

# Focus on Missions

November 2023



Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you,  
Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.  
And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal:  
that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. (John 4:35-36)

## CONTENTS

- 3 Young Lifers Ministry:  
Mission Trip to Batam 28-30 June
- 6 Ladies' Sunday School:  
Visit to Batam 6 August
- 11 Visit to Malacca & Tangkak  
6-7 August
- 13 Pekanbaru Medical & Dental  
Mission Trip 23-25 September
- 17 Mission Report on Sihanoukville  
Port Village Ministry

In this issue of Focus on Missions, we feature several reports and testimonies from Lifers on their recent mission trips to Indonesia and Malaysia. We also have a report from our missionaries in Cambodia on the gospel work in Sihanoukville Port Village.

Mission work is difficult and we thank God for His power, protection and provisions for our missionaries, partners-in-missions and mission teams, helping them to overcome difficulties and to share the good news faithfully, lovingly and humbly with hundreds and thousands of souls in our neighbouring countries. Yet, as the song goes,

*“Untold millions are still untold.  
Untold millions are outside the fold.  
Who will tell them of Jesus’ love  
and the heavenly mansions  
awaiting above?”*

Will you evangelise to your neighbours and support our church’s mission with your prayers and talents?

# Young Lifers Ministry: Mission Trip to Batam 28-30 June

Sis Woon Yee Wern

## Overview

On 28-30 June, a group of 10 youths embarked on a mission trip to Batam to carry out Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the children at GAPPI Batu Aji over three days. The theme for VBS was “God’s plan in my life.” This message was delivered through two Bible stories: God’s salvation plan for Jacob (Genesis 32:22-32) and God’s salvation plan for the world (Acts 2:22-24). Ryan Lim and Deborah Tan were the narrators for the Bible stories with Rev Efendi translating it into Bahasa Indonesia.

## Day 1

The team met up at Harbourfront Terminal in the early morning on 28 June, reached Batam after an hour-long ferry ride and boarded a chartered van to GAPPI Batu Aji. Upon arrival, the moment we stepped out of the van, echoes of children’s singing voices could be heard from outside the church sanctuary. They had reached the church early in anticipation of VBS! We were touched by their enthusiasm, and it motivated us to give our best for the Lord’s work.

After introducing ourselves, we sang a few more songs, then Ryan told the story of how Jacob wrestled with God. Jacob realises how he needs God to bless Him. Now, instead of running away



*Warming up with songs of praise*

or scheming against his brother, he meets him in repentance and is met with forgiveness.

The children were also given a memory verse, Acts 16:31. When Rev Efendi told them there was a memory verse, we were amazed to see that they all immediately opened their bibles and began memorising it on the spot. The room was filled with echoing murmurs of the children reading the verse out loud to recite it by heart. After a few minutes, nearly all of them had internalised the scripture verse. It was wonderful to see how eagerly they endeavoured to have God’s word in their hearts even with no material incentive to do so.

This was followed by crafts. It is the team’s prayer that the spiritual lessons of faith would remain in their hearts and help them grow spiritually too.



*Doing simple crafts to drive home the lessons learnt*

Then we sang songs in Bahasa Indonesia like “Leaning on the everlasting arms” and “I have decided to follow Jesus.” The children sang loudly from their hearts with much vigour. After singing, we enjoyed lunch together with the staff and children. We were truly blessed by the warm hospitality of the ladies who cooked and brought lunch to church for us.

Games commenced after lunch when the children played simple games such as arm wrestling, a mini obstacle course, and group catching. Bro Hevzon was instrumental in facilitating the games as we were constrained by the language barrier. We were very grateful that he stepped in to help and made the games fun for everyone.



*Arm-wrestling like how Jacob wrestled with God all night long*

All too soon, the programme ended. It was time for the children to head home as their family members began to gather around the school compound and two school buses awaited the children. As we boarded our own van, the remaining children swarmed around and bade us goodbye with incessant waving and bright smiles. Their joyful energy and strong appetite for spiritual food made us forget all our tiredness for a moment.

We then stopped at our hotel for a short rest before heading out to Grand Batam Mall to purchase items for goodie bags for the children. The team also dropped by Filadelfia Church where Ibu Hana passed us some Wordless Book bracelet packs for the next day's craft. We spent the rest of the day putting goodie bags together, buying breakfast for the next day, and reflecting on how the day's ministry went.

## Day 2

The second day began with a quick breakfast and a morning devotion before leaving for GAPPI Batu Aji once again. Again, the children were already waiting for us in the sanctuary. This time we opened with the songs "Yesterday, Today, Forever" and "Thanks to God" which brought a message of hope that can only be found in God's unchanging character. This carried on into the story of "God's salvation plan for the world" as told by Deborah from Acts 2:22-24. We shared the Gospel message with some personal questions

for the children to reflect on their relationship with God. The memory verse was Acts 16:31 – once again, the children instantly opened their Bibles and memorised it aloud, they also remembered the verse from yesterday!

