

Report and Testimonies
on Mission Trip to
**Covenant BP
Church,
Bangalore, India**
(14-22 December 2011)



Mission Team Report

Introduction

In the previous year, there had been discussion on the work of the missions of the church at the Church Session meetings and the proposal of bringing a group of youths to expose them to mission work was mooted. The Church Session assigned Rev. Ho to spearhead this task. When Rev. David Wong (Kulai BPF) invited Sharon BPC on a short mission trip to Northern Thailand in 2010, Rev. Chua was sent to explore the possibility of sending a youth mission team over. Of particular interest is the campus ministry as run by Nathaniel Heng (Lighthouse). At the same time, there was an invitation from Rev. Jack (Maranatha BPC) for the youth mission team to co-labour in the work at Bangalore.

The Formation of the Mission Team

An invitation was sent out to the youths of Sharon BPC to take part in this first youth mission team. In order to ensure a small team where everyone had a role to play, the invitation was sent only to tertiary students and those who have just started working. The first Mission Team meeting was held on 7 August 2011, after the Worship Service. The team members included :

1. Rev. Ho Chee Lai (representing the Church Session)
2. Mrs. Irene Tan (representing the Missions Committee)
3. Faith Chen
4. Raphael Tan
5. Phoebe Tan
6. Joyce Watt
7. Joshua Tan

Note: Later, Dr. Tan Yew Ghee also joined team representing the Missions Committee to explore the feasibility of the new missions work at Bangalore.

The team discussed and deliberated on the two options of the mission field

to venture into and unanimously decided on Bangalore and to co-labour with the team from Maranatha BPC. Some of the reasons leading to the decisions were the language barrier and availability of interpreters, the extent of the children ministry where the youths could play a prominent role, and the need to bring forth the reformed teaching to this part of India.

The Missions Committee was very supportive of this endeavour and gladly offered to sponsor the Mission Team to an amount not exceeding \$10,000. The Mission Team was very grateful for the support as the youths were still not income-earners.

The team from Maranatha BPC consisted of Rev. Jack and Angie and Esther from Ebenezer BPC (Melbourne). In total, the Combined Missions Team comprised 11 team members.

The Preparation of the Mission Team

Combined meetings were held with Maranatha BPC. The first meeting was held on 8 October at the home of Rev. Jack. Rev. Jack and Angie went through a detailed process of the preparation of visa, flights, accommodation, and work plan for the whole trip. The major events included a seminar on Stewardship and Church Admin conducted by Rev. Jack), a family and youth retreat where Rev. Jack and Rev. Ho will deliver 2 messages each to the adults on the theme of "Walk Worthy of the Lord", Dr. and Mrs. Tan conducted a Family Worship workshop and the youths run the children ministry throughout the camp. On Sunday, Rev. Jack preached at the English service, Rev. Ho at the Kannada service, and Mrs. Tan and the youths run a special children's programme. Rev. Jack, Rev. Ho and Dr. Tan were also assigned to share a devotion each at the Team Morning Devotion.

Other members were also assigned their duties. Faith was to be the scribe in recording the events, Joyce to coordinate the setting up the childcare centre (to open in January), Joshua and Phoebe on AVA, Raphael on logistics, Dr. Tan on medical, and Mrs. Irene Tan and Angie on finance, meals and goody bags for the children. The youths were also tasked in running the children's programme during the retreat where they will be expecting around 8-10 kids; with each assigned to lead in the singing, in presentation of the lesson, and crafts and games. The other major ministry for the youths was the special children ministry on Sunday to be held in the

church where around 50 children were to be expected. The team also prepared special items to be sung in both the English and Kannada worship services.

The second meeting was held on 26 November at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Tan. Esther joined the meeting via video-conferencing through Skype as she was still in Melbourne. The Mission Team went through the checklist of things that needed to be done. Visas were ready and air-tickets were purchased. The things to be brought to India were consolidated and distributed among the team members. These included 50 hymnals, Christian books, clothes and toys to be given to the church and the children; and the materials needed for the goody bags and for decorating Elim Childcare Ministry. The Mission Team also went through the materials to be used for teaching the children. The team was ready to set off to Bangalore, India; with many of the youths not knowing what to expect.

On Sunday, 11 December, Pastor Chua called the Mission Team to come forward before the congregation during the Worship Service, where he led the church in praying for the Missions Team. It was important that the Mission Team to be sent by the church for the work of the Gospel in a faraway land. This instilled a sense of purpose and seriousness of the work ahead for the Mission Team. Upon the return, the Mission Team was expected to give a report to the Church Session and the Missions Committee on the work done for this Mission Trip.

The Trip

The Mission Team had initially wanted to book the dates of 14-20 December for the trip by flying with SilkAir. As the team were preparing before the actual date, the price of the air tickets had been increasing daily; and especially on 20 December where the

The Mission Team and loved ones before departure



price of the air ticket was extremely high. In order to save some money, it was decided that the team should come back on 21 December instead. By God's provision, the team managed to get a return flight via SIA instead of SilkAir at no extra cost, except that it will be night flight and to reach Singapore at 6am, 22 December. We thank God for that.

The team also requested for more baggage allowance as we would be carrying many things over to Bangalore. Provision was given to the team from Sharon BPC (8 of us) to carry in 200kg and 90kg (for the remaining 3). Thus, in total, we had been provided with 290kg of baggage allowance. However, at the airport we encountered a problem as the total weigh-in of our baggage came to 395kg. By God's help, we managed to talk to the manager and he asked if it was for community work and we were given then the green light. Truly, it was by the good hand of the Lord that we find favour in the eyes of the authorities.

Yap Boh Tuan, Fred Tan and family, Rina & family, and the parents of Joyce Watt were at the airport to send us off. Boh Tuan led in the prayer calling upon God's mercy and protection for the team and Daniel Watt prayed for the team.

