

July 2021

Focus on

Missions



Missions Plan for 2021-2023

by Bro Tan Tiong Chin

The Bible records for us the prophecy that God will send His messenger who shall prepare the way for Christ in Malachi 3:1. Thus, God gave hope to the Jews in exile that He will fulfil the Davidic covenant.

“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Fulfilling the prophecy, John the forerunner of Christ, prepared the way of the people for Christ in Luke 1:17

“And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

The ministry of John the Baptist, per se may be over, but the work of being a forerunner; the one to prepare the way of the people for Christ, continues. We are now the messengers of today, we are to prepare the way for those who have yet to come to the saving knowledge, by pointing them to:

- The Lamb of God
- Who can restore our relationship back with God
- Who can give us eternal life, and
- The God Whom we must glorify and worship.

And then, before the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, He gave this Commission to His disciples, as found in Matthew 28:18-20

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Since that day, this has been the command that every true believer must obey. The word “teach all nations” means to “make disciples of all nations”. Thus, the mission of Life B-P Church is to glorify God by obeying this commission. Hence, we must continually go forth to preach the gospel and make disciples of Christ and equip

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Life B-P Church

Missions Committee

Vision and Mission

Vision:

To glorify God by enabling Life B-P Church to become a missions-oriented and mission-driven church through service (Luke 10:2)

Mission:

To inculcate in Lifers the desire to develop missions awareness and a passion for winning lost souls for Christ (Romans 10:11-15)

them for service through the faithful teaching of **All Can Pray** the Word of God.

The uncertainty of the present pandemic has changed the way missions is conducted. Previously, we could travel to the mission fields to promote the Kingdom of God. However, this is currently not possible with the restrictions on travel and on having face to face meetings. Nevertheless, we must obey the Great Commission, the gospel must still be told, and disciples must be trained.

Life B-P Church will continue to support overseas ministries and outreaches in Batam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand, as well as locally with our ERBC students.

Besides providing this support, it is also our aim to bring awareness to Lifers regarding missions. We will encourage giving to support God's people in the mission fields whose livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic, look after our missionaries' well-being and explore potential mission fields.

We pray that all Lifers will take an active interest in missions, for it has been said that "the church that does not evangelise will fossilise" (Oswald J Smith), for the church, which is the body of Christ, is to tell the world about Christ the Lord and Saviour, who is the Head of the Church.

Lifers can be mindful of these mission efforts by remembering this maxim:

"All can Pray, Most can Give, and Some can Go."

The support that Life B-P Church can give to missions can be summarised as:

- Continuing to promote prayers for missions as well as for the missionaries
- Promoting the giving of financial help, effort and time to promote the Kingdom of God
- Encouraging and providing opportunities for Lifers to engage in missions

"The church that does not evangelise will fossilise"

Oswald J Smith

From Colossians 4:2

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

Our missionaries need the prayer support of the church. We, as Lifers, are glad that in this aspect, prayers for our missionaries and partners have not been neglected. For prayers uttered have been made in sincerity and good knowledge of the activities

and their needs, and prayers can be uttered by all, from the youngest to the oldest.

As Paul put it to the Colossians, we are to continue in prayer for missions, and be watchful in it for the needs in these areas. Specifically, we are to pray for our missionaries doing the Lord's work amid the events and situations that continue to evolve in the mission fields, especially with the pandemic, economic and social crises.

Most Can Give

Beside the giving of our love gifts, Lifers can give of their time and talents, by getting themselves equipped with the knowledge of God's Word, such that Lifers will be able to rightly divide the Word of truth (2 Tim 2:15), and will be effective when they receive the call to go on mission trips. Lifers can also send their greetings to our missionaries by writing letters or emails via the Missions Committee.

**All Can Pray,
Most Can Give
Some Can Go**

Some Can Go

As full-time missionaries cannot be in the field permanently, we will have to consider passing the baton, when missionaries plan to return from their service in the mission field. Therefore, it is important that continuity be considered, and it will be preferable to train local disciples to continue the effort.

At the same time, we have to consider succession planning in our church. We must put in our best effort into education, publicity, prayers and let God make the call to His chosen ones. We

will invite missionaries to give talks during Missions Seminars, share their stories in the Focus on Missions and co-labour with our students in Emmanuel Reformed Bible College to go for missions after they have been trained.