Craft time followed, where each child was given a Wordless Book bracelet with a little leaflet explaining what the colours stood for. A simple arrangement of black, red, white, green, and yellow beads carried the deep, rich Gospel message of salvation and hope. It is our prayer that the bracelets would be an effective tool to make this message easy to remember so that it would remain in the children's minds and thus sow the seeds of the Gospel. Perhaps it would even be used to evangelise to their family members as well. Like the previous day, this was followed by lunch and a session of games before closing the programme for the day.



*Listening attentively to the story*



*A fast-paced round of "Dog and Bone"*

The team then went to visit Barelang bridge where the high vantage point provided a great view of God's breathtaking creation of the land, sea and sky. We ended the day with a kelong dinner before heading back to reflect and rest.

## Day 3

On the final day, we did not have time for a full programme. We sang a few songs, then each team member took turns saying their farewell speeches to the children from Google-translated messages. When Rev Efendi said that we had gifts for them, a line for the goodie bags was promptly formed! Over the past two days we had bonded well with the children and got to know them. Although they might forget our names and faces, it is our prayer that the spiritual lessons they learnt will remain, and that their thirst for God's word will not be quenched.

*We hope they were able to grasp our poorly spoken words in Bahasa!*



*Group photo with all the staff and students*



# Ladies Sunday School: Visit to Batam 6 August

Sis Lim Chiew Ping

## Report

*“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”  
Luke 1:37*

With this promise and much prayer, a group of 22 set off on 6 August to conduct Sunday School classes at two churches in Batam, as well as to present a song item during the worship service at GAPPI Batu Aji.



*The team at departure at HarbourFront*

After a hiatus of three years, the Ladies' Sunday School embarked on our annual mission trip to the churches in Batam. This year, the group conducted Sunday School classes for the children at GAPPI Sagulung Baru and GAPPI Batu Aji. The children aged 4 years to 12 years were taught how Jesus healed the man sick of the palsy and also forgave his sins, taken from Mark 2:1-12. The children were taught the children's song "My God Is So Great" and the memory verse from Luke 1:37 to reinforce the lesson. The art and craft work and a bookmark with the memory verse served to remind the children of the lessons taught that day.

The classes were conducted in English with translation to Bahasa Indonesia by the local church workers. The children sang and recited the memory verse in English with ease and much enthusiasm.

During the worship service at Batu Aji, the group presented a song item "Grace Greater Than Our Sin," singing three stanzas in Bahasa Indonesia and the last stanza in English.

Pastor Charles Seet preached in Bahasa Indonesia and the team from Singapore followed the English transcript. The chairperson of the worship service was considerate in singing the last stanza of every hymn in English.

While the trip was organized by the Ladies' Sunday School, everyone was welcome to participate. We had husbands and children as well as other church members serving together with us in this ministry. We seek the Lord's provision and guidance for future trips and ask you to pray with us and join us in ministering to the children in Batam.



*The team with church members at Batu Aji*

## Testimonies

When I first thought of planning a Batam Mission trip for our Ladies' Sunday School class, I was wondering whether there would be anyone going as we have stopped going for Batam Missions for 3 years (due to Covid).

Even though small as my faith may be, God is good. Thank God for giving us 22 brethren for the Mission Trip to Batam on 6th of August 2023, with Pastor Charles Seet.

Before the trip, it was so encouraging to see God worked in and through the team as we come together for the preparations. We practised the song to be sung during Worship Service (singing 3 stanzas in Bahasa is tough for us). Thank God for helping us. We also prepared art work and goodies bags for the children. The team worked in love and unity of heart and purpose, using the gifts God has given us. Rom.12:5,6a "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..."

It was a great joy to return to Batam to serve the Lord in missions in two churches (Sagulung Baru and Batu Aji), ministering to the children with God's Word and songs and memory verse.

The sincerity and attentiveness of the children touched me. We taught them a song and memory verse in English. They learned fast and sang in one voice praising God and reciting the memory verse well.

Fellowship formed with one another that are passionate for missions in the team throughout the trip is encouraging. Thank God for His work through us and in us to accomplish His missions. Glory to God for bringing us together to work for the purpose of His Kingdom.

- *Leong Sow Mun*



This mission trip opened my eyes to see how God's work is being done beyond borders. The children's pure love for God and their inquisitive spirit was shown in how they still tried to sing the songs and memorise the verse in English even though it was difficult for them. I do regret not knowing conversational Bahasa Indonesia because it was hard to talk to the children and find out more about their personal lives. Rev Efendi, Brother Mikdal and Sister Paola's service was really encouraging for me as they served in almost every different aspect of the functions such as running the children's programme, chairing worship services, and they do this tirelessly every single week. It made me reflect on my own personal service to God. Overall, it was a really good experience in learning more about the mission field beyond borders.

