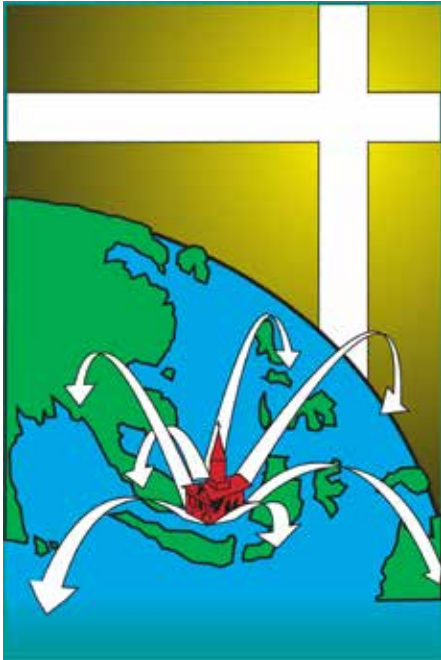


May 2015

Focus on

Missions



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Medan Mission Trip Report (Mar 19-23, 2015)

A. Mission Team

A total of 20 Lifers participated in this mission trip comprising the following:

Francis Leong, Lit Miah, Sonny Loe, Iris Loe, Benedict Sim, Amy Sim, Samuel Sim, Isaac Sim, Evelyn Tan, Mimi Sim, Kim Hong, Phei Hong, Law Hoon, Johanna Koh, Joy Tan, Joyce Loo, Anna Ang, Chloe Neo, Ang Qing and Pui Meng

In a sense, we can say that this is a combined AF/YF mission team; the YF represented by Benedict (YF Advisor) and the 6 youths while the AF is represented by the other 9 adults. Praise God for such unity in mission.

colour pencils to the students who came for the VBS. We would also like to register our thanks to sister June Tan for readily agreeing to help send the 12 pieces of luggage of VBS materials and goodies to the airport on the morning of our departure and the church office for agreeing to let us use the van. Last but not least, the team would also like to register our appreciation to Ibu Roska who had helped to provide the important local coordinations with Rev Haposan, the hotel and the transport company which had contributed in no small measure to the successful execution of the various programs.

B. Appreciation

The team would like to register our appreciation to the two generous sponsors which allows us to distribute freely goodies and

C. Mission Program

The program for this mission trip has two components: 1) conduct VBS for the primary and secondary students of Betania School run by

Up Coming Mission Trips

7 June 2015

Mission trip to Batam churches by Sunday School

7-11 November 2015

Medical-Dental Mission trip to Cambodia (to be confirmed)

You are welcome to contact the Missions Committee for information or feedback on any of our mission fields at the following address:

missionscom@lifebpc.com

Medan Mission Trip Report

Rev Haposan and 2) encourage the blind brethren of the Blind Ministry run by Ibu Roska through participation in their worship service and fellowshiping with them over lunch and games.

D. Daily Activities

Day One

The team departed on March 19 at 10.40am via Jetstar 3K281 from Terminal 1 of Changi International Airport and arrived into Kuala Namu International Airport of Medan at 11.45am local time (Medan is one hour behind Singapore). Even though we were asked to open up one big luggage bag and 3 carton boxes by the customs, we want to thank God that we were let through without much fuss. Roska and her sister Asther were waiting for us as we exit from the gate and the whole team was conveyed onto a 30-seater bus and left the airport at around 12.30pm.



As the journey to Medan city was more than an hour, we decided to stop for lunch along the way. Our first meal was at an open-air restaurant serving local fare.

After lunch, we proceeded to Betania School to meet with Rev Haposan and have a better appreciation of the place where VBS is to be run. A big banner welcomed the team to the school. There were two possible venues for VBS: 1) inside the school hall on level 2, or 2) inside the church auditorium, also at level 2. After some discussions, we settled for the school hall. It is cooler and requires less movement of the students.

