

# Focus on Missions

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## The Amazing Story of David and Svea Flood

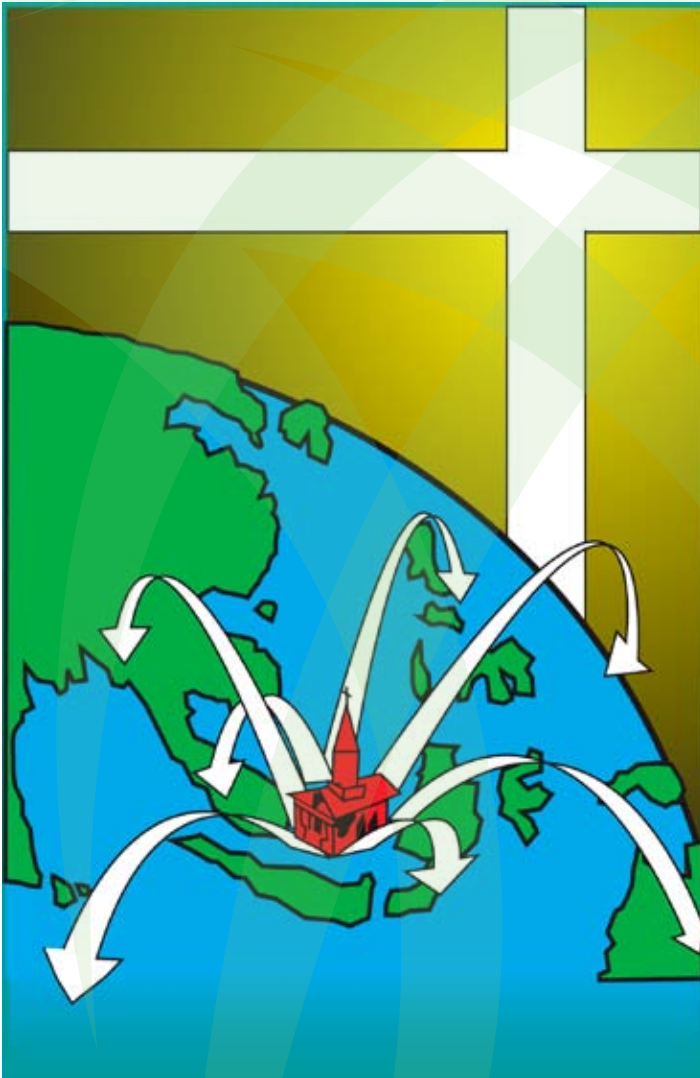
(an excerpt from the book 'Fresh Power' by Jim Cymbala)

Back in 1921 a missionary couple named David and Svea Flood went with their 2 year old son to what was then called the Belgian Congo. They met up with another young Scandinavian couple. In those days of much tenderness and devotion and sacrifice, they felt led of the Lord to set out from the main mission station and take the gospel to a remote area.

This was a huge step of faith. At the village of N'dolera they were rebuffed by the chief, who would not let them enter his town for fear of alienating the local gods. The 2 couples opted to go half a mile up the slope and build their own mud huts. They prayed for a spiritual breakthrough, but there was none.

The only contact with the villagers was a young boy, who was allowed to sell them chickens and eggs twice a week. Svea Flood - a tiny woman only four feet, eight inches tall - decided that if this was the only African she could talk to, she would try to lead the boy to the Lord. In fact she succeeded. But there were no other encouragements. Meanwhile, malaria continued to strike one member of the little band after another.

In time the Ericksons decided they had enough suffering and returned to the central mission station. David and Svea Flood remained near N'dolera to go on alone. Then, of all things, Svea found herself pregnant in the middle of the primitive wilderness. When the time came for her to give birth, the village chief softened enough to allow a midwife to help her. A little girl was born, whom they name Ain. The delivery, however, was exhausting, and Svea Flood was already weak from bouts of malaria. The birth process was a heavy blow to her stamina. She only lasted another 17 days before she died.



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Inside David Flood, something snapped in the moment. He dug a grave, buried his 27 year old wife, and then took his children back down the mountain to the mission station. Giving his newborn daughter to the Ericksons, he snarled, "I am going back to Sweden". I've lost my wife, and I obviously can't take care of this baby. God has ruined my life". With that, he headed for the port, rejecting not only his calling, but God himself.