The Mission Team had a wonderful and enriching experience for the next eight days in Bangalore, ministering to both adults and children, fellowshiping with the saints, visiting two homes of the believers and encouraging them in their walk with God, setting up the soon-to-beopened childcare centre, and being a blessing to the missionary family as well. The Mission Team returns safely on 22 December at 6am. We thank God for answering our prayers and for helping us to achieve our objectives in this trip.

Rev. Ho Chee Lai
Sharon BP Church

Preaching on Biblical
Stewardship and Church
Admin in Varthor Village and
Rev. Ho Chee Lai at the night
lectures.



From Covenant to New Covenant and to Elim, Going Forward with the Faithful Proclamation of the Word in Bangalore

Every year July and December are special to us as we have the opportunity to serve the Lord together with the missions team from Singapore. This December too we had the missions team visiting us, led by Rev. Dr. Jack Sin and Mrs. Sin from Maranatha BPC, and Rev. Ho Chee Lai and Dr. and Mrs. Tan from Sharon BPC. The visit and ministry together was one of the most blessed times we had together. The Lord has immensely blessed us as we reached out to various people in their different needs through the family and youth retreat, children's Christmas program, Sunday services, seminars, visitations, etc.

The Ministry of the Missions Team

One of the highlights of the team's visit was the two day family and youth retreat organized for our congregation at a nearby campsite. This was the first time we were able to organize such a retreat, attended by 46 people, including the team members. The four messages were preached by Rev. Ho Chee Lai and Pastor Jack on the theme, "*Walk Worthy of the Lord*" (Col 1:9-12). The ministry of the Word by the two Pastors was very effective and encouraged many hearts. The Word of the Lord was clearly and faithfully proclaimed and many doubts of our people have been cleared.

The workshop on family worship led by Dr. and Mrs. Tan was an eye opener to many of our young families who attended the two day retreat. Many have made decision to have a proper family worship and build up a God-honouring covenant family.

The Q& A session was very helpful for many of the youngsters who came up with many good questions, ranging from Charismaticism, family worship, B&G relationship, to creationism, etc. The Lord gave His wisdom to Pastor Jack Sin, Pastor Ho, and Dr. Tan, who were the panelists to answer the questions.

The Lord's Day Worship services, both in English in the morning and in Kannada in the evening, were God-honoring and brought much blessing to many souls who came to worship the Lord. The testimonies by Joyce and Joshua were encouraging, especially for those who are seeking the salvation of the Lord. The messages preached by Pastor Jack Sin and Pastor Ho were very challenging.

The two home visitations, visitation to the homes of Pradeep and Indu, and Manoj and Relda, were very fruitful as we were able to minister to their spiritual needs through songs, testimonies, and the Word. It was encouraging to see Manoj, who is still seeking the salvation of the Lord, stood up and requested us to pray for him.

Dedication of the Protem Committee

Over the last two years, the Lord brought many families and youngsters to Covenant. Unlike many of the church goers these days, these youngsters are serious in seeking the faithful preaching of the Word and are committed to the Reformed faith. In fact they were led to Covenant as they were searching for a church where expository and systematic preaching of the Word is practiced, a rare practice in churches today. The providence of God led them to Covenant. As they have been growing in the Word and being matured in their Christian walk with the Lord, we extend a right hand of fellowship and an opportunity to serve the Lord together with us. Hence we have requested two of them, Venkatesh G and John Rakshit, to be part of the Protem Committee from this year onwards together with Praven and me. The Committee was dedicated on 18th December.

Covenant Academy Lectures

Covenant Academy is the place for faithful teaching of the Word of God, equipping people to rightly divide the Word of Truth. We have completed two years of teaching the Word at Covenant and this year we enter into the third year. Around 15 people regularly attend the lectures. This time when the missions team visited us we had Rev Ho teaching the Doctrines of Grace, the Five Points of Calvinism, especially from the Epistle of Romans.

From Covenant to New Covenant

One of our priorities in the work of the Lord in Bangalore is to indentify those who are willing to learn the Reformed faith and Covenant theology

and teach them and build them up in the Lord. For the last three years the Lord has opened a door for us to be connected with the New Covenant BP Church, a village church in Varthur village, in one of the outskirts of Bangalore. Rev. U J Babu, the pastor of this church, desires to learn the Reformed theology as he is being convinced that this system of the Christian theology is closest to the teachings of the Word. If it is the will of the Lord, in the days and years to come, we look forward to training him up and has church leaders in the Reformed faith so that a Reformed witness can be established in the Varthur village.

From Covenant to Elim

The name “Elim” stands for God’s providential provision for the Israelites during their wilderness journey, from Egypt to the Promised Land. We read in Exodus 15:27, And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters. For Israelites, in the desert land, God opened up the rock, and provided them plenty of water and quenched their thirst.

The story of Covenant is very much the same. For the last six-and-a-half-years the Lord has been our wonderful Provider. When the Lord blessed us with a piece of land for our church building, one of the first things we experienced there was, against all odds, the providential provision of water. The locality is known for water scarcity and even if there is a provision, it is hard water. But, for the glory of God, when we got our bore well done, the Lord opened up the hard rock, and provided us plenty of drinkable water, and that too, much softer than all our neighbours, so much that the neighbors come to us to collect drinking water.

Much more than just providing drinking water to our neighbours, we are concerned with providing them the spiritual springs from the Water of Life. Therefore, as an outreach programme, we now take a new initiative by setting up a childcare and preschool, named, Elim. The dedication of this new program took place on 18th December.

