

theFields





cambodia pg10

Despite having the Khmer Rouge tearing the country apart only a mere 40 years ago, Cambodia has been taking strides in rebuilding the nation. Missions organisations in the country have been striving to serve the Cambodian community in many ways, believing in the importance of meeting the needs of the Khmer at a grassroots level...

nepal pg24

Many of these groups believe that the Hindu religion remains sacred towards their identity as Nepali because it was the religion of their forefathers. Christianity is seen as a threat to their tradition, and Christians are persecuted in hopes of making Nepal fully Hindu again...

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fore- word

by Senior Pastor
Chris Kam



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The vision of IMPACT2020 was concretised about two years ago in a personal retreat. This is not something that had come about just recently.

As I took on the role of Senior Pastor in 2016, I had begun to ask the Lord, "What's next?" for the church. We thank God for the blessings of years past and I think for those of us long enough in DUMC, we stand amazed at what He has done in us and through us.

We have had the privilege of blessing missions organisations around the world through our Anniversary Gift Weekend. We have our community outreaches serving the poor and needy. We have our mission outreaches sharing the Good News in numerous countries. We have emphasised a heart for the community that we come from and in our marketplace. My heart's cry is "Is there more Lord?" It is not just about doing more, but about what more does God want us to do.

I sense God stretching us even more in faith. In my Forward series at the beginning of last year, I preached a sermon about "Chasing the Lion." A story of a warrior of King David called Benaiah (2 Samuel 23:20-23). He chased a lion on a snowy day and killed it. That story inspired in me something. Often we are on the defensive. We often say, "Don't let the lion chase you! Stay safe!" But Benaiah, for reasons unknown to us, against the better judgement of any safe thinking person, went after a lion! It birthed in me this big idea: Have a dream so big that unless God is in there, we are bound to fail.

With that in mind, I had asked the Lord, "What are the lions that you want us to chase after to extend Your kingdom?" I am mindful that the kingdom of God is never extended by just any one church, but by the universal Body of Christ around the world. "Who are the partners we need to work with? Who are the partners who can help us as we help them? Where can we go to grow our faith and a deep dependence on You?" What better time to ask this question than when we arrive at the year 2020, the 40th Anniversary of DUMC.

There is something about the number "40". It seems to suggest a theme of breakthrough in the Bible. Moses' life was divided into three segments of forties. Each forty was a significant transition. Moses was in Mount Sinai for forty days and nights to receive God's law. He sent spies for forty days to scout out the Promised Land. Prophet Jonah warned ancient Nineveh for forty days. Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and nights before He began His ministry. He appeared to His disciples and others for forty days after His resurrection from the dead.

The number "40" can also represent a generation of man. A new generation was allowed to possess the Promised Land after forty years. What then is there for DUMC after forty years? I believe the assurance of God to us and the generation after us is this: "...and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3b). We belong to a wider Body of Christ and we are part of that plan! Let's go find it!

As you pick up this handbook, my prayer is that you will be inspired by what God is doing in the nations, and be challenged to be a part of it. IMPACT2020 is not just for the year 2020. I pray that the Lord will do something beyond 2020, and even our lifetime. I want to challenge the church with three things. Ponder these three statements and act on them:

THINK

of something you
have never tried.

DO

something you have
never done.

GO

somewhere you
have never been.



GO | CHASE THE LION



missions pastor's address

Kelvin Yong

Dear church,

It has always been my heart's desire to see the whole church mobilised for missions in our communities, in this nation and to the nations beyond Malaysia. Missions is a core DNA of our church and when Pr Chris shared about the idea of IMPACT, my heart resounds with what was shared. I saw that it was apt for us to think deeply and act appropriately as we celebrate DUMC's 40th Anniversary. In order to support the goal of IMPACT, we have set up a task force that has been

working hard the past one year, to prepare what's necessary to ease the process of reaching out. They will continue to do so throughout this year, to stir the hearts of all members for missions. We have prayed together and identified the specific ministries that we would like to partner with, and I believe that God will do a powerful work in the places that you will visit, as well as in your hearts. The purpose of this initiative is not so that we perform our duties in our

respective projects for the sake of doing so, but my prayer is that we will catch the heart of God for the world, and partner with the amazing work that He is doing. Our missions mandate of DUMC is to commission 50 full-time workers to the work of missions. We are currently far from that goal. Perhaps by the end of IMPACT, there will be some among us who will be challenged to full-time calling in missions. Stay prayerful and open up your hearts to whichever way God is challenging you personally. Much has been said, and it is indeed with great joy and delight for me to present you with our IMPACT Missions Handbook titled - theFIELDS. This handbook is meant to challenge you to pray, sign up and GO! Pray for the missionaries and the ministries that are faithfully serving God in the hard

places that they have committed to. Talk about your IMPACT project in your cell group and sign up together to go where God has placed in your hearts. Finally, it is appropriate for me to invite you to step up in the way that we minister to God's people. Be prayerful in every aspect, be prophetic in your ministry, and be practical in your giving to God's people. *God bless you.*

RE



AD

“

and be challenged to love.

“To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map.”

William Carey

cambodia

The Angkor Wat, the pride of Cambodia and rightfully so - the famous Buddhist temple is one of the biggest religious monuments in the world, and gives one an idea on the importance of this religion in that nation. Out of the 16 million strong population, close to 97% practise Buddhism. Only 0.4% practise Christianity. Despite having the

Khmer Rouge tearing the country apart only a mere 40 years ago, Cambodia has been taking strides in rebuilding the nation. Missions organisations in the country have been striving to serve the Cambodian community in many ways, believing in the importance of meeting the needs of the Khmer at a grassroots level.



