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FOCUS ON MISSIONS

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES

In many corners of the world today ordinary men are doing an extraordinary task for Jesus Christ. Part of the secret is that they are bathed in faithful prayer by God's dear saints in the homeland. Many people do not realize the extent of the battle Satan wages. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood," writes the Apostle Paul, "but against principalities, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). This spiritual warfare must be fought with prayer. And because of the many demands on the missionary's time and the special need for prayer in his ministry, it may be your calling to uphold him by your prayers in a vital intercessory ministry.

Take seriously the responsibility of carrying this prayer burden. When he triumphs, his victory is yours to share. The following suggestions may help you to more fruitful or faithful prayer ministries for missionaries all over the world for whom God has given you the privilege of praying.

1. Spend time in thanks for your missionaries. Thank God for their call and for their obedience to His leading in their lives. Thank Him for the privilege of being involved with them in His work by upholding them in prayer. Express thanks to God for the known blessings in their lives, for successes in the ministry in terms of conversions, spiritual growth, and building in lives. And thank God for His faithfulness in hearing your prayers on their behalf.

2. Pray for the daily lives of your missionaries. Their common problems are the same as yours, though you may not be made aware of them very often. They are subject to the same temptations and weaknesses you have. Crossing an ocean does not solve the difficulties of daily living or make one a spiritual giant. Wherever you face problems, pray for your missionary in those areas of his life. Remember that missionaries are human. Loneliness is only the beginning of adjustment to living in a foreign culture. Pray that your missionary will be kept from pride, from personality conflicts, and especially from discouragement. Pray that he will be able to effectively serve with his fellow workers.

3. Pray that barriers may be minimized so that the Gospel may go forward. In an exceptional way the missionary needs patience in learning to do things according to the "foreign" way. He needs to gain rapport with people. Pray that the efforts of Satan will meet with failure. In certain countries there is known to be hostility or persecution. Pray that the Lord will keep His servants



there faithful to His Word and safe from the attacks of the enemy.

4. Pray that your missionaries will have wisdom in the use of their time. Missionaries are very busy people, and there are many demands on their lives. The task is always greater than their ability to serve, and it is very difficult to say “no.” With many conditions beckoning for his attention, the missionary must make decisions as to what he will do and what he will leave undone. Pray that he will be discerning in the tasks he selects, and that his time will be spent in those activities which are most important in God’s economy. Pray, too, that your missionaries will be able to gain the needed rest for their bodies and minds, that they might be alert and effective in their work.

5. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead your missionaries to prepared hearts. While some hearts are resisting the Gospel, there are many who are hungry for spiritual reality. There are some in whom the Holy Spirit has already been working. Pray that God will bring the missionary into contact with these people. Pray, too, that these hearts will be released from the grasp of doubt and fear and rebellion against God.

6. Pray for the missionary’s children. The education and discipline of children are frequently problems in a foreign culture. Some children have to live away from their families for their education. Different customs of child-rearing and discipline sometime cause difficulties, and frequently the foreign culture magnifies ordinary everyday crises. Pray for family peace and harmony, as the attitudes and behaviour of the children may enhance or detract from the parent’s ministry.

7. Pray faithfully for your missionaries. Select a regular time and pray with diligence. When they really need your prayers, there is frequently no time to write an emergency prayer letter. What a blessing it is to a missionary to receive a letter saying, “We are praying for you daily.” And make these prayers a time of real carrying of their burdens, and not just a brief, “Lord, bless the missionaries.”

8. Show interest in the missionaries by writing to them about their work. Keep track of their current prayer needs and find out what requests have been answered. If you have been praying about something daily for several months, write to ask how the Lord is working with regards to that subject. Ask about specific needs. Some items cannot be shared with the general public, and your missionary will appreciate your praying for these needs as well.

9. Pray for more missionaries. Jesus told His disciples to pray that “the Lord of the Harvest would send forth laborers into the fields.” There are never enough workers to complete the job. Young people are continuously preparing themselves for their lifetime occupations. Pray that God will call these new resources out into His service and that they will dedicate themselves to obedience to Him.

Adapted from a brochure written by Bob Hill, a Bible teacher at Greater Europe Mission’s Greek Bible Institute in Athens.



TANJUNG UBAN

Situated 87km north of Tanjung Pinang on Bintan Island (Indonesia), Tanjung Uban Presbyterian Church was established as early as 31 March 1991 when the first worship service was held there.