Conclusion

Overall, the ministry of the missions team was very encouraging and fruit-bearing. Thank the Lord for the devotion and love of the team members in reaching out to the people of this land. We have been very much blessed

and challenged by their enthusiasm and love for the Lord. We thank the Lord for Rev Dr Jack Sin and his wife Mrs. Angelina Sin for all their hard work and devotion in organizing such missions team visit, once in every six months (altogether 14 visits within six-and-a-half-years). It is encouraging to see that now Sharon BPC, under the leadership of Rev. Peter Chua, assisted by Rev. Ho, is willing to stand together with Maranatha BPC in this missions endeavour. It is heartening to see Dr. and Mrs. Tan, coming second and fourth times respectively, willing to co-labor with the brethren and support them with words and deeds. To God be the glory!

This year, our focus is going to be in establishing the ministry of Elim and going forward with the ministry of the church and Covenant Academy. Please pray for wisdom as we work together with our brethren in Singapore and the Protem Committee here, for oneness in spirit and vision for the faithful proclamation of the Word, and thus, saving the lost souls and encouraging Christian brethren. May the words of the Lord encourage our hearts for this goal, *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it* (Isaiah 40:3-5).

Rev. Dr. George Skariah
Covenant BP Church,
Bangalore, India



Testimonies from the Mission Team

Growing a Reformed Church in the Heart of Bangalore, India

Introduction

Colossians 1:10 says, *'That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.'* Praise God for bringing 11 of us back safely (Dr. & Mrs. Tan Yew Ghee, Raphael, Joshua, Joyce, Faith, Phebe, Rev. Ho Chee Lai, Esther, Angie and Pastor).

The Kannada Shorter Catechism is finally done by the will and God's sovereign good time. 5000 copies of The Kannada Shorter Catechism are printed and distributed last Sunday at the service. It was a burden of my heart last year when we shared this with Rev. George and encouraged Pastor Babu to embark on this translation project (which he learnt much about the Reformed Faith from doing so). What could be a more effective way to teach the reformed faith to the Kannada people than to do so thru the shorter catechism? Many came and took copies of them and asked for more and it was given out freely to them. Another couple asked if there can be Tamil Shorter Catechism as well and we will be working on it as the Lord leads us. Pastor Babu is also working on some reformed articles that we sent him as the Lord used him to teach his flock the doctrines of grace.

Varthor Village

We had a fruitful and profitable ministry at Vathor Village on Thursday night teaching biblical stewardship and the church admin to the church of about 40 who came and heard the word. This work was started in 1998 by Pastor Babu with great opposition but the Lord enables him to persevere on. The mission team presented a Kannada item on Emmanuel. As Pastor Babu desired to come under the BP umbrella, Rev. Ho Chee Lai and his team were able to meet up with Pastor Babu and asked him some questions on

his ministry as Sharon BPC is praying about serving the Lord as missions co-partners with us in this outreach.

Family Camp

Praise God for the first Family and Youth Retreat of CBPCI where 46 attended.



One of the highlights of this trip is the first CBPCI family and youth retreat attended by 46 campers including us and the 8 children whom the youths taught. The theme was *Walk Worthy of the Lord* and Rev. Ho Chee Lai and

me presented the 4 messages while Dr. and Mrs. Tan Yew Ghee did a edifying family worship for all and a Q and A session with many good questions asked and answered by the wisdom of the Lord.

There was also meaningful interaction in games, prayer, sharing and bonding activities which strengthens the unity and cohesion of the church and the building up of edifying relationship among the brethren.

It was lively session where many of them benefitted from. It was good to fellowship with the Whitbreads, Venky and his wife and a new couple called Prateep and Indu, Rohan and Vincent Pinto and others who had been searching for a reformed church and found CBPCI on the website and through friends by the will of God. There is priority of biblical discipleship of young converts, encouragement of the saints in the word of God and training and the equipping of the believers in the service and knowledge of God.

Feedback

We had an edifying Q and A session where many good questions were asked on the subject of the camp theme and on Christian living and doctrine and here is one of the campers and her sharing :

Dear Pastor Jack,

Retreat was really good, learnt many things and happy to meet you all. I basically was from charismatic background, it was last year when I came to Bangalore to meet my relatives then I met Rohan, Shammi, Venky through whom I came to know about Reformed teachings. Till then, I always had a mindset that my faith, my works would lead to salvation but later I came to know that there is nothing that I could do to attain salvation but to believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross, because out of my sinful nature, I could do nothing that which is good. By God's grace, I happened to attend the Bible study classes conducted by Pastor George on *The Doctrine of Grace*. I thank God for leading me by His grace to know Him more and more. Please do pray for me and

Veena helping with the cooking
with Bessy and Rani



my family.

Regards,
Veena

Last Sunday, we had 2 pre-Christmas services at CBPCI and the newly appointed protem committee of 4 including Rev. George, Venky, John and Praven (and Bessy for Childcare) were dedicated to the Lord as well as the child care ministry led by Bessy that will start in 2012. We recognised that we cannot do the work of the Lord alone but that He has provided godly companions with different gifts to colabour together. Praise the Almighty Lord for this and let us continue to serve Him faithfully and fervently, in response to Him. God is ever good to us in time like this and we are to remain truthful and accountable to Him in our stewardship and service in these last days as well. Paul challenged us in Roman 12:11, 12 say, '*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.*'

Sunday Services and VBS

The message preached was entitled *When God Became Man* from John 1:1-18 and the purpose, personage, and the people who acknowledge Christ, the promise of Christ was presented with an evangelistic slant to the saving of souls as the Lord leads.

Rev. Ho Chee Lai preached a Christmas message at the Kannada Service translated by Pastor Babu and the team sang an item of praise; Joyce and Joshua gave their testimonies of God's wonderful grace of salvation in their lives.

