



# 感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

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Rev James Lai

The Bible has shown us that the day of the Lord is near and thus it is the responsibility of every Christian today to fulfill the Lord Jesus' Great Commission before He returns. What strategies must we apply so that the unchanged gospel of God can be spread to all nations despite the rapidly changing world? Truly this has become a big challenge and a special need for all the Christians of today. The Lord has indeed entrusted this mission challenge to all of the churches of the 21st century. In recent years, we have realized that the "Business as Missions" concept is being used as the latest strategy to promote the gospel in God's ministry.

What is "Business as Missions" and what significance does it bring to missions? In order to answer this, the following three questions must be answered.

## (A) What is the definition of "Business as Missions"?

"Business as Missions" or BAM for short, is the use of business opportunities and activities to spread God's gospel to all nations. It is a platform to share the gospel, as well as an effective system to generate resources for

missions.

## (B) What does the Bible say about BAM?

When the Apostle Paul spread the gospel throughout the entire Roman Empire, he used business activities to generate income as well as to provide a platform to share the gospel with others. The missionary couple Priscilla and Aquila were also both involved in businesses while they were doing missions works. Lydia, a seller of purple cloth, made her business the main generator of resources for missions. Philemon, who was a merchant at that time, generously opened up his residence for Christian gatherings, later turning his house into a church. His actions not only touched the life of his servant but also many others around him. As can be seen, there are many good examples and role models in the New Testament.

The fundamental concept of BAM comes from the concept of being a 24-7 Christian. A true Christian serves God round-the-clock. In other words, Christians are 24-7 workers for God, which is the same for Christian businessmen and women. They must devote their time and life to the Lord - they are not part-time

Christians nor are they part-time workers for God even though they do not work in church. While they may play different roles and carry out different responsibilities when they are at home, at church, in the community, at commercial areas or public places, they are still “24-7 Christians.” Therefore, the concept of BAM came from the concept of “Missions in the Workplace.”

**(C) What is the Strategy of BAM ?**

**1. Business Platform in “Creative Access Nations”**

BAM serves as a bridge for missions workers to enter to the community so that they can reach out to the community in “closed” countries. Countries which are “closed” do not allow missionaries to enter their countries. However, mission workers can still spread the gospel to those countries through business opportunities and activities.

**2. Platform for Sharing the Gospel**

BAM has become a platform to share the gospel, just like any Christians can share the gospel in their work places. Their roles as business people can make it much easier to share the gospel than if they were self-proclaimed missionaries. The business role helps them avoid many religious issues which may be too sensitive to talk about openly.

**3. Generating Missions Resources**

BAM is not merely a contributor of money; it is

also a mobilization of all walks of life to participate in missions - it generates financial as well as human resources. Missions is not just a profession for missionaries; it is one that involves all Christians. Christians can offer their gifts, professions, talents and knowledge in order to serve in missions. Afterwards, the money generated is used to re-invest into the ministry for further development and support. As a result, this has eliminated the problem of the missions fields’ dependency on outside funds, as well as the worry of not having sufficient funds if the ministry needs to expand in future.

**4. Community Development**

BAM brings many employment opportunities to the local people; this will help improve the economy of the community, as well as its standard of living. Thus, BAM helps in the development of the local communities as well.

Last but not least, we pray that our Lord of missions will empower BAM. May God use it as a tool to enhance His global ministry. May He also bring forward many more brothers and sisters in Christ who have a heart for “Business as Missions.”

Dear Lord, may Your kingdom come; may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!



# Christmas Cheer Year 2012

Send a Gift, Meet a Need  
May God bless the missions field with your  
generous contribution!