Since its inception, Eld Sng Teck Leong and Rev Joseph Liu of Sion Presbyterian Church (Tanjung Pinang) have been helping to oversee this mission outpost. Rev Liu preaches every first week of the month while Eld Sng visits on months with a fifth weekend and during special occasions to encourage the brethren.

Today, there are 43 worshippers inclusive of 12 Sunday School students, 9 young teens and 3 Sunday School teachers.

A typical trip to Tanjung Uban begins on a Saturday afternoon with a 40-minute ferry journey from World Trade Centre to Batam Centre. A taxi is then needed to reach Punggul, a small jetty where speedboats depart for Tanjung Uban. The whole journey from Singapore to Tanjung Uban takes around three hours.

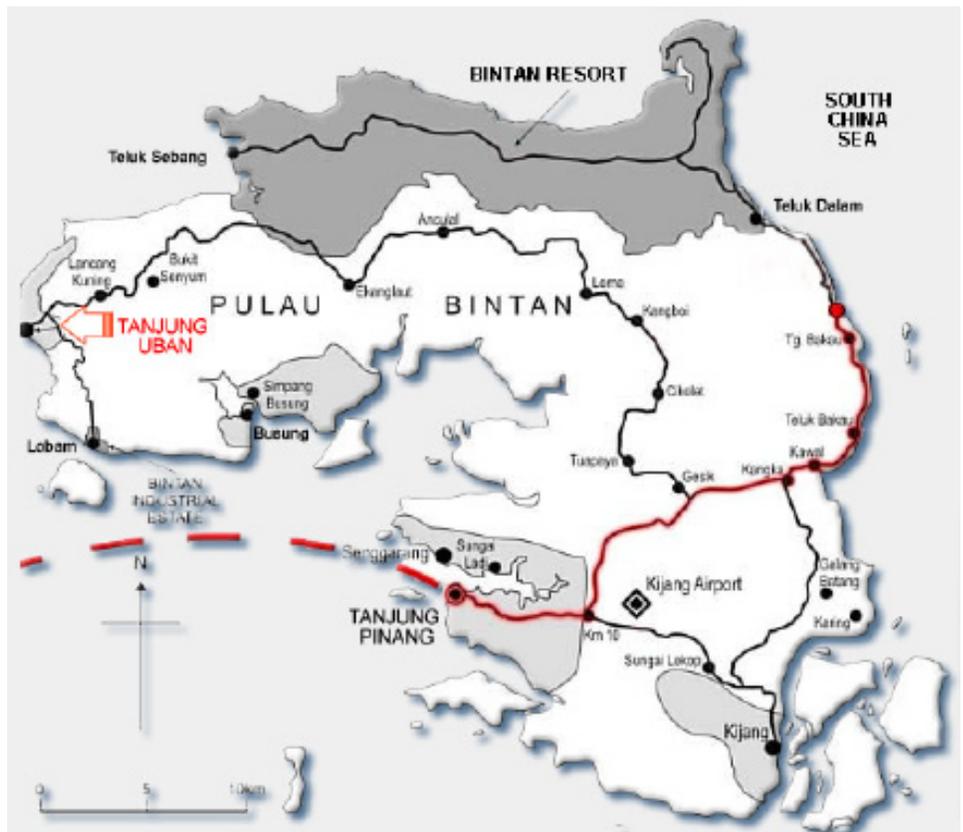
In the evening, Eld Sng will conduct prayer meeting and preach on the following day's worship service (interpreted by sister Esther). Anyone who accompanies Eld Sng will normally teach Sunday School, new songs or art and craft.

During spare hours on Saturday and Sunday, Eld Sng will conduct "session meeting" with preacher Filipus and committee members including Sunday School teachers. In addition to formal activities, there will be visits to the sick or non-Christian homes to spread the gospel.

We thank God for sister Esther, who has been actively serving God after graduating from Bible college. Previously working in Batam, sister Esther have since returned to Tanjung Uban to start her own kid's education centre. Without having to shuttle between Batam and Tanjung Uban, sister Esther can now readily avail herself to oversee the youth activities on Saturday as well as teach Sunday School and interpret for worship service.

Over the years, many Lifers who have been involved in various capacities e.g. Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Christmas celebrations etc have richly blessed and encouraged the church members at Tanjung Uban. May the Lord continue to prosper this mission outreach.

For those who are interested to visit Tanjung Uban, the average cost is around \$75 (inclusive of ferry, meals and lodging). For details on upcoming trips, please contact Eld Sng Teck Leong at 94771047 (HP).



