

Focus on Missions

October 2024

MISSIONS SEMINAR 2024

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST IN THE LAST DAYS

What is the mission of the church today?

Challenges of witnessing for Christ in a troubled world

Resolve to continue faithfully in missions until Christ returns

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***“To the work! To the work!
In the strength of the Lord,
And a robe and a crown
shall our labour reward,
When the home of the faithful
our dwelling shall be,
And we shout with the ransomed,
“Salvation is free!”***

***Toiling on, toiling on,
Toiling on, toiling on;
Let us hope, let us watch,
And labour till the Master comes.”***

- Frances Crosby

This issue of Focus on Missions features Life BPC’s Missions Seminar held on 28 Sep 2024 and the reports on the mission trip to Chiangmai in June 2024, Young Lifers Ministry mission Trip to Batam and the Ladies Sunday School mission trip to Batam.

We thank God for the Missions Seminar this year, which was attended by around 100 Lifers, and for the speakers who shared with us on witnessing for Christ in these last days and exhorted us to continue to be faithful witnesses for God.

All glory and praise to our Almighty God!

Witnessing for Christ in the Last Days

Rev Charles Seet

To do the work of witnessing for Christ in the Last Days effectively we must first be fully convinced that all the people living in the world are sinners who have absolutely no hope of salvation from sin and eternal death apart from the Gospel of Christ. Contrary to what others have said, this is the only path or way to God and to eternal life in heaven. Therefore, everyone needs to hear the Gospel of Christ. In this regard, it must be stated that no amount of interfaith dialogue can help people to be saved. Only witnessing for Christ can save them and make them God's children. Isn't this how we became God's children?

As God's children, our role in witnessing for Christ was defined about two thousand years ago, when our Lord Jesus gave the great commission to "*Go (ye) into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.*" (Mark 16:15) The

Lord also empowered His people to witness for Him with the Holy Spirit, and this soon gave rise to an unstoppable movement. Wherever the Gospel went, sinners were gloriously saved, souls were delivered from their slavery to sin, churches were planted, and more missionaries were sent out with the Gospel.

As the work of missions made further progress, the Gospel reached the whole of Europe by the fourth century AD and Christianity grew and flourished there. But it was only after the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century that the work of missions was revived. Then over the next three centuries the Gospel spread from Europe to the rest of the world – to North America and South America, to Africa, to Australia and to us here in Asia.



This brings us now to the 21st century where we are the ones experiencing God's blessings through the Gospel of Christ. And we are also the ones bearing the responsibility of reaching the lost for Christ in this part of the world. Besides that, as we see events in the world unfolding, we realise that we are living in the last days.

This is the momentous time foretold in the Bible – the time when all the prophecies about the End times will be fulfilled, prophecies such as: The rise of the Antichrist, the severe persecution of true believers, the resurrection and rapture of the church, the gathering of all nations to fight against Israel, the return of Christ to defeat the Antichrist and judge the world, and the inauguration of Christ's rule on earth.

This is therefore a very critical time for the work of missions, a time when God's people everywhere need to take their role of witnessing for Christ seriously. And there are at least three questions that we should be concerned about in the last days. Firstly,

1. How Urgent is Witnessing in the Last Days?

It is extremely urgent. We may not feel this to be the case here in Singapore since there is already much gospel outreach work going on. But there are at least three factors that highlight the urgency of missions in the Last days.

a. *The harvest is plenteous.* According to the 'Joshua Project' website, there are still about 3.44 billion people who are unreached. This means that they live in places where there are too few believers and too little resources to reach out to their own people with the Gospel. As a result, most people in such places have never heard about Christ and the Gospel. That represents 42.6% of the 8.08 billion living in the world today. John Wesley put it this way: "Untold millions are still untold!"

Even in places that have been reached with the Gospel, every generation needs to be evangelised all over again, for every 30 years we have an entirely new group of people. For instance, Britain is no longer a predominantly

Christian nation. Some even say that Africa will soon become more Christian than Europe.

b. *The labourers are few.* According to 2021 statistics, there are only about 430,000 missionaries in the world at present, a decrease of about 60% over 20 years. This is because many missionaries have retired because of age or disability, and fewer new missionaries have been sent to the field. Not many Christians are willing to be involved in missions. There are plenty of other attractive careers that people can pursue.

Those who are willing to be involved need to be equipped and trained to do mission work well. There must be good Bible Colleges and Institutes to train them. There must also be churches willing to send and support them. Missionaries must learn to depend on the Lord to supply their needs, but the Lord supplies them through His people. When these three things (those who are willing to become missionaries, Bible Colleges and supporting churches) are in short supply, it is not surprising that there are few labourers in the Lord's harvest.

c. *The time left is short.* This is something that should move us to take firm action as we live in the Last days. I'm not talking about taking firm action to deal with climate change as nothing we do can stop that, but taking firm action to witness for Christ. No one can tell exactly how much time we have left to do this. Everyone who has tried to predict when Christ will return have failed and caused a lot of disappointment. All that we can say now is that there is not much time left for us to witness for Christ and to do the work of missions.

Like our Lord Jesus, we should have the mindset that says, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4) Thus we have seen how urgent it is to witness for Christ in the Last days: The harvest is

plenteous, the labourers are few and the time left is short.