We know that the pandemic did not happen by chance but is in the sovereign Hand of God. We can look at it as an opportunity for our faith to be further strengthened, for *“we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”* (Rom. 8:28).

It is our continuing prayer that the church heeds the Great Commission. May the Lord help us to occupy till He comes, as we continue to pray and to support our missionaries and partners-in-missions.

Cambodia Mission by Sister Chan Pui Meng

Since the Covid-19 infection struck the world last February, it has changed the way we live, work, travel, eat and others in an unimaginable way. Many countries have also suffered second or third wave of Covid-19 infection. The Covid-19 pandemic has created a lot of uncertainties and fear in life but there is always hope for those who fear the Lord. We can only trust in God for God is always with us. Let us pray for God’s care for those who are affected, the health care workers, as well as those in the front-line and leaders of all nations.

The Lord was good and gracious to Cambodia. From last February to February 2021, the number of Covid-19 cases was kept below 500 but in mid-March, Cambodia was hit with a sudden surge of Covid-19 cases in Phnom Penh. Rapidly within four months, the number of cases surged from 500 to more than 34,000 cases. All schools were closed.



Road block at the entrance to Le Village

In mid-May, Ouyadav District was struck with one case. Everyone was on the alert. Most of the villages began to guard the entrance and monitor the movement of their villagers. Our village was also on guard for more than two months too.

Some of our villagers stayed at their farm for a period till the situation was stable. Church services and activities were not allowed in church but it did not deter God’s people from worshipping the true and living God.

God’s people do not need to panic. King Solomon said in Proverbs 3:5,6, *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”* while we observe the necessary restriction measures.

In this crisis, God has opened doors for His people to continue to share His love with one another by trusting Him. We continue to gather together under my house for Worship and Sunday School. The Lord has been gracious to us unlike other village churches, they break up into small groups

Cambodia Missions



Worship Service
under my house



Sis. Sarim teaching the little ones



Bro. Orn's SS class



Ladies' Bible study



Art work after lesson



The room is dimmed so as
not to attract woodborer insects

worshipping in houses. We are reminded in Isaiah 41:10 *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”*

Prayer is a powerful weapon that God has given to us – it changes the one who prays and the people we pray for. A church without prayer is a lifeless church. During this Covid-19 restriction measures, we continue to meet under my house for encouragement and prayer.

Martin Luther wrote, “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

Learning has not stopped even though all schools are closed. From Monday and Thursday, some of our teens continued to gather at one of the students’ house to sing, learn English language and Bible study. Learning in a small group brings us closer and experience sweeter fellowship with one another.

During Jesus’ ministry on earth, He went from house to house to heal the sick, preach the gospel and comfort the distressed. Visitation to our church members and students is an essential part of our ministry. During this difficult time, we continue to visit and share God’s Word and love to the discouraged and lost. It helps the leaders to understand their members’ needs and also to strengthen one another’s faith.

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3). During the planting or harvesting seasons, everyone in a family who is able to work is needed at the farm except the little and young ones. Most parents would entrust the little ones (>one year) to the younger children (>9 years) or to their young nieces or cousins or even neighbour’s children to take care of them.

Oftentimes, some of our Sunday School children are entrusted to take care of their neighbour’s little ones. They love them as their own siblings. The children watch over them with tender loving care - pacify them when they cry, feed them



Conversation with one another is encouraged



Visitation with the church leaders



Visitation with the students



Cambodia Missions

when they are hungry, and play with them. They enjoy one another's company very much till their parents return. The eyes of the Lord are always guarding and protecting each one of them from harm and danger.



9 year old girl looking
after 1 year old boy



5 year old boy



10 year old boy

There is no greater joy than to be used by our Master for His work though there are disappointments, pains and difficulties. I would like to echo a hymn to you as it speaks to me always:

There is joy in serving Jesus,
As I journey on my way,
Joy that fills the heart with praises,
Ev'ry hour and ev'ry day.

There is joy, joy,
Joy in serving Jesus,
Joy that throbs within my heart;
Ev'ry moment, ev'ry hour,
As I draw upon His power
There is joy, joy,
Joy that never shall depart

There is joy in serving Jesus,
Joy that triumphs over pain,
Fills my soul with heaven's music,
Till I join the glad refrain.

