



Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia

2023 diakonia

One Lord, One Mission, One Heart



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

“ And the second is like unto it,
Thou shalt love thy neighbor as
thyself - Matthew 22: 39 ”

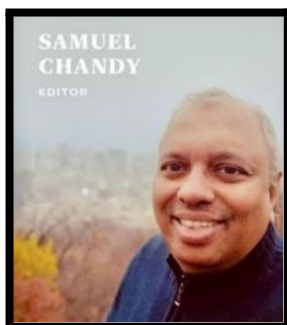
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Diakonia Editor's Notes

WELCOME!



What a year 2023 has been!

We rejoice in God's providence and His goodness. The recently concluded International Brethren Conference of Mission 8 or IBCM8 held in Kuala Lumpur saw a total of more than 1,200 delegates from 104 countries attending the conference from 19th June to 24th June 2023. 2,760 people viewed the conference live via YouTube. For more updates on the IBCM8 conference, please turn to pages 7 - 17 .

This **Diakonia** magazine is an important tool of communication for the Christian Brethren Secretariat of Malaysia ("CBSM"). CBSM via Diakonia acts:

1. To encourage and share combined activities so that Assemblies can work and grow together in unity.
2. To be a networking centre for the dissemination of timely and useful information for the purpose of prayer and co-operative action.
3. To assist in the strengthening of the Assembly witness by sharing articles & news.

The theme for this year's Diakonia is "Love Thy Neighbour". This theme is taken from the bible verses of Mark 12:30-31 **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself', there is no commandment greater than these."** "Loving your neighbour as yourself" is found eight times in the Bible. Loving your neighbour as yourself is so important to God that He not only repeats Himself, but He also makes it a command. And not just one in a list of many commands. Jesus coupled the command to love your neighbour as yourself with loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Apostle James calls it the royal law. It sounds beautiful, and it is when we obey it.

But loving your neighbour as yourself isn't always easy. That's why God made it a command. He knew we'd struggle. Making it a commandment is actually to our benefit. How so? By prompting us to approach it deliberately, to do it on purpose, to be intentional about it, even at times driven by our own needs. This is what it means to love your neighbour as yourself.

There are ten (10) main points for us to consider in what "Loving your neighbour" means:

- Receiving God's love.
- Loving ourselves as well.
- Showing grace.
- Acting with compassion.
- Looking out for their wellbeing.
- Serving them.
- Speaking kindly.
- Making allowances for other people's humanity.
- Sharing in their joys and sorrows.
- Forgiving.

Let us remind ourselves that Diakonia is not just a communication instrument for our Assemblies but to some extent, it's a reflection of our health and vitality. With God's help, let's persevere to ensure that Diakonia continues to be the servant that it is meant to be.

On a final note, I take this time to thank all contributors and especially to the editorial team for an awesome and splendid job in preparing, editing, and designing each article! You may find the PDF version at CBSM's website (<https://www.cbsm.com.my/site/diakonia/>)

In Him
Samuel Chandy
Email: sam@elim.my

Chat Diakonia 2023



Diakonia 2023 Editorial Board

Top Left to Right:

Teo Pek Bing (Sg Nibong Gospel Hall, Samuel Chandy (Seremban Gospel Chapel), Dr Khong Yoon Loomg (Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre)

Bottom Left to Right:

Rodney Tan (Melaka Gospel Chapel), Selina Tan (Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre), Lee Zhi En (Temerloh Gospel Chapel & Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre), Yap Yoke Chin (Temerloh Gospel Chapel), Joel Tan (Melaka Gospel Chapel)

Messages

Chairman's Message



Greetings in the Name of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I attended the IBCM8 conference held in Kuala Lumpur from 19th to 24th June 2023 and had a blessed time learning from the two gifted speakers, brothers Ramez Atallah and Nate Bramsen. I met several full-time workers from around the

world, both ministry workers and missionaries, and was very encouraged listening to their testimonies about how the Lord is working powerfully in their ministries, in unexpected ways, using the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. It is a joy to fellowship with believers from Brethren assemblies from all over the world and to hear that in some countries they are thriving and growing. Praise be to God! I remain in contact with a few through emails and social media, receiving news and prayer requests.

All the delegates went back home with the same experience, and they were full of praise for the Malaysian brethren who did a great job in helping to run IBCM8 successfully. I take this opportunity to thank everyone again for working so hard to ensure the smooth running of the conference. You have played an important role in helping all of us to live **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

The call to encourage one another is one of the urgent tasks and missions that the Lord gives to His beloved church, in view of the little time we have in our hands before the Lord returns. It is so very difficult to run the race alone, particularly when we have a formidable foe who is out to discourage us through all kinds of lies and

deception. Paul, in writing about the rapture of believers to meet the Lord in the air and to be with Him forever, ends with the same exhortation to encourage one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

In the timeline leading to the Lord Jesus' glorious return, the Lord wants us to spur each other on, meet regularly and encourage one another. IBCM8 was one such moment in this timeline – we met, we spurred each other on and we were encouraged. Such moments will be remembered and etched in eternity as time well spent besides having obeyed the instruction of the Lord.

To the editorial board of the Diakonia magazine, continue your good work encouraging and spurring on believers which is in tandem with the spirit of Hebrews 10:24-25. Recently, a delegate to the IBCM8 conference wrote an email to me, saying that he read the whole magazine from cover to cover while on the long journey back to his country, and was very much encouraged by what he read. This is an excerpt from his email:

"I got the CBSM 2022 Diakonia from IBCM. On my return flight, I read the entire magazine including your message. Praise God for the way the Lord uses you all there in that land (Malaysia). It was a wonderful opportunity to meet God's people from different places".

Therefore, dear brethren, let us continue to invest our time, our talents, and our resources, to live out Hebrews 10:24-25 passionately and intentionally, as we await the glorious event of the return of the Lord, to call His Church to be with Him forever.

Chew Sai Kee
Chairman, CBSM
tcjjj@gmail.com

From CBSM General Secretary's Desk



CBSM continues to work towards serving the assemblies better. Our goal is to enable and encourage brethren to work together in unity by facilitating communication and cooperation. This is often challenging since we all have our differences, but we have the same Lord,

same Mission, and the same Gospel. We are grateful to the assemblies who have prayed and contributed to the running of CBSM. We shall endeavour to serve the assemblies more effectively. This year will be the election of trustees for the next term of 2024 - 2025. Pray for the Lord's will to be done in selection of the trustees.

Assembly Leadership Conference (ALC)

ALC was held at the Port Dickson Methodist Centre, 7th – 10th Sept 2022, a year later than the usual biennial schedule due to the pandemic. The election of the

Messages

trustees, normally held at the ALC every two years, was held over Zoom in 2021. There will not be an ALC this year in 2023 but the election of trustees for the new term will be held over Zoom.

The theme for ALC 2022 was “**Together**”, where the Chinese-speaking and English-speaking assemblies came together for the first time in an ALC. The idea was not just the working together between the English and Chinese assemblies, but that all assemblies will work together in unity. We thank the Lord for our plenary speakers, Dr. Tan Chong Tin (Jalan Tiga Gospel Hall) and Dr. Daniel Wong (Melaka Gospel Centre) who ably challenged the delegates to continue the vision and mission of the early missionaries by using contemporary methods but yet staying true to the message of the gospel. All the plenary sessions and almost all workshops were interpreted both in English and Mandarin.

Altogether there were 113 delegates (including part-timers), 63 from the English-speaking and 50 from Chinese-speaking. Although the majority were over 55 years of age, we are encouraged by the sizable number of 40–55-year-olds, as well as a number under 40-year-olds. Apart from the 4 plenary messages, there were a total of 6 workshops and 4 separate parallel sessions for the English and Chinese speaking assemblies. A very key session was the discussion/introduction of the **Workers’ Trust Fund**. There is a more detailed article on this in this issue of Diakonia. All the presentations can be made available upon request from CBSM (cbsm0709@gmail.com or Whatsapp Teo Pek Bing@ 012-4253938). The workshop topics were:

1. SOTS/Mentoring (Dexter Ng)
2. Leadership training and succession (Goh Eng Wee)
3. Leadership in Partnership (Dr. Khong Yoon Loong)
4. Setapak GC Spring, Boys/Girls Brigade (David Ma)
5. Cambridge tuition – Sg. Long GC (Titus Chong)
6. STEM (Dr. Khong Yoon Loong)
7. En Fu Home (Goh Eng Swee)



There were also sessions on Youth and IBCM Network. There were 10 book and poster displays, many with free materials and free books. We are happy to report that the free books were all taken up.

We wish to thank the committee that led the organising of the ALC, the speakers, workshop leaders, and the many who stepped up during the ALC to help ensure a smooth conference. Most of all, we thank and praise the Lord for enabling and guiding the conference. Do continue to pray that actions will be taken by the various assemblies that were represented to continue the mission with the methods shared and seek ways to cooperate in unity.

Government Recognition of CBSM

CBSM continues in its attempt to seek the recognition of the government so that CBSM may represent the assemblies in their affairs. This is only a representative “face” to the government and is in no way meant to control or determine how each individual assembly is governed. Each assembly is still answerable to the Lord, not CBSM. This would be similar to NECF, which does not determine the practices of their members. Some recognition by the government can be helpful in several circumstances. For example, if a state government is allocating land for Christian churches, CBSM can represent the assemblies instead of the local assembly in the area, which may not have the resources or number of believers to justify the need for the land. Or if the government seeks to tax an assembly for income, “members” of CBSM can rightly justify that they are a church, especially where some of the assemblies have names that do not sound like traditional churches.

CBSM had prepared a package of documents highlighting the presence and good work of the assemblies in Malaysia since the arrival of the “Brethren” assemblies in 1855, being the 2nd “Protestant denomination” to arrive in Malaya (after the Anglicans). We have copies of marriage certificates dating back to 1890, solemnised at Mission Chapel, Farquhar Street, Penang by William MacDonald. Thanks to Burmah Road Gospel Hall for keeping such records.

After much arrangement and follow up, CBSM had been granted a meeting with the Senior Private Secretary to the Minister of Unity. Three CBSM representatives met up with the Secretary on 17th April 2023. It was a very cordial and positive meeting. The Secretary understood our request as we highlighted key pages of our package of documents. He committed himself to reviewing the package, discussing it with his directors and then with the Minister. We have yet to receive updates, but we will be following up. Pray with us that CBSM would be granted recognition so that we may better represent and serve the assemblies.

IBCM8

In preparation for IBCM8 Conference, IBCM* Network had contacted CBSM concerning their holding the Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. CBSM, representing the host country, will be an integral part of the conference and we are proud to be a key player in this international conference. In this Diakonia issue, there will be an article

Messages

about the conference. CBSM's role in the conference was to be the main contact/communicator for Malaysian delegates and vendors. Since most of the expenses would be in Ringgit (RM), CBSM will be the channel in which to dispense payments on behalf of IBCM Network who would transfer the necessary funds to CBSM. We are thankful to Albert Ng, CBSM Administrator, for carrying out all the transactions with diligence and so much care, even following up on the loose ends, way after the conference to this day.

(*IBCM = Inter Brethren Conference on Missions)

Nepal Missions Project

CBSM had been overseeing the Nepal Missions Project when the commending assemblies were not able to due to their limited resources. CBSM is not chartered to be a missions organisation. We held the task temporarily until an assembly or assemblies could take on the leadership. We are pleased that Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre and Melawati Gospel Centre have joined hands to oversee the mission work. The 2 assemblies have been actively involved in the Nepal Missions before taking on the role. They welcome all assemblies to partner with them in the work of reaching the Nepalese with the gospel.

Mission trips are being arranged. More information can be obtained by reaching out to:

Tan Boon Hong (+6019-3207061)

Youth Ministry Think Tank

It's been clearly observed that the assemblies have fewer and fewer youths in attendance. As a result, CBSM has formed a Youth Think Tank to look into ways to meet the needs of the Youth. The IBCM8 even had a special youth rally on the Saturday prior to the conference. Anyone who feels led by the Spirit to be involved in this Think Tank may contact CBSM.

Church Revitalization

Another issue identified by CBSM is the plight of the small assemblies in small towns. Many have buildings and properties but few in believers. CBSM is looking into how the assemblies can work together to assist these little flocks. We have a small team visiting these assemblies to see how we can help. Pray with us as we seek the Lord's wisdom.

Legacy Fund

CBSM has a fund we've named the Legacy Fund, available for assemblies and agencies who may need some funds to start or renew their mission efforts. This fund has been contributed by a brethren who have gone to be with the Lord. There are some guidelines to ensure that the fund is used well, one of which is that it is limited to RM50,000.

Write to CBSM if your assembly or agency has a mission project that needs funds. Cbsm0709@gmail.com

CBSM TRUSTEES: 2022 - 2023



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William Chang



Michael Fun



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Shanmugam



Terence Chong



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Chris Tay



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Updates from IBCM8

8th International Brethren Conference on Mission (IBCM8)

The Theme: For Christ's Love Compels Us (2 Corinthians 5:14)

www.ibcm.net



It was a privilege for IBCM Network to host the global IBCM8 conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19 to 24, June 2023. As one family 1208 participants from 104 countries gathered to celebrate, worship, and be inspired for ministry and mission together.

MAIN SESSIONS

The conference gathered under the theme “For Christ’s Love Compels Us” and encouraged us with daily ministry focusing on Unity, Mission, Discipleship, Care, and Worship. The keynote speakers, Ramez Atallah and Nate Bramsen, with one voice brought strategic and visionary addresses, encouraging us to believe that anything is possible with God, that God wants to redeem, reconcile, and transform this broken world with his love, bringing beauty from ashes. They called us to have the heart of God that gives everything for each other and to reconcile the world to Christ. Nate and Ramez both remarked that at this conference the unity and love were tangible. Praise God for that.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Ramez Atallah – Egypt; Leadership & Mission

Ramez was born in Cairo, Egypt and emigrated with his family to Canada when he was sixteen. He came to know the Lord through Rosemount Bible Chapel in Montreal and was discipled as a student through the Inter-Varsity group at McGill University. From 1972 to 1980, he developed and directed the ministry of the Groupes Bibliques Universitaires du Quebec. In 1980 along with his wife Rebecca (an MK from

Haiti) and two small children, he returned to Egypt, where he became the IFES Regional Secretary for the Middle East.

He attended the first Lausanne Congress for World Evangelization in 1974 and was subsequently appointed as the youth representative on the Lausanne Committee. He served on the Committee, in different capacities, from 1974 to 1994. In 2006 he rejoined Lausanne as Program Chairman for Lausanne III 2010 Cape Town Congress.

From 1990 – 2021 he was the CEO of the Bible Society of Egypt. During that time the Society developed from a small organisation to become the largest Arabic Bible publisher in the world serving more than 2,000 Churches of all denominations across Egypt and most Arabic speaking Churches worldwide. The Society now has 8 branch offices in Egypt, 18 Bookshops and 220 staff.

He retired from that position in 2021 and now continues with the Bible Society as their Senior Advisor.



Nate Bramsen – USA; Youth & Mission

Nate Bramsen was born in Senegal and has spent the majority of his life on the African Continent. After graduating with a business degree from North Greenville University and a Masters from Kansas State University, Nate headed overseas to ensure that those who have never heard of Jesus, hear the Gospel. While working with street children in the Middle East, he founded ROCK International, an organisation to reach children trapped in situations of crisis. He and his wife

Updates from IBCM8

Priyanka are now involved in itinerant and media ministry which includes a podcast called INTO YOUR BIBLE (available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, etc).

He is also the author of the books, What If Jesus Meant What He Said? and Prosper: Enjoying Intimacy With God (written during a journey with cancer) along with Dive In (a practical book on studying God's Word). For more, check out www.intoyourbible.org Together with his wife Priyanka and their daughters Haven and Sage, they share a passion for this generation to become unconditional followers of Jesus Christ and to see unreached souls accessed with the Gospel. During their free time, they love exploring cities, going on hikes, and trying new foods.

NETWORK TRACKS AND ELECTIVES



For the first time at an IBCM Conference the participants gathered in ministry Network Tracks to connect, discuss, and then envision in their area of service for God. Following the conference each network is encouraged to continue to support, bless, collaborate, and learn from each other, so that these networks grow to strengthen the churches worldwide. Across the conference week there were 45 electives that focused on specific issues connected to each Network Track – Youth, Mission, Leadership, Children, Training & Theology, Church Ministry, and Evangelism & Church Planting.

YOUTH FOCUS

IBCM8 had a specific youth focus. Over the last 4 years the IBCM Network team has intentionally created a Youth Network of over 100 Youth Ambassadors from over 70 countries. Together with these leaders we have shaped the youth components that were present throughout IBCM8, such as the youth panels, the youth network track, and the Go-Serve mission trips.

This strategic focus encouraged over 260 under 35-year-old attendees. Over a meal at the conference the Youth Ambassadors gathered to get to know each other, and to start to envision how regional and global collaboration among the youth could strengthen and transform our churches. Many are now considering the possibility of youth conferences and other events in their regions.

GO-SERVE MISSION TRIPS

IBCM Network in collaboration with the local churches has organised a number of short-term mission trips following the

conference. The Go-Serve mission trips have been designed to allow the local churches in the host country to set the mission agenda while also providing the opportunity for international mission teams to come together to participate in missions in various contexts and countries.



Eight mission teams were hosted by the local churches in Malaysia, Cambodia, and Philippines. Around 55 participants took part in these mission trips, which offered various ministry opportunities enabling all to serve no matter what their gifting. A number of youths commented that they would not have participated in the conference if the mission trip option was not included as a part of the overall experience. We hope that the Go-Serve mission trips will be a feature of future conferences.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES



For the first time a gathering of all the Regional Conference committees was held over a meal at IBCM8. They met to share their experiences and to consider how each regional conference could learn from IBCM8. They were encouraged to consider incorporating the youth and mission focus and also how they can collaborate and learn from each other as they consider their strategic role in their specific regions. All the committees are anticipating a renewed excitement and vision in their regions as they plan toward their respective gatherings in 2025.

Updates from IBCM8



IBCM8 LIVESTREAM

IBCM8 conference live stream is available on YouTube and on IBCM Network App. IBCM Network App also contains other IBCM8 content. A IBCM8 Conference Overview video with country flags is available.

IBCM9

ANNOUNCEMENT

At the conclusion of IBCM8, it was announced that Lord willing, IBCM9 will be held in Africa in 2027. This announcement was received with much excitement and anticipation.



IBCM8 Mission Trip Group 1: Cameron Highlands, Pahang

Reuben James a/l Raju (reubenraju77@gmail.com)

Introduction:

The IBCM 8 Mission Trip team, Cameron Highlands Group 1, consisted of three brothers and three sisters from the United States. The brothers – Luca Drago, Micah Ferguson, Youssef Daoud – and the sisters – Isabella Chance, Lauren Drago, Molly Brown – visited and served in three villages within the Kuala Lipis region.

First Village – Kampung Dusun Pak Senam

The first village visited by Group 1 was Kampung Dusun Pak Senam where they spent 3 days and 2 nights. Here, they had a great time with the children residing in Hostel Rimba, a hostel built to specifically cater to children from the Batek tribe. The team organised engaging games and storytelling sessions for the kids. In addition, they conducted a praise and worship session with the villagers and Sister Isabella shared her testimony.



Top: Sister Isabella sharing her testimony.

Bottom: The villagers, together with the team, listening to Brother Koh Gim Lam's message.

Updates from IBCM8

Second Village – Kampung Gelawin

The second village, Kampung Gelawin, is a unique community where members from the Batek tribe reside. The team spent 2 days and 1 night here. This village is known for its mobile nature as the tribe moves approximately every 4 to 6 months. Despite the transient lifestyle, the team embraced the opportunity to connect with the people and share the love of Christ with them.



The team playing with the Batek children in Hostel Rimba.

During their time in the village, the sisters had an unforgettable encounter with a woman and her newborn child. After they had shared the Gospel, the ladies were given the incredible opportunity to name the child. They decided to name him Daud – after the Bible story they had shared with the children.



The team playing with the Batek children in Kampung Gelawin, the nomadic tribe village.



The team playing another game with the Batek children.

Third Village – Kampung Tual

The third village visited was Kampung Tual, a beautiful community comprising 500 families from the Semai tribe. Situated deep within the interior, reaching the village required a journey of 1 hour and 30 minutes. The team spent 3 days and 2 nights here and actively engaged with the children, organising various activities that brought smiles to their faces.

House visits were also carried out during their stay, allowing the team to understand the daily lives and struggles of the villagers. The brothers had an exciting experience as they went foraging for tapioca, immersing themselves in the local culture and lifestyle.



The baby boy in the centre was named Daud by the sisters in the team.



Brother Micah foraging for tapioca.



The team spending time with the children in Kampung Tual.

Updates from IBCM8

*Final night in
Kampung Tual.*



On the last night in Kampung Tual, the team organised a wonderful praise and worship session for the villagers after which, Brother Luca shared a heartfelt and impactful Gospel message.

Conclusion

The IBCM 8 Mission Trip team, Cameron Highlands Group 1, had a deeply meaningful experience, guided by the theme of the conference: “For Christ’s love compels us...”.

Throughout their journey, the team's interactions with the children in Kampung Dusun Pak Senam, Kampung

Gelawin, and Kampung Tual created moments where God’s Word was sown in their hearts. The praise and worship sessions and shared personal testimonies will hopefully continue to work in the hearts of the villagers.

Driven by compassion, dedication, and a desire to serve, the participants were able to exemplify the true essence of Christ's love. The trip demonstrated the power of unity and the positive impact that a dedicated group of individuals, guided by the love of Christ, can make in the lives of others.

Mission Trip to Gua Sukat, Sarawak - OOO-HAA

Andrew Chee (kychee7@gmail.com)

“Ooo-haa!” is traditionally an Iban call for the community to convene or celebrate. For a former chief minister of Sarawak, the call means “I love Sarawak”. Compelled by the love of Christ, a team of 6 IBCM8 delegates from the USA responded to the call to serve the people of Sarawak by participating in a Short-Term Mission (STM) to Gua Sukat, Sarawak, Malaysia. Gua Sukat is a small Iban community of about 30 families in the district of Sri Aman, about 2.5 hours drive north-eastward from Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak.

Sarawak is now the only state in Malaysia where Christians outnumber Muslims. Out of the 2.45 million people in Sarawak, 1.2 million (50.1%) are Christians; or 41.8% of the Church in Malaysia. (Source: Population and Housing Census, 2020). Indigenous Christians form the backbone of the Body of Christ in Malaysia but yet they lack solid Bible teachings and resources in the Bahasa Malaysia/native language to build the faith of children, youth and pastoral leadership.

For hundreds of years, the ancestors of the Iban practised animistic beliefs. Although the majority of Ibans are now Christians, many continue to observe their traditional ceremonies. The team had the opportunity to witness a

Gawai (harvest festival) closing ceremony during our stay in Gua Sukat.



Villagers in full traditional costume to celebrate the Gawai closing.

The STM’s primary objective was to encourage a young assembly, Gua Sukat Gospel Hall, known to locals as GIGS. The church in Gua Sukat was founded by the Anglicans, but like many churches in the interiors of Sarawak, the church was abandoned for many years, without a trained Bible teacher. Pastor Amin Ambau responded to a call to return to his village in 2017 to serve his fellow Ibans. Prior to his return, Pastor Amin served as a full-time worker among the Orang Asli in Pahang under PanOAM.