- *Tessa Ho*



*Memory Verse at Batu Aji*

I give thanks to the Lord for the wonderful experience I have on the Batam mission trip. Thankful for His protection during the journey and His guidance in all that the team had done as well as the warm fellowship among the church brethren. The children at Batu Aji Church we administered to were eager to learn, evident in them picking up fast both the songs and memory verse taught as though there was no language barrier. Pray that the children will continue to experience the Lord's goodness and to know how great our God is just as I have throughout the years.

Pastor Charles' message on 'Freedom from Bondage' that day also reminded me once again on the 'privilege of knowing the Truth' and the need to put in greater effort to seek spiritual knowledge.

- *Tan Yit Peng*

I am grateful to God for granting me the incredible opportunity to go on a mission trip. I am filled with gratitude for the valuable experiences I gained during this journey. Prior to this, I had never been on a mission trip to another country, but by God's grace, I was given the chance to venture to Batam for this purpose. The Batam mission trip was an amazing experience for me. I am so grateful to God and thankful to those who invited me on this journey of faith. It was a great opportunity for me to learn new things and grow in my relationship with Jesus Christ.

During my time in Batam, I had the privilege of serving at Batu Aji Church, specifically assisting in the children's ministry. I was wondered by the children's enthusiasm and their remarkable ability to learn English songs. Witnessing their eagerness to participate in storytelling sessions was a heartwarming experience. It opened my eyes to the fact that even though we may not speak the same language, we are still able to communicate and share the love because of our unity in Christ. And I also learned from Sister Paola who can handle anything that comes her way. I used to think that women who are trained in Bible college only needed to teach lessons to children or ladies in the ministry. However, after seeing Sister Paola, I realized that women who are trained in Bible college are also very important in the ministry, and we should strive to learn everything we can. So that it will be more effective in serving the Lord and extending His kingdom when we are equipped with knowledge and skills.

This mission trip has been a transformative journey for me, as it has deepened my understanding of the power of faith and love. The memories and lessons I have gained from this experience will remain in my heart. I am immensely grateful to God for granting me this opportunity and for the incredible impact it has had on my life.

- *Aphi Biak Len Mawi*

Thank God for a blessed mission trip that we are able to encourage and have fellowship with like-minded believers. Indeed, we rejoice to see the little children are so keen in learning the songs, memory verse and craft work. They can recite the verse almost immediately. We hope to be able to continue to serve in this mission again.

- *Rosalind Ngooi*



*Story Telling at Batu Aji*

Thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in this short 1-day missionary trip to Batam, together with my two children. As this was the first trip after 3 years of pandemic, many of us who were used to making this annual trip, would find ourselves 'rusty' in our preparation. At least for me. From the weekly rehearsing of the song "Grace greater than our sin" in Bahasa, to packing the goodie bags, to cutting the craftwork for the Sunday school, to administrative details, there was much patience, love, attention to details and dedication in all our sisters in Christ, under the leadership of Sow Mun. It was certainly not by coincidence that everything went on smoothly. God was with us because of all the prayers of the sisters and brothers in Church. It was truly amazing to see that language was no barrier in the house of God as everyone switched from singing in English and Bahasa seamlessly. Pastor Seet spoke about freedom from bondage and contrary to the world's understanding, real freedom comes



*Craft work at Sagulung Bahru*



from restraining oneself from sin in order to be truly free. Pastor gave the story of Raynald in 14th century, who is free to walk out of his 'prison' room but yet could not do so, because of his obsession with food that makes him too huge to get out of the door. It was a powerful example of how sin enslaves us when we do not use the freedom God has given, responsibly. Through the few words spoken, a sister in Christ told me she has worshipped here for 8 years, while another sister in Christ carrying her 18-month old baby, came to worship in the church. There was much joy and peace in their faces. The children's verbal responses and echoes during the story telling spoke of their enthusiasm and hunger for God's truth. This was indeed something God has reminded me to learn from the little ones - To be always hungry and open in my heart to receive God's message and be blessed. Praise God!

- Sharon Koh



I wish to share that God loves every sinner and creates opportunity for children to hear his Word. Following the bible story of the four men who lowered their friend down the roof for Jesus to heal the paralysed man, our group and the children recited the verse; "For with God nothing shall be impossible" taken from Luke 1:37. Then it was time for the children to do art and craft related to this story by colouring the picture of Jesus and the sick man. The older children had to copy and write the verse while the younger children had to paste the verse onto their picture.

I noticed an older child who sat by himself playing with a lump of chewing gum while the rest of the children were already busy colouring their pictures and writing the memory verse. After saying a short prayer, I approached the boy and offered to help him join the rest with the colouring. He refused and continued to play with

his lump of chewing gum. Not even the promise of winning a prize could separate him and his lump of chewing gum. The child eventually relented and he approached the group. Guiding him, we started to colour the picture. He completed the activity, walked up to Chiew Ling, recited the bible verse with lots of encouragement and prompting, and collected his prize!

