

## RAISING A NEW GENERATION OF BELIEVERS



### Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BMC and MMS

**18 Sep** - The signing of the MOU between Bedok Methodist Church and Methodist Missions Society today marks the formalisation of cooperation between BMC and MMS in Cambodia. The MOU will be signed by BMC's senior pastor, Rev Vincent Goh, LCEC Chairman, Chou Fang Soong, MMS Director, Rev Dr Clarence Lim and MMS Home Director, Col Quek Koh Eng.

Moving forward, BMC and MMS will continue to cooperate closely in 4 key areas of ministry - character building, church planting, children's ministry and community development. Apart from COSI, we will continue to support ongoing ministry work in the surrounding villages, the Emmaus Women's Centre and the Methodist School in Phnom Penh.

**‘Missions is part and parcel of church life. Missions is more than projects and buildings. Missions is about people. I believe that BMC, a discipling church, will move towards adopting a strong missions mindset.’**

- Rev Vincent Goh

# FIELD REPORT – CAMBODIA

by Anthony Huang

## BMC Youth Team Visits Cambodia

The aim of the youth team's visit to Cambodia in June this year was to share the love of God with the COSI children and His people in the surrounding villages. Our desire was to use the talents and gifts that God had given us to glorify Him in the mission field.

### Day 1

The team arrived in Phnom Penh and had evening vesper (prayer and worship) at COSI.

### Day 2

Theophilus Mah, our advisor, Chris Tan and I took a walk with Mak Yun, the pastor of the village church, to the village, Tropiang Ondong, to visit and pray with the Christians.

Cambodia is currently going through an extended dry season, which is causing water and food shortages due to poor rice harvests. There are three wells belonging to three non-Christian families. Sometimes, they allowed neighbours to draw water from their wells. When there was no water, the villagers would walk 4-5 km to collect water from a dug hole. Those who could afford it could purchase container water (1500 litres for US\$5).

Theophilus and Chris visited Christina, a missionary from Mauritius. Christina shared with them about the livelihood training that was being conducted for Cambodian women at the Emmaus Women's Centre. The centre was officially opened this month.



Youth team at the newly-built well at Beung Anchang sponsored by BMC.

### Day 3

A group of us went to see the dam that was being built 10-15 minutes from COSI. Another group of us stayed back at COSI to conduct English lessons for the children.

### Day 4

An evangelistic show based on the biblical story of Noah's Ark was presented at the village of Beung Trea. After the show, we played games with the village children before returning to COSI.

### Day 5

We received news today that one of the Christian brothers at Beung Trea had returned to the Lord. Carol Ong, Mak Yun, Chanta, Boran and our team rendered our support to the family by our presence, prayers and contributions. We conducted a prayer walk, lifting this village unto the Lord, our Jehovah Jireh. We then adjourned to Beung Anchang village to see the well that was recently built with BMC funds. We were heartened to see it working well and serving the needs of the villagers.

### Day 6

We attended Sunday service at the village church, where Theophilus gave a short exhortation based on Luke 5:5-8: "The Sower and the Seed". At the COSI Youth meeting today attended by the older children and ladies from the Emmaus Women's Centre and villages, Chris gave an exhortation on the topic, "Overcoming Temptations".

### Day 7

On our last evening, the children delighted us with their farewell dance performance. An exhortation letter from Missions committee member, Woon Sui Cheong, was read to the children in Khmer. It reminded them of the love of Christ, and encouraged them to listen to Him, read His Word and obey Him.

Our presence at COSI during this trip continued to minister to and encourage the children and staff at COSI. We were grateful to God for the opportunity to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of His people in the surrounding villages. Let us be faithful and see the glory of God in the land of the living!



A woman with her child from a village near COSI.

# FIELD REPORT – CHINA

by Samuel Chua

## ***Riding the Wave: Responding to China's Open Doors to Master the English language***

The Young Adults' Ministry's recent trip to China dispelled many misconceptions usually associated with missions. For many of us, the apostle Paul's life was the epitome of a missionary's life – a life of sacrifice and suffering (2 Corinthians 11:24-27).

While there are missionaries in various parts of the world who are undergoing the persecutions that Paul went through for the sake of sharing Christ, missions work has evolved significantly and it requires a corresponding paradigm shift in order for the Gospel to be shared effectively.

Considering the sensitive nature of missions work in FJ, our host reminded us to be creative in our *modus operandi*. Since it was impossible for us to conduct marketplace and door-to-door evangelism or to hand out Gospel tracts to passers-by in the streets or to stage evangelistic concerts, we had to look for other windows of opportunity to reach out to the people in China.



