

January 2018

Focus on



Contents

- Reflections on the Reformation Conference 1
- Missions Report by Charlene Tan2
- Medical cum Dental Mission Trip to Batam5
- Mission Trip to Ratanakiri8

Up Coming Mission Trips

1st Sunday of each month – a Pastor from Life BPC will minister to Batam churches

April 15-18 – Chiangmai Mission Trip. Contact Dr David Cheong

May 10-16 – Ratanakiri Mission Trip. Contact Rev Daniel Khoo at dkhoo@lifebpc.com or Sonny Loe at loeprofile@gmail.com

June 3 – Mission Trip to Batam by SS students/teachers. Contact Sharon Seow at shiseow@yahoo.com

June 10 – Sunday School Missionary Sunday

Missions

Reflections on the Reformation Conference

Thank and praise the Lord for the opportunity to attend the Reformation Conference in remembrance of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th Century. We were given a comprehensive overview of the events of how, when and where Reformation was brought into it. Behind all these was God’s mighty hand shaping and unfolding His purpose to reform the Church. Dr. Michael Barrett, who was the main speaker of this conference, expounded on the five pillars of Reformation: Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Solus Christus and Soli Deo Gloria.

I felt that it is so necessary for us to be reminded of the Protestant Reformation and also of our Bible-Presbyterian roots as we are constantly facing the onslaught of what is dealt with in ‘The Contemporary issues of Worship’ and the Social Gospel in the churches today. It is not only a serious problem in the city churches but it is also prevailing in the village churches. Our young people must be informed and know what battles our forefathers had fought to stay on the right course. I really appreciate that this conference dealt with issues touching on Music, Message and Mission of the church. The village churches in my area (Ouyaday, Ratanakiri) are using contemporary music and dance to draw people, especially the young people, to the church. Many people think that the churches must keep in steps with the changing world and stay relevant lest they lose out. Many also have the notion that they would get some benefits or their ailments would be healed, if they believe in Jesus.

Though the evil forces are striving hard to gain control but our God is still on the throne. He is Sovereign. May I echo the words of Martin Luther:

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A Bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

by Chan Pui Meng

Missions Report

by Charlene Tan

I went to Cambodia with my sister Alice and her two children, Ruth (15 years old) and Joel (8 years old) from 20 to 27 Nov 2017. We served in various ministries started by Rev David Koo and Rev Moses Hahn. This mission report comprises two parts: (1) photos and (2) a testimony by Ruth.

Revs Koo and Hahn encouraged all Lifers to go to Cambodia to serve. In particular, Rev Koo needs teachers to train his teachers at Life School and Life University, and teachers to teach Chinese language, history and culture in the Chinese Studies department at Life University. Rev Hahn needs Singaporeans – teachers and non-teachers – who are good in English and/or familiar with the Singapore primary school textbooks to train his teachers who are using such textbooks in his school.

PART 1: PHOTOS

The photos here illustrate the various areas of service we were involved in. As the photos show, you can serve the Lord in many ways, be it teaching English, teaching songs and art and craft items, training the teachers etc.



1 & 2 - We conducted two Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Batrang Church (started by Rev Koo) and Chueng Ko Bo Church (started by Rev Hahn).

3 - We also shared the gospel through daily morning devotions with the primary, secondary, high school and university students at Life School and University. This photo shows Alice and Ruth speaking to the secondary school students:

4 - Alice and I also trained the school teachers, university lecturers, trainee teachers and Sunday School teachers. This photo shows me conducting a teachers' workshop for the school teachers and university lecturers:



5 - I taught the bible students at Kompong Som Christian School (started by Rev Hahn) on 'Teaching Methods of Jesus'. Below is a photo of some of the Bible students:



6 - We also prepared a special evangelistic programme for the trainee teachers who attended the teachers' workshop. This photo shows Alice sharing the gospel with them:

7 - We taught English to primary school pupils at Life School. This photo shows Ruth teaching English to Grade 2 children.