The school complex is a U-shaped four-storey building; however, only the first two levels are being used



for the students from kindergarten to secondary three with a total student population of around 600. Rev Haposan is the Principal and his wife Alice, the Vice-Principal. However, his wife is not working full-time in the school. The 3rd and 4th levels are not usable as they are only bare finishes – the floors are not properly cemented and there are no fans and lightings. The building works here at both the school and church (including the Theological Institute) are always of a progressive nature and by instalments that is, works will only be done when there are funds available. Rev Haposan estimated that the costs to cement one floor and to up fit it with fans and lightings are S\$30,000.

The church building is just next to the school and is suitably furnished for worship and Rev Haposan has just started to add some rooms at the back of the church. These will be used as classrooms and dormitory for theological students. The Theological Institute currently has 45 students and they are having

classes in the school hall Monday to Thursday from 3.00 to 5.00pm. Therefore, it is God's perfect timing that we start the VBS on Friday.

Thus, we can see that Rev Haposan is wearing three hats: he is Principal of the School, Principal of the Theological Institute and Pastor of the Bethany B-P Church and without full-time helpers apart from his wife. Currently, the school is self-supporting but the Theological Institute is not and its operating costs are partially offset by the school.

Having confirmed that the laptop and projector will be set up at 8.00am the next morning, we left the school and proceeded to the hotel arriving at 4.30pm. After check-in and wash up, we met again for dinner at 5.45pm. Dinner was an open-air seafood restaurant and our guests were Roska, her sister Asther, Rev Haposan and his wife. We returned to the hotel at 8.30pm for our first night of devotion and briefing which ended at 9.30pm.



Day Two

Roska was waiting at the hotel lobby at 8.00am to bring us to Rev Haposan's school for the first day of VBS which will be conducted in two sessions. The morning session was for Primary 3s and 4s while the afternoon session was for the Primary 5s and 6s. The journey to the school took about 30 minutes. Upon our arrival, we found that only the projector was set up without a laptop. After the laptop was set up, we tested the system with our thumb drive only to experience a few power trips. Apparently, the electrical system was overloaded with the air-conditioners running. After turning off the air-conditioners, we did not experience any more power trip and we were ready to receive the students at around 9.30am.

After settling the students down, Iris led in singspiration with Roska assisting in translation for the whole morning session. This was followed by the Watermelon story narrated by Evelyn Tan. Next in line was art and craft which was to make a watermelon fan. The last activity was games which were designed to reinforce the story of sin and salvation through the precious blood of Jesus. All team members were on hand to assist with the art and craft as well as the games. We tried our best to connect with the students and to help them understand the memory verse taken from Acts 16:31.

As the students leave, each of them was given a goody bag and a slice of watermelon as refreshment as well as to remind them of the story one last time.

To save time in commuting and to allow the team some rest, we arranged to have packet lunch brought to the school for the team. The afternoon session for the Primary 5s and 6s began at 2.00pm and the whole process was repeated. The only difference was that the story teller was Lit Miah and the one doing the translation was Rev Haposan. The session



ended at 5.00pm.

Both the morning and afternoon session has about 140 students each making a total of 280 students as compared to the 375 advised by Rev Haposan initially. In a way, it was good that the group was not bigger as the team was already having some problem controlling the smaller group.

The team then adjourned for dinner together with Rev Haposan, Roska and Asther. Again, it was Chinese cooked food at a smaller eatery.

We returned to hotel close to 8.30pm and proceeded with devotion and debrief for the day. The session ended at 9.30pm and team members retired to their respective rooms to rest and to re-charge for the next day.

Day Three

As usual, Roska was waiting for the team at 8.00am at the lobby. The team proceeded to Rev Haposan's school again to conduct VBS for the secondary students. Only 56 came as it was a public holiday and the school was not in session.

Francis led the singspiration while Benedict narrated the watermelon story. Roska was the translator throughout this session. The same art and craft was given to this group of student and they also played the same games.

An obvious difference between this group and the two previous groups was that many of the secondary students brought Bibles with them

signifying that they are Christians. However, when tested by Roska, we found that they were rather shallow in their understanding of what salvation entails.

As the group was smaller, the team had more opportunity to interact with the students and to ensure their understanding of salvation.

Again, as they leave, each of them was given a goody bag and a slice of watermelon.

The team had a group photograph taken before proceeding for lunch. Roska insisted that the team experience the unique Padang style dining. Basically, in the Padang style of dining, all available dishes are laid out on the table and you only pay for what you consume.

