

From the Chairman's Heart

LIVING AS GOD SEES US



Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus! I pray for His rich blessings on each constituent of The Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA). AEA asks for your prayers and cooperation for His glory.

We are serving God and His church in Asia by His providence. No one of us decided to live in this 21st century. God made each of us live and serve Him now and led us to Asia. I did not decide to be a Japanese male living in 20th and 21st centuries. He did. I have accepted His will. As members of Asia we recognize that each national has his national and historical background. It is important to hold it for his identity. However, I think it more important to hold the identity as a son/daughter of God.

Recently when I read an article, I was impressed by the determination of an abolitionist Sojourner Truth (1797–1883). She was born into slavery in New York as Isabella Baumfree. As a slave she was sold three times. After she met Christ, she found her freedom in Christ. She was treated as a commodity and not a human being. But she did not see herself as her oppressors saw her. She saw herself as God saw her. When you see yourself as God sees you, you can then see others as God sees them. As an abolitionist she was fueled in her fight for freedom by love and godly conviction, rather than by rage and bitterness.

It is my prayers that every constituent of AEA sees oneself as God sees the one. A son/daughter of God is the most honorable and important identity as we unite and serve Him together.

Rev. Paul H. Ueki
Chairman

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Meditation and Abundant Living



Rev. Dr. Richard Howell
(India)

General Secretary

Psychiatrist C. G. Jung once remarked, “Hurry is not of the Devil: it is the Devil.” In order to escape these trappings of our culture, we need to learn to continuously connect with Jesus Christ; the source of life. John, the disciple of Christ, while talking about Jesus, said, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).

The reason most of us don’t set aside time daily to communicate with God is that we are not confident whether we’ll experience God’s presence and converse with God, revealed in Jesus Christ. However, we can practice habits that will help us create silence and space for God to speak to our hearts and mind.

Mediating on God’s Word is one such habit that helps us practice the presence of God.

Meditation refers to a time of quiet reflection in God’s presence. Our goal during mediation is not to force ourselves into a mystical experience or deep insight, but to focus our affections and attention on God. We quietly read the words to which God has led us in Scripture, and mull over them; savouring and deeply thinking over the passage. Mary, the mother of Jesus, exemplified the practice of meditation. As the amazing events of the birth of Christ unfolded around virgin Mary, we are told she, “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19).

The Word of God sheds light on our thoughts and experiences, and permits God to connect truth to our lives. The Word speaks directly to our concerns, decisions, hopes and dreams, and God’s will for us in all of it. As we begin to meditate we will overcome our adversaries and experience the joy of abundant living.

THE GREAT AND THE NOT SO GREAT LEADERSHIP IN THE BIBLE

Dr. Bambang Budijanto
(Indonesia)

Associate General Secretary

There are numerous examples of good and bad leadership in the Bible. Jesus demonstrated a great model of biblical leadership in John Chapter 13. Knowing his time was very limited Jesus had to prioritize what was the most important learning the eleven disciples need to experience and thus gained understanding. Having loved those that He led (v.1), Jesus intended to show them the full extent of His love to them with the most powerful

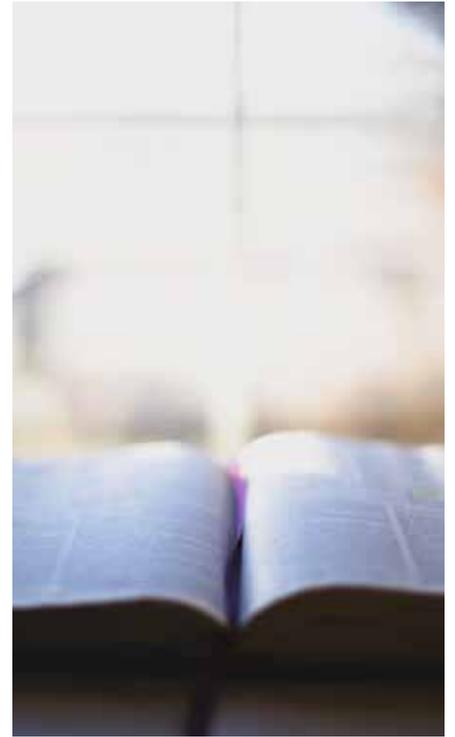


leadership lesson. His time was very short; it was the last evening he spent with the people he led, before he was arrested. What would be the most important lesson that would be critical for the success of His disciples in

providing leadership for the early church? Through whom the world would soon be transformed.

