



感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會

Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission

134/136 Braddell Road, Singapore 359919.

Tel: (65) 6280-0312 Fax: (65) 6280-0078

P.O. Box address: P.O. Box 771, Toa Payoh North, Singapore 913133

Email: cnec@cnecintl.org Website: www.cnecintl.org

UEN S62SS0068H

MCI(P)No.: 008/08/2016

1st Quarter 2017

Reflecting on 25 Years of Mission Trips ministering with The Word and Deeds

Dr. Ben Sia

I still remember our first **short-term mission trip (STMT)** 25 years ago when we, encouraged by Rev Paul Chang, went to Northern Thailand. For two weeks, we visited villages there, sharing God's love, in words, prayers and with some medical and dental ministries. Since then, I have been doing such trips regularly. The pattern and method of these STMT has remained essentially unchanged. So have the challenges, hurdles and shortcomings as well as the great rewards and blessings.

Apostle Paul exhorts us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Gal. 6:9-10)

Regularly facing challenges, distractions and weariness, such ministries would not have been possible over two decades if not for the grace of God. We can only continue if **the foundation** of why we minister is because **God cares** – God cares for the people and for me. Our loving, wise, almighty and good God has given us the immense privilege of being his partners to go and do good – to embrace others with love, helping them to know and experience Him, to become his dedicated followers-disciples.



When **the first disciples started their mission after the Pentecost**, they preached (Acts 2), they healed (Acts 3:1-10 healing of the poor, a crippled beggar) and then they preached again (Acts 3:11-26). This **combination of "The Word" and "Compassionate Deeds"** is a recurring way the first disciples did mission. Their missionary endeavours often involved moving from one place to another, as led by the Holy Spirit, and **staying in one location for days, weeks, months or years.**

The geography of the first century missionaries is surprisingly extensive considering the lack of modern day transportation and communication. Today, traveling is of course made a lot easier. The Lord has called me to such a pattern of doing mission – with STMT, combining Word and Deeds, especially during my pre-"retirement" days as a doctor with my limitations for truly long-term stay in the mission fields.

It has been a wonderful journey with the Lord over the last 25 years. There are frustrations too! **STMT medical work** is quite limited in the medical benefits to the patients long-term. The medical delivery comes far short of the ideal of a developed medical system. Yet, there are many cases when our prayers and medical treatments help the patients avoid an acute medical problem or even crisis, or help start the reversing of long-term medical ailments. The Lord is particularly gracious in these disadvantaged villages.

I still recall my first patient in Golden Triangle unable to walk for months, "running" to greet me the next day with great joy after receiving some anti-inflammatory for her painful knees the day before.

Then a Bible College lecturer in Myitichina caught up with me 15 years after I treated him (or rather, after I linked him to the local TB therapy) as he was dying of TB. He has become more committed in his walk and studied to now teach at a local Bible College. His gratitude was very touching.

I recall a woman, working in the Yangon Justice Department, possessed by the demon and we prayed and she was delivered. Her abnormal physical appearance totally reverted and joy filled her.

There are children with cancer, heart problems, skin conditions, epilepsies, and men and women with severe diabetes, Hypertension, heart failure, lung and airway problems, chronic menorrhagia, anaemia etc. who are healed with prayers and rather limited medicals. And there are many more with the more "common" medical and dental illnesses helped.

The important thing is that the patients felt cared for.



They, often for the first time felt treasured by strangers; and this conveys how God treasures them. We reinforce that with The Word. The impact goes beyond the individual patients, as the whole village and their chief, receive such godly love warmly and with gratitude. **Our local Christian partners would follow this up** and continue to bless these villages with schools, orphanages, student centres, children and family ministries, clean water, preventive medical and social works etc. Incredibly, I see **family worships and churches established** in nearly all of these villages we pioneered with medical works. I truly rejoice to see that some good has come to them holistically as I see the promise of Jesus' giving them an abundant life realized.

We would continue to strategize good ways to assist the communities going forward. For example, one important aspect towards the communities blessed is that they have **good, godly, educated, wise and capable upcoming leaders nurtured. Student Centres** that house their young men and

women to nurture and educate them, or **Precious Student Tuition Centres** that give them tuition daily to improve their studies and to give pastoral guide for their lives, are aimed at seeing the young people, over about ten years, holistically guided, nurtured, supported and encouraged from young till adulthood. They would contribute significantly to the blessed leadership of their communities.

