

# MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Private Circulation Only

28 September 2014

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

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Sunday School: 9.45 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jack Sin (HP: 9116 0948)

## Report on Myanmar Missions Trip

### I. Lecture from the book of Nehemiah

I personally have learnt a lot of things from the lecture and I am so happy about it. But beyond that, our pastors and missionaries have learnt much from the lectures of Dr Jack Sin.

Chin Pastors : I asked the Chin Pastors how they benefited from the lessons we learnt from the book of Nehemiah and they said that they have benefited a lot. Particularly, as leaders in local churches, most of them said that they realized their short coming on "vision and action" from chapter 2. They said that they used to have a lot of visions, but action hardly followed. They also learnt how to fight against the internal and external enemies, and how to unify the church members in one accord for the work of the Lord as Nehemiah did. I know that some pastors benefited much more than what they expressed.

Pastor John Ling : John Ling told me that he was most blessed from the family lists in the work of building the Jerusalem wall. He said that he read this book several times, but never at once learnt anything from these family lists. Now he realized how important it is to be unified beginning with family and spreading to the whole body of the church in the work of the Lord.

Rakhine Missionary Tha Ya Aung : Tha Ya Aung worked as a missionary in Rakhine State among the Rohingya for nine years as he can fluently speak their language. When he started to share the Gospel with these people they threw stones several times, but he never gave up, and finally, the majority of these villages became Christians. But as Nehemiah was disturbed by Sanballat and Tobiah, Tha Ya Aung was disturbed by internal and external enemies including some monks. Even he was being chased with the sword as they sought to kill him. Therefore in 2013, he gave up ministering among these two villages saying he may die by the hands of those people.

But now after learning lessons from Nehemiah, his mind is deeply touched, and he realized his unfaithful and cowardly mind for the Lord. He promised me that he will go again to the same place to take care of those believers. I am really touched by his words, and I thank God for sending Dr Jack Sin to us.

All Pastors and missionaries : I had two days (16-17 Sept) follow up, were I asked a lot of questions and I came to understand that they have mostly benefited from the

mind set of Nehemiah between “**his work and his enemies.**” And some were strengthened by hearing the generosity of Nehemiah. Thank God for this fruitful mission team from Maranatha BPC. As I have had no time to go and talk with the BRS students yet, I have no words from them.

**II. Immanuel Orphanage Home** : Rev. Paul came to join the two days follow up, and he shared with us that the children enjoy playing with their ukulele so much, they love it too much, and our campus is always noisy with the ukulele sound. Praise the Lord.

The Home can now enjoy four tables eight feet long and eight benches for dining and study, five new fans, new pillows and mosquito nets from the Maranatha BPC mission team. All the children are happy beyond what one can express.

**III. IEPC Children** : Our children enjoy listening and playing games taught by the Maranatha mission team led by Angie Sin. Most of our children are now eager to be able to speak English, so that they can speak to the Singaporeans. Brother Fong Jing Heng taught them the account of Noah and his ark. Dn Ng Thiam Koon taught games, songs by Angie Sin. All these activities led our children to grow in the fear of the Lord.

**IV. Sunday Service at IEPC** : There were around 170 attendees, listening to the preaching from Jude 20-25. “***The Four Imperatives of Christian in the Last Days***” outlining (1) Build, (2) Pray (3) Keep, and (4) Look. This preaching stirred the minds of the audience to be mindful and to guard themselves with prayer in their doctrinal standpoint, and be always ready to meet Jesus at any time. Chin Pastors, Rakhine missionaries and Ashu Chin missionaries are deeply touched and it moved their minds to do more work in their fields. Thank God for such an inspiring message that was brought by Dr Jack Sin.

Baptism : God is so gracious to our ministries, on the day Dr Jack Sin preached at IEPC on 14 September 2014, there were seven new believers baptized, four formerly Buddhists, one an ex-Animist, and two saved by God’s grace from Christian families. Their names are:

- U Naing Linn (married)
- Daw Tan Tan Win (married)
- Daw Myo Thu Khaing (married)
- Daw Baby (married)
- U Aung San Htwe (married)
- Ms. Tway Ta Moe (single)
- Mr. Enoch Lal Hum Sum (single)

The IEPC received S\$500 and 646750 Kyats for the printing of the Chin KJV Bible. We are most happy to have Maranatha BPC mission team in Yangon for five days. This mission trip helped us a lot in physical and spiritual aspects. We pray that the Lord may be pleased to continuously use the Maranatha BPC and her friends to encourage and strengthen our ministries in Myanmar.