Within 8 months both the Ericksons were stricken with a mysterious malady and died within days of each other. The baby was then turned over to some American missionaries, who adjusted her Swedish name to "Aggie" and eventually brought her back to the United States at the age of three.

This family loved the little girl and were afraid that if they tried to return to Africa, some legal obstacle might separate her from them. So they decided to stay in their home country and switch from missionary work to pastoral ministry. And that is how Aggie grew up in South Dakota. As a young woman, she attended North Central Bible College in Minneapolis. There she met and married a young man name Dewey Hurst.

Years passed. The Hursts enjoyed a fruitful ministry. Aggie gave birth first to a daughter, then a son. In time her husband became president of a Christian college in the Seattle area and Aggie was intrigued to find so much Scandinavian heritage there.

One day a Swedish religious magazine appeared in her mailbox. She had no idea who had send it and of course she couldn't read the words. But as she turned the pages, all of a sudden a photo stopped her cold. There in a primitive setting was a grave with a

white cross – and on the cross were the words SVEA FLOOD. Aggie jumped in her car and went straight for the college faculty member who, she knew, could translate the article.

"What does this say?" she demanded. The instructor summarized the story : It was about missionaries who had come to N'dolera long ago ... the birth of a white baby...the death of the young mother ..the one little African boy who had been led to Christ.... and how, after the whites had all left, the boy had grown up and finally persuaded the chief to let him build a school in the village. The article said that gradually he won all the students to Christ.... even the chief had become a Christian. Today there were 600 Christian believers in that one village...all because of the sacrifice of David and Svea Flood.

For the Hursts' twenty fifth wedding anniversary, the college presented them with a gift of a vacation to Sweden. There Aggie sought to find her real father. An old man now, David Flood had remarried, fathered 4 more children, and generally dissipated his life with alcohol. He had recently suffered a stroke. Still bitter, he had one rule in his family: "Never mention the name of God- because God took everything from me."

After an emotional reunion with her half brothers and half sister, Aggie brought up the subject of seeing her father. The others hesitated. "You can talk to him," they replied, " even though he's very ill now. But you need to know that whenever he hears the name of God he flies into a rage". Aggie was not deterred. She walked into the dirty apartment, with liqueur bottles everywhere, and approached the 77 year old man lying on a rumpled bed. "Papa?", she said tentatively. He turned and began to cry. "Aina", he said. "I never meant to give you away. "It's all right, Papa," she replied, taking him gently in her arms. "God took care of me".

The man instantly stiffened. The tears stopped. "God forgot all of us. Our lives have been like this because of him." He turned his face back to the wall. Aggie stroked his face and then continued, undaunted. "Papa, I've got a little story to tell you, and it is a true one. You did not go to Africa in vain. Mama did not die in vain. The little boy you won to the Lord grew up to win that whole village to Jesus Christ. The one seed you planted just kept growing and growing. Today there are 600 African people serving the Lord because you were faithful to the call of God in your life.... Papa, Jesus loves you. He has never hated you."The old man turned back to look into his daughter's eyes. His body relaxed. He began to talk. And by the end of the afternoon, he had come back to the God he had resented for so many decades.



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Over the next few days, father and daughter enjoyed warm moments together. Aggie and her husband soon had to return to America – and within a few weeks, David Flood had gone into eternity.

A few years later, the Hursts were attending a high-level evangelism conference in London, England, when a report was given from the nation of Zaire ( the former Belgian Congo). The superintendent of the national church, representing some 110,000 baptized believers, spoke eloquently on the gospel's spread in his nation. Aggie could not help going to ask him afterwards if he had heard of David and Svea Flood. "Yes madam," the man replied in French, his words then being translated into English. "It was Svea Flood who led me to Jesus Christ. I was the boy who brought food to your parents before you were born. In fact, to this day your mother's grace and her memory are honoured by all of us." He embraced her in a long, sobbing hug. then he continued, "You must come to Africa to see, because your mother is the most famous person in our history".