In these last few hours He could have taught his disciples some other important topics on leadership, such as 'Vision Building,' or 'Mastery of Communication,' or '7 Keys for Successful Movement.' Instead, Jesus demonstrated that the essence of biblical leadership – 'agape' love. He

Lead like Jesus, is no less than loving the people that we lead till the end, to the extent that we are willing to die for them, so that they may live.



loved the people that he led till the end, to the extent that he gave His life for them.

Lead like Jesus, is no less than loving the people that we lead till the end, to the extent that we are willing to die for them, so that they may live.

The Bible also gives us some examples of bad leadership. Saul, the first king of Israel, was one of them. In his battle against the Amalekites, God told Saul to spare no one and nothing; instead, he spared the best sheep and cattle and did not even kill king Agag (1 Samuel 15). When Samuel confronted him, he blamed the soldiers (v. 21) and made excuses.

Aaron was another example of bad leadership. While Moses was with God on Mount Sinai, Aaron was supposed to provide leadership over the people of Israel. Instead of leading the people of Israel to serve God, Aaron was led by the people and made a molten calf for the people (Exodus 32:1-4). God was very angry, and when Moses confronted him, he blamed the people (vv. 22-24).

Right from the beginning, Adam the first leader (of the first family), failed to lead as he blamed Eve; which was soon copied by Eve and Cain. Cain refused to take responsibility for the welfare of his brother,

‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ In my experience, most organizational problems, both in the local church, denomination, non-profit organizations and in business can be traced in (the realm of) and solved by (the notion of) leadership. If (biblical) leadership is the solution, what was the problem that needed to be addressed? In most cases, the problem has been and will most likely be ‘the failure of leaders to take responsibility.’

Dr. Bambang Budijanto

INDONESIA

Associate General Secretary

NEHEMIAH: A VISIONARY LEADER

Bishop Noel A. Pantoja
(Philippines)

Executive Council Member

Every successful organization whether it is a business enterprise, government, civic, or church, need a clear vision – an image of the future. In all history, visionary leaders are called by God to communicate the vision clearly and to engage the people to embrace, own and live the vision.

One of the greatest visionary leaders in the Bible is Nehemiah. After hearing the horror and the despicable condition of his people and his city Jerusalem, God placed in his heart a vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.



Text: Nehemiah 2:9-20

Four months after this intense burden for Jerusalem, and after his presentation of that burden to King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah went to Jerusalem bearing the letters that the king issued him. When he got there, he assumed command and gets his vision started

with unusual prowess. In this he gives us several marks of godly leadership.

A. Know the Real Situation (v. 11-16)

Nehemiah had a clear assessment of the people. The people were discouraged, tired, and pessimistic.

So, wisely Nehemiah said that he didn't tell anyone about the vision that God had laid upon him. He just listened, talked, and tried to figure out who the key people in this project would be. Then it was time for his midnight ride

with a few trusted men. On a moonlit night he set out to view the walls and the ruins for himself.

And at that point Nehemiah began to formulate a plan based on the condition of the walls, the condition of the people, and the resources that he had available to him. He formulated a plan that was conceivable, inspiring, and achievable.

A proper assessment of the place and the real situation is necessary before you can begin to formulate a plan to get to where God is leading you. Every leader whether starting at work or in the middle of the work must have a habit of periodic assessment and evaluation of the real situation.

B. Rally the People to a Vision (v. 17-18)

Already known to be a man of excellent timing, Nehemiah chose his day to share with the people of Jerusalem what God had laid upon his heart, and convince them to join him. He did several things here that are essential in rallying the people.

First, he appealed to their sense of dignity by speaking about the distress of the city. He was probably linking it in their minds to the glory of God and the glory that Jerusalem was supposed to reflect of Him.

Second, he again identified with the people by saying we and us. Even though he had only been there three days, he was their brother and fellow burden bearer.

Next, he was open and honest about the condition of the walls and gates; trying to open their eyes to what they were living in and content with. And he challenged the people to commit to action. And finally, he assured them that God's hand was in it.