Batam Ministries

by Bro Surya Kusuma

For the past year, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of people in Batam island, including the congregation members of the three churches, GAPPI Tanjung Piayu, Sagulung Baru and Batu Aji. While some of the adult members have lost their jobs, others have received pay cuts or experienced delay in salary payment. The students had to adjust to full or partial home-based learning arrangement.

Amid this situation, the church members are grateful for the jobs that they have and are still available. We thank God for His merciful protection of the church members that they have been spared from the virus infection so far. We continue to pray for the situation to improve in Batam and Singapore, so that our Pastors will be able to resume the monthly visits and conduct holy communion to the three churches.

God's work continues to be done among God's people and beyond, even during this pandemic time. Brother Efendi, brother Mikdal and sister Paola, our three missionaries in Batam continue to faithfully lead the flock and provide for their spiritual needs. They have been busy making the necessary adjustments to the weekly Sunday services as well as various fellowship groups. Thankfully, the three congregations can now conduct Sunday services and fellowship meetings in church premises under proper safe distancing protocols.

At the beginning of the year, brother Efendi explored setting up a children's ministry in a new housing estate about 3km away from Tanjung Piayu church. He is working with Ibu Nababan to pioneer the Joyful Wednesday fellowship to share the Gospel with the children. From this ministry, there was a family who decided to join the GAPPI Tanjung Piayu church. We pray for the continuation of this ministry to bring the gospel to the community beyond the four walls of the church.

Brother Efendi has been busy coordinating the procurement and distribution of relief packages purchased with support from Life B-P Church for the families of the three churches, Petra church as well as the teachers under the New Life Foundation. Each package consisted of basic necessities such as rice, eggs, sugar, oil, soap and biscuits. The third relief packages were distributed to about 130 families in April. The congregation members received the relief packages with much gratefulness and thanksgiving to God.

We pray for brother Efendi that he may make good progress for the preparation for his ordination amid his other existing commitments. We also pray for the Lord to comfort brother Efendi and his family on his father's homegoing in his hometown in Tanah Karo North Sumatra in April.

At Sagulung Baru church, brother Mikdal and the church leaders are planning for necessary renovation works on the church building, which include repair works on the roof structure, improvement on the fencing structure around the church compound and extension of the parsonage. We pray for wisdom and good stewardship so that the works can be done efficiently and with good quality, while ensuring the safety of the workers, church members, students, and the neighbors living in the proximity of the church building. May the work be done decently and in order, to the glory of God.

We are thankful to God for the return of the land title deed for Batu Aji church. The church leaders are currently making plans to build a new church building on the returned plot of land. We pray for

Batam Ministries

godly wisdom and discernment to make the right decisions on this matter.

We are planning to set up of church libraries for the three churches with the funds from Life B-P Church. Sister Paola will coordinate this work among the churches. We hope that the congregation members may make good use of these libraries to cultivate the habit of reading good books that may encourage them in their spiritual growth to walk closer with God.

We pray that the church members may continue to look to God for help (Psalm 121:2) and draw close to Him, our rock and fortress (Psalm 31:3) through the changing circumstances of life.



2nd Sunday service in May at Tanjung Piayu



4th Sunday service in April at Sagulung Baru



Joyful Wednesday Fellowship at New Neighbourhood (brother Efendi, Ibu Nababan and the children)



Ibu Wilda activist of Tanjung Piayu church distributed basic necessities to family of Ibu Silalahi and Ibu Nainggolan



Teachers from New Life Foundation giving exhortation to the family of brother Efendi to comfort them on the homegoing of brother Efendi's father



Current condition of Sagulung Baru church roof that is in need of repair

Malaysia - Missions Across Closed Borders by Sis Lilian Lee

Background

Evangel BP Church, KL is pastored by Rev Dr. Lim Yew Cheng. In the plan to establish the North-South Gospel highway on the Western coast of peninsular Malaysia, the outreaches in Malacca and Tangkak were started. Evangel also started Evangel Reformed Seminary (ERS) in 2016. The Lord called Sister Lilian Lee to serve in ERS in 2020 – the year of the pandemic! Here she recounts of God's faithfulness in taking the work onto a higher plan in unexpected circumstances.

