



500 years of the Reformation

By John Lee



Do you know where this is?

By Alicia Wong



My Cambodia Experience

By Mission Team members
(Patrick Boey, Peggy Tan,
Jacqueline Leow & Suan Muan)



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**Brother
Martin
Writes**

Playboy founder, Hugh Hefner died at age 91 on 27th September 2017. Do we envy his long life, his riches and having all the beautiful women surrounding him.



Hours after his death one of Russia's leading clerics declared "Hefner went straight to hell." Is that too judgemental? Ezekiel 18:27-28 says, "But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. Because he considers all the offenses he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die."

Hefner was born into a Methodist family and although he did not believe in the God of the Bible, he believed in a Creator God. He did not follow God's Laws in the Bible but lived a life of love. He loved so many women, he can be compared to Solomon, who had a thousand wives. At the hour of his death, did he turn back to the God of the Bible? In an Internet article, it was mentioned, "Well into his 80s, Mr Hefner continued to edit his magazine and did his best to maintain his swagger as the unflappable, unstoppable and unrepentant king of the Playboy way of life." Your guess is as good as mine.

However, I am not writing about a hero but to refocus those who envy the lives of the rich and famous to a Biblical perspective. Read Psalm 73:3-17: *"For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny."*

From my office to the toilet is quite a distance without shelter. Recently, I met a colleague from the Sales Department and asked him for some umbrellas so that I can provide my team with shelter for that long walk to the toilet. He graciously gave me a couple of Heineken golf umbrellas and I placed one in a common umbrella stand outside my office. Two days later, the umbrella disappeared, presumably stolen. When I told my superior, she said that I had tempted people to steal by placing the umbrella there.



I guess that when a person publishes a magazine like Playboy, he is tempting people to sin. *"If anyone causes one of these little ones--those who believe in me--to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."* – Matthew 18:6

Truly such a powerful temptation would be the undoing of many men. But in the case of Joseph and Potiphar's wife, he stood firm, *"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* (Genesis 39:9) Because Joseph's heart was set on God, he was able to resist this potent temptation. It would be wonderful if we all had a testimony of unwavering resistance to sexual temptation like Joseph.

During the time of the Old Testament, and during the era of Playboy, it was still possible to avoid the temptation because you had to go to it to get tempted. Remember, Joseph could run away? However in this Internet age, when pornography is all around and in the airwaves, how can we win the battle? I don't have the answer, but I have a suggestion, declare that you are under-age. So whenever you are asked to confirm that you are above 18 years old, declare that you are below 18. The temptation would pass you by. John Lee mentioned that I was advocating telling lies. When I wrote that sentence about under-declaring your age, the thought crossed my mind too. What do the readers think? The consequences of declaring your age will be opening a floodgate of pornography into your PC.

Martin Luther once said about sexual desires, "You can't stop birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from making nests in your hair." Whenever you find a flock of birds flying overhead, you should run away to avoid having birdshit on your head. People will not knowingly park their cars under a tree with many birds in it. So perhaps the real solution is to run away and avoid all sources of temptation.

Martin Cheah

Rejoice with Michelle and Jim

Michelle's mother was baptised on 8th October 2017 after many years of ministry by the Dialect Team.



Galatians 6:9
Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

500 Years of The Reformation

31st Oct 1517 – 31st Oct 2017

(Celebrating with understanding of its relevance today)



It is a great feeling when one celebrates a 21st birthday, 50th birthday or 100th birthday. Do you feel ecstatic if you celebrate a 500th birthday?

500 years have gone by since Martin Luther's famous 95 theses were posted on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg in 1517 against the practice of the then Roman Catholic Church in the granting

of indulgences. 500 years is a long time. Yet, this historical event is still ringing in our ears today, attesting to its deep and wide impact on the lives of Christians throughout the world.