He skipped merrily back to his seat with a happy smile, but he noticed that he did not have his lump of chewing gum with him anymore. He gave a broader smile when he found the gum stuck to the floor over where he had sat to colour the picture. I know that this boy heard the Word of God three times that morning. For with God nothing shall be impossible. Amen!

- Lieu Ping Kong



This is the 5th time I follow the bible study group to Batam mission trip. This group is growing big each time. Family members are encouraged to join.

Each time we go is a positive sign to step up. I can see everyone are excited to go, especially after 3 years break from going to Batam. It becomes a treasure to reach out.

This time round we have translator from local people this show a lot of things has improve in their part to upgrade the language. Their love for God is great than us if we see it clearly. The hungry for his Words that want to learn more in order to learn from God words. Going to Batam is a reflection for me to remember God is always there. We should learn to pause and commit everything in his hands.

Looking at Rev Charles in such a hot day he still wore a coat to preach. I salute him for that, it is really very hot. His face is red showing that he is hot too, but he showed good example for us to follow. I have learnt in everything just commit to God and keep it simple "Trust Him after praying."

- Joanna Chua



*Story Telling at Sagulung Bahru*

It was my first missionary trip and I did not know what to expect so I prayed and indeed, God has been preparing me for the mission trip. With weeks of preparation for the song items, I am more confident in singing with the fellow sisters to present the song item to the brothers and sisters in Batu Aji.

Thank you, Lord for the provision and preparing our hearts to serve, I witnessed the serving hearts of the sisters. We came together to help in one way or another and humbled ourselves to serve. When presenting the song item, Grace Greater than Our Sin in Bahasa Indonesia, I was reminded of how we have been sinners and how God's Grace has saved us and cleansed us from within. When the local Batu Aji church presented their Bahasa Indonesia song item, the sisters sang wholeheartedly and joyfully and it really inspired me to sing like them the next time with such a joyful and loud voice, praising the Lord.



Not forgetting the wonderful children in Batu Aji, they sang the songs with us with the hand movements and they really enjoyed the art and craft after Sister Sharon's sharing of the story on how Jesus forgives and heals a paralytic. They were listening attentively and focused on colouring. This reminded me of the verse in Matthew 18:3-5, "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."

- Fonx Lim



# Visit to Malacca & Tangkak

## 5-6 August

Sis Lilian Lee

The team comprised 11 members: Eld and Mrs Chia Ah Lak, Mr and Mrs Tan Tiong Chin, Mr and Mrs Victor Lee, Bro Andrew Chiang and the following sisters: Gillian Yeo, Lilian Heng, Soh Hwee Tyng and myself.

### Saturday 5 August @Causeway

The itinerary was similar to the first trip that we did in July. We congregated at Life BPC at 9am. When everyone arrived, Rev Charles Seet prayed for us as he had come to send us off. When at the Singapore Custom, the immigration clearance was quite fast even though it was very crowded. However, at the Malaysian side, we queued for almost an hour, even though we were all in the senior lane. The crowds were unusually big because of the National Day holiday.

Once the immigration clearance was over, Sis Gillian took out her ukelele, and we joined in singing hymns. The journey to Malacca was smooth except for some parts where traffic was heavy and slow. The rain also slowed the traffic down.

Soon we arrived at Malacca at about 3 pm, and we had lunch at a little cafe famous for its chendol and Peranakan food. After lunch, we checked into our hotel which was offering a generous discount because of their anniversary promotion. Once we offloaded our luggage, some of us took off to Jonker Street for some shopping. After some rest, it was soon time for a sumptuous dinner. At the restaurant, it was nice to meet some Singapore brethren from Gospel Light Church (where Sis Lilian Heng is working), and we had a good laugh talking in our usual Singaporean way.

### Sunday 6 August @ Malacca BP Church

Lest the reader thinks that this mission is a *makan*-mission, the real work started on Sunday. After breakfast we drove to Malacca BP Church. It was wonderful to see Dn Bala and his wife Sis Chitra again. These are the Lord's faithful servants who have kept watch over the church at Malacca for years. The church premises were always kept

very clean and neat. It seemed to me a lot of work for this middle-aged couple.

It was very good to meet up also with the brethren there. Sis Serene, the eldest daughter of Dn Bala and his wife, was back for a break from the KL school that she was teaching in. Bro Joseph who manned the PA for all the years was also present. That Sunday only his elder daughter Scarlet came to church because his wife had stayed home to look after the younger daughter who was ill. We were also glad to meet Bro Eddie and his wife Sis Swee Lin. This is a very old couple who became Christians not long ago. Sis Uma also came with her adopted daughter Bernice.