Updates from IBCM8

Since June 2020, GIGS is supported by 4 churches in the Klang Valley - Bangsar Gospel Centre, Kelana Jaya Gospel Centre, Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall and SS Gospel Centre.



Shane and Steve in traditional Iban warrior costume, accompanied by other IBCM8 delegates Molly, Rose, Esther and Hannah

The 6 IBCM8 delegates were accompanied by 11 believers from these 4 assemblies. Nationality, race and age did not hinder us from serving together. Esther recalled that, *"It was such a blessing to have such an integrated team of Malaysians and Americans serving together. I loved the unity I experienced on the team, especially since there was a big age gap from 18 years old all the way to 70+. The team dynamics was probably my favourite because everyone had a role and you could see how God worked through each person"*. The team stayed in longhouses hosted by 3 Iban families throughout our 9 days in Gua Sukat. Esther added that, *"This enabled us to experience the lifestyle of our host family and see the life she lives and hear stories about her life"*.

During the STM, the team was involved in 3 main programs i.e., Vacation Bible School (VBS) type teaching sessions among children (22 children attended); a Youth Camp (44 youths); and a seminar on "A Blessed Family" for adults (more than 30 adults). We also cherished many informal interactions with the villagers. See Ai, the oldest

team member, shared, *"The Lord gave me the burden to minister to the ladies by doing devotions with them. Showing them how to listen to God's voice, confessing their sins, and listening to instructions about what God wants them to do"*. Foo, who was not well during the trip and isolated from the main group, said, *"I remained far away from the main activities, but my Lord sent some local 'non-practising Christians' to speak to me about their lack of understanding of the Scriptures. There was a silver lining to my isolation, the fringe members of this community had received an avenue to interact with our mission team and we received an opportunity to build up fellowship."*

Shane, the USA team leader, reflected, *"We had the blessing of getting to go to Sarawak to meet the people there along with experiencing their culture. It was an amazing trip that really pushed us out of our comfort zones more than we were anticipating. The trip was a reflection of how many people think they know Jesus, but don't; the lack of Bible training; and that God WILL use you if you step out in faithfulness and GO!"*

Steve echoed, *"This mission in Sarawak has reinforced my conviction that the Great Commission is urgent, and a life on mission is for everyone. Sarawak has touched my heart, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to serve, speak, and spark a fire for the Kingdom of God in this beautiful community."* We have lived, learned and come to love this community in Sarawak and we long to see them grow in their faith and be strengthened in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Footnote: *If you want to partner or know more about the assembly work in East Malaysia, please contact Andrew Chee at kychee7@gmail.com.*

Youth at 4-day camp conducted by Colin Wong and Phillip Devadas



Children at 2-day VBS



Youth at 4-day camp conducted Colin Wong and Phillip Devadas



Experience at a plantation



Adults at family seminar conducted at "ruai" (corridor of the longhouse)

Updates from IBCM8

Mission Trip to Cambodia – Kampong Chhnang

Teoh Mei Lin (meilinteoh@yahoo.com)

This is the first time IBCM has organised a Go-Serve outreach mission, and seven delegates from IBCM8 signed up for the trip to Kampong Chhnang in Cambodia from June 24 to 30, 2023. They were Leslie (Australia), Avenelle (St Kitts & Nevis), Leah (Trinidad & Tobago), Lona (Australia), Marco and Danielle (from Italy), and Mei Lin (Malaysia). Dani was appointed the team leader and IBCM connected us to Brother Kian Tan whose ministry in the province of Kg Chhnang was featured in Diakonia 2022.

The mission agenda was set by the local church to provide the opportunity for the international mission team to use their gifts to serve in a foreign context. Kian and his wife Akiko have been serving in the Sangkhim church and one of their ministries is the school which they had helped to set up, i.e. Sangkhim Canaan School (SCS).

The main task assigned to this team was to teach the Christian Education (CE) classes at SCS. It proved to be a very enriching and inspiring experience. Prior to the trip, the team had met on Zoom several times to plan some lessons according to the time schedule provided by Kian. CE classes are conducted in Khmer language and taught by the local Christian teachers as part of their workload. Every class, from Primary One (Age 7) to Grade 12 (Age 18) has CE at least once a week. We were told that we could present a bible lesson and gospel message, give testimonies, teach songs, use drama/role play, do crafts and/or play games. In our Zoom discussions, we made a rough plan and fine-tuned it as we went along. We felt very encouraged by the eager response from all the students in the classes. The interpreters worked well alongside us and we observed that most of the students understood what we communicated and actively took part in the programme.

Basically, we focused our teaching on certain themes such as God's Love, Sacrifice, Friendship, Peace, and Good News. Team members were able to use their gifts in teaching, storytelling, singing, acting and coordinating to maximise the use of 40-50 minutes of each class. For the younger ones, we shared Bible stories and used puppets or mime to make the lessons lively. We also got them to

memorise a verse in Khmer language, dramatising the verse. For the older ones, we discussed issues of friendship and peace and shared testimonies. Throughout the days, in every class we taught a song which resonates with our message of hope: that Jesus is strong and kind, and if you are lost, you can come to Him.



For 4 full days, we taught a total of 16 classes with an average of 25 students per class (about 400++). The school day begins at 7:00 am with assembly and class at 7:10. There is a long lunch break from 12 – 2pm and most of the students go home. Classes resume at 2 and on some days end at 5pm.

We too had our lunch and rest break for two hours, but during the times when we did not have a CE class, the ladies offered crafts for the younger ones, while the brothers played football and volleyball with the teens. Language may have been a barrier but with activities such as these, not much language was needed. There were many opportunities to break the shyness barriers.

On the whole, the team worked very well as ONE, reflecting truly that the Body of Christ, consisting of many parts (especially as we are from different nations and cultural backgrounds), could come together as a united front. We believe God gave us this opportunity not just to serve, but to learn from our brothers and sisters (Kian, Akiko, Annie and local Cambodian brothers & sisters) how they have given themselves to serve in such a challenging context. The school is a vast harvest field, with many students whose parents are also not believers but willing to send them here knowing it is a Christian run establishment.

We are also amazed at the work that is being done in Sangkhim Church and the future plans for a Bible school. What we read in the Diakonia 2022 report are no longer just printed words, we now have seen for ourselves what the Sangkhim community is. We thank the whole staff

Updates from IBCM8

team for their warm hospitality, generous sharing of their time and energy and most of all, love for fellow brethren, who knew so little about Cambodia and left after a week, with much knowledge and rich experiences. We urge you to pray with and for them and we would highly encourage anyone who wishes to serve (short or long term in missions) to consider Sangkhim as your destination.

"Mission Kampong Chnnang in Cambodia is a faith ministry through K-12 education and church planting with opportunities for evangelism and discipleship among Cambodian youth people." (Diakonia 2022, pg. 10-13, 65)

IBCM8 Mission Trip Group 2: Cameron Highlands, Pahang

Ron Low (nexusdr7@gmail.com)

Two teams of internationals (from Australia, South America, North America, and the Caribbean) went to Cameron Highlands after the IBCM8 conference. Esther Tan and Reuben Raju were the team leaders, and I was privileged to join Esther Tan's group. One experience impressed me deeply – a day camp for tweens and early teens. We had Indian and Chinese students as participants mixing with team members from the USA, Costa Rica, Australia, and Antigua. Even among those from the USA, there are different ethnicities such as Indian and Venezuelan. The sight of people of such mixed ethnicities doing things together to build one another up points to how the world may have peace and harmony, with our relationship in the Lord being the unifying factor.

In fact, this was exactly the impression on the brother from Costa Rica, who said:

"For me this mission was very important, because it allowed me to share with brothers and sisters from different countries with the same desire to serve the Lord outside of our countries. It helped me to see that although we are different in culture and customs, we must love each other. There is a great need for the world to know Christ and the Lord is working around the world in many ways, and we can be part of a great work if we humble ourselves in prayer and say, 'here I am, send me.'"

The brother from the Caribbean added:

"Even though most of us had never met each other before, we quickly became a family and felt as though we had known each other for years. From having devotions, to having breakfast, to speaking with strangers about Jesus, to sharing stories and testimonies of our lives, we truly became a family."

Long before IBCM8, the team leaders had organised online meetings to connect all the participants and to brief them about preparing for the mission trips. During the mission trips it became evident that "God in his divine providence put together a team where the members complemented each other beautifully," as one member noted. Team leader Esther said, "I've witnessed how God has miraculously in His time, placed each of our members to be part of this mission team and how all of us have exercised our own gifts and worked together harmoniously for His ministries." One example of this was



a brother whose main language was Spanish. It so happened that another teammate from another country was fluent in both English and Spanish, and so she was able to translate and interpret for him.

The mission team experience helped participants learn things about themselves too:

- *"I saw the need for people to know better who Jesus is and his attributes, which challenges me to know more about Jesus to be able to share in a better way to others."*
- *"I was able to see first-hand how the Lord can use any willing vessel. I must admit that I felt like Moses at the burning bush before I came on the mission trip. I had no idea how the Lord could use me, and I probably felt a little inadequate coming in ... For me personally, the entire trip has taught me more about God and myself, and I have left with a deeper desire to know God and to let my light shine in my home, my community, my church, and my workplace."*

Team leader Esther said, *"As a project manager by trade, all of these initiatives would not be possible if God in His Almighty power does not have a hand in all of this and I have witnessed how He has orchestrated all events in unison and in reflection of His glory ... And through it all, the experience, the learnings, the friendships that we have fostered and strengthened, in which I will forever treasure this experience, I just can't stop giving Him praise and glory for the rest of the days of my life."*

Though the team members have left for home and other ministries at the conclusion of the mission trips, they still keep in touch via WhatsApp. Perhaps God has not intended for this experience to be the end but the beginning of better and greater things to come for everyone.

Updates from IBCM8

Six-Day Mission Trip to Melaka

- Testimonies by the German Mission Discovery Team
Anna Lena Muller, Youth Mission Coordinator
(a.mueller@cj-info.de)



After being able to attend IBCM for a week, we were allowed to travel to Melaka for six days. On June 24, after breakfast, we made our way to the bus station in Kuala Lumpur to start the approximately two-hour bus ride to Melaka. When we arrived there around noon, we went directly to a local restaurant, where we could try really Malaysian food for the first time. After that we went to our apartment and then we started our first outreach in the community.

Divided into two groups, we were allowed to organise the children's and teenagers' program on a Saturday afternoon. Afterwards, we went to the Wong's family residence for a combined Melaka school Christian Fellowship meeting, where we spent the evening with about 30 teens in the garden.

As a German group we sang a German song - "10,000 Reasons", and two from our group shared their testimonies. We enjoyed the fellowship with the teens very much, and were able to get to know them, their culture, and their everyday life in Malaysia better.



The next day, we were able to spend the morning in the Sunday service at the Melaka Gospel Chapel. Afterwards, we met the brothers and sisters of the congregation for a church brunch, which was something very special for us. In the late evening, we went to a badminton game with young adults from different churches and some non-Christians. In extremely warm indoor temperatures, no t-shirts stayed dry. But it was incredibly fun!

Afterwards, we spent the evening eating, playing board and card games - and it was off to the well-known Jonker Walk, a special experience in Melaka. After just a day and a half, we



noticed how hospitable, humble, and open our hosts were. They took an incredible amount of time to introduce us to their community, their lives, their projects, and their culture. So often when we were driven from one place to the next, we were asked countless questions.

The next day, on Monday, we had the opportunity to get to know En-Fu Care Centre, a home for the elderly located in the neighbouring district of Jasin. We got to know the residents and staff and we were allowed to sing a German hymn, shared the Word of God and gave small gifts. We learned about the history of the home and were moved to learn that the German brethren, George Müller, is their model of faith. As a farewell gift, we all received a cuddly toy of a bear praying to remind us back in Germany to pray for En-Fu Care Centre, its residents, and the staff. In the afternoon, we visited the indigenous children's Shalom Hostel. It was especially touching that the children had prepared a program for us. We were also allowed to share God's Word and play a game together. After visiting the hostel, we went back to our accommodation. Shortly after that, the church "Cultural Night" started, which again took place in the garden of the Wong family's home. There, we had the opportunity to fellowship with many different brothers and sisters, enjoyed good food and shared our German culture through songs, a dance, clothes, a skit, and a report.

On Tuesday we had the privilege of going to Kg. Putat, situated in Pos Iskandar, Pahang. It was a 2-hour plus journey to the village passing through palm oil plantations and the rural part of Malaysia. We were able to meet the adopted indigenous people and their homes. It was a special highlight to enjoy fellowship with them and learn about their circumstances, singing together and to share God's Word.



On Wednesday, we went to Emmanuel Lifespring Home where we again had the opportunity to meet elderly people, sing, pray together and share the gospel message. A highlight for us was the religious and Christian walking tour through the center of Melaka City in the late afternoon. We

Updates from IBCM8

learned a lot about the history of Melaka, visited several special places and had time to shop for souvenirs. Afterwards, in the late evening, we went to Amy's Nyonya Heritage Restaurant for a Nyonya dinner with some of the brothers and sisters who accompanied us during the week, and the team enjoyed warm fellowship and a good conversation.

On Thursday, we were able to meet some brothers and sisters again, especially the retired members at "Thursday at Ten" fellowship in the church and celebrated such a beautiful conclusion to our Melaka Mission Discovery program. It was very impressive for us to see what it means to be one body in Christ - beyond Germany, beyond Europe, to get to know brothers and sisters and their challenges in their life as a Christian, to share with each other and to pray for each other. We are extremely grateful for this week in Melaka, which changed us; our perspectives and our horizon. What remains are the memories and the bond in Christ - until we meet again one day. Many, many thanks!

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Mina Bohm

I registered for this Mission Trip because God showed me, He wanted us here. I did not have a lot of expectations, just excitement about what God would do. By just meeting all of Melaka Gospel Chapel, God already blessed my life more than I could have imagined. I am amazed how God connects his people all over the world through Him by His love for us. Knowing that there are so many brothers and sisters in every country believing the same God as I do, encouraged me so much.

Attending the IBCM, God challenged me by asking through a sermon: "Do you live in such a way that your life would not make sense if I (God) did not exist?" In Germany, I sometimes felt trapped in my daily routines, losing sight and focus of the real reason I was serving in church: "To proclaim and honour the Lord". Discovering the work of Melaka Gospel Chapel, I was humbled by the love and commitment everyone had for the Lord, one another, and their work. Being part of that encouraged me to rethink my actions and motivations when it comes to serving, surrendering them all to Christ and praying that I could serve Him again with the right intentions, love, patience, and endurance, above all when it gets tough and exhausting.

I was excited about what God would do during my trip to Malaysia. He challenged me during the first week at IBCM and encouraged me to accept this challenge through the love and testimony of Melaka Gospel Chapel during the second week of our time in Malaysia. He proved once again that it is beneficial to trust and follow His calling - no matter where that leads us to.

Benjamin Bohm

Being with you in Melaka gave us the opportunity to go through so many experiences, that I can't mention all of

them now. But two experiences were important to me. Firstly, even though I knew that all Christians all over the world are one body, I was still overwhelmed by the unity we had as we first met. I am thankful for meeting so many brothers and sisters from Melaka and seeing them serving faithfully for God's Kingdom.

I also loved to connect with the teens and young adult groups, to see how they handled these ministries. From this experience, I obtained many new ideas for our ministries back in our church in Germany.

Secondly, it was especially impressive to talk to the people at "En-Fu Care Centre". Hearing that they serve 24/7 and having George Müller as their role model really encouraged me and made me think a lot. Thank you for everything and God bless your work!

Lena Theres Gresser

What made our trip to Melaka so special were the many conversations and moments of connections. We got to spend a lot of quality time with the members of Melaka Gospel Chapel, getting to know them quite well and asking lots of questions about each other's lives. And then there were encounters with people and even though they didn't last long, these experiences had a deep impact on me.

As we visited the second old folk homes of our week, we met a very cheerful and vivid lady with a strong character named Tessa. There was such a difference between her and the other residents, who had a hard time walking or speaking. Tessa was very excited about having us. She loved listening to us as we sang the German version of her favourite song "10,000 reasons", "10.000 Gründe". She had been to Germany a couple of times and remembered lots of details.

I was curious as to why a seemingly fit and healthy lady like her was living in an old folk home. She told me that she's a widow who didn't get married until her fifties. She got to spend a lot of time abroad in America and in other Asian countries, but now it was time to look for a place to grow old. Ideally a place that would be big enough to accommodate her three best friends as well. "But unfortunately," she said, "my friends didn't experience what God made me experience in preparation."

"When I was in Cambodia a couple of years ago, there were a lot of bed bugs in my hotel bed. That humbled me to be okay with other life circumstances than what I was used to. Now to me this place is great, I'm so thankful and just love my little corner and the opportunity to play the keyboard."

What really moved me about her story is that she didn't lose hope and has a joyful spirit, despite having lost her husband and not being able to be around her friends. She expressed deep gratitude for her situation towards God. I'm thankful to have met her.

Updates from IBCM8

YOUTH RALLY 2023

June Chai & Ann Choo (ccann1406@gmail.com)

After many years of waiting, the idea of a Youth Rally was born during the Assemblies Leadership Conference (ALC) in 2022. Seeing the Assemblies Leaders gathered to discuss church matters and the direction for ministries, church growth and evangelism, the younger attendees at ALC were also challenged to think about how to gather the youths after the pandemic years. The idea took root further with Kuala Lumpur hosting the IBCM8 Global Conference in 2023.

From a very small team consisting of only 5 people, in September 2022, we grew to become a big team of 15 with more than 30 helpers on the event day itself. We all came together with the purpose of gathering the youth among our local Assemblies to learn from God's Word, for fellowship and to be encouraged to share our faith with one another.



In conjunction with the IBCM8 Global Conference, we took the opportunity to invite Nate Bramsen (USA) and Daniele Lorefice (Italy) as the speakers for Youth Rally 2023. After a few rounds of discussion and prayer, we decided on the theme: **'WHAT MATTERS MOST'** which represents what truly matters most to youths today. Letters of invitation were sent out to all the Assemblies in Malaysia to invite the youths to join in this exciting event.

During the preparation period, the committee worked together to plan a program focusing on youth's needs and to approach the youth leaders from different Assemblies to encourage their youth to join the rally. A social media account on Instagram was also created to promote the Youth Rally and provide youth-oriented information for the event.

By God's grace, about 200 participants from 33 different assemblies and churches registered, from the Klang Valley and other states like Melaka, Penang and Pahang including the 'Orang Asal' community. Two different languages (English and Chinese) were made available.

Event Day

16 June 2023 dawned bright and sunny at Jalan Imbi Chapel. Youth and adult helpers went out side by side holding placards to guide participants from the LRT stations and parking lots. People from various backgrounds filled the hall of JIC. The event began with a welcome delivered by Sister Ann Choo on behalf of the CBSM Chairperson, elder Chiew Sai Kee. Then the IBCM Network International Director, Dr.

David Smith was invited on stage, and he was so excited to see so many Malaysian youths and other nationalities ready to hear God's Word. He introduced Nate Bramsen to the youths. We then invited elder Khor Keat San from JIC to pray and to commit the event to the Lord.

The team from Emmaus Bible School (USA) lead us in a time of worship and ice-breaker games. It was amazing to worship God together with international guests and so many youths. Nate Bramsen, as the main speaker, encouraged the youths to consider their priorities in life while they were still young and to make the choices from God's Kingdom perspective. He emphasised on the Gospel being the thing that matters most to him. The genuine enthusiasm and energy from Nate encouraged and inspired many of the participants present.

Breakout sessions in different age groups which were led by Daniele Lorefice and Nate Bramsen. Many enjoyed these sessions as they had the opportunity to discuss what they had gained from the speaker's session, hearing more from Nate and Daniele, as well as sharing their thoughts. We were all so well taken care of by a team of dedicated adult helpers at Jalan Imbi Chapel and Sg. Long Chapel, who ensured everyone was well-fed and rejuvenated with drinks and snacks for the day. The event ended with a round of thanksgiving to all who helped make the Youth Rally possible, and to the participants. To commemorate Youth Rally 2023 and to thank God for this amazing day, we took this picture (shown below).



Conclusion

Many participants indicated their interest in joining the Youth Rally again in the future. Some had even suggested making it a full day event or a camp that gathers youths together. In a nutshell, Youth Rally 2023 marked the first of a youth gathering in the current generation from different local Assemblies. It was a remarkable moment for many. It was indeed encouraging to see so many youths. They are the future of this country and the Brethren Assemblies. God willing, there will be more Youth Rallies in the future.

Finally, we also would like to thank everyone who had continuously dedicated their time and prayers to make this event successful. Praise the Lord!

From Assemblies Abroad

Ministry in Indonesia

Andrew and Christine Kim (hopang81@gmail.com)

"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." (Psalm 27:4)



We are Andrew and Christine Kim with three girls, Erin (17), Annie (14), and Hannah (11) serving in Indonesia since January 2014. We are originally from South Korea, born and raised in godly, Christian families, and went to Canada for missionary training in Ethnos Canada (former New Tribes Mission). The Lord sincerely has led our family to reach out to the unreached both in remote areas, in cities and towns close to where we live in North Sulawesi in Indonesia.

We have been serving in the national training centre to teach the young generation from many different tribes. There are two years of bible school and two years of missionary training in our training centre, and Andrew is teaching various classes such as New Testament outlines, Old Testament outlines, several books of the Bible, Mature Church Model, Biblical family, Biblical Marriage, Church History, Computer courses, etc., and Christine is teaching medical issues to help new students to maintain their health during training and help people in community. We also put many hours in disciplining our students to grow and mature in the Word of God, and to be ready to preach the Gospel and serve the people around them.

While we were serving in the training centre with various ministries, God opened the doors for us to reach out to people in town and we could start a bible study group with them. After we preached the Gospel to young couples, they confessed that they trusted in the Lord as their Saviour, and we started gathering to have breaking of bread and worship God together. We have been training people in the city to preach the Gospel to friends and families, and God brought more folks to listen to the Gospel. It has been a blessing to see this small group of believers grow in faith and the Word of God speaking to them! As they studied the Bible, we could see that they

were eager to serve the Lord, and the Lord gave us a vision to reach out to younger children in the Christian school ministry.

As these young brothers and sisters like to serve people and the Lord, we guided them to form an organisation to start a Christian school, and the Lord opened the door for us! It was a miracle from our Almighty God! As you know, the public school system in Indonesia originated from the M philosophy with a M curriculum and M teachers. We could notice that there is a desperate need to have a Christian school ministry that brings a biblical worldview to children and young people, school workers, parents and families in the community.

Our brothers and sisters are opening an English speaking, Christian childcare centre this September. They have helped to find a building for rent, met the owner to make a contract, and started renovating the building. We plan to finish renovating the building in August while we are hiring teachers, a nanny, and a security guard. As part of the coaching to open the childcare, we are helping to organise weekly leadership meetings, monthly team meetings, plan childcare time schedule, conduct teachers' seminar for Gospel teaching and equip them with teaching skills before September.

We appreciate your sincere prayer and support especially for this New Testament church ministry and Christian school ministry to bring Gospel to the locals and a Biblical perspective to the next generation. We pray that the young generation will grow up with the Word of God and take responsibility to bring the Gospel all over Indonesia in the future.

Last year in 2022, Andrew was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and had an operation in July. He had papillary cancer and modular cancer, and doctors are still figuring it out with various tests as his calcitonin level is still very high, which shows that he might have cancer spreading somewhere in his body. We are waiting for another biopsy test, neck ultrasound, and abdomen CT scan in two weeks.