*The YAM mission trippers and our Chinese friends*

Our host recognised that the authorities in FJ saw the urgent need for youths to master the English language. Combined with a significant lack of competent and proficient English teachers, teaching English seemed to be an open door for outreach.

Our host was convicted that we had to ride on this wave of opportunity that would serve as a bridging point to the people in FJ. However, she also recognised that this wave is seasonal, and will only remain for a narrow window of time before the locals successfully recruit and equip their own English teachers, thus minimising the need for foreigners to teach English in FJ.

During our one week stay there, we conducted a series of English workshops for two groups of youths: (1) 14-18 year olds; and (2) Pre-University students. Our immediate aim was to provide valuable publicity for the language facility that our host had started, rather than to share the Gospel message. Our prayer was that as more youths patronised the language facility over time, our host and her co-workers would have the opportunity to eventually share the Gospel with them at an appropriate time and season.

During the workshops, we shared with them Singapore's culture and lifestyle. We also provided opportunities for the youths to converse in English and build up their vocabulary. Through a relaxed atmosphere, in which we shared with one another about student life in Singapore and FJ, friendships were forged. Once again, our prayer was that these friendships would provide the foundation upon which we would continue to follow up on them through email and subsequent visits to FJ.

Overall, our trip to FJ was meaningful and fruitful, not in terms of reaping a harvest of souls, but in terms of planting the seeds of friendship, and in participating in the work that God had started through the language facility.

# FIELD REPORT – LONDON

by *Kenny Gan*

*Here is an update from Kenny Gan and his family. Kenny serves as Associate Director of the International Coordinating Team (ICT) in Operation Mobilisation (OM), London.*

July 2005

To our REAL FRIENDS in the Lord

When we first decided to follow the Lord and serve Him, it never crossed our mind that 27 years would have passed in a twinkling of an eye. The lesson we have learnt is that when we walk daily with the Lord, time no longer matters but eternity. Yesterday has gone and tomorrow is not yet, so what counts is today, and that's the reality.

So what am I going to do today? Much time has been wasted in idle pursuit of SELF - self satisfaction, fulfilment and happiness. THIS HAS TO CHANGE! But how slow the changes because of our unwillingness to let go of self and embrace all of God. Pray for us, that the Lord will help us to be REAL, REAL GANS, MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD AND NOT SELF.

Here is an account on our current work and ministry:

**The Students** - Ministering to students in the Universities of London and other parts of the UK has always been a joy. Since coming to London, the Lord has brought many students into our lives, increasingly Asian students from Singapore, Malaysia and China.

**The Believers** - We are grateful to the Lord for opportunities to minister to brethren in the UK. Even as we have been encouraged by many wonderful and fervent believers, we are aware that many are battling with lukewarmness. Many pastors and leaders here acknowledge their struggle in getting their congregations really excited about the Lord, and not just about programmes and activities.

**The Church** - It is our privilege to minister to His church in many parts of the world. Recently, the doors were opened to minister to brethren in Cambodia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. Each country has its own unique needs, and we need to be sensitive in allowing the Lord to minister to them through us - be it in word or deed, emotionally, spiritually or materially. We want to be a REAL help somehow, though we may not have much.

**Conclusively Real** - We had to make some important decisions last year, concerning whether Kenny should take up a leadership position in Singapore, while Debbie and Bee Lee remain in the UK in the interest of Debbie's education. After much prayer, we have to conclude that the UK is where the Lord wants us to be as a family for at least another 2-3 years.

The challenge now is for us to trust the Lord for our continuing ministry in London. We are also trusting God for Debbie's entry into university end of next year, and for the needed finance for ongoing ministry and education. We are grateful for your continued prayers and support through the years, and pray for the Lord's rich blessings upon you.



*Bee Lee, Debbie and Kenny Gan*

# FIELD REPORT – COUNTRY K

by John & Samantha Tan

*Below is a letter from John and Samantha, our missionaries serving with Mercy Teams International (MTI).*

June 2005

Dear brethren in Christ,

Thank you for keeping us in prayer. It was a joy to meet many of you when we were back in Singapore in March. We thank God for the things that we got done in Singapore. We had the opportunity to bring Sam's mother to a Chinese church where she saw "The Passion". Although she did not say much, we saw her shocked expression and she was really touched that Christ would suffer so much on behalf of mankind. Would you please continue to pray for her to lay down her pride and fear of men, and humbly come to the feet of Jesus to accept Him as her Saviour and God?