LIFE B-P CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONS STATIONS AND MISSIONARIES

Introduction

The new Missions Committee (MC; see below) came into being on 1 March 2009. The first tasks were a revision of the Missions Policy and a review of all mission stations and missionaries. These culminated in a Missionaries' Retreat prior to the June church camp. Following meetings and consultations with all missionaries, the following restructuring was decided on in 4Q 2009:

1. **New Missions Committee Members for 2009 - 2012**

Chairman: Rev Charles Seet

Vice-Chairman: Rev Colin Wong

Field Representative cum Recording Secretary: Bro Mok Chee Cheong

Assistant Secretary: Bro Quek Keng Khwang

Members: Eld Sng Teck Leong; Dr David Cheong; Dn Mark Heah; Dn Lim Pin

2. **Re-Structuring**

1. Major revision to the missions policy with greater emphasis on accountability and the introduction of two types of missionaries that will be supported by Life BPC:

- a. Fully supported missionaries, or
- b. Partners-in-missions

2. The outcome was the categorisation of the existing missions station and missionaries into the following types:

A. Missions station supported by Life BP Church:

Johor, West Malaysia

Kota Tinggi Sunday School

B. Missionaries fully-supported by Life BP Church:

Batam, Indonesia

Bro Efendi Ginting – Tanjung Piayu BPC

Sis Merry Lasfeto

Bro Mikdal – Batu Aji BPC

Bro Hendra – Sagulung Baru BPC



Our missionaries serving in Batam, Indonesia. From left, Sis Paola, Bro Hendra, Bro Efendi, Bro Mikdal and Sis Merry.

Kenya

Sis June Tan-Korir – Church planting in Mulot, Western Kenya

Sis Chan Pui Meng – Returning to Singapore in February 2010

(Medical work to be handed to the locals)



Sister Pui Meng meeting the medical need of a Maasai woman.

C. Partners-in-missions with Life BPC:

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Rev Nirand Tamee & Sis Jess Lim – Church ministry in the city and mountain villages, and hostel ministry

Komongsom, Cambodia

Rev David Koo – (Effective 1 Jan 2011) Church planting and educational institutions

Rev Moses Hahn – (Effective 1 Jan 2011) Church planting and Bible school

Batam, Indonesia

Sis Roska Choi – (Effective 1 Jan 2011) School ministry and community work

Myanmar

Rev Andrew Kam – (Effective 1 Jan 2011) Church ministry and orphanage

D. Under Review

Sis Ho Heng Sau is waiting upon the Lord to serve in a new field.

3. Reasons for such categorisation:

Fully supported missionaries

- a) Fully supported missionaries are those who have agreed to fully comply with the revised missions policy.
- b) Their support will be comprehensive and may include, annual leave, sick and hospital leave, compassionate leave, maternity leave, insurance coverage and other benefits, approved by MC.
- c) They are under the full spiritual oversight of the MC and therefore they are accountable to the MC as Life BPC commissioned missionaries.

Partners-in-Missions (partial support or ad hoc projects)

- a. Partners in Missions are missionaries who do not come under direct supervision of the MC.
- b. The support is partial and may take the following form:
 - A monthly allowance or love gift for a missionary (with a view that the MC has the discretion to terminate it at the appropriate time);
 - Service in kind eg. training for pastors, full-time workers, Bible students, VBS, etc. upon request.
- c. They are not obliged to send in their regular reports as they are no longer fully supported by Life BPC.
- d. In like manner, the MC is also not responsible for the approval of their financial support as these missionaries have accepted other sources of financing (frequently from churches of different doctrinal position) and have also started other ministries and commitments contrary to the MC's direction.
- e. Life BPC had met her obligatory support of 10 years as these missionaries have exceeded this stated period in our policy.
- f. Among these missionaries, some have either:
 - achieved self-supporting status

- unable to abide fully by the missions policy
- having difficulty to exercise biblical separation
- relinquished their responsibilities and moved on to other fields

The MC hopes that this brief write up will help you, the members of Life BPC, who are faithful supporters of missions, to understand the rationale behind this whole exercise and to be prudent in your giving to missions as “good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Pet 4:10).

We would also like to advise all who wish to give to specific missions to limit themselves only to those missionaries and mission stations that are supported or fully-supported by Life Church mentioned above. We seek to be accountable to God for not only your financial support but also to our missionaries who are serving in the front line.