Below are our prayer requests so that you can remember us in your prayers.

1. Andrew's healing that we can go back to the field in fall this year.
2. Wisdom for doctors as they search for more info through the scanning of Andrew's body.
3. Our believers in the field to keep growing in faith and the Bible.
4. The new church can grow led by the Holy Spirit.
5. The new school ministry from this young believer.

From Assemblies Abroad

6. Our kids' adjustment as we have been moving a lot and their homeschooling.



7. A piece of land or enough funds to purchase for church building and school ministry.



Brethren Assembly, Ghafool, Bahrain

George Oommen, Bobby Varghese (gbabahrain@gmail.com)



Established in the early 1970's, the Brethren Assembly was the result of the labour of love and efforts of Br. K A George & Sis. Ammukutty George. The assembly gathers in the premises provided by Br. George and is located on the property belonging to the Oriental Press.

Although the first generation of believers have returned to India or have moved on to other countries, a new generation of believers have followed in their footsteps. Over the years 9 members have dedicated themselves to serve the Lord as evangelists in various parts of India. The assembly has grown and has currently over 90 members in fellowship from different parts of India.

Assembly gatherings

Worship & Breaking of Bread - Every Sunday 7 – 9 pm
Weekly Gathering - Every Thursday 7:30 – 9 pm

Other gatherings include Sisters Fellowship, Brothers Fellowship & Suvishekan Balasangham (Children's Ministry). The assembly is actively involved in evangelisation through personal contact and continues to support the spread of gospel in our homeland.

Assembly Oversight

The current members of the assembly oversight are Br. George Oommen, Br. Charles Itty, Br. John C Abraham, Br. Raju Mathew, Br. Vinaydas Abraham & Br. Bobby Varghese

From Assemblies Abroad

Contact Details

Br. George Oommen – 00973 39624473

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Brethren Assemblies, India: Remember the Poor

Agape Christian Assembly, Bangalore, India

Shibu K Mathew, Literature Ministry (mathew.shibuk@gmail.com)

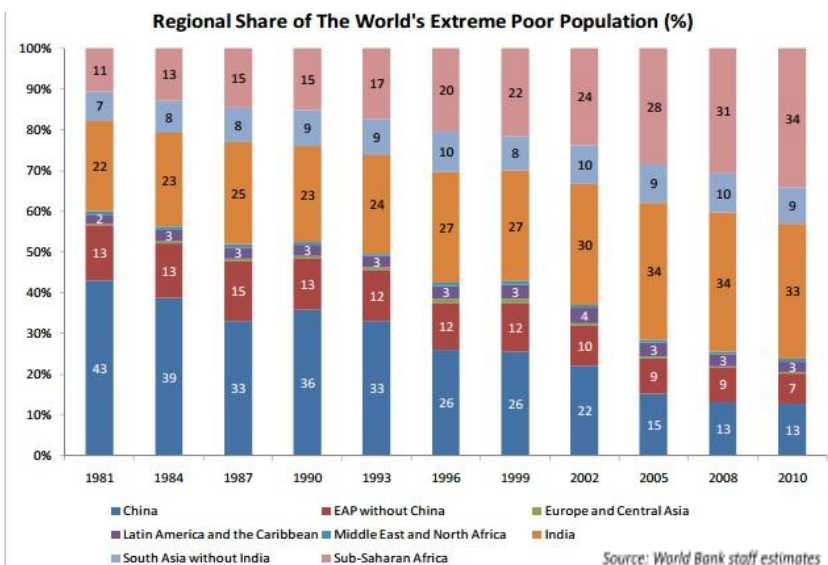
Right: Poverty to happiness: How India was rated by various global indices in 2022.

India ranked 107th out of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022, down from the 101st position the previous year.

It was an intense debate about a serious doctrinal issue. On one side: the Pharisees who believed and argued that Gentile believers should be circumcised, and they should keep the law of Moses.” On the other, Paul and Barnabas recounted the signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

After an intense discussion, Apostles and Elders settled the matter by concluding “We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are “. Along with that they suggested a few practical steps the Gentile believers should follow. It was written and circulated among the Gentile churches.

They also recognized that God has entrusted the ministry of the Gospel to the Jews to Peter and ministry of the Gospel to the Gentiles to Paul. And Paul wrote in Gal 2:14 “they only asked us to remember the poor, which I was eager to do”. Why were the Apostles asking Paul to remember the poor? The Apostles had known the heart of God and of Jesus for the poor. The poor means those who are poor physically. Often when we read of the poor in the Bible we think only of spiritual poverty, but actually it refers to physical poverty too.



Viv Grigg who worked among the poor people in the slums of different parts of the world says that there are 245 references to 'the poor', 'poverty', or 'lack' in the English scriptures. All these words had six main root words:

Ebyon - needy and dependent (61 times)

Da - the frail poor, the weak (57 times)

Rush - the impoverished through dispossession (31 times)

Chaser - to suffer lack of bread and water, to hunger (36 times)

Ani - poverty caused by affliction and oppression (80 times).

From Assemblies Abroad

Viv Grigg further explains the background to understand it better.

"The word Jesus uses in the New Testament for 'poor', ptochos, is the translation of the word anaw, which in turn is derived from ani. Anaw at times means 'the humble, but elsewhere, as in Isaiah 61:1 from which Jesus quotes, it has the meaning of 'the oppressed poor'.

The concept of poverty and the analysis of its causes and effects change as the history of God's dealing with his people progresses. Before the monarchy of David and Solomon, in the Pentateuch and in Job, societies were built essentially around extended family or clan structures. Riches was the blessing of God; poverty was brought about by some misfortune or through judgment of personal sin. The poor man was to be helped from his poverty.

From the time of the monarchy, a centre of privileged people began to develop. Excavations in Tirzah indicate that before the monarchy, all houses had similar dimensions and furnishings. During the 8th century BC, however, different districts had evolved into and been identified as well-to-do neighbourhood for the rich or slums for the poor.

The rich began to treat the poor as though they belonged to a lower order. Poverty came to be seen as a much deeper deficiency in a person, particularly in the Wisdom literature (the Book of Proverbs and so on).

The poor, for their part, began to see their poverty as synonymous with being oppressed. The standard expression, 'who oppress the poor', attributes the cause of poverty to the rich.

Hence, we find the prophets constantly denouncing the rich (called the oppressor or the unrighteous) and upholding the 'godly poor'.

These are the *ani*, the oppressed poor with whom Jesus identified - 'the poor of Yahweh'. 'Poor in spirit' is an expression primarily describing this social class and its response to such oppression. "That's why the commission of the expectant Messiah was "to preach the good news to the poor".

Even before the time of Jesus, we see God made special provisions for those who are poor which showed the heart of God for the poor.

The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you give the Lord's offering to make atonement for your lives. Exod 30:15

And if someone is too poor to pay the valuation, then he shall be made to stand before the priest, and the priest shall value him; the priest shall value him according to what the vower can afford. Lev. 27:8

Offerings for the atonement were same for both the rich and poor signifying that both are equal before God. Even the sacrifices that were affordable were prescribed for the poor. God always made many provisions for the sustenance and care of the poor in the law.

"And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God." Lev. 23:22

"If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold. Lev 25:25

"If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. Lev. 25:35

"If your brother becomes poor beside you and sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave" Lev. 25:39

"If a stranger or sojourner with you becomes rich, and your brother beside him becomes poor and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner with you or to a member of the stranger's clan" Lev. 25:47

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother" Deut. 15:7

It is interesting that God wanted the poor to be treated with dignity. So God didn't ask the Israelites that they harvest all and donate some part of it to the poor. But leave it there so that the poor can come and harvest it for themselves. Thus, they had dignity and worked for their own food with their own hands.

The Scripture also reminds us of the blessedness of helping the poor.

Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble, the Lord delivers him; Ps 41:1

Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honours Him. Prov. 14:31

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed. Prov. 19:17

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Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered. Prov. 21:13

Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse. Prov. 28:27

Prophets always reminded the Israelites the level of their spirituality in connection with how they treated the poor. God said he delights in taking care of the poor rather than rituals of offerings and fasting.

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Isa. 58:7

Jesus and the Poor

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound”; Isa 61:1 Bringing good news to the poor was the commission of Jesus.

The Gospels portray the heart of Jesus for the poor. The Gospels portray many examples. Jesus chose to associate with the poor and the sinners and always gave to the poor. “Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.” John 13:29

Early Church and Poor

The apostles, who learned from Jesus, followed the footsteps of their master in loving and caring for the poor.

The early church exemplified God’s heart where the rich and poor worshipped and lived for God’s glory. Acts 2:42-47 is one of our favourite passages to describe the characteristics of the New Testament church but often we miss to emphasise the character of the early church in taking care of the poor. Acts 4:34 says that “There was not a needy person among them,” Acts 3:46 they received their food with glad and generous hearts. There was no needy among them because they had generous hearts to share with others what they had. What a challenge for our NT churches!

The apostles encouraged the Gentile believers to share their physical blessings with the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. Rom 15:26 - It is in the context of the need to support the poor that Paul said to follow the example of Jesus “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Cor 8:9. Though these verses can be thought of as a spiritual implication, Paul gives it as an example for us to practise

it. We are called to follow the example of Jesus of becoming poor by giving away what we have to make others rich. And the Gentile churches followed their master and supported the poor beyond their capacity.

As the years went by, we saw the church started discriminating against the poor even during the time of the Lord's Supper, so Paul had to write to Corinthians ...do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. 1 Cor 11: 22

James warned them how they showed partiality to the rich while ignoring the poor. He also questioned the faith of those who didn't care for the poor and needy. “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good ¹⁷ is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” James 2:15-17

John also emphasised the need to show our faith in God by loving our brother in action. ¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:17-19

So, the scriptures show us how to deal with the poor as believers. What are some of the things we can do as a church or individual in helping the poor?

Viv Gregg shares that there are three types of poor in the Bible.

- 1) Chaser: Poverty caused by sin. Share the Gospel with them to come out of sin.
- 2) Ebyon and dal: Poverty caused by calamity. Share your resources with them. Help the widows, orphans, old and physically handicapped etc.
- 3) Ani, anaw and rush: Poverty caused by oppression. Empower them to come out of oppression of various kinds - economical, social and caste. (Give them education, find them a job or help them to start a business, connect with people etc).

India still has the world's largest number of poor people in a single country.

Of its nearly 1 billion inhabitants, an estimated 260.3 million are below the poverty line. So, can we ignore the poor and needy of our land?

The early missionaries who came to Kerala not only shared the gospel but empowered the people through

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education and medical help. So, this generation enjoys all the fruits of their labours yet often forgets that we are blessed to be a blessing.

History is full of stories about how Christians served the poor and needy out of their love toward God. How a small group of Christians conquered the Roman Empire - Church Historian Bruce L Shelley tells "Practical expression of

Christian love was probably among the most powerful causes for Christian success." "Christian love found expression in the care of the poor, of widows and orphans; in visits to brethren in prisons or to those condemned to a living death in mines; and in acts of compassion during famine, earthquake, or war." God wants us to follow His love for all people by remembering the poor and let it be said of our churches that, "There was no needy among them."

Cambodia Church Planting

Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW) (goww2005@gmail.com)

Preliminary Ground Survey - Phnom Penh

In late 1995, Kajang Life Chapel (KLC) heard of the open door in Cambodia. In March of the following year (1996), the Lord showed us the tremendous needs in this country and the possible ways to start some work. We were overwhelmed by the history of the country - the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge and the terrible suffering of the people. The people were crying for help - physically, and more so mentally and spiritually. Many have not heard of our Lord Jesus Christ even once! The urgency was so real, we felt that we should speed up and go over as soon as possible. On May 13, we committed ourselves to rent two units of a three-storey building at USD 500/unit/month (the exchange rate then was 1:2.5). 137 A/B, St.109 was our first Centre in Cambodia.

We proceeded almost immediately to apply for NGO status. We saw the Lord's hand in this. The NGO status was obtained under Shalom Life Careserve Centre (SLCC). And, we went through all the obstacles in the last twenty over years renewing it, trusting Him at all times not to submit to any bribery. Praise the Lord, He did it. However, our NGO status could not be renewed last year and we are now in the process of applying for a local NGO.

KLC Model in Church Planting

We tried and started various ministries as the contact points to reach out to the people of Cambodia, training up the believers, and building up the churches throughout these years.

We have been developing and planting churches using the KLC model:

1. Contact > 2. Pre-evangelism, 3. Prepare the Ground, Follow-up > 4. Gospel, > 5. Nurture > 6. Disciple Making > 7. Leadership Training > 8. Church > 10. Spinning Out

The various contact efforts allowed us to have the opportunities to share the gospel that we had throughout the years including but not limited to English classes, English labs, Chinese classes, Computer classes, English Youth Fellowship, Eagle Motivation Club for university students, Family Outreach Fellowship, etc.

We also organised Evangelistic gospel camps, English camps, and Bible camps throughout the years. A 7-day Evangelistic Camp at Kg. Som in August 1999 with as many as 80 campers was a success. We experienced God's protection through the great flood. It was like Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

Short-Term Mission Teams (STM)

In the last twenty-seven years, we had more than 100 short-term mission teams coming to help us. Obviously, the teams also had a suitable environment to learn and be exposed to cross-cultural missions. Scores of churches benefited from coming and working with us.

Training up the Local Leaders

We also spent the effort to build the local believers' spiritual foundation through one-to-one Bible studies, Bible Camps, and a few batches of believers who participated in full-time studies in the Nazarite Training Centre (NTC). We had a total of three batches of NTC graduates and 1 batch of TIP graduates (2000, 2005, 2006, and 2009).



in 2005/2006 during NTC training. The three of them came to PP SLC when they were youths, and now all are married with children and serving in PP SLC faithfully.

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We set up Bethany Home in September 2010 with the purpose to maintain and continuously nurture believers from Suong and Takeo to walk closely with God and learn to serve Him when they further their studies in universities in PP. And later on, we extend it to non-believers from the provinces too, for the purpose of bringing the gospel to them.

PP Shalom Life Chapel (SLC)

PP SLC Church Committee was formed on 1st November 1999 with three locals as learners. We celebrated with them their 20th Anniversary on 29 October 2016. They have grown during 2016 in the provisional autonomy year. They became autonomous and fully responsible for the PP SLC starting in January 2017. On 21st May 2017, Mr. and Mrs. Loh Ah Asiau from KLC went over to ordain elders and deacons of SLC PP church.

The local believers and leaders are serving, nurturing, and leading the Church to continue to be His light and salt in PP themselves until today. Pray for them to continue striving to live for the Lord with good testimonies and also be able to share the gospel with the lost souls of their people. We thank the Lord for successfully building a local Khmer church, SLC PP with twenty years of faithful labour by many dedicated servants of the Lord.



Local believers of PP SLC, during their 20th Anniversary in 2016.

Suong

We made an exploratory and preliminary trip to Kg. Cham town in 1997 and it was the time we came to know about Suong town. Beginning in 1998, we sent STM to Kg. Cham town and Suong town each year during the Christmas season to establish friendships and to share the good news whenever there were opportunities.

We began to send missionaries to live in Suong in January 2002. Following the pattern of KLC's Church Planting work: Contact > Friendship > Outreach > Harvest > One-to-one Bible Study > Baptism, the first baptism was held in 2003 in one of the ponds off the main road to Kg. Cham.

The work quickly expanded; we began to enter the Cham villages. We provided community services-helping the school, distributing food and clothing, constructing clean wells and toilets, and providing medical services.

We also started a kindergarten in Suong, and trained a few local sisters to be our teachers or assistants throughout the years. The Rainbow Kindergarten led many children to come to our SLCC Centre and also later we could continue to reach out to them via English classes, sports ministries, music instruments classes, fellowship, etc.

Suong is like any small town in Malaysia where people leave when they complete high school. The Suong team prepared and trained young believers and sent them to PP SLC. We were glad that many fruits were harvested. We are glad that seven of the nineteen NTC students came from Suong Church. They are nurtured and trained.

Unfortunately, after 18 years of labour for the work in Suong, in December 2021, we had no choice but to stop the work in Suong. The main reason was the lack of manpower. We thank the Lord that at least the two local sisters whom we have trained as kindergarten teachers, can start kindergarten at their respective homes and continue to be Christ's followers and witness for Him in Suong until today.



Two Suong sisters set up kindergarten at their homes.



Takeo

In 2008, two Malaysians and a Cambodian started teaching English at a rented shophouse near Takeo's wet market. We started with English classes, and later God provided us with a piece of land and we built our building. With enough space and compound, we opened a

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kindergarten to reach out to young children and their parents. Many STM and volunteers from various assemblies in Malaysia went and helped throughout the years.

By God's grace, the ministry is ongoing with one local worker (one recently got married and left to move to PP in May 2023). A Malaysian sister is now in Takeo for a one-year Spot Program. These two teachers have 4 sessions of teaching every day with about 80 students attending the English classes, and several students coming for personal Bible study and Bible Reading.



Yana (lower left), in the picture taken in 2008, was one of the first batch of students when we started the centre in Takeo. She is now serving as a full-time worker with us in the Takeo Centre.

We are going through the same challenges as the previous mission station (Suong) in Takeo now. It is a matter of concern that most students leave for PP for work and studies, and some have left their faith to marry non-believers. The main challenge is we could not prepare the next batch of missionaries who can serve in the foreign land before the last one left the field and we do not have mature and faithful believers who can serve in the Takeo Church.

Much prayer is needed for future direction for the servants of God in Takeo, and also the future development of the ministries there.



An STM to Takeo after MCO, organised the language week and the gospel camp for the students in Takeo in Oct 2022. A total of 45 students attended the camp.

Conclusion

Over the past twenty-seven years, we thanked the Lord for bringing and sending many faithful workers to serve wholeheartedly in the foreign land. Many are single ladies, some stepped into the land of Cambodia once they graduated from university; some gave up high-paying jobs to be servants for the Lord to live and serve in the villages; some were retirees who went to relieve and to support, and many more angels whom God had prepared for our work in Cambodia; not forgetting those local believers who were trained from spiritual babies until they were part of the team to serve together with us in PP, Suong, and Takeo. Without all these faithful servants of the Lord, and without the grace from the Lord, we will not be able to develop the works in Cambodia this far from 1996 until today for 27 years.

God's hand was with us all the time and it was all His doing. The local believers are challenged to rise up, receive the baton, and possess new lands for Christ as the missionaries exited due to different reasons, eg, health issues, further studies, changing service path lines, marriages, family commitment, or retirement.

We believe God is in control and He has His plan for mission and how the gospel can be spread unto the whole world. We uphold the Word of God as the highest authority on all matters of the Church and the Church is and will always be accountable to the Head of the Church, who is Jesus Christ our Lord, the King of all ages. For us, as His servants, let's continue to be mission-minded to play our roles well with the vision and burden. It is not for our personal interests but for our dear and Almighty Lord who gave His life for us. May all glory be to the Lord.

From Assemblies Abroad

Spirituality is Not Dead in Australia

Andrew & Donna Cowell, GLO Ministries Australia (andonindo@gmail.com)

In recent years the spiritual climate of Australia has been one of growing secularism. This is seen in the rising proportion of Australians identifying with “no religion,” growing from 19% in 2006 to 38.9% in 2021.¹ At the same time in 2021, for the first time in a century, a minority (44%) of Australians identified themselves as Christian,² a drop of 20% since 2006.

In addition to this, during the same period, Australians have grown increasingly disillusioned with the church. The church, which was once considered to be the respectable “centre of society,” in recent years has become so marginalised that for many Australians it is an irrelevant, outdated, “outcast” of modern society.

Amid these changes, however, faith and spirituality continue to be key elements of an Australian’s identity (69% strongly or somewhat agree).³ Despite not considering themselves as religious, Australians are increasingly describing themselves as spiritual, with more than one in two (56%) believing in God, spirit or life force and one in four having had a mystical or supernatural experience.⁴

Spirituality is Not Dead, but Many Churches are Struggling.

Whilst spirituality is not dead in Australia, many churches are struggling. Although the gradual decline in Church attendance over the past two decades has finally plateaued, the number of “newcomers,” that is people with no previous church background, joining churches is dropping. In 2001, 9% of Protestant church attendees were “newcomers” whereas in 2021 this figure dropped to 5.7%.⁵

In addition to this, young adult retention is also dropping. The overall trend that is being observed is that the church population is ageing with only 12% of current church members falling between the ages of 15 to 30 years.⁶

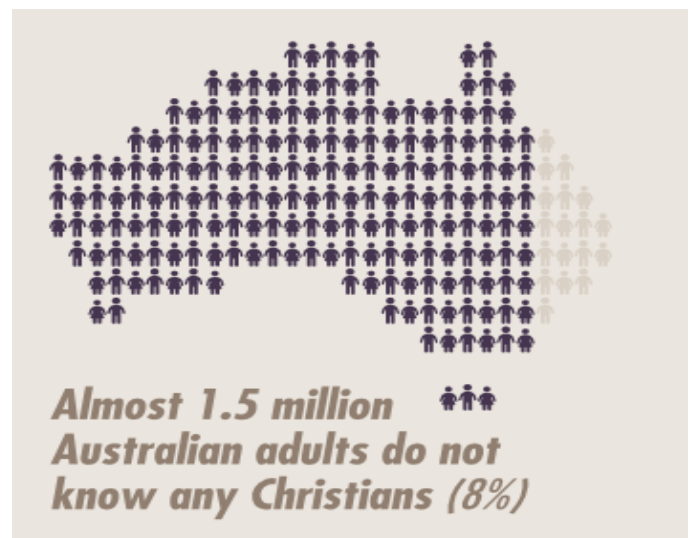
The net result of this is that many once vibrant brethren churches are struggling and there are too frequent reports of assemblies closing, largely due to:

- decreasing connections with the community,
- losing younger generations from the church, and a
- diminishing vision for disciple-making amongst leaders.

Spirituality is Not Dead, so Disciple-Making Needs to be Revived.

Despite an increasingly difficult religious climate, brethren churches that focus on helping their members to “*grow in passion for Jesus as they go on mission with Him*” tend to be growing, alive, and vibrant worship communities.

The way they are doing that is not through focusing much of their time and energy on more educational programs or attractional church services but rather on *intentional disciple-making using a relational life-on-life methodology*. In short, they are modelling their ministry on Jesus’ methods.



¹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/religious-affiliation-australia>

² Source: 2021 National census of population and Housing, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

³ Mainstreet Insights, Exploring the Spiritual Climate, April 2021.

⁴ How Religious are Australians? NCLS, 2018.

⁵ National church Life Surveys – Attender Surveys 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021.

⁶ NCLS Webinar Stream – How healthy are Australian churches? <https://vimeo.com/764382690>

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In short, Brethren Churches that are growing in Australia are making it all About Jesus – His Gospel MESSAGE, His Relational METHODS, and His Disciple Making MODEL.

The gospels reveal that Jesus used a highly relational gospel-energised three-stage disciple-making model.

- Firstly, He **DISCOVERED** seekers by engaging with the community and graciously blessing unbelievers.
- Secondly, He **DEVELOPED** followers by winning believers and personally following them up.
- Thirdly, He **DEPLOYED** *disciple-makers* by equipping followers to repeat the process by involving them in the ministry and equipping them to multiply.

Or to put it another way, He brought people in, built them up, and sent them out to repeat the process, which is precisely what GLO Ministries is all about.