After lunch, the team was given a tour of some places of interest in Medan. The first place of interest that the team visited was Maimoon Palace and this was followed by a visit to the largest crocodile farm in Medan. Finally, we visited the largest Catholic Church which is also grand in its architecture. For a change, dinner was at a food court inside a shopping mall (The Sun Plaza).

The team returned to hotel for another session of devotion and debriefing before wrapping up the day's program at 9.30pm.

Day Four

We could sleep a bit longer on Day Four as the program only starts at 10.00am. The team gathered at 9.15am and together with Roska,

Medan Mission Trip Report



departed for the Blind Ministry. Roska actually has two ministries in the same compound. The church building for the Blind Ministry is on one side of the compound and the rest of the compound which also comprise a children's playground is for the kindergarten.

Inside the church auditorium, it was rather dimly lit but to the blind brethren, it really does not matter. Worship service commenced at 10.00am for the 28 blind adults and 10 accompanying children led by Dewi and with Roska on the keyboard. The reason for the lower than normal turn-out was that the time of worship was moved to the morning instead of the usual time of 4.00pm. The move to the morning was necessary to facilitate for a time of games. Song sheets in braille were distributed to the blind brethren; these were printed using the braille machine donated by Elder Khoo.

The team presented the "Wordless Book Song" as a song item. The reason for choosing this song was that the gospel message conveyed by the song was simple and straight forward. Thereafter, Francis delivered the sermon entitled: "For we live by faith, and not by sight" taken from 2 Corinthians 5:7.

Service ended at around 12 noon and since the packet lunch had not arrived, we played our first game with the blind brethren. 13 of the team members introduced themselves and recited their favourite Bible verses, all in Bahasa. The blind brethren were supposed to guess their names when they recite the second time without the self-introduction.

After this game, we had our lunch break. After lunch, we reconvene the people to continue with the next two games. However, before we commence with the second game, the children who had accompanied their parents were asked to leave the hall and followed Pui Meng who ran a separate program for the 10 children.

The second game involved the blind brethren providing the Bible references when certain texts were read (also in Bahasa). A total of 10

Bible verses were pre-selected before the game. In the first and second game, individual member who made a correct guess received a prize.

In the last game, the 28 adults were divided into 5 groups and 17 vegetable items were distributed to each group. They were to guess what these items were. Prize of goody bags were given to the winning team (the team with the most correct answers).

Our fellowship with the blind brethren ended at around 3.00pm and Pastor Jonathan (son-in-law of Asther) closed the session in prayer and committed the blind brethren to the Lord.

Today was a special day as it was Joyce's birthday and we were happy that we could celebrate her birthday over dinner at the same restaurant we went to on our first day. We returned to the hotel at around 8.15pm and proceeded to have our last devotion and debrief before retiring for the night at 9.30pm.

Day Five

Our last morning in Medan was free-and-easy since we only need to check out at 11.30am to make our way to the airport by 2.30pm. As scheduled, the team left the hotel at 11.30am accompanied by Roska and Asther. We stopped by at Pizza Hut for our final meal in Medan before proceeding to a shop specialising in Ambon and Kuei Lapis. This is our last chance to load up on local delicacies before heading back to Singapore.

After checking in and taking a group picture at the airport, we say goodbye to Roska and Asther and that ended our mission trip to Medan. Our plane touch down at Changi International Airport at around 6.45pm. Thank God for an enriching and safe trip.

