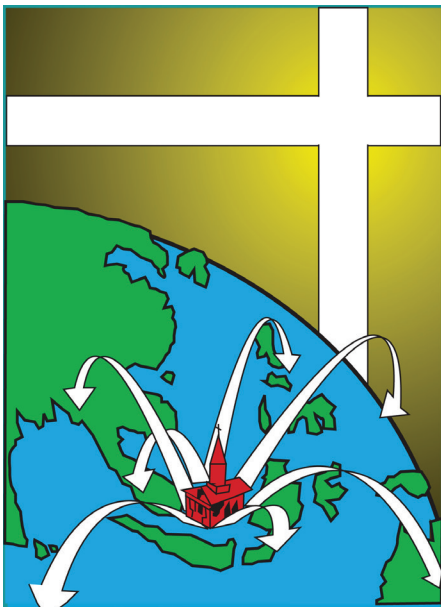


January 2020

# Focus on

# Missions



## Batam Mission Trip 2019

This is the fourth year that our Ladies Sunday School is serving the Lord in Batam. However, this year for the first time, we have the largest number of people going on this Batam Mission trip with 34 of us serving the Lord together in love and unity. Praise and thank God for watching over us and giving us the strength and wisdom to minister God’s Word to the children in the 3 churches in Batam. It was a refreshing and enjoyable experience for all of us where we served God with one heart and mind. The children encouraged us as they whole-heartedly sang the song we taught. They also listened to God’s Word attentively and memorized God’s Word in their hearts. All glory and honour be to God.

~ Leong Sow Mun

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It was with apprehension that I signed up for the Batam Mission Trip this year. Although it was a day trip, I was worried if I could take it physically. Fears clouded my mind, but I committed them to the Lord and He took care of me. Our group visited the Batu Aji Church. The children received us with much enthusiasm and warmth. It was a great delight to sing and learn with the children. I

wish I could communicate and speak in their language, so that I could get to know them better. What struck me most was their eagerness to participate and learn from God’s Word. It was a blessed time of fellowship amongst our church members. Thank you Roska, Mikdal, Effendi, and Paola for having us. Being present at their churches helped us to understand them better, so that we may know how to pray for them in a more personal way.

~ Lim Ping Ping

This mission trip offered the opportunity to minister to children in three churches in Batam, to bless the Sunday School with resources and to work with and to be better acquainted with other members of Life BPC. The challenge of not being able to communicate with the children due to language differences remains, yet their eager responses are their means of communicating to us on how the lesson has ministered to their hearts. They were very quick to commit the memory verse to heart – even though we left visual aids to help the children volunteers along, they chose not to use these visual aids when reciting the memory verse. The language barrier was also partly bridged with teaching the children an action song. Besides the Sunday School class, this trip gave us an opportunity to witness the infant baptism and reaffirmation of faith of the church members. The young men reaffirming their faith had to agree to a long list of commitments to Christian life and service, so much so that I thought they were being called to full-time ministry. It was encouraging to see more people joining us for the trip. The Lord enabled us to serve in various capacities to make the mission trip a blessed one.

~ Mrs. Lim Chiew Ping

## Batam Mission Trip

For the recent mission trip to Batam, I thanked the LORD for His guidance and providence — from the great planning by the organising committee to the fine weather we had that day. Helping in the Sunday school activity at Batu Aji church reaffirms my belief of the importance for children to be introduced to or to receive elementary instruction about Jesus in their tender years. We pray that when the children grow up, they will not depart from the path of obedience to God's teachings and continue to walk in the light as they follow Jesus, the 'light of the world' - this was the message in the memory verse (John 8:12) we shared with the children that day. May the almighty God always light our way with His presence.

~ Tan Yit Peng

A big thank you to everyone who planned and coordinated to make this event possible. The initial panic when we were lost on the way to Batu Aji was quickly dispelled when the children greeted us with warm anticipatory smiles. But nothing beats the witnessing of the reaffirmation of faith of the young adults joined by their parents. I am sure their Christian journey in this country must not have been easy. Yet their faith in God and the unwavering dedication of the local missionaries encouraged them to persevere. Let us continue to give strong support to these young Christians that they may continue to pass the light of Jesus to the next generation.

