



# THE VINE



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## PASTOR'S WORD

**T**wo weeks ago I received an email from a Christian brother in KL who forwarded the following message:

*Subject: Prayer Call  
To: All God's Prayer Warriors  
and Intercessors*

*Dear Friends-in-Christ,  
Please pray for David Allen, a young missionary on the Chiang Mai, Thailand, mission team. He is critically ill with an unknown parasite and apparently will die within two months unless there is an intervention by the Lord. Please help create a global blanket of prayer for David, Michelle and their four-month old daughter, Brianna...*

*From David Allen: My condition is quite serious now. The body is beginning to break down because I have no more fat or nutrient reserves...I am in constant pain and have to take pain killers regularly. The severe diarrhea has continued for 7 weeks and I have been in the emergency room five times. In the last three days there have been sharp pains in both of my kidneys, so they are now running test to see if my kidneys are infected. So far, eight doctors have not been able to diagnose the parasites... The lab... have found two foreign agents, but no one has ever seen them before or can identify them. One is a parasite, and the other looks more like an amoeba. My doctors are in contact with one of the top infectious disease doctors in Thailand, and several of the experts here in the States.*

*I feel like I am in a dark valley right now. I have been praying for so long for help with no response, that I have become discouraged in prayer...I am confident of my salvation...my fear is related more to the*

*thought of not being with my wife and new baby. This was the happiest time in my life before I became sick.*

What do you think is the chance of David surviving? I felt sad for him. Apparently, this prayer request has been circulating on the Internet for a few weeks. The pastoral staff & Church Council prayed for him. That very night, I received the following email update on David Allen:

*Update on David, missionary who had only 2 months to live due to a parasite. Latest reports are that no parasite can be found! Good News!! David...was in good spirits. Yesterday, he was able to eat a few bites of food throughout the day and even got up, walked around and shaved. The doctors unhooked his IV from which he had been getting his nutrition from, 24 hours a day since last Saturday. Basically, the doctors are trying to jump start his digestive system by introducing small amounts of lactose free food...Dave is now off the pain killer...The big blessing is that the doctors after a battery of tests this past week can find no trace of any parasites!!*

*Continue praying for complete restoration so that he and his family can return to the mission field.*

This is but one instance where the spiritual warfare affecting God's

servant is won through the prayers of God's people. In his letter to the Church at Rome, Paul wrote: *I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea... (Rom 15:30-31).* To the Christians in Colossae, Paul exhorted them: *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Col 4:2)* He revealed that *Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus...is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (Col 4:12)*

You and I have the privilege of struggling in prayer to rescue lives and to wrestle in prayer for our brothers and sisters for their spiritual growth. We have had a weak prayer life for too long - both as a congregation & in our personal lives. It is time we take the ministry of prayer seriously. I believe it is foundational to any ministry in the Church. The Lord promises,

***If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chro 7:14).***

### Call To Prayer & Fasting

We need to come together as a congregation for a time of prayer and fasting because it is time for the congregation to humble ourselves to repent from our spiritual complacency so that God's mercy and healing can flow into His people.

over consumption.

I encourage you to begin fasting and praying for your spiritual life, especially if you don't feel like doing it. Anyone can fast. But you must fast for the right purpose - a spiritual purpose - to seek the Lord, to humble yourself for Him to do a deep work in your life. There are many forms of fasting - absolute fast (abstaining from food and water), normal fast (no solid or liquid food), the 'Daniel fast' or partial fast (a restriction of diet)<sup>1</sup>.

The normal fast is a simple and rewarding fast I challenge you to go through. You may begin by forgoing one meal, e.g. breakfast because it is the easiest. Then in a few days time, go on a 2-meal fast, e.g. breakfast & lunch. That would mean that you do not eat any solid or semi-solid food for 24 hours until dinner. You can then progress to a 3-meal fast. This is more demanding because you will go without food for 36 hours.

Remember to drink plenty of plain water to prevent dehydration especially if you perspire a lot through the day. Of course, don't fast if you are unwell or if you are expecting. If necessary, consult your doctor. And please, don't overeat either before or after the fast. That will stress your digestive system with the under-



During the fast, meditate on the Lord throughout the period. If your hunger troubles you, use it to remind you of the reasons for your fasting. Usually a quick way to handle your stomach is to drink some water. Actually, we need to discipline our stomach because it is used to our regular feeding times. You need to master your stomach, not the other way round. Generally, no harm will come to you when you fast, only blessings! Fasting will prompt you to other areas of your life in which you need the Lord to touch, such as your appetites for pleasure, people's attention, noise, etc.

***Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord. (Joel 1:14)***

All leaders and all in Jurong Christian Church are summoned to a holy fast on August 30. We will meet in the sanctuary at 7.30 pm to wait upon the Lord, to worship, to listen to His Word & to pray. Encourage one another to come for the congregational prayer and fasting. Next month we will have one more on September 27th. The final one will be on October 25th which will culminate in our Revival Meetings - ***Revive Us O Lord!*** We have specially invited Rev

Philip Tan to bring us God's Word and to minister to us. Keep these dates with the Lord!