Bishop Noel A. Pantoja

PHILIPPINES

*AEA Executive Council Member
National Director, Philippine
Council of Evangelical Churches
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*President, Philippine Relief and
Development Services (Philrads)*



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HAGGAI, THE LORD'S MESSENGER

Rev. Ok Gi Lee
(South Korea)

Executive Council Member

Haggai was a prophet who encouraged the rebuilding of the Lord's house. There were reasons for the Israelites to stop building the house for about 16 years. The Samaritans interrupted the building of the house. Furthermore, they bribed the Persian officials to prevent Israelites from building the house. Because of these difficulties, the Israelites proclaimed, "The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built." (Haggai 1:2) Instead, they were busy building their own houses.



By this, they were changed, pursuing of human desire rather than seeking the glory of God as their first priority. Haggai, therefore, rebuked them with the word of the Lord. When they ceased building the Lord's house and built their own home, the result was miserable. In the

words of Haggai, the people of Israel began to work on the house after 23 days. And four years later the house was completed. This was an amazing achievement.

How did God establish Haggai as a leader? First, God made him His messenger. Haggai was called the Lord's messenger. (Hag 1:13) He was the only prophet who was called the messenger of God. This means that Haggai proclaimed God's will as the Lord's messenger without adding his own words. Specifically, the



... I want the words of Haggai delivered to Korean spiritual leaders firstly. In doing so, I believe that all believers in Korea will be moved by the Word and rebuild the spiritual houses.

phrase “the word of Lord” was repeated 25 times in the short story of Haggai. Among them, the phrase “the Lord Almighty says (declares)” was repeated 14 times. He revealed the authority of the Lord’s Word. As a result, what was the response of those who listened to Haggai? They were convinced that God sent Haggai. They feared the Lord and obeyed the words of Haggai. (1:12) Secondly, Haggai clearly communicated the message of repentance to the people (Hag 1:4). And when they disobeyed God’s command (Ezr 1:2), he urged them repentance by having them understand the miserable consequences they could

face. (Hag 1:6) Haggai did not compromise and positively challenged the people’s sins. Thirdly, Haggai first helped the leaders. The word of the Lord came through Haggai to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah and to Joshua, the high priest. (1:1,12,14, 2:2,4,21,23) In other words, before others did, the leaders obeyed Haggai. Then the whole remnant of the people became one and obeyed the word.

I pray that God will raise up the Lord’s messengers like Haggai. Over the past century, Korea has exploded with Christians due to God’s blessings. There are also many large churches. We can easily notice the visible external

growth. But the hearts of the believers have been deserted. Rather than accepting Jesus wholeheartedly, they are pursuing material blessing for their own benefit. Corruption of large church pastors is exposed and criticized. If this situation persists, the blessing of God will cease. Therefore I want the words of Haggai delivered to Korean spiritual leaders firstly. In doing so, I believe that all believers in Korea will be moved by the Word and rebuild the spiritual houses.

Rev. Ok Gi Lee

SOUTH KOREA

AEA Executive Council Member

JESUS OUR SAVIOUR AND KING

Lawrence Ko
(Singapore)

Director of AEA Mission Commission

The Bible is full of men and women of God whose journeys of faith have inspired us. But the leader who inspires me most must be our Lord Jesus, whose earthly life, though short was impactful and a model for our own earthly journeys. Born in a manger among animals and growing up in the humble neighbourhood of Nazareth as a carpenter's son, he could not boast of the pedigree and privilege many of the rich and powerful would desire for their own children.

Yet Jesus was a leader par excellence, pouring out his



life among the poor and needy, healing and touching those who were sick, not only in body but in mind and spirit as well. He revealed the wisdom of God and raised the despised and rejected to become leaders of the world, who would follow in His steps.

It has been said that Jesus was God Incarnate, the God became man, the paradoxical God-man who came as the perfect sacrificial Lamb. He rightly offered Himself to be crucified, the perfect atonement for the salvation of the world. But most importantly, as N.T. Wright and other theologians have pointed out, Jesus came to inaugurate the Kingdom of God, to reveal Himself as the King.