~ Sharon

This was my second mission trip to Batam. It started off eventfully as we got lost on the way to the church in Sagulung Baru, but I thank God we were able to reach the church safely with minimal disruptions. It was especially heartening to see the children's enthusiasm when they were taught the song and the memory verse from the Gospel of John. I was impressed with how fast they were able to memorise the verse. They needed only a few recitations before they were able to recite from memory, with hardly any mistakes. The song that we taught the children, 'He's Able' reminded me yet again of God's faithfulness and how He would guide me through life.

~ Janey Lai

Thank God for the opportunity to visit the Sagulung Baru church in Batam. We were well taken care of by Pastor Charles Seet, Sow Mun and the team leaders. Leading up to the visit, everyone practised earnestly for the song "Fill me now" in Bahasa which was presented at the Sagulung Baru church service. At Sunday school, the children were very attentive and recited the bible verse (John 8:12) in Bahasa enthusiastically. It was amazing that so many could memorize the verse in such a short time. We also witnessed infant baptism and reaffirmation of faith of the young men. The leaders, story tellers, song leaders, and Lina had worked hard behind the scenes. Although we were new to the group, friendship and kindness were extended to us. All praise and thanks be to God.

~ Mr. & Mrs. Lieu Ping Kong

This was our first time following Sow Mun to Batam on a mission trip. This year, she needed more helpers because she had to go to three churches for the Sunday School classes. We were divided into three groups. Our group was assigned to Tanjong Piayu church. Our leader, Amanda, guided us very well. Joanna was the Sunday School storyteller. She used a puppet to illustrate the story of how Jesus healed the blind man. She was indeed very good at storytelling. The students listened attentively to her. After the storytelling, we helped out the children in their handicraft. They had to colour the paper spectacles and insert another paper to cover the spectacles to simulate blindness. We saw the enthusiasm of the children in doing the handicraft. Our Sunday worship service was conducted by Rev Charles Seet. He spoke in Bahasa and he was very proficient in that language. He gave us a copy of the message in English to follow. We had left Singapore Harbourfront to Batam by ferry at 8.15am and arrived back in Singapore at 6.30pm on the same day.

~ Mr. and Mrs. Lee

This year, a 34-strong mission team consisting of the Ladies Sunday School and a few women from the Ladies Fellowship went for a 1-day mission trip to Batam on 4 August, led by Rev Charles Seet. We were to conduct Sunday School lessons for the children. We were split

into 3 groups, A, B and C, to visit the churches at Sagulung Baru, Tanjung Piayu and Batu Aji respectively. After the conclusion of the Sunday School lessons, we gathered at Sagulung Baru for the church service, where Rev Seet preached on 'The Work of the Holy Spirit'. Following this, we had lunch at Batam Centre before heading back to Singapore. The members have written testimonies of their experiences during the mission trip.

This is my fourth time going to Batam mission. It seems that I always fall sick during mission trips and this time round, I had a throat infection before going to Batam. It would have been hard for me to do a puppet show on that day but prayer and God's strength saw me through; I was able to compete the bible story despite my sore throat. God's grace indeed is sufficient! However, my

translator seemed to have problems translating my story. Half the time she was lost, not knowing which voice to translate. There were 2 voices during the storytelling - mine and the puppet's. I can't blame her for that as she is new to translating a story with puppets. While there is certainly room for improvement, we also need to acknowledge that God is in control.

At the end of the trip, due to some miscommunication, 2 of us actually missed the ferry we were supposed to take! But God is good; we managed to get 2 tickets for another ferry by paying an extra \$3 each and the ferry was just 20minutes behind the one we were supposed to take. Everything works out well with God in control. ~ Joanna

## Medical & Dental Missions to Batam 1 December 2019

Thank you for praying for the trip to Batam yesterday. The medical and dental mission team consisted of 12 members. This included a couple (Anthony & Hai Ean), a mother and son (Tye Cheh & Benjamin), a father and daughter (Keh Chuan & Rachel), and an entire family (Addy, Valerie, Alyssa and 6-year old Aaron) plus two Missions Committee members.

We met at Harbour Front terminal at 7 am and prayed together at 7:40 am before going through the checkpoint. The ferry was full to capacity because of the school holidays.