GLO Ministries is Helping Christians and Churches Revive Jesus' Style Disciple Making

The mission of GLO Ministries is to partner with Christians and Churches to DISCOVER, DEVELOP and DEPLOY disciple-making disciples of Jesus for evangelism, discipleship and church planting in Australia, Asia and all over the world.

The way we do this is by helping Christians and Churches revive Jesus's style disciple making through:

- Discovering seekers by engaging with unchurched people,
- Developing followers by evangelising seekers with the Good News about Jesus,
- Deploying disciple makers by equipping followers to repeat the Jesus' style DISCOVER, DEVELOP and DEPLOY disciple-making model.

Because Spirituality is not dead in Australia, GLO Ministries is committed to reviving Jesus's style disciple-making by helping Christians and Churches DISCOVER, DEVELOP and DEPLOY disciple-making disciples of Jesus in Australia, Asia, and all over the world.

To learn more visit www.glo.org.au

Sangkhim Canaan School, Cambodia

Annie Khoo (khoo.annie@gmail.com)



I killed a snake! A Cambodian Kukri snake. It's just about 1 foot long but nevertheless, it's still creepy! Collectively, we have killed 5 snakes in 5 weeks around Bethany House! 3 of them were venomous Malayan Pit Vipers. I almost stepped on one before our neighbour came to kill it. Thank God for His protection.

I am learning to identify different creatures that I encounter around the area. I've always been fearful of snakes and find them so repulsive I don't even want to look at them. But, I was absolutely mesmerised by the Golden Tree Snake, also called the Ornate Flying Tree Snake. The green colour and the ornate patterns on its head and body are so beautiful. Of course, I only dared to have a closer look, only after it had been killed. I found out later that the Golden Tree Snake, though mildly venomous, is not dangerous to humans.

Two decades ago, when I was in the deep jungle on my first mission exposure trip, the missionary posed a situation for our consideration. It goes something like this: Why is it that when someone sees a snake in his house, he would have an instant hostile reaction and with a surge of adrenalin mixed with fear, try to get rid of the repulsive creature as fast as possible either by killing it, or shooing it away. One would most likely have the same reaction upon seeing a rat in the house. And yet, we acknowledge that all creatures are made by God, and in the beginning, all creatures were created good and placed under mankind's dominion or governance. What then caused these unfortunate creatures to suffer such hostility from mankind? If

From Assemblies Abroad

these animals could talk, they would say to us in frustration, *“Isn’t it all because of **YOUR SIN** that you have brought this curse and misery even upon our lives? Do you think we like to scavenge for food and be feared, hated and killed by people?”*

And so, the missionary drove the point home to each of us, that it is **OUR RESPONSIBILITY** to make right this wrong, by speeding the Lord’s return through preaching the gospel of the kingdom to all creation, to the ends of the earth, so that the whole creation that has been groaning as in the pain of childbirth and waiting in eager expectation, will also be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Can you imagine how wonderful it will be when all creation will be able to live in harmony again without fear and death? I am so looking forward to discovering and enjoying the myriads of God’s good and beautiful creations especially when we get to the new earth.

Meantime, while it is still day, we must quickly carry out the tasks assigned to us. The night is coming when no one can work. Thank God that Chanthorn has the burden and urgency to get her elder sister out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God. The Word of God worked powerfully in Chanthy’s heart. When she was ready, while I was leading Chanthy to make her confession of faith to the Lord, she excitedly went ahead of me with words that welled out of her own heart. What a joy to witness this! This family was deeply involved in spiritual things of the kingdom of darkness before, and for the next three days after Chanthy’s conversion, she experienced spiritual oppression. But thank God her faith was kept strong and she is excited to join us for worship every Sunday. However, several Sundays ago, Chanthy cried when her parents insisted that she stayed home during the weekends to work the farm with them. Please continue to pray for Chanthy that her faith and hunger for God will continue to grow and that she can come join us again soon. Pray that even her parents will want to know God and be set free from their bondage to the evil one.



Chanthy



Siew Ming

Grade 7 student, Siew Ming, came back to my Reading Group after being away for many months. Thank God she came back ready to receive Christ as her Saviour and Lord. Now, Siew Ming is excited to read her new Bible. Praise the Lord!



ChanRaksa together with Rachel

When I gave an update in January, Raksa’s blood cancer treatment was going well. But she got unwell again before her next follow-up appointment and blood tests showed her cancer had come back. She had to go for a more intensive treatment with stronger Chemotherapy doses. This intensive treatment plan includes 8 courses of Chemotherapy over a period of one year or more, depending on Raksa’s situation. At the time of writing, Raksa is in Bangkok for her second course of chemotherapy. To prepare Raksa for the chemotherapy, the medical team stuck 4 IV needles on her arms, 2 on each arm. This makes Raksa feel nervous. The side effects after the chemotherapy are also harder on Raksa this time around. Please continue to uphold Raksa and her family in prayer. Pray for strength and endurance as Raksa enters her second year of Chemotherapy. Raksa and her family send their grateful thanks for all your prayers and gifts.

We visited Krisna often to encourage her. Boret and Kunthea have family devotion every night with Krisna. Krisna remains positive but feels bored because she is still bedridden. I brought some materials to show Krisna that she can use her right hand to draw even while lying down. The amputated stump of her left leg is still swollen and painful so she can’t turn to rest on her left side. Unfortunately, her medical treatment so far, does not include any physiotherapy. So I just encouraged her to keep stretching and moving every part of her body so that she can still move. Are there any physiotherapists willing to help?

Krisna is in Phnom Penh at the moment and the medical team just performed an operation so that Krisna can straighten a finger on her left hand - the finger next to the one which was amputated. Hopefully, they will treat the swollen left leg too.



Together with Kunthea and Krisna

From Assemblies Abroad

On 1st April, Sangkhim Canaan School held our annual School Carnival. We had traditional dance performances, prize giving, lots of food, games and handicraft booths, even science booths.



The older students set up science booths and used what they have learnt from Dr. YL Khong's Science Camp, to let others have a chance to experience for themselves some science experiments. Those in charge of the Science booths got to wear lab coats too. This is by far, the most fun, creative and inspirational carnival we have had. Praise the Lord.



Meantime, the walls of the new school block are up and one of the classrooms will be used as a science lab.

Pray with us too as we wait on the Lord for the right people and resources to come in for Sangkhim GLO Bible Centre. We are praying for more partners to join us in this exciting work to equip and train the natives to be disciples of Christ who can make more disciples for the

Kingdom of God. Being right in the middle of Cambodia, we pray that we can send out disciple-makers in every direction to expand and establish His Kingdom.

🕊️ ♥ LOVE GOD ♥ LOVE OTHERS ♥ MAKE DISCIPLES 🕊️

From Assemblies Abroad

Myanmar - Ministry Updates (May 2023)

Year of the Lord's Favour

Wai Yue (wwgarden@protonmail.com)

One of the most humbling compliments I've received recently is when local friends here say to me, *"Thank you for coming back to us and our country."* After eight months of being back here, tears still well up whenever I hear that. I can't imagine how disappointed they must've been when many foreigners left, and when no one or organisation can effectively help them end this devastating episode in the history of their country.

While we still don't understand the Lord's purpose and are saddened by the many lives lost, we praise Him for sustaining some of our friends these last two years and for keeping their faith and growing their churches. After being away for a year and a half, my team and I weren't sure what we were coming back to, and how we can continue to serve the people here. But we praise the Lord for using us beyond our imagination in this new season.



You don't hear a lot about the country on the international news these days but the civil war has far from ended. However, we do feel generally safe in our city even though soldiers are roaming the city and sporadic bombings and shootings are still going on. Whereas in other parts of the country especially in the North, there are raids, air strikes and whole villages have to flee.

Christians are not targeted per se but there have been pastors who have been arrested because of their humanitarian work. Christian leaders need prayers to be creative in reaching out to their communities with aid and with the Good News.

Traditionally, the month of December here is called "Sweet December" because that's when churches have more freedom to organise events and outreaches in conjunction with Christmas. After the two-year break due to Covid, last December we were able to help some local churches here to organise outreaches in their communities. Do pray that the seeds sown in the hearts of the people will continue to grow and bear fruit.

One such outreach was at a nunnery that we've regularly visited for a few years. Last Christmas, we very openly

invited them to "taste and see" that our Lord is good. While on one hand, we're thankful that each of them has heard the Good News, we're also saddened because since then, they are not open for us to visit anymore. For now, we're praying for the Lord's intervention to open their hearts to "taste and see" that the Lord is indeed good and for the door to the nunnery to re-open again.

Our hearts really go out to the girls there. Not only them but also the young generation in this nation – whose future and hope have been robbed overnight by the coup. Since then, public schools are not functioning as they should, and we were told that drugs are easily available in schools and the roadside betel nut stalls. Private schools are available but not many can afford the fees, leaving many children at home or forced to work.

We hope to fill in the gap by building this next generation up through education and spiritual transformation. We are working with a network of preschool teachers where we provide training to equip them with teaching skills while challenging them to reach out to the children. We also reopened our language centre this year where we reach out to the young people through teaching English and Korean. The discipleship training centre where we bring people from various parts of the country for training have also just resumed.

We couldn't imagine any of these before we came back and we don't know how long we can be here because the visa requirements and process keep changing. So, we desire to make use of every opportunity given to us to share the hope we can have in Christ and to build up the next generation.

And it is certainly not something that we can do on our own. We covet your prayers for us in this new season with the words of Isaiah in Chapter 61:1-2, *"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on (us), because the LORD has anointed (us) to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent (us) to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour..."* That's our prayer for 2023.



From Assemblies Abroad

Then, what about the Olive Tree Sewing Project? Praise the Lord for providing for the ladies through the Covid-19 pandemic. Recently, two families in Kepong have been called for health screening and interviews by the UN. So, they are preparing to relocate to the US. In my city, more than half of the ladies have found jobs again as preschool teachers and house helpers. A few have moved to another location and the remaining few would like to continue sewing but they can now manage financially without it too.

I am planning to move to a different city in Central next year and am praying that Olive Tree is something the Lord wants me to bring there as well, and if so, how will it look like? Is Olive Tree part of God's plan to *proclaim good news to the poor* and *bind up the brokenhearted*? Because when local friends thank me for coming back, I want to say that it's not me, but it was Jesus who sent me. And Jesus has never left them. *He will bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.* His favour rests on the nation.



From VISION TO MISSION

Jesmar S Espiritu, Secretary & KAPASAN News Team (bingjaffy@gmail.com)

Everything is good, the work of the Lord flourishes in three KAPASAN churches; **KA**-sinay, **PA**-langoy, and **SAN**-Carlos. By God's grace and through the diligent prayers of KAPASAN leaders and the congregation, the outreach in Sitio Fatima, Binangonan, Rizal, will commence its First Sunday Service on 16 April 2023. Entrusting The Word Community Fellowship (ETWCF) with its Vision "Imploring the Aid of God Almighty", ETWCF will be committed to evangelism and discipleship to have a community of God-fearing & loving believers in pursuit of Christ-likeness for God's glory. Its mission is to **S**- Share the Gospel, **M**- Make Disciples, **B**- Baptize, and **T**- Teach them to obey as Christ commanded (Matthew 28: 19 - 20).



Top: KAPASAN Church Leaders prayed for this piece of land to house the new church
Bottom: October Praise, Palangoy Gospel Chapel (PGC)'s Children's Day
ETWF Children's Thanksgiving Day

From Assemblies Abroad



Entrusting The Word Fellowship Church- 14 years of God's faithfulness and provision



STRONGER TWO-GETHER, attended by 31 couples, serves to rekindle the couples' zeal not just for each other but for serving the Lord together.



Palangoy Gospel Chapel ("PGC") celebrates 24th year Anniversary



KAPASAN's Young Professionals & Sports Fest 2022

"A Good Steward of Christ"

KAPASAN Young Professionals'
Mission statement from
1 Peter 4 : 10
"Each of you should use
whatever gift you have received
to serve others, as faithful
stewards of God's grace in its
various forms."



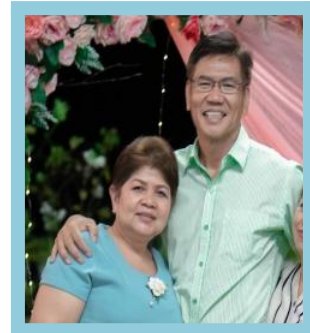
Prayer Bucket List

Mission Outreach

- Fatima (Binangonan, Rizal)-will start its first Sunday Service on April 16 2023
- Cardona(Cardona, Rizal)- Children's Ministry will start by May 2023
- Coron,Palawan-a piece of land was already donated for the Church

Church Ministries

- Children Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Couple Ministry
- Women and Men Fellowship
- Young Professionals



Murel & Jesmar S. Espiritu
Entrusting The Word Fellowship:
2 Tim. 3:16 Inc

From Assemblies Abroad

Love Thy Neighbour - Bethesda Chapel, Singapore

Soke Fung (sokefung@gmail.com)

This article focuses on ***loving our neighbours into the Kingdom of God through love and good works***. It is a disciple-making ministry. Our aim is to make disciples and not just converts. Our motivation comes from Christ who has commissioned us to “Go and make disciples of all nations”.

Our outreach focuses on the residents in Lengkong Tiga, a housing estate located within 1km of the church premises. This estate comprises 16 Housing Development Blocks (HDB) with 895 households. This is a large harvest field that is within our immediate reach.

We thank God for a dedicated team of kingdom-minded brothers and sisters who regularly serve and engage this community with love. We befriend residents sitting at the void deck (common areas at housing estates) and knock on doors. Initially, we struggle when we encounter resistance. We are also not particularly excited about cold-calls. In fact, we dread it, if not for the urgency to reach the lost for Christ. After all, we are but strangers intruding into the residents' time and privacy. Besides, we are not very fluent in dialects (Hokkien, Cantonese or Teochew). Praise God that He could use our very limited language skills to engage and connect with the residents. God is faithful; He promises to be with us when we go about doing His Kingdom work. We thank God for both open and closed doors. We leap for joy when residents invite us into their homes. We treasure every opportunity to pray and share the gospel with them. Many residents appreciate us for taking the time and effort to listen to their life stories and to show love and concern by praying for them. Most of them are elderly aunties and uncles as the young are at work or in school during the day.



There is an urgency to reach the elderly as they have limited time on earth. Many of them are Taoist or Buddhist who have misconceptions that Christianity is a western religion and therefore not suitable for them. Hence, we try to address this issue as a top priority to put them at ease. Also, many of the elderly are ignorant or have faulty beliefs about the Christian faith. To dispel their misconceptions, we share with them who Jesus is from

the gospels. In this way they can discover for themselves who God is. Faith comes through hearing and hearing by the word of God.

We praise God for the many opportunities to build meaningful relationships with the residents. By His grace we were able to engage many of them on a spiritual level. We sensed that God is actively drawing people to Himself in this community. We thank God for the joy of seeing residents come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Most of them will not feel comfortable stepping into a church as they have been Taoists or Buddhists all their lives. Hence, we need to bring the gospel to them, where they are, where they feel comfortable. Many of them are open to the gospel.

We organised monthly ‘makan’ sessions and health talks at the void deck and at the Community Centre for the residents. Our primary objective is to provide nutritious meals for the old folks in the community, befriend and actively engage them in songs and activities to help them stay physically, mentally and emotionally healthy. These sessions present vast opportunities for us to build meaningful and spiritual relationships with the residents.



To-date many of them have invited us into their homes where we can share the Gospel or study the Word with them in the safety and comfort of their homes.



We also organised a trip to Jewel Changi for the residents. It was a very memorable and enjoyable trip for the elderly, many of whom were there for the first time. After the outing we brought the residents to our church premises for a short service followed by lunch.

From Assemblies Abroad



Unfortunately, Covid 19 disrupted many of our activities in the past 2 years. Praise God that with the easing of restrictions, we are now able to resume our disciple-making ministry. To-date we have covered all the 16 blocks in the estate over a period of 6 years. We will continue to disciple the believers there while starting a new work in another neighbouring estate. It is our aim to shed the gospel light and show practical love to the lost.

Why should we offend people with the gospel, that's because Jesus is the only way to God.

Ministry Updates from Thailand

Amnart & Mem Pondsee Pitchacoon (Elder / Full-Time worker at Christian Assembly Paklok, Phuket)
mem_pondsee@yahoo.com

Currently, there are 16 assemblies in the north of Thailand comprising both Thai and tribal groups. In Phuket, there are two Orak Lawoi (Sea Gypsy) assemblies, and another Sea Gypsy on Pi Pi Island (Krabi Province). In northern Thailand, there are assemblies among the Karen and Mong hill tribes. All 16 assemblies in Thailand are led by Thai people and are registered with the Religious Department in Thailand as the Christian Brethren Missionary Group (CBMG).

Our faithful missionary God's servant, Peter Ferry who left Scotland and had been serving God in Thailand for 65 years, had just been called home to be the Lord on 19th July 2023 at the age of 89. On behalf of his family and Christian Assembly Paklok, Phuket would like to say 'thank you very much for all your support and encouragement through the gifts, eulogies & condolence letters, messages as well as being present during the wake and funeral services. We thank God for His blessing upon Peter's life in Thailand. He was our role model of being a disciple of God, as a full-time worker in the church or in many other roles. He left a legacy that will last for Christ and His church..



Phuket, we request for prayers for wisdom, human resources for the team dealing with many private and government authorities.

"Heart in Missions" is the proposed theme for PITH 2025 which will be held in Phuket (July 2025). We are thankful and grateful to God and the committee for the love and consideration for Thailand Assemblies. This next couple of years will be our preparation for this privilege as a host for the conference and this will be our first time in welcoming overseas believers in Christ to the conference. We are looking forward to seeing our brothers & sisters in Christ and at the same time we are really in need of your prayers while we are working out the details. What we need is the Holy Spirit's guidance in Thai believers, ensuring they could join the conference. On behalf of Christian Assembly Paklok

Since Covid-19, hard times have fallen on many assemblies in Thailand. We have started preaching the gospel in many ways such as working and communicating with nearby university students in Bangkok, opening a primary school in the east north, Bible Week study in the north, and youth camp upcoming in October 2023 in Phuket coupled with Sunday school lessons & activities supporting the team. The most important thing is we thank God for the new believers as they are being added to the church (Acts 2.47).

From Local Assemblies

Proposal for Endorsement and Blessing

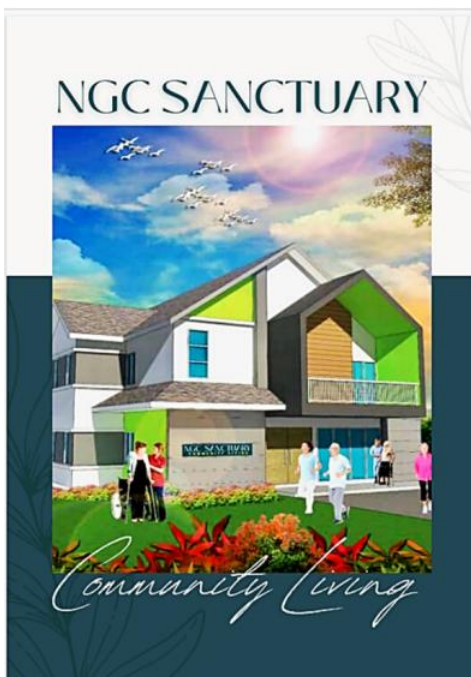
Sales of Fully Furnished Sanctuary Home Room for Elderly Folks

Fred Tan & Andrew Peng (*nilaigc2016@gmail.com*)



Nilai Gospel Chapel (NGC) is a Brethren Assembly that provides opportunities for growth in the love, knowledge, worship & service of Jesus Christ as well as fellowship with believers in a Christ-Centred & Biblically Oriented environment.

NGC (English) had its first inaugural worship on 20 December 1998. Four assemblies, namely Jalan Imbi Chapel (JIC), The Life Chapel (TLC), Bangsar Gospel Centre (BGC) & Seremban Gospel Chapel (SGC) agreed to come together in September 1997 to start the English work in Nilai in view of the potential growth of nearby new industries, colleges & Universities.



There was a serious need for a Christian managed home care for the old people in Nilai. Hence, in 2019 a plot of land was offered to NGC and was subsequently purchased. The land is situated near Nilai Springs Villas. This project is named "NGC Sanctuary – Community

Living". We are writing to present a comprehensive proposal for establishing a fully furnished sanctuary home for elderly folks within our church community. This project aims to create a safe, comfortable, and nurturing environment for our elderly.

As believers, we share a common bond and a calling to care for those in need, particularly elderly believers who have dedicated their lives to the faith. The proposed sanctuary home is a testament to our shared values and a tangible expression of our commitment to providing them with the utmost care, support, and dignity as they enter a new phase of their lives.

Key Salient Points:

1. Purpose

- To build a fully furnished sanctuary home for elderly folks within a Christian community.
- To provide a safe and comfortable living environment for seniors and elderly believers.

2. Project Overview

- About 20 fully furnished rooms with essential amenities, encompassing a total built-up area of approximately 12,000 sq. ft.
- Common facilities area to promote social interaction, including shared spaces for activities and fellowship.
- Carefully planned design to meet the physical, emotional & spiritual needs of our elderly residents.



3. Approximate Cost Breakdown

- Initial Building Cost: RM3.0 million.
- Room Size: 200 sq. ft per room.

4. Allocation of Costs

- Room Costs: RM1,200,000.
- Common Facilities Area: RM1,800,000.

From Local Assemblies

5. Investment Opportunity

- Invite church members and like-minded believers within our assemblies throughout Malaysia to invest in fully furnished rooms within the NGC Sanctuary home.
- Selling Price: RM160,000 per room (inclusive of basic furnishings and usage of common facilities; excludes monthly sinking fund, maintenance fee, healthcare, caregiver services, meals, transport and other related services).

6. Benefits for Investors

- Ownership and residency in a furnished room within the sanctuary home.
- Priority residency for investors, should the need arise in the future.
- Participation in spiritual engagement programs and fellowship with residents.
- Contribution to community support and the mission of the church.
- Non-staying investors will have the opportunity to gain “rental income” of approximately RM800-RM1,000 subject to the Management Committee.

7. Incidental Costs

- Monthly Fee: From RM800 – RM1,200 per room to cover ongoing maintenance, repairs, improvements, utility (water & electricity) expenses, and access to common facilities for recreational and social activities. If the room is vacant, a small token sum will be levied by the Management Committee

8. Management Committee and Investor Updates

- A dedicated management committee will be established to manage and operate the sanctuary home efficiently, ensuring the well-being of our elderly residents and the maintenance of the facility.
- Investors will be updated on the progress of the project and any developments related to the sanctuary home at agreed intervals. Transparency and communication will be prioritised to keep our investors informed and engaged.

Scope of Target Group and Partnerships

We are pleased to announce that we will offer the first opportunity to both NGC English and Chinese assemblies' members and Business Partners. After a limited period till 31st October 2023, we will open the opportunity to other sister assemblies willing to partner with us until 31st December 2023. After this, we shall open this opportunity to other believers.

This partnership will allow us to create relationships that share the same values, fostering a larger community of support and care for our elderly believers.

If you are interested and have other queries on this project, you are welcome to contact us so that we may answer any concerns that you may have.