The team of youths took the children in VBS on Sunday; Irene Tan shared the bible lesson and the gospel; Faith led in the songs with Joshua playing the guitar; Joyce, Phebe, Raphael and Esther led in the craft and there were goody bags for all the 50 Kannada children who received it with great delight.

Rev. Ho Chee Lai gave 2 lectures on Romans 5 and 6 on the doctrines of grace at the covenant academy lectures attended by about 30 people and good questions were asked by some and well received by many.

Home Visits

One of the most meaningful highlights is the home visit to Prateep and Indu's home, a new couple who came to our church recently in search of the reformed faith. The other home was at Relda and Manoj's residence and the latter is not a Christian but he has been attending CBPCI for the past 10 months. Irene Tan gave her testimony of salvation and I

shared from Acts 16 on how the Lord convicted and saved the Philippian jailor and his household when he repented of his sins and Manoj responded at the end of it saying, "pray for me as I want to believe in the Lord." Praise the Lord! The Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways and we are but just instruments of His grace. Do pray for him as he seeks the Lord in salvation.

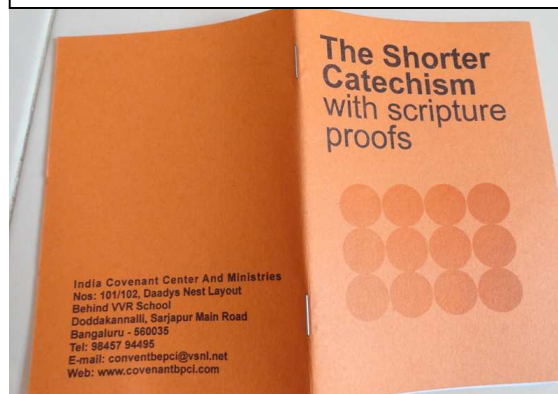
Conclusion

We thank God for safety, protection, good health and strength for the higher hand of God led and guided us to do what He has directed us. There is yet much more that can be done in the last days. We need to pray for God's wisdom for our missionaries, Rev. George and Bessy, Praven and Rani, Pastor Babu and others as they continue faithfully in the teaching of the word and outreach and the new child care ministry called Elim Daycare that will start in January 2012 under Bessy. We covet your prayers for this.

Visit to Velda and Manoj's home
with the gospel



5000 copies of the Kannada
Shorter Catechism were printed
and some distributed last Sunday at
the service.



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Who will go next year in end June to encourage our Indian brethren at the 7th anniversary of CBPCI? Something to think and pray about it.

Jack and Angie Sin

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good that publisheth salvation...”

(Isaiah 52:7)

A. Many “FIRSTS”

Irene Tan teaching the children at the VBS

When the mission team of eleven of us assembled at Changi Airport on 14 Dec 2011, I realised there were a few “firsts”. This was the first trip for most of the members, and the first Youth Mission Trip for Sharon BPC to India. It excites my wife Irene and me to go and work together with the creative, energetic youths.



For Rev Jack Sin and Angie (Maranatha BPC) who spear-headed the work in Bangalore, this was their 14th six-monthly trip. It was a first trip for our three children - Raphael, Phoebe and Joshua; Rev. Ho Chee Lai, Joyce Watt and Faith Chen (Sharon BPC); and Esther Wong from Ebenezer BPC, Melbourne. I have been to Covenant BPC, Bangalore, once and Irene three times before.

It was also the first time Covenant BPCI organised a Family and Youth Retreat over two days, and to initiate a Childcare Centre ministry. Our team members were privileged to participate in all ways possible in these programmes.

B. THE MISSION FIELD

Irene commented that “God loves India” because on each visit her eyes

are opened to see plenty of people, plenty of smiles, plenty of palatable food and of course plenty of opportunity for planting the Gospel seed.

India has a population of 1.2 billion people. Only 2% are Christians, the majority being Hindus. Thus, the mission field is vast. The question is, “who is willing to invest time, resources and effort to toil alongside God’s faithful servants in this broad field?”

Bangalore, being the I.T. centre of India, has many well-educated people, and a large number seeking the truth of Christianity.

The Covenant BPCI, with Dr. and Mrs. George Skariah as commissioned missionaries, is the first reformed fundamental church in Bangalore, Karnataka (population 56 million). Recently, many Indian Christians have deliberately sought a reformed-faith church, and through enquiries and the internet, have “discovered” Covenant BPCI. Many have googled “reformed faith”, and the Church website has appeared on top of the page.

Rev. and Mrs. Jack Sin’s example of love and infectious enthusiasm to lead trips after trip to plant, water and reap is truly commendable.

The harvest is indeed plenteous in the second most populous country in the world, and there is still much more work to be done. The youths in our team helped to decorate and set up Elim Childcare Centre which is planned for 2012. This will help to reach out to the families in the nearby ongoing housing projects.

C. THE FEEDING OF THE FLOCK

The brethren at Covenant BPCI and ourselves were truly fed much “meat” at the various devotions, seminars and lectures. Morning devotions after breakfast energised us for the day with useful Gospel lessons. We had a seminar at the Varthur Village church led by Rev. Jack Sin and interpreted by Pastor Babu, who conducts service in



the native Kannada language. It was a blessing to see the enthusiasm of the village folk with simple faith in the gospel. Then came the Family and Youth Retreat where the theme was “Walk Worthy of the Lord”, in which Irene and I had the privilege to conduct a workshop on “Family Worship”. At the Covenant Academy Lectures, we learnt such deep doctrinal concepts as Dispensational Theology verses Covenantal theology, Calvinism verses Arminianism and much more. Many questions were asked by the participants, evidence of a great thirst for the Word.

D. ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SAINTS



Stephen and his wife, Vincent and Dr. Tan Yew Ghee

Rev. Dr. George Skariah and his wife Bessie were a blessing as hosts, with the latter cooking for us tasty wholesome meals. They have always said that they look forward to the 6-monthly mission team trips, and although financial and material help are important, the impression we get is that they value the fellowship and friendship more than anything else. We found that Rev. George was dedicated, knowledgeable and truly on fire for the Lord. However, missionaries can indeed be lonely, even when their families are with them. They face overwork, hardships, persecutions and even physical abuse in their evangelical journey. Rev. and Mrs. Jack Sin have done much to provide advice and wise counsel to both pastors and the families.

As a Mission Team, we helped out, besides participation in the various programmes, by providing material help in setting up the Childcare Centre.

E. AN EDIFYING MISSION

All team members were unanimous in the feeling of much edification at the end of the mission trip. We have learnt much about the ministry in Bangalore, and have gained much in the seminars.

We felt spiritually refreshed and were greatly increased in our zeal for mission work and support. We had the first-hand experience at the forefront of reformed faith evangelism in India.

There is nothing like going to the mission field in person in order to see the progress of the ministry, the workers in action, and the needs of the future.

All of us have a reason to return to Bangalore, and many of us have pledged to do so. It is clear that there is much more work to be done. It is good to get down to work while the sun shines brightly. We must not wait till the Day of Reckoning...look at the world caught in war, unprecedented calamities of natural disasters, destruction, hunger and people moving about on fast track or in lethargy. How much time is there left to do God's work we do not know but are you ready to step out? We take comfort that when Jesus calls, He will surely equip and lead... "To God Be the Glory!"

Dr. and Mrs. Tan Yew Ghee
Sharon BP Church

NCBPCI
Seminar



This year's mission trip involved the pioneer batch of Sharon BPC's youth being part of the mission team. By God's grace, the mission committee supported such a venture for the first time. This has resulted in both a

Morning devotion with the word and prayer



blessed and thoroughly enriching mission trip to Covenant BPC, Bangalore.

From the most basic needs of food and shelter, we were blessed with much. There was never a lack of food nor clean beds and toilets. This, however, was easily contrasted with the quality of living from the village where New Covenant BPC, led by the faithful pastor Babu, resides. Thankfully, Covenant BPC itself seems to be becoming more established, in both resources and organisation, thus they are able to lend a helping hand to the needs of New Covenant BPC.

Yet, the clearest observation that shone through was – there is a harvest no matter where you are. At both churches, people were clearly hungering for the teachings of God's word, and were grateful for a place to worship him. Service to God was always clearly done with joy. Messages were given full attention, and praise was given loudly and with gusto. This can only prove that there are people hungering for able individuals such as Rev. George and Pastor Babu to bring to them the Word of God.

During the Youth and Family retreat, a group of clearly hungering individuals engaged in numerous informal Q&A sessions with our pastors. They asked diverse questions, ranging from typical Christian living to deep doctrinal issues. It was heartening to see the interest in growing in the knowledge of God's word, which we know to be an important source of wisdom. Their hunger for truth reminds us of the importance of constantly seeking the truth in order to be sure of what we understand, since it

ultimately guides our actions and behaviour.

It is noteworthy to mention, however, that there was a clear divide between rural dwellers and urban dwellers. The conversational languages used were different: English was more for those from the city, while Kannada was used by the villagers. Significantly, it was the more urban dwellers that seemed to be more interested in deeper doctrinal issues, while the rural dwellers seemed content with a simple faith. What this showed to me was that there were diverse needs that depended on several factors, such as the general level of education, income, and Hindu influence. These were but some of the many considerations that need to be made on a daily basis by those at the forefront. It is thus clear that there is a need for continuous support from those who can provide it.

The different religious influence remains a strong obstacle. It thus seems clear that by 'support', it means we must allow those who are well-versed with the cultural implications of any evangelical action, to advise and conduct the majority of such actions. Thus it would require a great deal of trust and surety in a person vested with this responsibility, and such support thus cannot be given lightly. We must ensure that we remain objective amidst highs derived from sympathy and compassion, and even camaraderie. We can thus thank God that He has promised to give us wisdom where we are lacking, and that He will always take care of His servants in the manner He pleases.

What we are able to contribute may be limited, but not null. There is always work to be done, and people who can do it. There just needs to be people who want to do it. In the grander scheme of things God will raise people to accomplish His ends, thus in the micro-perspective that is our human mind, it depends on whether we so choose to be the one He raised for whatever work, no matter the magnitude.

Joshua Tan
Sharon BP Church



We have great fun and mind
challenging games too

Going to India on a mission trip was definitely not on my list of things to do on my highly anticipated holidays but nevertheless, I went along for the experience and the exposure. I think I speak for most (or all) of the youths when I say that we were all very apprehensive about going for the trip. Our team comprised 6 youths, mainly, Raphael, Joshua, Faith, Joyce, Esther (Ebenezer BPC – Melbourne) and myself, led by Rev. Jack and Sister Angie, Rev. Ho and my parents.

Personally, I felt that this mission trip was very fulfilling. From the 16-17 December 2011, we attended Covenant BPC (India)'s first family and youth retreat. Although I did not sit through all the messages, I heard from many others that the messages being taught was very solid. I was helping out for the children's ministry where we taught approximately 15 kids the different names of God (Elohim, Jehovah, Creator, Adonai). The children were all so responsive and attentive during singspiration and while listening to the bible story and I am sure they took home the message intended for them, together with the lovely crafts that they made.



Early birds waiting for the VBS

Following the retreat was the Sunday worship service where we had 2 services, one in the morning and a Kannada service in the evening. In the

afternoon, we had a special children's program for 50 kids coming from Varthur village, another neighbouring village and the Covenant children as well. All the children were so enthusiastic to sing the songs that were being taught to them and it was really heart-warming for me to see the children raising their voices to sing unto the Lord as stated in Psalm 47:6, "*Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises*". Another verse came alive for me in Psalm 95:6, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our Maker" when I saw the children kneel down and bow to pray to the Almighty Lord. It was something extraordinary for me and I was really touched to see the village children all kneeling before the Lord most High. Night lectures were taught by Rev. Ho and even though I grew up in a reformed church, I learnt and relearned many things. Knowing what we believe in is important in one's Christian faith.