The Leading of the Lord

Young people always asked me this question: "Aunty Lilian, how do you know that the Lord has called you to serve him in missions?" This is not an easy question to answer in a few words. Suffice to say there is a lot of prayers on your own and from the saints around. The confirmation often comes after you have taken the step of obedience.

The year 2020 started with a lot of excitement as I looked forward to relocating to Kuala Lumpur to serve at Evangel Reformed Seminary (ERS). But that was not the plan of God. A stubborn cough, started just after the Chinese New Year, turned out to be mycoplasma. This cough prevented me from leaving as planned. The cough finally went away but that very evening when I was re-planning with Pastor Charles Seet my journey up north, the news came that Malaysia has closed its borders! The Lord's leading cannot be clearer than that!

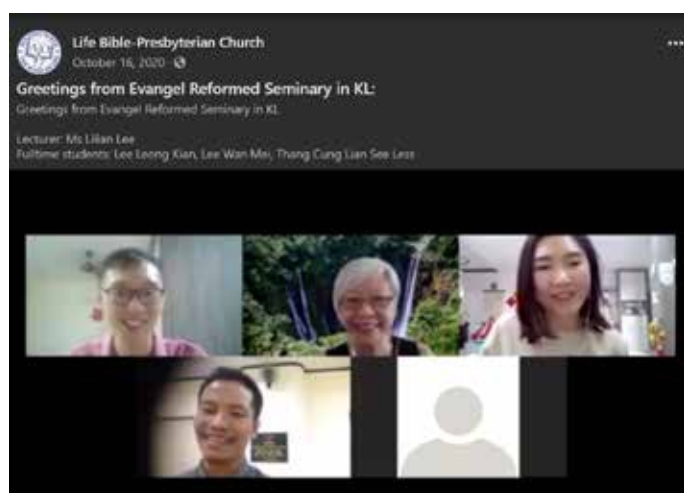
It was discouraging to watch my fellow missionaries returning to their bases – Pastor Daniel Khoo to Taiwan and Sis Chan Pui Meng to Cambodia; and I remained at home. The Lord however did not waste any time for He quickly prepared the ground for me. My first introduction to online teaching was at Life University, Cambodia where I taught Business English to a Year 2 class. It

was very challenging to teach using the Zoom platform. The difficulty was compounded when the students were unable to turn on their video because their bandwidth did not allow it: if they turned on their video, they could not hear me. At the end of the course, I didn't even know what my students looked like. The whole experience however was rewarding because I learned to use the accompanying tools vital to online classes. In addition to Zoom, I used PowerPoint slides, Google Forms and Google Classroom. There were good opportunities for missions because in teaching English at a Christian university, you can talk about the Lord when you want to teach vocabulary for example. I also had guests dropping in – there was an occasion I invited Sis. Joelle Heng and she shared with the class her testimony of God's faithfulness. The students enjoyed her visit because she was of the same age as them. I marvelled at how the Lord can enable us to make good use of whatever is available in our service to Him.

Meanwhile, I was attending prayer meetings and worship with Evangel BP Church, KL – all from afar and online. Everyone's hope was that the lockdown would soon be over and the borders would re-open. ERS waited for that day, and for most of 2020, classes were suspended.

The first ERS online class: Writing Theological Papers

After months of waiting, the first ERS online class was run in October 2020. The class was for three students: Lee Leong Kian and his sister Lee Wan Mei as well as a student Thang Cung Lian from Myanmar.



The course essentially was on research and research writing. The skills acquired from the Life University experience transferred easily here. The key difficulty was in preparing the course notes which were being written even as the course was being taught.

Semester 2 Online Teaching at ERS

In January 2021, with no end to the pandemic in sight, ERS restarted classes full swing – all online. Eight modules were scheduled, and the students were very happy to see the packed programme because the school was closed for many months. By this new semester, the Lord had increased the class size to five, adding Eld Jeffrey Foo and Dn Koh Pek Eng to the class. Both men had just retired and straight away, they joined the seminary. Praise the Lord for their love and commitment to the Lord and His Church!