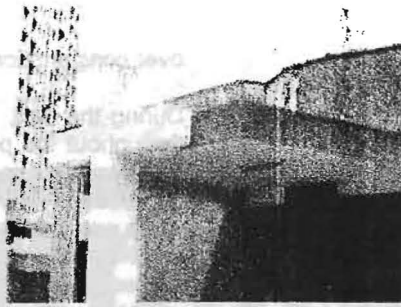
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<sup>1</sup> Dan 10:3 *I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all*

## The Lutheran Church In Singapore

The process of the formation of two national churches out of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia & Singapore has come to its final stage. At this 24th Biennial Convention, 22-24 Aug 97, the second reading of the constitution of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) should be approved. The Executive Council of LCMS has set 1st January 1998 as the date on which the separate administrations of LCM and LCS will function. The first convention of LCS will be held on 30th October 1997 at Yishun Christian Church. We will elect our first Bishop, Secretary, Treasurer and other members of the Executive Council. We need to pray for an anointed leadership to lead us into the next millennium to fulfill our role in this nation and to impact the world.

What does it mean to the members in JCC? Well, a lot of good can happen. We can be part of a vibrant Church where resources are shared to move us ahead into our divine destiny. In the areas of missions, we hope to network all the Lutheran Churches to reach out to the work on Nias, Indonesia. The Lutheran Church can also play a more active role on the national level towards the united effort to reach Singapore and ultimately to reach the unreached beyond our shores. Planting churches in Singapore may not be easy but we can and



should put our effort into planting churches in the mission fields.

Finally, you can expect the caring presence of a local bishop and a more efficient national church administration to have a faster and more

powerful impact on the ministry of Jurong Christian Church. Of course, we will need to take responsibilities for the part we are expected to play in terms of finance, personnel and co-operative effort. God has a wonderful future for us as a congregation in Jurong and as part of the larger Lutheran Church in Singapore. Let's pray to understand His will and fulfill His plans for His glory! Amen.

*Rev Fredric Lee*

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO  
READS THE WORDS....



# PRAYER

God, in all ages, has carried on revival ministries in the assemblies of His saints through an undefeatable small praying number. The praying "twos and threes" again and again have prevailed with God and thus reversed what otherwise were hopeless situations. Numerous examples of this fact are found in both Testaments. These intercessors "stood in the gap" and turned the tide in favour of the people of God.

Thus did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Through prayer they "subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, ...stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire." Outnumbered millions to one, the godly remnant prevailed. Undreamed-of blessings descended upon the people of God through their utter dependence upon the God of all grace.

Isaiah, Hezekiah and their praying companions succeeded

# REVIVAL

*Pastor Martin Yee*

in the face of overwhelming odds. In answer to their deliverance, one hundred and eighty-five thousand of Sennacherib's army fell in a night under a stroke of God. Thus God interposed when all hope seemed lost.

Ezra and his praying companions at the river Ahava secured God's special favour for the whole nation. Their boast in God was amply sustained. God gave them more protection than a regiment of royal soldiers would have assured. They abundantly approved the assertion made to the king, viz: "The hand of our god is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him". (Ezra 8:22)

Saints under the leadership of Haggai and Zechariah by their prayerful devotion to God obtained the completion of the second temple and the revival of the nation. In answer

to their united supplications, "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel ... and the spirit of Joshua... and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God." (Haggai 1:14)

The New Testament abounds with numerous examples of how small praying groups repeatedly called down blessing from God, turned defeats into victories, and barrenness into astounding fruitfulness. The disciples at Pentecost obtained blessings for a sin-hardened nation. The small praying groups in one day wrested 3,000 precious souls from the domination of false religious leaders. Later, thousands more believed. Paul and his friends by prayer opened cities and countries to the Gospel.

God is the same today. Small praying groups count upon God's faithfulness even when conditions seem desperate and hope is at the lowest ebb! Moses secured God's favour on a chance (Ex. 32:30). Jonathan and his armour-bearer prevailed on an "it may be" (1 Sam. 14:6). The king of Nineveh turned God's wrath from his people on a "Who can tell?" (Jonah 3:8-10) The great triumphs are all trophies of prayer.

Our faithful God still loves to honour intercession. Pray for a revival. "Stand in the gap!" Plead! Plead the victory of the cross, the blood of Christ, the unfailing promises, the name of the Lord Jesus. By spiritual weapons pull down the strongholds of Satan. Bring about the confession and forsaking of sin, renewal of faith, and the removal of worldliness. At the back of the "professing church" is the mighty power of the risen Lord. Pray, and get others to pray with you for revival. The revival of the church always has been by prayer. Evangelization of the world must be by prayer. The small praying group through the power of the Holy Spirit is undefeatable.

