



感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

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Christmas Tidings—Hope for Those in Pain

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Christmas Tidings —Hope for Those in Pain

Rev James Lai

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Is there any greater joy than seeing God's love transforming lives? The poor being blessed, the hungry finding hope, and hundreds of lost souls coming to Christ!

From the rubble of earthquake zones, a new church now stands — the first in its region — filled with more than 150 new believers praising Jesus.

Solar lights that bring hope and visibility to those living without electricity.

In war-torn lands, children's faces light up as they receive Christmas gifts — small tokens that whisper, "You are not forgotten in Christmas!"

Truly, this is the day of the Lord's favor!

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV) states:



"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

This Christmas, let's not only celebrate the Savior's birth — let's reflect His heart. Every gift you give can lift a weary soul, strengthen a newborn church, or spark hope where darkness once ruled.

Let's make this Christmas count for eternity.

Let heaven rejoice as we give — generously, joyfully, and sacrificially.

Be the hands of Jesus this Christmas!



Those Who Sow in Tears Shall Reap with Songs of Joy

— A Church Rises Where the Ground Once Shook

On March 28, 2025, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Sagaing, Myanmar—a region long known as a stronghold of Buddhism, where Christians were often despised. Over 50,000 families were devastated. But when the dust settled, it wasn't the government or monks who came first—it was a group of pastors.

Through Myanmar CNEC (MCNEC), we began feeding the hungry, comforting the grieving, and erecting tiny temporary homes—especially for the elderly, the sick, children, and the



poor. Over 100 homes now shelter those who lost everything.

And something miraculous happened: more than 100 locals expressed a desire to follow Christ. Every Sunday, they gather to worship—under tarps, in open spaces, with hearts full of faith. Now, the time has come to build the first church in the earthquake zone—a place where the Gospel was once unwelcome, but is now embraced with joy.

Will you help us raise this house of worship—so that those who sowed in tears may reap with songs of joy?



MISSION TRIP TO LAOS AND VIETNAM

19-25 MAY 25

A group of ten church members visited Luang Prabang and Vientiane in Laos and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam for a short mission trip from 19-25 May 25. Four of the team members were from Australia, two from Malaysia and the remaining four were from Singapore. Our aim was to visit our pastors, field leaders and church members in these three locations, to explore how we can further partner them in their tireless work in the mission field and to provide training support for their youth leadership development, children programme and woman ministries.

We are indeed thankful to GOD that despite having team members coming from different countries and busy with their own church and other work commitments, everyone was able to prepare well for the trip. The team had a fruitful time spent with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in the three locations. They were able to encourage the local youth leaders and the church members with their personal testimonies and their experiences in youth leadership, children and woman ministries.

To me, this trip was a profound journey of witnessing the resilience of faith, the creativity of ministry and the undeniable

Mr Yam Ah Mee
CNEC Board Treasurer

provision of GOD in these South-East Asia communities. From the historic streets of Luang Prabang to the capital of Vientiane and in Ho Chi Minh city, we saw the Gospel moving powerfully.



Unshakeable Faith in the face of persecution.

The most humbling aspect of the mission trip in Luang Prabang and Vientiane was in learning from pastors Simon and Peter who had been imprisoned before for their faith. Yet, their spirits remain unbroken. Instead of discouragement, they have found a resolve steeled by their absolute trust in GOD. The lives of these two pastors and their congregation



Team members at Vientiane Train Station.

members are a living testimony of Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock". Pastors Simon and Peter are building their ministries on this unshakeable foundation. Their perseverance is sowing seeds of hope that no prison cell can contain.

Sustainable Ministry: Sacha Inchi Seeds and Micro-Financing projects in Luang Prabang.

In Luang Prabang, we saw a brilliant model of holistic ministry. The church understands that serving spiritual needs often goes hand-in-hand with addressing physical and economic needs of the local congregation. By introducing the cultivation of Sacha Inchi seeds, pastor Simon has created sustainable jobs and income for the local population. This initiative builds bridges of trust and demonstrates GOD's love in a tangible way to the local community.



Sacha Inchi Fruit @ 18May25

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His micro-financing program for poultry rearing (chickens, ducks, cows) has enabled more families to start their own small business. This isn't just charity. It is empowerment. It provides dignity, stability and a practical means for families to thrive, all within the supportive framework of a church community that cares for their well-being.