In time that is exactly what Aggie Hurst and her husband did. They were welcomed by cheering throngs of villagers. She even met the man who had been hired by her father many years ago to carry her back down the mountain in a hammock-cradle. The most dramatic moment, of course, was when the pastor escorted Aggie to see her mother's white cross for herself. She knelt in the soil to pray and give thanks. Later that day, in the church, the pastor read from John 14:24: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." He then followed with Psalm 126:5: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy".

## Myanmar Mission Trip 19 to 24 October 2012

### *Thanksgiving.*

Thanks be to God for the safe home arrival 24 Oct 12 of eleven team members from a fruitful Myanmar mission trip. Thank you for praying for us. God preserved us with good health and strength and enabled us to share the gospel with approximately 180 children, 90 women and 70 pastors/leaders.

Team members comprise other than myself (training of leaders), Iris Loe (children ministry I/C), Mary Leong (women's ministry I/C), Sonny Loe (assistant team leader), Tan Khoon Eng (treasurer), Yee Ding Yang (photographer), Lee Jun Yi, Bernie Phang, Khor Chiew Ling, Hazel Goh and Tan Tok Lan.

### *Overview of Mission Programme*

After hearing the testimonies of the last mission team to Myanmar led by Dn Lim Pin (together with brothers Vincent Leong and Tan Soo Kiang), the needs were to train the leaders and co-workers as well as conduct children ministry. I felt burdened to train Rev Kam's co-workers and leaders, and to lead a team to train women and share the gospel with children. After several long-distance telephone conversations with Rev Kam, a detailed programme was drawn up.



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Publicity leaflets were inserted in the weekly in August together with an article I wrote on the life of Adoniram Judson – one of the most successful early missionaries to Burma. He translated the Bible into Burmese language, and hundreds of years later, it is still the standard used by the Burmese churches today. By mid-September, fourteen Lifers responded to join the Myanmar team. In the interest of keeping the group manageable and efficient, the team was limited to the first eleven who had registered.

## *The final program comprises:*

- a. Leaders'/Pastors' 3-day training on Shorter Catechism & Inquirers' Bible course [Dn Lee Hock Chin] on 20 Oct (Sat), 22 Oct (Mon) and 23 Oct (Tue) and preaching at Yangon BPC's Sunday worship service.
- b. Children's ministry (daily) at Rev Kam's orphanage, Yangon BP Church, Tingun Kyone Kyi church and Sweepitha Church [Leader: Iris]. Bible stories: creation, Noah, Jonah, and Zacchaeus.
- c. Woman's Saturday programme at Yangon BPC [Leader: Mary Leong] on creation, fall of man and God's redemption plan through His Son Jesus Christ. This trains the women to continue the work of discipling women and teaching children after our mission ends.

## **Leaders' / Pastors' Training.**

Over three full days (Saturday, Monday and Tuesday), I taught 70 pastors/ leaders the Shorter Catechism and the Inquirers' Bible Course. The materials were emailed to Rev Kam sometime in August for him to translate into Burmese language. He did so within a short period of time. I was impressed by his efficiency.

Amongst the attendees were Rev Kam's five pastors and leaders from Grace BP Church and Emmanuel BP Church who have travelled one full day from Upper Myanmar. One of them shared that if not for the financial sponsorship, they would not have been able to make the trip.

Also among the participants were leaders and Sunday School teachers from Rev Kam's

orphanage and village churches in Dala, Sweepitha and Tingun Kyone Kyi. Rev Kam also invited several pastors from other Presbyterian and Baptist churches so that they may learn the systematic doctrinal teaching of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

The participants were very attentive, and their testimonies were heartwarming. Many shared that this was their first encounter with systematic doctrinal teaching. Some attendees are very happy to have the materials in the Burmese language which they can immediately use to teach their members.



## **Women's Training.**

Mrs Mary Leong shared with the women God's Word (creation, sin, redemption, attributes of God) on Saturday morning while Iris and other team members taught them English Bible songs, Bible story-telling and preparing art and craft in the afternoon. As Yangon BPC hall was concurrently used for the leaders programme, Rev Kam rented a 3rd floor hall just for the Saturday women's training.