Qty	Gift items	Response Slip
<p><b>I would like to contribute towards:</b></p> <p>_____ Winter Jackets@\$20 (RM50)</p> <p>_____ Blankets@\$15 (RM38)</p> <p>_____ Sweaters@\$5 (RM13)</p> <p>_____ Socks per dozen@\$12 (RM30)</p> <p>_____ Christian Literature@\$10 (RM25)</p> <p>_____ Colour Pencils and Drawing Paper@\$2 (RM5)</p> <p>_____ Children’s Bible Story Books@\$5 (RM12)</p> <p>_____ Set of Children’s Clothing@\$15 (RM38)</p> <p>_____ Laptops@\$800 (RM2,000)</p> <p>_____ Desktop Computers@\$750 (RM1,875)</p> <p>_____ Digital Cameras@\$360 (RM900)</p> <p>_____ Keyboards@\$1,130 (RM2,825)</p> <p>_____ Guitars@\$100 (RM250)</p> <p>_____ LCD Projectors@\$1,160 (RM2,900)</p> <p>_____ Scanners@\$55 (RM138)</p> <p>_____ First-aid Kits@\$115 (RM290)</p> <p>_____ Motorcycles@\$2,045 (RM5,110)</p> <p>_____ Bicycles@\$125 (RM310)</p> <p>_____ Umbrella @\$4 (RM10)</p> <p>_____ Cows@\$430 (RM1,075)</p> <p>_____ Young Pig@\$100 (RM250)</p> <p>_____ Coops of Chicks@\$35 (RM88)</p> <p>_____ Toilets@\$400 (RM1,000)</p> <p>_____ Drilled Wells@\$1,000 (RM2,500)</p> <p>_____ Industrial Electrical Meter @\$4,420 (RM11,000)</p>		<p>Name: _____ <i>(Rev / Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss)</i></p> <p>Add: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Tel: _____</p> <p>Please make your cheque payable to <b>CNEC SEA</b> and mail it with the response slips to: <b>CNEC</b> <b>P O Box 771, Toa Payoh North P O</b> <b>Singapore 913133</b></p> <p>For contribution in Malaysia, please make your cheque payable to: <b>Christian Nationals’ Evangelism Commission</b> and mail it with the response slips to: <b>CNEC</b> <b>P O Box 79, 81300 Skudai Johor</b> <b>Malaysia.</b></p> <p><i>Note: Your gift will be directed where most needed, at the discretion of CNEC.</i></p>
<p><b>Please note that the above electrical meter is for one time installation in order to enjoy the special rate for industrial usage at Grace Haven, Lashio.</b></p> <p>Total amount: S\$/RM _____</p>		

 <b>Winter Jacket</b> Number Needed: 610pcs <b>\$S20</b> each	 <b>Blanket</b> Number Needed: 790pcs <b>\$S15</b> each	 <b>Sweater</b> Number Needed: 590pcs <b>\$S5</b> each
 <b>Sock</b> Number Needed: 290 dozens <b>\$S12</b> / dozen	 <b>Christian Literature</b> Number Needed: 130books <b>\$S10</b> each	 <b>Colour Pencils &amp; Drawing Paper</b> Number Needed: 3000 sets <b>\$S2</b> / set
 <b>Children's Bible Story Book</b> Number Needed: 3010 books <b>\$S5</b> each	 <b>Children's Clothing</b> Number Needed: 650 sets <b>\$S15</b> / set	 <b>Laptop</b> Number Needed: 9units <b>\$S800</b> each
 <b>Desktop Computer</b> Number Needed: 37 units <b>\$S750</b> each	 <b>Digital Camera</b> Number Needed: 33 units <b>\$S360</b> each	 <b>Keyboard</b> Number Needed: 6 units <b>\$S1,130</b> each
 <b>Guitar</b> Number Needed: 62 units <b>\$S100</b> each	 <b>LCD Projector</b> Number Needed: 3 units <b>\$S1,160</b> each	 <b>Scanner</b> Number Needed: 2 units <b>\$S55</b> each
 <b>First-aid Kit</b> Number Needed: 10 boxes <b>\$S115</b> each	 <b>Motorcycle</b> Number Needed: 10 units <b>\$S2,045</b> each	 <b>Bicycle</b> Number Needed: 16 units <b>\$S125</b> each
 <b>Toilet</b> Number Needed: 24 units <b>\$S400</b> each	 <b>Drilled Well</b> Number Needed: 11 units <b>\$S1,000</b> each	 <b>Umbrella</b> Number Needed: 590 pcs <b>\$S4</b> each
 <b>Young Pig</b> Number Needed: 40 <b>\$S100</b> each	 <b>Coop of Chicks</b> Number Needed: 50 coops <b>\$S35</b> / coop	 <b>Cow</b> Number Needed: 40 <b>\$S430</b> each
 <b>Installation of Electrical Meter</b> Number Needed: 1 unit <b>\$S4,420</b>	<b>We look to the Lord to be your guide in your gifts this Christmas to meet the many needs in our missions work.</b>	

# First Pair of Shoes

Article written by Yan Lian  
(staff of CNEC)