All these can progress only if we are **sensitive and humble partners with the local Christian groups**. I feel much gratitude that I have been able to participate with such **a mission work blueprint** of using STMT means, emphasizing on The Word and Deeds hand in hand, walking humbly with the local groups, and daily looking to the grace and empowering of our good God. I pray that the Lord would continue to lead and sustain me and I would learn to submit more obediently in the coming days with this immense privilege of serving in His footsteps. There have been many blessings and I know more will keep coming.



Three children of Dr Tay (Left to Right): Dr Tay Yeng Kwang, Dr Lawrence Tay Lee Chen and Dr Tay Jia Yin

When a thick parcel from CNEC arrived in my mailbox, I found dozens of letters from Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Northern Thailand, and Kalimantan. These letters are written by beneficiaries of the 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme. When I look at these handwritten letters, it is as though I am gazing into the faces behind their heartfelt words – faces of children who scarcely believe they have been given something precious.

I first came across the 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme in 1988. At that time, I was still an intern with Johor Bahru General Hospital. When my pastor shared on this cross-border project, I saw it not only as an opportunity to help the poor and orphaned children go to school, but also an opportunity to play a part in missions.

As a young graduate from the medical school, I was drawing a humble pay check and could only afford to sponsor one or two children at a time. In those days, it took about RM25 monthly to sponsor a child. Over the years, my capacity to give financially grew, and I gradually increased my financial contributions to sponsor more children. At one time, I was sponsoring up to fifty children. Since my intern days till I established my own practice in 1993, I gave faithfully every month to CNEC's 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme.

During the Chinese New Year of 2001, I went on a mission trip, bringing along a case of medicines as well as my two college-going sons. It was a one-week mission trip to Myanmar led by a Melbourne-based church. It was an enriching and memorable week for us. I met the children under the 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme. Their eyes and words were full of gratitude and I was deeply moved. My conviction was affirmed – investing in their lives and their education was the best we could do for these children.

Over the past twenty years, the Malaysian Ringgit had been badly hit by the global financial crisis, and the cost of sponsoring a child has risen significantly. Meanwhile,

Evangelism in Action

Dr. Tay Chon Chong

(CNEC Malaysia Board Member, SAC Sponsor)

CNEC also raised the contribution requirement across all age groups for the 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme. As a result of the financial crisis, many sponsors decided to reduce or even completely withdraw their sponsorship. As I was feeling disheartened by the thought that many children may have their future thrown into disarray, God prompted me to change my outlook on giving. I decided not to fret about the number of children I could sponsor, but to simply give a fixed sum of money and allow CNEC to distribute as they deem fit. It has worked out well for more than a decade.

In the recent two years, the Malaysian economy took yet another blow. Indeed various factors have caused the current financial crisis to be worse than that of 1996. When I heard that many sponsors were again holding back their sponsorship, I increased my monthly contributions and encouraged my sons to participate in similar sponsorship programmes organised by their churches. Praise be to God! They not only gave to the 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme but also visited the mission fields!

Over the years I know that the Lord is pleased with my offering. He has watched over my career, and blessed my sons richly. They are blessed with stable jobs and they are also actively serving in church. I am thankful that the Lord has kept me safe from the economic crunch. As I reflect on the last six decades of my life, I find that I am just a tiny vessel in a vast ocean! Although the sea is stormy but with Christ in the vessel I am able to keep moving ahead, to continue being part of the 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme and even go out to the mission fields!

Blessed are those who have received from the 'Sponsor-A-Child' programme, and who have had their lives transformed as a result. They have been given a new lease of life. This is the best form of returns such an investment can generate. To all those who have reached out to these children with open arms, I trust that the Lord will fulfill His promises, and add grace upon grace to you! As the Scripture says: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Cor 9:8)

May all who seek to obey His will be blessed! "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22)



Stepping into Missions

Dr. Tay Yeng Kwang

(Elder Son of Dr Tay Chon Chong, who is a CNEC Malaysia Board Member)

I remembered the year when I finished college; I have many uncertainties about my future. My father is a medical doctor. I am only interested in the medical field and I have no interest in other disciplines. However, I never gave much thought about how to secure a place in the medical school.

The same year, my brother and I accompanied my father on a medical mission trip to Myanmar. Apart from the three of us, the rest of the team members were from a church in Australia Melbourne. There was a dentist, a medical student, a few nurses, as well as several young adults who responded to the Great Commission. Under the leadership of Rev. James Lai, we ventured into the rural areas in Myanmar. While I was there, I witnessed how the doctors attended to the sick, brought relief to people's physical suffering through their profession. At the same time, I saw how the doctors shared the good news with their patients, hoping that they would also encounter Jesus Christ, who could free them from their spiritual bondage. What I saw left a profound impression on me.