## **Children's ministry.**

The children's programme led by Mrs Iris Loe reached out to 25 kids at the orphanage/Rev Kam's home (for 3 nights from 5-7pm on Friday, Saturday and Monday);



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65 kids (from orphanage & Dala) on Sunday morning (10am – 12noon) children's programme at downtown Yangon BP Church, and 100 kids at two village churches at 9.30am-12noon (Tingun Kyone Kyi – 40 kids) and 2pm-4pm (Sweepitha – 50 kids).

The gospel was presented through the gospel beads in five colours given as part of a bookmark craft. The bookmark was personalised with a polaroid photo of each child taken by our photographer, Yee Ding Yang, who became very popular among the kids.

We were moved as we saw the great spiritual needs of these children. Though they were materially poor, many of them were spiritually rich as they have trusted in Christ for salvation. Pray for others who are still lost in sin.



## *Lord's Day afternoon worship (1-3pm),*

I preached from Luke chapter 14:16-20 exhorting brethren on Three common excuses why People don't come to Jesus - land, oxen and wife. These same reasons are given by Christians for not serving Christ:

Land - I have bought a new house and I need to inspect it and renovate it.

Ox - I have bought five oxen (job or mode of transport eg. car), and I need to go and test them out. Sorry God, I have no time.

Wife - I have just got married, I'm too busy to go to church.

Each of these are wonderful blessings from God, which our depraved hearts turn into idols that take the place of God in our hearts i.e. they become more important than God. Instead of being thankful to God for blessing us with a home, with jobs, and with spouses and children, we tell God that we have no time for Him because we are preoccupied with these blessings. As a result, these blessings can become a curse for us.

I issued a challenge to the believers at Yangon BPC to faithfully serve Christ our Lord and master all the days of our lives, and urged the non-believers to come and personally trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

## *Reflections:*

Spiritual blessing – For me, it was a humbling and blessed experience. Humbling because many of the pastors were much more experienced than I, and yet they came to hear me teach God's Word. I was also humbled that God should use me an unworthy sinner to do this important work. It was a blessed time, because even though we speak different languages, we share a common fellowship in Jesus Christ. Truly I can say it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Helpful Advice – Mrs Phoebe Wong gave the team very good advice and provided us with crafts and stationery gifts for the children. A briefing by Dn Lim Pin on do's and don'ts in Myanmar proved helpful to the team members.

Health – I was a bit apprehensive about hygiene conditions there as I heard that participants at a recent medical conference held at a Yangon 5-star hotel came down with severe food poisoning. A member of the previous Myanmar mission team was similarly afflicted. We committed these fears to the Lord, and He has allayed our fears. Having ten persons in the children ministry is a blessing as it provides reserves in case someone falls ill. However, I did not have a back-up person to teach the leaders programme, so I had to be extremely careful with my intake of food and drinks. I thank God that apart from sister Chiew Ling who had stomach upset after the final dinner, God had preserved all of us so that we could minister unhindered.

**Local Conditions** – Having made the trip to Yangon, I appreciate a little better the conditions under which Rev Kam conduct his ministries.

a. Transport cost expensive. The government bans bicycles and motor-bikes from the city. People either walk, or take public transport, buses, trains, or taxis to work. Hence, I saw Rev Kam's workers handing out Kyats 1,000 per participant at the

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end of each day. I asked him about it. He said, they are not gifts, but reimbursement of their transport costs. Otherwise, it would be prohibitive for them to make the trip downtown. The downtown loop-service train ride costs US\$1/trip (or around Kyat 850) one-way. Buses may be cheaper.

b. Bibles shortage. A few Lifers pledged to give a sum of money for Rev Kam to buy Bibles there. He placed orders for 50 bibles @ S\$7/copy. However, when we arrived, we were told that the Bible Society had run out of Bibles for the year. When we visited a Baptist book store, they showed us only 7 copies of a “not for sale” Bible priced at S\$3.50 (to cover their transport costs). We understand that stock will be replenished next year.

c. Internet connection is not reliable. Power outages are common, even in modern shopping centres.



## Batam Mission - 2 Dec 2012

On 2 December 2012, a group of 31 Lifers went on a one-day mission trip to Batam led by Rev Quek Keng Khwang, who was there to preach at the Lord's Day service, and Dn Lim Pin. In addition to a few adult members from Life B-P Church, the group comprised mainly the secondary three and four students from the Young Teens Sunday School accompanied by their class teachers.

