



Twelve months ago, I began serving as president of Asian Access. Over that time, I have traveled all over North America representing the mission and all over Asia, meeting our partners and learning about the ministry. I have sat in leadership development sessions myself and even attended a graduation celebration. I have been to some amazing places—Japan several times, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, plus a few additional countries I prefer not to name.

Through my travels, I have met many fabulous people and heard scores of encouraging stories. Now, as I reflect on this past year, I thought it would be a good time to share a few of these stories with you. One of the pastors I met with said, "Joe, the Lord is using Asian Access to influence at least 80% of the churches showing fruit throughout the country. It's amazing how the Lord is using this small little mission called Asian Access!"

I trust you'll find this report encouraging; and, I hope you'll be compelled to get involved by praying and supporting this exciting work.

NETWORKS THAT MULTIPLY CHURCHES IN JAPAN



Here I am with a visionary husband & wife pastoral team, Pastors Ryoichi Masuda & Shizuko Masuda and their son Yui.

God is doing awesome things and it is such a joy to see what is happening. In July, I was able to visit Pastors Ryoichi and Shizuko Masuda in Hokkaido (northernmost island of Japan) and see how the ministry is flourishing as a result of the investment Asian Access has made into their lives.

Pastor Ryoichi went through our training several years ago and the seeds that were planted through the ministry have turned into remarkable kingdom fruit. Through his participation with Asian Access, Pastor Ryoichi gained a new vision: to take the gospel to one out of every 100 in the Teine district of Sapporo, his hometown.

Now Ryoichi is partnering with a network of churches throughout the cities to accomplish this vision. His church has grown and they have seen 70 church leaders from six churches meeting regularly for training and encouragement in moving toward this great vision. How exciting and what a prime example of what the Lord has called us to be doing!

A couple months later, I was the speaker at the Asian Access national gathering of pastors in Japan. Dozens of former graduates showed up for the conference and the Lord used the time to renew our call to plant churches and lead people to Christ across Japan and Asia. It was so encouraging to see every pastor stand up with a call to reaching their country for Christ, many were weeping along with me and my translator, as we challenged them to continue spreading the Gospel and leading more from Japan to Jesus. Their fervor to both reach their own country and spread what they have learned across Asia was inspiring!

One of the 13 graduating pastors from Asian Access shared that 70 people had been baptized in their church over the last two years. That's simply remarkable for Japan and every day I see how blessed I am to come alongside these pastors and encourage and empower them in the ministry the Lord has called us to throughout Asia.

These are just a couple stories of how God is using Asian Access to find key pastors and invest in them for kingdom advancement in Japan and beyond. If I had more space, I could tell more stories to highlight the amazing fruit of these spiritual investments. God is doing great things through our work, and it's exciting to be a part of a community devoted to multiplying churches. Thank you for praying for us and for making a significant investment to see leaders identified and equipped to spread the gospel throughout Asia.

RECENT FACULTY

Here are some of the great faculty who have served with Asian Access this past year.

Steve Shadrach
(USCWM mobilization director)

Tony & Felicity Dale
(House2House Network)

Bob & Elizabeth Livesay (East West Ministries International)

Mike Hoisington (Master's Design Group)

Bruce Johnson (Asian Access)

Adrian De Visser (Kithu Sevana Church)

Takeshi Takazawa (Asian Access)

Rod Denton (Equipping the Next Generation)

C.B. Samuel (Emmanuel Hospital Association)

Gary Parrett (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

Eddy Leo (Abba Love Ministries)



Silk and me at my presidential installation between interim president, Bruce & Mary Johnson and VP for Operations Elliott and Lori Snuggs.



Overlooking the capital city of Ulaanbaatar with Pastor Chinzorig (A2/Mongolia National Director), Pastor Ariunbold and Bruce Johnson

ASIAN ACCESS' CATALYTIC PRESENCE

In August, I traveled to Mongolia to meet with Pastor Chinzorig, our national director of Asian Access in his country. He introduced me to a pastor who graduated from the original A2 class in Mongolia.

Pastor Ariunbold expanded his vision tremendously through Asian Access. Initially he simply thought about developing his own church. His motivation was to find a few good ideas he could implement and grow his church. However, as a result of his A2 experience, Rev. Ariunbold gained a greater vision for his country and the world.

The leadership training with a dozen other Mongolian pastors served as a catalyst for him in church multiplication and evangelism. Since participating in Asian Access, Ariunbold's church planted four new churches and those four have started another thirteen!

Furthermore, he has grown in his commitment to evangelism. Ariunbold has already traveled to every province in Mongolia sharing the Gospel. His vision is to see more churches planted both in Mongolia and beyond among expatriate Mongols. This past autumn, Ariunbold traveled to Korea in order to work with Mongolians there. He also has a vision for reaching similar peoples in Russia, Kazakhstan and Inner Mongolia (a nearby country).

Throughout my visit with Ariunbold, he carried my bags, and said in broken English, "Joe, Me servant. Let me serve you." I was humbled to be served by this pastor who is doing so much for our Master. Having just joined Asian Access weeks earlier, I asked myself, "Are these the kind of people who are a part of the A2 Community?" All I can say is "Wow!"

A2 has been a significant force in the life of the Mongolian church. Pastor after pastor I spoke with are grateful for the partnership saying Asian Access gave them a greater vision for their country and a solid foundation in their walk with Christ.

What a privilege to be a part of a catalytic force for Christ in Asia!

