

July 2023

# Focus on

# Missions



## Batam Medical & Dental Mission 31 March - 2 April 2023

### Overview

The Batam Medical and Dental mission trip was held from 31 March to 2 April by a group of 32 people comprising a diverse mix of people from Life B-P Church and students from NUS Faculty of Dentistry. The team was led by Brother Nicholas Lim, supported by a small group of youth and adults. Together, they ministered to many people in a total of seven locations: Filadelfia Gracia Sekolah, Efata Christian School, Filadelfia BP Church, Todak Island, Tanjung Piayu School, Tanjung Piayu Church, and Batu Aji Church.

### Day 1: Friday, 31 March, Dental Ministry to Filadelfia Gracia Sekolah and Efata Christian School

In the early hours of the morning, 23 team members departed for Batam. Upon arrival at Filadelfia B-P Church, the team commenced the packing of goodie bags and dental kits from the goods pre-ordered from Tokopedia.

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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)



*Packing goodie bags at Filadelfia Church*

## Batam Dental & Medical Mission

After a short lunch, the team broke into two groups, with one ministering to Filadelfia Gracia Sekolah and the other to Efata Christian School. Each team conducted a dental outreach concurrently with a children's ministry at the schools. The kids went through a simple but thorough dental check-up, applying vitamin (fluoride) where needed and oral hygiene education. While waiting to get their teeth checked, the children's ministry team led the students in a time of singspiration. We were very touched by their loud, heartfelt singing and willingness to participate by doing actions for each song, even if they were not very familiar with it. The dental team could even hear the children's voices from a few rooms away!

The team at Efata also had the privilege to play simple games with some of the students after their teeth checkup, which cultivated friendliness between the students and them. Although this programme lasted for four hours, those hours flew by in the blink of an eye as both teams were fully occupied with ministering to the students, both spiritually and physically.

During dinner, Sister Ang Liang shared her wonderful testimony of how the Lord called her to serve and how she responded by dedicating her life to Him in her early twenties. She is truly an amazing example of being a faithful servant of God! It also reminded the team of their own reasons of why they had embarked on this trip in the first place, prompting them to take time to reflect on their service and on the events of the first day.



*Dental outreach at Efata*

### **Day 2: Saturday, 1 April, Todak Island, Filadelfia BP Church and Tanjung Piayu School**

On the second day, nine more members of the medical team arrived in Batam where the team gathered in full strength at Filadelfia church. This time, they would split into three teams and ministered to Todak Island, Filadelfia Church and Tanjung Piayu School. The team that went to Tanjung Piayu School led morning chapel, and conducted dental outreach and children's activity. At Filadelfia Church, the medical, dental and eye clinic ministry were conducted. Dr Hendra Loy also gave a dental talk to the patients who were waiting for treatment.



*Long registration queue to see the doctors and dentists*

Meanwhile, the island ministry team assembled their logistics and prepared for a 15-min pompong ride to Todak Island. Since this was the first time the mission team was ministering to Todak Island, the team's objective was to touch base with the locals and understand the needs. God was faithful in providing good weather and smooth seas. Upon arrival, the team introduced themselves to the islanders and began the programme. It consisted of a short sharing of the gospel, followed by a time of craft and oral hygiene education. The team was

pleasantly surprised that the older children and even some adults were excited to join in the singing, crafts and gospel bracelet making. Truly, the gospel is applicable for all age groups, and is powerful to change the hearts of all those who hear.



*Arrived safely at  
Todak Island!*

*Children and adults alike,  
all participating in the activities  
and crafts we had planned.*



After grouping back from their respective venues, the team enjoyed a sumptuous lunch with a wide array of fresh seafood. The team was also blessed with a magnificent view of the great blue sea from the restaurant, reminding us of God's eternal power and character revealed through His creation. After lunch, some of the team members took a tour around the Filadelfia elementary school and orphanage compound, which were just beside each other. A new building had been erected in the school compound that had been under construction during the mission team's last visit in 2022. It was truly amazing to see how God had blessed Elder Ady's efforts to complete the expansion project and increase capacity for the growing student population, through the help of his team and generous offerings received.

In the evening, the team returned to Filadelfia Church for Youth Missions night when youths from five BP churches in Batam gathered for a time of praise, hearing God's Word, and dinner. The team had the privilege to present two song items, "Ada Satu Sobatku" ("There is one loyal Friend of mine") and "A Servant's Heart", in the spirit of missions and service.



*The newly-built wing of the school compound, adorned with beautifully painted murals.*



*The team presenting the song items at Missions Night.*

Elder Clement gave a short devotion on Matthew 28:19-20 about being bearers of the good news as Christ's servants, translated by Sister Roska. This was followed by a testimony given by one of the team participants, Celine. The day ended with a fellowship dinner where the team bonded with the local church members over delicious food.