The purpose of the trip was to support the Sunday School ministry at the churches of Batu Aji &



Sagulung Baru. The Lifers were grouped in two separate teams to conduct the Sunday School programmes at the two churches concurrently that morning. As it was nearing the Christmas season, the team led in the singing of Christmas carols and told the story of the wise men that came from the east seeking Jesus. They also helped the children make paper mobiles of the wise men bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the handicraft session to help the children remember the story.

For this trip to Batam, the team of Lifers has much to thank the Lord for which cannot be fully expressed in this short article. We especially thank the Lord for Dn Lim Pin and Sister Sharon Seow who planned the programme for that day. It is our prayer that the children of Batam will, like the wise men of old, seek Jesus with all their hearts. We also thank the Lord for safety as we travelled, particularly as we had in our midst a large number of our young teens from the Sunday School. For many of the teens, this trip to Batam was their first experience serving at a mission station. We pray that our young people will learn much from this experience and will grow to have an ongoing concern for missions.



### *Reflections of the Batam mission from the Secondary 4 Girls Sunday School class:*

“It was the first mission trip for the majority of us. While we were all very enthusiastic about this trip, we were unsure how exactly we could contribute and make ourselves useful. We felt unprepared and “slightly useless” initially. However, through the process of preparing for, and participating in, the trip, the Lord showed us that as long as we were willing, there would always be opportunities to serve. Although some of us felt that we did not seem to have done much to help the children in Batam, yet we thank God for showing us how to do our part in our own small little ways. God used us to help in the preparation of the art and craft materials as we were having our holidays. This, we were told, really lifted the load off the working adults who did not have as much time as us!



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While a number of us wished that we had participated in a mission trip at an earlier age, we realized that it was good that we only went when we were spiritually more prepared to serve Him. We were reminded that a mission trip was not just a holiday out of the country, but a chance to serve in God's harvest field. Through this trip, we really gained much and learnt many precious lessons about serving God.

First and foremost, we now understand that serving the Lord requires a lot of effort, commitment and sacrifice. This Batam trip was quite tiring for some of us as we have just completed a two-day Lively Teens Fellowship leaders' retreat right before this trip. However, it was encouraging to see all of us trying our best to keep up the spirits and even singing Christian songs along the way! Despite our tiredness, we were still happy to be at Batam serving the Lord! We really wonder how difficult it must sometimes be for those called by the Lord to serve as missionaries. The missionaries really need our prayers and support in order to continue to press on and not give up!

Secondly, we learnt that no matter what difficulties we may face, we should continue to be faithful and enthusiastic in serving the Lord with the thought that we are doing it all for His glory. One of us suffered from severe motion sickness but decided to join us despite her fears. We were also greatly encouraged by the example of Dn Lim Pin who shared that he too suffered from motion sickness, yet continued to travel for missions regularly. We thank God for his testimony of serving the Lord with a cheerful and willing heart despite the physical inconvenience he faced.

Thirdly, we realized that the Church was really about the people and not the physical building. We were very touched by how heartily and sincerely the people at the Batam church sang. Even though the size of their church was small compared to ours, and they only had an electric keyboard for accompaniment, every individual sang at the top of their voices, singing praises to Him and really



meaning every word they sang. Their faith really showed through their enthusiasm despite the lack of facilities. This Batam trip has made us reflect on the attitude we adopt when worshipping the Lord.

Finally, it was really heartening to see a little girl being really interested to know more about God's word during the Sunday School lesson. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10) Please pray for the salvation of the children in Batam."

We are truly thankful for the testimony of this group of young ladies. May we who are parents, Sunday School teachers, or youth leaders, be encouraged that God can use His people, no matter how young, to serve in missions.

## *Testimony of Dominic Yeo – Sec 4B*

"This Batam trip has been an indelible experience for me. It has truly provided me with a wider perspective of how Sunday service is carried out in Batam. I had learnt much not only about how missions are carried out from the mission team, but also savoured the sweetness of fellowship with the brethren who went along with me. Being able to observe the service in Batam has allowed me to cherish the comfortable church environment we enjoy in Singapore. We visited 2 churches, one of which comprised many children, mostly displaying joy and excitement about God's word, from which we should truly learn from. Once again I want to thank God for this wonderful opportunity to enter the mission field even though it may just be a glimpse of it through a keyhole. I look forward to the next trip in the future.