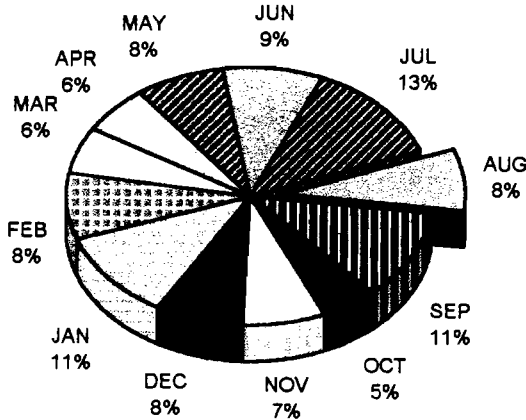
"Pray ye therefore" is the word of Jesus as He calls our attention to the whitened harvest fields. He is seeking for those who will "come to the help of the Lord against the mighty." There are multitudes of heathen hearts to be convicted, missionaries to be strengthened, doors to be opened, walls of opposition to be broken down. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

**Acknowledgment of reference: TBB Ministries, Tampa, Florida 33626**

# INTERESTING STATISTICS FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Based on a database of 179 members, the following charts reveal that the most number of birthdays fall in July and that the highest number of members is between the age group of 6 to 10 years old.

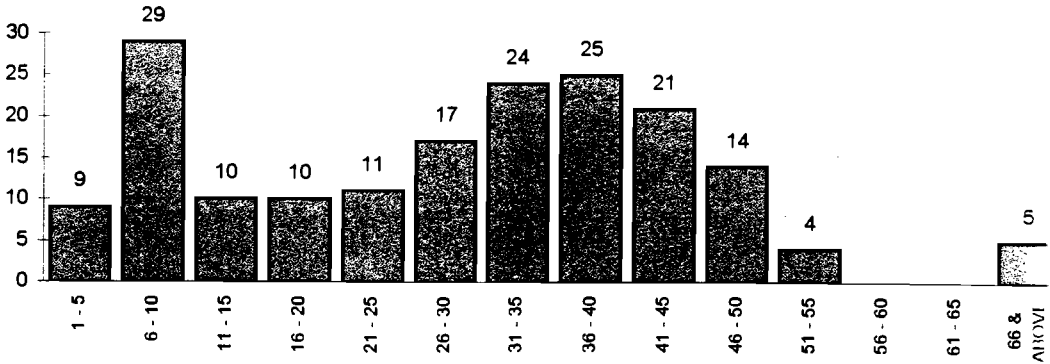
## SPREAD OF BIRTHDAYS IN JCC



## BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST :

Agnes Tan  
 Azel Low  
 Debra Cheah  
 Doris Ho  
 Gilbert Neo  
 Jessie Cheong  
 Kenton Lee  
 Kok Wing  
 Michael Christian  
 Sacharissa Phang  
 Se Ping  
 Seline Phang  
 Sze Ern  
 Varian Cheong

## AGE DISTRIBUTION IN JCC



This has been another information overload service provided by The Statistician.

HOW IS YOUR

# prayer list?

Extract from sermon by Teng Ting Ching

You may be running through the list for a plausible response to the above question:

- \* I pray when I feel like it.
- \* I know it's my duty, I need to pray but somehow I just seem not to get started.
- \* I started my prayer list/my prayer pointer (Anthony introduced) for my ministry, but my prayer only lasted for 10 minutes.
- \* Very dull, once I closed my eyes to pray, I fell asleep ... woke up and said 'Amen'.
- \* Once I bow my head, my thoughts just wanders through the world.
- \* I cannot concentrate, I think of my work, deadline to meet, phone calls to make, have to help my children's schoolwork, what I should cook for my husband, children for lunch?
- \* Etc.

Some of you who once experienced the thrill of abundant answered prayers probably are now facing only a trickle of answered prayers like the scarce rainfall in the desert.

Some of you may have drifted so far because you were angry why He has not answered your earnest prayer for many months/years? You may have gone through all the principles, fulfilled all the conditions for answered prayer, and yet the answer is not prompt and is not answered as abundantly as it was before. Why?

*When I was a few months' old Christian, I knew the importance of having a time with God and I read Jn 14 : 21 ..... I told the Lord you know I had to spend much time in my family laundry, hardly have 1/2 hr with you. But Lord, you know I love you, I want to know you. As you have promised, 'I will disclose myself to you' (NASB) How I wish Lord if I have a washing machine.*

*I never shared this with my mum. 2 weeks later my mum bought a washing machine. Do you think it's a coincidence? No. Jesus promised and He fulfilled His promise.*

Jn 15:7 says, 'if you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. Many of us are thrilled with the 2nd part of the verse and we want it. We want God to fulfill His promise but we forget the 1st part. We think this is His promise, just press the button of asking. He will just answer. We treat God like a machine or a banker or a genie. But we fail to realise that prayer is more than asking.

Yes, it's true, prayer is asking but we must not stop there, it's not the end. Prayer is actually having communion with God; that is to talk to Him and also listen to Him.

When Jesus met you in your life, He demanded for a relationship with you. He wants to be related to you and He wants you to be related to Him. He is a God who delights in personal relationships. Jesus desires that all of us remain in Him. This word 'remain' is spoken of ten times in Jn 15:1-11. 'Remaining' the Greek word 'meno' translated 'remain' or 'abide' means to dwell in or to make a home in. In other words, we need to commune with Him. In communion, we consciously relate to Jesus in the deeper levels of our being.