As I sit down to pen my reflections about this trip, I have seen how God work in many ways to make this trip as fulfilling and enriching as can be. Needless to say, hiccups may happen during any trip but as we look back, we can laugh it off and treat it like any experience. I really thank God for giving me this opportunity to go on this mission trip and see the work in Bangalore, India.

Phebe Tan
Sharon BP Church



Creative craft with Indu, Rani, Joyce, Esther,
Phebe and Faith helping

I was very skeptical about the mission work in India at first, and thought that it would be very third world looking and all. But during briefings and when we eventually arrived there, we were all shocked to see a very developed church infrastructure already in place. The church was really very Singaporean looking.



Faith and Raphael teaching the children at the Retreat

Ruby red floor tiles, wooden furnishing and lots more. But what I was most eager to see when I arrived was not the church sanctuary nor where we were sleeping, but the toilets! Lo and behold! The amazement I beheld, the place was like a 5 star Ritz hotel toilet. The host family, Rev. George, Bessy, Abigail and Nathanael and the church caretaker, and Preacher Praveen and family welcomed us very warmly.

Over the next few days we were to hold the 2 day Covenant BPCI Family and Youth Retreat. It was good fellowship and worship with the many individuals there, naming a few were John Charles, John Raks hit and Rohan. We played games, sang songs, learn Kannada songs etc. On Sunday, we had a special children's programme. The 50 children that attended this program came from villagers all around, mostly nearing where we stayed to as far as Varthu Village, where Pastor Babu resides. The children were so eager and attentive during the entire time. Even though there were times when translation or the slides on the screen looked unclear, you could tell from their innocent gazes that they were all hungry to find out more about our Lord Jesus Christ. Who was this person and Why did He die for us? Hopefully they had most of them had their questions answered.

Overall this was a great experience and a great blessing this mission trip. I got to see the normal standard of living people around here live in and see what we as fortunate people do not see everyday. Even with all their hardships and struggles you can see how much they would do to come all the way to learn more and more about God. We can all learn much from them. Prayerfully, I would get another opportunity to go back again and do even more.

Raphael Tan
Sharon BP Church



Song presentation by the mission team

It was with great anticipation that 11 people managed to make it across to India and safely, of which I was the youngest (I am assuming, since the others would not tell me how old they are.)

At the beginning I was a little doubtful as to what I could do at India, ok, at the beginning, beginning I was super excited that I could have the opportunity to go overseas and to India too! But then I began to feel like – Wouldn't it be more useful if I just gave them the plane ticket money to build the church? Of course it was only during the trip that I realised that everyone

Faith and Esther teaching new songs with zest to the 30 children



is given a gift (1 Corinthians 12:1-11) and that although you may not think much of it, God is using you, what we are to do is to find out what that gift is, develop it and use it for the Glory of God (1 Cor 10:31) and to use that gift you had to 'be there', I guess that's why it's called a 'Mission Team', each person has a role to play whether it's great or little, what we were there for was to sow the seed (Mat 28) and to encourage those already doing His work in Bangalore - God will do the rest.

The Lord had already begun to work "miracles" even before the Trip begun, firstly though the fact that peoples timetables were able to work around the timing of the trip, secondly though the awesome Air ticket prices and thirdly though my visa and the combined of 394 kg that got through!

There may have been more but these were the main ones that I know of ... Ok so the visa thing was irritating but long winded story cut short we managed to get it done two days before the fly off date.

The weather there was really nice, a bit like Australia in the Spring/ Autumn

time which was surprising since it looked dusty in pictures, so I thought that it would be like a dry heat and I was totally prepared to live in a tent / makeshift house... that is how unprepared I was.

I could have just asked someone but no that thought had not crossed my mind so when we arrived there after meeting the team in flesh for the first time ever in the airport I was like WOW this place is NICE! No tents and the toilets functional!

Everything was so clean and neat! It was like living at home. Rev

George and Auntie Bessy really made us feel so welcome and homely (she was so careful as to what she put into the food and changed all 3 bathroom mats in the girls' toilets every day!! I rkn that's even more cleaner than my home. So the first day we were given booklets at the airport. It felt like we were the ones on camp rather than the Bangalorians! I felt guilty because I felt like I got more out of this mission trip than they did! (It's not every day that you get to spend time with your pastor and observe how a Christian life should be led) So after settling down and unpacking and shopping and preparing, the next night we went to Pastor Babu's church where we met a man who was after the reformed faith, this was something I took for granted growing up in a bible Presbyterian family, what the people in India there had was a passion to know the truth and a joy when serving Jesus. I guess people in 1st world countries are complacent and do not know what true hardship is, it is not difficult to find a reformed church in Singapore but in India it was by the grace of God that the people found Covenant BP church. It was also heartening to see how a toddler church is formed, how the heavenly father provides (though His wonderful providence a well of drinkable water) and the mother church (MBPC) supportive and encouraging role in nurturing a growing church.

During the covenant family and youth retreat which was the first of its kind!!

Creative craft with Indu, Rani, Joyce, Esther, Phebe and Faith helping



Angie and Esther teaching the class



(historical moment!!) My role was to prepare the kids craft for about 10 kids with varying ages 4-10ish. My job was to help them make a cool calendar which they can bring home, unfortunately I overestimated them and things got pretty messy, fortunately I had a second chance because there were two craft sessions so during the second one it was more organised, I had to

prepare the 'ingredients' for the craft project first then just let them glue and draw everywhere. The only other big issue after that was glue [Note to self: Glue and little kids don't mix] Thankfully there were more 'helpers' to help me during the second craft session too and sitting in a circle helps A LOT! Also you should not just chuck supplies in the centre and let them choose, you should ration out supplies such obvious things are forgotten when there are children involved, they all look so cute and then they were just staring at you looking for instructions. And then my brain did not work.