Group photo taken just after prayer at Harbour Front (Not in the photo: Anthony Quek)

Roska and her eldest daughter received us at the ferry terminal and we were transported to Tg Piayu. Efendi started the service earlier, and by the time we arrived, it was time for the offering. There was a total of about 80 worshippers including Roska's family. After the service ended at about



## Medical & Dental Missions to Batam

11:25 am, the team began to prepare for their first session of clinic work. Roska's children and a Danish friend helped out during this first clinic session.

Roska's husband, Mr Choi, sent me to Sagulung Baru but he had to make a diversion with a sharp left turn because a section of the road on the way to the church was newly concreted and cordoned off. Because the road was narrow, the left rear wheel of his car went off the road and into a small drain. Thus, I walked the rest of the way to the church. The service at Sagulung Baru was well attended with about 36 people, one third of whom were youths who presented a lovely song item.

During the announcements at the end of the service, Mikdal called one of the church members to come forward and introduce his fiancée to the congregation as they planned to get married in February next year. The young man, William, introduced Natalie who is from another church and took the opportunity to invite all the members to his wedding. This kind of announcement in church seems to be a Batak custom.

After the service one of the church members, Pak Simarmata, ferried me to Batu Aji where I joined the rest of the team which had already started the 2nd clinic session. They had packet lunch in transit from Tg Piayu to Batu Aji. The team saw patients from 3 churches - Batu Aji, Sagulung Baru and Petra BPCs. While there were less patients for the doctors at the second session, the dentists had many patients to treat and most of them needed tooth extractions.



Setting up the medical clinic



Patients registering for the clinic



Tye Cheh and her son Benjamin at the makeshift Dental clinic



We were pleasantly surprised to meet Elder & Mrs Sherman Ong and sister Poh Yok there. Elder Ong had preached earlier at Filadelfia BPC and Roska brought them to Batu Aji for a while before sending them to the Sekupang terminal to return to Singapore. They were in Batam to discuss plans with sister Ang Liang to train the teachers in her school – Sekolah Filadelfia Gracia.

At about 3:45 pm the clinic work was completed. It began to rain when the team packed up and left the church for Sekupang terminal. The rain had stopped by the time we boarded the ferry and we arrived at Harbourfront at about 6:15 pm.

In Christ,  
Charles

### Testimony by Rachel Loh

Going for the Batam Medical and Dental Mission Trip, I was filled with excitement and anticipation. I did not know what to expect as it was my first mission trip with the church. We had all gathered early in the morning with the dedicated group of doctors. They had brought along all their equipment to ensure that the free medical and dental clinics were held to the best of their abilities, although it cannot be compared to a real medical or dental clinic. In the first church we attended, Batu Aji, we joined in their Sunday Worship halfway and we could all hear their loud and joyous singing before we even entered the church. Churchgoers there were dressed in their best despite the heat as the church was not air-conditioned. I admired their attitude towards attending Sunday worship service as I take for granted the air-conditioning that we enjoy in church. While I accompanied my father as he tended to the patients, I realised how blessed I am to be able to receive medical help immediately as and when I need it. Many of them had waited for days while nursing a fever or struggled with chronic illnesses for months before they could attend the medical clinic. I really appreciate the chance to go out and meet and speak to the people from the Batam Churches that we often pray for. Although I did not do much and only assisted my father as much as I could, I hope to participate in more opportunities to reach out to people from other churches overseas. I thank the Lord for our journey mercies and the smooth running of the clinics in both churches.



Dr Addy Tan diagnosing a child's sickness.



Soo Kiang ensuring that the dentists have a supply of cleaned instruments



Dr Loh Keh Chuan being consulted by a member of Sagulung Baru BPC.



# Mission Trip Report Banlung and Le Village

## October 2019

In mid-July 2019, the Missions Committee approved sister's Pui Meng's request for a teaching mission trip to Banlung and Le Village Church. The objectives of this mission trip were:

1. Conduct catechism class for converts of Le Village.
2. Baptise the converts of Le Village.
3. Conduct Holy Communion for Le Village.
4. Conduct Marital Counselling for Le Village church married Christians.
5. Conduct the 3rd leader's training based on 1 Corinthians.
6. Visitation after Baptismal service.
7. Minister God's Word to the people at Sunday Worship Service.