Let us not just equate our spiritual life and growth with busy involvement in activities, with church, with mission field, with ministry, with everything and forget the first thing first. Jesus said: 'Remain in me.' He does not want you just to have a relationship with all these other things but He wants you to relate to Him first, then all these things will fall into their proper order. Because He said remain in me and my Word remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. Great promises: ask whatever you wish and it will be given you!

**God provided the cream (things small but significant)**



In Pakistan, during the winter months, the weather is dry, your skin can crack under this harsh condition. The cream I brought was running out, I did not want the team to pay because it was expensive. I trusted the Lord could provide. I was sent to minister in a town, staying with a missionary. I was called to the missionary's house and she asked me to open a suitcase and asked to take whatever I need. There I saw the cream (product from Germany). I knew the Lord had provided. I was so thankful and grateful to Him. All those things were left behind by a German couple who had completed their contract project in Pakistan.

#### **God provided specifically - 4 wheels**

A sister called and said she really needed to change the bald tyres of her car. I asked her about her walk with Jesus. She confessed, she struggled and she said, 'Yes, I need to go back to my Master.' I told her I would pray for her. Two weeks later, she called and said the Lord provided her the 4 wheels. I rejoiced with her. She related that a friend had to scrap her car but wanted to sell the 4 wheels which were new. So this sister asked for the price and said she needed them. The friend gave the wheels to her free. Wasn't it amazing! Praise God!

#### **God provided for finance**

I had a sister who shared her ministry with me. And I supported her ministry but she said that she needed \$10,000 for the ministry. So I prayed together with her through the phone and, a few months later, someone wrote a cheque of \$10,000 for the work without any soliciting of funds or publicity. Why? Because we believed together that God wanted His purpose and plan to be fulfilled and He would answer.

Some of us would just depend on answers of prayers many months ago, many years ago. What about now? Jesus called us to remain in Him, He is the one that we need to attach ourselves. What about you? Remain in Me and my words remain in you....

#### **"My words remain in you"**

Jesus wants us to allow His word to be the authority in our lives. We need to begin to learn to obey His word. We need to allow His word to

confirm us in every aspect of our lives. It's so easy to pay lip service and sing 'Lord I love you,' but whether you love Him will be tested in your obedience to Him. When we are disobedient to Him, we can become fruitless. Jesus said, 'I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, apart from Me you can do nothing.'

In a way, the fruitless branch referred to Judas. All the disciples were clean because of the word which Jesus had spoken to them (verse 3) but in Jn 13:11, Jesus mentioned 'not all of you are clean'. Are you one of the fruitless branches? Do not be deceived, come in repentance and ask forgiveness and acknowledge and receive Jesus as your saviour and Lord, so that you are clean and can begin to become a fruitful branch.

Warning: The fruitless branch will be cut off (v2) and thrown away to be burned (v6). Any branch which is a fruitless branch will be cut off by the vinedresser - the Father. If we do not remain in Him and allow His word to remain in us, we are a fruitless branch, and that branch is thrown away (v6).

In another context, it may refer to many areas/things in our lives that are undesirable: our old self, our self-centredness, our laziness, our short tempers, our pride, our greed etc. If we do not allow the word of God to remain in our lives, we do not allow His word to be the sole authority to judge our lives, then all these undesirables can be little offshoots in our lives. They can grow into branches which can sap our energy, our vitality, the nutrients that the main vine supplies us. They grow and grow, may appear leafy but they do not bear fruit. And if we diligently allow the Word of God to remain in us, the Father gently will nip all the branches/off shoots that do not bear fruit. Are you bearing fruit in your lives? When we bear much fruit, God is glorified ultimately.

#### **Conclusion**

We want God to fulfill His promises in our prayer life but have we Remained in Him and allowed His word to Remain in us? If we do, then we can trust that God who is faithful will answer our prayers.

# Nias mission trip report

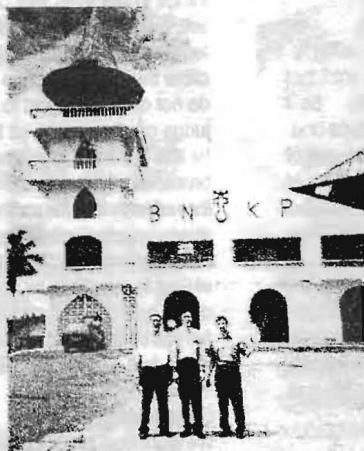
(4 - 13 July 97)

by Michael Christian



Nias is an island in the Indian Ocean, which is situated off the western coast of Sumatra. It is about 65 x 25 miles. The Niasan community was believed to have been founded by a person called Hija who first settled near the Susua river at Sifalago Gomo Boronadu, the center of the island. The first settlers were involved in rearing cattle and farming. Presently, the economy depends mainly on agriculture and tourism.