Should you have further queries or need any clarifications, please feel free to contact your Field Representative, Bro. Mok at 90306176 (Hp) or email: mokcc@lifebpc.com



KOTA TINGGI SUNDAY SCHOOL 7TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING

... This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6 reminds us that God is in control of all things. On 4th October 2009, we went to Kota Tinggi ever ready to run an efficient anniversary programme as much work and effort had been put in and checked through the night before. Certainly this is helpful. Nevertheless, all glory goes to Him as God Himself is at work! We could do none of these works by our means even though He gave us the inspiration, the strength, and the endurance!

We were glad to have reached Kota Tinggi 45 minutes earlier but to our dismay, the restaurant was not ready by 10.15am! They equated lunch being served by 12pm to our programme also starting at 12pm. Thank God that they could turn around pretty fast and got the place ready by 10.45am. Then we realized we needed to quickly buy a piece of white cloth to replace the gold cloth inscribed with ‘double happy’ Chinese word embroidery right smack in the center. By then, it was 11.20am and yet only half a table was filled. Whatever happened to the invitees? Ah... God was good to delay the arrivals as we discovered that the projector and notebook could not synchronise and we had to bring in a replacement from the KTSS premises. By the time we got everything ready, it was 11.45am and that was when all the 10 tables were filled with people!

Praise our Almighty God as both the young and the old sang the four Chinese hymns beautifully: ‘yi qian li wu,’ ‘ye di de hua,’ ‘zhu ye shu ai wo,’ and ‘shen ai zhi ren.’ Thank God for the Holy Spirit’s prompting, we brought forward the message on ‘Are you good enough for Heaven?’ delivered by Dn Victor Loo with Hayley interpreting in Mandarin as we felt that we should not break the momentum because the audience was ready to receive the Word of God.

Dn Loo thanked everyone for their attendance. He likened the feast at the restaurant to the wedding feasts in Heaven and enquired if we would be invited to this Feast of all feasts. However, he highlighted that just as sure there is a Heaven is for the righteous to enter, there is a hell reserved for the sinner (Rom 6:23).

The full Gospel was then shared, emphasizing that it is impossible for us to attain a perfect score to enter the perfect Heaven (Prov 14:12; Isa 64:6). Hence, God provided a way out for man. The only way out is for His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take the punishment of eternal death due to us for Himself (2 Cor 5:21; Isa 53:5,6). Consequently, he talked about Christ's resurrection (Jn 3:16,17; 14:6; 11:25,26; and 3:3). Subsequently, he concluded with the phrase: "born once, die twice-born twice, die once" to stress that one must be born again in order to be saved from the second death (i.e. the soul being thrown into hell to be tormented forever). And to be born again means simply confessing our sins before God, believing that God will forgive us of our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ and He will give us the power to repent of our sins (Jn 6:37; Rom 10:9,10). May the unbelievers accept God's invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and feast with our Creator God and Saviour Jesus Christ face to face.

Next, the children presented their well rehearsed song item, 'Give Thanks,' with much conviction in their hearts that the Lord indeed is to be praised and glorified. It was well received as we saw in the beaming faces of their proud parents that their children could sing an English number with confidence!

Lunch at 12.45pm was preceded by a short powerpoint illustration of KTSS then and now since 2002 and what the children do on a typical Sunday as well as the announcements of forthcoming events for the rest of 2009 and a comprehensive programme for 2010. The main highlight was the VBS as many parents enquired more about it and the children were keen to come despite a higher fee of RM50 as opposed to the past years of between RM6 to RM20. Bro Mok Chee Cheong closed the first part of the anniversary programme in prayer and gave thanks for the lunch.

In the midst of lunch, prizes to our regulars for good attendance were subsequently given out to 38 students (22 x 1st Prize by Yock Kui / 5 x 2nd Prize by Dn Victor Loo / 11 x 3rd Prize by Bro Mok). Both the parents and children were encouraged that their effort to forgo the worldly attractions to attend KTSS regularly pays off. May the children grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The entire programme ended with a grateful heart from everyone as we sang 'Give Thanks,' 'shen ai zhi ren' and 'ye di de hua' before bidding each one farewell. The teachers left for Pulai Springs Resort for a familiarization tour of its facilities and show rooms between 3.30 to 4.30pm.

We reached the Singapore ICA at 7.30pm, feeling spiritually uplifted because missions were accomplished by the grace of God.

Indeed, to God be the Glory!

Dn Victor Loo, Mok Chee Cheong, Carol, Woon KA, Hayley Chau, Leong Sow Mun, and June
4th October 2009 @the Public Restaurant

*The children sang beautifully
and heartily to the Lord*

