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“Reserved for Owner” - Testimony by June Tan

The first time the subject of a re-con vehicle to replace the current old Suzuki was brought up was during Mok’s visit in January this year. Mok and I discussed at length and he suggested a re-con pickup, single cabin, 4WD, diesel, Toyota, ex-Japan.

We started looking for the vehicle in the month of October. The church arranged for the funds to be transferred early October. There were many double-cabin pickups in the car centres but mostly single-cabins and 2WD which cannot meet the harsh conditions of the rural area.

I made my way to Nairobi and viewed a 2003 vehicle which was not too bad but was told that a 2007 model would be available for viewing the following week. However, the 2007 model turned out to be a disappointment as it was 2006 and 2WD. As I looked more intently at the 2003 pickup, the experienced mechanic who was with me pointed out that pickups with D4D technology may pose a major problem in the rural area. These vehicles must be checked by specific computers for repairs and maintenance. This means that all works had to be done only in Nairobi. That then becomes a major problem should the vehicle break down as Nairobi is 3.5

hours away from home.

Finally, Pastor Charles pointed out that if the criterion is for the vehicle to be repaired by an experienced mechanic in any part of the country then the D4D model is not the right choice.

Alternatives then were to look for an older model or one that is not imported; in other words, owned by a Kenyan. Both options were not entirely welcome as each has its setbacks. The question of how long shall the search be, became obvious and I was stressed.

But I was very sure the Missions Committee and the church were praying as much as I. I can't quite explain why we chose last Tuesday to travel to Nairobi except to say that it was the Lord's prompting.

When we got there, it was again all D4D models whether it was one in this centre or another. I was discouraged. Samson asked me if there was any room to look for other vehicles. I replied that the conditions were (1) re-con pickup ex-Japan (2) 4WD (3) Single cabin (4) Toyota (5) as new as possible. When the salesman heard that we were only interested in 4WD, he asked if we wanted to see two combi-vans. We looked surprised as we did not know there are 4WD for these vans and agreed out of curiosity.

The salesman said that the vans had just finished all the necessary documentations with ROV when it was shipped and transported from Mombasa port and was in the workshop for some touch-up. We found one of them in a fairly good condition though the cushion covers were torn and left side mirror needed replacement and small paintwork to be done. He told us they were both 2003 models and the price was negotiable.

Then he went to get some papers. To his horror (reflected on his face), the van we were more interested in turned out to be year 2004 but he had already quoted the 2003 price.



All the conditions for the purchase of the vehicle were met except that it was now a van and not a pickup. I immediately SMSed Pastor for his advice. I must admit I was pleasantly surprised when the approval came from Pastor's mobile.

The experienced mechanic came after lunch to look at the vehicle and concluded that it was in a fairly good condition. We told the salesman that we were interested in the vehicle and he made arrangements for the van to be transported from the workshop to the showroom. However, he was stopped by his colleagues in the workshop. The matter became known that the vehicle when it left the port had a clear label: **"Reserved for Owner"**. They insisted that the owner has not yet turned up. That's why a buyer yesterday who wanted to buy this same van was turned away as he was not "that owner".

The salesman then called his boss and requested for his boss to call the senior manager of the workshop to check the papers and confirm who "the owner" is and whether "that owner" had called etc. After some time, the van and us left the workshop for no one had any information about "the owner".

In the office of the showroom, the salesman left us with his boss to discuss the technicalities. When all were explained, the boss told us the price for the vehicle. It turned out to be 4.5% more than what

I was told by the salesman. The salesman was called in and his boss argued how he could have told me that price when it is 2004 and

they sold a 2003 yesterday at the price that was now quoted. I obviously raised my eyebrow and made some comments.

He paused for a second and agreed to release the vehicle at the price that the salesman had quoted me. My last attempt at haggling was to complain about the cushion covers, side mirror and minor paintwork.

He kind of looked exasperated and said, "Madam, you know, my staff already committed an error by quoting you a lower price. I cannot give any more discounts. Please let us close the deal."

Samson and I were praising God and laughing like children when we left Nairobi at 7pm. We clearly saw God's hands in all this and it was an angel, sent by God, who pasted the big label – **"RESERVED FOR OWNER"**.

All praise and glory be to God.

Update on Pui Meng

Dear Brethren,

Praise the Lord for sustaining me through the weeks. Yesterday was the start of the Thanksgiving break and I, with some of the Chinese congregation members (11 of us) went to Atlanta. Most of them are from China except a couple from Singapore. Thank God for a wonderful fellowship. The town is almost like KL in Malaysia except there are no tall buildings as far as I can see. We had a good Chinese lunch and did some shopping for Chinese food stuff. Along the way, we tried to witness to a Chinese lady, non-Christian. Thank God that she was very receptive but not ready as yet. Please pray for her (Helen). It was a good outing for me after all the studies and late nights.

Thank you for praying for me. Truly, the Lord has seen me through all the tests and assignments. We had tests right to the last day of the break. Our final is in mid-December after which, we will break for Christmas till mid-January 2011.