The BNKP (Benua Niha Keriso Protestant) Church translated as "Community of the Protestant Christian People" has about 720 congregations in the island, with about 320,000 members. It has slightly more than a 100 pastors. The BNKP has also about 30 churches in Sibolga, a town in Sumatra and 50 other churches scattered throughout the rest of Sumatra.



A pastor receives about 200,000

Rp (\$120/-) a month and a church worker is about 100,000-200,000 Rp (\$60/-

to \$120/-) a month. It is estimated that only 50% of BNKP's members have a copy of the Bible in Bahasa Indonesia and even fewer in the Niasan dialect. An estimated 6.7 % of the population are Muslims and the Roman Catholics comprises of 17%.

The BNKP, founded by German missionaries from VEM, became independent in 1943. The Church is a fellow member of the VEM (United Evangelical Mission) which originated from Germany. The agency, with 6 members from the Reform and Lutheran Churches, has 33 members worldwide, spanning across Africa and Asia..

The Niasan Church experienced strong waves of spiritual revival from 1916-1940 which saw the BNKP's membership rise from 25 % to 90 %. However, in recent years, due to internal strife for power there was a split and it resulted in the emergence of 2 splinter groups. Apparently, the leaders, at their recent conference,

had discussed the possibility of unity between the various groups.

On 4th July 1997, Friday, at 10.30 am, the team (Michael, Martin, Jimmy, Rovis, & Tze How) left Singapore on Garuda flight 940. The flight time was about 1 hour and on arrival at Polonia Airport, Medan, we were met by Benjamin Simorangkir, a pastor of a small congregation called Mercu Suar.

Due to the unavailability of flight tickets to Nias, the five of us traveled by taxi to Sibolga, a coastal town on the western side of Sumatra, opposite Nias. The rough journey, which took more than 8 hours (12.15-8.45 p.m.), included two stops, first was for fuel and then for lunch, before rounding the southern part of scenic Lake Toba to Sibolga. We spent the night at the Bundo Nanduang Losmen Rumah makan.

The next morning, we left by the ferry "Penguin Success" (Jambo Jet) for Gunung Sitoli, the capital of Nias. The voyage across the slightly choppy straits was about 4 hours and on arrival, we were met by Mr Laia. We then checked-in at the low budget Hawaii Hotel and after refreshing ourselves, we proceeded

to the house of Ibu Zega, a warm elderly lady of the BNKP, for lunch.

That Sunday's morning service was at the BNKP Gunung Sitoli I Church where Michael delivered the sermon which was interpreted by Rev. Uwe Hummel, a German co-worker with the BNKP. The rest of the team members were involved in mime, games and singing at the Sunday school at an adjoining building.

After the service at Gunung Sitoli, we went to a rural church at Afia, about 15 minutes drive away. Jimmy preached there and we were later treated to a simple lunch. Since the pastor, comes once in three months to administer the Holy Communion, the laymen and elders play vital roles in the church. We were told that the church is supporting an orphan in the Home at Teluk Dalam.

Later that day, we were at the BNKP Orudua Luaha Bo'ueo for another service and Jimmy again delivered the sermon. The team later answered several questions pertaining to the message, from the members of the church.



On Monday morning, we met with the Bishop and Synod of BNKP at Gunung Sitoli.

Apparently from the first visit of Jeremy (YWAM) and Michael in January, Rev Gulo assumed that the support of orphanage project was confirmed and was concerned in the delay of the financial support. Michael however, reaffirmed that no decision, to the adoption of the project was made in January and that we in Singapore, has in no manner, agreed to adopt this project yet. He further explained to the committee that a deeper inter-relationship between the two churches has first to be established before the higher authorities of the church in Singapore can be convinced to even consider the project. He emphasized that the procedure takes time, with a lot of discussions.

Michael clarified 3 important matters that were asked by Rev Batek:

1. There is no direct link between Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and the Lutheran Church of Singapore, as far as working with BNKP is concerned.
2. Sources of fund from Singapore - can either be from the Lutheran Church of Singapore or from individual supporters. Support from the

Churches in Singapore can only be requested next year in 1998 as the LCS is in the process of splitting away from the LCMS.

3. The Singapore side proposed joint missions programs with the BNKP, to reach the "unreach" people groups in Indonesia.

The Chairperson of the Sunday School Commission, Rev. Zega inquired about the system of the Sunday School in Singapore and he also asked for advice as to how the Sunday Schools of BNKP can be improved. Martin Yee and Jimmy Khoo offered some suggestions.

After lunch, we were taken to the



site of a dilapidated dormitory at Tohia, which the BNKP hopes to renovate the building for the accommodation of about 60 children. The blueprint for the renovation has already been drawn by a consultant and a copy has been given to the team. The renovation is estimated at 36.4

million Rp (\$21,666/-). To support a child is 65,000 Rp (\$40/-) per month or 700,000 Rp (\$480/-) per year. Basic school is between three to six years.

Also at Tohia is the theological center, and it offers training for the elders/preachers in subjects such as homiletics, exegesis and skills in reading the English Bible. Currently, a pastor has to serve to about 7 congregations at various locations. In the near future, the center hopes to have 1 full-time director and 2 full-time lecturers. Training is currently conducted by the Rev. Hummel and other senior pastors.