With proper sanitation lacking in most rural communities, DUMC and the Cambodia Mission Services (CMS) have helped meet this need through the Living Water Well Project. The project aims to build 30 wells and 30 toilets a year in poor villages in the Baray district. We have constructed close to 750 wells and toilets respectively since their inception in 1995.

Health is a pressing need in poor villages as some of them are located miles away from the nearest clinic. A doctor is hired to work with the local pastors to provide free health services for poor villagers on a daily basis, treating up to 30 patients a day - for some villages, that might be everyone! A free clinic is also open on Saturdays where anyone can walk in for treatment.



We believe in investing in the next generation; influencing education at all levels, from kindergarten to tertiary education. Sixteen kindergartens have been started in the area we serve, along with tuition centres. Annually, 40 high school graduates are also selected to be sponsored for their tertiary education.

God has also been moving powerfully through the Khmer believers. Since DUMC established the Cambodia Mission Services close to 25 years ago, we have started 32 churches in the Baray district, which has only been possible because of the partnership we share with the local Christians. Nine of them chose to answer the call of being raised up as pastors, and they all now serve in the churches in Baray after completing their training with us.

These local pastors are also part of the Village Development Committee, which funds the development work and community projects of four villages annually. This not only empowers the villages economically, but also helps pastors connect with them and eventually, direct them to a local church.

While we have sown much into what God is doing in Cambodia, there is so much more work to be done. The country, while developing, is still in need of economical and political restoration, and ultimately, to be restored to our loving Father.

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Let us pray for the local Christians to be strong in their faith and bold in their confession of Christ to their friends and family. Remember our missionaries, the local pastors and leaders as they preach the Word without fear of persecution, and continue to ask that God would soften the hearts of the Khmer pre-believers towards the Gospel.

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sri lanka

The small island country of Sri Lanka definitely mirrors Malaysia in many ways as it also is a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities. While most native Sri Lankans are Sinhalese, there is also a sizable population of Tamils, Moors, and even Malays and Chinese. Being only ten years out of a brutal civil war that lasted over 25 years, this country and its people are doing really well in rebuilding the nation. Within Southern Asia, Sri Lanka has the highest income per capita.



Politically, the country has had its fair share of struggles, being one of many countries formerly under the British colonial rule. With various changes in government and a civil war that cost thousands of lives, Sri Lanka has strived to rebuild and is now one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

The Sri Lankans are mostly very religious, with Buddhists making up 70% of the population. So staunch is their devotion that it is even mentioned in their Constitution that citizens are to protect the Buddha Sasana, or the teachings of Buddha. The second largest religion in Sri Lanka is Hinduism, followed by Islam. Christians are the minority, comprising only 7.4% of the population. Of that number, 82% are Catholics, with most of them having ties to Portuguese heritage.

In 2019, three churches in Sri Lanka fell victim to a series of coordinated suicide bombings. The perpetrators were later identified as religious extremists. This nation is no stranger to discrimination and hate crimes, and is in desperate need to encounter the love, joy, and peace that Jesus offers.



Let us ask God to protect the Sri Lankans from hate crimes, and that His peace will draw all men to Him. Ask too that God would stir up the hearts of pre-believers towards seeking the truth that can only be found in Christ.



vietnam

When we think of Vietnam, many of us think specifically about the food - phở, spring rolls, grilled pork... oh my! Their colourful cuisine is reflective of a rich culture, being a country within the Indochina region. With 94.6 million citizens, Vietnam is the 15th most populated country in the world, and also one of the fastest growing, despite the size of the country. Governing all these people is the Communist Party. Unlike a democratic system, communist governments cannot be voted out by the people.



Despite having diplomatic ties with progressive countries, many citizens have expressed the country's lack of democracy when it comes to freedom of speech and press freedom. It is notable that the people have been trying to rebuild the nation, after undergoing the Vietnam War that devastated the nation, leaving an accounted 3.8 million dead.



Unlike many Asians, Vietnamese are not particularly religious people. The Vietnamese Constitution states that all citizens have freedom of belief and religion, which includes the freedom to not practise a religion at all. The ruling Communist Party does not impose religion onto its people.

Hence, about three quarters of the population would either practise the Vietnamese folk religion or have no religion at all. Buddhism, the religion that is most widespread, only takes up 12.2% of the population. Christians comprise 7% of the population. Apart from democracy and freedom of speech, the Vietnamese people are no strangers to poverty. Education, clean water and economic opportunities are scarce in rural areas.

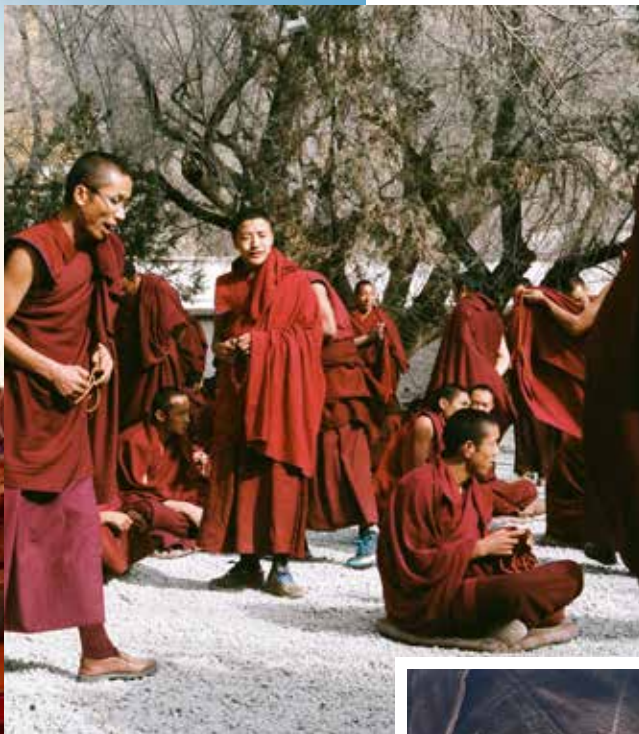


Let us remember Vietnam in our prayers – that God would open up many doors for missions work and ministries to thrive in this nation. Remember our missionary and other field workers and pray for strengthening in their inner person as they continue to do what God has called them to. Pray that God would raise up righteous men and women who would govern and love the nation.



china

Officially known as the People's Republic of China, it is the largest country in the world today. To date, its population count stands at an incredible 1.43 billion. We often know China for its elegant and historic cultures, its ability to mass produce goods, its food, and breathtaking landscapes. It is safe to say that China stands as one of the most influential countries in the world today. There is a scattered religious demographic in the country, consisting mainly of Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism.