I also tried to be strict this time round but I do not really know how that works... I think they were scared?

Sunday was the busy day! Especially for the pastors. After Sunday it was relatively quiet- I became a participant.

Shopping at the OM bookstore in Bangalore is good as!! Seriously to those who are coming next year – bring more cash! And because you are shopping with the pastor, he can help recommend books or tell you which ones are not sound (a very unique not to be missed experience.)

On the last day we explored the church- something we should have done on the first day and saw the well. It did not really look like a well but it was one! I guess technology has really changed over the years!! And the roof top was AWESOME! We could have brought sleeping bags and slept under the stars (something Singapore do not have).

Overall it was a wonderful experience, meeting new people, seeing the church and it's congregation for myself (being able to pray more effectually), seeing India, learning about missionary work, teaching the enthusiastic kids and seeing how God has provided for his people. What

we can do now and always is pray for them, that is what I have learnt.

Esther Wong

Ebenezer BP Church, Melbourne

I am very thankful and grateful that I have this opportunity to travel and do God's work in setting up the childcare ministry and in the children's ministry. It was hectic and time consuming for me because I was juggling between the vacation bible camp, exams and preparing the items to bring over to Bangalore. I had a wonderful time in Bangalore and it was a great spiritual learning experience for me. The children are such a great example of having this keen learning attitude. They have a good learning attention span and showed great interest in every activity the team planned. They also showed great appreciation of small little items when they received their goody bags. They taught me not to take things for granted in life.

Rev George and Pastor Babu showed a living testimony in having this great burden to share the gospel to their own people and they did a wonderful job in running the church service. I also learned many things about the Indian culture for the first time. Nevertheless, I enjoyed their food and the fellowship with the team mates as well as with the locals. I also thanked God for this trip as it helped to bring me closer with all the teammates and the missionary family. This is one of my most fulfilling trip I ever had.

Joyce Watt

Sharon BP Church



Getting to know one another

Introduction

I started out thinking that this Mission trip would act as a litmus test for me – if things panned out ok, I would consider going back. But as it turns out, God was putting me through the litmus test instead.

I am weak, but Thou art strong

God alerted me to my pride from the first day. Hearing Rev. George's and Pastor Babu's testimony and visiting the ministry in Varthur village was a humbling experience, and made me realise that this Mission trip was not about me and what I could do as an individual. It was about something much greater.

It was about God's power and providence and how He had anointed God-honouring and humble servants in Rev George, Pastor Babu, Praveen and their families. I was only one person out of the many mission teams that have passed through Bangalore, and without Christ working through me, I was and am nothing.

Realising this, the entire mission trip proved to be a very emotional and life-changing experience for me. Seeing the fervency and hunger that the people had for the Word – especially during the 2-day Covenant Family Retreat and the night lectures on the "*Doctrine of God's Sovereign Grace*" – made me realise how we take for granted the free exchange and discourse of our reformed faith and how many of us, being born into Christian homes, have stagnated in our Christian growth.

Looking for everlasting water in Christ?
(i.e. a nearby Kannada lady taking water
from our church well.



What struck me particularly was the Sunday (18 December) when we had 2 services and a special children's programme. The children were appreciative, receptive and eager to learn the songs, and more importantly, they sang from their hearts. They were disciplined in sitting through the entire worship service attentively and without complaint; such focus on the message of Christ being preached is a rarity nowadays in Singapore with the constant distractions that we face.

Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it Jesus this my plea

The morning devotions that Rev Jack and Rev Ho shared from 1 Peter 3:8 – 16 and Exodus 3:1 – 14 served to put me in my place – my rightful place in missions.

God reminds us to be prayerful and ready always to serve the Lord when He calls. And when God calls, He is sure to deliver. We, as his servants need to rely wholly on His strength and not our own.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” 1 Peter 3:15.

Praise and thanks be to God for placing me in the midst of a wonderful mission team and more importantly, for opening my eyes to the work of missions. I am thankful for witnessing the dedication and strength of God's servants – Rev George, Pastor Babu, Praveen and their families, and how they have been a strong, steady flame in a country steeped in religious superstition.

I encourage each one of you to take the time to encourage and support the work of our missions, and do continue to keep His faithful ambassadors in prayer.

Faith Chen
Sharon BP Church

Dedication of Pro-team
Committee and Bessy,
Rev. George, Venky
and Praven



Email from Bangalore

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank God for the Involvement of the Mission Team in building the Reformed Churches in Bangalore.

Last Sunday, we had a blessed Christmas service at NCBPC, Varthur. More than 150 (including 60 children) have been attended in the special Christmas service.



Varthor Village where Pastor Babu ..

The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the doctrine of Predestination was faithfully proclaimed from the book of (Isa 7:14 and 9:6) and (Rom 8:28-30). Please do pray for the enlightening work of the Holy Spirit; that many would believe in Christ by the saving grace of God.

New friend and members at NCBPCI



response was as follows :

Along with that I would like to insert a special report which gave me a grater encouragement in the work of the Lord. This report is from some of the senior most members of NCBPC Congregation, who have been often tumbling to keep their Christian faith. But when we give importance to the Faithful preaching (sola scriptura) their

"For lost few months we could progressively understand the scriptures, and now we are so confident of our Salvation. Not only that, now we could find the divine order in our Church; so that now we feel more happy to be a part of this Church".