The BNKP also runs a few junior high schools and a vocational high school which also has a technical workshop. The high school at Tohia offers vocational training in accountancy, tourism and secretarial courses. It also has a general high school programme. Its vocational department has 40 teachers of which 30 are part-timers and 10 full-timers and there are about 700 students. The general high school department has 15 teachers and about 100 students. The age of students ranges from 16 to 21 years old. The principal has a Bachelor Degree in Bahasa Indonesia and a



Masters Degree in Education. He hopes to develop the school into an elite school, as was in the past, producing top influential Christian leaders in the government sectors.

Later, Rev. Uwe Hummel invited us to his house, which is on top of a hill over looking the sea, for tea, and it was there that we experienced a tremor, reported by the Straits Times of Singapore (9th July), to measure 5.9 on the Richter scale.

The following morning, in a rented vehicle, we made the trip to Teluk Dalam, a coastal town at the Southern tip of the island. Due to

the poorly maintained mountainous roads, which have huge pot holes, the journey was winding and bumpy. Along the way, we visited a BNKP congregation at Tulum-

baho, of the Soliga district. Rovis & Tze How shared their testimonies and later Martin taught a lesson from the Bethel Series. The pastor of the church introduced to us a young orphan girl who has a sponsor to the Panti Ashunan (Orphanage) at Teluk Dalam.

At another village, Hilinamazihono, 42 km from Teluk Dalam, we were

taken to the house of a poor widow and her 9 year old son. Moved by compassion, we revisited them on our way back to the capital and gave them a bag of rice, a tin of powdered milk and biscuits.

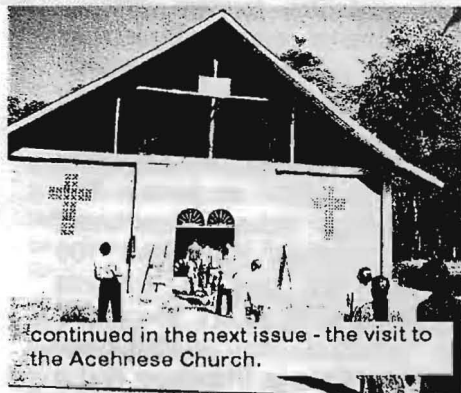
At Teluk Dalam, we checked into the Sikomi Cottage, a low budget chalet, at Sorake Beach. This beach has one of the finest surfs in the world and attracts many surfers. Late that afternoon as we arrived at the orphanage, several of them were at the entrance to welcome us. Dressed in their best, they sang some songs to greet us after Mr. Laia gave us a brief tour of the Home.

Currently, it is the only existing BNKP orphanage (Panti Asuhan) in Nias, and it has 18 children. All of them are being sponsored by the BNKP. A social worker, whose salary is 90,000 Rp (\$53/-) a month which is 60,000 Rp (\$35/-) less than the salary of an average social worker in Indonesia, manages the home. The BNKP has plans to expand the Home, and together with YWAM (Indonesia), have managed to raise sufficient funds, from Singapore, to increase the present intake to a total of 40 children.

A source of income for the orphanage is from the rental of rooms to families working in the

town. The total sum, which they receive monthly, is about 100,000 Rp (\$60/-). Another source of income is from the sale of vegetables, which are grown by the children. This is normally done during the school holidays.

On Wednesday morning, we headed back to Gunung Sitoli (9.00 a.m.-1.30 p.m.). That evening, we were treated to a humble dinner hosted by the Synod at its head office in Gunung Sitoli. On behalf of the team, Michael thanked them for their warm hospitality and assured the BNKP that the team will do its best to give a thorough report to the Lutheran Church of Singapore. Not to raise their hopes, he again reminded them that the task to raise the financial support for the Panti Ashuan will not be an easy thing. Encouragement and gifts were exchanged between the two parties before we bid the final farewell.



continued in the next issue - the visit to the Acehese Church.



# A STORY OF PSALM 91

**F**or four long years, in the front line warfare of World War I, the British regiment commanded by Colonel Whittlesey had not one casualty. They did not lose a single man! They could only give one explanation for this incredible record.

During those interminable years of danger and valor, every officer and every enlisted man in the regiment daily affirmed his faith in God's protection by repeating the Ninety-first Psalm.

Each officer and soldier in the regiment carried a complete copy of the psalm and either read it or recited it from memory daily.



Considering the casualty totals for the war; and more specifically, considering the casualties experienced by adjacent regiments, the chances that an entire regiment could go through such front-line battles without a single casualty were astronomical!

Religious magazines on both sides of the Atlantic published the story. And it was pointed out that, as hard as it might be for some people to believe that the bullets and shells aimed at the men of this regiment were supernaturally deflected, it was harder still to believe that coincidence could have sent that many bullets astray.