End of Report



Testimonies

By Chloe Neo

“How many are the lost that I have lifted? How many are the chained I’ve helped to free? I wonder have I done my best for Jesus, when He has done so much for me.” This was one of the songs that I kept close to my heart as I went through the 5 days in Medan. The mission trip to Medan was definitely a fulfilling one, and I felt humbled to be used to serve God even if it is in the smallest ways. It had been my first mission trip that is more than a day’s duration, and the experience was definitely a different one. I thank God for the fellowship with many of the AFers, some of my fellow YFers as well as Uncle Benedict’s family. The VBS conducted was also a reminder of how important it is to bring the gospel to children as well. It was heartwarming to see the children listening attentively to the storytellers, trying to sing the songs in English, as well as play the games enthusiastically. I was encouraged by many of the older children as well, as they decorated their craft with the words “I love Jesus (Jesus in bahasa Indonesia).” I really thank God for the opportunity to serve Him, in the little ways of giving out the craft materials, demonstrating the actions to the songs, giving out the prizes, etc. I feel that I was especially blessed by the Blind Ministry, even when the overall experience was unexpected. As we spent our Sunday worship at the blind church, I felt overwhelmed by their praises of thanksgiving and worship. Even though it was indeed the culture of the Bataks to be loud and joyful unlike Singaporeans, I still felt ashamed at the fact that such a small church could sing with such a passion for God, as loud as or even louder than a larger church like Life B-P. It had me reflecting on the times when I don’t mean what I sing or zone out on the lyrics. As the YFers sang together on the bus, I found myself trying to mean every word I sing, and praying that God would take away any other intentions I may have.

Overall, it is truly by God’s mercies and grace that the whole mission trip went by smoothly, from the initial check-in, to touchdown at Medan and right

to returning home. I really thank God for allowing me to serve alongside His people and for blessing me with the many reminders and lessons.

By Johannah Koh

It was my first time on a mission trip to Medan. Prior to the trip, we met up a few times to discuss and pack for the trip. We were also given different roles: as song leader, storyteller, interpreter, musician, or simply as helpers in the packing and distributing of gifts, or laying out materials for games. I want to thank God for the opportunity to serve the Lord together with the other youths and AFers. :)

Not everything went as planned during the trip and several improvisations had to be made. Yet, it was encouraging that everyone was readily rendering help to each other.

The greatest challenge I faced during the trip was the language barrier. I only managed to pick up a few Bahasa words like ‘dah’ (Bahasa for children), and ‘bagus’ (Bahasa for good). As such, I could only guide the children to make the watermelon fans but couldn’t go beyond that. Perhaps I should have picked up more Bahasa words before embarking on the trip.

On Sunday, we worshipped together with the blind brethren, and were encouraged by the message brought by Uncle Francis on walking by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7). The only full time helper at the blind ministry is Dewi. She led us in the singspiration & interpreted for us. It is very encouraging to see her fervency in serving the other blind brethren despite being blind herself. It was also heartwarming when the blind brethren sang and praised God so loudly and cheerfully. They were beaming with gladness as they played the games and it was heartening to see them enjoying and participating enthusiastically in the games that were planned for them.

We travelled a lot on the bus during the trip and I enjoyed singing together with the other youths during the bus rides. Even though the youths were not given any leading roles, we learnt how to be more proactive and to serve faithfully behind the scene. God has equipped

and led us to do His will, and we had only done what is required of us. We were reminded at our last devotion, to have a humble attitude towards service, just like what Jesus said in Luke 17:10-“So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

By Joy Tan

I thank God for the opportunity to be part of the Medan Mission team. I had always wanted to go on a mission trip previously but they always clashed with my school semesters. This trip was an amazing experience as I was blessed with the chance to serve God alongside my friends as well as Uncles and Aunties who I hardly ever interacted with in church. I was never very good with children and I am thankful that I could still serve God through the VBS at Rev Haposan’s Mission School. I felt very blessed by the children at the school who sang loudly to praise and glorify God during the singspiration sessions. Personally, I was very worried about what we were going to do at the Blind Ministry as we already had to deal with the language barrier which made it difficult to communicate with them. In addition, they were blind and that would have made it even harder. However, God was very gracious and everything worked out well despite our inability to effectively communicate with them. Even though they were speaking a different language, I could hear their earnest desire to praise God through their singing which also taught me that we should use our talents wisely to glorify the King of kings and Lord of lords.