## **Prayer Requests :**

1. Pray that the new believers, who were baptized by Dr Jack Sin, may grow in the fear of the Lord and spread the Gospel to their Buddhists families and nearby unbelievers.
2. Pray for our ministries among the different groups and Animists, so that the Lord may bring more to eternal life.
3. Pray for our Home so that our children may grow to know in the Lord.
4. Pray for the re-checking of the Chin KJV Bible by pastors and lecturers from different denominations which is scheduled to be completed by this coming March 2015, so that this Bible may bring revival to the Chin people. (the only Chin Bible we have now is translated from TEV one of the most incomplete Bibles)
5. Pray for the IEPC that the Lord may provide the land and the church building soon.

*Rev Salai Tha Luai*  
Immanuel Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Yangon, Myanmar

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## **Reflections on Myanmar Missions Trip – *Dn Hong Che Hwee***

Thanks be to God for the wonderful six days we spent as a missions team in the beautiful land of Myanmar. This was my first mission trip and I felt delighted and blessed to be part of a team which brought joy to our Christian brothers and sisters there.

We were given a warm welcome at the airport. A large entourage comprising Rev Salai, Dorothy Luai and family, and various pastors from the Chin State (who travelled more than 1,000km to Yangon) welcomed us. It was dusk. We were ushered to the church van, a newly bought one, and inside the word 'welcome' shone in blue fluorescent light, while melodious Chin Christian songs were played on the DVD.

Everyone had a part to play on the trip. Pastor Jack had the key role of delivering sermons and conducting baptism. The rest of us were involved in the various children programmes.

On the second day, we arrived at the Biblical Reformed Seminary (BRS) founded and managing by Rev David Khobal who had studied reformed theology in the United States. The seminary was spartan yet fully functional, housing more than 20 full time Burmese students who live in-campus. It had an impressive library with an estimated one thousand or more theological literature written in English! So we spent the entire first day at the BRS. Pastor Jack conducted the edifying studies on the book of *Nehemiah* and a seminar titled '*The Calls and Marks of a Spiritual Leader*'.

We returned to the BRS on the third day. Pastor Jack continued the studies on *Nehemiah* with the adults. The rest of us in the mission team conducted a programme for the children of IEPC (Immanuel Evangelical Presbyterian Church - Rev Salai's church). Brother Fong Jing Heng and sister Angie Sin led in songs and Fong Jing Heng delivered a Bible lesson on *Noah and the Great Flood*. Sister Han Kin Kheng and all then conducted the art and craft session. Dn Ng Thiam Koon led in games.

On the morning of the fourth day, we had a blessed time buying souvenirs at the famous Bogyoke Aung San market in downtown Yangon. Bogyoke means 'General' in Burmese. General Aung San, the father of Aung San Suu Kyi, was considered by locals to be a hero and father of modern-day Myanmar. He was instrumental in helping Myanmar gain independence from the British in 1948.

After lunch we made our trip to the IEPC orphanage led by Pastor Paul. A total of 34 orphans live in two large traditional houses built with woven bamboo (boys and girls live in separate dormitories). The children's programme was conducted at a hall in a brick building 50m away. It was a warm stuffy day and the power generator was down. Fong Jing Heng kicked off the programme with songs. I was up next to deliver the Bible lesson on *Noah and the Great Flood*. I felt rather nervous, for I was back-up to Fong Jing Heng who suffered from a sore throat that day, plus there was no power to flash the PowerPoint slides that were prepared! All eyes were on me, as everyone including the adults sat down to listen to my 'monologue'! I quietly prayed in my heart for God's word to go forth clearly to the children, and hopefully it did. Next up was art and craft, followed by games and English lesson led by Dn Ng Thiam Koon. After a short break, sister Koh Joo Kim and sister Yeo Lie Hwa conducted what was arguably the highlight of the day - the Ukulele lesson. We gave out 16 ukuleles to the children who were filled with anticipation to learn the little instrument. Koh Joo Kim taught them to play two songs '*This is the day that the Lord has made*' and '*God is so Good*'. How fast they learnt to play and sing! Goh Joo Kim proudly said that they were the best students she had so far. The programme ended at 6pm with the goodie bags presentation. We then adjourned nearby to visit the home of a soldier, and Pastor Jack shared a gospel message from the book of *Romans*.

