

Going Missional!



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Equipped to Disciple

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

- Matthew 28:19

For more information
faith.org.au/release
mission@faith.org.au

A WORD FROM THE MISSIONS TEAM

by Weisong & Steph

Hi Church!

As we roll through August and into September, our church's Discipleship Conference is coming up! A thought recently came to us when spending time with the Lord on discipleship and missions. The concerns of missions are discipleship concerns. The concerns of discipleship are missional concerns. Our Lord Jesus calls us to the mission of discipleship making.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

- Matthew 28:19

When we go for missions, we should consider discipleship. On the other hand, in our personal discipleship, we should consider missions.

This month, it is our privilege and delight to present testimonies from around our church that will gear us up for Discipleship Conference. The stories in this newsletter demonstrate how missions can equip us to grow as Christ's disciples in Ministry, Life and Mentoring.

God bless and Shalom.



PHOTO: RUNNING A CLINIC FOR THE COMMUNITY

Joy shares how going for a mission trip in Cambodia better equipped her for ministry back home in FCC Perth.

FCC will be sending a team to Cambodia at the end of February 2023. Sign up for our first overseas mission trip post-Covid via mission@faith.org.au!

In December 2019, I had the privilege of going on a mission trip to Cambodia with FCC. It was a medical-based mission trip where we provided the locals with the medical services they needed. Whilst providing this service, we used that opportunity to share the gospel and pray for them. We saw God moving greatly, bringing both physical healing and spiritual healing to the Cambodian community. Before the trip, we received training from a Faith Kids leader on how to share Christ with kids. She taught us to share the gospel and our testimonies by using simple English - avoiding Christian jargons, and keeping our sharing concise and straight to the point. It was also useful when sharing with adults too. With the help of local translators, we were given about five minutes (a sweet spot where patients were waiting for their medication) to share the gospel and another five minutes to pray for them. Little context of each patient was given; we had to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us. The Holy Spirit gave us wisdom as to what to say, enabling us to provide clear and simple sentences for our translators to communicate.

Sharing Christ in another country comes with language barriers but this has challenged me to fully trust and believe that God will work past the barriers and directly in the hearts of the people.

Ministry



This, in turn, has transformed the way I share about Christ today too; to share the gospel clearly and concisely in this busy ever-changing world with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. From sharing Christ with an uber driver of 15 minutes long ride to a friend I bumped into who only had about 10 minutes to chat, time and time again God has shown me that He can reach hearts in the brief moments too, just like how he did in the many 5 minutes of gospel sharing in Cambodia.

When we do missions, we get to partner with God. Simultaneously, God reveals Himself to us as He reveals Himself to those we are reaching out to. Equipped with the knowledge of who God is and my role as a follower of Christ, through missions, God is made known deeper in my heart in such a real way. He gives us the opportunity to live out our lives as his followers. Whilst I am equipped to do missions, God also uses missions to equip me.



Here is a testimony from Johnathan and Pamela Chee who's experiences in the mission field has equipped them for unexpected situations in life.

Shalom! We are John and Pam. We have been attending FCC for the last 13 years and have been on multiple short-term mission trips; some to different countries (prior to the COVID pandemic).

For FCC's "big release" that occurred during the Christmas holiday season, we went to Cebu, Philippines. The mission objectives were; to pray with the staff of the local church and the community, minister Christ to the public, fulfil community needs, evangelise to the disadvantaged communities (e.g. individuals and families living in dump sites and cemeteries), support the local church in hosting evangelical events (e.g. Christmas parties for children), attend malnourished and pre-school programs administered by the local church, distribute food bundles to unprivileged people, and lastly, provide words of encouragement in the presence of the Holy Spirit to leaders of the local ministries.

This had a great impact on our personal discipleship. We learnt to cultivate a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and to be totally dependent on God in ways such as; praying in the Spirit, spending time reading His Word, asking for 'Words of Knowledge', and practising being aware of the His presence.