The system of the online classes is hybrid. As the faculty were unable to enter Malaysia, they taught from this side of the Causeway using Zoom. The students, however, were expected to report to ERS. In the very first week of the semester, this pattern was disrupted as Malaysia introduced a stricter Movement Control Order (MCO) that did not allow inter-state travel. This means that the students Leong Kian and Wan Mei from Tangkak were unable to enter KL and they had to login from Tangkak for their lessons.

The practice of having the students assemble physically at the seminary for their lessons has merits. It encourages camaraderie among the students as they interact and support one another. This is after all, a seminary and not just an academic set-up. Rev. Dr. Lim Yew Cheng was the only faculty member who could physically be there with the students. As I watched his class lesson over zoom, it was very clear to me that the rapport between teacher and students was very strong. I am sure the learning environment was richer because of this. Truly, the sheep knew their under-shepherd's love and care for them.

It was a privilege for the class to send greetings to Life Church on their 70th anniversary. Here we have a photo of the video made from our zoom classroom.

With the digital platform, it allows for many more of the church members to come in for the night classes. It was very heartening to see the number going up to 30 from these small churches of Evangel in KL, Tangkak and Malacca. Sometimes, there were drop-ins from Australia and Singapore, and even Cambodia. The original intention of the seminary in training men and women of faith far and near indeed has gone beyond national boundaries, even across closed borders! The psalmist wrote in Psalm 18:



*Pastor Charles taught The Old Testament Poetic Books.
Thank God many church members were
able to attend the evening classes.*

²⁹ For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

³⁰ As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

All who trust in the Lord will experience this wonderful leaping over walls! His way is in fact perfect! To the glory of God!

Challenges of Serving from a Distance

The staples of prayer and a commitment to love those whom you are ministering to – these are needful whether you minister in-person or digitally. As God gives the opportunity, we need to be fervent in all the things He gives into our hands to do. It remains a very difficult time for everyone because of the pandemic – even the vaccination does not give full protection from the virus. Our lives are truly in His hands, and we must follow through all that our Sovereign God intends for us in spite of all adversity. May the Lord find us faithful.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the Lord to equip the students for the ministry that He has intended for them.
2. Pray for the Lord to raise up many more, especially among the young people, to join the seminary as students.
3. Pray for faithfulness in serving the Lord in the ministry to which the Lord has called me.
4. Pray for the Lord to heal the land of Malaysia: COVID cases are high especially in Selangor; pastoral visits to Tangkak and Malacca are impossible at the moment.
5. Pray for Pr Yap Kim Chuan to improve in his condition after the stroke.

Missions Seminar 2 Oct 2021: Pandemic – Crisis or Catalyst for Missions?