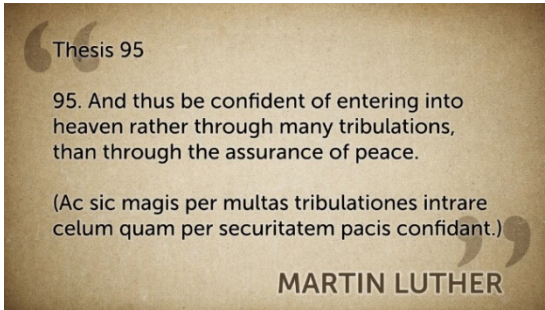
As Christians around the world celebrate 500 years of the Reformation, let us understand that remembering the Reformation is more than proclaiming a celebration. The celebration is far more meaningful if it is infused with a grasp of what the Reformation entails and the relevance of it within the order of Christianity today.

Briefly, some information about this man called Martin Luther (1483 – 1546): Born the son of a miner. Ordained a priest in 1507. Became a professor of moral philosophy at University of Wittenberg in 1508. Became a doctor of theology and professor of biblical exegesis in 1511. He retained this position until his death, which means that the Reformation that he ignited by his 95 theses in 1517 did not in any way affect his scholastic standing in his community.

Here I just list a sample of points raised in the 95 theses to give us an inkling:

- Repentance does not mean sacramental penance (e.g. confession) administered by priests.
- The pope cannot remit any penalties other than those which he has imposed by his own authority or by that of the Canons.
- Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better work than buying pardons.

Luther's protestation is generally known as a disputation against the sale of indulgences (selling of pardons for people to pay money to receive forgiveness for sin). However, it is more historically significant as a seed sown that grew into the bigger and broader Christian Protestantism movement (schism with the Roman Catholic Church) steered by John Calvin, Zwingli and other early reformers.



The movement (to right the wrongs in the Church) was a process that ran its course through a long period of decades, but is commonly associated with Martin Luther as its originator with his famous 95 theses. The following 5 maxims have been held by the reformers as encapsulation of the correct doctrine on salva-

tion as opposed to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church:

- Sola Scriptura ("by Scripture alone")
- Sola Fide ("through faith alone")
- Sola Gratia ("by grace alone")
- Solus Christus ("Christ alone")
- Soli Deo Gloria ("glory to God alone")

As we celebrate 500 years of the Reformation, a great significance of the Reformation is in the persisting relevance that the 5 Solas as a "legacy" of the reformers still embed into our consciousness a true understanding about the source of our salvation.

True understanding of the 5 Solas must also dispense with the misunderstandings that some people might hold.

What Sola Scriptura does not mean



Sola Scriptura does not mean Nuda Scriptura.

Martin Luther said, "Here I am, I can do no other; to go against conscience is neither safe nor honest. My conscience is captive to the Word of God."

Yes, Scripture is the sole written divine revelation and we turn to Scripture as the final arbiter of any disputes about the truth in human opinions. However, this does not mean that we “read the Bible alone and nothing else” and totally ignore church traditions, creeds and other literatures (e.g. writings of the church fathers) that illumine our heritage of faith or elucidate knowledge in unity with the Word of God. It is unfortunate that due to a misapprehension of the principle of Sola Scriptura, some modern churches have come to apply their “preferred” interpretations of the Bible and deny the wisdom of the creeds to the extent that cults emerge to repudiate the Trinity that the creeds affirm as well.

What Sola Fide and Sola Gratia do not mean



With reference to Wikipedia¹, the late op Ting Kuang-shun (Chairperson emeritus of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement and President emeritus of the China Christian Council) “has been accused of replacing the traditional Protestant doctrine with *justification by love*.”

Scripture clearly says that *“it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”* – Eph. 2:8-9

Justification is a gift directly from God by His grace, through our faith alone, rather than by human love. This is the unequivocal biblical teaching that is contradistinctive to the teachings of all other belief systems. The erroneous view of the late Chinese bishop reflected the erosion of faith by Arminianism over the past 500 years – which purveys the liberal view of humanism centred on human values replacing the sovereignty and authority of God.

The gospel is a two-edged sword (Eph. 6:17). It is too sharp for the comfort of many who therefore grind away the sharp edges to adjust the gospel message to fit moralistic narratives that are less piercing to the

“Evangelical Christians in North America sometimes misunderstand the Reformation doctrine of sola Scriptura to mean that the Bible is the Christian’s only theological resource, that it can and should be denuded of its churchly context (hence nuda Scriptura).”