Your support and guidance are crucial for the success of this project, and we are confident that with your endorsement, we can bring this vision to fruition and positively impact the project to be completed earlier.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In His Service,
Fred Tan & Andrew Peng

Nilai Gospel Chapel

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Email: nilaigc2016@gmail.com

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/115174035273

Combined Chinese Youth Ministry in North Malaysia

Yi Sheng's Youth Ministry (chongtin.tan@gmail.com)

As published in Diakonia 2022, we continued to organise the Youth Camp 2.0 which was held at Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall from 3rd to 5th September 2022. This camp was held to train Christian youth to organise church activities like children camp, Christmas carolling, etc as a preparation for Youth Camp 3.0 and to evangelise to the non-Christian youth.

As such, Youths from Nibong Tebal Gospel Hall, Sungai Bakap Gospel Hall and Bukit Mertajam Gospel Center,

came together to organise a children camp on 17th December 2022 at Nibong Tebal Gospel Hall by themselves with my supervision to fulfil the project set by Youth Camp 2.0.

It was very encouraging to see that the Children Camp achieved two purposes. First, the Youths were trained with the responsibility to get the children to come back physically since the epidemic started, where all children

From Local Assemblies

only go online, and secondly the Youth learnt to organise Church activity independently.

Due to the uncertainty of the school calendar, the Youth camp 3.0 was delayed to 20th until 23rd February 2023. It was held at Malaysia Bible Seminary's camp in Kuang, Rawang.

For the three camps, we saw young souls being saved. Each camp had more than 10 souls being saved. For Youth Camp 3.0, we used Alpha Course as the main sharing tool. It was very interesting as we received favourable feedback.

Since last year, I have organised an online seminar for the Youths from NTGH, SBGH and BMGC with speakers arranged by Yi Sheng focusing on Youth related topics every 3rd Saturday night. It was quite an effort to arrange for them to gather at the beginning, but we managed to do so after the Youth camps.

Starting this year, we started a face to face meet up for Youths every 3rd Saturday night. We also planned to organise a combined physical meet up if there is a fifth Saturday for outdoor games like captain ball etc.



Youth camp in Petaling Jaya organised by Yi Sheng



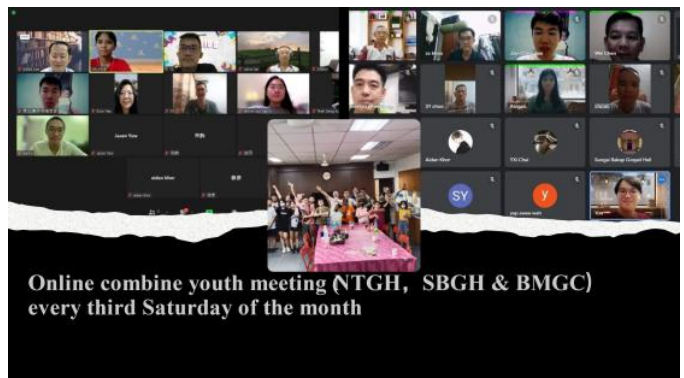
Children Camp in Nibong Tebal Gospel Hall 17/12/2022



Children Camp in Nibong Tebal Gospel Hall 17/12/2022



Children Camp in Nibong Tebal Gospel Hall 17/12/2022



Online combined youth meeting

From Local Assemblies

Opened Doors through Science and Technology for the Gospel

Dr YL Khong (ylkhong1@gmail.com)

In the 2022 issue of the Diakonia, pg. 54, I shared about the opportunities via STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to present a fresh narrative of the Christian faith in our conversations both within and with those outside the faith. A year down the road, we saw many open doors via this platform.

While the passage in Matthew 28:18-20 is the go-to passage on the Great Commission, we should also consider Roman 10:14,15.

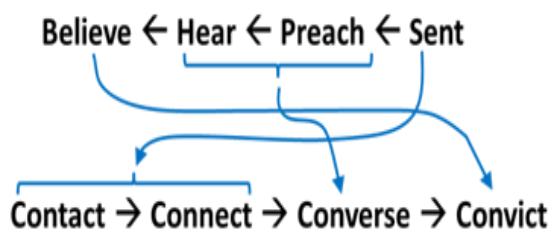
¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

The chain of events leading to believe in Romans 10 is **Believe → Hear → Preach → Sent.**

Aligned to this, I introduce the 4 C's:

Connect → Contact → Converse → Convict

Below is the correlation between the chain of Roman 10 and the 4 C's



It is crucial to be able to **contact** and **connect** with those we intend to share the Gospel with. Without these connection points, there can be no **conversations** to point people to Christ. The **conviction** part is not our job but that of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8), but we need to use all means to reach out (contact, connect, converse), to give a reason for the hope that is in us and to be all things to all men so that by all possible means, to save some.

Over the years, we have found that STEM can be effective for contacting, connecting and conversing about our faith. While people might be averse for themselves or their children to come to church, but when it is for STEM activities, they have less reservations. Furthermore, the children also love to come for STEM programs.



Since starting in 2021, we have conducted programs in 12 assemblies. A similar number in other non-assembly churches and Christian NGOs also engaged us to develop and conduct STEM programs and activities. For working directly with non-Christian groups, we established a commercial entity to avoid problems of working under a Christian banner.



From this year, we have organised our programs into two main streams i.e. the STEM Carnival and the STEM Explorer. The STEM Carnival is designed to accommodate larger crowds through station activities and demos. The STEM Explorer programs are topic or project specific in small group settings.

In Taiping Gospel Hall, we started in February this year with the STEM Carnival. 120 children from ages 6 to 17 turned up. Subsequently, we followed up with the STEM Explorer program there on a monthly basis. We capped the number of participants to 60 for this due to space and resource constraints. On Easter we also did a special program there. Butterworth Gospel Hall carried out their first STEM Carnival in June this year, with about 55 children participating for the English Assembly and 30 for the Chinese Assembly. The English Assembly is now planning to conduct the STEM Explorer program on a monthly basis.



We are expanding our faith narratives around the STEM programs and activities that allows us to transition a conversation that begins with STEM to one concerning faith.

From Local Assemblies

For example, during Easter this year, we did a program called the **Amazing Blood** where we did activities around the science of blood including showing red blood cells under a microscope and drawing blood in front of the children. Taking the conversation from blood to the cross was an easy transition – Why did Jesus die on the cross? He died because he shed his blood. Why did he die? To save us from our sins. We did this program in Cameron Highlands Gospel Hall, Kepala Batas Gospel Centre, Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre, Island Glades Gospel Centre and Taiping Gospel Hall.

Another example of using STEM as part of the conversation for the Gospel involves a gentleman in his late 70's, a regular at our church. He agrees with most parts of the Gospel, except the part about one God and only way back to Him. One day, I said if there are many gods, we cannot do science. One day, water would boil at 100°C and on another day, another god would decide on a different temperature for water to boil. One day the Sun will rise in the East, and on another day, another god might want it to rise in the South. This would make for a very chaotic universe. The (scientific) fact we observe order and regularity in the Universe, indicates a single Hand that sets things in motion and holds everything together. And he agreed!! A couple of weeks later he accepted Christ.

Now that doors have opened, What's next? We are developing a STEM Hub concept where STEM resources and programs are kept. The idea is to allow others to avail themselves of these resources and be trained in how to use them, so they can do the programs. We are also developing contents for a Maker's Space where people can run innovation projects. In this way, we can engage students on a longer-term basis to build relationships.



Currently, we have ongoing work with an assembly-run school - Sangkhim Canaan School, in Cambodia and a Christian NGO - Lighthouse of Hope in Sarawak, Scripture Union, and Gospel Halls in Taiping and Butterworth. At IBCM8 2023, we found doors opened to complement existing work by groups in Indonesia and

Philippines. The door also seems to be opened for doing STEM outreach in an assembly-run school in Nigeria. Closer to home, we are looking to work with the Christian Brethren Education Trust Board to utilise the BBBS Education Centre building for a STEM Hub; this to run STEM programs for the community and to service the Klang Valley assemblies with STEM Outreach programs and activities. Lastly, we are looking to partner with private Christian schools.



We continue to seek the Lord's leading and are looking out for interested parties to partner with us. If you are interested, please contact:

Dr. YL Khong

Tel: +60174263399

Email: ylkhong1@gmail.com

From Local Assemblies

Rasah Gospel Chapel Community Center (GCCC) Ministry

Pastor Phang (phksly@gmail.com)



Pastor James started the church planting in Rasah area 8 years ago, 2 years before we started the Rasah church building in 2017.

We used the same strategy i.e., Student Learning & Support or SLS ministry to reach out to the poor students. We started the kindergarten work this year at GCCC, and also started the Mandarin class to reach out to retirees in 2020. In 2021, we also started the praise dance ministry to reach out to the community around GCCC in Rasah, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. This year in January we started the Sunday worship in Mandarin and opened our church doors to the community.

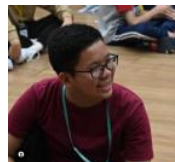


This year we plan to renovate the upper section of the church at Seremban Gospel Chapel, Seremban. We need to install air conditioned classrooms which can accommodate thirty (30) Form 1 to Form 5 students. Each student will use a laptop and video recording lessons to have their tuition class.

Xiu feng joined SLS when she was young. She just finished her SPM exam recently. She hopes to further her studies in a few months later.



Wen Shi, Yao Wei and Xiu Feng are some of SLS students. Some of them were abandoned by their parents or fatherless.



From Local Assemblies

Church Revitalization - The Plight of Small Assemblies in Malaysia

Peter Tan (*captainpetros777@gmail.com*)

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

At the Elders Meeting held during the 2019 Assemblies Leadership Conference in Ipoh, it was brought to the attention of the elders, the need to assist smaller assemblies in Malaysia. CBSM was tasked to explore possible ways to assist these assemblies. It was suggested that assembly leaders consider these smaller local assemblies as mission ground and to establish partnerships with them.

The Assembly Elders of Malaysia had commissioned a task force of leaders specially tasked to study, facilitate, equip and provide resources to the smaller assemblies, in partnership with CBSM trustees at the ALC 2021.

As of August 2022 the task force which includes the General Secretary and Chairman of CBSM, had inducted other leaders of the assemblies willing to provide time and effort to revitalise the small assemblies who need assistance. The members of the task force are as follows; Chiew Sai Kee, Teo Pek Bing, Peter Tan, Ronny Low, Dr. Khong YL and Dexter Ng.

Status of Assemblies in Malaysia

Looking at the size by number of members who are participating in The Lord's Supper

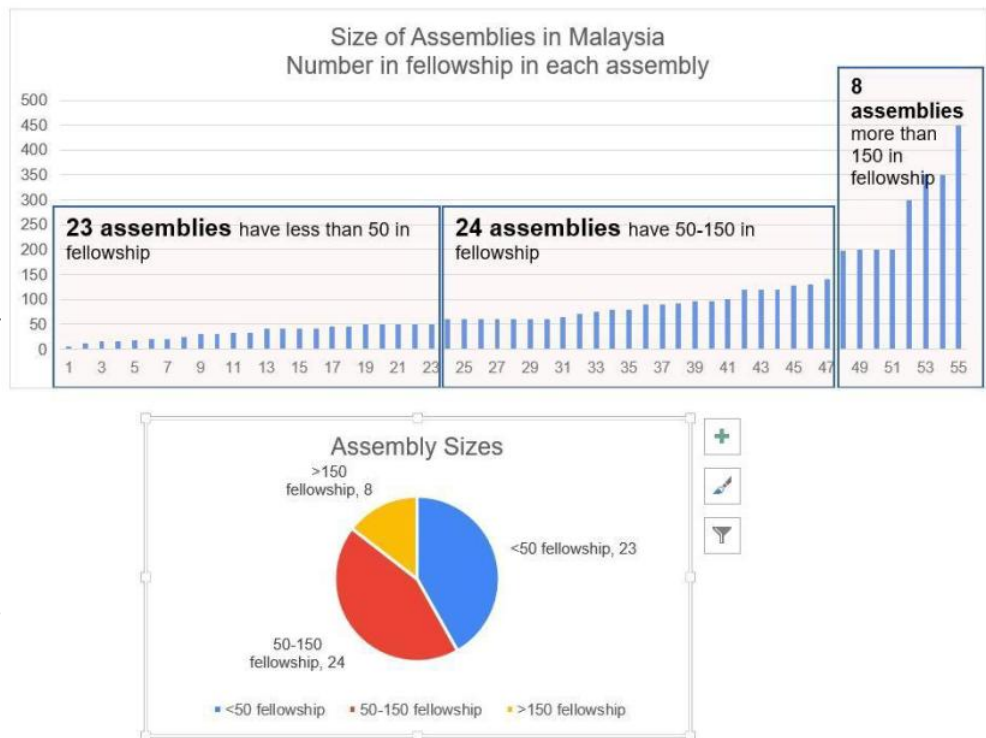
Initiatives To Assist Assemblies

The following initiatives were initiated and are at various stages of implementation.

1. Training and Teaching Programmes: Building healthy churches by MPI, SOTS, Intentional discipleship
2. Providing funds when needed. (Training, to support mission programs, community projects, etc)
3. Identifying and encouraging mission programs
4. Short-term workers (ongoing recruitment)
5. Full-time workers. (Commitment to fund them well; work with agencies like MMS in the event we are able to get FT workers)
6. CBSM is preparing a proposed FT workers support guideline ("Salary", benefits, terms of "employment")

Partnership and Vision

1. To revitalise the small assemblies, the task force will coordinate partnership with the English, Chinese and Tamil speaking assemblies in sending workers into the



field. We will train, equip and fund full time workers (short term and long term) for church planting and revitalising small assemblies in Malaysia in partnership with CASM and Tamil assemblies.

2. Our vision is to maintain and grow the assembly gospel witness in Malaysia through the existing assemblies and explore church planting initiatives in Malaysia.

The Strategic Plan

We intend to conduct further discussions with assembly elders to convince them to see the vision of revitalization for their assembly. To explore community needs in specific localities, considering the cultural and demographic needs.

Assemblies have to assess their strengths and available resources. The task force will offer collaboration with elders to teach evangelism for the church to effectively reach the community with the gospel.

The Four Point Action Plan

The task force has introduced the four point action plan to assemblies interested to participate in the church revitalization effort. Assemblies will have to agree to the plan below and be committed to participate actively for a 2 year period.

1. Assemblies must sign up to the Revitalization Program (Focused on a Clusters of 3 Assemblies at any one time)

From Local Assemblies

2. Mission teams drawn from Malaysian assemblies will be formed to participate with each participating assembly.
3. Formulation of church based strategic plan with participating assemblies, with quarterly action plan and review.
4. Full-time staff search for workers who will commit to a minimum of 2 year with CBSM, to be assigned to assemblies who have signed up.

Our Intentional Journey

1. Visits to Assemblies began according to regions (Northern, Perak & East Coast) and continue to take place today.
2. Data gathered: Leaders, Leadership structure, leadership succession plans, ministries and philosophy of their ministries (how to meet needs of the community), evangelism efforts, needs (ex.

Skills like IT skills, FT worker, training both classroom and on the ground approach, ...), demographic information including the needs of the community.

3. The task force initiated through CBSM a partnership with CASM to appeal for the funding for the revitalising the small assemblies which includes equipping, training and provision of full time workers assigned to these assemblies

LAUNCHING OF THE CHURCH REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

The Task Force sought the support of the Assembly Leaders Conference 2022 in launching the Church Revitalization Program. Our partnership with CASM to participate in the Full Time Workers and Theological Study Fund. We continue to pray for the assemblies in Malaysia to work together to establish our witness in the country. To God be the Glory.

Sports Ministry Outreach – Klang Jaya Gospel Chapel

Richard Naden (rnaden@gmail.com)

Spreading the Gospel is the primary mission of every church and smaller assemblies, particularly those located in residential communities who do have an advantage, since they're already surrounded by people who need to hear The Word. The key in reaching out is by being relevant to the community. Of course, there are many avenues to reach out, and one sure way is through sports.

Now there can always be a tendency to "follow" what other assemblies do, especially so when we see some being very successful at it, but it is key to understand the demographic and interests of the community where the Lord has placed us in. This is the hard part, as it involves attempting a few things and isolating those that work and being open to "canning" those that don't. For our assembly at Klang Jaya, we started looking at avenues using sports, especially when we see Captain ball being popular among our assemblies. That was one obvious sport we engaged in, starting with the youth. Alongside this, we also kicked off Futsal and Badminton, seeing that there were different groups who were interested enough to start. The objective – to bring people in, engage with those who are not Christians, build friendships and relationships and introduce Christ to them through those relationships. This was about eight years ago.

Fast forward to today – we have since "canned" Captain ball and Futsal, although once in a while we would play those sports, as they were not sustainable with poor turnout and interest, but we were surprised that here in Klang, badminton really took off! There were enough people in the church who would be regulars, and right

now, we play weekly, with a turnout of between 12-20 players, more than half of whom do not go to church or have trusted in Christ. One of the ways we engage people is by inviting those in twos or small groups at the courts to join us weekly, where we also subsidise the court rentals. Church members who play are also reminded of the primary mission and are encouraged to befriend and establish good relationships with all who join in.

To date, we typically play in 3-4 courts each week and over the years, we have had the opportunity to reach out and share The Word with those who joined us. Some have stepped in to assist with our Vacation Bible School activities. As we discuss these activities by the courtside, they in turn will hear the gospel as they assist in the activities. There are also many whom we've been able to successfully invite to church for major events like Easter and Christmas. These are individuals who on a normal day



From Local Assemblies

would not step into a church but because now they're being invited to attend by people whom they're already familiar with, it is no longer as intimidating as it would have been. The gospel is preached and is heard, and we trust that the Lord will cause the seed to grow in His time.

The work has not been easy as it requires the commitment of the church members involved to be available every week and also make the effort to befriend new people quite regularly, but we've seen the Lord work through this ministry. In fact, this is the one activity that has seen the least number of cancellations. In the last eight years, it has only been cancelled when the

government disallowed sports during the Covid pandemic (it would reopen as soon as the government lifted restrictions), which is saying a lot.

We are aware that ministries and opportunities are also constantly shifting, so while this works now, we will continue to use it to reach out, but we will continue to keep an open mind, listening to the Spirit's prompting, always looking for new ways to connect to the community around us, always looking for any way which we can use to share the gospel of Christ. The church in a community needs to remain relevant and shine for our Master.

BSGC University Student Group Ministry Leaders

Amanda Lee Ka Vun & Andrew Tan Jian Xi (andrewtjx1@gmail.com)

Introduction

The Youth ministry in Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre has been growing in God's grace for the past few years. We were a small group of youths before we were given the opportunity to grow and expand into different ministries that consist of youths (JOY), university students (YOUNITE) and young working adults (LINC). Many projects have been done to learn how we can grow to love others despite our differences through events and outreach activities.

PJGH combined worship workshop

In February, Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre had a combined worship workshop with the youths and young adults of Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall. The workshop aimed to educate the youths and young adults on how to lead worship – a seldom taught but very interesting skill to learn. The youths of both churches had a chance to get to know each other better through icebreakers and splitting into teams to come up with a worship session on the spot, based on a topic given to them. They then had to present their worship session. All groups demonstrated amazing usage of the concepts taught, even finding opportunities to include relevant bible verses in their services!

Christmas visitation to the Orang Asli (OA) village in Perak

During December 2022, we were blessed with a Christmas visitation trip to the Orang Asli village in Batu Lima, Perak. A total of 13 youths and 5 adults participated and performed a carolling session for the OA villagers. We were able to learn about their culture during the visitation through the lovely Christmas play the children performed for us and the wonderful sharing from the OA church leader. Christmas presents were given to the villagers along with supplies of food. Many of us were happy to be able to have the opportunity to bond with the children and to share the love of Christmas through carolling. It

was a wonderful trip along with the beautiful scenery that we were able to enjoy in the village.



Group picture in the Orang Asli village in Batu Lima, Perak



Left: Youths arriving in Batu Lima, Perak; Right: Youth talking to an OA child

From Local Assemblies



*Left: Food supply was given by Elder Mow Kam Yeen;
Right: Youths carrying the food supply*

Youth Camp 2022

In October 2022, JOY (youth group), YOUNITE (university student group), and youths from Temerloh Gospel Chapel went up to Cameron Highlands for a camp. The main purpose of the camp was to invite our non-Christian friends and seekers to bond and share the gospel with them. The camp theme was IMAGO DEI, which means the image of God as the aim was to remind the campers that they are made in God's image and because of that, we are special. This theme was specifically chosen due to the after effects of youths' mental health after the long pandemic that stretched over the past 2 years. A total of 41 campers participated and had the opportunity to listen to sharings from our camp speakers, Uncle Steven Low and Uncle Gary Heng. We thank God for blessing us with the opportunity to bond with the campers and to reach out to our non-Christian friends that joined our camp.



BSGC Youth Camp 2022, Imago Dei



Group photo during the hiking activity



Briefing session with the campers

Cooking Session

The university student group (YOUNITE) holds cooking sessions to allow the young adults to come and fellowship over cooking and also eating good food! The idea for the activity began when the committees were looking for an interesting thing to do for one of the YOUNITE cell group sessions, and somehow the idea of bonding with members over cooking was suggested. For our very first session, we had members and their friends coming over

to church to all cook Chicken Katsu Curry! After that, every so often, the young adults would gather together to cook food such as gyoza and noodles, and have a great time growing closer, while reaching out to their friends too.



Dumplings from the cooking session!

From Local Assemblies

Sports Ministry (TRECHO)

Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre has been conducting sports sessions every week since 2022, with the main goal of reaching out to unbelievers through sports under our sports ministry (TRECHO). The sessions are conducted at an indoor futsal court, and the sports being played are captain ball and futsal. The choice of sports is of no coincidence, as the people who come weekly for the sessions are also asked to come and compete in a COPA IBA – which is a yearly inter-church captain ball/futsal competition. So far, we have managed to invite many non-believing friends to come and have fellowship with us during these sessions. We are thankful to the Lord for providing both the manpower and people who are willing to come and attend these sessions.



Members of Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre and Temerloh Gospel Chapel after a captain ball friendly match



TRECHO Ministry Futsal Friendly Match

Prayer Requests

Ending off, we request prayers for the items below:

- For Youths to grow in godliness
- For the Lord to continue to guide and lead ministry leaders in order to spread the gospel
- For the various ministries to be able to reach out to their non-Christian members, and be able to have faith talks with them

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7 ESV)

Full-Time Workers and Theological Training Fund (FTWTTF)

Chiew Sai Kee, Chairman, CBSM & Trustee, FTWTTF (tcjjjj@gmail.com)

The Chinese Assemblies of Malaysia started the Chinese Assemblies Secretariat of Malaysia (CASM) in the year 2017 with similar aspirations and purpose as the Christian Brethren Secretariat of Malaysia (CBSM). The constitution of the CASM provided for the setting up of a Trust Fund to help provide for full-time workers, especially for the smaller assemblies to assist in paying their emoluments. The Trust Fund also aims to provide funds for full-time workers who wish to undergo some form of training to better equip themselves for ministry. This initiative is in line with the concerns of the Chinese Assemblies pertaining to the need to encourage believers who are seeking to serve full-time and those who are already serving full-time, and at the same time help the smaller assemblies. Hence, the **Full-Time Workers and Theological Training Fund (FTWTTF)** was started sometime in the year 2019.

In September 2022, the English and Chinese Assemblies had a joint Assembly Leadership Conference or ALC, in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. It was a historic and significant joint conference, as we came together for the first time at the national level to touch base on the same issues and challenges faced by the assemblies in our

country. The well-known and much-discussed concerns for the smaller assemblies in the country, both the English and Chinese, were again deliberated upon at length. Pressing matters such as the ageing population, urban migration, dwindling numbers of assembly members, lack of younger generations for leadership succession, and the closing of youth and Sunday School ministries require our urgent attention and prayers.