2. How Difficult is Witnessing in the Last Days?

The answer can be found in 2 Timothy 3:1-4 – *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...”*

The attitudes described here have always existed in every age of history. But in the last days they will grow to unimaginable proportions. All this is already happening today. People are becoming increasingly desensitised to sin and evil. The ungodly spirit of our time can be seen in postmodern ideas that truth and objective reality do not exist. Thus, every person becomes a law unto himself or herself, and all kinds of authority are no longer respected. That includes God’s authority. And this means that it will become increasingly difficult to witness for Christ in the last days, for many will shut their ears and refuse to listen to God’s Word.

One indication of how difficult it is to witness in the last days can be found in Revelation chapter 11. During the first half of the tribulation period there will be two witnesses from God: *“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”* (Revelation 11:3) With God’s power these two witnesses will perform supernatural miracles such as turning water into blood and stopping the rains.

But how will the world respond to their witness for God? Instead of listening to them and turning to God in faith and repentance, people everywhere will be partying and rejoicing when the Antichrist defeats them! Doesn’t this show how ungodly the world will be in the End times?

Besides ungodliness, there is another thing that will make witnessing for Christ increasingly

difficult in the last days. It is the proliferation of false teachers. This is highlighted in 1 Timothy 4:1-2 – “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” Many people today are already being deceived by counterfeit gospels which claim to be God’s truth. This includes the health-wealth prosperity Gospel which is promoted in many megachurches.

Perhaps you have heard about the celebrity Filipino pastor who was arrested recently to face multiple charges of fraud, sexual abuse and trafficking. His name is Apollo C. Quiboloy. He is the leader of a church called the Kingdom of Jesus Christ which has six million followers worldwide. Quiboloy claims to be the appointed Son of God, in the same way that Jesus is the Son of God. He also claims that while Jesus is the Saviour of the Jews, he is the Saviour of the Gentiles. Hence, everything that Jesus claimed for Himself also applies to him. Such false teachings have been aired widely through his television network and over 15 radio stations all over the Philippines. Many have been deceived by him.

Thus, we see that as we witness for Christ, there are at the same time many others witnessing for false Christs. All who are undiscerning will be easily misled by false gospels. And unbelievers who hear about celebrity pastors like Quiboloy being arrested and charged in court for heinous crimes may then think that all pastors are deceitful charlatans and that their churches are fraudulent organisations! Can you see how crafty the Devil is? He knows that his end is near, and he will do anything now to weaken the impact of our true witness for Christ.

3. Can the Task of Witnessing be accomplished in the Last Days?

Despite all the difficulties we have just seen, the answer is a resounding ‘Yes.’ This answer is based on what Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20

– “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*”

There are two solid assurances in this passage that the task of witnessing for Christ can be accomplished in the last days. The first is found in the words ‘all power.’ This means that all authority has been given to Christ. The glorious moment when Jesus rose from the dead marks the turning point in God’s redemption plan. By giving Himself completely and pouring out His life willingly to redeem sinners, He has rightfully been given all authority in heaven and in earth!

This gives us the assurance that our witnessing efforts will not be in vain. Since all things are under Christ’s authority, nothing can stop His work from progressing. His authority ensures that there will be adequate protection and timely provision for every work He directs us to do. Christ will exercise His control of all things to make them work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

As Herbert Kane, a missiologist once wrote, missions “*originated in the heart of God. It is based on the love of God. It is determined by the will of God. Its rationale is explained in the Word of God. For its ultimate success it is dependent on the power of God. Nowhere is the sovereignty of God more clearly seen than in the Christian missions...*”

The other assurance that our witnessing efforts will not be in vain is found in the last few words of the great commission: “*Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*” We need to have the Lord Jesus with us, if we are to do the work of missions, for without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

The promise that He will be with us ‘even unto the end of the world’ is particularly significant to all followers of Christ living in the Last days. These words imply that Christ will remain with us until the very last moment of this world’s existence. Christ will be with us to provide all the wisdom and all the strength we need to be His witnesses, and all the patience and joy we need to keep witnessing faithfully. As long as Jesus is with us, we have nothing to fear. Even though witnessing for Christ in the End times will be very difficult and may bring us into the most distressing trials we will ever face, we have nothing to fear as long as our Lord Jesus is with us. He will ensure our success.

In fact, Jesus has already foretold that our witness for Him will be very successful. This is what He said in Matthew 24:14 – “*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*”

The outcome of this global witness is then described in a vision that the apostle John received in Revelation 7:9,10 – “*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*”

In this message we have learnt that our task of witnessing for Christ in the last days is very urgent and that it will be very difficult. But we have also learnt that this task will finally be accomplished because of the authority that Christ has and His promise to be with us to the very end.

Perhaps you may be asking what you can do now after attending this seminar. Here are seven action points for you to consider:

1. Bring the Gospel to your loved ones. Are your parents, brothers and sisters saved? Are you praying for their salvation and seeking opportunities for them to hear the Gospel? As tomorrow is Gospel Sunday, why not bring them to church?
2. Shine forth as lights where God has placed you. Who are the people that you come into contact with daily and how can you bring the gospel to them? Make an effort to speak to them about spiritual things. You may be surprised to find that they are interested to listen.
3. Help in our church evangelistic efforts. For example, plan to join at least one door-to-door evangelism session in Yishun a year. If you are fearful of how to share the gospel for the first time, do not worry. You will be paired up with someone who is experienced.
4. Reach out to foreigners who come to work or study in Singapore. If you have domestic helpers working for you why not bring them to a service that suits them, e.g. our Thai, Filipina, or Indonesian service?
5. Go on mission trips. Look out of them when they are announced through the Focus on Missions. You can help to teach a Bible lesson to children, or to encourage the church by singing a hymn in the local language, or to share your testimony of salvation.
6. Pray every day for souls to be saved. Prayer is the key that unlocks God's power for the evangelistic and mission activities of the church.
7. Consider if God wants you to serve Him fulltime. It is a high calling to be serving the Lord. Do not dismiss it in favour of the lucrative career opportunities the world has to offer.