The team comprised of Pastor Quek, brother Tiong Chin, brother Joel Seah and sister Audrey Lui. In end July, Session approved the budget for this trip and it was finally set for 19<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019.

The church had started praying for this mission trip in August of 2019 and the team could see God answering all our prayers. The answered prayers came in the form of God's providential care for the mission and team members.

For example:

- The required teaching permit for Le Village came a week prior to the team's departure. The permit was essential in light of the objection from the Village Chief to baptism. His unhappiness stemmed from not been informed nor being invited to the leader's training and catechism classes. Ratha, who is on good terms with the Village Chief, together with Sister Pui Meng and brother Samnang, visited the Village Chief. The brief meeting ended well. Le Village church leaders promised to inform and invite him for subsequent church events.
- The team also witnessed a motorcycle accident on the way from Siem Reap to Banlung. There was also another accident not too far away where a truck carrying sacks of rice overturned in the opposite direction from us on a narrow two-way road. These two accidents could have involved us as we were using the same road.
- On the team's return to Siem Reap from Banlung, there were few near misses, with the most dangerous one being an accident where a fuel truck suddenly swerved and almost collided with our van. Thank God that Mr Nai (the driver) was alert and avoided the truck.





- During the trip, there was an occasion where the students started impromptu singing which gave Pastor Quek the opportunity to start using his guitar and illustrate a lesson on church disputes and unity.
- There was an incident involving a heated argument between a married couple next to Reli's residence which enhanced the lesson on marriage.
- There was also an argument on whether the church window should be opened or closed which provided a good illustration on conflict as taught in James 4.
- The students took the lessons very well because they were taught with clarity by the team and the lessons were also well illustrated by the incidents.
- There was also the matter of the annual rice harvest. This once a year harvest is their rice supply for 2019/2020. Our Lord of creation gave the village, just the right weather to harvest the rice before the training. For Samnang, he was able to harvest half his rice crop, and be away from the field to attend the training. The second half was to be harvested after the training! The same happened to some of the youth, as they needed to work with their parents and made it for the Sunday baptism because they attended the 2 days catechism program.
- Finally, the best example of God's care and protection was a police raid on the training venue 3 days prior to the team's arrival in Banlung. The Friday raid resolved outstanding matters between our host, brother Reli and the police, so the mission team could teach in peace.



God is good and took care of the program and the team, and blessed His people in Banlung and Le Village.

This mission trip was a success as all the objectives were met:



- The leader's training program went like clockwork with students being punctual and eager to learn. Many of their questions were being answered and more importantly, lessons on biblical principles for practical Christian living were taught. The students were taught how to apply scriptures in their context and how to read and understand them through the inductive study method, covering observation, interpretation and application.



## Banlung and Le Village

- On Thursday, there was a youth who professed his faith in Christ after brother Joel shared the Gospel with him.
- Regarding baptism, the original number of catechumens was one. The team praises and thank GOD, that eventually 7 catechumens were baptised on Sunday. As of now, our pastors have baptised 21 converts in Le Village. Thank God that our church has this great privilege!



- Brother Tiong Chin preached the Sunday sermon and he learned much from feedback given by the team.
- The leaders of Le Village were able to organise the Holy Communion and the church reverentially partook of it.
- There was also a wonderful time of visitation to an elderly blind grandmother which ended with her professing faith in Christ. The other visit was to a church leader that had backslidden, and Pastor Quek exhorted him to trust in God and seek first the kingdom of God.



Thanksgiving - thank God for a very successful teaching mission trip because:

- There was no harassment.
- There were 2 very good interpreters.
- The lessons were clearly taught and the students understood the biblical truths.
- The students' eagerness to learn and their hunger for God's Word.
- The students' questions and doubts were being clarified.
- They were taught how to "fish", and not just being given the "fish".
- The students were committed in studying God's Word and to grow in obedience to Christ.

