



# FRIDAYFAX

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Kingdom-focussed E-Mail news-bulletin with inspiring reports of God at work around the world, with special emphasis on the current global revolutionary reformation of Church and Missions. **Editor:** Wolfgang Simson. Subscription: €30/ US-\$ 40 per year. Freitagsfax, PO Box 1248, D-79397 Kandern, Germany. Email [info@ffax2.com](mailto:info@ffax2.com) website: [www.ffax2.com](http://www.ffax2.com) © Dawn Europa e.V.; 22 issues per year, available in English and German.

## How Kiwi-couple inspired the planting of 1.000 new churches in Myanmar



Tony Collis is a well-known Evangelist in New Zealand and currently pastors an Assemblies of God Church in his country. Tony and his wife Lynn have a long-standing passion for the church of Jesus Christ to return back to its original roots, and they have been developing a small network of what they call “micros” – small, organic communities or housechurches. Teaching these insights inside New Zealand, Tony told us, has not always been easy: “People seem reluctant to change, and feel very secure in the way they are doing church”. But the moment Tony took the very same message abroad, to a country outside the Western world and culture, he was able to see how explosive his own message and conviction actually was. Here is Tony’s report:



“In January 2004 I was approached by a Christian leader from Myanmar – the former Burma - to come to his country and help him train church planters. He commented that it has taken him 26 years to plant 12 churches and he did not want to take another 26 years to plant another 12 churches... could I help! He had read an article I had written on House Churches here in New Zealand and he felt that such a form of church would work well in his country. His country has 50 Million people most of whom are Buddhist.

In January 2005 my wife and I flew to the capital of that country to train the first batch of church planters. In the following three months the movement grew to ten churches. In April we encouraged and trained the same church planters and the movement grew to ninety house churches in three months with an average attendance of 5. In September I visited again and the house churches grew in strength to about 35 per house church. By the end of the year 120 house churches were underway.

In March 2006 I visited the country again to find 150 house churches. By then, they had a goal to see five hundred house churches by the end of 2006. In early October the movement had exceeded all expectations and had grown to over one thousand house churches now scattered all over the nation. I was in the country again at the beginning of November 2006 and they now have a vision to see ten thousand house churches as their next goal. An indigenous apostolic team is developing and they are seeing apostolic fruit and effectiveness. While I was there I heard the following testimonies...

### Death and back

One young church planter had started a house church in a small Buddhist village. The Buddhist monk was angry with the young evangelist and verbally attacked him in public. He then directed the young man to follow him to a cave on the outskirts of the village. Inside the dark cave the Buddhist monk instructed the evangelist to hold onto a small 'glowing' stone. The monk began to call upon the evil spirits to kill the young man and as he did his eyes glowed. Nothing happened. Again the Buddhist monk called upon the evil spirits to kill the Christian. Again nothing happened. Third time the monk called upon the evil spirits to kill off the church planter and yet again... nothing happened to him, but rather the Buddhist monk fell to the ground dead. After a while it dawned on the evangelist that if he left the cave alone, the people would think that he had killed the monk. Afraid of the consequences of leaving the cave alone, the man 'resurrected' the monk and they walked out together. As soon as they were both back in the village the monk declared that the evangelist's God was stronger than his and that he was now going to become a Christian. The whole village came to Christ.

## Take your beds and walk

During a Church Planting conference in October 2006 one of the evangelists was asked to go to the hospital to pray for a friend's ill husband. He asked six of his fellow church planters to go with him. We prayed for the team before they left. When the seven arrived they stood outside the hospital and began to pray against the demonic spirits that were inside the compound. The guards watched with interest as they prayed fervently outside the gate. After a while they approached the door of the hospital. No visitors from other countries are allowed to look at the conditions of the hospital, so the entrance is guarded. These same guards require money from the local visitors, and these evangelists had none. As the evangelists approached one of the guards extended his hand looking for some money. One evangelist laid hands on the guard and the soldier froze. He could not move, face and body locked into position. The rest of the Christians strolled in unhindered by the rest of the guards. They started to pray against all the spirits of sickness and disease in the hospital as they made their way to the room where the friend's ill husband is supposed to be in. They found out that he had already returned home, so they decided that they would not waste the trip and started to pray for the sick. "Out.. out...out" they demanded of the spirits of infirmity. One by one people were healed. "Take up your bed and walk", commanded the evangelists. As each person had brought their own bedding, the healed did indeed gather up their bed stuff and left the hospital. Ten people were instantly healed and left the hospital before the team left. Doctors, nurses, family members and the infirmed looked on with startled amazement. Others were prayed for and some came to Christ. The evangelists said that they had one more day left at the conference and that the people could ring them at a certain hotel tomorrow to inform them of others things that would happen as a result of their prayers. The next day, as we were hearing the story from the team of seven, the phone rang and more testimonies were given. The whole church planting group were inspired to step out with greater boldness."

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## Central Asia: "When Grandmas jump like gazelles"

This is an account of how a witty business innovation can lead to church planting breakthroughs.

In many areas in Central Asia, traditional societies remain very closed to the gospel, missionaries told us. This is especially true in the more rural areas where there is a very strict social control and everyone knows – and watches – everyone. As open evangelism and churchplanting has run into many obstacles, some friends of mine have experimented with a new approach – with amazing results.

Some years ago, a Christian businessman from Korea invented a full-body massage bed that proved to be so powerful and effective for many back and muscle problems that there has been a demand for these beds all over the world. Church-planting teams in Central Asia would visit a village and set up shop in any small house or two-room apartment, and offer a massage on that bed to people. Their slogan: "Grandma will jump like a gazelle again!" And as villages are full of bent-over Babushkas who quite desperately need a break –and a massage – there is quickly a long line forming. As people are gathering in a waiting room or outside, awaiting their turn on the bed, basic principles of body symmetric, health and God's good creation is explained to them. Then they have their turn on the bed – often with miraculous results, not only for their health, but also for their openness to the gospel.

The massage-bed approach does not only open doors into otherwise quite closed societies, but also provides the necessary funds for churchplanters and their entire team to be self-supporting. The Korean company that manufactures the beds is called Nuga Medical. "Nuga" is Korean for Luke, "after the Apostle Luke, well known as a beloved physician and healer", so the companies website, [www.nugamedical.com](http://www.nugamedical.com)

Nuga was established in the year 2002 under the motto and managing ideology of "Offering the finest service and utmost love to contribute to the health of mankind".

