

January 2016

Focus on

Missions



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Medical cum Dental Mission to Cambodia

A Medical and Dental team (MAD), comprising three doctors and three dentists, made a trip to Kompong Som, Cambodia, from 7-11 November 2015, to render free services to the people at Life University (LU) and Kompong Som Bible School (KBS). The MAD team partnered a Ministering team of ten Lifers, led by Rev Colin Wong

and sister Chan Pui Meng. Arriving LU at around 9pm, the team was housed in the new Level 4 residential quarters at Life International School Wing. Before retiring, the team met for devotion and Rev Colin Wong shared from Nehemiah 2:18 - God will answer prayers in an amazing way and will bless His work through the Team.

On arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport at 3.45pm, the Team was met by Rev Chivan and his wife from LU

Preparatory work started around 7.00am on Day 2 for the MAD group to organize their medicine and equipment for transfer to KBS. After breakfast

Up Coming Mission Trips

Jan 3 – Rev Patrick Tan to minister to combined service of Batam churches

Feb 7 – Rev Charles Seet to minister to Batam churches

Mar 6 – Rev Quek to minister to Batam churches (Anniversary of Tg Piayu)

Mar 17 to 21 – Rev Colin Wong to lead mission trip to Chennai, India

Apr 3 – Rev Charles Seet to minister to Batam churches

May 1 – Rev Colin Wong to minister to Batam churches

Jun 5 – Rev Patrick Tan to minister to Batam churches; mission trip by SS Youths

Jun 22 to 27 – Rev Colin Wong to lead mission trip to Medan



Medical cum Dental Mission to Cambodia

the Team left for KBS by truck provided by Rev Moses Hahn. After a short 20 minute ride the Team arrived at KBS for Sunday Worship Service. The Team presented a song item 'I Love Jesus, Hallelujah!' and Rev Colin Wong delivered the Sermon 'Walk with God Daily' from Deuteronomy 30:10-16 – encouraging all believers to draw close to God by our consistency in daily walking with Him. The Team commenced their respective work in three groups at about 11.00am – the medical and dental group, the pharmacy, and the Adults and Children's program where Bible stories were shared and songs taught to the children. This third group also doubled-up as clinical and support staff for the medical and dental teams. A group of 12 KBS students and teachers helped out as interpreters for the team. The team ended the day's work at 5.00pm. Around 110 adults and children came for medical treatment and about 50 people sought dental treatment.

After packing up, the Team hosted a dinner for Rev Hahn and three of his helpers.

Upon returning to LU it was discovered that there was a disruption in the water supply. Whilst waiting for the restoration of water supply the Team gathered for devotion by Rev Colin Wong at about 8.00pm. He shared from 2 Corinthians 3:9 on the meaning and purpose of Christian teamwork. He encouraged the team to continue to share and work together in our common endeavour to serve the Lord. The team retired for the night without water supply.

Water supply was finally restored at around 7.00am the next morning. After breakfast,

the Team proceeded to the 5th floor of the LU Administration Block to commence work. Dr Chin Sung, Acting Deputy President of LU and Ms Song Sin Ja organized the work stations. LU also provided 12 nursing student volunteers to act as interpreters and to assist in support services. Treatment work commenced around 10.00am and ended around 5.30pm. Altogether, about 90 adults and children sought dental treatment and about 40 sought medical treatment.



On the third night, Rev Wong shared from Mark 10: 45 – our Lord came to serve and not to be served. Whilst the world rules from top down, Christians work as servants to others. In 1 Corinthians 12, it is illustrated that we are all parts of one body in Christ, every part serving and working as a team. He encouraged the team to continue to work as a body in Christ even on such a mission trip. He also referred to Matthews Chapter 9 – we must

work with compassion just as Jesus did when he went from place to place to minister to the people.

On Day 4, the Team attended Chapel Service with LU Bible students and Rev Colin Wong preached on 'I Believe in Lordship Salvation'. The text was taken from Luke 14:25-33. He shared that a follower of Jesus Christ must take the way of the Cross. It is not an easy road requiring total sacrifice but He will go with us all the way as promised in Matthews 28: 19-20.

The MAD Team attended to 45 people for dental treatment and around 35 sought medical help. Concurrently that day, Rev Colin Wong conducted Bible lessons at LU on 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit' for about 54 Bible students from both LU and KBS. At the close of the day, each Team member was presented with a Certificate of Thanks and a gift from LU's Dr Chin Sung. In the evening the Team hosted a 'Thank You' dinner for Dr Sung, Ms Song, Rev Chivan and his family and Ponnarey for helping out in organizing this visit.

The Team gathered for a final night devotion by Rev Wong. He summarized the past few nights' devotional messages and shared a parallel in Nehemiah 6:15 – on the completion of our 3 day work in Kompong Som and the rebuilding of the walls at Jerusalem. It was a work for the Lord and the Team was encouraged to go back and share their experience with Lifers and to also encourage them to join in future mission work of Life Church.