Currently, it's fall (autumn)- the trees are very beautiful and colorful: red, orange, brown, yellow and more. There may be multi-colors on the trees, but very few flowers are blooming. The weather is generally cool but will turn cold when the wind blows. The sun is still shining but not hot and raining at times. It is very pleasant and 'cheery' to walk along the pathway. It takes away all your stress and tiredness. "The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof:..." Ps 24:1.



Currently, the campus is very quiet because most of the locals had gone home for the Thanksgiving. It's time for me to catch up with my s-l-e-e-p!!!!!!! :). Unfortunately, the gym is closed otherwise, I can do some work-out. I normally go to the gym on Friday if I have the time, but rarely due to my workload. Thank God that we, BJU students, were given many opportunities to attend speech recitals, dramas, concerts and others as part of assignments or a requirement in this liberal art institution. Some of the performances were put up by BJU students, and they are very good, professional, artistic, creative and very impressive. I've learned to appreciate it. God Himself is the Greatest Artist in His creative works of mankind and nature. Have you observed e.g. the art work of a cob-web? - It expresses God's handiwork behind the intricate work of a spider. Even during the chapel hours, we were given feasts of musical performances which help to reduce our examination stress and remind us to look up to the Lord - "Be still and know that I am GOD". I also thank God for the daily chapel (Mon-Thu), it always ministers to my heart, corrects me of my wrong, teaches me, and rebukes me of my arrogance and more.

Every Sunday morning, I go to Morningside Baptist Church, it has a Chinese Worship Service, The congregation is small, about 20-30. The worshippers are mainly from China but many of them speak Cantonese. Some of them come because they want to learn English. We conduct ESL lesson (English as Second Language) for them on Sunday morning just to encourage them to come for the worship service and at the same time, we'll give them the gospel. I was given the opportunity to work with a student from BJU who is from Hong Kong to follow-up a Cantonese speaking lady. I feel so inadequate - can't speak well and am using a bilingual Bible to help me to refer the passage. We are given follow-up materials for the lesson. Trying to speak Mandarin to Chinese students frequently and learn the written words. There is a lack of mature Chinese Christians to lead the study. I see it as a great opportunity for me to pick up Chinese again. Please pray for me.

The Lord is merciful

Puimeng

26 November 2010



Batu Aji B-P Church Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

Dear Missions Committee,

Greeting in the Blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Thank God for His kindness in keeping our ministries here. Thank God for your care.

I would like to report what we have done here in Batam in the Lord's ministry. I would like to specially mention Batu Aji BPC. Thank God for sending his faithful servant Rev Colin Wong to us. He preached at three services and conducted the holy communion. Last Lord's Day was Batu Aji BPC's thanksgiving anniversary. Thank God for His grace and faithfulness. Tanjung Piayu BPC, Sagulung Baru BPC and Petra BPC celebrated with us in this special occasion. Each of them presented a special praise item to the Lord. We thank God the members of Batu Aji have this desire to give their best to the Lord. Special praise items were presented by Batu Aji BP Church's Sunday school, pre-teens, teenagers and adults. We

thank God for the transfer of membership of 16 adults. They underwent a rigorous two-month catechism course. I would like to thank Pastor Colin Wong who did the transfer of membership and his encouragement to them. Please pray that they will grow in God's Word and attend church regularly.

May the Lord bless all of us. May His name be glorified.

Thank you.

Efendi Ginting
8 November 2010



Prayer Request

- Pray for Batu Aji BPC that God would help them grow spiritually.
- Pray for Efendi that God will help and strengthen him to serve Him.
- Pray for the needs of the church.
- Pray for new members of our church that God will help them grow spiritually.

Transition of the KT Sunday School Ministry

After 8 years of labouring which saw between 5 – 10 brethren making weekly trips to this little town within the state of Johor, the curtain would have come down by the time you read this issue of FOCUS. All the current children of this ministry will be transferred to the care of Bethany Christian Church at Kota Tinggi from January next year. The last activity for 2010 is the Christmas Program to be held at Bethany Church. This is to allow the KTSS students to get familiarised with and to assimilate into the new environment.

Over the 8 years, more than 1,000 children with ages ranging from kindergarten to primary 6 came through the door and about 100 prayed to received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

For the benefit of those who missed out on the full presentation of this ministry at the prayer meeting of December 14, the full report is provided as a special insert with this issue of FOCUS.

On behalf of the Missions Committee, we would want to thank all who have laboured in this work in their various capacities and abilities.



Update on Life B-P Church Missions

Further to the announcement in the last issue of FOCUS, please be informed that the Missions Committee has decided to extend the current status of our two missionaries in Cambodia and sister Roska Choi in Batam by another year. Therefore, for the year 2011, Rev David Koo, Rev Moses Hahn and sister Roska will continue to be Life Church missionaries and be supported with a fixed monthly allowance.