*Elder Clement gives a devotion, translated by Sister Roska*



*Missions Night dinner at Filadelfia Church*

### **Day 3: Sunday, 2 April, Tanjung Piayu, Batu Aji Church and Filadelfia Orphanage**

On the final day, the main body consisting of the medical and dental team attended the Sunday worship service at Tanjung Piayu Church. Some of the hymns were familiar tunes, such as "Hanya Oleh Darah Yesus" ("Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"). Rev. Charles Seet gave a Palm Sunday message about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem in Bahasa, with English notes provided to the mission team. After service, the team started their medical and dental ministry for the church. Many of the locals had long-sightedness, but thank God the team brought more than sufficient long-sighted lenses and spectacle frames to treat all of them!

After outreach at Tanjung Piayu, the team immediately proceeded to Batu Aji Church (Gappi Kav Lama), eating a quick packed lunch on the bus en route, to conduct another session of medical and dental ministry. The members of both churches gladly went for the screenings and engaged with us warmly. The team was grateful for the opportunity to minister to the church members' physical needs, and looked forward to subsequent missions with much eagerness to continue the ministry.



*Ready to begin dental clinics at Batu Aji!*



*Conducting eyesight tests*

Concurrently, the other team headed to Filadelfia Orphanage for a time of fellowship with the children there. The team also brought the orphans to a nearby mall for a time of buying gifts for them. Much to the team's surprise, the orphans also offered to buy them gifts, and the team left the orphanage with their hands full of gifts and their hearts filled with love. While the team went to Batam to minister and give love, they also received much love in return. Indeed, God's love was manifest throughout the trip. Both teams then met back at the ferry terminal and headed back home to Singapore.

Though the team faced a few setbacks and unexpected situations, God was always in control and the team could see and testify of God's sovereign hand working throughout the trip, allowing them to minister to everyone He had placed in the team's path. The team saw about 34 eye, 86 medical and 80 dental patients in total during the trip. The team was blessed with experiencing God's power working through them when sharing the gospel and catering to both physical and spiritual needs of the people in Batam. The two non-Christian dental students who joined the trip attended the Exploring Christianity course afterwards, a testament of God's love and grace that they experienced first-hand during the trip. While the trip has ended, there is still much to be done for the Lord's harvest. It is still plenteous, yet the labourers are few (Matt 9:37-38). There are still many lives that are yet to be touched by the Gospel. Our prayers are for the continued support of both spiritual and physical needs of the Batam people, and the growth of the churches there.



*Combined Team Photo on Day 2*

# Mission Trip to Cambodia 12-19 April 2023

*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:15*



*The mission team at Changi Airport*

We praise and thank God for guiding the mission team to complete our trip to Ban Lung and Le Village in Ratanakiri Province in Northeast Cambodia on 12-19 April to conduct a youth seminar on The Purity of Life by Rev Dan Ebert III, Sunday School and Sunday worship service with the holy communion conducted by Pastor Quek Keng Khwang.

## **Preparations**

Due to travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, Life B-P Church last sent a mission team to Cambodia in 2019, and in Dec 2020, we could only provide e-training on the topic of “What is a Healthy Church”. Hence, it was with great expectations that the mission team comprising Rev Quek Keng Khwang, Dn Mark Heah, Helen Heah, Victor Lee, Jane Koh and Alvin Chow started preparing for the mission trip in earnest.

Sis Chan Pui Meng suggested that we visit Ban Lung the week after Easter during the Khmer New Year, so that her students could attend during the school holidays. It was indeed God’s timing as we were able to book the air tickets, hotel accommodations and land transport smoothly.

However, we were also reminded that COVID was still around as the number of infections in Singapore surged in the weeks before our departure. Thank God, the mission team members were healthy and there were no travel restrictions in Cambodia for Singaporeans. We were able to visit Cambodia as planned.

Sis Pui Meng also had to apply for the permit from the authorities to use the venue for our meetings, and although the first permit was rejected because of a technical problem, she was able to obtain the permit with the help of bro Bunnarith and his wife. All glory to God for helping us to get the permit from the authorities and we are grateful to Pastor Charles Seet and all the brethren who prayed with us.

On Wednesday morning, we arrived early at the airport for the short flight to Cambodia and we cleared immigration and customs in Siem Reap without any issues. Our driver Sithor picked us up at



*Sis Puimeng and the students from Le Village*

the airport and we checked into the hotel. The next morning, we set off at 6.45am on a long drive to Ban Lung and arrived on time at 3pm. Then the driver went to fetch some students from Le Village to Ban Lung. Some of the students arrived earlier that day.

The Khmer New Year usually falls on 13 or 14 April and marks the end of the harvest before the rainy season. We saw how the people celebrated on the streets by splashing water on passing vehicles and pouring water on one another, which symbolises cleansing and blessings.

### Youth seminar on The Purity of Life

The youth seminar was held over two days on Friday and Saturday. Our aim was to share God's word simply with the youths and exhort them to obey God's moral law in the Ten Commandments and to walk close to the Lord.