Creative Outreach: Masterclass Sports Academy in Vientiane.

In Vientiane, the Gospel is breaking through cultural barriers through the universal language of sports. The Masterclass Sports Academy is a visionary outreach by pastor Peter and his team leaders. Through soccer, basketball, frisbee, table tennis and volleyball competitions, the church creates a positive, engaging and safe environment for

the local youth. Here, relationships are built, character is taught, and the love of Christ is demonstrated off the court just as much as on it. It is indeed a powerful way to reach a generation that might otherwise not walk into a traditional church service.



Discipling the Next Generation – University and Young Adult Ministry in Ho Chi Minh City.

The work in Ho Chi Minh City is strategically focused on the future leaders of Vietnam, by reaching out to university students and young working adults. Through Bible study groups, cell groups and dedicated discipleship, pastor Luke and his team leaders are grounding these young believers in their faith. In a city marked by rapid change and competing ideologies, providing a strong community and a solid biblical foundation is crucial. This ministry is investing in the hearts and minds that will shape the nation's future.

GOD's Faithfulness: Protection and Provision

Throughout the trip, the recurring theme was GOD's faithful hand of protection and provision. We heard firsthand accounts of God's divine protection over the pastors, their families and their congregation amidst challenges and opposition. Their safety is a constant answer to prayer. In terms of provision, the story of John 6:8-11 (the feeding of the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish) came alive. We saw how GOD multiplies meagre resources. A small micro-finance loan becomes a thriving poultry farm. A bag of seeds becomes a source of community income. A simple sports ball becomes a tool for evangelism. GOD is taking their humble offerings and multiplying them beyond measure to meet the needs of the people.

Summary: The Greatest Commandment in Action

This mission trip was a beautiful illustration of Deuteronomy 6:5-9 principles: to love GOD with all our heart, our soul and our strength. The pastors and the leaders embody this love wholeheartedly.

Heart: their love for GOD fuels their unwavering faith, even in prison.

Soul: their love for GOD is the core of their preaching and teaching

Strength: their love for GOD is expressed through the exhausting, practical, hands-on work of seed farming, animal rearing, sports coaching and discipleship.

They are not just preaching the Gospel. They are living it out in every facet of life. All our team members felt that it was a real privilege to witness and support such powerful, effective and Spirit-led work in the field. We are indeed most thankful for the opportunity to be part of this CNEC Mission trip to Laos and Vietnam.

Trip to visit our mission fields in Laos and Vietnam (19-25 May 2025)

Benjamin Kek
CNEC Board Vice Chairman

It was an amazing privilege to join a group led by Rev James Lai personally, to hear from our workers from the field, and to see in person the transformative effect that our Lord has had in the lives of so many. When Rev Lai first suggested that I join this trip, I was not really sure what to expect, but I had looked forward to visiting people and ministries he had shared so much with us about. It turned out to be more.

Fellow travellers

To begin, getting to know my fellow travellers was a humbling experience. Throughout the trip, as they shared their faith journey, I grew increasingly grateful that God had deemed my capacity to be enough for only relatively minor trials. We had a pastor who was still battling cancer but loved the children in Laos so much he had to visit. We had a brother who was born to a desperately poor family, but God had given him an opportunity to study veterinarian science, and today he runs agricultural businesses in multiple countries, and was able to advise farmers in our mission field. We had a brother who's first contact with Christianity was his sister, but she tragically passed away as a young mother and he had left church consequently, only to return after he experienced how Australian Christians treated strangers so differently, compared to non-Christians. There are other remarkable stories, but they will be for another day.

The Jesus Seed

In Luang Prabang, Pastor Simons shared his journey of how a term government officials used as an insult to him – “Jesus Seed” – has indeed become a calling card and a great testimony of God's power. Pastor Simon was called to full-time ministry and went to seminary to be equipped. Upon his return to Laos, he faced much resistance and persecution in his hometown, as the government officials didn't want him to evangelise, and even imprisoned him. But later, someone gave him some sacha inchi seeds for cultivation, and with this, he was able to introduce a new cash crop for villagers to grow and helped improve their lives. This positive impact did not go unnoticed, and over past decade, thousands of doors were opened for the seeds of the gospel to be planted together with the “Jesus Seeds”, and over a hundred house churches were planted in 6 of the 9 northern provinces of Laos.



