



# 感恩与代禱 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會

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## The Unsung Heroes

**"known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything." (2 Cor 6:9-10 NIV)**

These verses vividly described the life of Paul the Apostle and the life of an "Evangelist." Often being despised, persecuted, and isolated, but at the same time, admired and praised by many! They did not seek fame or fortune, gains or losses, but chose to single-mindedly and wholeheartedly carry out the task that God has entrusted to them. They proclaimed the Gospel of God, brought salvation to lost souls, and led many to freedom, peace and joy. Yet, they themselves often endured poverty, hardship and persecution. However, unruffled by all these, they sought only to preach the Gospel and expand the Kingdom of God!

Through path of thorns, they left their footprints in the mountainous, poor and remote villages. They were the faithful

servants of God and the trail-blazers in the gospel ministry. Their role underwent countless changes in this process: from a "father" to a "master-teacher" of an orphanage; from a "coach" to a "mentor" in the ministry. These interchanging roles were crucial in the transmission of faith from one generation to the next.

In this issue of our quarterly newsletter, we are honoured to share with you three unsung heroes who have been labouring silently in the mission field. May their heart-warming deeds, dedication and enthusiasm toward missions stir us once again to reflect upon our response to the commission from God, His calling and how as a community we can "all become actively involved in missions"!

## The Legacy of A Mayor

**He was once a mayor, overseeing the running of a city.  
He is a servant of God, shepherding the flock of God's Kingdom.**

Myanmar, in the courtyard of Myitkyina. The morning sunlight ushered in by the crowing of the rooster, gradually passed through the gaps between the leaves, through the early fog, shining into the yard. The Old Servant was all ready, patiently waiting for the arrival of the children. Year after year, the Old Servant never grew weary. He is the epitome of diligence and thriftiness. Rev Leim Khao @ Rev Dr Lum Khawng, who partnered with him for the longest time, once said, "There aren't many who can serve together with him for a long time, as he is a very hardworking man. If you want to serve with him, be prepared to be as hardworking. If not, you definitely won't last long."

In CNEC's Myanmar ministry, Myitkyina is a small city, located near the northern border of Myanmar. The Old Servant was once the highly respected mayor of this city. He was deeply concerned about the daily life of the people, especially the poor, the orphans, the widows as well as the outcasts. After he stepped down, he chose to forgo the comfort and peace of his retirement life. Instead, he decided to invest the rest of his life in God's Kingdom. He saw the importance of evangelism, the hunger in the souls, and he was determined to lead them to know the Lord, the "Fountain of Living Water".



With the support of the local church and CNEC, the Old Servant founded the first orphanage in Myitkyina. With God's providence, the orphanage grew from 12 children to 180 in 20 years. The small piece of land has turned into a big place that now holds 40 cows and grows vegetables and fruits. This is all by God's grace! We are extremely thankful as these cows came from a few that CNEC gave 14 years ago. If we had not witnessed these ourselves, we would not have believed it!

Meanwhile, what is more heartening is that from among these children, more than 30 university graduates have been nurtured. Some of them serve as full time ministers in various churches; while others started working in various government sectors or research centers. Regardless of the positions they hold, they have been all groomed by the Old Servant, to be the messengers of Gospel.

Each of us faces moments of weakness and helplessness. The Old Servant too encountered financial and vocational difficulties in his ministry, and even thought of giving up.

However, the children in the orphanage were his biggest motivation. He once shared, "Even though the process was tough, whenever I see the smiles of innocence, hope and love on the children's faces, all the hardship disappeared instantly and I felt re-energized!"



The Old Servant's unwavering love for God and the children could be seen and heard everywhere. Besides ensuring that every child gets food, has the opportunity to be educated and is fed spiritually, he also prays for each and every one of them all the time. For most people, remembering another person's name is not difficult. However, it takes time to know the character and preferences. Pastor Ze Khao, who is the successor of the Old Servant (he was from the first batch of orphans), recounted, "He always prayed for each and every one of us in the home, and he named us one by one in his prayers. I often heard my name in his prayers. From his prayers, I deeply felt his love and concern for us. Be it in winter or summer, he would go to the children and pray for them."

Thanks to his unwavering dedication and steadfast faith in God, the Gospel spread rapidly in Myitkyina. His spiritual life has also influenced the younger generation. Currently, the ministry here is gradually moving towards the goal of self-support and self-sufficiency. The children in the orphanage were taught from young



to cherish food and resources. All the children, including those with disabilities, spent their rest time helping out at the fields, vegetable gardens, pigpens and cowsheds. To them, the Old Servant is not only an amiable elderly, but also a strict teacher. His encouragement to them after the completion of a task was always "it could be better". He does not praise easily, as he believes that everyone has room for improvement. A co-worker shared, "Whenever I show him my result slip, he would always say it could be better. His compliments remained the same even when my results were outstanding."



All this time, he not only preaches, but also walks the talk, setting an example for the co-workers and children. At the age of 80, he is still as passionate about evangelism. He knew the importance of passing the baton so that the second generation leaders can succeed him and continue to spread the Gospel. Hence, although his body has weakened, he still perseveres with the new generation leaders in leading the children in prayers together, committing the days ahead to the Lord.

