be the most significant single events of the 20th century (Dehoney 1988:13).

“We on the whole are using one common language, Mandarin, for the first time in our history. The roads are open for travel and commerce. It is the time for the dragon to receive the coming of the Lamb” (Dehoney 1969:7).

Dr. Peter Wagner said, “In 2025 AD the largest missionary sending country will

be China". God's might acts today in many remote places and is more exciting than the book of Acts itself. The Church of Jesus Christ in Mainland China has grown more than tenfold since the missionaries left at the end of the 1940s. In comparison, the Church in the free world of the West has had no real growth during the same period. (Adeney 1985:12).

We know that about 1 out of 5 of the world population is Chinese. If all the Chinese in the world were converted to Christianity, and if each converted Chinese can successfully evangelise four other people, then the entire world's population will become Christianised. The Holy Spirit may well choose this very fast route to spread His salvation to all the nations of the earth.