The Team had an early start on the final day and left LU for Phnom Penh by coach.



Breakfast was taken on board. On arrival the Team took a short break for lunch and proceeded to the Airport for check-in and arrived at Changi Airport around 6.20pm.



We thank God for allowing us the privilege of serving Him through the Cambodia Medical-Dental Mission. Indeed the few days we were there, God has been working with and through us, just as we laboured next to one another. What a joy it was. God's abundant grace has once again, as always, seen to it that we had no lack whatsoever from the very beginning to the end of the Mission.

While the Cambodian Mission Trip 2015 may have ended, we believe it has opened our eyes to the new chapter and sense of mission long awaiting us. Therefore continue thou in the excellent things we have learnt and been assured of, knowing of whom we have learnt, and for whom we serve. Let us never cease praying for our brethren and the many untold millions in Cambodia.



Update on Missionary Chan Pui Meng

Thank God for the trip to Ratanakiri with Rev. Moses Hahn, Mark Heah and his wife, Helen. The journey took about seven hours from Siem Reap to Strung Treng, where we had a change of vehicle and then proceeded to Ban Lung, Ratanakiri. We also thank the Lord for sustaining us well though we missed our lunch on the first day of travel to Ratanakiri and then missed the breakfast on the return journey to Siem Reap.

At Ratanakiri, we visited four churches - one at Ban Lung, and three at different Jarai villages; the Lae Village, Sam Ker Village and Kung Village (about an hour drive from Ban Lung).

Ban Lung BP Church

The church is in the provincial town, Ban Lung of Ratanakiri, which is pastored by Pastor Ravi, a KBS graduate. His wife is also a graduate of KBS. They are supported by a Korean church in Korea. It has a congregation of about 25-30 youths but no Sunday School yet. Pastor Ravi's ministry includes teaching English Language to about 100+ youths with six other teachers. The classes are conducted in the evening.

Jarai Community

The Jarai tribe is mainly found in the highlands of Northeast Cambodia, Vietnam's Central Highlands, and Southern Laos. Traditionally, they lived in small villages. They are mainly animists but in the 1970s, the American missionaries brought Christianity to them. Currently, there are more than 100,000 Jarai Christians in Cambodia and Vietnam (Wikipedia).

Lae Village

Lae Village is about an hour's drive from Ban Lung. It is a smaller village as compared to Sam Ker Village and Kung Village. There is a primary school for grade one to grade three children but beyond that they have to travel to a small town, named Oyadav (about 10-15 mins. drive away) for higher grades.

There is no public transport (tutuk or motor taxi) available here, so almost every household owns at least a motorbike, which is the only means of transport to anywhere. If one needs to go to Ban Lung, one has to catch a bus from Oyadav. There is no guest-house or hotel available at the village.

There is only one church in this village, which is overseen by Boon Thean's father. Bro. Boon Thean graduated from KBS last year and since then he has been assisting his father to shepherd



Mission team with Ban Lung BP Church members. Pui Meng is kneeling, second from the right



Lae Village

the flock. His ministry includes preaching and teaching at the Worship Service, the Sunday School and teaching the English Language in the evening with another teacher. During weekdays, he works at his parents' farm for half a day.

When Boon Thean's father, a village chief then, became a Christian, he gave a portion of his own land to build a church. Subsequently, he has been pastoring the church till today. The church has a congregation of about 25 people inclusive of youths and a few adults but excluding the children in the Sunday School. The church was built with the help of a Korean Christian and another Christian many years ago.

We (Rev. Moses Hahn, Mark Heah & Helen, Bro. Boon Thean, and myself) had two brief meetings with the May Khom (the Commune Chief of that district) to make known our purpose of visit – to explore this place as a possibility to carry out the following tasks :-

- to share the gospel,
- to work along with the local church leaders (Bro. Boon

- Thean and his co-labourers) and to make disciples,
- to reach out to the children, youths, and ladies through other activities.
- and to provide minor medical assistance, if needed.

The May Khom has no objection to our objectives except we are not to force the locals to accept Christianity. He was happy and welcomed me to stay at his house. He has shown great concern for the children's education of his village.



Rev. Moses Hahn also spoke to Bro. Boon Thean's father on our proposal. He was very thankful and grateful to God for our help.

A Brief Observation

1. The environment of the village is clean and orderly; the houses are mainly built along a road.
2. We saw many ladies, youths, and children hanging around the church, or gathering outside their home on Saturday morning and afternoon.
3. Some of the female youths I spoke to after the Sunday Worship Service have not gone to school at all or have stopped schooling after grade 3.
4. The May Khom was very pleased to have us to stay in the village.
5. Understand from Rev. Moses Hahn that currently, there are about 4-5 KBS students who are studying full time from this village. They are sent by Bro. Boon Thean.
6. The youths, we spoke to were keen in learning and zealous for the Lord.