Given his dedication, humility and obedience, the second half of his life is undeniably one that glorifies God and edifies people. Praise the Lord! We have the opportunity to share his glorious and remarkable life with all of you. Who is this Old servant then? He is none other than Rev K. Haw Lum, our unsung hero in the mission field!

## The Noble and Respected "Da-die"

**"If you have two days' worth of work to complete, you finish it in one day if you can; however, if you only have one day's worth of food, you finish it in two days if you can." This is the quote by a respected Burmese pastor who offered his life to God. From this quote, we see the importance and priority he placed on spiritual work over physical needs.**

It would take ages if we were to recount all his accomplishments. CNEC wishes to take this opportunity to share only the most classic ones with the readers. He is none other than Rev Cha Tan Yone, also known as "Da-die" (a term of endearment to describe his role like a father). He has worked with CNEC zealously in the mission field for many years.

30 years ago, Da-die was a businessman handling sales of gems. He was also one of the founders for the Lashio Taxi Association. Back then, he had achieved what many had been dreaming of. He could have led a carefree life. However, at the peak of his career, he heeded God's calling, resolutely forsook the glorious achievements, and came with his wife to Singapore Bible College to be equipped. Both of them shared the same goal then, which was to become a pastor and return to their hometown upon graduation, to nurture disciples and build churches. He was no longer a young man then, but he had the drive and perseverance that would be the envy of many younger ones. He always described himself as an "Activist", as he believes that in missions, it is better to get moving rather than just be moved. This aligns with what James Chapter 2 says, that is, faith without deeds is dead; faith has



to work together with action to be complete. It is a test of faith to embark on the missionary journey. The act of responding to God's calling reveals our faith in God.

Da-die upholds the following motto: Concerning the souls of people, spare no effort. He puts in his utmost to achieve this goal. One of the second generation leaders that he has groomed, Rev Li Zhong Hua shared, "As long as he feels that the place needs the Gospel, he will not hesitate to start the ministry there. He will not have any doubts or worries, instead, he will continue what he has started with faith." Another second generation leader, Rev Chen Xin Shou, who often had the opportunity to accompany him to various places for mission, said, "On nearly every mission trip, there will be people accepting Christ."



His vision and passion have led to the start of many CNEC Myanmar ministries. Currently, these ministries are all over Myanmar, flourishing and growing like a rolling snowball.

His "comrades" can be found everywhere in Myanmar. His contributions not only enabled CNEC to open up many ministries, but also brought revival to the churches in



Myanmar. From one orphanage to the many orphanages, schools, bible colleges and churches where countless servants of God were groomed through these ministries. The number of pastors, preachers and mentors serving in these ministries has gone beyond hundreds. Among them, many were those who grew up in the orphanage, under the mentorship of Da-die and his wife. Their love for the younger generation was similar to what Paul had taught his spiritual son Timothy: "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Da-die is not just the "Da-die" to the children, but also a spiritual father and an elderly spiritual leader. He is the leader at the front, as well as the pillar and safe harbor at the back. In one incident, Rev Li was greatly impressed and humbled by his perseverance and courage. That day, two of them had to visit a remote village that they intended to initiate a new work. Rev Li thought that Da-die would need more care and help due to his age. However, to his surprise, Da-die was the one who charged fearlessly forward while he was the overcautious one.

To reach that village, they had to cross a major river, which leads to the sea. That night, it was filled with muddy silt due to high tide. Crossing such a river during the day time is difficult. Needless to say, it is much tougher to do so at night. Just as Rev Li was contemplating whether or not to cross the river, Da-die had already exclaimed confidently, "Can!" Rev Li was preparing to piggyback this much respected shepherd across the river, Da-die was already in the river, leading everyone forward. Thank God that they made it across the river safely, despite the deep muddy water and strong currents. But a local co-worker was too exhausted and had to rest. Da-die, though



tired, was strong in comparison. Throughout the visit, he did not let his hair down for a moment. He only fully relaxed and showed his fatigue when they were resting at a pastor's home on the way back. Just as what was written in Deuteronomy 33: 25, "Your strength will equal your days." Looking at him made Rev Li wonder if he could be as dedicated and faithful in proclaiming God's kingdom?

In order to pass on the baton, he provides opportunities for the younger generation to serve. He is unbiased and sees everyone as equal. He trusts his co-workers and allows them to explore and start ministries based on their thoughts and plans. What is truly impressive is that all the co-workers agree unanimously that he is their positive influence and encouragement. Pastor Shi Mei Xiang, the Principal of Northern Shan State Union Christian College said, "His principle in life is to be strict to self but kind to others and not to be calculative about personal loss and gains." Whenever she felt disheartened, his encouragement never failed to comfort and motivate her. Another co-worker, Rev Chen shared, "Whenever Da-die pats my shoulder and smiles to me, saying "Do not be stressed, entrust everything to God", I will feel recharged immediately!"