These religions are widespread throughout the country, and its teachings often centre around seeking wealth, karma, wisdom, and prosperity. These values and beliefs are deeply embedded into the culture of its people, while also shaping the nation's traditions and practices. Currently, there are laws present within the Constitution of China protecting the rights and freedom of belief and religious worship. However, Christian practices and worship are still highly controlled and restrained by the government.

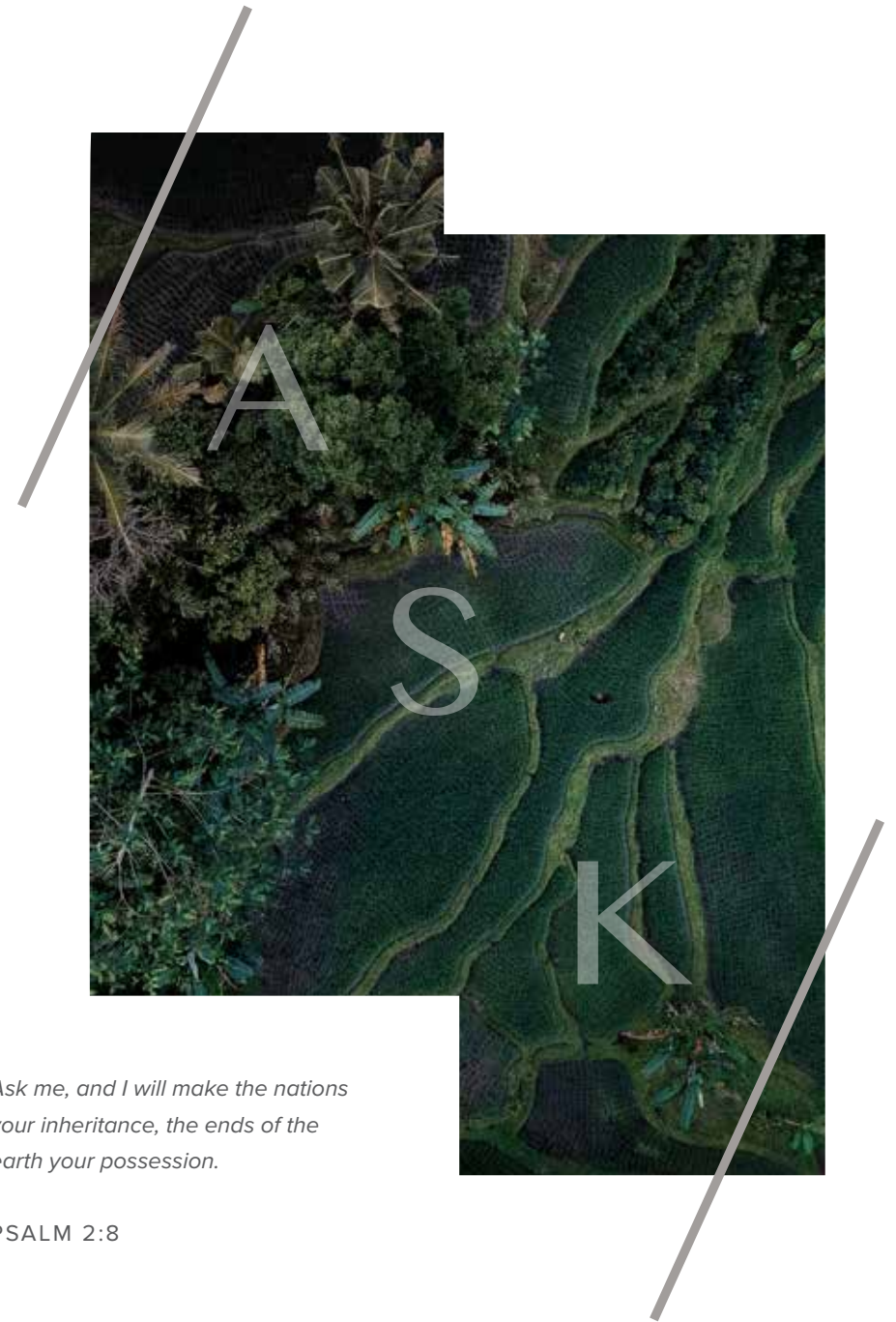
Evidence of Christianity dates as far back as the era of the Tang dynasty, where large numbers of missionaries began to spread the Gospel throughout the land. However, as the Communist Party of China came into power in 1949, the missionaries were expelled and persecution against Christians became rampant. Religious oppression in China has since increased in severity. Chinese authorities began to demolish churches in various provinces in China whilst detaining, brainwashing, and threatening Christians.

Until today, Christians in China are under extremely high surveillance, forcing Christians to go underground, to worship in secret. On record, there are only 2% of Christians in China. This number excludes the Christians who worship privately. As the wider body of Christ, let us remember our brothers and sisters who suffer for the sake of the Gospel, who live out their faith in persistence and perseverance. May God's Word continue to run swiftly to every corner of this huge nation, as His sons and daughters return to the knowledge of His salvation.