*The mission team at the meeting venue in Ban Lung*

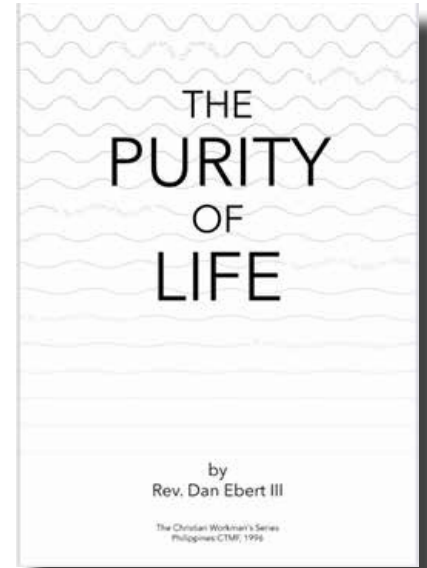


*Bro Victor Lee, Bro Bunnarith and his wife Ratana*

## Mission Trip to Cambodia

The mission team had prepared our hearts to seek the law of the Lord (Ezra 7:10) and teach eight lessons based on The Purity of Life book:

1. The Battle of God's People and the Principle of the One True God
2. The Principle of the Invisible God
3. The Principle of the Guarded Tongue
4. The Principle of A Day of Rest and Worship
5. The Principles of Marriage and the Family
6. The Principle of Fidelity
7. The Principle of the Sanctity of Life
8. The Principles of Private Property and Contentment



Pastor Quek also provided some additional materials from the Life B-P Church catechism class on the Ten Commandments. We kept the lessons short and simple, so that they could be easily interpreted into the Khmer language and understood by the students. Sis Pui Meng introduced each mission team member to the students and we were pleasantly surprised that they could remember us from previous mission trips to Le Village.

Thank God for the interpreters – pastor Ravi, bro Ratha and bro Bunnarith who availed themselves to serve the Lord. The team shared some practical applications and illustrations and simple games to help the youths to understand the lessons better. We thank God that the youths were attentive to the lessons, despite the heat and humidity in the afternoon, and they read aloud the Bible verses in Khmer and were able to understand the lessons.





The students had asked to visit the Kachanh waterfall near Ban lung after the first day of lessons and we enjoyed the beautiful scenery and warm fellowship with one another.



## Mission Trip to Cambodia

We started the second day earlier, so that we could finish the lessons before 3pm and the youths could return to the village before it got dark. Thank God for their encouraging testimonies and thanksgiving. We had a good Question and Answer session to wrap up the seminar.

After the seminar ended, the driver fetched the mission team to our hotel. Shortly afterwards, there was a big storm and the driver encountered strong winds and saw fallen trees when he sent the youths back to Le Village. God is merciful and provided safety for the driver and youths.

### Sunday School and Sunday Worship

Early Sunday morning, we praise and thank God that we could go to Le Village to worship the Lord and we were warmly greeted by the brethren. For Sunday school, Dn Mark Heah and sis Helen taught the class of older students on Joseph's temptation (Gen 39) and bro Victor and sis Jane taught the younger children on Jesus feeding the 5,000 (Matt 14:13-21), and the students did some art and craft and made their own gospel bracelets.



*Teaching Sunday School at Le Village*



The worship service started at 8.30am and around 50 brethren, from the elders to the youngest toddlers, attended. Pastor Quek preached the sermon on "Because He Lives" (John 14:19) and conducted the Holy Communion assisted by Bro Samnang. The mission team presented a song item "Because He Lives" in Khmer and English. The youths asked for another song in mandarin and bro Victor and sis Jane sang "一件礼物" impromptu. Afterwards the youths presented a song item in Khmer. We had our fellowship lunch together after service. We thank God for the warm fellowship with the brethren and they gave us some large mangoes and fruit that were grown there. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1.



In the afternoon, the mission team visited Ratanakiri Love Church and taught Sunday school on “David defeats Goliath” (1 Sam 17) to five children, and the lesson was that they should trust in the Lord and not be afraid. We also prayed with Bro Ratha for God’s will to be done, as the church has applied for a licence and the regulations required at least 50 members to form a church.



*Mission team visited Ratanakiri Love Church and taught Sunday School*



## Mission Trip to Cambodia

### Visit to Kampong Plouk and return to Siem Reap

Thank God that He enabled the team to complete its mission in Ban Lung and Le Village over three days. On Monday, the team drove back to Siem Reap and along the way we visited Kampong Plouk “floating village”, which is about an hour by car from Siem Reap. The houses in the village are built on stilts as the water level of Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, can rise up to six metres during the rainy monsoon season in Nov, but it was the dry season in April and the boats could not float along the river. We could drive around the village and spoke to some of the locals, including a woman who said she was a Christian and worked at the village church (pictured below).