Eld Chia preached and Bro Victor chaired the worship. Usually, Sis Chitra teaches the Sunday School but Sis Gillian was eager to teach the children with her ukelele. She also told Sis Chitra that we would relieve Sis Chitra so that she could worship the Lord. Unknowingly, I said enthusiastically to Sis Chitra, "Yes. Yes!" Until it was lesson time, and Sis Gillian announced that Auntie Lilian would teach the Sunday School lesson. Thank God the lesson: "God provides: Elijah fed by the ravens" was a familiar story, and I taught the lesson impromptu but with a quick prayer for help. After the lesson, Sis Hwee Tyng handed out the sweets to the children. Indeed, the two children, Scarlet and Bernice, were privileged to have three teachers that morning. The teachers also felt privileged to get to know the children intimately.



**Pastoral Chat – a session for members to ask questions about** the sermon – followed, and we always enjoyed that as it was a chance to get to know the church members. We were much blessed by Bro Eddie who shared his love for the Lord and encouraged us to trust the Lord and not be frightened by people’s negative reactions to the gospel. This was especially said to strengthen Bro Joseph who was struggling with his wife’s unbelief. We also learned from Bro Joseph’s honest sharing to be sensitive to how the outside world looks at Christians.

Soon it was time for lunch, and the church sent for da pao fried rice and mee goreng, and the jackfruit, locally grown was very sweet. After lunch, we hopped back into the van which would take us south to Tangkak, about 45 minutes by the North-South Highway.

### @Tangkak BP Church

As Tangkak is in the state of Johore, Sunday is a school day and a work day. Therefore, her worship service is in the evening at 5pm. As there was a long break for the team, Eld Chia decided to bring us for some durian tasting as a respite. The team was thoroughly energised after the durian session, albeit because the season is nearly over, the fruit was then available only in frozen packs.

Once at Tangkak BP Church, we were welcomed by Bro Chan You, who lived nearby. Bro Chan You and his wife, Sis Bee Kim are the faithful custodians of the church, keeping the church clean and tidy, a most welcoming place just like the Malacca church. Soon the families of Dn Leong Kian and Sis Wan Mei – both ERS students – came trooping in, and suddenly the church seemed to be filling up. I was glad to see their children whom I saw more often on zoom. The team was happy to see both Dn Leong Kian and sis Wan Mei again – they had briefly met them in the morning at Evangel BPC (Melaka) since they had driven up every Lord’s Day to serve there as well. Since there is no pianist in Malacca, Sis Wan Mei always made the effort to play the piano there – even though now she is quite heavily pregnant, and her baby will come around late October.

We listened to Eld Chia preached for the second time. It was as if he was preaching for the first time – such is the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Bro Tiong Chin chaired the worship. Dn Leong Kian helped to interpret because the driver of our



van had entered the church during the worship. We pray the Word of God to minister to him.

Sunday School was taught by Dn Leong Kian’s wife, and Sis Gillian taught the children some songs using her ukelele.

After the worship, Eld Chia brought the team to have dinner before heading back to Singapore. I parted ways with the team as I would stay overnight in Tangkak in Sis Wan Mei’s house. The next morning, I proceeded to KL in Bro Leong Kian’s car for the start of a new semester at ERS. The team managed to have a smooth homeward journey, and cleared the Singapore custom at 10pm.

It was a long and tiring safari, but we thanked God for being with us all the way. I felt very blessed as now more Lifers know about the work in Malaysia, and met with the very people that they have been praying for. It is also an eye-opener for them as they realise how different the Christian landscape is in Malaysia. Some team members also expressed how they saw opportunities for ministries, and Eld Chia’s response is that different fellowships could join the future trips to explore these avenues. May different Lifers join Eld Chia and his team for the future trips.



# Pekanbaru Medical & Dental Mission Trip 23-25 September

Sis Woon Yee Wern

## Overview

The medical and dental mission trip to Pekanbaru was conducted over the weekend of 23-25 September. The team consisted of 19 people from five different churches, of which 15 participants were Lifers, grouped in three teams - the medical team, dental team and children's ministry team. In total, the medical team saw about 280 patients and the dental team saw around 160 patients over two days.

## Day 1

Pekanbaru is in Riau province on the island of Sumatra. The team took a short one-hour flight to get there, and an additional road trip to reach Sekolah Penjuru Bangsa, or Cornerstone School which was the first location of our ministry. At this point it was already noontime, so we had to eat a packet lunch in the bus as there was no time to sit down and eat somewhere.

Having reached the school, we immediately began to scope out the classrooms and establish a workflow. As the dental team were completing their preparations, one teacher appeared at the doorway with a young boy in tow. The student had fallen down and had a large gash on his forehead, with blood splattered on his white uniform. Dr Yee Siang quickly attended to him and stitched his wound up using one of three sutures that the dental team had packed. Less than 20 minutes

later, another boy came in with the same injury on the same side of his forehead! Once again Dr Yee Siang swiftly patched him up. Thank God the team had enough sutures and a skilled doctor to care for the boys and handle this unexpected situation.