A decision was made at the conference that the English and Chinese assemblies would jointly participate in the FTWTTF, recognizing that the availability of full-time workers, God willing, be one of the measures, among others, that we can take to help smaller assemblies faced with the pressing matters mentioned above. This partnership between the English and Chinese assemblies, together with other existing organisations would augur well for full-time workers and for those who are planning to answer the Lord's call to full-time work.

The FTWTTF will be administered by a group of six trustees representing the English and Chinese Assemblies and are governed by the "Full-Time Workers and

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Theological Training Fund” Trust Deed and also the Application Procedures.

1. Dr. Tan Chong Tin (Elder, Jalan Tiga Gospel Hall)
2. Choo Chee Choy (Elder, Setapak Gospel Centre)
3. Jacob Chia (Elder, Burmah Road Gospel Hall)
4. Loke Siew Perng (Committee, Butterworth Gospel Hall)
5. Chiew Sai Kee (Elder, Temerloh Gospel Hall)
6. Dr Khong Yoon Loong (Elder, Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre)

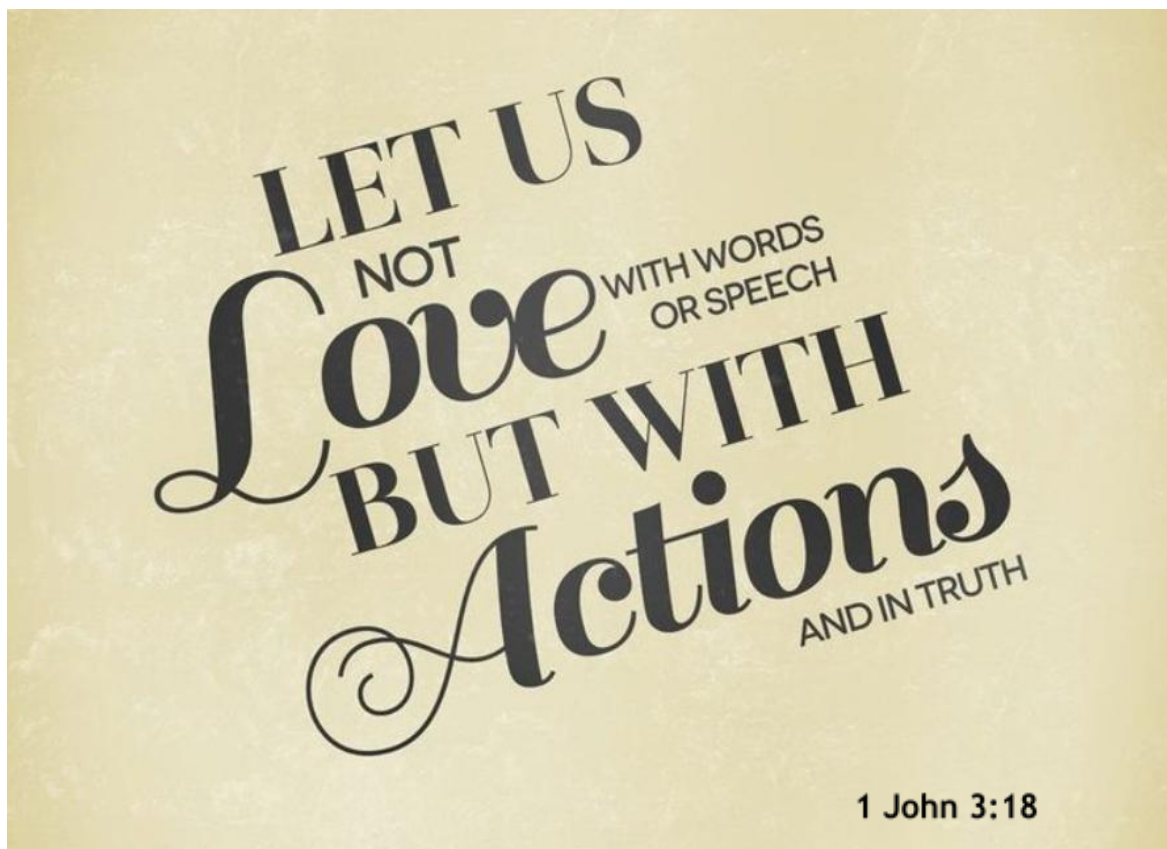
Briefly, the FTWTTF hopes that:

1. More believers will be encouraged to consider seeking the Lord and be called to serve the Lord full-time, and
2. To assist assemblies in the employment of full-time workers, by partnering with them both in terms of financial assistance and in Biblical training of full-time workers

At present, the FTWTTF is supporting two full-time workers, where we are partnering with Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre (Chinese and English) and Taiping Gospel Hall (English) in the employment of their respective full-time workers.

The FTWTTF wishes to thank assemblies, both English and Chinese, who have contributed to the fund since its broadened inception at ALC 2022. ***The Lord provides!*** Pray with us that the Lord will call out more believers among the assemblies to serve Him in a full-time capacity and be willing to move out into other areas of the country, helping in church growth and possibly in the planting of new churches across the country. Pray with us for the precious group of believers who have already committed their lives to serve the Lord full-time, that the Lord will continue to lead, strengthen, and protect them.

If you have any queries, suggestions, or any words of encouragement please do get in touch with any of the trustees listed above.



Inspiring Story: James, Gnanamuthu Dixon (G.D. James)

Source approved from Dictionary of Christian Biography in Asia (DBCAsia.org)



1920 - 2003

Evangelist, Missionary Pioneer (AEFI), and Author. Brethren, Southeast Asia.

Gnanamuthu Dixon James was born on December 25, 1920 into a Hindu family in the town of Salem in South India. At the age of three, Gnanamuthu ("pearl of wisdom" in

Tamil) lost his mother. He was physically abused by his father, who would randomly beat him while drunk. His father moved to Malaya (now Malaysia) where Gnanamuthu continued his primary school studies.

When his father remarried, his stepmother was cold and indifferent towards Gnanamuthu. The only love he received from family was from his grandmother but alas, she was preoccupied with her own responsibilities and was not always there for him. Gnanamuthu recalled how in distress he even contemplated committing suicide but did not know how to do it.

His father wanted him to have a good education, so he was sent back to India to attend secondary school at a Christian mission school noted for its academic standing. Before Gnanamuthu went to the school, his father warned him to stay away from the "white man's religion", a reference to Christianity. Being a "good" and zealous Hindu who read the Hindu Scriptures regularly, Gnanamuthu assured his father that he would never "humiliate himself or his family by embracing a foreign religion".

Vision of the Cross

One night when Gnanamuthu was in his school dormitory, he was restless and unable to sleep. He got out of bed and reached for the Bible on his desk. The page of the Tamil Bible fell open to Isaiah chapter 53. As his eyes scanned the passage of the suffering Messiah, he saw a fleeting but real vision. He witnessed the sins that he had committed and realised his condemnation before a Holy God. Subsequently, a glorious second vision came to pass – that of Christ on the cross, bearing all Gnanamuthu's sins on His own body. Gnanamuthu described that event:

"Suddenly the room was filled with a blinding light and at the centre of the light, I saw the very form of Jesus Christ as if He were dying then and there. For the first time in my life, I realised that Jesus Christ loved me..."

That night, the life of the 17-year-old was transformed by his faith and relationship to his new Lord.

When his father became aware of his son's conversion to Christianity, he was outraged. Gnanamuthu experienced

anger and maltreatment from various people because he had brought dishonour and shame to family and community. He left his uncle's home (where he stayed during school holidays) after overhearing that he might be poisoned at breakfast. He spent the first night in a railway station. For a whole year, he travelled and shared Christ in the various villages and towns near Salem, South India, many a time "without food and some days... [being sustained with] a couple of bananas and cold water".

Despite this, Gnanamuthu recalled the blessings of the early days: "But the joy and excitement of the presence of my living Lord Jesus was so real that all the privations and persecutions dwindled to nothing". The amazing thing through these witnessing experiences was that each time young Gnanamuthu, who had no theological training, shared the gospel, people – young and old – turned to the Lord. Gnanamuthu would only later learn that this was because God had given him the gift of an evangelist. Another uncle and aunt who lived on the other side of the Cauvery River (South India) and a few cousins who were sympathetic to Gnanamuthu's new faith helped him to arrange open-air meetings. At one meeting, Gnanamuthu's dear old grandmother who did not seem to grasp much of the gospel acknowledged that Jesus died for her sins and that He is the only God worth worshipping. These were indeed the sweetest words that Gnanamuthu had heard in a long time.

It was during his itinerant ministry in South India that Gnanamuthu had a clear call to leave his ambitions (he had mapped out plans to become a medical doctor) and become the Lord's servant. Even though he tried to dismiss the voice of God, he finally surrendered to the Lord's promptings with the words: "Lord, I'm all yours."

Malaya

In 1941, Gnanamuthu returned to Malaya from India. He had heard that there were many South Indians living there and felt that he could witness to them while being close to his family. He was surprised at how well he was received by his family, although his father tried to lure him back into Hinduism. Gnanamuthu started sharing the gospel with relatives and friends using his father's home as the base. He taught them from the four gospels each night for six months. It was evident that the Lord's presence was with him because he saw close to 30 of his relatives (including his stepmother and eventually his father) turn from their sinful ways to place their faith in Jesus Christ.

At that time, a New Zealand couple – the Brewertons who were sent to minister to Indians – encountered Gnanamuthu and recognised God's hand upon this young man. Unknown to Gnanamuthu, Mr and Mrs E.V.

Touching Lives

Brewerton were earnestly praying for an Indian missionary to come and help them gather the harvest among the Indian rubber plantation workers. The Brewertons had the joy of baptising some of Gnanamuthu's relatives and they also invited Gnanamuthu to join the Klang Gospel Hall where he was eventually commended as a full-time worker in mid-1941. From here on, he became known as G D James (or GD, affectionately, to close friends).

At the end of 1941, the Japanese army invaded Malaya and Singapore. During the approximately 2½ years of occupation, GD suffered privation and was in constant fear of being imprisoned or murdered by the Japanese soldiers. Despite it all, the Lord enabled him to escape several close calls and continue serving faithfully. The Lord's words of assurance: "I am with you" provided strength and stability to GD during these dark times. The leadership and shepherding responsibilities of the Klang Gospel Hall fell on the local workers because foreign missionaries were forced to leave the country. This posed a problem – GD rarely ministered in English prior to this. But he rose to the occasion – in preparation for this new phase of ministry, he would get up at 5 a.m. most mornings to study and master the English language.

In August 1943, two years before the surrender of the Japanese forces, GD married Roseline Simon (affectionately known as Rose), a Malayan Indian girl who came from a well-known Christian family. It was an auspicious occasion as Elder Lim Chin Kheng officiated at the wedding in the company of family and members from the surrounding Brethren assemblies. God blessed GD and Rose with six children. According to Elder Dr Lawrence Chan of Singapore, GD's success in his family life in raising all his children to love the Lord is mainly attributed to Rose who played "a crucial role" as she impressed on the children to cleave to the Lord. Four of their six children were born in Klang while the remaining two were born in Singapore after GD received a "Macedonian call" in 1951 from various leaders, including a medical missionary, Dr. G.P. Bardsley, to relocate there and eventually serve at the Bethesda Gospel Hall (now Ang Mo Kio Assembly) as a commended worker.

Singapore

Using the Bethesda Gospel Hall as a ministry base, GD preached tirelessly and became well known in the Brethren assemblies in Singapore and Malaysia. Invitations soon came from other denominational churches for GD to conduct gospel and Bible teaching meetings. His evangelistic gift was recognised and greatly appreciated, and the Gospel Hall released him to conduct crusades and rallies in India, Indonesia, and other Southeast Asian countries. He continued to travel to Malaya regularly, sometimes with a male voice choir from Singapore headed by Robert Tan of Bethesda Gospel Hall.

During one of these visits to Malaysia in 1960, GD sustained a heart attack and was rushed to Singapore's General Hospital. While in the hospital, GD took stock of his ministry before the Lord. One night while still in hospital, he saw a vision of people hastening to a Christless eternity and he sensed that the Lord was prompting him to train others instead of merely serving as an itinerant evangelist. GD realised that the best way forward was to form a national mission organisation to train Asians to reach Asia. Despite all the obstacles and with less than \$50 in the bank account, GD founded the Malaysia Evangelistic Fellowship (MEF) in August 1960. Nine leaders from various evangelical churches formed the first committee, including S. Dhanabalan who would later join the Singapore government as a Cabinet minister.

The work of MEF then spread to Indonesia and India in the early 1970s, so the name was changed to Asia Evangelistic Fellowship (AEF). Local evangelists like Tan Kok Beng were enlisted to preach at Gospel rallies, initially in Singapore and later in other parts of Asia, while Peck Hock Cheng, his wife Suat Mui, and Herbert Woon were sent from Singapore to Brunei as missionaries. Even so, GD's vision was for Asian nationals in their own countries to reach their people in culturally sensitive ways. He continued to conduct gospel crusades in the key cities of Asia and saw large crowds gathering and hundreds coming to Christ. In India and Indonesia, churches, Bible colleges, and preaching bands came into being because of his crusades. The Singapore ministry continued to grow as specialised evangelists were added to the ranks to reach out to children, young people, and dialect-speaking Chinese communities.

Sydney, Australia

In 1977, due to his heart condition, GD was advised by his doctors to relocate to Sydney, Australia (where the weather was more temperate and the pace of life less hectic). GD saw this as an opportunity to reach out to the Asians in Australia and to extend AEF's ministry to Australian Christians. He set up the board of AEF Australia made up of key Christian leaders and professionals. Unknown to him, this was a strategic move of God to prepare AEF to be later domiciled in Australia when the Singapore government introduced the Charities Act of 1995 whereby only 20% of locally raised funds could be remitted outside of Singapore.

In Sydney, GD became an elder of the Epping Gospel Chapel and counselled Asian students at Macquarie University. He also established various ministry initiatives for the Vietnamese, Cambodian, Sri Lankan, and other Asian communities across Australia.

GD continued visits to Singapore and other Asian countries and embarked on new initiatives such as convening the first Indian Diaspora conference in Singapore in June 1980

Touching Lives

with 100 delegates from 11 countries. In May 1985, GD and the AEF leaders organised the Conference of National Evangelists (CONE) in Singapore to identify and equip 150 emerging evangelists from Asia.

In 1990, AEFI appointed GD's youngest son Jonathan, as international director of the mission, based in Singapore. GD continued as president (a non-executive role), preaching the Word and promoting the mission. From 1989-1999, he conducted several "Love Missions" in various key cities in Asia and Australia. In 1989, he took a team of 12 Asian preachers to several cities in the United Kingdom and France for the "Love UK Mission". Pastor Neo Ban It of Singapore, one of the associate preachers at the Love UK Mission, testified that this was a "high point" in his life and ministry – to travel to the land of Wesley and Whitefield and preach the same gospel.

GD was first and foremost an evangelist. His simple and winsome messages based on the death and resurrection of Christ were powerful, anointed, and effective. Every time he preached a gospel message, there were pockets of people or large crowds that were convicted of their sin and need of a Saviour. He started his ministry as a Tamil preacher but was constrained during the Japanese occupation of Malaya to preach and write in English. GD described his efforts in learning to preach in English:

"I tried to preach using the best of phrases and words in the English language... sadly people were impressed... but no lives were changed. I fasted and prayed, and the Lord impressed upon me the need to preach Christ in simplicity and clarity with total dependence on God – not to add anything or take away anything."

God honoured this stand as thousands of people were touched by the powerful message of the Saviour. Eternity will reveal the broad sweep of precious souls from many nations who have come to know the Lord Jesus through his faithful ministry. Australian evangelist Bill Newman described GD as a "flame for God in Asia... [and] to so many parts of our world".

There are many notable evangelists, but few were used by God to spearhead and launch missionary movements. GD's vision for AEFI came at a time when there were very few national workers and missionaries serving God in their own Asian countries and when foreign mission agencies were not ready to accept local Asian workers to serve in their ranks.

AEFI has grown exponentially since its humble inception with more than 200 national workers serving today in 11 countries in Asia and beyond – even reaching the shores of North America where there is a thriving diaspora ministry to Asians. AEFI is now in regions and countries such as Northeast India, China, Nepal, and Myanmar, where GD had not set foot during his lifetime.

GD began writing tracts in English in the early 1950s. He then edited a quarterly magazine, *The Gospel Challenge*, for many years and went on to write 24 books. His book *Words of Comfort* written after a fiery trial brought immense blessing to many people. A medical student in India was on the verge of committing suicide but after reading the book, he gave himself to the Lord and changed the course of his life. Similarly, a corporate executive, Jacob Samuel in Mumbai came to the Lord after reading this book. GD's signature booklet *The Man You Must Confront* has been printed and translated into more than 13 languages with more than 10 million copies in circulation.

Amazingly, even though GD founded AEFI, he was not "one-eyed" about the mission. He spent as much time building up and encouraging other agencies such as the Bible Society (Singapore), Keswick Convention Committee (Singapore), Haggai Ministries, OMF (Singapore Home Council), Eagles Communications and Every Home for Christ (Australia), to name a few. He encouraged younger leaders, pastors, and evangelists all over Asia and Australia. In the last five to six years of his life, he devoted his time in prayer for international Christian leaders and met with several key leaders in Australia regularly in an informal mentoring capacity.

Alan Harley (theologian and former director of AEF Australia) in his summation of GD's life referred to St. Patrick who was known as the apostle of Ireland, Bernard Gilpin as the apostle of the North and William Carey as the apostle of India. In the same way, Harley likened G.D. James in that line of apostolic succession: "GD began his ministry as a result of a direct confrontation with the living Lord, he was compelled to take the gospel to his own people, he has travelled the world to preach Christ, he has established a network known as AEFI from which colleges and churches have been established and the fruit remains".

Deathbed: Final vision

G D James died in Sydney on July 24, 2003. One of his spiritual sons, David Lim (formerly from Singapore) was at his bedside in hospital and testified that GD asked for pen and paper to write something he saw. But he was too weak to write a single word. Lim shared that GD saw a vision of the Lord and the prophet Elijah but was struggling to communicate this. Shortly after this incident, GD left this world, holding onto his Bible, having completed more than 60 years of faithful gospel ministry through preaching, writing, and training leaders.

Ten memorial services were held to celebrate his life and ministry in Sydney and Perth (Australia); Singapore; Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia); Auckland (New Zealand); Mumbai and Dimapur (India); Kathmandu (Nepal); Yangon, (Myanmar) and Surabaya (Indonesia). In the Christian community in

Touching Lives

Singapore and in many parts of Asia and the world, he is considered a legend because of his extensive influence and prolific contribution to the missionary enterprise of the Church.

***Note: Jonathan James** is the youngest son of G.D. James. He was previously the associate pastor of the Swanston Street Church of Christ (now CrossCulture Church of Christ) in Melbourne, Australia and is currently the executive president of AEFI.*

A Special Tribute to Peter Ferry

Jim Armstrong, General Director of ECHOES INTERNATIONAL (james.armstrong@echoesinternational.org.uk)



Peter Ferry went to be with the Lord on July 19th, 2023, after serving the Lord faithfully for 64 years in Thailand and other parts of Asia. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on 28 June 1934, the fourth child of six children.



Fiona Ruble with her parents

He was sent by his local Assembly in Scotland and has been associated with Echoes of Service (now called Echoes International) since 1959. He became a Christian as a young man and was mentored by his older brother. As a young Christian he was actively involved in evangelism and bible-study, but at the time felt called to the British Army.

As a young 19-year-old soldier he was first sent to Berlin, where he quickly became involved with the local church and would also volunteer in the refugee camps when he was off-duty. It was during this time that God spoke very clearly to him about leaving the army and going into full-time Christian work as a missionary.

As he still had some time left to serve, he went next to Malaya, the country



where he met his future wife, Peggy. In the jungle he would read his Bible and pray every night, and soon his fellow soldiers asked him to read out loud and pray for them.

After leaving the army he went as a missionary to South Thailand. After completing language study, he and Peggy moved to Krabi and were involved initially in pioneer work. As the assemblies there and in Phuket grew, Peter's ministry became more bible-teaching and training of local workers. Most of these assemblies have grown significantly and now have gifted local leadership.

Peter was a gifted bible-teacher and frequently taught in Malaysia and Singapore. In 1973, the Lord took him to Burma (now called Myanmar) where he was able to help the small fellowship, giving bible-teaching, training as well as taking in Burmese bibles. He continued to visit Burma several times a year for years. The assembly in Rangoon is now flourishing and has since planted several churches.



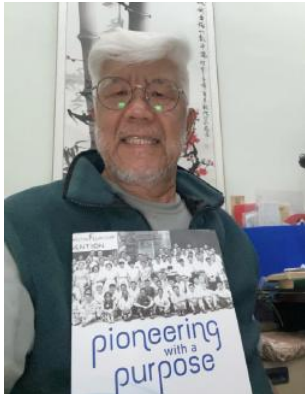
In the late 1970's-early 1980's Peter and Peggy felt the Lord calling them to Sri Lanka. They were able to help and encourage the church there and see it grow, as well as start the Emmaus work there. Peter and Peggy continued to visit Sri Lanka for many years. In addition to the gifted public speaker and bible-teacher most of us know and are familiar with, Peter was also involved with pastoral work, visiting the sick and elderly and doing bible-teaching at home. He was always a disciplined man who got up at 4am or 5am and made prayer a priority in his life.

During these last two years when he was unable to serve the Lord in more active ways, he spent them praying even more diligently for family, local believers, the church and global affairs.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Armstrong (M: 07585 669891 T: 03300 563334)
ECHOES INTERNATIONAL
Bath Office: 124 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AH
Paisley Office: Unit 22, Sir James Clark Building, Abbey Mill Business Centre, Paisley, PA1 1TJ

Koh Gim Lam's Ministry in Cameron Highland, Malaysia

Source approved from OCF Alumni (ocf.alumnet@gmail.com)



We are privileged to write about our Brother Koh Gim Lam's ministry in Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia.

Koh Gim Lam in Cameron Highlands (24.4.2022)

Koh Gim Lam's Testimony

1965-1966 were very traumatic years for me. I started teaching in Tengku Ahmad Secondary School in the Cameron Highlands in 1965. Because of lots of personal struggles, I went into drinking and gambling and were often drunk and having gambling debts.

A bright spot during that period was that I came to know Dr. Bobby Sng Ewe Kong and Dr. Ivy Peck. Through their friendship and witnessing both in words and through their lifestyle, I was very attracted to the Christian message. Through a wonderful chain of events, I made a confession of faith on 4th July 1966.

Again, through a wonderful chain of events, I resigned as a government servant and took up the appointment of a youth worker with the Scripture Union Malaysia. Those were great years of the Inter-school Christian Fellowships and camps. We saw hundreds coming to the Lord each year through these activities and many of these ISCFers became leaders in the universities and the local churches.

On 1st January 1985, I stepped into the shoes of the very well-loved, Rev. Peter Young and took up the position as the National Director (then, it was known as General Secretary), and served in that position until 1st Jan 1993, when I was appointed as the Regional Director of Scripture Union East and West Asia. In the 90s, many closed countries in Asia began to open up. The Lord gave me the joy of seeing Scripture Union beginning in Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam (restarting work that was stopped during the war years), Mongolia, China, Laos, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.