As the King who revealed His reign and rule, Jesus demonstrated what the standard of God's Kingdom

would look like. He was the Messianic King in history, full of grace and love, mercy and justice to show us what the prophetic banner “The Lord is Our Righteousness” means. In His earthly life and ministry, He has set a model for leaders of His Kingdom to follow, to live out His vision and values with all the authority granted Him in heaven and on earth. He revealed the justice and righteousness of God and gave hope and faith to the hopeless

and helpless, to point us to hope and meaning, no matter how depressing our situations may be.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, He reminded us that we are to love God by serving our neighbours, the ones who live next to us, whom we encounter daily in the streets of the city and along the road of life, the ones who have needs which we can meet. This ethic of loving

and serving our neighbor is the vision and mission of life, of discipleship He has commissioned His followers to live out. That is why Christology is so crucial in our missions because Jesus Christ is our leader and model for life and missions.

Lawrence Ko

Singapore

Director of AEA Mission

Commission



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LEADERS IN GLORY

Rev. Dr. John Yates
(Australia)

Chairman of Evangelical Alliance Foundation

I spend a considerable part of my time in ministry talking and praying with leaders; pastors, leaders in parachurch organisations, a few politicians, business people and so on. I find that in every case their lives mirror tendencies in many of the outstanding leaders in the Bible, a paradoxical combination of holiness and imperfection.

Why did God the Father send Moses and Elijah, rather than, for example, Abraham and Isaiah, to talk with Jesus in glory on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:30-31)? They do represent the Law and the Prophets, and in that sense the whole Old



Testament, and they were men familiar with the cloud of God's glory (Ex 19:20; 2 Ki 2:11), but I think there is a more fundamental reason for their presence. They were conversing with Jesus about his "exodus which he was about to accomplish from Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31). But neither of these men completed their earthly ministry according to their

divine call; Moses never entered the Promised Land and Elijah ran away in fear from Queen Jezebel (Num 20:12; 1 Ki 19:3). They were icons of God's faithfulness in taking them up to glory, despite their failures. They were images of grace made perfect in weakness. This is a regular pattern in scripture.

David loved the Lord intensely (Ps 18:1), but from the time of his adultery with Bathsheba his life was a misery. Solomon is the wisest of humans (1 Ki 4:30) but ends life as an idolater (1 Ki 11:4). Peter became leader of the apostolic Church but lost sight of the gospel and had to be confronted and

As in all things Christian we must approach “Leadership in the Bible” through the lens of the cross. A mature Church love its leaders by accepting their limits and prays for them as they are not as they idealise them to be.



corrected publicly by Paul (Gal 2:11-14). Barnabas is “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith” but has an aggressive falling out with Paul over a relative (Acts 11:24; 15:39). John, the author of Revelation, worships angels twice and needs to be rebuked by them on both occasions (19:10; 22:9). We do not know the names of the leaders of the churches in Galatia, Pergamum, Laodicea etc. but by the way the Lord rebukes their congregations they plainly weren’t perfect pastors!

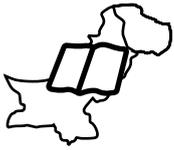
When we stop concentrating on our favourite biblical leaders and take in a broader sweep all our inbuilt personal and cultural prejudices to mythologise leadership is shattered. Leaders are sinners like us all who need grace. As in all things Christian we must approach “Leadership in the Bible” through the lens of the cross. A mature Church love its leaders by accepting their limits and prays for them as they are not as they idealise them to be. When Paul wanted to shut the mouths of his

critics he didn’t appeal to his brilliant theology or apostolic pedigree; “From now on, don’t let anyone trouble me with these things. For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus.” (Gal 6:17). The suffering S/ Servant is the final word in leadership, biblical and beyond, this is its **true** glory.

Rev. Dr. John Yates

AUSTRALIA

*Chairman of Evangelical Alliance
Foundation*



THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE OF PAKISTAN

WHY MUSLIMS HATE US?

Offering a solution to overcome hate
Issue in Pakistan

Ifrahim A. Matthew, D.Min
(Pakistan)

Secretary: The Evangelical Alliance of Pakistan

Introduction

According to historical records, an element of hate by the Muslims towards Christians is very deep rooted. Religion fanaticism is not only confined to Taliban, but it is in-fact organic to Pakistan. It is in the DNA of Pakistani

people, says Mushtaq Bilal, in his article at 'religion and Pakistan', printed in Daily, "The News", dated 3rd Dec 2017.