## Psalms 91 NIV

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- 5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
- 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
- 8 You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.
9. If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge--
- 10 then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.
- 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;
- 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- 13 You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
- 14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- 15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

2/6/97

Rev. Terry & Sally Kee  
Phra Khanong, Bangkok 10110

How time flies! We have been in Thailand for a year now and Thailand has indeed become a home away from home. As we look back at this one year, we are deeply thankful to God for His bountiful grace and provision. God has graciously provided us with good health, good co-workers and friends, good language teachers, plentiful news from back home, visits from family members and friends, etc. We are happy, contented, and ready to "plunge" into the ministries. We are now earnestly praying toward God's direction for our permanent area of ministry in Thailand through the decision of the Executive Council of the local church.

### UPDATES ...

Both of us began our "work-break" from our language study with a four-day orientation trip to the Northeastern Province of Ubon Ratchathani. We were warmly received by Rev. Magne (a missionary from Norway) at the Railway station on 23/5/97 at 7.00am. Day 1 consisted of visitation to Ubon Goodnews church where we had the privilege of listening to Rev. Veerachol's challenging testimony and was introduced to his ministry at Ubon. After visiting some members and the new "Care for abandoned baby" project in Ubon, we moved on to Emmanuel Hostel in Phibun where we spent the night. There I had the privilege of sharing a message with the 43 students at the hostel. These are children of poor farmers who received scholarships from the Norwegian Missionary Society to stay and study in Phibun.

On the second day, Rev. Kaew brought us to visit his church in Phibun and also to visit and pray for some of his members who are sick. It was quite an experience giving words of encouragement as well as praying for the members in the Thai language. In the evening, evangelist Subin brought us to a house meeting in Fahuan. Their spirited singing did not waver even when we were suddenly thrown into pitch darkness because of an electrical blackout. Again Terry was invited to give a message which he was able to do in Thai with the help of God. It is exciting to see the ministry here bearing fruit after the evangelistic team laboured here for about 10 years. They mushroomed in the last few years and now under the ministry of Rev. Molten, Evangelist Subin, Evangelist Chuang and Evangelist Onchan, there are regular house meetings in 15 different villages. In addition, they managed a buffalo bank that loan buffalo to poor farmers who cannot afford to own buffalo for their ploughing work.

The third day began with chicken porridge prepared by evangelist Subin's wife and thereafter, we participated in Fahuan Church's Bible study and Worship service. Terry preached and celebrated the Holy Communion. In the afternoon, we attended a wedding blessing service where we were invited to bless the newlywed couple.

On the fourth day, we visited Pastor Uthai in the district of Det Udom, a district that has more than 100,000 people but with less than 100 Christians. We learned much from his experiences and we are thankful.



The whole trip, though tightly scheduled, was very fruitful and a great learning experience for both of us.

### **PRAYER POINTERS**

1. Trip to Udon Thani. We will be driving to Udon Thani Province (a round trip of almost 2000km) from 2 - 6 June to serve with Evangelist Boonma in visiting those Christians that had returned from Singapore and have not contacted our preaching station in that district. Pray for a safe journey and that the Lord will use us to gather His sheep back into His fold.

2. Balance between study and ministry. In addition to his ministry at Ladprao Church, Terry had been appointed one of the representatives of the Mission to the Executive Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand as well as a board member of the Lutheran Institute of Theological Education. Pray that we will be able to maintain a good balance between our preparation for our language examinations (in December) and our ministry responsibilities.

3. Future Ministry. Bishop Sompong, on behalf of the Executive Council spoke to Terry last week, asking him to be supervisor to the evangelistic team assigned to plant a new church in the Eastern Province of Chanthaburi (about 300km away from Bangkok) w.e.f. July. This means having to travel there once a month for Holy Communion, ministry team meeting and to preach. It is also likely that we will move to reside and minister there after our language examinations. Please pray for safety in our travel and God's direction in the ministry.

4. Mission Team from Bedok Lutheran Church. From the time they arrive on the 20/6/97, Terry will be driving the Team to the Northeast of Thailand. They will be visiting Buriram, Udon Ratchathani, Phibun, Fahuan, Det Udom, Sisaket and Siikiu. Pray for journey safety and positive learning experiences for all participants.

In addition to the above, Terry was requested to help in the preparation of some static display on behalf of the Bishop for the LWF General Assembly to be held in Hong Kong in July as well as assist in the LWF Pre-Assembly Youth Conference held in Bangkok before returning to Union Language School to resume his language study and examination preparations.

We are thankful to God for the gift subscription of "The Strait Times Weekly" from which we can receive some news from Singapore. We would love to hear from more of you on news about you and of loved ones among the congregations in Singapore so that we can pray more specifically for you as well. All of you may be out of our sight but surely not out of our mind.

May the Lord our God continue to bless you richly according to His abundant grace.

Yours in Christ's mission,

*Rev. Terry Kee & Sally*

# Evangelism

AMONG THE

## "CHURCHED"

So much talk these days  
about "Evangelism"  
is a healthy sign,  
especially if it is followed by action.

While evangelism often conjures up images of outreach, of sharing the Gospel with the unchurched, we must also not forget "evangelism" among the "churched" who are marginally involved, inactive, "at risk," or in danger of wandering away from the fold. Among this group, the greatest potential for "evangelism" is with young people.

