

# Christmas Greetings 2009



Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples

Dear friends,

Christmas greetings from *ACPP-Hotline Asia!*

This year, *ACPP* celebrates her 30th Christmas by reflecting on Jesus, the protagonist of the season. We have been inspired by Jesus who lives for, lives with and lives as the oppressed in the society. We are grateful to continue our participation in His **mission of proclaiming the good news by taking concrete action towards enjoyment of justice and peace for all.** Facing the challenges in the contemporary world where people and the environment suffer from physical, cultural and structural violence, we commit to restore human dignity and unity to those whom Jesus came to the earth and sacrificed for.

Christmas is a time to **reflect on our relationship with Jesus** during the year: **who is He** to us? What is **His significance to our vision of justice and peace?** For *ACPP*, Jesus is the **model who dedicated his whole life for justice and peace.** Jesus chose to be born as a refugee in the first Christmas, silently prepared for public ministry in His youth; He challenged the powerful, and accepted the eventual persecution by the authorities. As a Christian community, let us connect with Him through inspiration from each other, to carry out our mission with wisdom, hope and courage.

We recall Jesus during His public ministry: He **dared to live with the "outcasts"** in the society: He freely **associated with the poor, weak, marginalized and oppressed;** He touched the leper, healed the sick, (Mt 8:1-4) appreciated and defended widows; He **exposed teachers of the law** who devoured widows' houses (Mk 12:38-44). These are only a few examples of **Jesus' preferential option for the poor** and His identification with them. **How many of us recognize "living with the poor" as the core value of our faith? In the world divided by injustices, do we conceive restoration of unity and human dignity as a core duty of Christians?**

Did we realize that Jesus was suffering with Asian people, affected by the typhoon and flooding in Southeast Asia, detained arbitrarily in Sri Lanka, Burma and China, rejected with the Rohingya asylum seekers, etc.? **The suffering caused by these tragedies are** not the result of misfortune, but mainly because of **man-made decisions and actions,** as well as disrespect for fellow human beings. We hope many of us who are thankful for the blessings we have received, can enjoy this Christmas by **reflecting on each one's role in the predicament of our neighbours and humanity,** so as to make Christmas a festival to regain energy for our mission in solidarity with all.

In the coming years, *ACPP* will **continue to join Jesus in public ministry in this contemporary world,** supporting justice and peace work at the Asian-regional level. We will focus on **animation of social involvement of the Church,** through information, raising awareness, coordinating venue for discussion and sharing challenges, as well as tools for analyzing and responding to injustices in the human rights and Christian perspective.

How will you respond to Jesus' "coming" this Christmas?

We invite you to continue the spiritual journey, following the example of Jesus in public ministry.

(P.T.O.)

----- (please detach, fill in and return this part to us with your gift) -----

To: *ACPP-Hotline Asia*

1/F, 52 Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon,  
HONG KONG



Christmas gift from:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Behind the Scene...

In April, we welcomed a new *Project Assistant*, Wanyu, to *ACPP* – she brought along her youthful energy and enthusiasm for justice and peace, as a continuation of her enlightened student years with the *SCM-HK* (Student Christian Movement – Hong Kong, also known as World Student Christian Federation). We also welcomed a new *Extension Worker* in Kerala, Biju; his training in Social Work and interest in strategies for human rights have led him to the involvement with Adivasis in South India. Since Debby's departure in August, we have not been able to recruit a suitable team member for various reasons, including uncertainty in funding situation. Yet we are thankful we could continue *HL's* mission until the end of the year, with 2 full-time staff in Hong Kong and 3 in India. We are also grateful for Sr. Vicky who helped us with our publications, relieving some workload of Fr. Jim, who has become busier this year, and thanks, too, to James and Kat who took care of the design, contents and facilitation of the regional *Workshop* in October.

With the challenge in staffing this year, the regional training *Workshop* and Team meeting in Bangkok last October were very important for us to consolidate and feel the support among our team members; and to meet new partners in justice and peace network from different countries. Thank you very much for your inspiration!

In the past 30 years, we have experienced Jesus' presence among our network and partners in the region, through their love and compassion for the poor and marginalized, reflected in their initiatives and commitment in responding to injustices in their countries. With their model, we are encouraged to overcome every challenge in the future.


We thank you for supporting our work in the past year that enabled us to take up 10 issues from 6 countries. Your financial support enabled the important fact-finding of our *Extension Workers*, and the information to be channeled to us and our international network through *Urgent Appeals*. Your letters have also invited responses from Indian and Sri Lankan authorities – an effect of your international pressure. We are sure your local actions such as discussion on issues and information-sharing with your network, will promote change in the long run.

In the upcoming years, we will continue to play our role in encouraging the Church's involvement in justice and peace issues at the regional level, with you... You are very important to *HL*, as without your support and contribution to our work, we will not be able to fulfill Jesus' mission.

Once again, thank you very much for your continued support!

May the Peace of Christ be with you during this season and throughout the New Year 2010!

In solidarity for justice and peace,

 潘秋如 CHUN

Linda, Wanyu, Fanny, Mrs. Cheuk  
*ACPP-Hotline Asia* staff  
December 2009



\*\* For more information about the work of *ACPP* and how you can help, please visit our web site at <www.acpp.org>.

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I would like to continue Jesus' mission and support *ACPP's* work in promoting more involvement of the Church in social justice in Asia!!!

Please accept my gift of \_\_\_\_\_

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