May the Lord encourage all of us to be His faithful witnesses in these Last days.

Designated Offerings for Missions

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



Mission Trip to Chiangmai on 26-29 June 2024

Sis Prudence Lim

On Wed 26 June 2024, a team of 7 adults headed to Chiangmai for a ministry outreach mission. The team was formed about one and a half months in advance and our primary goal was to support our church's Thailand Missionary Sister Jess to conduct an English camp at the secular school she worked at, Baan Sala School. Despite the many limitations we were given, thank God that we still were allowed to bring the message of God to the children.

Led by Brother Benjamin Heng and Dn Surya, the team consisted of 5 adults and 2 young adults. Our main theme verse and song for the camp revolved around the gospel message of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We taught them vocabulary using that verse, and the messages and crafts revolved around that theme.

Despite it being a seemingly simple task to stay within one school to conduct an English Camp, we truly saw how weak we were as humans and how much we needed God's grace and mercy to sustain us to accomplish his work.

Day 1 of the English Camp, 26 June

Upon arrival at the school after lunch, the camp we conducted today was for those aged 7-9. We had done some of the craft preparation and gotten acquainted with Sister Jess and her husband Rev Nirand the day before so it was not difficult to set up and run the programmes.

Our team split ourselves into three teams, each team running either a message, arts & craft station or a games station and the children went around the three stations on a rotation basis. Thank God that despite some hiccups like lacking sufficient time to carry out the full message or large parts of the message being cut out to fit the public school



Opening ceremony of the English Camp with teachers and school director

curriculum, the programme went generally smoothly. children were receptive and kind to us and seemed to enjoy the verses and songs.



Children lining up early in the morning before the start of English Camp

Day 2 of the English Camp, 27 June

This was our first full day of camp in the school. It began with an opening ceremony at around 8 am. We conducted a full day of programme for the students aged 10-12.

From the morning, Rev Nirand, who was assisting with the translation the day before, told us that he was unable to come as his sister had passed away. Thankfully, his niece, Anna came down to assist us in the translation. Thank God for her willingness and this issue being solved quickly, as the programme was able to go on with little hiccups.

However, we faced another setback where there was a change in location for Bro Benjamin's gospel message and many parts of his presentation, such as the videos he prepared to show, and a lot of his phrasings had to be changed at the last minute. A member of our team also got food poisoning in the middle of the day, but thank God for the strength to sustain her to finish the programme for that day.

Many of the timings for the programmes kept changing throughout the day too, and a lot of adaptability and quick thinking was truly needed for the programmes to run smoothly.

We only are able to thank God for carrying us through and helping us to constantly encourage each other and look to Him in prayer, as our spiritus still continued to stay high and we successfully carried out all the programmes that day



Children on the last day, before the start of English Camp

Day 3 of the English Camp, 28 June

On that day, one of our members who had gotten food poisoning the day before was unable to join us. Rev Nirand was unable to join us either due to funeral preparations.

The lack in manpower did worry us but the team carried on with the full day programme for the students aged 13-16. During the day, a monk visited which caused the programme unable to run at some point, but he left shortly so there was little to no disruption in the programme.

The students seemed to be attentive and engaged and they participated actively in the games and knew most of the answers to the quiz at the end of the day. We truly thank God that they enjoyed the activities as we had our concerns on how to capture and hold the attention of teens, and we were concerned that they would not gain anything from the programme.

To end the day, Sis Yee Wern and Dn Surya gave their testimonies to the students on how God impacted their lives growing up. The students listened closely, and it did seem that both students and teachers were touched by the testimonies.

We really thank God for sustaining us through the English Camp. We faced many setbacks and many disturbances, with last-minute changes in timings and locations, some of the school teachers not cooperating, being one member down on the last day and the passing of Rev Nirand's sister. It really only is with God's grace and mercy that we were able to successfully conduct all the programmes with no legal issues.

Truly all glory goes to God— all our issues were quickly solved and thank God for the overall health and good spirits of the team. We also had a lot of time to fellowship and get to know Sis Jess' missionary work and life story, which greatly encouraged us. Indeed, we are all edified from the trip and greatly encouraged, seeing how great God is and how much blessings he showed both Sister Jess and our team.

Sharing by Bro Benjamin Heng

Thanksgiving:

In December 2023, I had expressed my desire to expand school (student)-evangelism from Cambodia to also include Chiang Mai, and was already in discussion with Rev Nirand to go there in Jan 2024, when Deacon Mark asked me to lead this Mission trip in June instead of the January trip. From the start, we had difficulty getting participants as it was during the school term time. In addition many other Mission trips to other countries were also scheduled around this time.

As this evangelism program was to be conducted as an “English Camp” in a public school, we had to be careful what to say and not to say. This was really new ground to us, as we were not familiar in sharing the Gospel in such an environment. After many rounds of discussion with our Thai Missionary Sister Jess Lim (an English teacher in a public school) who vetted my original Gospel message, she removed almost half of the slides and also the videos which she deemed too “direct” or “sensitive”. In the end, we used a bible verse John 3:16 to teach “English vocabulary”, and a catchy song to tie in to the Gospel message, (around this verse).