Da-die not only nurtures the next generation spiritually, he also taught them life skills. He oversaw the budgeting and planning for all the building projects within the compound of Lashio



Grace Haven. The younger co-workers who were willing to learn from him all picked up some skills. Though he has already stepped down as the National Director and serves as an Advisor for nearly 5 years, his spiritual influence has left a deep impression in the hearts of the second generation leaders. Be it intentional or unintentional, Da-die spreads the aroma of Christ through his pragmatic service. He has certainly set an unforgettable example for the future generation. May the life of Da-die motivate us to run the race with perseverance for God's kingdom! "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)

## Humble Beginnings, Great Achievements!



Pastor Apisit (Soye) came to Ban Phaya Phrai, Thailand to serve when he was nearly twenty years old. While most average young men would be working hard to get ahead in their career, buy their first car, first apartment and living a life that everyone is yearning and dreaming of, he chose instead to establish churches in a remote, barren and unremarkable place where even some evangelists would fear to go. With a trusting and obedient heart, he stoically dedicated his youth to God.

He shared that it was because of what the Lord Jesus has commanded in Matthew 28:19-20 "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" that he dedicated his life to become a missionary. Keeping that verse in mind, he began his ministry in evangelism, shepherding and mentoring.

How great is God's provision! In His perfect timing, He prepared someone who is now his wife, to assist him in the ministry. Both responded to the call of God and in 1995, began their full-time missionary and pastoral service. Since then, the two have worked wholeheartedly



together, raising the simple, small congregation to become a church attended by hundreds of people.

Thank the Lord for His grace! Through the love offering of a brother more than a decade ago, CNEC was able to grant a loan to Phaya Phrai Church to purchase a tea plantation. The revenue generated from the crop not only paid off the loan, but also helped to develop other ministries too. Due to



his scrupulous and shrewd leadership, he has led the church out of poverty and towards self-support! However, evangelism and disciple-making are still his lifelong mission. His co-worker Suwannee shared, "His enthusiasm towards evangelism often inspires and fills me with admiration. One indispensable activity is the outreach to young adults. Through this activity, he often encourages us to work together with our spiritual gifts to achieve better results in evangelism."

Due to his unwearied diligence in evangelism, the Gospel has spread successfully to two villages (ZhaDa and NaPa) in Myanmar. Based on the rates of expansion that Phaya Phrai Church is undergoing, even a young, energetic missionary will be exhausted eventually. So how did Pastor Apisit and his wife sustain and produce such remarkable achievements? Indeed, it is impossible! But if God's people serve together in unity and dedication, they can overcome all obstacles and challenges. This is Pastor Apisit's pastoring motto: "Do not be a lone ranger but serve as a team; not relying on one's might, but trusting and committing everything to God through prayer as nothing is too hard for Him!". As is also taught in Zechariah 4:6, " 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty"

Ecclesiastes 4:12 said, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Pastor Apisit strongly believes in building a group of dedicated servants, such that we could present ourselves before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy!



Though he has now become a household name in Phaya Phrai village, but to the world outside, he is still an unknown missionary. He never once boasted about his achievement. He gave many opportunities for the brothers and sisters-in-Christ to serve. He also encouraged them to help and affirm one another by using their gifts in different fields to better build the church. There is a wise management quote that says: "There are no mediocre people, only mediocre management." Managers ought to understand their people well so that each of their potential can be realized. For each of them to have their gifts being used effectively, it is necessary to maximize the strengths and accommodating the shortcomings. Owing to his selfless leadership, Phaya Phrai Church is expanding rapidly. A few fellow co-workers whom he worked with, shared sincerely:

Kanjana Lachi: "He often encourages us to make good use of our gifts and gives us the opportunity to serve unreservedly."

Suwannee: "He respected and accepted my view, gave me a lot of room for growth and improvement. He guided me with patience and kindness even though I have shortcomings in my service."

MeeBo: "Pastor Apisit constantly challenged me to offer myself to be used by the Lord in the children's ministry. After much prayer, I knew that it was the calling of God to use my personal experience to help the children and the youth in the church."

It was evident that Pastor Apisit recognized and acknowledged each member's personality orientation and spiritual gifts, and enabled them to be utilized in the church. Like what Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:16, "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

His outstanding leadership qualities are said to be rare among the co-workers these days. At his age, he does not have to find a successor urgently, but he had his succession plan already well prepared: to educate the next generation of leaders according to the teachings of the Bible. He nurtures and shepherds his flock in hope that one day they could become the chosen instrument of God. Such commitment and dedication are rarely seen in today's church. In addition, his gentle and humble attitude has also set a great example for the future generations. His life and determination to serve, echoed what Paul preached in Colossians 1:28-29, "Whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ; whereunto I labor also, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

CNEC is extremely honored to be given the opportunity to introduce Pastor Apisit to our readers. Among our many unsung heroes, he is certainly a model worth learning from. Be it in our "Jerusalem" or in "all Judea", we earnestly hope that his testimony is an inspiration for us to break through the many challenges we face and be touched by God that many would be raised to embark on the journey of missions.

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