



# 感恩与代禱 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會

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## Moving Forward Together in Grace

Rev James Lai

*'It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.'* (Philippians 1:7)

As we enter the sixty sixth year of ministries, together with all our partners in missions, let's look back at what the Lord had done through us in the past, and at the same time look ahead to the challenges of missions in the future.

Geographically, we have reached out to almost all the countries in South East Asia except Brunei. Having started to reach out to the Philippines this year, we are about to finish our goal of covering South East Asia geographically. We do know that we must not only spread the Gospel widely but need to plant the Word of God deeply in the hearts of every believer.

As a reminder to ourselves, our organization needs to be purpose-driven and objective-oriented. We should not be like a rocking horse, giving only the illusion of movement but not actually moving forward to an objective. Therefore, we have gathered all our National Directors and co-workers from our office for a Summit in March and we have presented to them the purpose and direction of our organization, and the work that needs to be done.

### A. The five emphases of our ministries

1. Children Ministry: A pioneering initiative that will raise up future Christian leaders.
2. University Student Ministry: To develop Christians leaders in the middle class of the society in each country.
3. Training Ministry: To raise up and prepare servants of the Lord to accomplish the Great Commission in their countries.
4. Unreached People Groups: To reach the unreached,

so as to accomplish the Great Commission of the Lord.

5. Holistic Ministry: To use holistic approach to raise up a Christian community, and also to transform the community holistically.

Briefly,

**Win the future generation**

**Pass on the baton**

**Empower and equip new national leaders**

**Influence the society**

**Go to the Unreached**

**Reaching the unreached**

**Share a Holistic Gospel**

**Evangelism through holistic approach**

**Transform the communities**

**Blessings for the Poor**

### B. Maturity-Driven Ministry Development

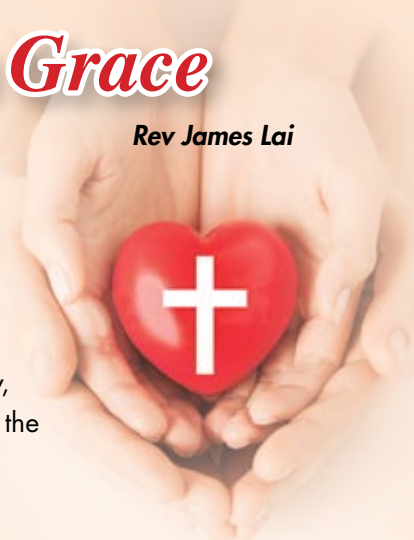
#### Maturity Index for Missions Field

Spirituality	Leadership and Management
Financial Independence	Numeric Growth

### C. What we have achieved

According to the purpose and goal of our organization, what we have achieved through the local directors are as follow:

Children ministry: 3, 200 sponsored children, 350 sponsored workers, 20 orphanages, 25 schools, 12 tuition centers and 8 student centers.



University Ministry in: Phnom Penh, Yangon, Luang Prabang

Training: 7 Bible Schools, 3 Schools of Missions

Holistic Transformation: 9 Micro Enterprise Projects, 2 loans and 1 BAM project

People groups: 60 people groups

#### D. Challenges ahead

1. There are about 1,136 unreached people groups in the countries which we are reaching out to. We only managed to reach out to about 6% of these unreached groups. We will not be able to reach out to all but we aim to reach out to at least 20% of these groups in the next ten years. We will put our emphasis

on the biggest unreached group in the coming years.

2. There are many more big cities which we need to setup university student ministries. Cities such as Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi, Mandalay, Banjarmasin, Pontianak, Bangkok, Ubon, and Battambang, and so forth.

3. Our MEP and BAM projects need improvement. We need more help, networks and experts to come in to support these projects.

4. Training for the future leadership is very important as some of the fields leaders are getting older and there is a need for a succession plan.

*(Data below is taken from Joshua Project)*

Country	Total Population	Number of People Groups	People Groups Unreached	Population in Unreached	Official Language	Literacy Rate	Largest Religion	% Professing Christian	% Evangelical
Indonesia	257,236,000	779	223(28.6%)	163,796,000(63.7%)	Indonesian	94%	Islam(82.1%)	12.8%	3.76%
Malaysia	30,681,000	186	83(44.6%)	16,050,000(52.3%)	Malay	95%	Islam(56.0%)	8.6%	3.27%
Thailand	68,050,000	115	82(71.3%)	67,072,000(98.6%)	Thai	97%	Buddhism(84.8%)	1.3%	0.51%
Myanmar	54,302,000	150	49(32.7%)	45,388,000(83.6%)	Burmese	93%	Buddhism(75.1%)	9.0%	5.14%
Laos	6,893,000	135	113(83.7%)	5,616,000(81.5%)	Lao	79%	Buddhism(60.4%)	3.4%	2.31%
Vietnam	94,313,000	118	69(58.5%)	8,563,000(9.1%)	Vietnamese	95%	Buddhism(52.1%)	9.5%	1.75%
Philippines	701,383,000	201	30(14.9%)	5,017,000(4.9%)	Tagalog	95%	Christianity( 91.0%)	91.0%	12.2%
Cambodia	15,787,000	42	30(71.4%)	15,670,000(99.3%)	Khmer	96%	Buddhism(85.1%)	3.2%	1.61%
Brunei	422,000	24	8(33.3%)	235,000(55.8%)	Malay	96%	Islam(66.2%)	11.7%	5.27%
Singapore	5,653,000	49	19(38.9%)	919,000(16.3%)	English	94%	Buddhism(40.9%)	13.5%	6.53%