Let us continue to uphold the Christians in China, that their faith will be made stronger in the midst of persecution. Pray that God would make Himself known to His sons and daughters through dreams and visions. Pray for our missionaries in China, for God's protection over them, and that their labour will prosper.





*Ask me, and I will make the nations
your inheritance, the ends of the
earth your possession.*

PSALM 2:8

indonesia

Religion is a key aspect in life for the people of Indonesia. **Freedom of worship is a given right to its citizens.** Atheism is not an option as everyone in the country has to be registered officially with a religion. Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population with Muslims taking up a whole 87.2% of the country's population. Christianity, however, has remained the second largest religion in the country.

Although the law states that its people are free in their expression of worship, key decisions for the country are governed by principles of the majority religion. Worshippers of other faiths are often discriminated against and overlooked. Christians in Indonesia face persecutions of all forms, from isolation, verbal abuse, to physical violence. Persecution is rampant among churches in certain parts of Indonesia. It is not uncommon to hear of stories of attacks instigated by religious extremists.

On the social front, Indonesians face a myriad of issues; from urban poverty, to freedom of speech. The severity of the economic condition often leads to parents selling their own children to the flesh trade, out of desperation. There is a need for the Body of Christ in Indonesia to rise up as a voice in speaking against injustice, attending to the needs of the poor around them, while upholding the standard of justice from a political front.

pray

As we go, let us keep Indonesia in our prayers, for the church to grow stronger despite the persecution. Pray for a conviction of the Holy Spirit amongst the lawmakers, for government officials to take action against radical groups and that corruption will be handled with urgency. We believe that God will glorify Himself in this nation.

Thailand, a country that takes pride in its beautiful diversity of cultures and giftings in hospitality. When we think of Thailand, we think of food, elephants, culture and people. Almost 95% of the country's citizens are part of the Theravada Buddhist religious group. The other 4.5% are Muslims; 1% are Christians and the rest are a mixture of other religions. The people are privileged to have freedom of worship and are not obliged to be part of any particular religion. Nevertheless, Buddhism is the largest religious group in the country and has been seen as the only common religion for the Thais. Their values often revolve around pleasing the spirits by putting up shrines and amulets in whatever space they occupy; be it their homes, cars, and even office cubicles. The Thai Church has an immense task ahead of them in heralding the Good News in their nation.

Social issues in Thailand revolve around people and political oppression. It is notorious for silencing its citizens who are vocal against the government by stripping off their freedom of speech. The perpetrators are often arrested and slapped with imprisonment that lasts for decades. Majority of places in Thailand are not friendly towards asylum seekers. Refugees are often ill-treated and separated from their families. Migrant workers get abused, and children and women become commodities for human trafficking. Corrupt officials work alongside syndicates in prospering organised crimes and nefarious activities. It is heartbreaking to read countless reports of children and women being taken around the country to be sold as sex workers and lose all sense of self-worth and dignity. Apart from contracting sexually transmitted diseases, the victims lose all hope in reassimilation to society and life.

Our missionaries and partners have been working amongst these broken ones in Thailand. Living Waters is an initiative that was started for the purpose of restoring justice and righteousness in this nation. They are in the ministry of helping the poor and oppressed get back on their feet while showing them the love and grace of our God.



Living Waters is a shelter for the sick and a home for rescued former sex workers. Doors were opened for the ministry to branch out to social enterprising in teaching living skills to help former sex workers reassimilate into society. God has been so good and the work in Living Waters has been fruitful. The Thai government has recognised the impact of Living Waters and has started hospitals and centres with the same model and engaged our missionaries, KL and Su to be advisors for the projects. In light of the encouraging reports, we must continue to pray for Christians to step out and share the love that they have received to others who are in need of it; for God to continue using Living Waters as His vessel in bringing His children home; for wisdom amongst the authorities to make righteous decisions and for advocacies against corruption and violence.

We must pray for the church in Thailand that as they reach out to their friends and families, bondages will be broken, and for the Holy Spirit to encounter them so powerfully that they would find the hope and joy that can only be found in Christ.

pray



Nepal - a country known for beautiful mountain scenery, textiles and flavourful cuisines. Underneath its splendour and beauty, lies issues that plague its people on a national scale. Hinduism remains the predominant religion in Nepal consisting of a whopping 81.3% of the country's population, having the faith passed down from generation to generation from the ancestors of the land. Christianity consists of a small 4.1% of the Nepalese population and often face oppression from the Hindu radical groups in the country. Many of these groups believe that the Hindu religion remains sacred towards their identity as Nepali because it was the religion of their forefathers. Christianity is seen as a threat to their tradition, and Christians are persecuted in hopes of making Nepal fully Hindu again.

nepal

Many Christians face the intense pressure of betraying the faith of their ancestors. Accusations and threats are hurled by the radicals as they face hostile environments even within their family. Along with the oppression from these Hindu radical groups, anti-conversion laws were implemented, making it hard for Christians to carry out the work of evangelism. Many of the churches in Nepal remain undocumented and unrecognised. The people of Nepal are all around us in Malaysia. Many of them are residing right here with us, within our cities. In search for a better life, men have left their wives and children behind, to be security guards in this nation. Their faces are often seen but their contribution to us, often overlooked. Nepali workers who find work outside of Nepal work under harsh and abusive conditions, yet receive the bare minimum of aid from the government.



The poor and uneducated are often misled to perform tasks that are either harmful or illegal. Some of them get so desperate to the point that they would sell their kidneys on the black market; and that is a common solution for poverty. To top that off, gender inequality remains one of the biggest issues in the country. Widows are mistreated and children are exploited. Men receive priority in something as fundamental as healthcare.