Update on Missionary Chan Pui Meng

Sam Ker Village and Kung Village

Both villages are about 20-30 minutes' drive apart as well as for Lae Village. They are bigger than the Lae Village. We visited both the churches and their local pastors who are also farmers. It was heartening to know that they built their churches without any external help. The size of each of their congregation is about 70-100 worshippers.

A Brief Observation

1. Sam Ker Village

We were able to speak to the Pastor of Sam Ker Village briefly, who began pastoring this church about 2-3 years ago after the previous pastor passed away.

- Initially, the church had about 300 worshippers but due to some issues it split and was left with about 100+ attendees.
- The concrete church building was built 1-2 years ago with no external assistance. The sanctuary is barely furnished with only some chairs, stools and the floor is not well maintained.
- The environment is not as orderly as in Lae Village.



Sam Ker Village



Kung Village

2. Kung Village

One of the youth leaders attended to us as his Pastor was shepherding his cattle.

- Currently, the church members are worshipping at the Pastor's house. They are in the process of building their church without external assistance. They work together to gather timber from the forest and stones from somewhere else to build their church.

- There are a number of cashew nut trees in the church compound, which can provide some support to the church from their harvest.
- There was no opportunity to speak to any other member of the church other than this youth leader.
- This church has also sent two of their youths to KBS for full time studies.
- Its environment is also not as clean and orderly as Lae Village.

Conclusion

I thank God for the visit to these three Jarai villages. It was very encouraging to know and observe the followings:

- In these quiet and sleepy villages God's children are working hard to build Him a place of worship themselves.
- It has also produced a handful of faithful youths to study at KBS – 5 from Lae Village, and 2 from Kung Village.
- There is a small group of zealous youths in the Lae Village, who desires to reach

out to their community. Unfortunately, we did not have any opportunity to interact with the youths of the other two villages.

- The potential of reaching out to the teens, youths, and ladies in the Lae and other villages is good, if we can work along with the local leaders.
- The May Khom is very supportive and encourages us to assist them to educate their village children academically and spiritually.

Where does the Lord want me to serve Him?

- I have been praying for the Lord to lead me to a village where :-
 - He is there, thus He will pave the way for me
 - a community that is open

to the gospel.

- a local co-laborer who is willing to work with my church which sends me, and who has the same mind for God's work.
- there is a ministry especially for the children, youths, and ladies.
- Lae Village seems to be a more favorable village for our ministry, if God is willing. Why?

The Lord has shown me in the followings:

- The willingness of the commune leader to receive us into the village and to assist them to educate their children.
- The freedom to share the gospel with the community.
- The readiness of the local church leaders to co-

labor with us especially Bro. Boon Thean who is a student of Rev. Moses Hahn. He is being commended for his faithfulness and modesty.

- A Primary School at the village vicinity gives us an opportunity to reach out to the children.
- The congregation is mainly made up of youths with a few married ladies.
- The Lord solves the temporary accommodation for me when the May Khom opens his residence to me since there is no guest-house or hotel available for a visitor.

Finally, I would like to go to Ratanakiri in late December 2015, if God is willing and with the support of the Mission Committee. The learning of the



Update on Missionary Chan Pui Meng

Khmer language ends in December instead of November, in order to make up for the lessons missed in October (trip to Ratanakiri and Pchum Ben Festival) and November - due to the Medical Mission Trip and Water Festival (about 3 weeks in total).

Learning and Practicing the Khmer language

1. I am still in the process of learning the subscript, and more symbols. It has not been easy to learn to read and write Khmer but I thank God for keeping me going. Next month, I will try to read the 'Listening and Speaking' book for foreigners in Khmer script instead of in Khmer phonetics.
2. I thank the Lord for enabling me to lead a few simple Khmer songs and conduct the bible memory verse in Khmer script with the children during Sunday School. Thank God for the children's patience; they were understanding and gave me time to speak slowly. Initially, when I taught them the song, "I'll make you fishers of men", they were silent as they listened to this foreigner's funny tone. Thank God that subsequently they were more comfortable with me.

Prayer request

1. Good health and strength to face the daily task ahead.
2. The ability to speak and read Khmer well.
3. Opportunities and boldness to testify for our Lord.
4. The preparation to move to Ratanakiri in December, if God is willing.

A follow-up to "Missions Awareness Seminar 2015"



Missions Awareness Seminar 2016

Theme: "Missions in Action"

Date: Saturday, 30 April 2016

Time: 3:00 – 5:45 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Venue: Beulah Multi-Purpose Hall, 10 Gilstead Road

All ministry and fellowship groups are encouraged to plan their programme and attend the Seminar.

Offering for Missions

Please designate your offering for missions to the "Missions Fund" instead of to specific mission station. This will provide the Missions Committee with the flexibility to administer the fund.