


# S H A R E

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**World:** to gain a wider perspective of contemporary world issues; not only challenging one's Christian worldview but also heightening one's sensitivity to the brokenness of the world.  
**Self:** to begin a self-realisation journey where participants scrutinise their inner beings and rediscover both their inadequacies and given talents are purposed for a greater cause.  
**The kingdom of God:** to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness so to live out a purposeful life accordingly.

## FOCUS ~ DISCIPLESHIP

### Global Discipleship Programme

"What's the most important thing in our lives? Are we willing to risk our lives for Jesus in all circumstances?" "Is there any value or belief so deeply-rooted in our culture that we just accept without question?" These are some of the questions raised by the participants of Global Discipleship Programme (GDP), who went on a 3-week mission/exposure trip to Ethiopia last summer. In this interview, Rev. Pak Loh, CEDAR Fund's mission pastor, also the mastermind behind GDP, will share more about this programme that shakes up the lives of these participants, prompts them to face the world and themselves, and takes them on a transformational journey.

(SK: Sally Ko PL: Rev. Pak Loh)

#### SK: What is GDP in a nutshell?

PL: It's a discipleship process that focuses on nurturing disciples to develop a deeper sacrificial passion for God and His glory. This GDP seeks to model after Christ's life and ministry and focuses on three areas: **world, self, and the kingdom of God**. By exposing participants to global poverty issues, their unique and contextualised experiences should stretch them to probe into their core values and beliefs. Putting these under the biblical teaching of fullness of life in Christ, we aim to help the participants to discover the discrepancies and stimulate them to re-consider their roles, resulting in their own reflection on how they can participate differently in God's ministries and His "Kingdom mission".

#### SK: What are the objectives of GDP?

PL: We can summarize by using four "E"s.

**Experience:** We hope that participants would develop a higher level of **interest** in and sensitivity towards the needs of the world through an intentional cross-cultural exposure.

**Education:** By diving into the root causes of what they see on the surface and engaging in related co-learning and discussions, participants seek to acquire a deeper **biblical comprehension** of the given contextual realities.

**Example:** Through the mutual influence of mentors and mentees, as well as learning from missionaries and ultimately modeling after Christ, we hope the participants are inspired to cultivate in a stronger **passion** towards God's purpose for the world.

**Edification:** With adequate affirmations from the significant others, participants are expected to become more strategic and be ready to move forward to another level of **commitment and involvement**. Some of them may even become catalysts for channeling the transformative growth to others at church.

#### SK: What's unique about GDP?

PL: Strictly speaking, the proposed GDP is not a programme, but a process. It does not primarily seek to develop our own inward pietistic spiritual disciplines, but to engage with the world missionally. It does not focus on teaching, but co-learning, co-growing and co-serving. The experiential component of an exposure trip is not a short term one-off project, but a platform for self-revelation and ongoing reflection. Overall, it is a crafted, experience-based and participatory discipleship process that encourages a lifelong journey of Christ-exalting and self-denying.

#### SK: What are the critical success factors for GDP?

PL: I guess at different stages, there are different critical success factors. Before we start, we need to have a set of solid theological convictions of what GDP entails: why we do what we do. We should have a clear vision of our final product in mind from the beginning. For example, field location and learning objectives must be set carefully to match with participants' maturity level in order to create appropriate stresses and challenges. During the process, it is important to remain strategic. As participants

move on from the exposure component to the next phase of the reflective journey, we need to instill a strong individual intrinsic motivation for growth; establish a caring and supportive group for mutual encouragement; and provide a mature mentor for guidance.

**SK: It sounds like a high level of commitment is a must. Is GDP suitable for all churches?**

PL: I would like to give a firm "yes", believing that every church should have a vigorous discipleship ministry. As Jesus' disciples, we should live our earthly lives with a commitment to obey Christ's commandments and fulfill His commission. It is not a high level of commitment but a norm of God's true disciples. We should not accept a self-centred life with mediocrity. Also, if we have a deeper understanding of the missionary nature of our triune God: Father-the sender, Christ-the sent one, and the Holy Spirit-the empowering one, we will be more keen in making disciples.

**SK: How's your experience with the participating churches so far?**

PL: There are three churches who are now actively engaging in GDP at different levels. One of them is more established in mission, so this church supports GDP financially and seeks advice from us when needs arise. The second church has a lively youth congregation. Besides implementing GDP, this congregation has also provided significant volunteering support for CEDAR's local events and raised funds for some field projects. The third church has a very stable structure and leadership so the church can take up more responsibilities within GDP. CEDAR is now seeking to create a tri-lateral partnership with this church along with a field partner where we can serve and learn. As you see, GDP does not work on a "one approach fits all" principle. In fact, CEDAR discerningly works with the church leadership to tailor-make a GDP for the church according to her own unique missional DNA and dynamic.