My brother and I were 17 and 18 years old at the time of the trip. Beyond the limited exposure gained from observing my father at his clinic, I was otherwise clueless about the world of medicine. We brought a sizeable amount of medical supply with us. My brother and I were tasked to look after the baggage. When we arrived, we were accommodated in a local orphanage. In the next few days, we busied ourselves in the makeshift clinic. From dusk to dawn, the doctor attended to hundreds of patients, while the dentist performed hundreds of tooth extractions. Rev. Lai and the young adults also seized the opportunity to share their testimonies with the patients and prayed for them. The young adults also conducted English class for the children in the orphanage. Time passes very quickly during the week.

People we met have simple childlike faith. When their physical ailments were relieved, many were ready to accept Jesus into their lives. Praise the Lord! When every member of the team played their parts using their spiritual gifts and talents, God added to the local church many who were being saved. As a result of the time spent with the Melbourne church

mission team, I decided to pursue my studies in Melbourne.

When I was in the medical school, I went on a second mission trip. My then girlfriend (now my wife) and I joined a mission team to Kunming, Yunnan. That mission trip was organised by my church. We hosted a 10-day English winter camp for a local primary school. The children who attended the camp were from Bu Yi ethnic group. Except for our team leader (the pastor), the team members were all young people. We planned a three days two nights programme which includes art and craft, songs and dance, sports and games. The programme was well-received. The children brought their friends. Some came from another village. We received more children each day. The locals were poor and many children came without shoes. Their soiled outfits have not been washed for a long time. Dripping mucus was visible on the innocent face. What impressed me was the sight of older children carrying their younger siblings, walked a long distance to attend the day camp. When the day ended, they brought their craft work, huddled their siblings and walked the same distance home. One of their teachers told us that parents have to work a long day in the field. Older children were responsible for taking care of their younger siblings.

After the children camp ended, we went out in groups of three to visit the homes in the village. On one occasion, we met a lady in her fifties who had an injured foot. Due to her diabetic condition, she had an infected wound. As I only brought along three days' supply of antibiotics and antipyretics, I explained to her the severity of her condition and advised her to visit a hospital for treatment. However, she was not willing to leave the village for the Kunming City Hospital because she has to care for her children at home. Before I left I prayed for her, asking God that in His goodness show mercy to her. The following year, a mission team which visited the same village brought me some good news. Her foot was completely healed. She was full of gratitude. I knew that it was not the work of those few pills I had given her, but it was because of her childlike faith and the merciful God who heard our prayers.

Praise the Lord! This year I have another opportunity to serve with the medical mission team from my Melbourne church. I hope the Lord will continue to use the skills I acquired with His grace to be a witness in my profession and to bring the gospel to many lives for the glory of His kingdom. I wish to encourage all my fellow brothers- and sisters-in Christ to offer your time, talents and financial resources to the mission fields.



The Fruit of Evangelism

Dr. Lawrence Tay Lee Chen

(Second son of Dr Tay Chon Chong, who is a CNEC Malaysia Board Member)

I thank God that I was born into a Christian family. When I was little, I came across many Bible stories in Sunday school. When I was young, my parents made it a point to gather us every night for Bible reading and prayer.

Before entering primary school, I was already picking up the Chinese language through our daily reading of the Scriptures. I was fascinated by the Bible stories because they

were superhero adventures to a young child – whenever Jesus appeared, illnesses would be cured, and emotional hurts would be healed. I saw that the truth preached by Jesus was far above the wisdom of mankind, and I was deeply drawn to Him. I was fortunate to have a Christian upbringing, and to grow up in a well-loved and a protected environment. I also had the opportunities to attend Sunday school, youth fellowship, and countless church camps.

While life seemed to be a smooth going journey, I could not help but feel that deep inside, there was something lacking. It was not until 2001, when I was still in college that by the grace of God, I had the opportunity to accompany my dad

and elder brother on a mission trip. My dad was a medical doctor, and we accompanied him on a short term medical mission to Myanmar. Thinking back, I had embarked on the trip filled with pride and excitement, as it was my time experiencing the short-term missions! Although our trip to Myanmar was only a week, it opened my eyes to the world with a whole new perspective and enlightened my thoughts about life.