Despite this encouraging situation, the ministry challenges there are still very real and present, and we had the privilege to meet 2 young brothers who came to Christ only a few weeks before we visited, and endured persecution from their families – they were chased out of the family home for fear that their new beliefs will “spread” to other family members, so the brothers, their wives and children were homeless and living in tents, as the local church scrambled to help them build makeshift shelters. Their faith in the face of such persecution is truly worthy of respect and aspiration, and made me wonder how I have died to the Cross in the name

of our Lord Jesus.

We also saw how Pastor Simon and his team helped city dwellers, and women in particular, alleviate their financial situation by providing them with chickens and ducks to rear, so that they can have eggs and poultry to eat and to sell. These micro-enterprise initiatives allowed them to have more financial stability, and experience how the church cares for their lives in very practical ways.

The Master's Football Academy

We next went to the capital city of Vientiane and was blessed with seeing God's miracle in action. Pastor Peter was born to a family with strong political connections, and attended university in Vientiane. He got to know some missionaries while in university, and became a Christian. He faced intense family opposition, for his beliefs will affect his father's career, and was even imprisoned multiple times for evangelising. One day, he came to have the idea of starting a football academy, to be able to reach out to youths. They achieved great success, and the football club won many trophies. Today, the youths are sent by their parents and their schools to this academy, and in this environment, they experience Christian fellowship and receive the Gospel. Amazingly, I had the opportunity to speak to Pastor Peter's mother and mother-in-law while visiting the Football Academy, and they testified to how Pastor Peter's faith have changed their families. Even his father, who had opposed his conversion so intensely, had been moved by the pastor's faith and came to Christ.

Truly, seeing the mission fields' unexpected paths in Laos testifies to these verses, and my overriding thought is “Do our part and what is not within our control, we commit to prayer. God will do the rest. For His ways are higher than my ways. His thoughts are higher than my thoughts.”

Student outreach in Ho Chi Minh City

In Ho Chi Minh City, it was a much different environment. The city's energy and bustle was palpable, and the desire by the city's inhabitants to pursue greater material success was evident. From the billboards, the high-rise buildings to the many Electric Vehicles coursing through the streets, signs of economic vibrance were everywhere. In the midst of this, I got to know a young brother in pastor Luke's church. He shared that he found the church through the internet, as it was the only church that announced a focus on Reform Theology. This young brother was actively serving in another church, but felt something was amiss about their teachings. He stumbled on Reform Theology on the internet, and that was how he came to search for pastor Luke's church. Today, in the technology MNC he is working in, he is evangelising to his colleagues, and sharing the Gospel to the intelligentsia. Praise the Lord for His faithful servants everywhere!

Last but not least, I want to express my utmost respect for Reverend James Lai. I am 3 decades younger than him, and I was exhausted by the travels. But his energy was boundless, and he was taking good care of the whole group even though he was so busy coordinating, and also preparing to preach. It is truly a privilege to experience God sustaining His servants!

Christmas Cheers Year 2025

Let them feel the Great Love of God through your Generous Contribution this Christmas!

My Love Offering for gifts (Response Slip)

Ministry	
Qty	Gift Items
	Blanket S\$27 (RM 88)
	Motorbike S\$2,000 (RM 6,512)
	Vehicle S\$7,940 (RM 25,857)
	Laptop S\$995 (RM 3,241)
	Desktop S\$795 (RM 2,590)
	Printer S\$715 (RM 2,328)
	Guitar S\$240 (RM 781)
	Keyboard S\$1,820 (RM 5,928)
	Amplifier S\$795 (RM 2,590)
	Mixer S\$1,588 (RM 5,174)
	LCD Projector S\$750 (RM 2,442)
	LCD Screen S\$1,189 (RM 3,873)
	Water Filter S\$1,545 (RM 5,032)
	Hammock (sleeping kits) S\$22 (RM 72)
	Camera S\$145 (RM 472)