THE GOSPEL COALITION

“According to Luther, God declares the sinner righteous through Jesus’ death rather than through human merit or works. Faith entails trust in and acceptance of God’s gift of salvation through the “merits” of Christ”

POCKET DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGICAL TERMS, DOWNERS GROVE, IL, INTERVARSITY PRESS

¹ http://wikivisually.com/wiki/K._H._Ting

ears and more soothing like their favourite chicken soup for the soul.

Sola fide and Sola gratia do not mean justification by love. Primary to our salvation are God's grace and our faith. They also do not mean that good works by Christians are not important.

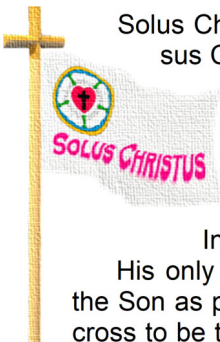
However:

- It is the faith that saves.
- Because of our faith, we are sanctified. ("A human being is sanctified ... when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose.")
- The sanctification due to our faith produces spiritual fruit that testifies to God's glory.

The sequence is not: We do good works → we are saved by our effort of good works → after that, then we talk about faith.

According to Martin Luther, "Faith is a living, busy, active, powerful thing; it is impossible for it not to do us good continually. It never asks whether good works are to be done, but has done them before there is time to ask the question, and it is always doing them."

What Solus Christus does not mean



Solus Christus tells us that our salvation is by the atoning work of Jesus Christ alone. There is no mediator between God and man other than Christ.

Solus Christus does not mean that we deny the work of the Trinity in Salvation.

In John 3:16, we see the Father's love that moved Him to give His only Son. So the Father's decision was behind the availability of the Son as propitiation for our sin. In other words, the Son – dying on the cross to be the propitiation for our sin – was only doing the will of the Father who sent Him. (John 6:37-40)

In teaching Nicodemus (John 3), Jesus says:

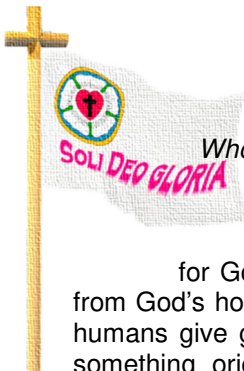
- “no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”
- “You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Those who are born again in the Spirit have the Holy Spirit indwelling them, the invigorating and enduring breath of God that brings them into a right relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son.

Solus Christus affirms the role of the Son (the sole qualified Person; neither priesthood nor saints in the Church) as our redeemer, sent by the Father who first established His covenant of grace with His people and who also sent the Holy Spirit to be the Divine Resident in our hearts (Gal. 4:6), according to the Father’s foreknowledge, to be our sanctifier so that we may turn to Jesus Christ with our obedience. (1 Pet. 1:2)

Solus Christus does not deny the roles of the Father and the Holy Spirit in harmony with the role of the Son where our salvation is concerned.

What Soli Deo Gloria does not mean



“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” – Isa. 6:3

“Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” – Ex 15:11

God does not have to rely on any creature for His glory, for God is glorious of His own being. The glory of God reflects from God’s holiness and testifies of His resplendent presence. When we humans give glory to God, it is not that we deliver to Him the glory as something originating from us; rather, we affirm by our praises and thanksgiving that whatever we have, whatever we achieve, arose out of the glorious grace (Eph. 1:6) pouring out with His blessings, and we are appreciatively reverting the glory to Him – the glory that firstly streamed out from Him. In gratefulness, we also honour Him with our sincere worship.

The motto “Soli Deo Gloria” points us to the presence of God, but we should not use it so often so casually that it loses its spiritual power to draw us closer in communion with God. It is natural for Christians to celebrate events in praise and thanksgiving – Soli Deo Gloria! However, the “Soli Deo Gloria” is not a licence for us to revel with human interests first; God’s focus, second.

There is a common lament that today’s church life is no longer God-centred; it has become people-centred instead. Worship is turned into entertainment, evangelism into marketing, doing good works becoming doing works that have a high feel-good factor ... The list of twisted human ways – led astray by a lack of understanding of the true meaning of “Soli Deo Gloria” – is long. The testimony becomes one of detachment from the Bible. Obviously, “Soli Deo Gloria” cannot mean “glory to man”.

