

## Mission Exposure Trip to Cambodia, 8 – 11 December 2017



**Yellow** reminds us of heaven. God loves us and wants us all to be with him in heaven.

**The dark bead** reminds us of sin. Because we have all sinned, we cannot be with God.

**Red** reminds us of the blood of Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross.

**The clean bead** reminds us that when we believe in Jesus, we will be made clean from sin. We now can have a relationship with God and will one day be with him in heaven.

**Green** reminds us that it is important to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

It all began on the first Sunday in November 2017. 17 people have since met weekly to pray and prepare for the December mission trip to Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

The threefold mission was to deliver:

1. Children's Christmas outreach program
2. Sunday School program
3. Caroling at church members' homes



As co-leaders, Tony and Jiemin were unfazed by a team with many who are first-timers in mission-trips.

### **JOY : Jesus, Others, You**

*Mark 10: <sup>45</sup>“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

JOY has been the team's mantra, from preparation to delivery. While each of us knew we had some God-given talent, we lived through the weeks knowing we were never going to be fully prepared. We were just ordinary, truly time-poor folks who were meeting weekly while juggling secular commitments and for some, multiple meetings after each Sunday service. Yet through it all, we have been reminded not to displace our focus on the “task list” and “checklist”, but to encourage one another

in joyful giving. Above all the DO-ing, each of us knew instinctively we will receive far greater blessings from our Cambodian charges.

With the preparation alone, the team saw many firsts, from pulling handicrafts together to learning songs and carols in English and Khmer. On top of faith and faithfulness, a blend of conscientiousness, resourcefulness and specialization saw the enterprising team through.



The colorful Gospel bracelet (top right) supported the message for the Christmas outreach program. Each bracelet was handmade with lots of love and palm sweat!

*1 Corinthians 12: <sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

### Confidence

*Hebrews 10: <sup>35</sup> So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. <sup>36</sup> You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.*

The mission-trippers were not the only ones with the jitters. Feelings of inadequacy mount with change as the constant – the only constants were the scheduled airport departure and arrival times. We were changing plans and tactics on the fly. From delivery of songs, games, crafts, skit to messages, ‘play it by ear’ was the order of each moment. Starting out with measly portions, we can now marvel at how Jesus had fed thousands in one sitting and still had leftovers.



The establishments visited by the team included the Kandal Community Centre (by Pastor Moses), LCC Krus Church with its Life Centre in Kampung Chhnang (by Dara and Reverend Daniel), and LCC City Church with its Rainbow Hostel in downtown Phnom Penh. In each of these, starting a church was not the primary focus. Preaching the gospel was important, but paving the way to show Christian love in practical ways was essential. Trained local church workers embarked on community projects to improve livelihoods by imparting life skills from literacy to farming.

Each project has limited scale and reach because the ‘harvest is plenty but workers are few’. Persevering at what they do, the pastors and church workers have grown their ministry from sustenance projects to regular cell groups and even church services. Only God can charter us through the unknowns and make His calling known to each person, family, community and village.

At Sunday service in Krus Church, it was the first Holy Communion for most of the mission-trippers in a Cambodian church.

Following their family baptism the week before, the Lims marked a milestone on 10 December 2017 with their first ever Holy Communion! The team rejoiced with Henry and Bee Teng, and their charming and witty princes - Darren and Malcolm.



### One flock, one shepherd

*John 10:* <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

On Saturday afternoon, hordes of bicycles rode through the sandy paths to Krus Church. Headed for the Christmas outreach, the riders mostly looked far too small or too short for their bikes.



On Sunday morning, our team arrived at Krus Church to children who had been waiting since or even before 7am, the usual Sunday School time.



They showed up in school uniforms that were handed down, too tight for their growing bodies, and may not have been laundered in a while. They also showed up in pajamas, and some carried and piggybacked their siblings on their small frames.



### THEY SHOWED UP.

The Lord rounded up His flock. The sheep recognized and heard His voice. The sheep pen at Krus Church remains open

for sheep that may have been slow to reach or distracted on the way to it.

Will you be there to receive the sheep when they show up? | ☺



**Charlotte Sam**

## FUN FACTS

~600

years of age in 17 mission-trippers

XYZ

Multi-generational team from JCC

225

kids from 2 to 12 came to the Christmas outreach