In our partnership with the Atonement Church in Sanagaun, our missionary has been working hard in supporting and encouraging its leaders and pastors while helping with the growth and discipleship of the church. Another field worker meanwhile has been championing the Business4Transformation (B4T) initiative among local businesses in different sectors. Some of the coffee that we drink in church, are from these businesses. More help is needed in rebuilding this nation, from areas of education to ethics, orphanhood and oppression. So much to do, but so few hands in the harvest.

pray

We must continue to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Nepal as they face the challenges set before them; for them to keep the faith, to trust the Lord in everything they do; for forgiveness towards their oppressors; for churches to step up to be a salt and light to the communities around them. Pray that God would send missionaries and social justice organisations into Nepal to uphold the standard of righteousness of God's kingdom.

pray

*Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into His harvest. Luke 10:2 (ESV)*

pray

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HEAR US,
O' LORD OF HARVEST



Laos is a country rich in agriculture and mineral resources, as well as being known for its complicated history. Similar to most countries in that part of Asia, the largest religion in Laos is Theravada Buddhism, taking up 66% of the country's population. The second largest religion is the Laotian folk religion taking up 30.7% of its inhabitants and is then followed by Christianity with 1.5%. Although religious freedom is a citizenship right in the country, the government has a strict stand against foreigners coming in and having conversations concerning religion with the locals. The law does require that any gatherings, political, civic or religious must be approved by different government offices. Because of these constraints, many churches have been closed down and religious gatherings have been limited.

laos



At a first glance, it would seem that the religious groups all co-exist peacefully, however, non-Buddhists still often face persecution. Since Buddhism or tribal animistic beliefs have been in families for generations, abandoning these beliefs could be seen as a form of betrayal towards family members, ancestry, and even their communities. For this reason, most Christians face persecution from their own family members. It is not uncommon for local authorities to intervene and drive out Christians from their very own homes and villages.



Laos is a difficult ground for ministry work even among local believers. Let us pray for the Christians in Laos to not be discouraged by the discrimination and oppression against them. Pray that they will continue to spread the Gospel lovingly to their families and communities and for God to soften the hearts of the members of their families and communities. Pray also for our missionaries and that the nation will be good soil for the expansion of God's Kingdom.



myanmar

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is the largest amongst the mainland Southeast Asian countries. With an exceedingly large majority comprising of 88% of the country's population, Buddhism remains the largest religion in Myanmar, followed by Christianity with an approximate percentage of 6.2%. Along with Buddhism and Nat worship, the worship of named spirits and shrines is a common practice in Myanmar. Although freedom of religion is a given right in the country, the government is continuously accused of showing preference for Theravada Buddhism and actively promoting the religion. There have been no official record of forced conversions to Buddhism, though significant pressure is reportedly imposed on students and underprivileged youths to convert. Amongst government officials, anyone speaking up against Buddhism is often discriminated.

It is common for Christians and other religious groups to face persecution from their communities and authorities. Christian and Islamic groups face difficulty in obtaining permission from the government to repair or even build new places of worship. Christians have had their churches closed and burned by the communist-inspired UWS Army that go around threatening, detaining and abducting believers. In some areas in the country, radical Buddhist monks that are tolerated by the government, forcefully take church properties and build Buddhist shrines on their premises. Persecution is so bad in certain communities, that Christian families face persecution by being denied access to water and basic resources. There are large communities of the Chin and Rohingya people living in our nation today. Most of them are here as asylum seekers. The political and religious climate in their own nation has made it unsafe for them to remain there. In hopes of seeking for a brighter future, despair awaits them here, as they face

poverty and fall victim to human trafficking at our very own backyard, Malaysia. Girls are sold into sex trafficking and the boys are used as tools to beg on the streets; all part of carefully organised criminal syndicates. We have failed to love the foreigners and the aliens, by not standing up for their rights and allowing these activities to prosper in our very own land.

Many of the Myanmar people are currently working in Malaysia. God has sent the nations right to our doorstep. It is the perfect opportunity for us to feed and clothe them, proclaim the Good News of hope to them in their hopelessness. As we pray, let us remember to look out for these oppressed and silenced ones living amongst us. Pray that God would raise up men and women amongst us who would advocate the rights of the people of Myanmar. May the persecution and oppression cause the believers to grow even stronger to persevere in their faith.



japan

The land of anime and sushi! Being a frontrunner in innovation and technology for decades, Japan is respected by many nations as an underdog that rose from the dust of the detonation of two atomic bombs at the height of the World War 2 conflict. When we think of Japan today, we think of its stunning sceneries, iconic architectures, and a culture embedded in traditions and ancestral history. Being one of the richest countries in the world, Japan also has a whopping population of 126 million people, ranking 11th as one of the world's most populated countries.

The two largest religions among the Japanese people are Shintoism and Buddhism, making up 70% of the population, leaving Christianity at a low 1%. The history of this nation is marred with persecution and martyrdom, as its emperors and rulers saw Christianity as a threat to their ruling power and tradition. What they did instilled a fear that carries on until today, as many Japanese – both young and old alike are averse towards Christianity.

Despite its economic success as one the top financial powerhouses in Asia, the government finds themselves helpless in tackling the issues of the aging population, sinking birth rates, and the radiation crisis.

Although the circumstances for Japanese Christians today are very different, there are still some who practise their faith in hiding, leaving the Church to face a new challenge - the lack of a new generation to pass on the faith. This poses as threat to eliminate Christianity from the entirety of Japan, with new generations completely not knowing what their parents and grandparents fought relentlessly for.

pray

May God raise up a new generation of Christians who will step up to lead the Church of Japan, that they will be bold and courageous to answer the call given to proclaim the Good News. May His Spirit unite the churches in the land, that we will see the people of this nation live and persevere for Him. Pray also that God would open up the right doors for us to connect and send missionaries to build God's Kingdom there.