*The GDP participants from Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Whampoa Church walked down a narrow path in Lalibela, Ethiopia. ▶*

**SK: Finally, if you were to describe the spirit of GDP in one line, what would it be?**

PL: It is my personal conviction that without experiencing the passion of Christ, we cannot truly get involved in the mission of God. Therefore, with this conviction, I would like to see that participants can grasp the depth of Christ's passion, understand their unique roles and functions in the kingdom of God, and feel God's pleasure through serving with their given talents accordingly.



*A slum in Ethiopia. ▼*



## STEP INTO THE WORLD



### Transform and be Transformed: Together with the Migrant Community in Yunnan

In Baoshan city of Yunnan province, about 70 families of the Lisu ethnic minority live on Gangding Mountain, which is about 128 kilometres from the city. All of them, approximately 440 people in total including children, are Christians. Their living is never easy because they have no proper household registration (hukuo) and they do not speak Chinese.

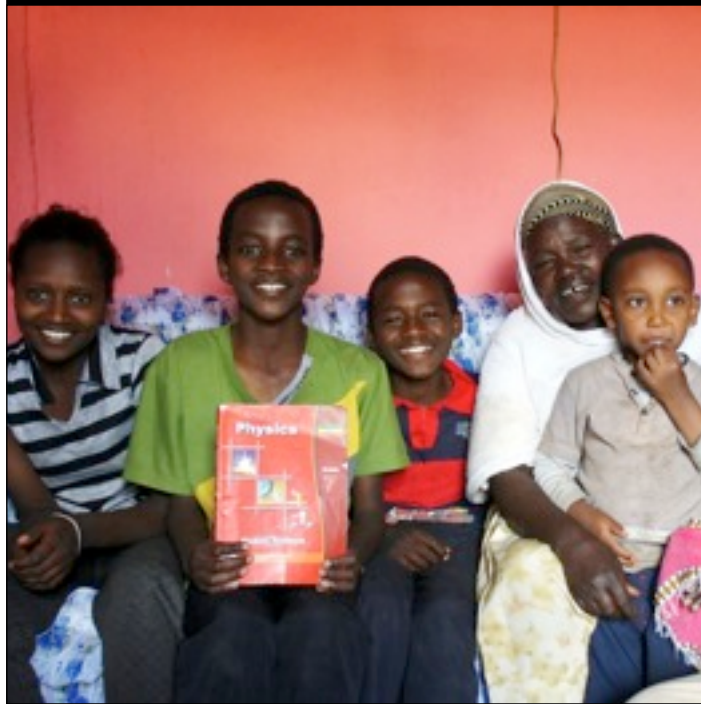
Since 2012, CEDAR has been partnering with two Christian churches in Yunnan to provide language education and free medical consultation to the Lisu ethnic minority. Starting from 2014, we have also launched a three-year integrated community development project, which aims at strengthening the community's self-sufficiency and improving their lives in different aspects such as healthcare, child nutrition, language education, water, agriculture and husbandry, as well as disaster prevention.

In this April, a group of brothers and sisters from Mong Kok Baptist Church, who has joined CEDAR's Global Discipleship Programme, went to Yunnan to learn about the situation particularly the needs of the Lisu ethnic group. After the visit, they made a commitment to support this group in developing their community and improving their living.

Today, over 30,000 people of the Lisu ethnic minority live in the mountains of Baoshan city and Dehong Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan province. Please support our ministries in Yunnan, together we can create opportunities to transform their lives. Your donation can contribute to the followings:

- **HK\$200** can provide nutritious lunch to two Lisu children for one whole month
- **HK\$450** can help one Lisu family to learn and practice plantation and husbandry
- **HK\$1030** can provide a one-off free medication consultation in a village including body check and basic medication

## JOIN HANDS JOIN HEARTS



### A Family with Big Smiles

*Written by Serena Suen, Programme Officer*

Yidenekachew, a boy's name that means "Let them admire", had me admiring on his shiny smile which seemed to light up the tiny room that house himself, his grandmother, his two younger brothers and his cousin. Yidenekachew's mother lives in the rural area. Life is very hard that she could not take care of her three sons but forced to send them off to their grandmother living in the city, hoping that her children would be better taken care there.