“Soli Deo Gloria” checks us from veering towards human ambitions and desires at the expense of godliness. Our worship must be centred on God, not to satisfy our personal needs. God is in charge of worship; we are not. We must be concerned with the Kingdom of God, not our own empire.

Conclusion

Martin Luther’s act of posting 95 theses on a German church door created a shock to the church in his generation. The shock waves spread far and wide and have impacted his future generations in deeply profound ways.

500 years of the Reformation – the legacy of the 5 solas brings to light a lot of Scriptural truths that were denied the lay people of Martin Luther’s generation, who didn’t have free access to the Bible. Today, we know better; but are we better in our absorption and application of what the Bible teaches? How have we applied the 5 solas for our spiritual illumination based on the authority of the Bible?

In the church, if the authority of the Bible is lost, Christ is removed from our focus, the gospel is distorted and faith becomes unrecognizable, there is probably only one cause – we have allowed human interests to replace the interests of God.

Salvation is from God, and is also for His glory. The 5 solas are teachings for us to glorify God forever. We must live in the presence of God, under the authority of God.

“For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.” (Rom. 11:36)

John Lee

Stewardship Month

A Testimony of faith and service

By Thomas Tan

I came to Jurong Christian Church in 1986 and was baptised in 1987 by Rev Terry Kee.



Three decades have gone by in the wink of an eye. In these three decades, I have participated in various ministries – serving as usher, chargehand, worship leader in the English and dialect services, cell leader, councilman and chairman of the recent church rebuilding committee.

I am a firm believer in Christ, hungry for spiritual growth. Yet, despite my varied involvements in God's service, I am just like many of you, often feeling inadequate with a lack of expertise that I see others possess.

In my weakness, I see more of the godness of God. He does not despise me, but take me as I am. He sees my willing and sincere heart. He trains and moulds me. I am very much gladdened at every moment of struggle and on every reflection of hindsight that I can totally surrender and trust God for his guidance.

Sis. Doris encouraged me to lead in worship, Deacon Peter gave me the opportunity to sing in dialect. When Bro. Ronnie told me to take over as Cell leader, I found myself in Christian book stores almost weekly surveying suitable material for bible study. In 2008, Bro. Swee Leong challenged me to serve in the church council. I stepped into the council with much uncertainty of how long I would survive the rigours of service as a councilman. By God's help through the stresses, it came to pass that I was led through three full terms; i.e., 6 years; in the council and thereafter followed by 2 full years in the church rebuilding committee.

Service is an Expression of Worship

I have grown much in faith because of serving. Service to God is also an expression of worship.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.” – Rom. 12:1

Without service, there really is no true worship or following of the Lord. The result would be that there is little or no spiritual growth.

Service is Exemplifying Christ

If we were to look at the life of Christ and try to find several overriding themes, servanthood would have to be at the top of the list.

Christ, though He is God, took the form of a servant in order to accomplish man's redemption (Phil 2:6-8). In a similar vein, Jesus stated in Mt. 20:28 that concerning His earthly ministry, He did not come to be served but to serve.

Therefore, if the believer is being conformed to the image of Christ, then he is being conformed to that of a servant engaged in service. A believer then is growing spiritually when he is increasingly becoming a servant engaged in service.

Service Is Exhibiting Spiritual Gifts

When we as believers are engaged in the service for the Lord, we are inevitably using our spiritual gifts. The very purpose for spiritual gifts is to bring about spiritual growth in the life of believers. This spiritual growth is called edification - which means to build up the body of Christ. (1 Cor 14:3-5,12, 26)

Serving the Lord in any capacity brings spiritual growth to the server because he is being used by the Lord. The purpose for service is to bring spiritual growth and maturity to the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-12)

Service is co-labouring with God

Each and every one of us can be of service in any capacity. One of the most exciting considerations about the Christian's service is that he is a co-labourer with God. There are many ways to serve the Lord in ministries. No one is too old, too young, too poor, or too far gone in failure and sin. All believers are by default in full-time Christian service. Ultimately, all service and labour for the Lord is never in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58)

May I challenge you seriously: Take this stewardship month to re-dedicate your life to God. Remember the “Alabaster Jar” hymn we sang:

*“Here I am, take me as an offering
Here I am, giving every heartbeat for Your glory
Take me”*

God has good, pleasing and perfect plans for his children. He wants us to be new people with freshness of thought, alive to glorify Him. Since he wants only what is best for us, and since he gave his Son to make our new lives possible, we should joyfully offer ourselves as living sacrifices for him.