Life's Seasons



For instance, whilst distributing food bundles at a dump site, we sensed that the Holy Spirit wanted us to minister to an elderly man. This man has spent years experiencing hemiparesis after having a stroke and was dependent on crutches to assist mobility. Without any prior knowledge about the man's medical condition, Pam was led by the Holy Spirit to ask him to "stand up and walk". This resembled the events in John 5:8-9 where Jesus asked the paralysed man to pick up his mat and walk. As such, Pam obediently verbalised her thoughts to the elderly man who was healed by God and proceeded to stand and walk unassisted.

Following the miracle, the Holy Spirit prompted Pam to ask the man whether he wanted to receive Christ as his Lord. The man replied "YES" and allowed us to lead him in reciting the sinner's prayer. We were amazed by God's miraculous healing and giving us the privilege to witness a salvation.

to be continued 



We believe that our mission to spread the Christian faith has no boundaries. We should always be attentive to the Holy Spirit and allow God to speak through us - one way is to include our Lord Jesus Christ, in our daily activities such as working, studying, spending time with family and interacting with friends, or at times, even strangers.

Though we may feel inadequate and believe that we cannot make any contribution on a mission trip. This, however is not true. Everyone has at least one gift or talent that God can use despite your personal weaknesses, as long as you are willing to surrender your will to His will. Everything we do is about the Almighty God. Therefore, the Holy Spirit will guide, teach, and provide you with the resources. In short, mission trips are like going on a honeymoon with God.



The lessons that we learnt on our mission trips are invaluable. They taught us to surrender our plans willingly to God, and to choose to trust in Him rather than let our emotions get the better of us, even during tough times. At present, an unforeseen circumstance has interrupted our family's life plans and inadvertently brought our life to a standstill. However, due to our experiences on multiple mission trips and having witnessed God at work, we know and are able to continue to thank our faithful God. He has taught us that His thoughts and ways are always higher than ours.

This faith has prevented our family, especially Pam from falling into a negative thought pattern and more seriously; depression. For we know God knows our future and He has prepared us to deal with it in advance.



Photos from John and Pam's trips to the mission field and the teams they went with.

to be continued 



PHOTO: KP, JASMINE AND CHILDREN IN THE FIELD

Here is a testimony from the Chua family, comprising of daddy KP, mummy Jasmine, and their children Amber and Daniel. KP and Jasmine continue to mentor their next generation through missions.

Batam, Indonesia, has a special place in our hearts. This island is where our family embarked on our very first overseas mission trip in 2017. Being our first adventure, we were clueless on what to expect when we signed up. Interestingly, the trip turned out to be an eye-opener and fuelled our family's desire to reach out to the underprivileged. We had such an amazing experience that we jumped at the next opportunity to join another mission trip to Batam again in 2019.

During both trips, we visited an orphanage and spent time engaging with the children. The teams planned and conducted; classroom lessons, biblical crafts and devotions with the children. We also found opportunities to share God's word, worship and pray with them. One of our fondest memories was taking the children to an indoor amusement park. Most of us wouldn't think much about visiting an amusement park, yet for these children, it was their very first time and they so looked forward to it. Their excitement, laughter and shrieks on the thrill rides were extremely heart-warming for the team.

INTERESTED IN MISSIONS?

There are many opportunities for you and your connect group to serve! Join us in sharing God's love to our community practically. Email us your interest to go missional at mission@faith.org.au

Mentoring

Despite the current pandemic situation putting a dent on overseas missions, we are nevertheless thankful for the many local mission initiatives that are in place. Without having to travel overseas, our family has found several opportunities over this past year to participate in like Christmas outreaches at the town of Beverley (WA) and to join other volunteers at their Saturday Homeless Outreach in Fremantle.

Missions have had a positive impact on our discipleship journey as a family. As we served together, there's been numerous occasions for us to share, discuss and witness the goodness of God. When we took our first trip in 2017, our children; Amber and Daniel were just 10 and 5 years old. While many were concerned about their young age at that time, the Lord reminded us that all it takes is a willing heart. We are ever so grateful for how the Lord has since then touched and filled our children's lives with compassion. Igniting their desire to serve with a servant's heart.

We are glad to have heeded the church's call to go missional as we have gained much more than we could have imagined or asked. May we encourage you to step out in faith and consider participating in a missional initiative whenever the opportunity arises. With a willing heart, let's trust God and allow Him to work His blessings through you.