Dn Surya and Sis Esther did their best in patient registration and triage while the patients began to stream in. Even though it became a little chaotic towards the end, their role was crucial in ensuring proper documentation and more efficiency in managing the patient flow.



While all this was happening, the children's ministry team had their hands full as well. The children were divided into two classrooms, as we were not allowed to directly share the gospel with non-Christian children, and would instead conduct moral lessons for them. There were about 100 Christian students in total. We told the story of Daniel in the lion's den with a focus on Daniel's steadfast faith and how Daniel points us to Jesus who was unjustly put to death as part of God's plan. They loved creating their lion masks for the crafts. For the non-Christian students, we spoke on the Ten Commandments: Honouring their fathers and mothers and loving their neighbour as themselves. We explained that God's rules for us are given out of love. He has also given us friends and parents to give and receive love. Following this lesson, the children



made crafts such as paper crowns and bracelets. This helped them express why they were thankful for their parents and reminded them to honour their parents, while the bracelet helped them express friendship and loving those around them. We thank God that Ibu Esra was able to help with translation for the moral lessons, and Rev Efendi was able to do the translation for the Bible story.



The team ended a busy day by visiting the house of Pak Topa where his family hosted a generous buffet and we had fellowship over dinner. Pak Topa is one of Ibu Roska's good friends who has been supporting her ministry for many years. It was amazing and inspiring to see how God had used them for the furtherance of His kingdom. We were also touched by his warm hospitality and generosity. After dinner we returned to the hotel where we were grateful to be able to clean up and rest ourselves for the next day that waited us.



## Day 2

Day 2 commenced with a hearty breakfast before setting off on a long drive to Gappi Libo. This is a small church nestled amid a vast expanse of oil plantations. Because it was quite a distance away from the well-paved roads, we thank God for

granting us warm dry weather and a very skilled driver who got us safely there. If it had rained, the van might have been stuck in the mud.

We worshipped God alongside their little congregation. Dr Lim Ming Yann gave a message based on 1 Thessalonians 1:3, translated by Dn Surya. The message was about the works of faith, labour of love and patience of hope that characterised the Thessalonian church. Dr Ming Yann encouraged us to emulate these traits as the church of Christ. Then Rev Efendi conducted Holy Communion for us. God's providence was evident when the elements were distributed as nobody missed out on taking part in it, yet there were no leftovers!



*The unpaved road to Gappi Libo*

The team was once again met with hospitality after the service was over. Some of the ladies in the congregation had cooked enough to feed everyone, and so the sanctuary became a dining hall as we sat and ate together with them. We had to take our leave quickly and reach Libo Ceria by 1pm, so we said goodbye and went on our way. The program at Libo Ceria started at 1.15pm. Like the day before, the medical and dental team were quick to establish their stations and facilitate patient flow. We thank God for granting us the physical strength to withstand the hot weather and poorly ventilated rooms, worsened by layers of personal protective equipment (PPE). Again, God provided for our needs. It appeared as if we were short on certain things like gloves and gauze, yet as the session came to a close, we had just a little extra spare, or used up the last with no leftovers.

For the children's ministry team, they were initially intimidated because there were about 240 children who arrived at once. They were split into six different classes by age. With only three facilitators, the children's ministry team managed



Here is a testimony by one of the dentists who went on this trip:

### **Reflection by Hendra Loy, Gospel Light Christian Church member, General Dentist**

Prior to this trip, I had joined Life Bible-Presbyterian Church overseas dental missions to Batam three times in 2022 and 2023. I got to know about these trips through my dental classmate and good friend Dr Nicholas Lim, a member of Life BP. I have a special burden for Indonesia as I was born and raised there until I was primary 6, when I migrated to Singapore and have been living and working here since. For the past few years, I feel that the Lord has been leading me to use my God-given dentistry career and connection to Indonesia to further His kingdom. There was a realization that God may be telling me to return to my home country to be used by Him, which is my main reason for embarking on these trips. The past 3 trips have been eye opening and impactful.

However, this particular trip to Pekanbaru is even more important to me, as it is also the city that I was born in. There was a sense of nostalgia, and at the same time, the sense of duty to contribute back to the region. In the planning stages of the trip, I had a lot of anxieties and worries. This was my first time leading a dental team for overseas missions, as Nicholas was not available to join us for the trip. There was much uncertainty in ensuring sufficient equipment and manpower. But I thank God for His providence, as three of my colleagues have so readily availed themselves for this trip without hesitation, even though two of them are new mothers. Thank God also for the Life BP members who have kindly volunteered to be dental assistants despite having minimal exposure to dental assistantship. However, at that point I was still skeptical whether we will be able to have an efficient workflow, as it can easily get chaotic in the setting of makeshift dental clinic. Another concern was how we were going to

to cooperate with the teachers there, grouping the children in three groups. They did handicrafts and storytelling concurrently, and we thank God that all the classes were able to listen to the story and gospel before they went off to see the doctors and dentists. Once again God was so providential because we had one to two teachers together with Rev Efendi who could converse in English and help to translate the instructions.