### Thanksgiving and prayer requests

1. Praise and thank God for the two wonderful days of learning God's Word with the mission team led by Pastor Quek.
2. Praise and thank God for the Sunday Worship Service at Le Village Church and the preaching of God's word by Pastor Quek and the serving of Holy Communion to the believers.
3. Thank God for the encouraging testimonies from the Le Village believers - clear understanding of the Ten Commandments and how to pray for the right future partners.
4. Thank God for journey mercies and the safe return of the mission team to Singapore.
5. Pray that the believers will apply God's Word in their lives and be faithful. The Word of God will fall on good ground and bear fruit.
6. Pray that the leaders of Chengko, Le Village and Ratanakiri Love churches will shepherd their flocks with commitment and love.
7. Pray for good health and strength for sister Chan Pui Meng as she serves the Lord in Ban Lung.

### Thanksgiving and testimonies from the students



Sis Boun:

Greetings to all of you. I am very glad to meet you and to have the chance to study God's word and to know more about God. These two days, I learned a lot about the ten commandments and how to prepare for a future husband.

I am very thankful to all of you that you spent your precious time away from Singapore to be here with us.

Sis Nam:

I am thankful to all of you that you have come from Singapore to Cambodia to conduct this training for us. Thankful for these two days that we can learn more about God's word and although I felt sleepy, I tried my best to listen. These days are very hot in Cambodia but all of you tried your best to teach us. I had learned about the ten commandments before but was not that clear but now I am clearer than before. The most interesting thing for me to know how to prepare for a future Christian husband, be content with what we have and not to compare with others, and I understand that the mobile phone can also be an idol, and need to limit how I use my phone.



Cach: First of all, I would like to greet all of you and thank Sis Puimeng who had prepared this training and for all of you who came from Singapore. Also, I learned more about ten commandments and to prepare for a future husband. I am thankful that I am clear about the ten commandments - what to do and what not to do, and I must pray for a Christian husband who worships the same God. Please remember us and pray for our future partners for our weddings. Thank you.

I Learned for 3 day I understand  
 I understand to the ten commandments of God  
 and more clearly to understand what God forbids  
 us not to do and not do evil and to love  
 our neighbor and to love our enemies. God  
 will tell us to love and Choose a man a believer  
 God will respect us. Godly fear just as. How  
 to obey your parents.



Sis Sarin



Thank God for Sis Wie (Esther)  
 who drew caricatures of the  
 mission team



Thank you card  
 from the students



# Ladies' Fellowship Mission Trip to Batam

## 13 May 2023

In line with our Ladies' Fellowship theme: Loving God and others, Glorifying Him always, the Exco unanimously accepted the proposal to visit our sisters in Batam. Thus we embarked on our trip on 13 May morning as part of our LF 2nd Saturday outing.

The purpose of our trip is to build rapport with our Batam sisters from five churches namely Sagulung Baru, Tanjung Piayu, Batu Aji, Petra and Filadelfia. We are reminded by what Paul said in Acts 17:26 "And (God) hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Truly there is no difference in God's sight of whatever race we are, in Christ, we are all one. We hope through our interaction, we could all show and experience the love we ought to have one for another as disciples of Christ.



*One in Christ!!*

The fellowship began with us presenting two songs, of which one was in Bahasa Indonesia. We are thankful that our ukulele players (some of whom are at the beginner level) were motivated to accompany the singing with their music. Ibu Roska gave a short sharing about how a Christian can glorify God in a non-Christian community. She was serious in pointing out that being a Christian means to be born again and not just a name on a religious certificate.



After the combined fellowship, we broke up into three groups for our interactive activity: Cooking when each church presented her version of fried rice, Learning the Angklung and Learning floral arrangement. During this time, we talked with our Batam sisters and we learned of God's blessings in their lives. One of them shared at the cooking session that God had seen her through by providing

## Ladies' Fellowship Mission Trip to Batam

her a job in Singapore while her husband was sick and unable to support the family and that on two occasions, when their rice ran out, God met their needs by sending someone to provide rice for them. Such testimonies really warmed our hearts of God's love for His own.

To show our support for Ibu Ang Liang who hosted us in the Filadelfia church compound, LF presented her a love gift which was to be used by her staff to buy cooking wares for the orphanage run by the church.



We were much blessed by the warmth, cheerfulness and hospitality of our Batam sisters. After learning that most of these sisters have no means to pay for a ferry ticket to Singapore, we realized how meaningful this trip has been to them and us. God willing, we hope to fellowship with our dear sisters in Batam again.

We would like to thank sisters Annie Wong, Laurel, Hui Chuien, Linda Kusuma and Ibu Roska for leading the team in these activities and generously provided for the materials.

Here are the testimonies shared by sisters from both sides.