During the trip, I was also immensely blessed by the people around me. I fell sick on the second day of the trip, which was also the first day of VBS. Having been in the cool weather of Hong Kong just two days before the mission trip, the drastic weather change proved to be too much for me which caused me to develop very bad runny nose and sore throat. Thankfully, God blessed me with kind and caring adults who supplied me

with endless medicine as well as prayer which helped me get back on my feet. Another thing that I'm thankful for is the sweet fellowship both with the new people I have met as well as the friends that I went on this mission trip with. I got to talk to the people from the Adults Fellowship, many of whom I only smiled in recognition when I saw them in church previously. I am thankful that I could serve with them in this trip and I am grateful for so many of them. The trip also allowed me to catch up with my friends so I'm also grateful that they all came on this trip to serve God together. Throughout the whole mission trip, I could see God's almighty hand working in each and every way which I thought was not possible. I am very thankful to God for this opportunity and everything He has done (for safety, health and strength). All praise to God!

By Anna Ang

I have been extremely blessed to have been given the privilege to go on this trip with the Adults Fellowship and to serve alongside fellow brethren. Although I went on this trip with the intention to serve and to support the AF in their efforts, I think that God has taught me several lessons pertaining to service through this experience. I think one of the experiences that stood out to me was the visit to the church for the blind. I was very touched by the efforts of the single full-time ministry worker of the church, Dewi. I saw that though she was blind herself, she showed herself to be very willing to minister to those who were afflicted with the same condition as herself. This recalled for me the words of Matthew 20:28, "the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." I could see that she was really committed to serving those in the church, leading them in prayer and songs and even furthering herself in the understanding of God's word, despite her physical limitations. Such could only result from the tasting of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. I was also moved by the powerful and enthusiastic singing of the blind brethren during the church service; expressions of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord, although some might think they have cause for complaint or murmuring.

I thank God for bringing this trip to fruition, as well as the Church and the AF for their support for this trip. The trip has spurred me on to do more for God, which would only be my reasonable service. I look forward to more opportunities to serve God in the future.

By Ang Qing

I felt very blessed to be given the opportunity to join the Adults Fellowship on a mission trip to Medan. In particular, I am especially thankful for the small moments which made this journey a safe one and the smooth passage of the entire team through the customs despite the cumbersome boxes of gifts in tow.

Personally, I think the biggest takeaway from this experience was the palpable need to fulfil the Great Commission. In this brief glimpse into the trials and hardships faced in the mission field, I was deeply impressed with the commitment of the church workers in Medan. On the first few days, we met Rev Haposan, a pastor who built his own church as well as the four-story concrete building where he founded a Christian school. Towards the end of the trip, Auntie Roska introduced us to a blind lady who single-handedly chaired the Blind worship service we attended. After the service, we were amazed to find out that she was the only church worker that facilitated the numerous duties in the church.

Yet, the Bible clearly teaches that the Great Commission is not just for these few in the mission field but for every one of us to fulfill. Confronted with this realization and the examples of others, I feel pathetically inadequate when I consider the scant number that I have witnessed to despite the privilege of not worrying about meeting my basic needs.

Certainly, we need to build bridges to pave the way for others to be receptive to the Gospel and not everyone has the gift or the talent to be the next Hudson Taylor or Amy Carmichael. Nevertheless, how often do we seize every opportunity to actively share the gospel with our friends, family, classmates and fellow workers? At times, I find myself shrinking back in fear of being judged by others or losing the friendship entirely. However,

this experience reminded me that we are not called to be stagnant Christians ("Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" James 2:17) but vessels that always abound in the Lord's work ("... be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" 1 Corinthians 15:58). While we can be a testimony in our daily lives, God has commanded us to spread the gospel to all nations. As reiterated by the Apostle Paul, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?"

In conclusion, I think that there is no such thing as being too young to share the gospel. On the trip, it was extremely heartening to see the two younger ones, Samuel and Isaac, actively helping out in the Vacation Bible School. At the end of the day, there is nothing to fear in sharing the gospel since God will be our strength as He has promised us in Matthew 28:20 saying, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