Firstly, I saw God worked his ways through the willing hands of His servants. The abilities and talents of men will not accomplish the will of God; God wants the surrendered and willing heart of a servant. Was that not so with Moses when he led the people of Israel out of Egypt, or when David defeated Goliath? These men of faith brought blessings to their people through their obedience to God. Likewise, for any great undertaking, if without the Lord watching over us, it would all end in naught. Psalm 127:1 "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."

Secondly, I learnt that if we do not step into the mission fields, we would not see the pressing needs. As the Bible says: "...The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matt 9: 37-38) On that trip, besides running pro-bono clinics in the villages, we also visited the local schools and an orphanage. I witnessed for myself their undeveloped transportation network (or should I say - dangerous mountainous dirt trails), the extent of their poverty (many lacked water and electricity supplies), the handicapped and orphans who had been deliberately abandoned by their parents. Although many of them have prostheses to ease their mobility, only God's love can heal the emotional trauma they have gone through. All these were a stark contrast to the comfortable and urban lives we have!

Thirdly, I learnt that God has blessed us abundantly with His grace so that we may bless the needy with His gospel. In this world that we live, there are the prosperous, wealthy, and powerful regions but there are also the impoverished, under-developed and war-torn fields. While some live in a modern cities where new discoveries and breakthroughs are celebrated daily; others live in hopelessness, suffering and constant struggle for survival. These are two very different worlds at the extreme ends of wealth and poverty.

I also witnessed first-hand that when the love of Christ reaches a community, there will be hospitals, schools, and sanitation facilities. We have to solve their real life issues before we can share with them the atoning death of Christ, the love of our heavenly Father and

His redemptive plan. In other words, to fulfil the Great Commission, we need to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We pursue a calling different from this world. We achieved this through the short-term mission.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:19-20)

Notice

Our Vietnam Field coordinator, Karis has left us last December to pursue further studies in Canada. Brother Luke joined us in the beginning of 2017. Kindly please pray for Luke and the Vietnam Ministry.

The LORD's Grace is upon all Nations! Rejoice!

主恩臨萬邦 門徒齊頌揚

65th Anniversary & Mission Festival

4 March 2017, Sat 7.30~9pm
Welcome Tea & Exhibition: 6.30~7.30

- Sharing Mission Strategies • Kindling the Passion for Missions • Broadening Mission Perspectives
- Looking Ahead to the Latest Mission Trends • Shouldering Mission Responsibilities Together

Mr Dennis Tsang Rev & Mrs Samuel Cheung Pastor Peter Chung

~ Praise & Worship Celebration ~ Meet the Coworkers from Mission Fields ~
~ Experience Local Ethnic Culture ~ Sample Traditional Local Snacks ~

Venue: The People's Bible Church / 圣经圣经教会 (Level 4/5) @ 20, Lorong Ah See, Singapore 536698

Co-organising Churches: Barclay Christian Church | Layan Christian Church | Oikon Christian Church | Living Streams Christian Church | Glory Joy Christian Church | Eng Kong Christian Church | Tzi Sing Christian Church | Kim Keng Christian Church | Newton Life Church | The People's Bible Church

CNEC (Malaysia) 65th Anniversary & Mission Festival
Date: 5th March 2017 (Sunday) Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Venue: Persatuan Persaudaraan Kristian Visi JB
1 Jalan Mutiara 5, Tmn Perindustrian Plentong 81750, Masai Malaysia

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

CNEC/PI Affiliates

USA: 1117E. Westview Court, Spokane, WA 99218. Tel: (509) 343-4000 Fax: (509) 343-4015
US Chinese Partnership Mobilization: North California Office-10060 Pasadena Ave Cupertino, CA 95014-5917 Tel: (650) 862-8265 Fax: (408) 873-1287
Canada: 8500 Torbram Rd. #56, Brampton, ONT L6T 5C6. Tel: (905) 458-1202 Fax: (905) 458-4339
UK: Armstrong House First House - Robin Hood Airport Doncaster DN9 3AG. Tel: 013-02-710273 Fax: 013-02-710027
Australia: P.O. Box 711, Five Dock, NSW 2046, Tel: (02) 97128222 Fax: (02) 97125055
Japan: 1001, 2-7-63 Nishinakahara, Shizuoka-shi 422. Tel/Fax: 054-283-9317
Singapore: 134/136 Braddell Road, Singapore 359919. Tel: (65) 6280-0312 Fax: (65) 6280-0078

All funds received in support of CNEC ministries, not more than 20% is used to sustain the office for ministries' purposes