*Hallo all. Yang saya dapat dari pertemuan Fellowship 13 Mei Keindahan keajaiban Tuhan kenapa, bisa bertemu beda suku, Bahasa dan negara karena ada injil di dalam hati kita orang percaya yang menerima Nya, dan senang sekali waktu saya ikut memainkan Angklung jadi dalam hatiku ini lah kebesaran Tuhan, Injil menyatukan.*

*Terima kasih saya juga dapat coklat*



*Ibu Hana*

I enjoyed the fellowship with our dear sisters. Serving together with the spirit of one heart. I enjoyed your singing in the bus too. Looking to Jesus as our master, taking an attitude of servant's heart, let us serve one another with joyous heart. Thank you, sister Gillian & team for your labour of love. May God continue to bless you as a channel of blessing.



(Ev. Ang Liang)



Thank God that in His plan, He brought us to fellowship with our sisters in Batam. Truly we are one family in Christ. I am much encouraged that our Batam sisters made an effort to come and fellowship with us in spite of the hot weather. And many dressed well to honour God. Thanks to Sister Ang Liang and Roska who made all the arrangements, even providing us a Mother's Day cake. The message by Sister Roska reminded us that we need to be Born Again and not Christians in appearance but no change of heart. Sister Roska as usual was fervent for the Lord and this came through in her sharing. In using a figure of speech that one who is Born Again has Christ's DNA in him/her and so he/she cannot but serve Christ, it drives this truth deep in my heart. I thank Filadelfia church for hosting us, providing us free lunch and dinner. I am also touched by our Singapore sisters and brothers who were so willing to share their floral arrangement skills with our Batam sisters and also to come up with our own SG fried rice. I also learnt to play the angklung and we had a lovely time singing with the ukuleles and angklung.

We hope that there will be more of such trips, to strengthen one another's faith and love for Christ, to the glory of God.

Sis Gillian



*Sis Sally helping with the floral arrangement*



Sis Bernie and team demonstrating how to make a hand bouquet

*Saya terberkati dengan acara komisi gabungan kemarin, selain terberkati dengan firman Tuhan yang disampaikan, saya juga mendapat ilmu cara belajar merangkai bunga, bertemu dgn teman2 baru dan mendapatkan sukacita yg luar biasa, semoga akan ada lagi acara2 seperti ini untuk selanjutnya.*

*Terima kasih buat persekutuan yang indah, Tuhan Yesus memberkati kita semua (Ibu Ririt) 😊*



I thank God that I was able to join my first Batam mission trip and able to practice and play the ukulele for the first time. I had a great time with all the planned activities and fellowship with everyone. Thank God for safe keeping. Also thank God for the message by Ibu Roska and she said smile and a smile is good enough to communicate as brethren in Christ. It is blessed to see everyone participating in all the activities. To God be the glory.

Sis Jaq

## Ladies' Fellowship Mission Trip to Batam

To God be the glory...for a safe & fun filled mission trip.

We're thankful to be included on this trip.

Thank you LF team!

It was marvellous to see the joy & satisfaction on the faces of the Indonesian sisters during the various group activities. They were all very happy with their handiworks! And the yummy cooking.

The angklung group played beautifully too! Lovely ensemble!

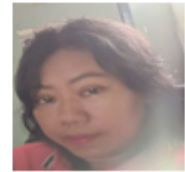
We've been so blessed by the fellowship amongst all of you.

Praise God for His grace & love beyond borders.  
Without boundaries!

Brother Edwin & Sis Belle

*Pengalaman yang saya dapat adalah bertambah ilmu tentang ilmu khusus nya angklung. Juga bertambah teman ibu dari gereja lain dan menambah sukacita bisa bertemu dengan team dari Singapura. Saya pribadi sangat gembira. Thank you for what has been given to us. We love you all. God bless.*

*Naomi*



*Music making with Angklung & ukulele*

*Celebrating Mother's Day with our Batam sisters*



Thank God for a spontaneous "jamming" and sharing session with Bro Lingom from Petra Church. Although we have some language barrier, we were able to exchange music knowledge! And enjoyed playing common hymns together. Truly, in Christ we are one family. One Lord one faith, one hope. He has broken down walls, that we can fellowship and praise Him as one.

Sis Hui Chuien

God is good, amazing, faithful and omnipresent. I thank Him for the Blessed Batam Mission Trip to be able to fellowship with our Sisters in Christ in Batam.

God protected us, enabled us and provided all that we need, including funds, materials for flower arrangements for 5 churches.

I thank God for granting my heart's desires to share my skills with God's people. He preserved me and enabled me in spite of my recent giddy spell.

The joy we experienced together while arranging the flowers with our Batam sisters-in-Christ was infectious. They were over the moon with their new-found skills!

It reminded me of 1 Tim 6:6

Moreover, very thankful for sweet fellowship with liked-minded Lifers as well.

Truly in Christ we are one united family. As Christian woman, may we manifest God's DNA in our daily walk

In Christ.