With regards, to Mission team members, God provided seven of us and we split ourselves into groups to prepare games and art/craft materials. I am especially grateful for all the team members especially for Dn Surya & Sis Sew Hoon who encouraged me during the preparations leading up to this trip. Even then, venues and schedules were changed a few days before the event itself, as the approval of the school authorities came late. As a result, the three - day evangelism program was shortened to two and a half days, one of our messages was compressed from two parts to one part. In the revised program, we had to teach in small, groups, and hence the sessions increased from six to twelve. It was likewise increased for the Games and Art and Craft sessions.

During the camp itself, our program was almost cut short, due to the unannounced visit of a monk, if not for an unscheduled change of venue for the Gospel presentation to a second storey location. One of our members got food poisoning, and Rev Nirand (one of our interpreters) had to attend to a personal emergency as his sister had passed away. Hence our team had to make further last minute adjustments.

In view of all these events, the fact that that the Mission Trip took place is itself a miracle. Therefore, I want to testify of God’s Providence, thank and praise Him for the success of this Mission Trip to Chiang Mai!



Children listening to bro Benjamin Heng as he shared the Gospel message

Sharing by sis Jane Ho

This is my first mission trip and though there were some hiccups initially, our Almighty God was in control, leading and guiding us step by step throughout the whole mission. I want to thank God for giving me this privilege to play a small part of leading in games and helping in the art and craft for the students of Baan Sala Buddhist school in Chiang Mai.

My heart is overwhelmed with joy and thankfulness to God when I heard that many students express their interest in attending church. Four had already confirmed while the rest are still waiting for their parents' consent. May the Lord Jesus touch the hearts of the parents that they will also understand the gospel of grace and that they can do nothing to earn their own salvation. Praise the Lord!



Children playing hula hoop chain game



Secondary level students enjoying their KFC and Pizza lunch

Art and craft session started with learning english vocabulary from John 3:16



Children playing dog and bone



The exterior of Baan Sala school, one of the oldest public school in Chiang Mai



Short excursion to scenic lake in Chiang Mai

Young Lifers Ministry Mission Trip to Batam on 5-7 July 2024

Sis Woon Yee Wern

Every year, a group of youths from Life BP will help to plan and execute a three-day VBS programme for the kids at Batu Aji during their school holidays. This time, a total of ten youths volunteered their free time to serve the Lord and His people. Participating in this trip were Caleb, Yee Wern, Yong Shen, Titus, Zacharias and Abigail, Jotham, Jude, Joyce, Manuel, and Marcus, our friend from Calvary BP Church.

Throughout the trip, God's providence was seen in multiple ways from the planning stages to the very end of the trip. It began with running into the difficulty of finding enough youths to join, as many who had gone before were now busy or unavailable during those dates. This raised concerns of manpower and feasibility. But God had a lesson of patience and prayer for us, and eventually He revealed His chosen team of servants, most of whom had never embarked on such short-term missions before. He miraculously arranged each of their schedules so as to allow everyone to be available and contribute their time and effort in the planning. We were also late to board the ferry to Batam, yet managed to get in despite entering after the cut-off time had already passed.

Although the team were new to missions, most of us had already been equipped with the necessary skills and spiritual maturity to make this trip a fruitful and edifying one for the kids at batu Aji. For example, Joyce's and Yong Shen's experience in children's ministry were particularly helpful in coming up with interesting crafts or keeping the kids engaged. Zacharias' and Jotham's musical skills proved useful in playing impromptu music during games. These are just some of the skills that God had blessed us with, and now were being put to use for His kingdom's sake as a testimony of God's goodness and their own faith.

The three days of VBS were filled with a chaotic whirlwind of storytelling, crafts, worshipping through singing, and games – not forgetting Sis Paola's labour of love in cooking a delicious Indonesian lunch for us during two days! Each day had two sessions of Bible lessons. These were taken from the book of 1 Samuel, about how David was God's chosen, how he defeated Goliath with the power of God, how David evaded danger multiple times, and how it was God who gave him victory. These spiritual lessons were reinforced with the crafts that served as physical reminders such as David's pouch with 5 stones and a sling. The kids had more energy than all the youths combined, participating in every activity with lots of enthusiasm and zest.



As the time flew by, the team worked together in new ways and saw fruits that we did not expect to. At one point we began to improvise an impromptu skit to act out the story of David and Goliath. The kids were extremely amused and it helped them to remember the story too! Initially, we were doubtful of whether they would really remember the lessons taught over the past few days. But to our surprise during the final quiz, nearly all the kids jumped up, clamouring to answer the questions with their arms outstretched. Almost all the questions were answered correctly! Even though they had been fidgeting and making noise during the lessons, somehow the Holy Spirit had allowed them to retain all the information. It is our prayer that this knowledge will become effectual to salvation for many of them, and that it will provoke them to think about who God is to them.

Not just the children, but we ourselves also learned many things in this short frame of time, as you may read in the three testimonies below. It was truly a fruitful trip – yet it is but one stepping-stone in a long series of efforts to preach the Gospel to every nation and bring more people to Christ. That’s why we hope that more of you will answer the call for next year’s VBS trip!

Testimony by Marcus Lau

“I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to attend Life BPC’s mission trip to Batu Aji earlier this year. It all began with a casual conversation with Caleb Tan, where he mentioned the trip. The memory of my first (and only) mission trip from a few years ago resurfaced, and I felt a longing to serve the Lord overseas again. With my university summer break approaching, I recognized this as a perfect chance to make the time more spiritually meaningful. After praying about it, I decided to commit to the mission trip, knowing that serving the Lord is always a blessing and a precious gift from God.