5 keys to Spiritual Growth

Scripture, Prayer, Fellowship, Witnessing, Service
Ω

Article by Bishop Terry Kee and the excerpt below are extracted from a publication by the Bible Society, Word@Work – September 2017 issue.

The Society's current Honorary Treasurer, **Mr Samuel G Panthradil**, also continues the legacy of his father, **Mr P S George**. Mr George served as a Board member of the Society from 1989 to 2009, and continued to do so in an advisory role up till his passing in 2013.



The late Mr P S George was there when JCC first started. He was the one who made the cross that now hangs on the wall of the Chapel. He made it from two pieces of wood, which he picked up from the swamp that surrounded JCC 50 years ago.

Some people leave the church and some people leave a memorial for the church.

Bishop Terry Kee,
The Lutheran Church
in Singapore



Luther and the Bible

In commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, it is almost impossible not to mention Martin Luther. Yet it is equally impossible not to mention the Bible itself. Indeed, one of Luther's greatest contributions to the movement was his German Bible.

Prior to the Reformation, the masses had no access to the Bible, and relied almost entirely on what the priests taught them. Luther, however, wanted others to be able to read and understand Scripture for themselves. Therefore, he started translating the New Testament into contemporary German. It was completed in 11 weeks and published in 1522. Within two months, 5000 copies were sold! Following this success, Luther gathered a team of scholars and translated the rest of the Bible. The complete German Bible was finally published in 1534.

Luther's German Bible was a monumental achievement. It not only helped create a standard, modern German language, but also inspired people in various countries to translate the Scriptures into their mother tongues. Hence, it may even be said that the Reformation laid the groundwork for the global Bible Mission that started almost 300 years later!

Because of Luther and the Reformation, we have the Bible available in so many languages and formats today. Let us give thanks for that. At the same time, let us also heed Luther's call: "Let the man who would hear God speak, *read Holy Scripture*".



DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS PLACE IS?

INTRODUCING ME. THE TURTLE.

Most people would have recognised this place at a glance unless you are new to this church, living under a rock or like me, who is so task-orientated that I only came into the sanctuary for service and did not explore all the other areas of the church. The few places I was familiar with were the basement where I parked my ebike, the lift which leads to the sanctuary and the sanctuary itself. Rinse and repeat. That is how boring I am. Anyway, I know we have a chapel but I did not know where it was located. It took a meet-



The chapel – I was delighted to find several items that were present in the sanctuary before the church rebuilding being retained.

ing that was held at the Multi-Purpose Hall for me to know this place. I told my chief Martin I did not know where the chapel was located. Apparently, I was not the only hermit turtle around so my chief Martin brought his two little underlings along a short tour to this magical place.

THE MOST MAGICAL PLACE

Why do I call it magical? The moment I entered it, a sense of peace enveloped me. I am glad that the church has a place where people could come, pray and meditate. When you enter the place, you cannot help but lower your voice. I could not help envying the people living around the church, who have easy access to this chapel. How great it is to start or end your day with God in this quiet and peaceful place.



The plaques on the wall – history of JCC

Turned out that the little tour did me some good for soon after, a Swedish visitor, Victor, came along with Frodo and we gave him a little tour as well. It helped that my husband, Alvin, lived in Taman Jurong when he was young and told him what was around the area before the current flats surrounding the church were built. I was proud to share the history of the cross in the chapel. After that everyone was busy helping Frodo snap photos of him in the area around the chapel.



THE TOUR

What touched us was that Frodo chose JCC as a place to take his graduation photo even though he is not a Singaporean nor was he in JCC

since young. He was in Singapore for a few years to study for his Masters and during his stay here, joined our care group and also served in church. You can say that his child-like innocence and honesty is rather refreshing. As he makes a new start back in his homeland, Hong Kong, we pray that the Lord will continue to keep him and bless him.