Sharing some thoughts at my installation as president

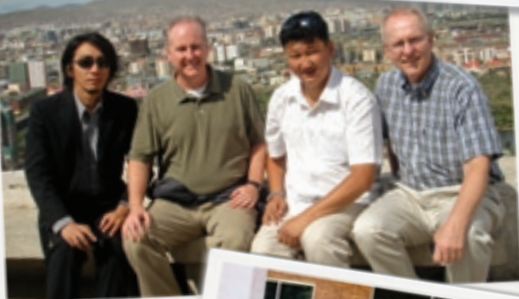




A2 MISSIONARY CONFERENCES IN JAPAN

Since joining Asian Access as president, I enjoyed several trips to Japan, during which time I met many visionary pastors involved in leadership development and church multiplication. It was very encouraging to me personally. But two very fulfilling trips were in October and March because Silk and I went to be with our A2 missionaries. In October, we both attended the Fall Conference in Osaka to further equip our church planting missionaries.

In March, I was overjoyed because our wonderful U.S. Board of Directors made it possible for me to bring my entire family with me for the Spring Conference in Karuizawa, Japan. The entire A2-Japan family welcomed the Handley family with open arms and we felt fully embraced. Silk reconnected with our missionary staff and our kids connected with our great Asian Access MKs. It was a pivotal time of confirmation for each member of my own family.



The Asian Access missionary family at the 2009 Spring Conference in Karuizawa, Japan.



This is me with the graduating class in Sri Lanka

GRADUATES IN SRI LANKA GIVE ME AN EARFUL

In April, I was honored to attend my first graduation ceremony and I was uplifted to speak with several of the first year graduates of the Asian Access leadership development classes. Each of them spoke of the life transformation that impacted their lives and ministries through the program (deepening their walk with Jesus, strengthening their marriages and families, and fostering a vision for church multiplication). On average, the graduating pastors in Sri Lanka have planted about two churches since graduating from our A2 leadership program. To know these churches are being planted with an inherent vision to multiply is fantastic. What encouraging words to hear that pastors of character, competence and vision are being multiplied to lead the church across Asia today!

I serve under an incredible Board of Directors who are godly leaders and wonderful people who generously give of themselves for the work of Asian Access.



THE STORY CONTINUES...

I have shared some great stories, but there's much more to tell. I'd love for you to actually see and hear from the participants themselves.

So in the next several weeks and months, I'll be posting more blog entries to share more stories. I plan to include brief video testimonies from several of these pastors (most of whom volunteer their time to lead the ministry because of how much it has made a difference in their lives and in their countries).

For starters, please listen to Pastor Jeyakaran Emmanuel from Chennai, India share how Asian Access is making a difference in his life and in the lives of his fellow A2 classmates! Jeyakaran will share how Asian Access is investing in pastors through their character development. This work is foundational as a leader in the church because in order to make disciples, a leader must first be a disciple - one who is deeply rooted in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

These video clips will be uploaded here:
<http://asianaccess.org/people/participants.html>



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AsianAccess
Developing Leaders. Multiplying Churches.



AsianAccess.org recently won its third consecutive WebAward for Non-Profit Standard of Excellence in website design. Check out our site [www.asianaccess.org] to see what the buzz is all about.

A2 LEADERSHIP CLASS UPDATES

Each class meets quarterly for eight sessions over 2 years...

NEW COUNTRY

Asian Access has just launched the program in an unnamed country! A national leader has been chosen, the participants have been screened and the first session will take place within weeks of this printing.

CAMBODIA

Third class completed session 5 (of 8) in February 2009

INDIA

North India's second class is holding session 3 (of 8) in May 2009, and South India's first class just completed session also in May.

JAPAN

350 pastors have now graduated the A2 program and there are now several regions. Two regional classes are halfway through their eight sessions, and two other classes graduated in November 2008.

MONGOLIA

The fourth class finished its 6th session in March.

NEPAL

Currently holding the 2nd class, with the final (8th) session and graduation due soon.

SRI LANKA

Fourth class graduated in April 2008.

HIGH SECURITY COUNTRIES

One country finished its 7th session of the 2nd class recently and will graduate the group in a few months. Another country is already in its fourth class and just finished its second session recently.



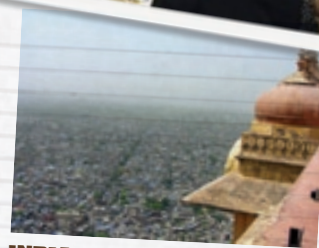
NEWS FROM AROUND ASIA



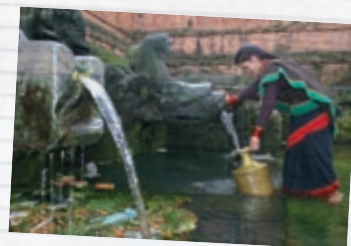
SRI LANKA: The 26-year-old civil war that has ravaged Sri Lanka has just ended. Even so, a humanitarian crisis has arisen as tens of thousands of civilians in the north have been displaced as result of the recent battle between the government forces and the last holdouts of the Tamil Tigers. Pray for the peace to hold there, and for the refugees to return home and rebuild. Pray also for the Church there: may the scores pastored by Asian Access graduates help deliver hope and practical help to those who are hurting. Ask God to bless His leaders to be strong and courageous.



CAMBODIA: The Khmer Rouge leader of the infamous S21 interrogation prison during the Pol Pot regime in the late 1970s, Kaing Guek Eav, is currently on trial for crimes against humanity. While atrocities are well-documented at S21, an interesting development is that this man has become a born-again Christian. There is much interest across Cambodia in this case.



INDIA: All five phases of the national election were completed on May 16 in this country of 1.2 billion people. On May 18th, after the elections results were clear and final, the Sensex stock index jumped a whopping 17.3%, seen as optimism over a possible second term for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is credited with successful economic reforms.



NEPAL: In an attempt to keep the path to peace intact, Nepal's Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, a Maoist has just resigned in May, resulting from political turmoil over the removal of the army chief. Pray for a strengthening of this fragile stability in this fledgling democracy, a former Hindu kingdom.