Since I am not from Life BPC, I had the privilege of meeting and working alongside people who were, at first, complete strangers. However, by the end of our trip, I was able to form godly friendships with some people, bonds that will last beyond the mission itself. One of the most eye-opening aspects of the trip was conducting the Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a culture different from us here in Singapore. The enthusiasm of the children there, their eagerness to learn God’s word, truly struck



me. Their passion for singspiration, Bible lessons, and crafts was infectious. It made me reflect on our own community back in Singapore, where this kind of fervour sometimes feels lacking—even within myself. The joy and commitment they displayed are something we can all learn from.

The trip also taught me the importance of adaptability. Things didn't always go according to plan during the VBS, and there were moments when we had to adjust on the fly—changing activities to better engage the children. It was challenging, especially navigating a language barrier, but with the help of friendly translators, we managed. Despite the physical and mental exhaustion that comes with leading this group of kids, our team supported and encouraged one another throughout the whole trip. This sense of teamwork felt like a real blessing from God.

During one of the Bible lessons with the kids, I was reminded of David himself. Much like how David faced Goliath with unwavering faith, there were moments in the trip when I found myself overwhelmed by unplanned situations that cropped up suddenly. My usual instinct was to panic and scramble for solutions. Yet, through the whole experience, God gently reminded me to trust Him fully, just like what David did. Like what Proverbs 3:5-6 saith, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” This verse, though familiar to many, took on a deeper meaning when applied in real life during the mission trip. It reinforced that God's grace and mercy are always present, and we should lean on His understanding more than our own and most importantly, to trust in Him and let Him have control of the situation.

Every mission trip is unique, bringing different experiences, lessons, and memories. My hope in sharing this reflection is to encourage others to consider going on a mission trip. It offers an opportunity to experience and appreciate God's work in different cultures, and it deepens our understanding of His love and faithfulness in ways we might not expect.”



Testimony by Caleb Tan

“Going on this mission trip made me realise how privileged we really are in Life Church. On the last day of the trip, the mission team attended Batu Aji's Sunday service. Then, I was surprised to see young children attending the service with their parents. That's a rare sight in Life! I later realised that Batu Aji didn't have a Children's Ministry or Sunday School. On a separate occasion where I asked Sister Paola about devotional material that Batu Aji could give to the primary-school aged children attending the VBS, I was again shocked to find out that Batu Aji only had a few reading books for children. Compared to Life Church, Batu Aji is lacking in terms of material and ministries. Yet, with the little that they have, I could still see our brothers and sisters' faithful service and worship to the Lord while I was there. It also made me realise how much we have back here at Life Church, and how God would want us to use the abundance He has blessed us with to bless our less-privileged brothers and sisters. As the song goes, “To whom much has been given, much more shall be required.”

This mission trip also made me realise that these very short-term mission trips do more than build inter-church bonds. And it certainly is not just about going there to help. Though I did not speak their language, interacting with my brothers and sisters over in Indonesia reminded me of the marvel

of the universal church (Hebrews 12: 22-24). The reality is that Jesus has baptised every Christian across the world into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13). And going on this mission trip allowed me to personally experience that reality, as I worshipped God together with the Christians at Batu Aji on that Sunday.”



Testimony by Titus Loh

“I was first asked if I would like to participate in the mission trip to Batu Aji in April; at that point, I was still awaiting updates on my NS enlistment date, so I asked to put the decision on hold. Admittedly, a few months passed and I put it out of my mind until after church camp; during one of the sessions, Pastor Tan Soon Yong declared that not serving God was, in fact, a sin. This statement moved me and made me reflect on whether I have been giving my time and energy to serve and glorify God, or if I have been prioritising my worldly desires. This led me to check if I could still attend the trip to Batu Aji, despite being slightly hesitant as it would be my first-ever mission trip.

Throughout the trip, I was constantly reminded that no one can ever be fully prepared for everything; be it my first mission trip or my tenth, there would always be unexpected things that crop up—for example, getting stopped suddenly at customs due to a communication error, or having to add in new activities, even coming up with new ideas on the spot—therefore, I would be utterly helpless if I relied on my own strength and ability to get through the days. This reminder helped me to both depend on God and also recognise more of His blessings during our time there.

One clear blessing throughout the trip was the children themselves, bustling with excitement and zeal despite the long and hot hours; despite this, I was still unsure if they would comprehend or retain that same energy during the lessons. God answered this prayer on the final day when we held a QNA, as we were all witnesses to the children clamouring to answer each question even before they were read. I was incredibly inspired by the joy of the children, seeing how they seemed to enjoy every small moment of the day. It was a clear contrast to the plethora of doubts and anxieties that initially crept into my mind, making me reflect on whether I exhibit the same joy when learning the Word of God.

Another blessing during the trip was the sweet fellowship I enjoyed with fellow believers. Although I wasn’t very close to everyone who joined us, I found myself highly encouraged by their presence and support. The daily devotions, sharings, and prayer in particular all kept me accountable and reminded me to focus on our true purpose of glorifying God. Apart from these aspects, I was also thankful for the opportunities to get to know them slightly better through conversations in the van and around the dining table.

Overall, this trip both inspired and taught me a lot. I am incredibly thankful that God gave me this chance to serve him, and it made me realise how blessed I am to live a comfortable life in Singapore. Whether this trip makes a significant impact or if the children will even remember the lessons we taught them in the future is not important. We know that all things proceed according to God’s will, and He is the one who provides the growth; what is truly important is that we do not take the privileges we enjoy for granted, but rather make use of the gifts God has given us to edify others and glorify His name.”