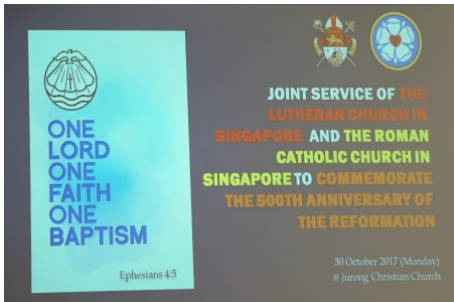


Frodo in the middle of the photo, wearing his graduation gown.

REFLECTIONS

I thank God for new beginnings and new opportunities. I also understand that a new home does not make new people. I am sure I have brought with me attitudes and ways which would have been better if I had left behind so I pray that I can take advantage of this new start. That God will help me get my priorities right and build my life on His Word and Promises.

Alicia Wong

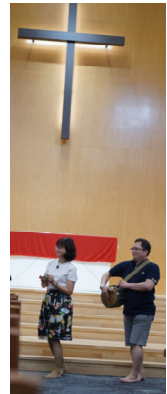


About 500 people from the various Lutheran congregations and a contingent from the Roman Catholic church will be commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on 30th October 2017 @ JCC.

There will be a Combined Choir, Chinese choir and a Thai dance presentation on that day.

The Vine photographers and writers will be there to cover the pomp and pageantry of the event for the next issue of The

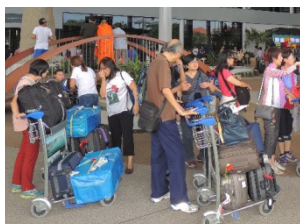
Vine. Be there in person to enjoy the atmosphere where brothers who were separated 500 years ago, come back together again to rejoice in the Lord under one roof.



CAMBODIA MISSION TRIP

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Day One (14 Oct)



Upon arrival at Phnom Penh airport on the afternoon of 14th October, we cleared the custom smoothly despite the lots of new items we had brought along in bulk. This was pleasantly unexpected. Praise God!

After checking into our hotel, we travelled to Kandal, an hour's journey southwards. The objective was to see the recent ministry development by Pastor Moses there. It was a blessed ministry that in a short three months, he was able to win the hearts of the villagers, especially the village chief, and start a Bible study group as well as computer and English classes.

Day Two (15 Oct)



On the 2nd day, we set off from hotel at 6.45 a.m. for Tang Krang Community Centre. We ate bread for breakfast on the one-hour-plus journey.

Tang Krang CC is a 15-month-old ministry, led by Pastor Vibol and Sis. Sreyleak. There were more than 60 children from the village attending the camp. There were three foreigners staying there for a few

months to teach English classes daily – 1 retired Australian lady, 1 German young man and a young American lady. It was also encouraging to see 7 local youth volunteers serving as team leaders.

We presented the action song "Jesus is My Best Friend" and conducted 4 games. Their singspiration looked more like a dance session with all the action songs. The children were very responsive and excited. We had packet chicken rice with pickled vegetables for lunch together with the people, followed by a 2-hour siesta. We managed to spend time talking to the English teaching volunteers, young adults from City Church and



the youth volunteers.



We sat in their Sunday School at 2pm. There were 2 classes (for older and younger children). The worship service after Sunday School was mainly attended by the same group of people, with some adults joining. John Lee preached a simple message on Friendship. We left immediately after service, heading back to the capital. Had dinner before our nightly devotion, sharing and prayer before retiring to our rooms after 10pm.

A guy called SETH

I spotted a guy sitting quietly. I knew he was one of those university guys staying at the hostel in City Church. I went up to him, introducing my name and extending my hand for a handshake. Then I asked for his name. “Seth”, he replied.

“S E T H?”, I spelled out the name. I told him that his name appeared in the Bible. He looked at me strangely, giving a puzzled look. I took out my hand-phone and turned to Genesis 4:25 in my electronic bible and showed him where the name Seth appeared. He quickly took out his phone and turned to his bible in Khmer language.

“No, it doesn’t show here in my bible” he said. I told him that this could be due to translation issue. But at the least, his name appears in the English Bible. His next question startled me a bit. “Is it a good name?”