Yidenekachew's grandmother did not have any work but with the extra mouths to feed, she must earn money to maintain the household. Involving in the Self-Help Group (SHG) set up by CEDAR's partner Addis Ababa Guenet Church (AAGC), she was able to take loans to buy Teff flour and other equipment to make Injera, a sour dough-risen flatbread which is a common food for the Ethiopians. She sells Injera in the market and makes enough money to pay off the loans and cover her family expenses. It is really encouraging to see how the SHG has helped to improve the living of Yidenekachew's grandmother and her grandchildren.

Yidenekachew is also working hard for a brighter future. When he was six, his church encouraged him to attend school and since then, he has joined the AAGC Children Sponsorship Programme. He is now 13 years old and attending Grade 7. While telling us he wanted to be a mechanical engineer, Yidenekachew pulled out the Physics textbook from his school bag to show us that this was his most favourite subject!

Towards the end of our visit, Yidenekachew's grandmother shared with us how God had kept her when their house almost got torn down by the government, but someone stopped the police and their house was spared. She thanked God for giving her eternal life, the safe shelter she has now, and also the help she has received from the project. Before we bid farewell to this family, she asked us to remember her in prayers that she would raise her grandchildren according to the biblical principles. ►

## TAKING ACTION



### Change Agents---the Extraordinary Royal Priesthood

Written by Phyllis Kwan

In Hong Kong, “volunteer” is a term commonly given to all persons who offer service for free, irrespective of the nature of the voluntary service. The term puts an emphasis on the single element that the service provider does not receive any remuneration. However when I first met Hawassa in Ethiopia, I received a deeper meaning of the term “volunteer”. Hawassa is part of a woman group who act as “change agents”, educating the villagers from door to door and advocating for the abolition of the still common practice of the harmful tradition of female genital mutilation (FGM). They are no ordinary volunteers.

As one can tell, “change agents” are those who induce changes in other people’s lives. They really are special agents as they do not only serve their fellow countrymen in improving their living standard but also actively spark off transformations in the mindsets of the next generations. These change agents are the lady villagers who themselves have undergone the traumatic experience of FGM and encountered an awakening that led them to rediscover the honourable and respectable nature of human being that is given by God at creation. They firmly believe that every female should be freed from abuse and slavery.

These ladies are indeed extraordinary life examples of the royal priesthood we are all called to be. May we take to our hearts, their courage to change and be the changes they want to see.

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” -1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)

*Phyllis went to Ethiopia in 2014 under CEDAR’s Global Discipleship Programme. The three-week exposure trip to Ethiopia created a yearn in her to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and to become a change agent in her own community. She currently serves in the youth ministry of Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Whampoa Church.*

## DONATION & PARTNERSHIP

CEDAR would like to appeal to churches and Christians for regular donations so that CEDAR can continue to support ongoing projects.

**Direct deposit**> HSBC 600-385678-001

**Cheque**> Payable to ‘CEDAR FUND’

**Autopay**> <http://cedarfundeng.wordpress.com/donations/>

**Online donation**> <http://bit.ly/cedar-online-donation-eng>

## OPERATING STATEMENT

		Accumulated	
		Apr - May 15	Jul 14 - May 15
Income	Donations	<b>HK\$</b> 2,108,868	<b>HK\$</b> 11,678,425
	Grants	-	629,343
	Appeal for Relief	2,291,952	2,826,406
	HKSAR Disaster Relief Fund to India Flood Relief	-	2,889,000
	Other Income	2,084	154,668
		<b>HK\$</b> 4,402,904	<b>HK\$</b> 18,177,842
Expenditure	Projects Asia	721,796	4,287,255
	China	829,551	3,391,340
	Africa	7,020	1,115,279
	Relief Projects	390,484	1,363,508
	HKSAR Disaster Relief Fund to India Flood Relief	-	2,889,000
	Education Ministry	178,997	1,055,656
	Administration	237,576	1,372,607
		<b>HK\$</b> 2,365,424	<b>HK\$</b> 15,474,645
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>HK\$</b> 2,037,480	<b>*HK\$</b> 2,703,197

Please visit our website for a detailed financial statement. (1) Budget for June 2015 is HKD1,620,350. (2)\* included till to end of May, the unused relief fund for Yunnan Zhaotong Quake Relief, Vanuatu Cyclone Relief, Humanitarian Relief on China-Myanmar Border and Nepal Earthquake Relief. Please remember the needs of CEDAR and partners, through prayers and donation, to ensure all the project to be implemented. 🙏