Ladies Sunday School Mission Trip to Batam on 4 August 2024

The Ladies' Sunday School embarked on our annual mission trip to the churches in Batam on 4 August 2024, ministering to the children at Sagulung Baru, Batu Aji and Petra. The group of 24 ladies was led by Pastor Charles.

The Sunday School lesson was taken from Judges 6 and 7. The Bible account of Gideon leading the Israelites to victory over the Midianites was told with the help of visual aids, props and costumes. This year, we worked on dramatising the story and getting the children involved. We pray that this would help the children better understand the lesson and that they will leave with a deeper impression of what was taught. The story was told in Bahasa Indonesia (at Batu Aji) or in English with translation to Bahasa Indonesia.

To reinforce the lesson, we taught the children the verse from Isaiah 12:2a, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid" in Bahasa Indonesia and English. To tie in with the story, the children were taught the song "I Will Trust", in English. We also revised the song "My God Is So Great" which the children learnt last year.

This year we decided to do away with art and craft work to devote more time for the story. The

extra time also allowed the children at Sagulung Baru to participate in a quiz.

The enthusiastic participation of the children never fails to amaze us. We pray that the Word shared has found good ground in these children.

During the worship service at Sagulung Baru, the group presented a song item "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me", singing the first stanza in English and the remaining two in Bahasa Indonesia.

We are thankful for the prayer support of like-minded brethren. We are also thankful for sisters who, though unable to join us for the trip, helped to sew props and made book marks with the memory verse on them. We were blessed to co-labour with ladies who, though not in the Ladies' Sunday School, were moved to join us year after year.

The warm response of the children towards the Sunday School class motivates us to return each year to minister to them. May the Lord move you to labour with us next year and share in our joy and blessing.

Lim Chiew Ping



Testimonies from the team at Batu Aji

“But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the Kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 19:14.

Thank God for His goodness and grace to help our Sunday School ladies in all our preparations so that we can serve Him in bringing God’s Word to the children in 3 churches in Batam – Batu Aji church, Sagulung church and Petra church.

Prior to the trip, a few ladies were down with sickness. We had a prayer meeting where all of us come together to pray for one another and for the trip.

Thank God for healing the ladies and all the 24 of us ladies can come together to serve Him.

It was such a delightful surprise to see the children so well behaved, joyful and enthusiastic about the songs we taught them in English. The children were responsive and willing to participate with us in dramatising the Bible story. They also recited the Memory Verse well.

I was very encouraged and touched by ladies who cannot go with us but they supported and helped us make props and puppets for us to dramatise the story. They, too serve with love for God and for His glory, just as 1Peter 4:10 said : “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

It was joyful to be able to experience the camaraderie of our group of 24 ladies working

together as one with the aim of serving God and for God’s glory.

Leong Sow Mun

I am greatly thankful for the opportunity to serve Him in Sunday School and for His leading as well as protection on the team throughout the recent Batam mission trip. The wonderful teamwork and warm fellowship among the team members were evident as we prepared for the trip as well as during the ministry of the mission team.

Praise the Lord for enabling the children to be receptive to our teaching of the children’s songs, the memory verse and the story on Gideon in the bible. It was joyful to see the positive response from the children and their active participation in all the activities after they had overcome the initial shyness. I pray that the children will continue to abide in His love and their journey of knowing the Lord bearing in mind the memory verse they had learnt, “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.” (Isaiah 12: 2a)

Truly, I have been greatly blessed by the Lord through this mission trip. Praise and glory be to His Name!
Tan Yit Peng



I want to thank God for the opportunity to go for the trip to Batam churches. A few days before the trip, I had a high fever and bad flu. By His grace, I recovered fully the day before the trip. This trip opened my eyes to see God's hand working in the heart of the brethren as they were so joyful to worship and serve the Lord. All glory and praise to God for a safe trip too.

Toh Sock Har

Thank God for His protection and His grace upon us on 4/8 Batam Mission trip. At Batu Aji Church, Sister Paola and the children were waiting for us. From memory verse to story telling on Gideon, the children were actively and joyfully participating without fear.

Please uphold earnestly for Sagulang Bahru church as it is located between two nearby mosques.

Amanda Bong



It was a wonderful experience to come together to serve Christ with joy and gladness.

This was my first mission trip, I was very touched & encouraged by the whole team for their willingness to take time & effort to share God's word in singing & storytelling to the children in Batam.

The hard work was being paid off when I saw the children enjoyed singing & engaged in the bible story sharing. I hope our journey of serving in this mission trip, pleases God & I pray that by the mercy of God, the unbeliever children will step up to receive God's salvation.

I thank God for giving me this opportunity to serve Him in Batam. It was an amazing experience & I looking forward to more opportunities if God is willing.

Xundy Ko

Testimonies from the team at Petra



Thank God for the ladies' Sunday school. This annual Batam one day mission trip is great as it enables the ladies to serve as a group.

Due to COVID and other reasons, I have not joined the ladies for some time. Thankful to be part of the group of 24 ladies on this trip, I've enjoyed the fellowship and serving as a team. Much encouraged by the enthusiasm, resourcefulness, and creativity of the ladies in the church. One hand-sewn props, two custom-made special hand puppets for the storytelling, and some donated items for prizes, including pre-loved clean stuff toys, sweets, titbits, and many more.

My favourite part is when the children recited the bible verse in Bahasa Indonesian with great gusto.