Give due attention to the "outreach" kind of evangelism implied by Jesus' command to "Go into the world and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19), and balance it with a good amount of "home mission" attention with our own young people. We have youths in our midst who are tottering in their spiritual lives. It is pointless to think of leaving the sheepfold to look for lost lambs with heroic measures if we cannot give due care to those sheep which are still around.

Ministering to physical needs opens hearts to the gospel. Sharing God's Word and demonstrating His love through acts of kindness must go hand in hand. People often come to believe in Jesus and receive eternal life when our preachings and actions are combined in manifesting the love of God and the truth embodied in God's Word.

Jesus Christ,  
Son of God,  
make yourself known  
through me.

Jesus Christ, Son of the  
living God,  
speak through me  
to others.

## CHURCH SEASONS & READINGS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR 1997

DATE	SEASON	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
6-Jul-97	7th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 2: 1-5	II Corinthians 12: 7-10	Mark 6: 1-6
13-Jul-97	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 7: 10-15	Ephesians 1: 13-14	Mark 6: 7-13
20-Jul-97	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 23: 1-6	Ephesians 2: 13-22	Mark 6: 30-34
27-Jul-97	10th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 24: 3-11	Ephesians 4: 1-7;11-16	John 6: 1-15
3-Aug-97	11th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 16: 2-15	Ephesians 4: 17-24	John 6: 24-35
10-Aug-97	12th Sunday after Pentecost	I Kings 19: 4-18	Ephesians 4: 30-5: 2	John 6: 41-51
17-Aug-97	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Proverbs 9: 1-6	Ephesians 5: 15-20	John 6: 51-58
24-Aug-97	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Joshua 24: 1-2a;14-18	Ephesians 5: 21-31	John 6: 60-69
31-Aug-97	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 4: 1-2;6-8	Ephesians 6: 10-20	Mark 7:1-8;14-15;21-23
7-Sep-97	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 35: 4-7a	James 1: 17-22; 26-27	Mark 7: 31-37
14-Sep-97	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 50: 4-10	James 2: 1-5;8-10;14-18	Mark 8: 27-35
21-Sep-97	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 11: 18-20	James 3: 16-4: 6	Mark 9: 30-37
28-Sep-97	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Numbers 11: 4-6;10-16;2	James 4: 7-12	Mark 9: 38-50
5-Oct-97	20th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 2 : 18-24	Hebrews 2: 9-11	Mark 10: 2-16
12-Oct-97	21st Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 5: 6-7;10-15	Hebrews 3: 1-6	Mark 10: 17-27
19-Oct-97	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 53: 10-12	Hebrews 4: 9-16	Mark 10: 35-45
26-Oct-97	23rd Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 31: 7-9	Hebrews 5: 1-10	Mark 10: 46-52
2-Nov-97	24th Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 6: 1-9	Hebrews 7: 23-28	Mark 12: 28-34
9-Nov-97	25th Sunday after Pentecost	I Kings 17: 8-16	Hebrews 9: 24-28	Mark 12: 41-44
16-Nov-97	26th Sunday after Pentecost	Daniel 12: 1-3	Hebrews 10: 11-18	Mark 13: 1-13
23-Nov-97	Christ The King	Daniel 7: 13-14	Revelation 1: 4b-8	John 18: 33-37
30-Nov-97	1st Sunday in Advent	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	I Thessalonians 3: 9-13	Luke 21: 25-36 or Luke 19: 28-40
7-Jan-00	2nd Sunday in Advent	Malachi 3: 1-4	Philippians 1: 3-11	Luke 3: 1-6
14-Jan-00	3rd Sunday in Advent	Zephaniah 3: 14-18a	Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 7-18
21-Jan-00	4th Sunday in Advent	Micah 5: 2-4	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-45
28-Jan-00	1st Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Hebrews 1: 1-9	John 1: 1-18

# The Student Prayer

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The Lord is my shephard, I shall not flunk;  
He keepth me from lying down when I should be studying.  
He leadth me besides the water cooler for a study break;  
He restores my faith in study guides.  
He leads me to better study habits.  
For my grade's sake.  
Yea, thou I walk through the valley of borderline grades,  
I will not have a nervous breakdown;  
For thou art with me;  
My prayers and my friends, they comfort me.  
Thou givest me answers in moments of blankness;  
Thou anointest my head with understanding.  
My test paper runneth over with question I recognize.  
Surely passing grades and flying colors shall follow me  
All the days of examinations.  
And I shall not have to dwell in this university  
Forever!  
Amen!

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Author Unknown

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## PRAYER FOR EVANGELISM

Almighty God,  
you called your church to be One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.  
By your grace you have given us new life in Jesus Christ, and by your  
Spirit you have called us to  
proclaim his name through out the nations: Awaken in us such a love  
for you and your world that in  
this Decade of Evangelism we may so boldly proclaim Jesus Christ  
by word and deed that all people  
may come to know him as Saviour and follow him as Lord; to the  
glory of your Name.  
Amen.