Sis Laurel Teo

*Sis Laurel giving last minute instructions*



*Batam sisters happily showing the hand bouquets they made.*





*Our Singapore team's yummy fried rice*



Ibu Roska giving the message with Sis Linda interpreting.

I am thankful for the safe journey, great time to know better the brethren from Life BP and non-Lifers. Learning from each other the heart to serve the Lord. Thankful for the warm hospitality from Filadelfia church, physical food and spiritual food from bu Roska. Thankful for Su and Joyce to help prepare in cutting and washing while Hui Chuien be the chef. Thank God the seafood we brought was still fresh. Also thankful for the sisters from other churches who generously shared their materials so we were able to cook the fried rice such as oil, egg, shallots, garnish like lettuce and parsley. It was a great fun to laugh together seeing flying eggs and oils, not knowing how to use the stove at first, but yet in Christ, various fried rice were cooked from the heart.

Sis Linda Kusuma



*Sis Wendy and our Batam sisters all ready to whip up different versions of fried rice.*

Indeed the oneness in spirit so strongly displayed on both sides is heart-warming n encouraging. All glory to God.

Sis Susan Yee

## Sharing by Rev Nirand Tamee for Missionary Sunday on 18 June 2023

The Great Commission is to “go, teach, baptise and make disciples” - leading the lost to have faith in Jesus Christ. Every servant of God will carry on this Commandment - whatever job we are doing, or whether we are travelling by bus, train or plane.

Mr Giacomo Farruggia is my Italian friend who taught me how to bake and do exercise, I consistently shared the salvation message with him whenever we hung out together. He was born into a Roman Catholic family and was baptized at infancy. He moved to the UK in his late teens, and started a bakery business in London. Then he came to Thailand to retire. Occasionally, he attends the Dongbagaw Rawang Church with his wife; but when he wanted to be baptized, he personally requested for me to baptize him on 21 May this year.



A fortnight earlier, the Lord had turned the tribal villagers' hearts to accept Christ as their personal Saviour. There were six from ELC Boraie and five from Huaykheelekmaj, who were baptized by Pastor Somchai Pontipworakul on 7 May. There were also two Thai brothers from Chiang Saen, Mr. Tee and Cha, baptized in Chiang Rai at the First Church on 26th March. They now worship there, and once a month at the tribal church near Chiang Saen. Pray that the Lord will open the door to start another Thai mission station there.



## Sharing by Rev Nirand Tamee

As for the training of pastors, this programme has been carried out since 2002 until today. Most village pastors have not studied in proper theological schools. Therefore, this teaching programme is very useful for them. Pastor Nirand and some pastors from overseas are involved in this Bible training every year, with at least three to four trainers in 2022. This year, we had one in March, with the next to be held in July and the lecturer will be Elder Peter Lee from Herald BPC.



Teaching to the children. It is very hard to bring the unbelievers to church, especially, those who are steep in buddhism; yet it is still much easier to lead the children than adults. They like to pick up skills such as playing the guitar. Preacher Chanchai and his wife Sai now teach the Bible and music to the children at BanLong and PangMaYau.



The renovation work and extension of the church buildings were completed in the villages recently. When ELC ChiangMai purchased the land, there were three old houses in the compound. We renovated and used them for 23 years. Since termites have severely destroyed the wood, a brother offered some funds for renovation and also the mountain churches, too. This helped us renovate all the three houses. BanLong and BoRae churches were extended, and Pong Mai church was completely rebuilt as well.



The Lord has been so good to the ministry here in North Thailand. He has been blessing us for 32 years. The 4th of June saw a wonderful thanksgiving service, together with BanLong and PangMaYau members. Thanks to our almighty and faithful GOD indeed!





# Sharing by Bro Lim Kwang Taek for Missionary Sunday on 18 June 2023

“Harvest Truly is Plenteous.”



It is a very blessed morning, dear Sunday School students, teachers, and brethren in Christ. I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am glad to meet you on Missionary Sunday and share the Word of God with the theme of “Harvest Truly is Plenteous.” The topic is taken from Matthew 9:37-38, which you may have heard at least once in the sense of urging mission. Before jumping into the text, let us take a moment to look at the previous two verses that connect to today’s text for context.

Matthew 9:35-36

*And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

*But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

Matthew 9:35 summarizes the ministry of the Lord Jesus in Galilee. I believe that this short sentence contains the key of mission.

**First, the Lord went to all places where the Gospel was needed.** When Jesus stopped by in Galilee, He did not settle down in one place and minister passively, but He moved continuously and actively visited all places. In other words, the Son of God, who came to this earth in a human flesh, made the utmost effort to expand the Gospel even within the limits of His physical body.

**Second, our Lord’s priorities were teaching and preaching.** Not only did He go into the synagogue in each village and teach the Old Testament, He preached the gospel of the kingdom wherever He went. His teaching and preaching were about the coming of the Messiah and the kingdom of God, which are the most blessed news for His people, and testified of Himself, who is the reality of the Gospel.