Le Village is a growing church of Jesus Christ and although they face persecutions, they continue to stand firm. This is a

young church with many first-generation Christians who are youths and have faced parental objections to their desires for baptism and in their obedience to the Lord and Saviour. They prayed for the softening of their parent's hearts and God heard their cries and answered their prayers. Though not all of those who had desired baptism were baptised, there were seven catechumens who obtained blessings from their parents.

God willing, may Life B-P Church continue to be a blessing to Le Village Church.





# Taiwan Mission Trip Report

## 8 - 16 December 2019

From the 8th to 16th December, 10 Lifers travelled to Taichung, Taiwan to embark on a missions exposure trip to assist and encourage Rev and Mrs Daniel Khoo in their service to the hearing impaired brethren in Liu Bao Church. The team consisted of 6 teens, 2 young adults, and 2 adults, specifically Deacon Leow Ban Tat, Amy Khoo, Shawn Lim, Sarah Tan, Joelle Heng, Jayson Loo, Woon Yeewern, Eliezer Chiang, Arista Loh, and Jotham Lim.

During this trip, we observed how Rev and Mrs Khoo served God both in the ministry to the hearing impaired brethren at Liu Bao Church, and also the main congregation in the church. We also assisted in a small way by preparing and performing skits for the hearing impaired brethren, to help bring the bible stories to life.

After our arrival in Taiwan on Sunday night, we were first introduced to the hearing impaired brethren at a Bible study session conducted by Rev Daniel Khoo on Monday.



Figure 1: Photo of mission team with Rev. & Mrs Khoo, hearing impaired brethren

At Liu Bao Church, the hearing impaired brothers and sisters assemble daily to attend Bible study sessions. Their passion and love for God really struck us. Even though they had to work all day, they made sure to turn up for the Bible study sessions each evening. They hungered for God's Word, with this desire to learn about Him as much as they could. They devoted time daily to attend Bible study sessions. Furthermore, they did not live near the church, but still took the time and effort to drive to church every evening without fail. Monday night's Bible study was on evangelism. On top of growing closer to God on a personal level, they were so excited to learn to share the Gospel, and to do good to those around them. Even though they were lacking, they were still so eager to give of what they have to help the underprivileged. We were really inspired by their passion and love for the Lord.

### Our work there

On the following evenings, we prepared and presented skits for them on various Bible stories, to aid them in visualising the stories. We spent the months leading up to the mission trip, rehearsing and preparing the skits, and the afternoons which we had available were used to fine tune them.

The four skits we presented during the trip were:

- 10th December: Peter's Denial
- 11th December: Judas' Betrayal
- 12th December: Stephen - the First Martyr
- 13th December: Dorcas - a True Disciple

## Taiwan Mission Trip Report

On the evening of the 10th December, we presented a skit on the story of Peter. The skit conveyed the message of how Jesus called Peter to be His disciple.

In Judas' story, we acted out his betrayal of Jesus, and then his regret. We brought out the main point that we should not betray our soul for the sake of monetary gains.

In the story of Stephen, we portrayed Stephen's fervency in preaching Christ, despite the crowd's growing anger towards his message. The main point we brought out was to follow Christ despite persecution.

On the final evening, we acted out Dorcas' story, and showed how her love for the poor and widows was an outflow of her love for Jesus. The learning point we brought out was to be like Dorcas, who quietly served people.

### Challenges Faced

Communicating with the hearing impaired was difficult. They were excited to talk to us but it was challenging to understand them and we had to always depend on Rev or Mrs Khoo to interpret. Rev and Mrs Khoo had an untiring labour of love for them. They would care for them and slowly answer all their questions.



Figure 2: Peter's Skit: Jesus calls Peter



Figure 4: Stephen Skit: The thank you scene with Stephen lying on the floor.



Figure 3: Judas Skit, Judas (right side) realising that he had betrayed the Son of God.



Figure 5: Dorcas Skit: Dorcas serving the widows at her house even though she was sick.



There was a particular brother who loved to talk while driving. The issue was that if we were to try replying to him, he would need to take his eyes off the road to look at our hand signs. It was extremely dangerous for all of us, but we could not bear to ignore him at the same time.

### What was encouraging

The teens were very keen to pick up sign language to communicate with the hearing impaired. They would try to make up signs that seemed logical, and also had fun trying to interpret what the brethren were saying. They were hesitant and afraid to try at first, but as they warmed up, they showed great desire to communicate with the brethren by learning new words and by approaching them.