Thus, the hostility towards Christians in Pakistan existed long before the creation of Pakistan. He cited example of a case, in the beginning of

1924, when Mahashe Rajpal published a pamphlet in an Urdu language, written by an anonymous author, who was later killed by Muslim fanatic Illm-ud-Din on April 6, 1929.

Another such example is Aisya Bibi who was in jail for nine-year allegations of





uttering derogatory remarks against the Prophet (PBUH). What happened in Pakistan a few weeks ago, speak of volumes about expressing hatred towards Christians. In this scenario, it is pertinent to think how to defend ourselves (Christians) without being entangled in any physical or intellectual modus operandi.

Why Muslims hate us?

Why Muslims are so fanatics hating Christians? One of the main reasons is that they had misunderstood Christian faith; or they had been taught wrongly about Christian faith, like Christian's believe in three gods. Mary is mother of God. And Christian call Jesus Son of God, etc.

What could be done to mitigate such a problem? The best way is to make Muslims understand what the actual Christian faith

is; by challenging them to read the Scriptures by themselves. We should do that whenever or wherever we find an opportunity. It is proven by experience that once a Muslim buy a copy of a Bible, his attitude towards Christians changes, regardless of if he reads it or not. The method is far more effective than holding an open dialogue with them.” Balil in his writing, provoke us “to fight with evil forces to defeat evil spirits.” However, Biblical answer is contrary to it “Be not overcome of Evil but overcome evil with Good. Romans 12:21

Best Defense is an Offence

In Pakistan we have tested this approach for the past many years and found it effective. We have documentary proof of the fact that we never had trouble by Muslims, even though our office is situated right in the middle of Muslim

community for the past many years.

How it could be proven?

A ministry namely (Potohar Fellowship Ministries) have sold over 3179 Bibles to Muslims Brothers during the year 2017 (at a minimum donation) at market places. In this way we interacted daily with common Muslims in the streets, who asked all sorts of nasty questions, but answered were given politely and adequately. That way we were able to mitigate their hostility to the minimum level.

I can write numerous incidences, where a hostile person confronted by our team member with contempt and hatred. However, when he was challenged to buy a copy of scripture to read, it changed his attitude, suddenly. **One of most serious testimony was recently narrated**

by **Pastor. Shakeel Daniel residing in Quetta, who spoke during the leadership** consultation recently held in Lahore by Barnabas Fund UK.

When Jihadi leaders came to kill him. They demanded of him to recite the “Kalma” or be ready to die. Br. Daniel confronted them and requested, every person is asked to have one wish fulfilled before he dies. He had a wish, too, that is, “Killer should read the Chart hanging on the wall loudly,” upon which Lord’s prayer was written. The intruder laughed and started to read the Chart. In the middle he started staring at him for few moments and then left.

It is through this approach, that an important Afghan Jihadi commander turned to Christ in Kashmir. His written testimony with his official seal is still preserved in one of local church’s office.

Part of the discipling-making process is exhorting/challenging people to read written word of God and to help them know, what it means to follow Jesus.

A most recent example had been

At a dinner, which was hosted last Dec in a local church with an aim to reach out the Elite community of twin cities of Rawalpindi / Islamabad. Guests included Leaders of Hindu Community, leaders of Shia Sect and leaders of Trans gender community. They were all presented a copy of ‘The Bible’ as a gift. More than sixty leaders received the gift. Presentation was followed by a powerful Evangelistic message delivered at the occasion by Rt. Rev. Irfan Jamil Bishop of Lahore Diocese.

Writer of this paper had personally witnessed, receipt

of a handwritten letter by an Afghan Taliban leader from Afghanistan, who had been changed, when confronted by a simple believer, who challenged him to read some verses from the Bible. The Jihadi commander from Afghanistan had invited to witness the slaughter of the same believer but was changed by God while reading the Bible a night prior to the incident.