**Third, the Lord Jesus confirmed the gospel of the Kingdom by performing healing through His authority and power.** Jesus healed the sick in various ways and at different times depending on the target, yet the power of the Lord’s Word invited them to the one divine truth.

If we carefully look at the summary of our Lord's ministry in Galilee, we can find similarities with the Great Commission that He gave to His disciples before ascending to heaven. That is, go, teach, and preach the Gospel.

*Matthew 28:19*

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*Mark 16:15*

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

In conclusion, the Great Commission is an example of the life of Jesus, the first missionary sent into the world by God the Father to seek and save the lost, to minister the people's needs, and to give His life to redeem others. When the disciples heard the Lord's last command, they would vividly recall all the memories Jesus had shown them. The work of the Holy Spirit that the Lord sent on the day of Pentecost enabled the disciples to fulfill the mission of spreading the gospel trained with the Lord.

The Great Commission given by the Lord to His disciples is still valid for Christians today. We recognize that there are differences in our fields of ministry according to our talents and callings. On the other hand, what we all have in common is that under the guidance of the one Holy Spirit, we all have the mission of following the example of the Lord to go out and teach and preach the gospel.

Dear Sunday School friends, we are disciples of God, saved by faith through the Lord Jesus Christ and called by Him. Remembering the ministry of the Lord, let us look around us and go one step further where good news is needed and pursue a blessed life of sharing the gospel.

Matthew 9:36 explains the heart and reason when the Jesus Christ did the Galilee ministry. In fact, Jesus passed through the misunderstandings, challenges, and difficulties by fulfilling His mission. If you look at Matthew 9:32-34, Christ cast out a devil from a dumb man possessed with a devil. Then the Pharisees falsely accused Jesus of casting out devil through the prince of devils. Matthew 9:29-30 tells the story of two blind men who came to Jesus and their eyes were opened according to their faith. Even though they experienced the grace of God, they disobeyed the word of Jesus, "See that no man know it," and went out and spread the fame of the Lord in all that country.

Despite the disobedience, misunderstandings, and challenges during His earthly ministry, when Jesus saw the multitude, He was moved with compassion on them. In particular, the religious leaders tired the people by making them bear heavy burdens such as religious ceremonies and traditions rather than taking care of them. Jesus, the Good Shepherd who knows all these circumstances, took care of His flock, not only throughout Galilee, but also Judea, Samaria, and Berea, despite future betrayal and persecution that would occur through His mission.

Dear Sunday School teachers, how is your Sunday school ministry? I am sure that in your ministry you are delighted to see students grow in their faith. On the other hand, I understand that sometimes your commitment has been met with misunderstandings and difficulties. Nevertheless, we ought to remember that whenever the Lord Jesus looked upon the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them. Let us pray together that the Great Shepherd may renew our hearts and spirits day by day in order that we can faithfully minister to the His precious souls entrusted to us.



Following the mission of the Lord Jesus, in Matthew 9:37, His focus is on the disciples.

*Matthew 9:37*

*Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*

In this verse, did you notice that Jesus changed the parable of His mission? He compared His mission to shepherding before, yet this time he speaks of a harvest. Perhaps the question arises in our minds what Jesus meant by this parable.

First of all, the interpretation of “The harvest truly is plenteous” is largely divided into two by theologians. On the first view, Jesus intimates that many of the people are ripe for receiving the gospel. The second view considers the parable of the harvest to be more related to ‘judgment’.

The meaning of this parable of the harvest, along with the context, is considered to be close to the meaning that many people are ripe to receive the gospel. Matthew 9:35-36 summarised the earthly ministry in Galilee and explained the motive and reason. As the disciples followed their Master, they experienced that there were souls in the multitudes who were ready to accept the gospel. The Lord would have inspired His disciples by using the metaphor of ‘harvest’ based on the ministry He showed before sending them out to each region.

Next, what does “the labourers are few” mean? Here, the original word ἐργάτης (ergates), which means ‘labourer’ appears a total of 16 times in the New Testament. It is mostly interpreted as labourer, worker, workman, except for one time in Acts 19:25 where it is interpreted as ‘occupation’. In Matthew 10:10, the closest verse to the text, it is confirmed the meaning of the ‘labourer’.

*Matthew 10:10*

*Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.*

The focus on the disciples from Matthew 9:37 continues in chapter 10. In Matthew 10, The Lord called the Twelve, empowered them, and gave them all the instructions they needed to send them out. Here, the ‘workman’ means the twelve disciples who were called by the Lord. At that point, Jesus referred to His disciples as ‘workman’ using the same Greek word ἐργάτης (ergates), so “the labourers are few” meant that there are fewer workers called for missions like the twelve disciples and apostles.