Karen Heng



First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to God for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Mission trip. I would also like to thank all the organizers for making this trip. This trip has been a truly unforgettable experience for me, and I have learned so much from it.

During my time in Batam, I had a privilege of serving at Petra Church. When I see children learning, I am amazed by God's creation. Language is a wonderful gift from God. Even though we speak different languages, we can still worship one God. We are all one in Christ, no matter what language we speak. When I see people actively memorizing Bible verses and participating in storytelling, it reminds me of something important. It shows me that we should work actively for God. We shouldn't just sit back and do nothing. We should be active in serving God and sharing His message with others.

This mission trip has taught me that we should share the Gospel with others until the end of our lives. Our job is not done until we have told everyone about God's love. We should keep sharing the Good News, no matter how old we get or where we go. This trip has reminded me to make sharing the Gospel a part of my life, every day, until the end.

Aphi Biak Len Mawi



I thank God for this opportunity to serve at the Batam Mission trip organised by the Ladies' Sunday School. The trip was to reach out to the children at 3 Batam locations: Sagulung Bahru,

Batu Aji and Petra.

After much preparation with meetings, discussions, song practices and rehearsals, we set off for Batam on 4th Aug early morning from Harbourfront. When we arrived at Batam Ferry Terminal, we were quickly whisked into 2 different vehicles that brought us to the 3 destinations.

I was with the group to Petra. Upon arrival, Ibu Paudur welcomed and greeted us and led us to a big hall upstairs. The children were already seated and eagerly waiting for us. We thanked God for the smooth transition and for these young minds ever ready to come and worship God in their Sunday best.

Each of us in our group were given different roles in this outreach. I was to be the Storyteller to deliver the story of "Gideon- Champions have faith". This was the theme message of our Life church VBS in May 2024 and it was apt to deliver the same message to the children in Batam. We started off with 2 songs chosen to go with the story theme. Sis Sew Hoon led the children to sing with hand actions : "My God is so great" and "I will Trust". The rest of us chimed in. The children quickly picked up the songs in English and were singing with gusto.

For the storytelling, we decided to deliver the bible story by dramatising it and getting the children to participate. I dressed myself looking like Gideon with a scarf over my torso and wearing a sash over my forehead. Acting like Gideon, I called upon the children to come forward and join in the battle fight against the Midianites. They were shy at first but with some coaxing, one by one they volunteered to be in the "army". So the story of Gideon was presented in a skit format with the participation of the children. This was then reinforced with the memory version from Isaiah 12:2 in Bahasa Indonesia led by Sis Rosalind. We thanked God He had used us to deliver the message that in any circumstance of our lives, we will trust God and not be afraid for He is our salvation.

After the Sunday School at Petra, we headed to Sagulung Bahru church for our Sunday worship service and presented the song item “All the way my Saviour leads me” in English and Bahasa Indonesia. Pastor Charles gave the Sunday worship message in Bahasa Indonesia. After service ended, we proceeded to have our lunch. Sis Roska had so kindly arranged and ordered our food in advance so we could immediately have our food. It was a very productive day. God has blessed us with many sisters who were gifted and committed to make the logistics arrangement to have this mission trip very smoothly planned out.

We pray that this mission trip will bring honour to God and joy to the children who hears the message. May His name be praised!

Lim Chiew Ling



Thank God for the opportunity to go with the Batam mission team to serve in the three churches. It was heartwarming to see how enthusiastic, joyful and responsive the children were in learning the word of God. Am also amazed how our sisters are so talented in bringing across the Bible’s verses/ stories, songs through their props and “acting”. All praise and glory to God.

Yvonne Cheang

Firstly, I thank God for His guidance and protection throughout the mission trip to Batam. I had the opportunity to join the Petra church, where I was deeply encouraged by the children who were eager to learn and listen to God’s Word. When some of the children shook our hands and then had us touch their heads in greeting, I felt very emotional. It made me think about how much more Jesus must love them. Additionally, I learned valuable lessons from the other participants on the trip, especially seeing how well-prepared they were, which reflected their deep love for God. I feel so privileged to have been a part of this mission trip.

Run Sui Em

Thank God for SS ladies as we are able to serve the children’s ministry at 3 churches in Sagulung Bahru, Batu Aji and our first time to Petra church.

It is with great joy, love and passion to see how God has wonderfully touched the children’s hearts. They sang aloud with praise and participated well in storytelling and memory verse too.

We pray that the children will continue to learn God’s word to grow in their faith and knowledge.

We are thankful to have sisters and brothers who are so hospitable, welcoming us and assisted in interpretation.

We hope the churches in Batam will continue to grow and be a shining light for Jesus!

Rosalind Ngooi



Testimonies from the team at Sagulung Baru

There are many thanksgivings from this year's Batam Mission Trip and I will mention three. Firstly, I thank the Lord for how He magnified His name in our sharing of the story with the children (2 Cor 4:5). This Batam Mission Trip was my first time telling the story. My group was telling and dramatising the story of Gideon together (from VBS 2024) at Sagulung Baru B-P Church (led by brother Mikdal). As I am still learning how to go about storytelling, doing it with the added layer of translation, was quite a challenge for me. Before the storytelling, I had prayed that it may be, 'Not I, but Christ' that tells the story and encourages the hearts of the children. Although I had memorised the script, I ultimately read it out, as my team would take cues for what to act out from certain phrases I mentioned. However, despite that I was amazed and thankful for how the Lord sent Auntie Roska to be my translator (a seasoned and animated translator), and how well the rest of my group dramatised the parts of the story. They gladly acted out the different parts, with props, much emotion and more. Truly, we thank the Lord for His work in all of us, from the dramatisation, to the translation, to the story. The Lord's servants are indeed the most glad to serve Him, taking our directions from Him, with his amazing wisdom and guidance.