I told him that it is a good and godly name and told him the Abel-Cain episode, and that Jesus came from this genealogy lineage. He looked excited and pleased. I then asked him how he became a Christian.

His story was that he came from a poor family in the countryside. His parents are farmers. Due to the difficulty raising monies for his studies, his family faces difficulties. It was the care, concern and prayers of Christians in City Church during the difficult moments that touched him to receive Jesus. On the few occasions that he returned to his home town, he tried to share the gospel to his parents. However, being Buddhists, they weren’t pleased with his conversion. I was feeling helpless as I listened to his story. In the end, I prayed for him & his family.



Later in the afternoon, just as we were leaving the centre, Seth came running to me. He wanted to take a selfie with me. I didn't realise a simple conversation and prayer would have touched him so deeply. I thank God for this opportunity of blessing someone in Cambodia.

Day Three (16 Oct)

Like the previous day, we set off at 6.45am for Tang Krang and picked up bread at a bakery for breakfast. We conducted a game session and Pauline gave a health talk on brushing teeth & washing hands. Lunch was packed chicken rice with pickles. During the siesta, we gathered all the volunteers (older youths, foreigners and those from city church) for a sharing & prayer session. We also presented to each of them a token of appreciation (back-pack). We prayed for them & with them.



The afternoon was spent on community service, where 3 groups of children went around the village picking up litter. We also volunteered to join in.

This evening, we had a dinner fellowship with Pastor Daniel and family before returning to hotel for our nightly devotion and retiring for a well-deserved rest.



Pastor Daniel's Family

Day Four (17 Oct)

We visited City Church and hostel in the morning before having our breakfast at a nearby coffeeshop. The rest of the day was shopping and a visit to the Genocide Museum before catching our flight home.

Conclusion

It was a blessed Mission Trip with journey mercy and good weather, by God's grace. We were happy to be BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING. We pray for continued blessings for a fruitful harvest.

Patrick Boey

THANK GOD FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TRIP



It was my first time not just for this mission trip to Cambodia, but also my first time ever joining any mission trip. I was not too sure whether I should go, but my son, Benedict, told me certainly that I should go for it. This made my decision easier. Furthermore, I thought: I should make an effort to experience the mission work while I am still able to walk. Time and tide waits for no man, and now it is the time and opportunity I should not miss! So, the decision was made for John and me to sign up for the trip.

As the date for the trip drew near, a lot of negative news and information popped up. There was news of bad weather and floods in Cambodia, there was information about the austere conditions whereby we would have to prepare with many of the basic needs (toiletries, insect repellents, torchlights, etc.) ... My parents were concerned about my going there, but when they heard that John would be going as well, they were even more concerned for our well-being. In short, I began to doubt whether I had made the right decision to go.

Satan always has a way to put doubts in our minds. However, when we stand on the name of Jesus, who can stand before us? At the Sunday service before the trip, Rev. Anthony prayed for our team of nine, for God's blessings upon us and also upon the work we would do for the Cambodians. So, God gave me affirmation and courage to proceed on the mission trip. We had our worries about inconveniences at the Cambodian customs due to the large number of things we brought along. Thanks to God for His grace that our worries were totally unfounded. The passage of our luggage through the customs were very smooth without delay.

Throughout our time in Cambodia, the weather was good and sunny. It rained only intermittently and at the appropriate time (for e.g., when we were in the bus). In a way, I can say that when it rained, it rained on the streets but never

on our bodies. We were never affected by the rain at all. When we had to be outdoors doing community service at Tang Krang village on the 3rd day, the sun was smiling at us.



I was very much blessed and encouraged by the children in the camp. They impressed me by their active participation in singing, dancing, games and praising the Lord. The Lord said, "Let the little ones come to me." Indeed, the little ones showed themselves to be so adorable and surely endearing to the Lord for their testimony of joy.

The mission trip was also a wonderful fellowship time on the move for the team of nine. I would not have been able to survive Cambodia without the hardworking partnership of the following in the Lord's service: Patrick Boey (Team Leader), John Lee (my husband), Alice Quah, Pauline Tan, Jacqueline Leow, Betsy Yee, Suan Muan and Vandi Choo.