In addition, we have decided to take on board sister Paola Simbolon into the Batam team. Please refer to the article 'Appointment of a New Missionary in Batam' on page 7.

A Note on Offering:

We want to thank God that Lifers are very generous in their offerings towards missions. As announced previously, there are two categories:

1. Those who are under direct supervision of Life BPC (Life BPC missionaries), i.e. those in Batam, Cambodia and Kenya.
2. Those who are not under direct supervision of Life BPC (Partners in missions), i.e. those in Myanmar and Thailand.

In terms of support, the church gives priority to our own missionaries and we would like you to be aligned with the church's position when giving towards missions.

LIFE B-P CHURCH MISSIONS

Missionaries

Batam, Indonesia: Sis Roska Choi, Pr Efendi Ginting & his co-workers Sis Merry Lasfeto, Bro Mikdal Lisin and Sis Paola Simbolon

Kenya: Sis June Tan-Korir

Kompongsm, Cambodia: Rev David Koo and Rev Moses Hahn

Partners-in-Missions

Myanmar: Rev Andrew Kam

Chiang Mai, Thailand: Rev Nirand Tamee & Sis Jess Lim

Chinese nationals: Sis Ho Heng Sau

On Study Leave

Sis Chan Pui Meng

Appointment of a New Missionary in Batam



We thank God for providing a new missionary to join our missionary force in Batam. Miss Paola Simbolon has come under the support of Life B-P Church with effect from 1 December 2010.

One of the fruits of sister Roska Choi's ministry at Tanjung Piayu B-P Church, Paola left her job in Batam when she was called into full-time ministry and received training at an Indonesian theological school. Upon her graduation last year, she returned to serve the Lord at the same church where she was saved. Since then she has been ministering to the children, to the youth and to the ladies fellowship in the church, as well as teaching religious education to the P4 and P6 students at the New Life Christian School which shares the church premises on weekdays.

Paola writes about her salvation and call to the full-time ministry:

"I give thanks to God for His love for me which is so great for as long as I have lived in this world. I have felt God's working in my life since I was young. Although at that moment it was difficult to understand, I was able to sense peace and comfort when I came to Him and expressed all my problems to Him. I even had the desire to become a servant of God. In my teens I loved to be guided by the Lord. I was shy to join the teens fellowship in the church because no one seemed to want to engage me except the fulltime worker who served there (My first church had so many adults, young people and teens that the fulltime worker there was unable to care for the whole congregation). I lacked so much understanding about God that I did not even know what salvation is! None of my family members or church members ever told me about salvation. I loved to read the Bible, especially the parables, but did not understand them because to me they

were only interesting stories to listen to (like fairy tales). But I had experienced peace in my heart when I prayed even though I did not understand why I felt that way.

I thank God for bringing me to a church which guided me to know the Lord and which taught me about salvation. That church is the Bible-Presbyterian church, where I began to know the One whom I had sensed before. He is Christ, and I am so thankful to get to know Him clearly in my life. The Bible-Presbyterian Church not only guided me to come to Christ, but also provided opportunities for me to serve Him. I joined the young people's fellowship and served in the Sunday School.

The opportunities to serve in the church gave me the motivation to serve the Lord even more. I became aware of my limitations - that I am not talented, smart or have anything to boast of. But I trust the Lord to call me to a small ministry which the Lord would entrust me to do. I took courage to leave my job and enter to a theological school. Though the process of being trained was heavy-going I was able to complete my studies well and received assurance about my calling.

There is nothing extraordinary about my ministry that I can boast of until now, but I believe that my whole life is a process of learning how to work and serve the Lord. My learning is not over yet, neither has God finished with me yet. There are struggles and there are victories and at times there are uncertainties. But I believe that God has been moulding me and training me to this day for His service. To me this process and training from God are His calling to me to serve Him, until I finally serve Him in Heaven. It is my hope that the Lord will direct me in His service on Earth. Amen."

Missions Events in the Coming Months

**January
20-23**

Combined medical missions to Batam and Bintan by Life BPC, Hope BPC & Ebenezer BPC (Australia).

**January
29-30**

Regular visit to Tanjung Uban by Elder & Mrs. Sng.

**February
6**

Pastor Charles Seet administers Holy Communion to churches in Batam.

**February
14-19**

Pastor Colin Wong visiting missions stations in Cambodia.

**March
6**

Pastor Colin Wong administers Holy Communion to churches in Batam.

**March
13-26**

Pastor Colin Wong visiting Vietnam (To help in Calvary Jurong BPC's mission work).

**April
3**

Pastor Charles Seet administers Holy Communion to churches in Batam.

**May
1**

Pastor Colin Wong administers Holy Communion to churches in Batam.

**May
28-29**

Regular visit to Tanjung Uban by Elder & Mrs. Sng.

June 5

Pastor Charles Seet administers Holy Communion to churches in Batam.

Free clinic for Batam churches by Medical and Dental mission team.

If you would like to participate in any of these mission trips please contact the Missions Committee at missionscom@lifebpc.com for more information.