Secondly, I thank the Lord for the eagerness of the children and the hospitality of the missionaries. In my opinion, the children were just like the children in Singapore, although they spoke different languages. I thank the Lord for the children's expression of their faith and sincerity in their answers, as Auntie Roska asked them different questions during the Q&A time. Although admittedly as the Q&A was done mostly in Bahasa, we Singaporeans could not quite understand. Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. While some likely did not yet believe in Christ, just like some of our children at Children's Ministry, many truly did profess their faith in Christ in Batam. Thank the Lord for allowing us to partner in the gospel, with the missionaries in Batam and to encourage God's people there too.



Lastly, I thank the Lord for how upon further reflection on how the program had gone in the past years, the team was flexible and reflective in making changes to the program. While we had sung the song and done the memory verse, largely in English in the past (as the children also wanted and were excited to learn English), this year we sang our song item largely in Bahasa and did our memory verse in Bahasa and English. The children at my assigned church, Sagulung Baru, were so excited about the memory verse, as they seemed to have even memorised it before. Thank God for giving us the grace and strength to make the changes to our usual program. To God be the glory!

1 Corinthians 9:19-20 For though I be free from all men, yet have I

made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

Joelle Heng

My first mission trip. Was nervous as I do not know what to expect and worried about the language barrier. Glad we have Roska as translator who helped us to translate the story with so much life. Was also worried if we can pull off the act, songs but we did it well with all the props and sisters coming together. Felt everyone's passion with a heart to serve God. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved with this mission.

Hazel Wong

This is my very first short mission and was a little blur as didn't know how and what to expect. But during the trip, it has shown me that Love is beyond measures and was displayed in Roska in how she has provided help before and during the trip. All in the team are also helpful and cooperative in setting up the play for the children. It has reminded me of Christ New Commandment -> to love one another as how He has loved us. May God consistently mould us to be more and more in Christ-likeness. God Bless!

Dorothy Wong



This trip to Batam give me deep thought and reflection on mission. It come as a blessing to see younger generation taking over our role to continue to evangelise. A good start to share and train them to pick the baton to move forward.

Is a blessing in disguise, Roska, Rev Charles, Rev Efendi Ginting, Bro Mikdal Lisin (Sagulung Baru B-P Church) and Sis Paola Simbolon (Batu Aji B-P Church), Sow Mun, Chiew Ping, and many more which I don't know their names always supportive in helping us doing the things

that can't see. Is a lot of work in reaching out, I'm thankful in their every thought in looking out for us. Reminding us and head count make sure we're not lost.

Joanna Chua

It was my second missionary trip with the Ladies' Sunday School sisters. A humbling experience for me to serve and to experience team work with the sisters to bring the Word to the children in the 3 churches.

This year, I was being tasked to take on the song-leading segment of Sagulung church. I was a bit apprehensive at first but Sis Sow Mun had been encouraging and we practised in the church before we headed for the mission. I prayed about it before going and thank God for the opportunity to serve well in the Sagulung church.

The active participation of the kids encouraged me a lot and Sis Roska had been a great translator for us at the Sagulung church. If God is willing, I would very much like to continue serving in the Batam mission trip next year and in future.

Fonx Lim



Announcement

Participating in upcoming Mission Trips in 2025

We would like to encourage Life B-P Church members to participate actively in missions both in support and involvement (short-term or otherwise), including medical and dental (MaD) missions, with the hope that some may be called to be full-time missionaries. You may prayerfully consider participating in a Mission trip as an individual, a family, a fellowship group or a NBC. If you are interested to participate in the upcoming mission trips being planned for 2025, please register your interest by filling in the form. All participants who are attending mission trips organised by Life B-P Church are required to sign the letter of undertaking for the mission trip at

<https://forms.gle/Cc4Q22b8csiFmqEY6>

Date	Mission	Remarks
Mar 2025	Batam – Sunday School teens visit to Batam churches on Sunday	Eld Heng Shao Sheng
4-6 April (Fri-Sun)	Batam – MaD to Filadelfia and Tanjung Piayu GAPPI Sagulung Baru Anniversary	Dr Nicholas Lim and Dr Hendra
May	Chiang Mai – Youth Ministry to mountain churches and ELC Chiang Mai	Dn Mark Heah
26 May – 1 Jun	Cambodia – Children and Youth Ministry to Kampongsom and Kampot	Dn Alvin Chow
30 May - 1 June	Batam – Saturday Joy Children Ministry at Tanjung Piayu New Life School GAPPI Tanjung Piayu Anniversary	Dn Surya Kusuma
End June – early July	Batam – VBS at GAPPI Batu Aji by YLM	Bro Matthew Sim
3 Aug	Batam – Ladies Sunday School Trip	Sis Leong Sow Mun
Sep	Pekanbaru – MaD and children’s ministry trip	Dr Ong Yee Siang
Sep	Medan – Children’s ministry	Dn Surya Kusuma
4-5 Oct or 18-19 Oct	Batam – Saturday Joy Children Ministry at Batu Aji New Life School GAPPI Batu Aji Anniversary	Bro Matthew Sim
Oct	Chiangmai – MaD trip to mountain churches	Dn Koh Lip Hoe
Dec	Cambodia – MaD and children’s ministry visit	Dn Alvin Chow

*MaD – Medical and Dental