Their hospitality was heart-warming. They stayed one hour away from the city, but would gladly drive us to our accommodation after church each night before driving home themselves. They were so eager to bring us around during the day, and would wake up at 6am just to come to our accommodation to pick us up. They went through much trouble to make us feel at home, and were always happy to see us. They would happily give us bags of fruits grown in their own farm.

### What more can be done / Prayer Requests

Pray that the hearing impaired brethren will grow spiritually and be able to teach and disciple others. They are still heavily reliant on Rev and Mrs Khoo to teach them, though Rev Khoo is consistently showing them that they can study the Word for themselves. Thank God that their hearts are eager to serve.



Figure 6: At a hearing impaired brother's farm

Pray for Rev and Mrs Khoo as the work is lonely and tiring — Rev Khoo not only has to teach the hearing impaired brethren, but he also has to stand in as pastor at Liu Bao Church. Pray that God will strengthen them and that there will also be more community support. Thank God for their love for the hearing impaired, and for their dedication to this ministry, despite the difficulties.

### Testimonies

#### Shawn Lim:

What I found most encouraging about this short trip was to see how quickly the teens picked up sign language to communicate with the hearing impaired brethren! Originally when we were preparing for our skits, we tried to use as little sign language as possible to convey our points, fearing that we might forget them. But towards the end of the trip, we were eagerly learning vocabulary to use in our skits. One of us even prayed in sign language, much to the encouragement of the hearing impaired brethren.

#### Sarah Tan:

On the first night we joined them for bible study, we saw the hearing impaired brethren singing for the first time. They made no sounds from their mouths, but all moved their hands in unison, signing the words and singing from their hearts! It touched me when I realized what it means to worship God with our hearts! Their great acts of joyful hospitality to us also inspired me to be more selfless to others, and it humbled me when I realized how unworthy I am to be chosen by God.

### Joelle Heng:

Thank God for the hearing-impaired brethren's reminder to us to pray whenever we were tired. Many of us were falling sick during the trip and there was a couple who encouraged us to pray more, so we will be less tired. Thank God for the faithfulness of the hearing-impaired brethren who were eager and always availed themselves to every opportunity to learn God's word. This really encouraged me to continue to be prayerful and to press on in my walk with God.

### Jayson Loo:

I really learnt a lot from this mission trip, not just from the different yet fulfilling ministry of the hearing-impaired there, but also from the lives of the hearing-impaired and Rev Khoo himself. I was intrigued by the way the messages were taught to the hearing-impaired and also how every bible study meant so much to them that they would come back zealously every night with their "homework" done despite their busy schedules. I was really touched by their generosity too, in how they showed Christian love to each other and even to us strangers. Rev Khoo's testimony and life story also touched me in showing his love and passion for God and His work of "teaching all nations".

### Arista Loh:

I found this mission trip to be particularly fruitful, for I was reminded that God's kingdom consists of many different types of people. Those of us on the mission team are privileged in comparison to the hearing impaired brethren, yet we are all one family in Christ. As family members, we can show Christ's love to one another.

In addition, I was grateful for the opportunity to hear Rev Khoo's testimony. The love and patience he displayed for the hearing impaired brethren was particularly touching.

### Jotham Lim:

After we acted out the Dorcas skit on Friday night, Rev Khoo delivered the message on how we must learn to be a true follower of Jesus, just like Dorcas. As a disciple of Jesus, we need to do good and give of what we have to those who need it, even though we may not have much ourselves. The hearing impaired brethren were so eager to receive this message. Even though they were lacking, yet they wanted to give of what they had to help the poor, and help others in whatever way they could. It humbled me to see how they were so ready to offer help, yet I have held back on many occasions from giving of what I have. Thank God for this reminder that helping others is one of the ways to glorify God.

## **Conclusion**

Finally, pray that God will ignite a deep passion in more people for the hearing impaired brethren in Taiwan, that more will step forward to serve in that ministry.

### Matthew 9:37-38

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Truly, let us pray that the Lord will send forth more people into the hearing impaired ministry in Taiwan, for the extension of His Kingdom.