Each movement has an exciting story of its beginning, especially of God sending the right people to the right places at the right time. I retired from the Scripture Union on 31st December 2010, a very satisfied staff worker! While with the Scripture Union I served the local churches as much as I could and was later made an elder of Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall. During that period, I carved out times to

complete my M. Min and DD. I also served as one of the Founding Board members of OM, Malaysia. Whenever opportunities were opened for me, I was more than delighted to share in overseas conferences, for example Overseas Christian Fellowship Conventions.

- 1982 OCF Convention in Melbourne
- Dec. 28, 1986 to Jan. 3rd 1987 OCF Convention in Melbourne with Oswald Sanders
- Dec. 29, 1991 to Jan. 4th 1992 OCF Convention in Adelaide with Marilyn Teague
- Dec. 5 -11, 2002 OCF Convention in Adelaide with Ronald Nugent
- Dec. 31st 1987 - Jan.3rd 1988 with the Malaysian Christian Conference (England's version of OCF) in High Wycombe
- May 8 -13, 1988 OCF New Zealand 26th Convention.

When I retired from Scripture Union, I moved to the Cameron Highlands and continued to have an active teaching ministry in both local churches and Orang Asli churches and also from time to time in Bible teaching events. During the Covid pandemic years, together with a small group of retirees, I started the KOMUNITI BANTUAN DAN PENDIDIKAN ORANG ASAL (KBP). In the Pendidikan (Education) program, KBP started kindergartens and tuition centres in the kampung.

To date we have 12 kindergartens/tuition centres and 4 more pending. The other area of concern was the Bible listening program with the introduction of the audio Bible. To date we have distributed well over 2000 sets. For the Bantuan (Aids) program, we concentrated on giving milk powder to mothers with infants. At the moment, there are a total of 25 teachers, assistants and staff workers serving with KBP full time.

I never expected that in my retirement years I can still have such an active life and to see God's good hands through KBP. What a privilege to be a child of God and part of His "grey power team" on earth! I am 78 years old in 2023.

Komuniti Bantuan dan Pendidikan Orang Asal (KBP)

Komuniti Bantuan dan Pendidikan Orang Asal (KBP) was initially set up to respond to the Covid pandemic that affected so many OA kampungs in the Cameron Highlands District. KBP has evolved from that to focus on 3 main areas of concern: -

1) Pendidikan (Education)

During our visits to the remote kampungs to bring them food and medicine, we noticed so many school going children were not in school. When asked, nearly all the parents replied, 'anak kurang faham' and for that they

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dropped out after 2 or 3 years in school. This led KBP to establish preschool centres for children between 5 to 6 years old, to prepare them for primary school education. At the moment we have 4 paid staff as teacher assistants and two full time staff workers visiting these centres and helping the teacher assistants.

Another small ministry in the education department we conducted was vocational training. We have just done two - motorcycle maintenance workshop and seminar for potential preschool teachers. Both were very well received. We are now seeking God's direction whether to respond to the request to start a school in a Bateq village with more than 100 children below 12 years who are not attending school.



Boat arrived at riverbank with audio Bibles, milk powder and other food stuff for the community

2) Audio Bible Ministry

This Ministry came about through our visits to the remote kampungs during the pandemic. Many kampung, even those with churches, received totally no spiritual input for 2 years.



Part of Kampung Sungai Sat Orang Asli community in Pahang

That led us to send audio Bibles to some of these kampung. We developed a listening plan. To date we have distributed nearly 2,000 audio Bibles to more than 1,000 OA families. Our staff travels to the various kampung to teach them to get the most out of the audio Bible.

3) Bantuan (Giving Aids Ministry)

- a. We continue to distribute food stuff and medicine and used materials that are in good condition given to us either by
 - i. bringing them to the remote kampungs or
 - ii. the leaders come to our Pusat Pembekalan Makanan dan Ubat-ubatan to collect them.
- b. distributing milk powder to mothers with babies below a year old and expectant mother.
- c. we give a glass of milk and hopefully soon, an egg a day to our preschool children in the centres.

Pray with us and for us in KBP.

Indigenous & Marginalised: Understanding and Empathising with the Struggles of the Orang Asli

Chris Tay (christaycc@hotmail.com)



On behalf of the Pan Malaysia OA Mission (PMOAM) and the Sidang Injil Orang Asli (SIOA) community, we are very thankful to all of you who have shown unwavering support for the Orang Asli people. Your compassion, generosity, and steadfast commitment have touched lives in profound ways, breathing new hope into

their lives. Together, we can be channels of God to give a brighter future for the Orang Asli (OA) and bring honour to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on God's hand that has graced the lives of the Orang Asli communities, we humbly thank God for His unwavering faithfulness and boundless goodness. In the

days ahead, we aim to remain steadfast in our divine calling. Side by side with OA leaders and believers, our mission is to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ and illuminate His presence in the remote and dense forests of Perak, Pahang, and Negeri Sembilan.

Orang Asli – Their Struggles

The Orang Asli are the indigenous inhabitants of Malaysia, aptly named as the "original people" or "aboriginal people" in Malay. Their diverse existence spans the various regions of Malaysia, encompassing states such as Johor, Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Terengganu.

According to the latest census conducted by the Department of Statistics Malaysia in 2020, the Orang Asli population stands at approximately 178,000, a relatively small fraction of Malaysia's overall population, estimated

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at around 32 million. Nevertheless, the Orang Asli are integral to Malaysia's cultural tapestry, holding the esteemed position of indigenous peoples. Comprisi ng 18 distinct subgroups within the Negrito (Semang), Senoi, and Aboriginal-Malay categories, they account for 0.7% of Peninsular Malaysia's population. The Orang Asli possess their unique languages, cultures, and customs.

Starkly revealing, virtually all Orang Asli households fall within the income bracket of the poorest 40% of Malaysians, according to the Centre for Orang Asli Concerns. This means that 99.29% of these households earn less than RM4,000 per month, placing them in the B40 category.

The Orang Asli have endured a long and arduous history marked by marginalisation, discrimination, and the relentless challenge of preserving their traditional way of life. They have confronted the grim spectres of forced relocations, land confiscations, and merciless exploitation. Bereft of their ancestral lands, they stand vulnerable to disease and societal exclusion, grappling with discrimination and a dearth of educational opportunities.

In the present day, the Orang Asli continue to confront an array of challenges. The unresolved land rights issue looms large, as they strive to assert their ownership and safeguard their territories from external interests. Discrimination and marginalisation persist, leading to social and economic isolation. The spectres of poverty, inadequate access to essential services, and an underdeveloped healthcare infrastructure exacerbate their already disadvantaged circumstances. Education remains an uphill battle, with limited opportunities for quality learning and scant resources for secondary



education. Health concerns, including malnutrition and infectious diseases, further compound their struggles. The Orang Asli remain a precious jewel in Malaysia's cultural mosaic, bearing unique traditions, languages, and customs that serve as a potent reminder of the nation's rich historical and cultural diversity. By nurturing and supporting the Orang Asli, we ensure that their voices and contributions resonate through the annals of time.

Opportunities to Make a Difference

Hope is closer than we realise. At PMOAM, we firmly believe in the transformative power of the Gospel. We persist in sharing the love of Christ and sharing the hope of the Gospel to the Orang Asli, whom our Lord holds dear.

Our commitment transcends physical aid. We actively seek opportunities to share the life-altering message of Jesus Christ, recognizing that true healing and new beginnings emerge from a personal connection with Him. Through outreach, fellowship, and discipleship, we guide them toward a deeper comprehension of God's love and the hope embedded in His teachings.

In our endeavours, we stand resolute in being a source of love, support, and encouragement to the Orang Asli communities. Together, with the OA brethren, we strive to uplift their spirits, nurture their faith, and empower them in their journey to overcome the challenges that besiege them.

Our mission is crystal clear: to bring light, love, and the message of hope to the Orang Asli, catalysing transformation and rejuvenating their spirits as they embrace the abundant life that Jesus Christ offers. We aspire to be a wellspring of relief, compassion, and hope. As we continue to walk alongside the Orang Asli, our dedication to serving them stands unyielding. We extend our support wherever it is needed, with the overarching goal of ushering a glimmer of hope amidst their trials, ultimately contributing to the resilience and resurgence of their communities. Together, we can make a profound and lasting difference in their lives.

OA Mission

Currently, the number of workers and villages under SIOA Perak and SIOA Pahang are as follows:

SIOA	Number of Workers	Number of Churches/ Outreach Centres
SIOA Perak	18	14
SIOA Pahang	10	33 (Pahang) 1 (Negeri Sembilan)

SIOA Perak is led by Bah Ngah, with Rolisa as his deputy. SIOA Pahang is headed by Nor Yuasra (Ngai), with Hermanila (Man) as his deputy. As our ministry progresses, the need for more workers becomes apparent to cover these extensive regions.

How Can We Help?

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." These poignant words, often attributed to Theodore Roosevelt, underscore the significance of forging connections and demonstrating empathy and compassion. It underscores the idea that

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people are most receptive to those who genuinely care about their well-being and display a willingness to assist.

We can make an indelible impact on our Orang Asli communities by:

1. **Building Relationships:** Establishing genuine relationships with our Orang Asli brethren is the first and pivotal step. We must listen to their stories, comprehend their struggles, and wholeheartedly care for their welfare.
2. **Providing Resources:** Tangible assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, can tangibly express our love and support, especially during crises. During recent years, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we extended help to the Orang Asli communities, providing face masks, sanitisers, medical aid, and sustenance. We also strive to supply resources that address their specific needs, spanning education and healthcare.
3. **Empowering:** We firmly believe in empowering individuals within these communities to seize control of their lives and create positive change. This may involve mentorship, training, and discipleship to enhance their skills and fulfil their aspirations. Throughout the year, numerous training sessions were held in both Tapah and Temerloh. A notable achievement was our inaugural OA Leaders Retreat from July 24 to 26, 2023, at Beacon Resort. This retreat, themed "Unity & Humility" (Ephesians 4:2-3), aimed to empower leadership, foster fellowship, and ignite the passion to reach out to OA communities.



4. **Encouraging and Celebrating:** Celebrating the strengths and accomplishments of individuals within these communities can convey hope and encouragement. Acknowledging their tenacity and dedication can make them feel valued and inspire them to continue their pursuit of success.



5. **Sharing the Gospel:** Collaborating with OA believers in spreading the message of the Gospel and the enduring hope it carries is one of the most profound ways to convey hope. By sharing Jesus' love and His message of salvation, we can offer enduring hope that transcends earthly circumstances. Each year, many come to know the Lord, and new outreach centres are established.

Leaving a Legacy for the OA

"When we share God's heart and vision for the world, we will be blessed. So we see a glorious cycle. We are blessed; we use that blessing to reach a hurting world, and as that aligns us with the heart of God, we are blessed even more, so we use that blessing for all the earth, and it just goes on and on." - David Guzik



God blesses us with the intention that we, in turn, may bless others. Having been the beneficiaries of divine blessings, let us extend our hands to make life a tad brighter for our Orang Asli brethren. Let us empower them to share the gospel, uplift their communities, and make a lasting impact on the lives of both present and future generations.

Psalm 102:18 reminds us, *"This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD."*

Should you seek further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at pmoam1@gmail.com. You can also contribute by banking in or transferring to the following account:

Pan Malaysia OA Mission
Public Bank Bhd A/C no 3192916101,
Bandar Puchong Jaya Branch, Selangor, Malaysia.

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One Last Point

It's profoundly moving that those closest to nature, who have witnessed the splendour of creation, can also bear witness to the glory of the Creator and experience His grace and mercy.

The Lord can utilise us as partners with OA believers to reach out to the Orang Asli, enabling them to glimpse the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and treasure, cherish, and savour Him. Let us empower the OA to carry the gospel to every OA tribe and every OA village.

Together, with the Orang Asli, let us sing a new song to our Lord: *"You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."* (Revelation 5:9-10, NKJV)



Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus! Amen.

OA Testimonies

Disentuh oleh Kasih Tuhan

Saya sering dilanda penyakit yang tak berkesudahan. Suatu malam, dalam mimpi, seorang yang tak saya kenali mendekati saya dan berkata, "Saudara sering merasa sakit, bukan? Bagaimana jika saudara memutuskan masuk agama Kristian dan percaya kepada Tuhan Yesus?" Walaupun bingung, kata-kata itu menggugah hati saya.

Beberapa minggu kemudian, Cikgu Charles berkunjung dan mendorong saya untuk mempercayai Tuhan Yesus. Dalam doa, hati saya merasa tenang. Ini adalah masa penting yang mengubah hidup saya.

Saya bersyukur dan tetap percaya pada Tuhan Yesus Kristus. Ini adalah pengalaman iman yang menginspirasi saya untuk mengabdikan hidup kepada-Nya. Amin... 🙏

Kasih dan iman kepada Tuhan Yesus boleh membawa kebahagiaan dan perubahan. Semoga itu menjadi inspirasi bagi kita semua untuk membuka hati kepada kasih Tuhan yang tak berkesudahan.

Touched by God's Love

I was constantly plagued by unrelenting illness. One night, in a dream, a stranger I didn't know approached me and said, "You often suffer from pain, don't you? What if you

decide to embrace Christianity and believe in Jesus Christ?" Though I was puzzled, those words stirred something in my heart.

Several weeks later, Charles visited and encouraged me to believe in Jesus Christ. During his prayer, I felt a deep sense of peace wash over me. It was a pivotal moment that transformed my life.

I am grateful and unwavering in my faith in Jesus Christ. This experience has inspired me to dedicate my life to Him. Amen... 🙏

Love and faith in Lord Jesus can bring happiness and transformation. May it serve as an inspiration for all of us to open our hearts to God's boundless love.



Johar, Sg Petoh, Pahang

Dalam Keadaan Terdesak, mereka memeluk Tuhan Yesus

Di desa yang sunyi, Kg Jemeri, yang terletak di Rompin, hidup Kak Ah Moy dan anaknya, Zul, berdekatan dengan gereja desa. Pemimpin gereja telah berkunjung berkali-kali, menyampaikan pesan harapan dan keselamatan. Walau bagaimanapun, Kak Ah Moy dan keluarganya ragu untuk menerima ajaran Yesus.

Tanpa mereka ketahui, satu kutukan jahat telah menimpa keluarga mereka, menyebabkan penderitaan yang tak henti – penyakit fizikal, pemelukan oleh roh jahat, kegelisahan emosi, dan ketakutan yang tak berkesudahan. Setelah menanggung penderitaan berbulan-bulan, akhirnya mereka mencari bantuan kami. Yakin bahawa

hanya Tuhan Yesus yang dapat menyembuhkan mereka, mereka menerima jemputan untuk berdoa dan menerima Yesus Kristus sebagai Juruselamat.

Iman mereka membawa kepada perubahan yang mendalam. Dengan setiap hari yang berlalu, kesihatan mereka bertambah baik, dan roh-roh jahat yang mengganggu mereka lenyap. Hidup mereka yang dahulu kacau-bilau kini dipenuhi dengan ketenangan dan harapan. Mereka memuji Tuhan untuk perubahan ajaib ini.

Touching Lives

Kisah mereka menjadi bukti akan kuasa penyembuhan iman dan kasih Tuhan yang teguh. Amin. 🙏

In Desperation, they embraced Lord Jesus

In the quiet village of Kg Jemeri, nestled in Rompin, lived Kak Ah Moy and her son, Zul, right next to the village church. A church leader had visited them multiple times, sharing the message of hope and salvation. However, Kak Ah Moy and her family hesitated to embrace Jesus' teachings.

Little did they know, a sinister curse had befallen their family, causing relentless suffering – physical ailments, demonic possession, emotional turmoil, and unrelenting fear. After enduring months of agony, they finally sought our help. Convinced that only Jesus could heal them, they accepted the invitation to pray and accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Their faith led to a profound transformation. Day by day, their health improved, and the spirits that tormented them vanished. Their chaotic lives were now filled with serenity and hope. They praised the Lord for this miraculous change.

Their story stands as a testament to the healing power of faith and Jesus's unwavering love. Amen. 🙏



God's Faithfulness in the Midst of Trial: A Testimony of Healing and Hope

Andrew Peng (wkpeng68@yahoo.com)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to share a testimony of God's greatness and mercy throughout my journey of undergoing quintuple bypass surgery. It is my prayer that this testimony will bring encouragement and hope to each of you, as we witness God's faithfulness even in the face of daunting challenges.



On Sunday, April 30th, I experienced chest pain and difficulty breathing, prompting me to seek medical attention at Pantai Hospital Ipoh. Little did I know that this would mark the beginning of a significant chapter in my life. In moments of uncertainty, God bestowed upon me a calmness and peace that surpassed all understanding.

Trusting in His guidance, I negotiated with the medical officers to have my full heart test screening in Kuala Lumpur, signing a disclaimer form. I travelled back to Kuala Lumpur and arrived at Thomson Hospital Kota Damansara, continuing to place my trust in the Lord's leading. Indeed, Romans 8:28 became my anchor, reminding me that God works all things together for good.

Through various heart tests, it was confirmed that I had the narrowing of my arteries, necessitating further intervention. The initial plan of an angioplasty was unexpectedly halted as my condition proved more serious than anticipated. Instead, a bypass surgery was recommended, presenting me with a significant decision that would shape my future.

The surgeons from Thompson Hospital, Kota Damansara Specialist.

In seeking God's wisdom and peace, both my loved ones and I immersed ourselves in prayer, leaning on His promises. We experienced His presence and the support of a community that surrounded us with love and intercession. It was during these moments of seeking His guidance that we found a deep sense of peace, assurance, and the unwavering belief that God had the final say in our lives.

Meeting with the cardiac surgeon, I was made aware of the risks and rewards associated with the bypass surgery. Yet, through the surgeon's expertise and confidence, I saw God's provision. He had placed skilled professionals in my path to care for me and guide me through this intricate process.

On the day of the surgery, on 13th May, a mixture of apprehension and trust filled my heart. However, as I surrendered everything to God, I knew He was with me every step of the way. The day before I wore the t-shirt of our NGC Bible Camp with the theme "In His Steps" and took photos with the 3 important medical teams

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individually. They instantly recognised our faith, and I am not alone. Christ is with me guiding my steps. It's one thing to know about this faith, it's another living it. If we can trust Christ for eternity, we ought to trust Him even now. But the battle of the minds was a tough one. The surgery went smoothly, surpassing expectations. It was a testament to the skills of the medical team and the miraculous touch of our Heavenly Father.

Throughout my recovery, God's goodness and mercy continued to shine upon me. An outpouring of love, support, and prayers from family, friends, and even strangers embraced me. The medical staff demonstrated unwavering care, ensuring my comfort and progress. Each day brought noticeable improvements, serving as a testament to God's healing hand upon my life.

I want to give special recognition and heartfelt appreciation to my wife, Patricia, who has been a pillar of strength and an unwavering source of support. Not only did she tirelessly care for me, but she also managed her own work commitments, balancing the responsibilities of working from hospital (home) and attending to my needs while at the hospital. Her selflessness and dedication are a testament to her love and the incredible bond we share. I am immensely grateful for her presence by my side.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my brother Victor and his wife, Wai Yee. They have been a constant source of support and encouragement throughout this journey. Their unwavering presence, prayers, and acts of kindness have been a true blessing to me and my recovery. Their love and care have provided me with strength and comfort during the challenging moments. Not forgetting my sister-in-law, Evelyn and her husband, Kevin. They opened their home for us to stay while I recuperate post-surgery. They also provide emotional support for Patricia throughout this period of time. I am deeply thankful for them and others whom I am not able to name them one by one here for their unwavering support and the role they have played in my healing process.

Though my recovery continues with medication, pain management, and a new dietary regime that requires discipline, I trust in God for the months ahead. The process of healing involves not only physical restoration but also discipline and perseverance. I am grateful for the medical team's guidance in pain management, ensuring my comfort and easing my discomfort. Taking medication diligently is now part of my daily routine, and I recognize God's provision in the advancements of medical science that aid in my recovery.

Moreover, a significant aspect of my journey is the adoption of a new dietary regime. Embracing healthier eating habits requires discipline and self-control. It is a

reminder of the precious gift of life and the responsibility to steward my body well. With God's grace, I am determined to make the necessary changes and maintain a balanced diet that promotes healing and overall well-being.

Throughout this process, I continue to trust in the Lord's faithfulness. His presence has been evident in every step of my recovery, from the initial signs of distress to the successful surgery and the ongoing healing process. I am humbled by the outpouring of love and support from family, friends, and the wider community. Their prayers, well-wishes, and acts of kindness are a testament to the goodness of God and the power of a united body of believers.

As I reflect on this journey, I am reminded of God's promise in Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." In every moment of uncertainty and every step of my recovery, I have experienced the truth of this promise. God has carried me through the darkest valleys and lifted me up with His unfailing love.

I share this testimony not only as an expression of gratitude but also as an encouragement to each of you. In the face of giants, whether they be health challenges or any other trials, remember that our God is greater. He is the ultimate healer, the source of strength, and the provider of peace that surpasses all understanding. May my testimony serve as a source of hope, reminding you that no matter the circumstances, God is always present, ready to guide, comfort and restore. Let us continue to trust in His goodness, lean on His understanding and walk boldly in His promises. Together let us declare His greatness and testify to His faithfulness.

In His service,
Andrew Peng

Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur and The Arrival of a Giant Immediate Neighbour: Merdeka 118

Jimmy Chok (jchokkh@gmail.com)

Merdeka 118 towering over GHKL



This article is written for the purpose of sharing the communication and development of a neighbourly relationship between Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur (GHKL) and Merdeka 118 (formerly known as Warisan Merdeka Tower, KL 118 and PNB 118), a 118-story

megatall skyscraper in Kuala Lumpur. At 678.9 m (2,227 ft) tall, it is the second-tallest structure and the second-tallest building in the world, behind the Burj Khalifa at 828 m (2,717 ft). It all began in April, 2017, GHKL received an invitation letter to discuss the Impact of KL118 Warisan Merdeka Tower Construction at Jalan Stadium, Kuala Lumpur.

LAND ACQUISITION

Since then, during 2022, due to changes to Jalan Hang Jebat (the public road where GHKL is located), 26,411 Sq metres (284 Sq Feet) of GHKL land has been acquired under the Land Acquisition (Act 1960) (Act A999). This land portion is located exactly where the main entrance to GHKL sits and is becoming part of an extended public road junction. As a result of the land acquisition, PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn Bhd had constructed a new access and installed the entrance gate for GHKL, about 3 metres away along the parameters. The planning for the new GHKL entrance had involved several on-site meetings and follow up correspondents. With the new entrance, internal traffic routing has been adjusted as well as displacement of several parking lots.

However, with the new entrance being very close to the new public road junction (which, at the time of writing, is yet to be commissioned), it is felt that there may be safety concerns. Such concerns were highlighted early in the process of initial planning with PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn Bhd and, in fact, the provision of a second entrance/gate was agreed. This proposed requirement is pending further assessments and application to DBKL which may be an onerous task.

The land acquisition involved is the second such experience for GHKL in 10 years. The first time being an acquisition of 495 sq metres along the frontage of the property affected by Mass Rail Transit (MRT) tunnels.

Throughout the processes of these land acquisition, we are grateful to have the services of established land valuation and legal representations. Their professional services have ensured proper documentation of needs, requirements and concerns, be it in Minutes of Meeting or follow up letters. For quick and cordial communication, albeit informal, we have also maintained exchanges of "Whatsapp" messages with frontline personnel in PNB118, land valuation and the lawyer's office. We are also thankful for the practical stakeholder support of Christian Brethren Malaysia Property Trust Bhd (CBMPTB) as legal land owner in a timely and efficient manner.