Pastor Thein Than Tun, from the Alabama tribe, was born in Myanmar and can speak fluent English. He married a wife from Jingpo and completed his theological education in India, living there for several years. He went to Insein, which is a slum area in the northwest part of Yangon in 2007 to share the gospel there. However, Pastor Tun was shocked to see the state of poverty there. The shabby little huts could hardly shelter people from the forceful wind and stormy rain during the rainy season; little girls and boys were walking on their bare feet on uneven paths covered with stones and holes, which were especially muddy on rainy days. Pastor Tun found out later that they were bare-footed because they had no shoes. Not only that, they also had no umbrellas. Pastor Tun also discovered that they wore the same clothes most of the time because during the rainy days, their clothing would get soaked but would then dry up after the sun came out... so the children simply continued to wear the same shirt and pair of pants for days on end. Hungry kids wandered on the streets, occasionally rummaging in the garbage heap to look for food and valuable things that could be exchanged for coins. If they were lucky, they could find a few plastic bottles and exchange them for money. The coins they received could only purchase small buns, which hardly filled the stomachs of everyone in their families. Thus, tomorrow was always unknown to them. Pastor Tun's heart filled with pain as he witnessed all of this. He prayed, "Dear God, please let me know what I can do for all these children."

Praise the Lord for touching Pastor Tun and leading him to start a series of ministries in Insein. Through the Sponsor-A-Child (SAC) Program with CNEC, Pastor Tun contacted the local poor children. There were 25 kids in the first batch of children to receive help from SAC. These children were blessed with an opportunity to go

to school and fulfill their dreams to study, thanks to CNEC's help! In the same year, our co-worker Pastor Ting Jie from Yongon helped five children to obtain further sponsorship, which brought about the establishment of Grace Haven in Insein. Thank God for His blessings – there are now 21 children at Grace Haven after many years of hard work by the pastors. As of today, the SAC Program has aided 55 children attend schools. We have witnessed the power of God among us - there are many children who came from a Buddhist background but who happily and willingly accepted Jesus as their personal Savior when they heard the gospel. The Lord Jesus has indeed changed the lives of many of these children. Not only that, but many of the children's parents and relatives have come to know Jesus, too. The ministry in Insein has shared the gospel with many different ethnic groups: the Burmese, Karen, Kachin, Indian-Karen, Wa, and Han.

To many poor children living in Insein, Christmas Day in 2007 was indeed an unforgettable day for them since it was the first time they had ever received a Christmas gift in their lives! They not only received their first blanket, but they also received their first pair of shoes. Many children, upon receiving their shoes, were unsure what to do with them. Some put on their shoes quickly, some hugged each other closely, some shed tears and some just held their shoes tightly in their arms - fearing that the shoes might disappear or grow wings and fly away like birds!

Messages from the children who received their first pair of shoes that year were touching. A little girl called Latt said she was very grateful to God, as well as the sponsors who bought them the shoes. She recalled

how she had felt plenty of pain when she was walking bare-foot. Another child named Naing thanked all the aunts and uncles who had contributed the shoes. He felt very ashamed to have had no shoes so he had chosen not to walk around because he had no courage to do so. Praise the Lord! We thank God for all the blessings that resulted from providing shoes. The children went

from having no footwear to owning a pair of shoes and from no opportunity to attend school to being able to walk to school in shoes. It was truly God's blessing! More importantly, however, the children and their family went from not knowing God to accepting Jesus as their personal Savior. These children can also continue to know God better through attending Sunday School and reading the Word of God.

Christmas is approaching again. As we browse through the thank you letters sent by the children to their sponsors, it is evident that the children are all looking forward to this festive season. One child stated that Christmas is his happiest day of the year, though he is hoping that he will receive a gift different from what he received a year ago. Another child said that each time she thinks of Christmas and the gift she received, her heart is full of thanksgiving because her Christmas gift is the only gift she receives all year.

As a concluding note to all our dear sponsors and donors: thank you so much for your past support of these needy children. May God continue to bless you this Christmas and may the children be blessed, too, when you light up their hopes with your abundant love!



# Holy Land Tour

**14 Days - Jordan / Israel**  
**10<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013**



**Package Fee : S\$4,800**  
**Includes : Airfare, Accommodation, Local Transport, Admission Fee to Places of Interest, Visa, Airport taxes, Tips & Travel Insurance**  
**Excludes : Personal Expenses, Additional Charge for Single Occupancy S\$900**  
**Closing : 26th Dec 2012**  
**Contact : Richard Teo @9790-3268 or ricteo@cneintl.org for registration**



**CNEC International Ltd.**

**MINISTRIES: INDIGENOUS CHURCH, BIBLE SCHOOL, TRIBAL WORKS, SPONSOR-A-CHILD MINISTRY, CREATIVE ACCESS MINISTRY, HOLISTIC MISSIONS**

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*All funds received are to support CNEC ministries; the operation cost is not more than 20% to sustain the office for ministries' purposes.*