8 - Joel also served the Lord by performing a hymn during worship service:

PART 2: TESTIMONY BY RUTH NEO

It has been a most unexpected experience for me going to Cambodia this year with my family. This trip has been an extremely fulfilling journey for me, not only drawing me closer to God but also helping me to learn to depend on Him more. The mission field is not easy and many things can go wrong. But it was precisely during these trying moments that I had to stop and remember: I can't, but Jesus can.

This is my first mission trip and many things are totally new to me. There is no way to practise for the real thing and I just have to do it right away, be it standing in front of a big group of students and teachers, teaching them action songs or telling them bible stories etc. I would not have been able to pull through by my own strength. I needed to depend on God's strength to get us through!

During this trip, I learned to deny myself and think about caring for others and their needs. Back in Singapore, I have always depended on my mum for everything. I have everything I want and yet many a time I found myself lacking in joy. Material needs will never fulfil our deepest needs. Jesus is the Lover of our souls. Only He will satisfy. The Cambodian children have many unspoken needs, be they education or basic material needs. And yet they exhibit the pure simple joy of life.

I hope to go back to Cambodia to reach out to the children, especially with respect to their educational needs. There are simply too few teachers to cater to the children individually. I encourage all of you to come and join us on future mission trips! I am sure that you will not only grow more spiritually connected with God but also have a heart for God's kingdom and His children! The most important thing I learned from this trip is that it is never about us. It is always about Jesus. It is only now that I realise this. Praise be to God!

Ruth teaching art and craft items to the school teachers and Sunday School teachers at Kompong Som Christian School:



Report on the Medical cum Dental Mission to Batam

November 2017

On the 5th of November, a group of Lifers travelled to Batam for a one-day Medical-Dental Mission Trip. The team of 20 consisted of dentists, doctors and helpers who were split into various departments - Dental, Medical, Children's ministry, Triage and Pharmacy. The trip was a good opportunity for the team and the brethren in Batam to worship together and demonstrate Christian love to one another.

In the morning, the team attended Sunday Worship Service at Tanjung Piayu BP Church, which is under the care of brother Efendi. The team presented 2 song items to encourage the congregation - "O Yerusalem" and "I love Jesus Hallelujah". After which, Rev Colin Wong delivered God's Word from Mark 8:14-21, a timely reminder to the brethren that we should not forget God. The clinics commenced right after the service and we thank God for a steady stream of patients that we could administer treatment and dispense medicine to. The Children's Ministry team conducted Sunday School and a craft session for the local children which ran concurrently with the worship service and the clinic session.

The team then travelled by bus to Batu Aji BP Church, which is under the care of sister Paola. The Medical clinic was held in the newly renovated sanctuary while the Dental clinic and Children's Ministry were conducted in separate rooms. Thank God for sustaining the brethren and for His gracious provision for the Church!

The clinic session concluded and the team enjoyed a short time of fellowship with the local brethren before proceeding over to the Batam Centre Ferry Terminal for the return journey. In total, an estimated 50 patients received medical and dental treatment throughout the course of the two sessions. Due to the large turnout, our journey home was slightly delayed. We thank God for allowing us to make it just in time to clear immigration and board the ferry.

Our thanksgivings during this trip are:

- 1) Journey mercies in our travels
- 2) Provision of adequate helpers and translators
- 3) Smooth execution of programmes
- 4) Strength for Ibu Roska and Bro Efendi to coordinate our trip after returning to Batam that morning

We request you continue to pray for the following:

- 1) Good physical and spiritual health for the locals
- 2) God to guide and strengthen Ibu Roska, Efendi, Paola and Mikdal in their work and for more people to be trained to preach the gospel
- 3) Sustenance and protection of God's people in spite of religio-political unrests
- 4) The preaching of the gospel in Batam and Batak Land as well as the salvation of souls

We thank God for the conclusion of the mission trip and we hope that more Lifers would join us in serving the Lord in this area.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Galatians 6:9