Sabbath was on the fifth day. We first visited Yangon BPC led by Rev Kim in the morning. There I shared a short personal testimony and the mission team presented a song item titled 'Rescue the perishing'. In the afternoon we visited the IEPC. Around 160 people turned up for the service, which lasted from 3pm to 6pm. Pastor Jack baptised 7 people. Fong Jing Heng gave his testimony and we presented the song item again. It was a blessed day of worship in God's house.

On our last day, we visited a Jewish synagogue named Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue. It is the last remaining Jewish house of worship in downtown Yangon and Myanmar's only synagogue. It serves around 45 Jews in the country, mostly descendants of Sephardic Jewish Iraqis. We met Mr Moses Samuels who acts as trustee for this old colonial stone building built in the 1890s.

There are many things I would like to thank God for regarding this trip. Though our stay was short, I was grateful we could make an impact to the people especially the children. I remember the faces of the orphans who came up to each one of us; little ones who wanted to shake our hands, asked for our autographs and waved their

warm goodbyes as our van drove away. I recall the beautiful voices the Chin people are blessed with. Though I do not understand what they sang, I could feel their sincerity and love towards God in their voices. I also thank God for preserving and furthering the reform faith in the city of Yangon. The IEPC, BRS, and Yangon BPC are all reformed, and I pray it may please God for more churches to come to know the Reformed Faith.

I want to give praise also for how God by His grace allowed Darrell Lim my good friend to come on this trip. I met him one day and casually remarked that I was going on a mission trip to Myanmar. He asked enthusiastically if he could come; he was free because he had a one month break in between jobs. Darrell Lim is a young Christian and he is resolved to quit smoking. I pray that this trip has strengthened his faith and his resolve to break the shackles of the smoking habit which I had gripped him for many years.

A lot of background work was done before the trip. I thank God for the faithfulness of Dn Ng Thiam Koon and the meticulous planning he did. During the trip, he was in charge of managing the pooled money. Let me tell you that it was a really difficult task! The Burmese currency is such that one needs to carry a thick pile of notes everywhere! Without a doubt, Dn Ng Thiam Koon has the gift of administration, as Pastor once says, thanks be to God. I thank also sister Dorothy Luai for translating most of the messages into Chin. Also sister Irene Tan who prepared all the lovely goodie bags for the children, and her generous help to IEPC and Rev Salai. Also with brother Calvin Chan who was sick with tuberculosis but his spirit was with us at this whole trip.

We must continue to pray for the needs of the Burmese people, and especially the orphanage. We were told that the plastic chairs and tables used that day were specially rented for the occasion. Also, the land and the hall do not belong to IEPC but to a Korean missionary. There were recent discussions between Pastor Paul and the Korean missionary who indicated his wish to sell the land.

On the last day of the trip, Rev Salai prayed a closing prayer thanking the mission team for having 'strengthened' them in their labour. From the joyful faces of everyone at the airport I could sense how much our presence meant to them. As we said our goodbyes I felt an overwhelming sense of peace and inner joy, knowing that God's work shall press on, and if it be God's will we shall return soon to fellowship with them once again.

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## **Thoughts on Myanmar Missions Trip - *Fong Jing Heng***

I want to thank God for being able to join the missions trip to Myanmar this year, and to share about God's goodness as seen through His providence through the trip and through two groups of people.

God gave safety in travel and allowed the itinerary to be completed smoothly. Although some of the members of the team (including myself) were not always at 100% health, these were minor and did not affect the smooth completion of the entire programme. This included my 2 day trip extension after the missions trip proper.

The Myanmar brethren looked after us very well. We were made to feel welcome wherever we went, whether arriving at the airport, going to the Bible Seminary, or to the various churches and other places. Being in a foreign country and not knowing the language can be hard, but we were looked after at every point of the journey. One of the members of the church used his newly acquired van to take us around everywhere. On the final day, we were given many mangoes at the airport to take back. Mangoes are of course perishable, but this showed the love of the Myanmar brethren, which is enduring.

It was also encouraging to see Christianity alive in Myanmar, to see the Pastors serving God faithfully, the brethren continuing to worship God fervently, especially as families, to see children at the orphanage who at least have the blessing of being firmly grounded on God's word and love in their time there, and at the Bible Seminary, to see many being prepared to be used for God's purpose where He sends them. Myanmar is not usually thought of as a Christian nation or a nation of Christians, but the influence of Christ on at least a faithful few is palpable as seen over those few days of being there directly, and can also be read about from the short history of IEPC which we were given, and through the work of missionaries, namely Adoniram Judson.