Children	
Qty	Gift Items
	School Bag S\$15 (RM 49)
	Dental Kit S\$6 (RM 20)
	Slippers S\$8 (RM 26)
	Children's Bible S\$8 (RM 26)
	Bible Stories S\$1 (RM 3)
	Stationery Set S\$10 (RM 33)
	Raincoat / Umbrella S\$15 (RM 49)
	Mosquito net S\$5 (RM 16)
	Pillow S\$5 (RM 16)
	Smart TV S\$480 (RM 1,563)
	Children Winter Jacket S\$16 (RM 52)
	Table for kids S\$58 (RM 189)
	Table Lamp S\$10 (RM 33)
	Chair for kids S\$10 (RM 33)
	Football S\$17 (RM 55)

Community	
Qty	Gift Items
	1st Aid Kit S\$130 (RM 423)
	Drilled Well S\$1,800 (RM 5,861)
	Toilet S\$1,000 (RM 3,256)
	Rice (2000kg) S\$205 (RM 668)
	Multi-vitamin S\$14 (RM 46)
	Cold medicine S\$90 (RM 293)
	Cancer medicine S\$145 (RM 472)
	Burnt Relief Cream S\$4 (RM 13)
	Piglet S\$60 (RM 195)
	Dewormer S\$4 (RM 13)
	Chicks (a dozen) S\$3 (RM 10)
	Ducks S\$1.5 (RM 5)
	Cow S\$400 (RM1,302)

Church Building	
Qty	Gift Items
	Floor tiles (1pc) S\$7 (RM 23)
	Metal roof (1pc) S\$7.5 (RM 24)
	Woods (1pc) S\$8 (RM 26)
	Solar Panel S\$39.7 (RM 129)

Co-workers	
Qty	Gift Items
	Winter Jacket S\$59 (RM 192)
	External HDD S\$58 (RM 189)
	Backpack S\$39 (RM 127)
	Luggage S\$14 (RM 45)

Others	
Qty	Gift Items
	Scholarship S\$100 (RM 330)

My Offering for Gifts: S\$/RM _____

One time Offering for gifts: S\$/RM _____

Name: _____

(Rev / Pastor / Dr / Mr / Mdm / Ms)

Address : _____

Contact: _____

Email: _____

1. Payment in SGD:

Please make your cheque payable to "CNEC" and mail it together with your response slip to:

CNEC

134, 136 Braddell Road, Singapore 359919

2. By Scanning this QR code or accessing PayNow

(UEN: S62SS0068H)

(Remark: Christmas Cheers)

3. By PayPal (www.cnecintl.org)

4. Payment in MYR:

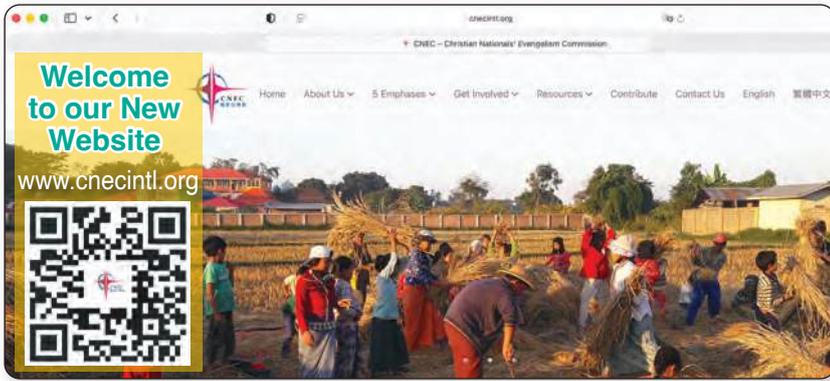
Please make your cheque payable to: "Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission" and mail it together with your response slip to:

CNEC

P O Box 79, 81300 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia



Your gift will be directed where most needed, at the discretion of CNEC.



Announcement
 Our PO Box was no longer in use from December 2024. Kindly direct all your mails to our office address at **134 Braddell Road, Singapore 359919**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your understanding.



We invite you to support and involve in our ministries

Children Ministry | University Student Ministry | Training Ministry | Unreached People Groups | Community Transformation Ministry

- You can donate to our ministries generously through the following methods:
 - Please make your cheque payable to "CNEC"
 - By Credit Card / PayPal (www.cneintl.org)
 - By Scanning this QR code or accessing PayNow (UEN: S62SS0068H)
- You are welcome to bring in missions teams to visit and involve in our field ministries.



CNEC PayNow QR Code

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

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