Our beloved Malaysia. Full of diversity in cultures, races, and religions celebrated in the country. Also known for its beautiful tropics and islands, bustling cities, and of course, food. As a result of diverse cultural assimilation, communities in the country consist of a mix of individuals from many races and religions - Malays, Indians, Chinese, Peranakans, Nyonyas and many more. The official religion of the country is Islam, composing of 61.3% of the population. It is followed by 19.8% who are Buddhists, 9.2% Christians, and 6.3% from the Hindu faith.



malaysia

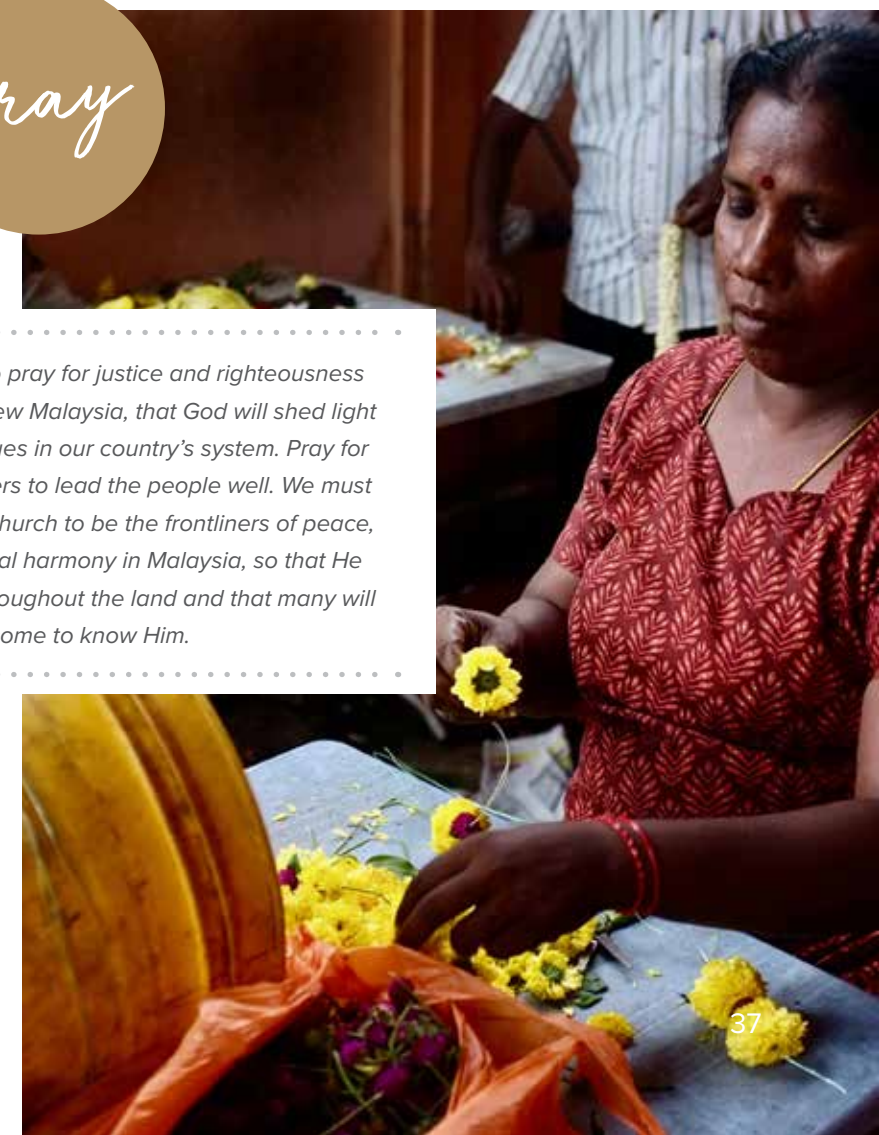
The government of Malaysia is sustained by a Federal Constitution and it is known as a democratic country. Though there is freedom of speech, expression of ideas are controlled. In the past decade, the nation has suffered under an extremely corrupt government. The country has seen its share of political and social issues that have trickled down from generations past due to segregation and disunity. Some of these consist of racial discrimination and oppression, corruption in political systems and among government servants, biased and dishonest judgement towards certain religions.

A great cloud of discrimination between religions and ethnic groups was a result of our former ways, as people of different races dehumanise one another and created chaos and disunity. Evidence of these claims can be seen in our society and even on social media. Like our neighbouring countries, we too are not spared from the plaguing issues of human and drug trafficking, and urban poverty. We, the Church often fail to see and respond to the immediate needs of the society, as we hide behind the four walls of our religious building and our comfortable middle-class life.

However, we never fail to see the evidence of God's mercy and faithfulness upon our nation. Through the challenges faced in the political and social system of the country, God continuously unites His people through the Church in prayer and intercession. Non-church, non-government organisations begin to speak up too, on issues related to racial disunity and injustices. In the past decade, sermons calling the congregation to pray and act for the unity of the nation can be heard resounding on the walls of church buildings. Where else can we find better agents of intercession and transformation than from within the body of Christ? Let the representatives of the Prince of Peace be voices that are heard, and actions stronger than any plot against unity. May God continue to strengthen advocates of social justice as they remain faithful and strong in their conviction

pray

Let us continue to pray for justice and righteousness to prevail in this New Malaysia, that God will shed light on the hidden issues in our country's system. Pray for God to raise leaders to lead the people well. We must also pray for the Church to be the frontliners of peace, integrity, and racial harmony in Malaysia, so that He will be glorified throughout the land and that many will come to know Him.



the ministry in tenom

The Tenom District was first opened in the 1900s by an officer named MCM Weedon. The flourishing of Tenom started with the opening of Sapong Estate and Melalap Estate. The area was first known as “Fort Birch”, after Ernest Woodford Birch, a North Borneo governor. It was only in 1904 that it was named “Tenom” after the railway from Beaufort to Tenom and Melalap was completed. The surrounding towns near Tenom are Keningau, Sipitang, Beaufort and Kalimantan, the Province of Indonesia. Tenom is home to a population of 39,240 people.