By Joyce Loo

I thank God for the opportunity to go on this mission trip. One thing that impacted me during the trip was the simplicity of life in Medan. I remember that for one of the VBS, the children arrived without their lunch due to a miscommunication. But even though they did not have lunch, they didn't complain about how hungry they were and still sat quietly, listening to the story attentively. This made me think about how sometimes in Singapore "a hungry man is an angry man" and we take our meals for granted. We may say our grace before every meal but it made me wonder if sometimes I just said grace for the sake of doing it; out of routine. Eating watermelons now reminds me of the Watermelon Story that was told to the children during the VBS. The Watermelon Story is the gospel story, embedded into the Watermelon fruit so that whenever the children (and us) eat watermelon, we will be reminded of the gospel story. The trip to the Blind Ministry made me more appreciative of my five senses. Despite

their visual impairment, the people from the Blind Ministry were still able to sing and worship God wholeheartedly. Losing the sense of sight did not stop the blind congregation from gathering together faithfully every Sunday to worship God. Even though they have lost one of their major sense (sense of sight), they were still able to utilise their other senses to worship God and some even to serve God. I was quite impressed by the musician of the Blind Ministry that he was able to pick out the chords of the songs by just hearing the songs being sung once to him. As a musician myself, I would feel more confident when I have the notes in front of me when I play for YF, especially if the song is an unfamiliar song. Having lost his sense of sight, that musician could only rely on his sense of hearing as he figured out the chords and notes to play for the worship service. The loss of his sense of sight did not prevent him from wanting to serve God by playing the guitar for the worship service.

By Benedict Sim

Thank God for the AFers who had arranged this mission trip during the school holidays, which allowed my children and my wife Amy to join. Thank God too for the keenness of my wife and the children who were excited for this mission trip, especially when I specifically highlighted it's a working trip for Jesus, conducting VBS, sharing the gospel, not a leisure holiday trip. It had been a wonderful blessing to fellowship with the brethren from Betania School and the blind brethren.

My role in sharing the watermelon story on Acts 16:31 has enabled me to spend time meditating on God's word, including the songs to be sung translating to family time as I rehearse the songs and story to my children. Even before the trip, I suppose my two young children have already benefitted, spiritually nourished and ready for the trip. We had wonderful family time together preparing the craft materials. To the AF team, I am grateful for allowing myself and family, including graciously allowing the 6 youths to come along too which is definitely a tremendous liability for logistics, transport, and daily necessities.

The good Christian fellowship had allowed us to foster closer relationships with the AFers, and also to the very cheerful and joyful singing of the youths. In fact from this trip, we are motivated to branch out to individual mission trips on our own, as we hear of the testimony of the AFers who had numerous mission experiences since their youth days.

The whole family was also down sick on the week leading up to the mission trip, each sequentially down with bad cough and fever starting from my youngest boy who was absent from school the whole week, and finally to my wife just prior the trip. Thank God for restoring everyone to good health. I had a cut too on my finger while preparing the craft, thankfully not deep enough to cause any serious issues.

The meeting with Rev Haposan is a blessing especially when we hear of his personal experience and commitment to God. The experience with Haposan's students, both from the Primary and Secondary Sessions have left a lasting pleasant impression on me; especially their friendly cheerful outlook and their amazing singing. I wish I had more time with them without the language barrier, which implies that I need to brush up on my Malay and Bahasa language!

It reminds me that everyone is precious to God and needs to know the gospel of Jesus regardless and that we need to make extra effort to reach out to them.

The ministry and fellowship with the Blind Folks is also very meaningful, since we do not come into contact with such folks on a regular basis back in Singapore. The sharing from Bro Francis was excellent from the 5 senses, to the 6th sense and finally to the 7th sense which is the Spiritual sense. We are all encouraged and challenged to draw closer to God spiritually.

The constant kind and patient sharing from Ibu Roska had also left a deep impression in my mind, to share a few:

1. Always have a few verses in my mind for gospel sharing such as Jn 3:16, Jn 19:30, Gal 2:20
2. Honest direct questioning to the children and making sure they understand with realistic questions.
3. The biggest jam is between our head and our heart – Knowing and not moving.

4. Singing everywhere we go
 5. Being creative with the games
- With Acts 1:8 in mind, surely we are encouraged and commanded to be Christ's witness not just locally, but beyond. This is a very valuable mission trip for me personally and I am very thankful and grateful to God, the AFers and Roska for extending their hospitality. Puji Tuhan!

By Sonny Loe

The 2013 AF Ex-Co first mooted the idea of a mission trip to Medan during Church Camp 2013. It did not materialize until 2015. This goes to show that men can plan all they want but if it is not according to The Almighty's timing, nothing will come out of it!