NEIGHBOURLY COMMUNICATION

In the early stage of Merdeka 118 development, the leadership of GHKL and that of other neighbouring establishments were invited in turn to a briefing on the project. One of the questions we asked was whether the project will in time turn the vicinity into an upscale commercial hub like that of Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC). We were happy to hear that the Merdeka 118 project is intended to be different and will not adversely impact the neighbouring area.

In 2022, with the main tower nearing completion, the church management team was invited to a site tour.



COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMME

In mid-2021, "Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme Open Day" was launched with the objective of "Merdeka 118 to connect and create a symbiotic relationship with the surrounding community through investing in economic resiliency, public spaces and social and cultural assets within the precinct."

Touching Lives

GHKL's "Community Ministry Dept" took the opportunity to apply for funding to refurbish the basketball court. This court has been a source of ministry services over many decades. Due to the lack of open space in the neighbourhood, our prayer is to be able to continue making good use of the Assembly property for the Gospel's sake!



Merdeka 118 also recognised the related benefits especially to the students community in the area, and approved a RM30,000 grant for the project. The final cost was close to RM60,000 topped up by GHKL Treasury.

Following the completion of the refurbishing project, an Opening cum 3 x 3 Basketball Friendly Games was held on 4th June 2022. 10 teams from schools in the neighbourhood, GHKL and ministry agency Life SOAR Resources participated with professional refereeing undertaken by Selangor Basketball Association. The event was graced by Yang Mulia Tengku Dato' Ab.Aziz Tengku Mahmud, CEO of PNB Merdeka Ventures, Deputy Head Master Liang Chan Chong, Confucius Private Secondary School and other senior officials from PNB118 agency Think City.



After the games, in conjunction with prize giving and the subsequent lunch, the background and existence of GHKL was shared via a slide presentation.



We believe such an event continues to promote goodwill with our neighbours, especially with the schools community. PNB 118 has also brought with its presence a different profile which we hope and pray will further develop in the community at large for the sake of the Gospel.

Groups of students from nearby schools, particularly Confucius Private Secondary School and Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Confucian, continue to make use of the basketball court for their daily recreation and exercise purposes. In this connection, the GHKL Office Staffing Team has also initiated provision of simple refreshment in an effort to exercise "love and care" testimony.

The Confucius Private Secondary School also books the court for practice purposes by designated teams during their annual basketball competition season.

MERDEKA 118 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME CYCLE 2

At the end of 2022, the Cycle 2 Grants Programme was launched. We were encouraged to apply based on our plan to establish a "GHKL Heritage Centre" which was raised earlier. However, we were unsuccessful and were informed that:

"This is not a reflection of the value of your project, however given the number of quality submissions received, the number of grants we could approve was limited. It is our hope that you will be able to obtain support from other sources."

Anyway, this grant application outcome is not a major measure nor determinant of GHKL's mission of The Gospel as by the Grace of God, the "GHKL Heritage Centre" Project is already underway.

LAND ACQUISITION COMPENSATION

Based on the result of the Land Office Hearings, GHKL was compensated a certain amount for, basically, the land acquired. However, with due advice by the land valuation and legal professionals we are working on one specific area of compensation, i.e. "impact on remaining land", as we understand, has not been adequately or equitably dealt with, resulting in inadequate compensation.

Hence, an "Appeal Process" has been initiated and is ongoing. We trust this process will bring about a favourable outcome, simply based on the understanding and application of the relevant legal avenue that is available to us. In the process, one professional consideration of good land/resources management in relation to future needs and value has been highlighted. Such a consideration is not without Biblical context as we strive to be relevant in the

Touching Lives

mission of bearing witnesses for The Gospel in changing and challenging times, as Paul gave Timothy clear instructions concerning the management of the heresy and the preaching of the true Gospel of Christ, and in 1 Timothy 1:18 . Paul reminds Timothy of his

obligation to The Gospel because of his call to serve Christ by stating, *"Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight."*



Agape Care

Dr Daniel Wong, Melaka Gospel Chapel (drdanielwywong@gmail.com)

One of the big take-home messages from ALC 2022 was that education is an excellent bridge to reach out to the local community, especially in the smaller towns. A couple of months

after the ALC, we were approached by one of the leaders of Agape Care to provide financial support for their education ministry called Solid Rock, among refugees and disadvantaged children in the local community.

Agape Care is a Christian NGO that has been running various ministries in Melaka ranging from outreach to the elderly to single mothers and students for more than a decade. At present, we do not have a formal bridging ministry in education, largely due to the lack of human resources, so we saw the potential for a mutually beneficial partnership, not simply in financial support but also in terms of gospel outreach.

Our involvement with Solid Rock since January 2023 is with the weekday after-school programme section, which provides homework support and tuition for kids from disadvantaged backgrounds. Solid Rock has approximately 20 students who are divided into two classes and supported by two paid teachers and a principal. The main spiritual input is a weekly chapel attended by all the students.

When we discovered that there was no established outreach programme for these largely unchurched children on weekends and school holidays, we discussed a strategic alliance with Agape Care to engage with the children as well as their family members. Thus far, we have had an additional 5-7 children regularly attending our Children's Hour on Saturdays and a larger number of them who have attended our special kids' gospel events.



Solid Rock Learning Centre (AgapeCare)
No. 358C Jalan Tengker 75200 Melaka



Our prayer is that we will be able to include a growing number of these children in outings and evangelistic camps in the future. There are also ongoing opportunities to connect with siblings and parents of these children. We praise God that this new initiative has spurred several people from our assembly to serve at our Children's Hour. God willing, this partnership with Agape Care and Solid Rock will provide an impetus for the establishment of a formal education ministry at Melaka Gospel Chapel.

Please join us in prayer that God will raise up more workers who will be passionate about delivering high-quality education and to reap a harvest among the children and youths in our local community.

To God be the glory



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Touching Lives



StarKids - Christian Brethren Mission Preschool

Yap Kok Keong (kkeongyap@gmail.com)

In the article “Christian Brethren Involvement in Education” (CBIE) which was published in the May/June 2013 issue of *Diakonia*, I mentioned that the Christian Brethren Education Board (CBEB) managed to take back about one acre of under-utilised land from our Bukit Bintang Primary School located at PJ Section 8. Our plan was to continue our Christian Brethren mission through education. That was exactly 10 years ago.



Beginning of Star Kids

The work began with CBSM bringing together the church leaders from the 3 Anchor Assemblies – Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, The Life Chapel, and SS Gospel Centre, educators and concerned church members to explore what God would have us use the land and the old classrooms for. The final decision was to set up a Christian Brethren Mission Preschool to continue the legacy of our Brethren involvement in missions through the education of the young and needy.

A special task force was set up -

- 1) to seek God's guidance and blessings
- 2) to work on the renovation needed
- 3) to raise funding from our assemblies and individual Christians
- 4) to apply for the school licence
- 5) to get the school curriculum ready.



This was the beginning of an unknown journey for the task team. Even the education authorities were unsure how to deal with our applications as there had been no precedent where part of the land of an existing mission school would be taken back for a private school. We had to overcome many obstacles. Nonetheless, the task and prayer team moved forward in faith. Our assemblies and concerned individuals donated generously and the funds were enough for the renovation, equipment and teaching aids. Our application for a licence was finally approved by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in December 2012, and StarKids began operations in January 2013 with an enrolment of 8 students in 3 well-equipped air-conditioned classrooms. God's help was evident throughout this journey of faith.

The enrollment increased gradually in the first 6 years and reached a peak of 65 students in 2019. Many children-friendly outdoor facilities were gradually set up on part of the re-possessed land near the classrooms.



Top: Beam for Balance, Tug and Pull - to encourage teamwork and strengthen muscles
Bottom: Monkey Bar, Catching fish in the running stream

Touching Lives

A popular outdoor programme was incorporated into the weekly curriculum. The 4 old classrooms and empty land became a happy place, filled with children's laughter and excitement as they grow, play and learn. Fishes, tadpoles, birds, rabbits, tortoises, and butterflies can be found in the compound, and are useful for teaching "God loves his creation" and "Be kind to animals."

Over the last 10 years, about 150 children have passed through the school. Besides growing in mind and body in a healthy environment through the academic and outdoor curriculum, Christian culture and values were inculcated in them.

Major Disruptions and Challenges

The enrollment experienced a gradual decline after this peak in 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic and the economic downturn caused major disruptions and uncertainties. It became very clear that the school on its own cannot sustain the operational losses. At the height of the pandemic in 2021, StarKids was closed for 3 months for evaluation and prayer. Owing to 9 parents' requests for school classes, the school resumed operations with a skeletal staff team.

StarKids at the Crossroad

A preschool operated in or by a church can look forward to support from the church in terms of enrolment of children from church families; volunteers for enrichment programmes and financial support in times of need. But, this is not the case with Star Kids, and today, the school only has an enrollment of 16 students and a team of 3 teachers, 1 assistant teacher and an office administrator. Two contract teachers are engaged to teach music and Chinese. Out of the 16 children (10 local families, 6 expatriates), only 6 are from Christian homes, 2 from the BM congregation of Kelana Jaya Gospel Centre.

A total of 30 students is needed to break even. The school is facing a shortfall of RM7,000 each month, and at this rate, our reserved funds would be used up by the end of this school year. It is clear that the school cannot continue to operate for long with such losses. This problem hangs over the head of the Board and the staff.

Ongoing action taken by the Christian Brethren Education Board and the School

1. Set up a special task team to study the problem and implement improvements, such as:
 - the location of the school is not close to where catchment families live;
 - assist parents who need help to solve transport issues; etc
2. Review the fee structure to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn, as the school fees may have become too prohibitive to average wage-earning families after the pandemic economic downturn



Sunday Schools and community groups make use of the spacious school compound and facilities for outings and even overnight camping.



3. Set up a special task team to study the problem and implement improvements, such as:
 - the location of the school is not close to where catchment families live;
 - assist parents who need help to solve transport issues; etc
4. Review the fee structure to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn, as the school fees may have become too prohibitive to average wage-earning families after the pandemic economic downturn
5. Make better use of the MSK Fund (a special fund to help church workers' children and needy students)
6. Provide after school-care service
7. Improve on the publicity materials and promotional efforts:
 - Signages in front of the school
 - New brochures with a stronger emphasis on the Christian identity of the school
 - Review, update and improve on the information on our website, Facebook, etc. with additional video material
 - Increase the exposure of the school to more parents through special activities and programmes for children and parents which are open to the public – such as "Jungle Adventure", Inter-church/Community Games and Special Talks for parents

Touching Lives

The School Board of **Star Kids** is made up of members from the different Brethren assemblies in Malaysia, and they are accountable to CBEPT which manages the mission preschool on behalf of the Christian Brethren Property Trust.

The CBEPT Trustees have decided to conduct a major review and evaluation of the steps taken to increase student enrolment of **Star Kids** at the end of this year and what further action to take with regard to how best to go about saving our Christian Brethren Mission Preschool.

For the last few months, the Trustee members have come together every week to pray for our mission schools,

especially for **Star Kids** and also for other preschools operated by our assemblies: **Tadika Sungai Nibong** (Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall), **St. Marks Kindergarten** (Taiping Gospel Hall), **Kings Kid** (SS Gospel Centre) and **Shalom** (Sungei Way Christian Church) as we bravely face the challenges of continuing Christian Brethren involvement in mission through education.

Please pray for all of us.



Children's Corner, SS Gospel Centre, Petaling Jaya

Janice Tay (bingjanice@gmail.com)

The Children's Corner is a play school for toddlers aged 2 to 4 years old, accompanied by a parent. It is held every Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 am - 11:30 am.

This outreach ministry was started in 1998, following the footsteps of Jalan Gasing Gospel Hall who initiated the idea. We are now 25 years strong this year.

The objectives of the Children's Corner are:

- To encourage early childhood development;
- To serve as a support group for full time mothers;
- To serve as an outreach ministry in the community; and
- To introduce the children to our Kindergarten (KKEY) and to our Sunday School (King's Kids).



Our team consists of teachers and helpers, teachers doing the singing and lesson proper and helpers to set up and clear up the place. All are volunteers, no qualifications are required just a heart for children and God's work.

Due to space limitations, we can only accommodate a maximum of 20 children, but a good number would be between 12 to 15 children for best interaction. At present, we have 10 children attending our play school, with a

good mix of Christian and non-Christian children, though preference will be given to non-Christian children especially if there is a waitlist.



Our activities and programmes are summarised below:

Time	Activities
9:30 am - 10:15 am (45 mins)	Free Play This is a time where the parent and child have access to apparatus and toys on the shelves. These activities are to encourage living skills, dexterity and coordination amongst others, and the child is to be supervised by the parent.

Touching Lives

Time	Activities
9:15 am – 9:30 am (15 mins)	Circle Time A short time of singing, led by a teacher and includes both parent and child participation.
9:30 am – 9:45 am (15 mins)	Snack Light snack is served and only the children sit and eat together.
9:45 am – 10:05 am (20 mins)	Play time Children play together with selected activities or toys for the day. The parents have their own coffee time, to encourage separation of sorts from the child. This is to cultivate individual social interaction and skills in young children.
10:05 am – 11:30 am (25 mins)	Story/Lesson/Craft We end the session with a short story or lesson plus craft. The stories can be from favourite children's books or the Bible. Both parent and child sit together for this activity.

Besides the above, we have special theme play, like Gym play, Home Living, Music & Movement, Water Play, Art Work, as well as picnics and outings, field trips to bird parks, petting zoos, fire station, and even to the dentist, to name a few.

Throughout the years, a number of these children have joined our Sunday School and KKEY kindergarten. In addition, a number of moms have gone back to their own church and initiated their own playgroups, whereas a few churches had sought our assistance in starting similar playgroups in their premises.

All glory goes to the Lord, for His faithfulness and providence of teachers, helpers, children, parents and grandparents.



Touching Lives

Toddlers Playgroup, Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre

Ong Wai Ching (bpgc09@gmail.com)

Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre's (BPGC) Toddlers Playgroup is an outreach programme to the community around the Puchong area, targeting toddlers from 2 - 3 years old. Toddlers have to be accompanied by either parents or grandparents.

The class schedule includes sessions for sensory activities, music and movements, lessons, craft and playtime.



This also includes an intentional way of introducing basic Bible truths through Bible stories, scripture verses and songs to the little ones. Our main task and purpose is to plant seeds of faith and to share God's love to the children, including praying habits such as prayer before refreshment, praying for birthday children and those who are sick. Initially, the playgroup was set up for the BPGC's community but through God's grace, our tent has been enlarged to include other areas like Kajang, Seri Kembangan, Putrajaya, Cyberjaya and Kota Kemuning through recommendation by the mothers who have children with us.



We have the privilege of ministering to children of various backgrounds. Thank God the work has begun to attract the participation of more non-believers. Praise the Lord who enables this! And our efforts toward this work has been much appreciated by the mothers who send text messages to us with appreciation when their children leave for kindergarten.

BPGC Playgroup has been going on for 9 years now since we started in October 2014. Our praise and thanksgiving to God our Father for blessings and enabling us thus far.

We have a section with shelves consisting of educational toys, sensory play items, puzzlers, motor skill toys, matching activities, etc. This is the Free Play area where children will spend 45 mins when they first arrive playing with the various items on the shelves under supervision of the mothers. While the children are at the Free Play, teachers and helpers will move around to chat with the mothers and children.

After Free Play comes the Circle Time where children will sit in a semi-circle for a Singing Session for 15 minutes followed by Snack Time for children. When they have finished their snack they will go to the play room to play among themselves. There are a variety of toys in the Playroom. They will be supervised by teachers and helpers.

While children are in the Playroom, the mothers will have their snack time, and interaction among themselves and anyone of us from the team who are available will take the opportunity to chat with them.



Then comes lesson time. Our lessons follow a theme for each month and every last Friday of the month, we will have Bible stories. We will end the lesson with craft time. Craft will always be prepared according to the lesson learnt. Then it is time to say goodbye by singing our signature Good-bye song.



Our objective is to try linking the parents to our church activities such as special talks, workshops, Christmas services and also encourage them to send their children to Sunday School.

Touching Lives



The Playgroup is held every Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Our team consists of:

4 teachers - 2 take turns on alternate months

4 helpers - 2 on Tuesdays and 2 on Fridays

2 prepare refreshments

Our team are all volunteers from the Church. Thank God for their labour of love, without them we cannot run this ministry. Above all, we give God the Glory for this enablement, guidance and provision.

2023 Diakonia Bible Quiz Updates

Selina Tan (selinatan88@gmail.com)

The 2023 Diakonia Bible Quiz was conducted on 6 May 2023 for 3 categories (i.e. Kids (12 years and below), Tweens (13 - 18 years) and Young Adults (19 - 30 years)).

The objective of the Quiz was to encourage the study of the Bible and to deepen their relationship with God, knowing that He will be with us always as promised in many parts of the Bible. Some of these promises can be found in Joshua 1:9 *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go"* and Isaiah 41:10 *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"*.

A total of 30 objective questions and 1 subjective question based on the Old Testament and New Testament were sent to the participants online via Google Form. It was a unique Bible quiz where participants are allowed to open the Bible and refer to it to answer the questions, and submit their answers by 9pm on that day.

We are encouraged by the 23 participants from 8 assemblies. All glory goes to the Lord, and we continue to pray that they will be enriched and encouraged as they continue to study the Word and walk closely in the LORD.



Our winners are:

Category		Name	Church
12 & below	1st	Elysha Cheong	Agape Chapel & The Living Room
	2nd	Ezra Lim	Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre
	3rd	Ethan Looi	Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre
13 - 18	1st	Erwin Clement	Melaka Gospel Chapel
	2nd	Ellyana Ruth	
	3rd	Ivory Faith	Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre
19 - 30	1st	Ong Soo Loke	Temerloh Gospel Chapel
	2nd	Eunice Yap	Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall
	3rd	Vivian Tye	Temerloh Gospel Chapel



Top: Ellyana, Erwin, Tse Ken (Melaka Gospel Chapel), Ivan, Daniel, Ezra, Zap (Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre)

Bottom: Eunice (Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall), Vivian, Soo Loke (Temerloh Gospel Chapel), Elysha (Agape Chapel/The Living Room); Ivory Faith, Ethan (Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre)

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Learning extends beyond the well-ventilated classrooms. There is ample space for facilitating outdoor activities in the school garden. **Star Kids** learn, play and grow in an orderly, safe and fun environment where love and training go hand in hand.

UNIQUE OUTDOOR LEARNING CURRICULUM (OLC)

- Cater for all sorts of development appropriate activities.
- Create opportunities for sensory experiences, socialization, team spirit & character development.
- Stimulate curiosity and creativity.
- Build confidence and foster physical growth.

GENERAL CURRICULUM COVERAGE

- Language and Literacy: Reading, vocabulary, simple communicative skills. Language focus: English, National Language and Mandarin
- Numeracy: Arithmetic and time concepts
- Physical Development: Muscle strength, motorskill and agility
- Creative Development: Arts and crafts, music and problem-solving skills.
- Self-help Skills: Personal grooming
- Social Skills Development: Appropriate communication
- National Cultural and Community Awareness
- Moral/Spiritual Development: Simple values development and character development

METHODS & STRATEGIES

MONTESORI SENSES STIMULATION
ACTION LEARNING THEMATIC APPROACH
LOVE & DISCIPLINE IN ACTION
WORKING WITH PARENTS REGULAR FEEDBACK

EVERY CHILD A PRECIOUS STAR

Bukit Bintang **STAR KIDS** is a private mission preschool established by the Christian Brethren in 2014 to recapture some of the best traditions of Bukit Bintang Girls' School founded in 1893.

WHERE IS STARKIDS?

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

OUR SERVICES (MONDAY-FRIDAY)

- MORNING SCHOOL
- AFTERNOON SCHOOL (BUILD & BOOST)
- DAY CARE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, REGISTRATION OR APPOINTMENT TO VISIT:

Office Fixed Line: 03-7931 1117
 Pre-school administrator: 010-441 5625

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR OUR SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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A PRESCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

A HAPPENING PLACE WHERE HAPPY CHILDREN LEARN, PLAY & GROW TO REACH FOR THE STARS

Learning about Culture

Individual Attention

Motor Skills Learning to Balance

Star Kids on an Outing

Classroom Learning

Outdoor Activity at the Sandpit

Play Time

In the Playground Teamwork

Graduating Students

Learning about The Environment, Caring for Animals

Music & Movement

... TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE!

Touching Lives



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CHILDREN'S CORNER PLAYSCHOOL

Ages 2-4

Tue, Fri | 9.30am - 11.30am

Early childhood development

Meet other full time parents/grandparents

Contact: Janice Tay @ 012 303 9503
To register or queries <http://cc.ssgc.church>



KING'S KIDS

Sunday (11:30am - 12:45pm)

Ages: 3 - 12 years old

Inspiring Godly
values and spiritual
development

- Music & movement
- Bible lessons
- Art & craft, games
- Vacation Bible School / camp



Jeane Yong @ 012 211 7828
18-22, Jalan SS2 / 103, Petaling Jaya



**Open for
Registration**

To all parents whose children are born
from January 2020 onwards

Register them today !

TKKEY Contact Details:

Mobile: 014-3684560

Email: kkey10years@gmail.com

9.00am to 3.00pm (Mon-Fri)



Age : 3 - 6 years old

Time: 8.30am - 12.30pm (Kindergarten)

12.30pm - 6.00 pm (After School Program)

Venue: 18-22, Jalan SS2 / 103, Petaling Jaya

Contact : Ms Elaine Thong

Touching Lives



Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre
www.bpgc-puchong.org
SUNRISE KIDZ
(4 yrs – 12 yrs old)

Come join the fun and make new friends!

Sundays
11:30 am – 12:45 pm



- Learn English and life skills
- Action Songs
- Crafts
- Storytelling
- Games & Quiz
- Building Blocks

CONTACTS:
Mun Ching (012-688 5947)
Peggy Yong (012-253 9091)

Email: bpgc.sunrise@gmail.com

Toddlers' Playgroup



41-2 Jalan Bandar 16,
Pusat Bandar Puchong
Puchong



Are you looking for a playgroup that :
• Promotes learning through fun & play?
• Believes in imparting good Values at early age?

That's us!
Our Program is specially designed for little ones aged 2-3 years old, accompanied by a parent/grandparent

Come and visit us to find out more.
We meet every Tuesday and Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am
(except for public & school holidays)

ACTIVITIES
Lessons on Theme
Sensory Play
Music & Movement
Storytime
Art & Craft

Call us, we do love to hear from you:
• Wai Ching @ 012-3180185
• Peggy @012-2539091

Scan to enrol





Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall Sunday School

All children ages 3-12 years old are welcome!

Sundays @ 10.00am - 11.00am

Venue: PJGH Mission House
1, Lorong 6/1C, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor D. E.

Activities
Praise & Worship
Corporate Prayer
Bible Lessons
Art & Craft

Whatsapp: 012-2862213 (June) / 012-9249282 (Man Huai)
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Operating hours: Monday to Saturday, 11am – 6pm.
Penang Store: 4th Floor Midlands Park Centre, Jalan Burma, 10350 George Town, Pulau Pinang,
Malaysia. Tel: +604-227 6431. Operating hours: Monday to Friday, 12pm – 6pm.

“

Love



*is patient,
love is kind.
It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres.*

Love never fails.

”

1 Corinthians 13:4-8