## Remembering Professor Lee Sing Kong (1951-2017)

Rev Paul Chang

**“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.’” (Revelation 14:13, NIV)**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May this year, it seemed like a regular Friday evening and I was at home with members of the Grace Chinese Fellowship. Out of the blue my phone rang, and it was Rev James Lai on the line. In a grave tone, he conveyed to me the news that Prof Lee had just passed on after a heart attack! This sudden news caught me off guard and in that moment, I thought it could not possibly be true. It was only a few days ago that we were discussing various strategies for the growth and development of CNEC. And now, he had left so suddenly.....with anguish in my heart, I rushed down to Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, to bid goodbye to a dear friend I have known for more than forty years.

The next few nights of memorial services filled me with a myriad of thoughts. I heard testimony after testimony from

his family, his colleagues and even the press, remembering his contributions towards Singapore’s education system, horticulture technology, and the greening of our island, and my heart was filled with thanksgiving to God. Prof Lee was highly esteemed as an academic and widely regarded as an expert in his field. From 2006 to 2014 he was the director of our National Institute of Education; in August 2015, he took on the role of Vice President (Education Strategies) at Nanyang Technological University. In these capacities, his unwavering commitment towards improving the teaching profession and public education system was felt both nationally as well as globally. As reported in the Chinese newspaper (Lianhe Zaobao), Prof Lee played a leading role in the preservation and development of Singapore’s national parks and greenery, helping to bring to reality the vision of the late founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew: Singapore as a garden city. In recognition of his various contributions to society, he became the first Singaporean to receive the prestigious Medal for Distinguished Service in



Dr Lee at Rev Paul Chang's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Dr Lee chaired the Church Council Meeting in 1995



Dr Lee (second from left) enjoyed lunch with co-workers before a church activity

2013, the highest honour awarded by the Teachers College, Columbia University (USA). He found firm friendships with leaders and experts from across the world, who were inspired by his character as well as his values .

I am particularly grateful that Dr Lee Sing Kong became *CNEC's chairman and member of our board of directors*—together we established the global mission strategy of CNEC. From the nineties, there has been a rise of Creative Access missions, with a push to reach the impoverished, closed off and oppressed peoples. Many professionals have since got involved in Creative Access missions. Similarly, Prof Lee entered the mission field as an educationalist and horticulturalist. He shared his award-winning research in aeroponics technology with impoverished local farmers in developing nations, imparting to them the knowledge and technique. He vigorously promoted the practical implementation of mission strategies.

I first got to know brother Sing Kong in the seventies. I had only just arrived in Singapore, and he struck me as a young and energetic lad, full of witty humour. I was privileged to witness his growth over the years. He won a scholarship to study horticultural science in New Zealand, and earned his doctorate in plant biotechnology at the National University of Singapore. He was passionate about church life; not only was he a founding member of the Oikos Christian Church (English service), he also served as a deacon. He served the Lord faithfully, exercising his gift and passion for teaching. He taught Sunday School for many years and was always interested in the growth and development of youths, till his last moment. I worked with and knew him intimately: knowing that he had served the Lord with joy and was taken Home painlessly to be with

our Father, is a comfort to me. I am grateful for his tireless support for my ministry and for the care and concern he has shown to me.

He loved the Lord, he loved his neighbours, and he gave selflessly. He made multiple trips to Grace Haven at Lashio, Myanmar and would get alongside the children in the vegetable garden, patiently teaching them how to grow their vegetables. Till this day, the greens served during mealtimes at the Grace Haven orphanage, are harvested right from this very garden. He was unpretentious and lived simply. Yet when he heard of how a Burmese girl was struggling to pay her tuition fees, he immediately offered to help, and saw her through her secondary school education. He led an exemplary life, found favour with many, and was ever ready to help a person in need. Once there was an entrepreneur who wanted to thank Prof Lee for his help by giving him a Mercedes Benz but he politely declined it without hesitation.

Our brother Sing Kong's sudden passing has without doubt caused CNEC to lose a good coworker, a good chairman, and caused me to lose a dear friend. Though he is no longer with us, he has left behind a legacy of honouring God, loving others, and giving his best for God's kingdom. His warm smile and gracious ways will always be cherished in the hearts of those who knew him.



Dr Lee and Rev Paul Chang at 2012 CNEC Christmas Thanksgiving Dinner



Working in the vegetable garden (Myanmar)



Teaching at Northern Shan State Union Christian College (Myanmar)



Dr Lee played with the Sunday School children

# Micro Enterprises

**M**icro Enterprises in remote areas help to eradicate poverty and provide the disadvantaged a means of self support. Micro enterprise revenue from Piao Bai tea plantation helps Piao Bai Church in Northern Thailand to be self supporting for several years. Dairy Cows in Myanmar Lhavo Grace Haven

Orphanage add income to feed more than 100 children in the home.

We pray that more projects could emulate these successful models and God's provision of Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Business mentors and seed money to further the works of this mission.



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

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