The recent mission trip to Medan from 19 to 23 March 2015 was one that I feel all participants have a sense of satisfaction; being able to minister to the primary and secondary students in Reverend Haposan's school through the Vacation Bible School program for about 300 of them. It was also an eye opener for most of us especially when we ministered at the Blind Ministry.

Considering that the group was rather large; there were 12 adults, 6 youths and two boys under 12 years of age, we were very much blessed with good health, strength and journey mercies in our travels in Medan.

I pray that what we taught during the sharing of the watermelon story, art and craft and the games played will remain in the minds and hearts of the students for a long, long time!

The group was also blessed with 2 generous organizations with their contribution of gifts such as colour pencils/sharpeners, chocolates, wafers and Oreo biscuits. The children and the school teachers not only received the physical gifts but most importantly they received the spiritual gift and from their facial expressions we can tell that they enjoyed both gifts very much!

All glory and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ!



Missions Awareness Seminar

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

On 14 March 2015, 180 Lifers and friends attended the half-day Missions Awareness Seminar. The theme was: Preparing Body, Mind and Spirit for Missions. The seminar provided useful information and insights for members who wish to join mission trips outside of Singapore.

Dr Clement Tan had been to a number of medical mission trips. He addressed the physical and medical aspects when preparing for a trip to locations which require members to take some precautions. Our local hospitals provide advisories on the various types of preventive vaccinations. Members are to comply with simple hygienic measures



and avoid uncooked food; such as drinking bottled mineral water and to avoid salad and food left in the open.

Mental preparation and managing culture shock was aptly discussed by Bro Lim Pin who had been to numerous mission trips to Indonesia, Cambodia and Nepal, to name a few. He provided scenarios of being offered food and drinks which may be appetizing to them, but not to us. For example, cooked spiders as delicacies! What would be our reaction and response? He suggested diplomatic ways on declining and yet not offending the host. He advised that members should not undermine and speak ill of the host country, such as its unhygienic conditions of food, surrounding areas and toilets. Instead, members should express praise for their beautiful country side, natural forestry, rivers and mountains.

Sis Chan Pui Meng and Sis Charmaine Low shared their personal experiences on their various mission trips to Indonesia (Batam, Libo, Medan and Nias), Cambodia (Kampong Som) and Thailand (Chiangrai). Their photo slides and video montages, with explanation were interesting and eye-openers. While the medical and dental teams treated their patients, concurrently, the Gospel would be preached to both adults and children. They challenged Lifers to go on mission trips, share the Gospel and serve the Lord.

Bro Tan Soo Kiang had led a number of mission trips. He shared his thoughts on the spiritual preparation and attitude of mission team members when embarking on God's business. He elaborated on three key spiritual aspects of Christian Mission: (1) Obeying (2) Sharing and (3) Relying, on Jesus Christ in the work of His Kingdom. He further encouraged all who are keen to participate in mission work to step forward and give of their best to the Master and enjoy the peace and joy that comes with it.

In wrapping up the Seminar, Rev Wong showed the world map and he shared God's Word from Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15 (And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature). He reminded us to be world Christian, not worldly Christians. Our God is a missionary God. He is the God of missions. So must his church! Take a good look at the fields; the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! (John 4:35). Rev Wong challenged the attendees to God's call to missions; "Here am I; send me"! (Isaiah 6:8).

After the Q&A session, the Missions Committee informed that there will be increased financial support for Lifers to go on overseas mission trips and to spread God's Word. Non-working Lifers, students or those serving their National Service will be granted financial subsidies of up to 100% for air and ferry travel cost. For Lifers who are working, their financial subsidies may be up to 50% of air and ferry travel cost. Common land transport and material for the ministry (eg craft work, stationery, gifts), support will be up to 100%. Accommodation and food costs will be co-paid by Lifers up to 50%. Priority will be given to first-timers.

Immediately after the Seminar, a group of youths was challenged to go on missions. A team of 12, led by Rev Lee Hock Chin, went on a mission trip to Cambodia from 27 April to 5 May. May the Lord move more Lifers to participate in missions!