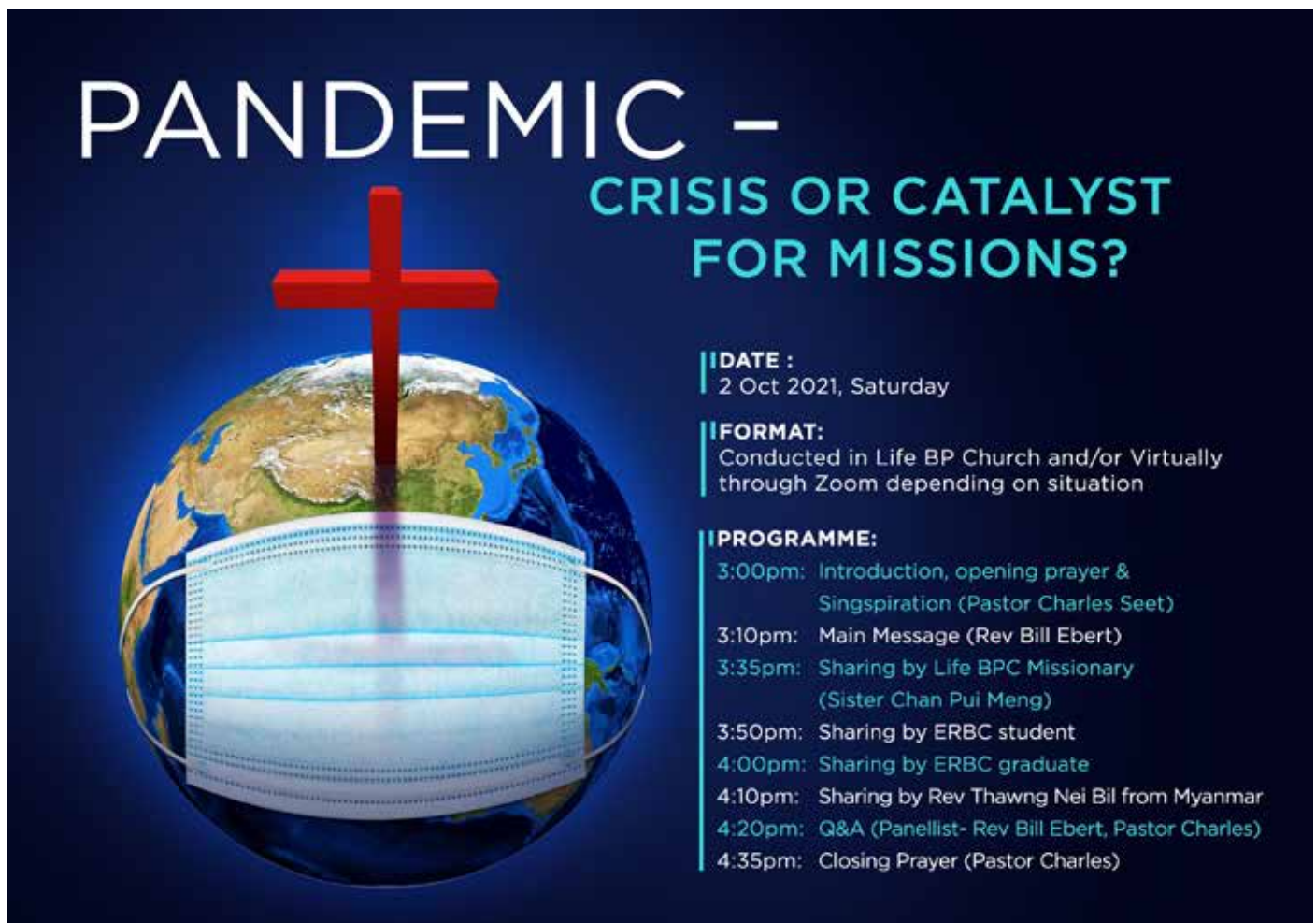
by Dn Koh Lip Hoe

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global crisis that has turned the world upside down. All sectors in the world are affected. Various industries have been battered and economy suffered as a result. Strict travel restraints have paralyzed travel for leisure, business, and in particular, mission work.

However, mission work must go on even in this pandemic. We must relook, rethink, reset the traditional way mission work has been done and how we may continue to share the Gospel and continue mission work by other means. This crisis has catalyzed novel solutions to challenges brought about by the pandemic. It remains unpredictable and there is no certainty how long this pandemic will last. The post-pandemic world will not be the same.

We have invited Rev Bill Ebert, an American Missionary in the Philippines to deliver the main message. There will also be sharing by ERBC student and graduates on how the health crisis has affected them and whether it has facilitated or hindered the work of bringing souls to Christ. The seminar is about 1.5 hrs duration. It will be held in Life BP Church and/or virtually.

It is hoped that the seminar will help give a better understanding of the challenges in Missions brought about by the crisis and how we may support Mission work and missionaries through prayer and other means.



**PANDEMIC –
CRISIS OR CATALYST
FOR MISSIONS?**

DATE :
2 Oct 2021, Saturday

FORMAT:
Conducted in Life BP Church and/or Virtually
through Zoom depending on situation

PROGRAMME:

- 3:00pm: Introduction, opening prayer & Singspiration (Pastor Charles Seet)
- 3:10pm: Main Message (Rev Bill Ebert)
- 3:35pm: Sharing by Life BPC Missionary (Sister Chan Pui Meng)
- 3:50pm: Sharing by ERBC student
- 4:00pm: Sharing by ERBC graduate
- 4:10pm: Sharing by Rev Thawng Nei Bil from Myanmar
- 4:20pm: Q&A (Panellist- Rev Bill Ebert, Pastor Charles)
- 4:35pm: Closing Prayer (Pastor Charles)