The Tenom district is populated by people from a variety of races and communities, particularly Murut Tagol, Murut Timugon, Malay, and Chinese. Christianity is embraced by the majority of society, that includes Lundayeh, Murut and Kadazan/Dusun. Most of the people in the Chinese community practise Buddhism. The diversity stretches throughout all people groups, with some of them professing Islam, Taoism, and

other pagan beliefs. We had the opportunity to sow into Dream Hostel and be a small part of what God is doing in that land. The hostel was built to house local children who have come from far away and surrounding towns for the purpose of furthering their education in Tenom. The hostel houses 72 children, which consist of 36 girls and boys respectively. On top of helping them with their academic studies, the houseparents have had the privilege of providing spiritual input to the children. The strengthening of their faith comes with excellence in their studies. In 2018, out of the top ten performing students in the St. Anthony’s School, six of them happen to be children from the hostel. We have also been able to help students further their tertiary education by securing scholarships. The students are often excited to bring missions teams back to their villages to encourage their church and their families.



from jailbird to a courier of hope

Simon began smoking cigarettes at the age of 14, and was soon introduced to marijuana. As he started working, he picked up heroin and ecstasy pills. The vices soon followed with gambling and other activities. Soon, he found himself in trouble with law enforcement in Japan, where he was working.

He had to return to Malaysia but sadly then, his vices returned along with him. His frequent visits to the jail distanced him from his family, especially his aging mother. Their desperation resulted in admitting Simon into Breakthrough Drug Rehabilitation Centre (BDRC). As a former Buddhist who had no prior concern for the Gospel, Simon had an encounter with Jesus, and His Word became Simon's motivation to change.

Now a staff at BDRC, Simon has found a fulfilling life in Christ. He is an inspiration for the others, often through his testimony of reconciliation with his family. Simon encourages us with his favourite verse in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved".

Simon's life is one of many stories of God's faithfulness to the ministry in BDRC. The success of this ministry is a testament of what God can do with the willing hands and lives who said yes to serving in a drug rehabilitation ministry in the urban context.

Urban and sub-urban ministries should be seen as missions in our backyard. We often pray that God would send His people to minister to the broken and needy. But right where we are, God has sent the broken and needy to us. Will we say yes, and be the answer to our very own prayers?

sarah's story



1. Tell us about yourself.

I fit very much into the definition of a Third Culture Kid (TCK). That basically means that I was brought up in three or more cultures. I spent my formative years in Malaysia but then just before I hit adolescence, my parents decided to serve in Thailand. For 6 years, I studied in an American international school meant for Missionary Kids (MK). My classmates were from all over the world. After graduation, I found a college willing to accept me; it was halfway around the world in Minnesota, USA. My TCK traits flourished as I assimilated into both cultures. However, being a TCK means that I do not truly identify with any one culture. I often straddle the cultural fence. I love experiencing different histories, cultures, and foods.

2. What have you been doing in your area of missions?

My fieldwork is in the classroom, in the missionary school that I studied in. I teach Language Arts (English) to students in Form 1 and 2. I taught 90 students in my first year. It's everything a teacher is expected to do in a classroom. However, being in a Christian school allows me to apply His Word in contemporary literature and to extend theological/life discussions outside the classroom. 90% of the student body are MKs. I don't preach the gospel nor do I plant churches. I don't even count the number of people I have led to Christ. I welcome my students to ask me about my walk with Abba; I challenge their preconceptions and occasionally, their beliefs.

Even though my students have parents who are serving Him, that does not mean that they know God as their Father. My role in the classroom is to also be an example of Him, allowing students to observe us and explore their relationship with Him. Every year, the school sets aside one school day specifically for ministry. A few teachers and I brought our Form 2 students to a nearby Thai school. It was an entirely student-led day in which they led games, lessons, songs, and a gospel skit. Building relationships with local schools allow us an opportunity to work with these schools in the future. My students often love these days not just because they don't have to be in a classroom, but they get to show love to others. This is their opportunity to see that they can impact lives and apply what they learn in the classroom.

This school year, I am handling 88 students and teaching the same classes and the same subject. My newest responsibility is to mentor 4 junior and senior girls (Form 5 and 6) to lead a Bible study. My hope is that they eventually take full responsibility and lead a group of Form 3 girls themselves. As I disciple and guide them, I hope that they rely on Him as their Father first and foremost.

3. What has been the sustaining factor in fueling you in your missions field?

As cliché as it sounds, God has been a sustaining factor. He has brought people into my life to support me. He is faithful to me every day and I have not lacked anything. As a first-year teacher, it's hard enough being in a classroom, let alone find the support financially to live sustainably. My parents are gracious enough to allow me to live with them which lifts a huge financial burden from me. It's nice to go home after spending a day as an adult and to be like a kid again. Knowing that I have extended family members and friends who are praying for me is a great comfort. Knowing that there's a church that's behind me is encouraging. After I knew that I was to serve at GIS, He opened up an opportunity for my fiancé and me to begin a relationship. Being in a long-distance relationship hasn't been easy but He has sustained us. The biggest part is knowing that I'm not just teaching kids, I'm serving parents who aren't able to homeschool or be with their kids. He has given me an opportunity where I'm able to connect with kids who felt just as I did when I was their age who thought that an adult would never understand them.