Rooms were warm and stuffy, and yet, the children were enthusiastic and responded well to the handicrafts and especially the story! So we thank God for all his blessings!

### **Day 3**

On the final day, we did not have time to conduct another medical and dental session as we were invited to celebrate Sekolah Penjuru Bangsa's 10th anniversary together with them. A large tentage had been prepared. Students, staff and the mission team sat in the shade as the celebration commenced with speeches and a traditional Indonesian dance by a group of girls. We thank the Lord for growing this school and having Ibu Roska serve in it as an education consultant – it is our prayer that she will be a shining testimony and bring the Gospel to many through this channel.

All too soon it was time to bid everyone goodbye and head to the airport. Looking back on the hectic schedule and the events that folded, we are reminded of how the harvest fields are white and waiting for labourers that are so few in comparison. May this account of the mission trip help us see the pressing need for more labourers who will work for God's kingdom, for things that have eternal value.

get past Indonesian customs with large amounts of sharp dental instruments and medications. In previous trips, I have heard that usually the team would be held up and interrogated at the customs. By God's mercy, the customs officers were really understanding and let us go without question. They even wished us a 'happy mission trip'! I was also impressed that the team managed to set up the room efficiently. As we began to treat the patients, we get reminded of the poor oral health condition in these villages that have little access to dental care. At times, there is nothing much we can do to help them - we ended up deferring extractions for many of them as there is high risk of complications. Sometimes we feel that we are not making a difference. This is where prayer comes in, but often forgotten in the rush of the situation. It also emphasized the importance of follow up and dental prevention programme for these regions, in order to have a more sustainable dental mission that can touch lives.



On the second day of dental clinic session at Libo Ceria School, the patient flow was even more overwhelming than the previous day. There were moments when I somewhat felt annoyed as people began to cut the queue, and the teachers were not very clear on the number of patients waiting. I prayed to God that He will give me a selfless heart, to show God's love with the strength supplied by Him. The team persevered and saw close to 100 patients that day. God's precise providence was also evident, as there were many materials that were just enough or in abundance.

I have also been very encouraged by Ibu Roska's team and her mission/school partners. I am inspired by Ibu Roska's passion for Christ and her ever joyful heart. We were also blessed by Pak Topa's and Mr Andrew's family's warmth and hospitality as they host us for sumptuous dinners. Also thank God for the schoolteachers who

helped with the administration and translation, as well as the GAPPI Libo church members who cooked for us after the service. The fellowship and teamwork that we have amongst the team members were also very valuable. Time and time again, God has shown Himself faithful throughout the past mission trips and my life in general. In my weakness in worrying and overthinking, God is still merciful to provide. There were no major complications, everyone was kept healthy and safe. From this trip, I would like to keep impressing upon my heart that God will remain faithful and unchanging, and let this be another reminder that I need not worry at all, as He has proven Himself time and time again. Looking forward, I endeavour to embark on return trips to Pekanbaru if God willing. We will use the valuable lessons learnt from this trip to apply on the next one. Through our service, may God continue to touch the hearts of the people in Pekanbaru so that they may know Jesus!

## 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.



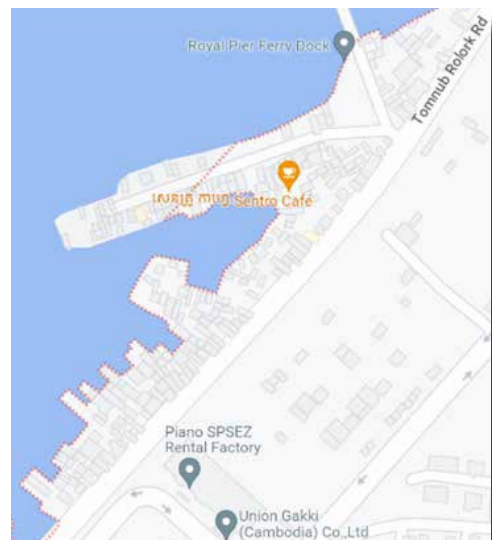
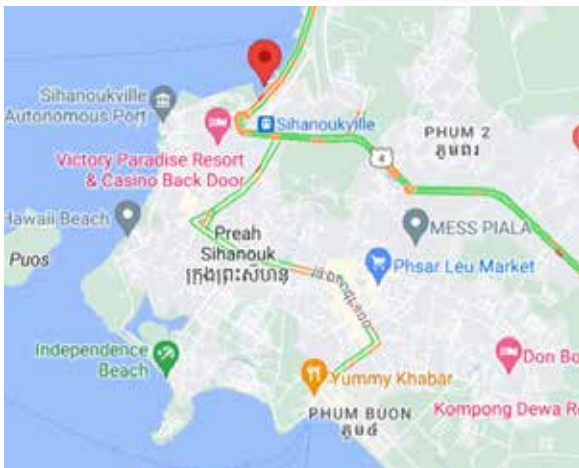