## **UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS (Jan-Jun 2013)**

### **Nepal**

- 21-29 Jan (Rev Wong);
- Jun (tentative, Dn Lim Pin)

### **Batam**

- 3 Feb, 3 Mar & 7 Apr (Rev Seet);
- 5 May (Rev Quek);
- 2 Jun (Rev Wong)

### **Myanmar**

- Mar (tentative),
- Apr (tentative, Dn Lee Hock Chin)

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## Letter of Appreciation from Kenya

**This letter of appreciation was written by a Nchaanka Kipelian who used to work at the Clinic of Life at Kiluani as an assistant to sister Pui Meng.**

“Dear: Rev. Charles Seet & Mission Committee, Life BP Church

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord Almighty for the time he has given me to send you this email. All glory be unto him! I couldn't make it to write but the Lord has enabled me; he give me the time and good health to write it to thank the Lord so much.

My name is Tom Nchaanka Kipelian, I'm a former Kiluani New life secondary school student and a former Kiluani Clinic of Life employee. The mission has sponsored me to pursue Diploma Information Technology at Mount Kenya University. My family is a big family about eight boys and nine girls. My father has two wives that is, my mother and my step mother; so we are a big family. Despite us been a big family most of my brothers and sister has not gone to school. Currently, I'm the only one who has gone to the college; others were in primary school and some have not even attended school. My father now is an old man of 68 years and my oldest brother and four of my other brothers were married men with wives and children.

We are also not a rich family because we are depending on livestock which are just very few in number, because most them have died through the drought and most of my brothers were not working since most of them have not gone to school. But we thank God for everything because he has been our provider all through the years. May glory and honors be unto Him in the highest!

The purpose of writing this letter to you is to appreciate you and the church in general for the contribution you have made in my education in the university, Now I have finished Diploma in

Information Technology in Mount Kenya University and I'm been sponsored by the mission through Madam Chan Pui Meng. Pastor, I do not know how I can express my thanks but my prayer and appreciation always goes to you and the church for that sacrifice which you and the church have put into my education. I could not have reached this far in my education if the mission had not come to my assistance in education. I just glorified the name of the Lord because the Lord has enabled you to sponsor me in my education. I know also that this is the plan of the Lord. I may not know the details of this plan, but I'm sure he has good plan for all of us not of evil neither of destruction and he is going to bring us to an expected end. Pastor, when I join my high school in 2003 I knew not that one day I will finish my high school because of the situation of my family – all cattle died because of famine and I have not school fees for my education. But when I join Kiluani New life Secondary school God helped me until Form 2 from where the mission help me to pay for my school fees. So, from 2004–2006 the Mission enabled me to pay my school fees. When I finish my Form 4 in 2006 I joined the nearest primary school as P.T.A teacher till 2008 September, after which I joined Madam Chan Pui Meng in the clinic. From that time up to 2010 February I was working with Madam Chan Pui Meng in the clinic. I just thank the nurse for the training she had given me, because I receive a lot of good things from her which has helped me so much in my life especially my working skills, I can now work very well in all institutions and in most fields. I'm just very thankful to you and God for the sacrifice you have made to me. Life Church has really done a lot for me. I don't know how I can express my thanks but may God bless you in abundance in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I thank you once again for your love and support. Your support in my college education has really changed my life and now I'm looking forward to continue with the degree from January 2013. I want to serve God in high ground in Information Communication Technology like in software development, developing church website and in any assistance that may concern God's works. I'm praying also for you always. I'm praying God that one day I can tell the church these words of thank. For sure I lack words to say “thank” but the Lord of heaven see my heart bless you in abundance. Thank you so much.

Yours in Christ

Tom Nchaanka”

More information on the missions of Life B-P Church can be found at <http://www.lifebpc.com/missions/index.html>.

If you have any queries please sent them to [missionscom@lifebpc.com](mailto:missionscom@lifebpc.com).