Medical & Dental Mission to Batam



The team onboard the ferry to Batam



Dental Clinic at Tanjung Piayu BP Church



The team presenting song items to the congregation at Tanjung Piayu BP Church



Batu Aji BP Church



Pharmacy department at Batu Aji BP Church



Eye Clinic at Batu Aji BP Church



The sanctuary of Batu Aji BP Church where the medical clinic was held at

Children's ministry at Batu Aji BP Church



New Missionary Committee – 2018 to 2020

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Chairman | - | Rev Daniel Khoo |
| Vice-chairman | - | Dr David Cheong |
| Missions Field Representative | - | Dn Mark Heah |
| Members | - | Rev Charles Seet |
| | | Elder Sng Teck Leong |
| | | Lim Pin |
| | | Tan Soo Kiang |
| | | Francis Leong |
| | | Chia Poh Yok |

Mission Trip to Ratanakiri

December 2017

A team of 8 embarked on the trip December 13 to 20, transiting through Siem Reap. On the morning of December 14, the team set off for Ban Lung, arriving at 3.30pm with a lunch stop at Strung Treng. Pui Meng was already at the hotel waiting for us.

Owing to our failure to obtain a police permit for the team to run the program for children and youths at Le Village as well as the nearby surrounding villages, the team had to scale back the program. Instead of running a 2-day program for both children and youths, we had a one day program on Sunday catering only to members of the church at Le Village. We want to thank God that despite this adjustment, we still had about 60 children and 40 youths/adults.

December 15 and 16, which was originally planned for the program was replaced by visitations. We visited a total of 10 families; 4 each on first two days and 2 on the last day. The visitation program proved to be fruitful as one entire family of 3 and a infirm elderly lady prayed to commit their lives to Christ. Those were indeed joyous occasions and we give all glory and praise to our Living Saviour.

Among the families visited was that of the ex-village chief. He was friendly and receptive to the gospel message even though he was not prepared to make a commitment then. We pray that he and the other families visited would turn to Christ in God's appointed time.

During the visit, we had good fellowship with sister Pui Meng and the leaders of the church. We could see their zeal and earnestness in helping the team run the program with their translations of the various messages and participation in the various workshops.

On the morning of December 19, the team made their way back to Siem Reap and flew back to Singapore the following morning.

Thank God for preserving the team and guiding the team through the program. It has been an enriching and blessed experience.



The Mission Team: from left to right
James Koh, Pui Meng, Sew Hoon, Francis, Lit Miah, Victor Lee, Kim Siu,
Lilian Lee. Law Hoon

Prayer Items:

1. God continue to watch over Pui Meng
2. God grant her wisdom to work with the leaders to build up the church
3. The believers at Le Village would continue to grow in faith and knowledge of Christ
4. The leaders would seek after God and His help; that they may do what is pleasing to Him
5. Those families visited would turn to Christ for salvation
6. They may find favour with the new Village Chief



Children Program
(conducted in
room below Pui
Meng's house) on
the story of Noah.
Gospel given by Lit
Miah based on the
Wordless Book.





Youth & Adult Program
– consisted of 3 work-
shops (worship and
music in worship, Chris-
tian Character based
on the story of Joseph
and B-G-R) held in the
church hall.



Visitations – a total of 10 families visited.

Each host would receive a packet of biscuit from us and gospel given to every family.

Mr Yeoun, a Parkinson patient, would go to church when able





Mdm Mein, an infirm elderly lady



Mdm Sein, also infirm and sister of mdm Mein – prayed to receive Christ



Mr Soer, friendly and receptive



Mr Hwang (centre), cousin of the ex-village chief

Mission Trip to Ratanakiri



Bun Theoun's wife and her granny

Mr Tonh (3rd from right), strongly resisted the gospel

The ex-village chief (next to James), friendly and receptive

Mr Nun (the drunkard husband), wife Rher and daughter – all turned to Christ



Grandfather of Pirt (one of the church leaders), strongly resisted gospel