# Mission Report on Sihanoukville Port Village Ministry

Bro Lim Kwang Taek and Sis Miriam Phan



Sihanouk Port Village is located on Tomnub Rolork Street, 3.9km north of the centre of Sihanoukville. It is located on the outskirts, next to the port, where even the police do not come to check. Therefore, it is known that the neighbourhood's security is relatively unstable and that children lack educational benefits. According to Rev Moses Hahn, the village was founded by Vietnamese refugees fleeing the Vietnam War who built wooden houses on the coast and began living there. Most of those who entered Cambodia without going through formal entry procedures made a living by catching fish. Over time, the area has been used as a place for drug dealing and a red-light district.



*Location of the port town on Google maps*

We visited the port village for the first time on 22 April together with Rev Moses, KBS graduates, and a KCS teacher. Thankfully, there were some children who recognised the KBS graduates who had taught children in the port town before the covid outbreak. The children were happy with our visit and they said they wanted to learn English and Vietnamese again. We asked how the children were doing, got their phone number, and prayed for them. Then, we tried to contact the children and invite them to participate in Sunday school at KBS, but their parents were unwilling to send them to a place more than 15 minutes away by car. We made plans to meet the parents with the Rev Moses, but it was delayed again due to the Indochina Mission Trip and Koh Kong Prison Bible Camp schedule.



*Entrance to the port village*



*First visit in April*

We shared our burden we felt toward that port village and visited them again on 24 July. With the help of a woman, we found a house in the village and were able to start English and Vietnamese classes with four children. Although we were not fluent in Khmer at the time, the children participated enthusiastically. However, on our third visit, the family of the Vietnamese children we initially met left for Vietnam again due to family circumstances, and only one Cambodian girl who had previously participated in the classes came to join. So, we went around the street and gathered the children. By God's grace, many children came to join the class the next week, and we were able to teach the students in a better environment by providing a whiteboard and 20 chairs with the prayer and support of Life B-P Church.

One of the challenges of Port Village Ministry is providing children with a place to share the gospel and learn the language. We have changed locations four times since we started ministering in the village. As the number of students increased, we began considering renting empty houses to provide sufficient space for children. In particular, since a new tenant moved into the house we previously used on Sundays, we started holding classes outdoors. Recently the landlord of the new house agreed to rent it to us for US\$2.50 per week. We pray that we can find a stable place where we can have blessed time of fellowship with the children each week without worrying about new tenants.



*Second visit in July*



*Class with whiteboard and chairs*

The second challenge we face in ministry is the education and religious background of children. Although most children in the village attend free school, they are still learning to read and write, and the pronunciation and intonation of the

Khmer language there is slightly different. In terms of religious background, most children come from Buddhist families, so the Word of God is unfamiliar to them. When we tell Bible stories, we often find that children have difficulty understanding the content. We pray that challenges like these serve as an opportunity to rely on our God alone, to love children with compassion believing that the Lord may open their hearts in His time and will.



*The house we are currently using*



*Prayer time*

We would like to give thanks to His faithful guidance and wonderful plan that led us to a place and allowed us to share the Gospel to the lost souls. We would appreciate it if you would remember our missionary work in your prayer that we can faithfully serve the souls entrusted to us, following the example of the Lord who searches for a lost sheep until He finds it and rejoices when He finds it. May the true peace and spiritual blessings that come only from the Lord Jesus upon your family and ministry.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## PARTICIPATING IN UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS IN 2024

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. You may prayerfully consider participating in a Mission trip as an individual, a family, a fellowship group or a NBC. If you are interested to participate in the upcoming mission trips being planned for 2024, please register your interest by filling in the form. All participants who are attending mission trips organised by Life B-P Church are required to sign the letter of undertaking for the mission trip at <https://forms.gle/Cc4Q22b8csiFmqEY6>.

Date	Mission	Remarks
9-12 Mar 2024	Salatiga, Central Java - MaD* and children's ministry	March school holidays
7 Apr 2024	Batam - GAPPI Sagulung Baru Anniversary	
2 Jun 2024	Batam - GAPPI Tanjung Piayu Anniversary	Woodlands NBC
Jul 2024	Batam - GAPI Batu Aji VBS	
Jul 2024	Chiangmai - children's ministry	
4 Aug 2024	Batam - Ladies Sunday School trip	
Aug 2024	Hilltop, Philippines - MaD* trip with Calvary B-P Church (Jurong)	National Day holiday
Sep 2024	Pekanbaru - MaD* and children's ministry	September school holiday
6 Oct 2024	Batam - GAPPI Batu Aji Anniversary	
Oct / Nov 2024	Chiangmai - MaD* to mountain churches	
Nov / Dec 2024	Cambodia – Komponsom	December school holidays

\*MaD – Medical and Dental