What do we Need to do? We need to take Bible in its written form to the threshold of people’s house at grass root level if we want to see a change in our society. I am convinced that giving a Bible to a Muslim brother is the best defense, we can make, which would help overcome the waves of persecution in Pakistan and Christian organizations should set aside a portion of their revenue for this important cause.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay tuned for the
AEA Newsletter
February-March 2019's
important topic

WOMAN • LEADERSHIP •

CALL FOR ARTICLES

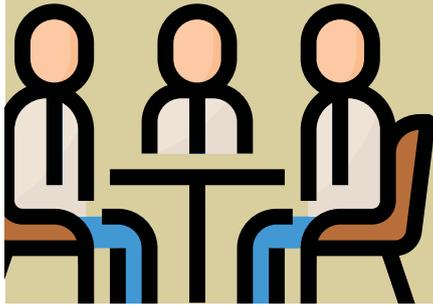
We would like to invite
everybody to submit an article.
Your short article (500 words)
should reach us before Friday,
February 15, 2019.

For more information please
visit the AEA website:
www.asiaaea.org



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Annual Meeting



**FEB 26-28, 2019
BANGKOK, THAILAND**



A Special Dinner Honoring Dr. Richard Howell
for his able leadership as the AEA General
Secretary for more than 10 years (10/2008-
2/2019) and the **Commissioning Prayer**
for the in-coming **AEA General Secretary,**
Dr. Bambang Budijanto.

**BANGKOK
THAILAND**

**FEB 27
2019**



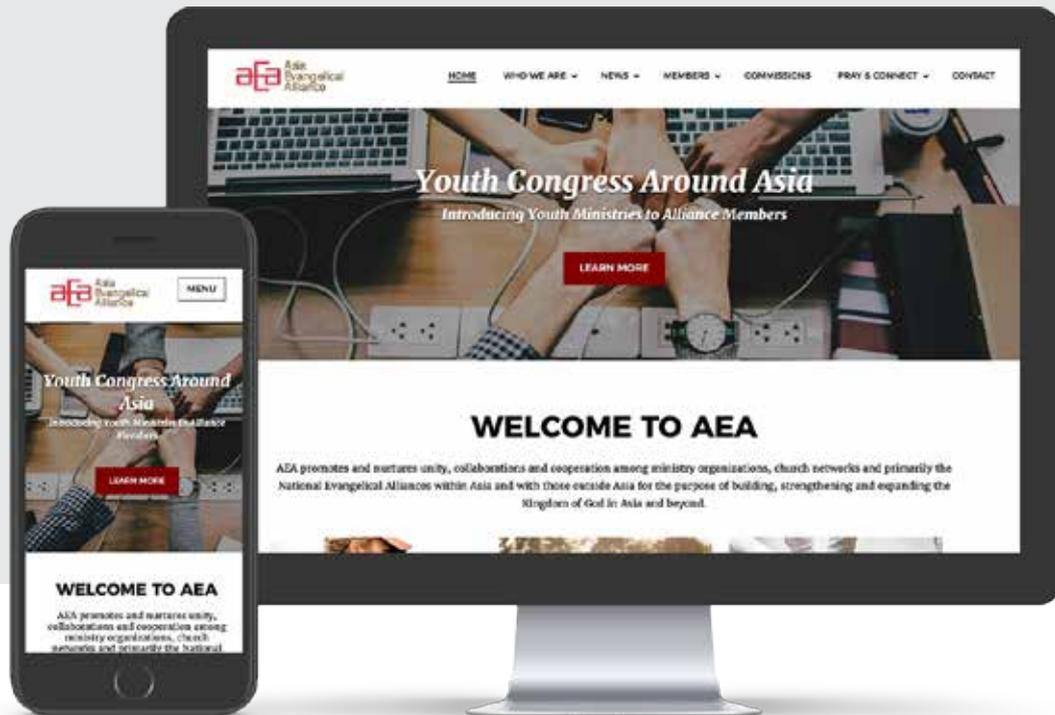
YOUR KINGDOM COME

World Evangelical Alliance
General Assembly 2019

**JAKARTA
& BEYOND
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2019**

We are pleased to announce the launch of
AEA brand new website!

www.asiaea.org



“We do hope that this website and other AEA media help AEA community grow much stronger and be more effective in fulfilling our call in Asia and beyond.”

- Dr. Bambang Budijanto -
AEA, Associate General Secretary



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