Back here in the mission field, we have seen many workers leave this summer. It was a really sombre time for us, having to say our goodbyes to our new friends. They have really blessed our hearts. At the same time, we thank God that after MTI's recent staff meeting in the region, the Lord has given us more workers and also extended our tent in His harvest field. Please continue to pray with us, as we are very needy of His workers in His harvest field here. As we

trust and pray, we expect great things from the Lord our God.

Some of you may not know this, but drugs are a big problem here. Recently, John saw a young man hopping off his friend's motorcycle and, in broad daylight, injecting himself in the hip with a syringe. Without another look, he hopped onto his friend's motorcycle and off they went. The drug problem here is linked closely with the spread of AIDS. We have been linking up with friends and NGOs to help in this area. Please pray with us that the Lord would set the people free.

On the practical side of things, God has helped us find a suitable language tutor. She comes twice a week to teach us the language. As a linguist, she has been a great help in giving us a better grasp of the language.

Another piece of good news is that we have finally been able to buy a second-hand motorcycle that is only 3 months old, after months of praying for one. We are grateful to the Lord for all of these. His grace and mercy is forever true and always more than enough for us.

In Christ's love,  
John & Samantha

## *An Opportunity To Care For Our Missionaries*

*"For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints." - Hebrews 6:10*

We thank God for your partnership in ministry with our missionaries in the mission field. For those who would like to get involved, here are some practical ways you could help:

- 1) Moral Support – encouragement, a listening ear, showing care and concern.
- 2) Logistics Support – courier of care packages
- 3) Financial Support
- 4) Prayer Support
- 5) Communication Support – helping to disseminate missionaries' newsletters
- 6) Re-entry Support – integration back to home and church

For more information, please contact **Adeline** at **65421148** or email **missions@bmc.org.sg**

# MISSIONS MILESTONES

by Benjamin Hong

*Great is God's faithfulness! Since 2001, we have seen God's hand at work at every stage of BMC's efforts to plant His church in Cambodia.*

**2001 (9 Sep):** In the presence of representatives from Methodist Missions Society (MMS), BMC entered into a covenant with the Lord and with one another to adopt the Khmer people as our spiritual responsibility. With this commitment, we commenced on our next phase of reaching out to the Khmer people with the vision of raising a new generation of believers and planting churches among them.

**2001 (Oct):** A BMC team ran a donation drive and collected items from various Methodist churches for the COSI orphanage. Another team took a special trip to the orphanage to unload, unpack and fit all the furnishings and equipment that were collected. All the items arrived in two 40-foot containers sponsored by Pacific International Lines (PIL).

**2002 (May):** BMC leaders represented BMC at the official opening of the COSI Children Village on 30 May by the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Mr. Hun Sen.

**2002 (June):** The Youth Expedition Project (YEP) raised funds to construct a new classroom block for the school next to COSI. As a result, they helped the COSI Children Village establish close ties with the school and the villagers. A socio-economic survey was conducted by the team which will be useful for future planning to reach out to the people in the village.

**2003 (Dec):** BMC pastors and leaders visited the COSI children's home and surrounding villages. The leaders agreed to support a house church planting programme at the Ang Snoul Village where the COSI Orphanage was located, and sponsored a Cambodian MMS worker, Yun.

**2004:** BMC received positive updates from the MMS missionaries that the village house church was growing and members met regularly. Many villagers, both adults and children, were baptised.

**2004 (Aug):** The Character Formation programme was started to teach COSI children Godly values.

**2005 (Mar):** BMC pastors and leaders visited the church in the village near COSI and ministered to the new believers, comprising both adults and children from the nearby villages.

**2005 (May):** When there was a severe lack of water due to a dry spell in the Beung Angchang village, BMC moved quickly to provide the villages with a well for drinking water.

**2005 (May):** The BMC Missions Committee presented the 4 C's of Cambodia Outreach through the Missions Fair. We also invited six of our partnering missions agencies to participate in the fair and to meet BMC members.

**2005 (Aug):** BMC hosted 11 COSI children during their first visit to Singapore.

**2005 (Sep 18):** BMC and MMS sign the MOU for Cambodia Outreach at Bedok Methodist Church. The guest speaker for this momentous event is Rev Ajit Hazra, Field Director of MMS. To date, BMC has had three missionaries sent to Cambodia: Ms Carol Loh, Ms Tan Li Diang and Ps Aaron Tay. Only Carol remains serving in COSI while Li Diang and Aaron have been assigned other postings.