I felt very keenly the affection of the individual team members as they sought to serve God together. For instance, during the trip, I saw how Dn Ng Thiam Koon spent much of his nights settling financial and administrative items for the trip, on top of what had already been done pre-trip. Also, while I had some specific responsibilities for the trip, I did not undertake them myself. Sister Angie Sin guided the singspiration even when I "led" it, and also amended my Bible lesson Powerpoint slides and gave feedback on how to bridge the language and age barrier in delivering the lesson. Dn Hong Che Hwee volunteered to take the Bible lesson at the orphanage when I was not feeling too well. The trip was comfortable for me because others were looking after things, meaning I did not have to do or worry about them, and as they were filling my inadequacies over the small set of things I was supposed to do.

I was further encouraged by the love shown by the Singaporean team members to others. Many things were freely given away, including the gifts that Auntie Irene Tan had prepared, the stock of ukuleles, including sister Goh Joo Kim's personal ukulele. I saw how much preparation had been put in by everyone, such as Pastor Jack's lessons and messages, the English lessons and games (not easy to design these for use overseas), and the ukuleles and the related teaching materials. Also, many of those in Singapore sent encouraging messages and undertook to pray for the team.

To conclude, the main reflection from this trip is the demonstration of God's goodness. It happened over two countries, but the territorial boundary matters little to

God who is sovereign over all the world. This brings to mind the Psalmist's exhortation to

*“Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion:  
bless the LORD, O my soul”*

(Psalm 103:22)

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## **Reflections on Myanmar Missions Trip – Koh Joo Kim**

Thank God for the opportunity to join the MBPC mission team to Myanmar. Yeo Lie Hwa and myself were greatly blessed by the trip.

Our main duty in this trip was to conduct a Ukulele lesson in Immanuel Orphanage home. We were overjoyed by the response from the 30 children in Immanuel Orphanage. They are fast learners with a keen interest to learn to play the Ukulele. The children listened to instructions with keen ears and eyes. They watched every chords fingering position intensely that the teacher made on the Ukulele and the pattern of strumming. With this keen mind to learn the children picked up the skill very quickly.

With the assistance of Rev Jack Sin, Angie Sin, Yeo Lie Hwa and Deborah Luai in the class, plus the effective translation by Dorothy Luai, we were able to teach the children to play 2 songs with the Ukulele within one and a half hour. Praise the Lord for the accomplishment.

I am also overjoyed by Rev Salai's feedback :

*Rev Paul came to join the two days follow up, and he shared with us that the children enjoy playing with their ukulele so much, they love it too much, and our campus is always noisy with the ukulele sound. Praise the Lord.*

All glory and honor be unto God Almighty!

Main lessons I took away from this Myanmar missions trip were :

### **1. Trust the Lord to accomplish His Work, I only need to be faithful to teach - Philippians 4:6**

I was apprehensive about teaching the Ukulele in the 2 hour slot. There is also the concern about the language. In my mind it was difficult to teach the children to play the Ukulele within the 2 hour slot when I took weeks to teach adults to play in Singapore. But lo and behold! I was wrong and pleasantly surprised by the speed the children picked up the skill to play.

**2. If you have a choice, it is better to spend time on a mission trip than to stay put in your comfort zone at home – Matthew 28:18-20**

Going on a missions trip in Myanmar makes good sense to me as follows :

- time and money well spent and invested for the Lord
- exposure to a new culture to see and feel the heart beat of the land
- fellowship with believers in Myanmar and mission team members
- face to face sharing, encouraging and praying for one another in our walk with God
- typical of Singaporean – eat and shop.

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**Email from Myanmar**

Thanks for your ministering to us. We are so much strengthened in the Lord. Please remember to minister to us next time you come to Myanmar. We deeply appreciate your service for the Lord.

*Pastor Kima*  
Yangon BP Church

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Pray for the newly elected session and their spouses who are supporting them.

Visitation to Xue Feng in his home and sharing of the word with the Chinese brethren.



Ministered the word at Kulai BPC with Seow Zi Fa and our MRM book was bought by many in the 2 services.



Chiang Mui Leng sharing at the Tweens Fellowship.

Theme for the Quarter :  
**Spiritual Nuggets from the Preacher**  
**(Studies into Ecclesiastes)**

Rev Dr Jack Sin

speaks on

Who Needs A Saviour? (Mark 5:1-20)

*Gospel Sunday*

[End of MM]