4. What are two things that you would say to someone who aspires to get into full-time missions?

Firstly, remember that your ministry is not as important as family and recharging yourself. In everything, continually seek Him for direction and guidance. Set time aside to be with Him so that you are continually receiving His overflow or you may find yourself being stuck in a rut. Secondly, learn to love the community you are in. If you can't love the community you're in, you can't learn to serve them. Grow in His servant leadership. Follow Jesus' leadership in which He was very much involved in the community and loved on them. Jesus had as much interest in the people He met along His journey, as He had for His destination. His heart was for the community. Be the leader that He has called you to be.

5. How can we pray with you and your ministry?

Pray that I would have wisdom and discernment when I mentor the students. God to send the right candidate to take over my position at GIS when I eventually leave later this year.



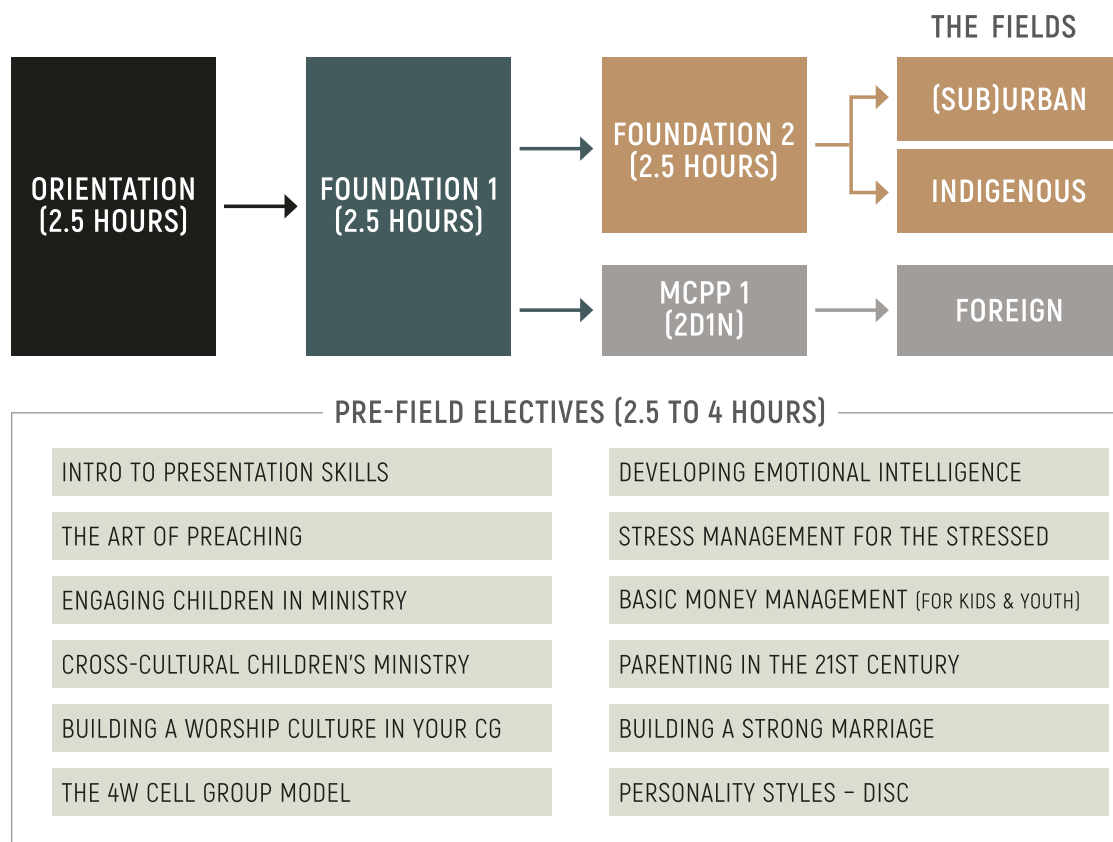
Go therefore and ***make disciples*** of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the ***Father, and***
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

MATTHEW 28:19 (ESV)

academy

In order to prepare you for the fields that you will be stepping into, you will be required to sign up for the IMPACT Academy. The different levels of training have been crafted specifically to prepare you to serve better as you go for the outreach.

Training will be run at your respective zones, and participation is Cell Group (CG)-based. It is aimed at preparing your heads, hearts and hands for what's ahead. Be prepared for fun, hands-on sessions!



Note: Foundation 2 is a prerequisite for individuals going for (Sub)Urban or Indigenous trips. Completion of MCPP1 is required for those who are planning to go for a Foreign trip. Foreign trips are recommended for individuals who have a heart for cross-cultural missions.

FOR MORE INFO, HEAD OVER TO THE IMPACT BOOTH.
ALTERNATIVELY, EMAIL US AT IMPACT@DUMC.MY

2020 foreign mission trips

Cambodia

30 Apr - 08 May
20 Aug - 28 Aug
17 Sep - 25 Sep
26 Nov - 04 Dec

Indonesia

07 May - 14 May
09 Jul - 16 Jul
18 Sep - 25 Sep
11 Dec - 19 Dec

Nepal

30 Apr - 10 May
03 Sep - 13 Sep
03 Dec - 13 Dec

Japan

Kanazawa

23 Oct - 02 Nov

Hokkaido

17 Aug - 24 Aug
15 Nov - 23 Nov

Thailand

21 Jun - 27 Jun
17 Oct - 23 Oct
11 Dec - 17 Dec

Myanmar

01 May - 07 May
14 Aug - 21 Aug
20 Nov - 27 Nov

Vietnam

13 Mar - 18 Mar
12 Jun - 17 Jun
11 Dec - 16 Dec

Laos

18 Jul - 25 Jul
31 Oct - 07 Nov

Sri Lanka

10 Apr - 16 Apr
21 Aug - 27 Aug

Trip dates may be subject to changes. More information on both Foreign and Local trips can be found at the IMPACT Info Drive. Scan the QR Code provided or follow the link at bit.ly/IMPACT2020DUMC