One thing to note here is that ‘mission’ and ‘missions’ have different meanings. ‘Mission’ is inclusive as the church’s full calling that reflects God’s eternal purpose. On the other hand, ‘Missions’ refers to a specific outward activity of the church reaching people who are beyond the reach of the Word through the Gospel.

2,000 years ago, when Jesus Christ was fulfilling His mission on the earth, there were few labourers for Him. The present situation of the mission fields does not seem to be very different. Miriam and I were commissioned as God’s labourers to Cambodia in January of this year. We have been colabouring in Komongsom Bible School (KBS) & Komongsom Christian School (KCS), which were founded by Rev Moses & Mrs Grace in Sihanoukville.



*Komongsom Christian School*



*Sunday School Students*

By God's grace, the educational mission has grown into KCS and KBS, which can educate and nurture students from kindergarten to preachers. However, in the place where we do missionary work, the harvest is still plenteous, but the labourers are few. Among the total of 185 students of KCS, about 20 students attend Sunday school. In other words, only 10% of KCS students come out to worship and praise God on Sabbath day. In addition, there are only five teachers who teach KBS students, including pastor Andrew, English teacher, Chinese teacher, and myself.

Except for 2022, the number of applicants for KBS had been low for five years. Those who graduated from KBS and became KCS teachers said that the enthusiasm of new students was quite different from before. Except for the morning classes, which KBS students were required to attend, student participation in my afternoon Korean class and evening Chinese class has been declining. Nevertheless, to raise up God's workers who will lead the next generation, KBS teachers encouraged them to continue teaching with patience. In such a situation where there are few labourers of the Lord to harvest in the mission field, raising them remains a difficult task.



*Komongsom Bible School*



*Basic Korean Class*

Our Lord Jesus exhorted His disciples to pray to overcome the circumstances of these situation.

*Matthew 9:38*

*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

This exhortation means that the petition of the people reaches God and the gospel is delivered by the workers He sends. That is, the pastors, missionaries we meet in churches or mission fields are sent to their respective places by the Lord because the earnest prayers of former believers have been delivered to God. If prayer is a guideline to receiving workers in God's harvest, should we not pray together without ceasing for today's earthly ministry and missions, where the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are still few?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, do you acknowledge that the Lord Jesus called each one of us when we were weary, scattered and wandering like sheep without a master? Jesus Christ, who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light, commanded us to reach out, teach, and evangelize the still lost souls, the sheep prepared to receive the gospel, and God's chosen people. May the Lord help us all to live a blessed life of praying, evangelizing, and winning to Him the one soul He seeks.



**Missionary Sunday on 18 June 2023**

Back row: Dn Koh Lip Hoe, Dn Mark Heah, Bro Lim Kwang Taek and Sis Miriam Phan, Bro Tan Tiong Chin.

Front row: Dn Alvin Chow, Sis Jess Tamee, Rev Nirand Tamee, Rev Charles Seet, Rev and Mrs David Koo



*Fellowship with our missionaries who joined us for church camp*



## Announcements

### Participating in upcoming Mission Trips in 2023

We would like to encourage Life B-P Church members to participate actively in missions both in support and involvement (short-term or otherwise), including medical and dental (MaD) missions, with the hope that some may be called to be full-time missionaries. If you are interested to participate in the upcoming mission trips being planned for 2023, please register your interest by filling in this form: <https://forms.gle/Cc4Q22b8csiFmqEY6>

Mission	Group	Dates
<b>Malacca and Tangkak,</b> Sunday worship services	Open to all Lifers	5-6 August 30 September – 1 October 4-5 November
<b>Batam,</b> Ladies Sunday School (led by Sis Sow Mun) with Pastor Charles Seet	Ladies	6 August
<b>Medan and Siantar</b> with sis Roska	Open to all Lifers	8-10 August
<b>Pekan Baru,</b> Medical and Dental Mission	Doctors, dentists, other Lifers	23-25 September
<b>Chiangmai,</b> Medical and Dental Mission	Doctors and dentists, open to all Lifers	21-25 October
<b>Cambodia, Kampongsom</b> with Bro Kwang Taek and Sis Miriam	Open to all Lifers	14-18 December
<b>East Nusa Tenggara,</b> Evangelistic rally with sis Roska	Open to all Lifers	To be confirmed

## Announcement on Designated Offering for Missions

We thank God that Lifers are very generous in their offerings towards missions. In terms of support, the church gives priority to our fully-supported missionaries and we would like you to be aligned with the church's position when giving towards missions. Rather than giving offerings that are designated to specific individuals or mission stations, you are encouraged to give to the Missions Fund and let the Missions Committee disburse them as it sees fit. Your understanding on this will facilitate an informed stewardship of resources for the Lord's work in missions. If you wish to contribute financially to missionaries, please indicate "DO Missions" in the reference field in your e-Offering via PayNow by scanning the QR code. Alternatively, you may transfer via Internet Banking by entering UEN S86SS0056D. May the Lord bless your cheerful giving.



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