We all returned home clapping our hands for the Holy Spirit's help in conquering the initial doubts and enabling us to complete a successful mission trip. The purpose of the mission trip has been served: Blessing the people in Cambodia with our presence and encouragement, getting to know the pastors and their work there, acquiring insight into the needs of the people and providing a report to our church

leaders to contemplate our developing work in this mission field.

Peggy Tan

A blessed second trip to Cambodia

Seven years ago, I went to Cambodia with my family and a medical team. The trip was led by Rev. William Chang. It was a very good exposure for Sunday School children who had to be accompanied by their parents. While the parents from the village were having their medical check-up, we had children programmes going on at the same time.

The present trip is therefore my second time to Cambodia, but it is my first time to Kandal preaching centre and Tang Krang community centre, two different parts of the country. Except for me, the rest of the team were all first-timers to Cambodia. Everyone had their own worries about the trip – about cleanliness, cultural difference, language barrier, etc. Whatever concerns on our minds, all of us still managed to go ahead.



Kandal Preaching Centre



Classroom equipped with laptops

We would like to give thanks to God for the smooth clearance at the Cambodian custom (all the stuff we brought along was allowed through without any problem), fine weather

throughout the camp, and journey mercy travelling from place to place. What an experience for all of us!

At Kandal, I was very touched by Pastor Moses' sharing. He fully trusts GOD in everything he does with the preaching centre, which is just 3 months' old. With God's blessings, he got to stay in a house within walking steps from the centre and he even got along well with the head of the village who is not a Christian. He is currently looking into schools nearby the centre to reach out to the children and lending laptops to provide computer lessons.

Instead of blessing the children in Tang Krang, we were blessed by them through their amazing enthusiasm in worshipping God and attentiveness in listening to God's Word. Worshipping with everyone in the children camp felt so good, although there was a language barrier. But in God, we are ONE. This type of joy is hard to express in words.



We can see God working in our team. Every one of us was unique in our talents. God could use our differences and make us work as a team with the guidance of our team leader, Patrick. Through the active interactions in the mission work, we got to know one another better than in church prior to the trip. Praise God!



Yeah, we survived in Cambodia by God's grace and mercy.

God bless all!

Jacqueline Leow

Will you be the next participant?

Testimonies from Christians are usually influenced by their personal perceptions. So, it is with what you can hear from the testimonies by us who went on the Cambodian mission trip. Whatever much or little we share with you our experience and observations of the villagers we met there, you will still be missing out something – i.e., hearing directly from the pre-believers how the missionary team made an impact on them. We bring gifts to them, give them our encouragements ... whatever we do, our impact on individuals might be in shades ranging across a wide spectrum.

Therefore, I share this testimony from the standpoint of a person with questions to ask – questions evoked by my participation in the mission trip and reflecting my insights. Hopefully, through these questions, you can ponder the issues and have your interest piqued to be the next participant to see for yourself first-hand the happenings and moods on the mission field.

“ Before there was this Tang Krang Community Centre and its programme, life at the village would have been usual and routine from generation to generation. Some of “my” thoughts and observations of the event as “a local villager in Tang Krang”:

Foreign visitors

Why would anyone want to fly from overseas to visit us in this remote village? My parents will definitely not do this even if they have the means.

I aspire to be like the visitors going around to bring hope, joy and blessing to the less fortunate but need to know how to achieve it. Is it by turning to my best friend, Jesus, who is always there for me as taught earlier during the children camp?

Performers

Performers as old as my grandparents performing for us! It is unthinkable that my grandparents would even dare to sing and dance. What kind of power drives these elderly performers to have the courage to go on stage. I want to share my experience with my parents and grandparents on the experience encountered with Christians.

Friends

The sermon on how the blind horse and goat became good friends does impart good values about loving our neighbour. Are Christians like the goat who have the wisdom, empathy, spiritual perception and selfless love in every one of them? I am interested to know more what is being taught to the Christians from their bible.

The only way to find out more is by going to Tang Krang Community Centre regularly to quench my thirst for bible knowledge and know more about Jesus. ””



How would you really sense the positive vibe of the villagers in Tang Krang towards the blessings of our visit, and the amazing phenomenon of a field ripe for harvest, unless you are there?

Suan Muan