What an encouraging statement; I am so confident that the Lord is at work, and He will lead His Church in to the fullness of the Truth. I thank God for the providential guidance for me to be connected to this God centered Theology.

Please convey my heartily regards to Rev. Ho, Dr. and Mrs. Tan and all the Team members.

Pastor Babu
New Covenant BPC, Bangalore India



Preaching on Biblical Stewardship and Church Admin in Varthor Village and Rev. Ho Chee Lai at the night lectures.

MISSION TRIP NOTES

Compiled by Faith Tan

Day 1: Wed 14 Dec 2011	Activity
3.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touched down in BLR international airport with ~400kg worth of baggage, and were warmly welcomed by Rev George Skariah and Brother Praveen. • Praveen had to strap our luggage to the roof of Rev George's car. The team squeezed into 3 vehicles and began our 2+ hour journey to the mission centre on Sarjapur Main Road.
6.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrived at CBPCI Mission centre where we were warmly welcomed by Sister Bessy Skariah and the children, Abigail and Nathanael, as well as Sister Rani, Praveen's wife. • A home-cooked Singaporean-style dinner was lovingly prepared by Bessy.
8.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotion by Rev Jack Sin: Psalm 121 on the message of "<i>Dependence on the Lord to provide for His people</i>" • Sharing by Rev George Skariah on the history and development of CBPCI, and the plans for the Elim Childcare Ministry that is due to open in January 2012. • Time of sharing from the Mission Team members and the session closed with prayer.
Day 2: Thur 15 Dec 2011	Activity
9.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotion by Rev Jack Sin: 1 Peter 3: 8 – 16 on five things "To Be" when we're called to His service: 1. Be caring, compassionate, courteous (v8)

	<p>2. Be careful in our speech, conversations, thoughts (v9) (Verity, Charity, Necessity, Sagacity)</p> <p>3. Be prayerful (v12)</p> <p>4. Be ready always (v15)</p> <p>5. Be clean (v16)</p>
10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for Children’s ministry at the upcoming Covenant Family & Youth Retreat (Craft and lesson material).
12nn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch at Lemongrass Family Restaurant (from whence commenced guessing of the meal cost)
2pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued preparation for the Children’s ministry and practice for Mission Team item
6.30pm	<p>Night Seminar at Varthur Village on “<i>Biblical Principles in Proper Church Stewardship and Administration</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message by Rev Jack Sin, interpretation by Pastor Babu on the important principles and practices of God-honouring church (Acts 6:1-7). • 4 points (Priorities of the Church) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prayer; 2. Preaching of the word; 3. People; 4. Paperwork (I.e. admin) • Song presentation in Kannada by Mission Team (Esther on flute): <i>Emmanuel</i>.
7.30pm	<p>Adjourned to Pastor Babu’s house for sharing & testimony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Babu shared that He has been in the ministry for 12 years and was previously from a Baptist / Pentecostal background. He is 34 years old; his wife Sathya is 29, and they have 2 children, Abhishek and Amulya. • He shared that it was through God’s providence that he met Rev George and has been introduced to the reformed faith. He and his wife have prayed about embracing the reformed faith and have accepted that they might face great resistance and lose friends who

	<p>have followed them from their Pentecostal days. Needs prayers for the support and growth of the church, as it is a lonely, uphill task.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has translated the Westminster Shorter Catechism into Kannada, of which Rev George has printed 5,000 copies for distribution.
Day 3: Fri 16 Dec 2011	Activity
8.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depart for Covenant Family & Youth Retreat at Claret Nivas (a Catholic Mission).
9.30am	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp theme: “Walk Worthy of the Lord” • Theme verse: Colossians 1:9-10
10.00am	<p>Thematic Message 1: <i>Filled with Godly Wisdom</i> (Rev Jack Sin) [Text: Colossians 1: 9 – 12]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we pray for people? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That they walk worth of the Lord (Eph 4:1, 1 Cor 10:31) 2. Being fruitful in every good work (Gal 5: 22-23, Matt 3:8) 3. Increase in the knowledge of God (Hosea 4:6, 2 Tim 2:15) 4. Strengthened by the might of God (Acts 17:11) 5. Grateful inheritors of God’s eternal resources: God vs Gold, Word vs World <p><i>*Children’s programme ran concurrently with all 4 messages (led by Youths)</i></p>
11.30am	<p>Workshop on Family Worship (Dr. & Mrs Tan Yew Ghee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Biblical basis for Family Worship: focused on the Commandments, Conditions and Components
3.30pm	<p>Thematic Message II: <i>Fulfilling God’s Will</i> (Rev Jack Sin) [Texts: Eph 5:1-17, Col 1:9-12]</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walk in the purity of God's love and be mindful of his supreme sacrifice (v2) [Ref.: John 13:34,35). 2. Walk in the light of the Lord against the spiritual darkness of this world (v8) [Ref.: Eph. 4:17,18, 2Cor. 10:5] 3. Walk circumspectly in the will of God, conscious of the shortness of time and the nearness of eternity (v 15 – 17) [Ref. Ps. 25: 3,4] 4. Walk in the truth of God's word rather than in the deception of the world [Ref.: 2John , 3 John 4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5Cs to determine the will of God: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult the Word of God (1 Cor 6:12) 2. Confer with godly men 3. Communicate with God – pray with patience (1 John 5:14,15) 4. Consider the circumstances Commune in your heart – peace? Four answers to Prayer : 1. Direct; 2. Different; 3. Denial; 4. Delayed
5.00pm	Recreation (Venky, Shammi, John Rakshith)
8.00pm	Reformation Video Screening: Pilgrim's Progress (John Bunyan)
Day 4: Sat 17 Dec 2011	Activity
9.00am	Singspiration (Shammi): Ps. 122, Ps. 32
9.30am	Thematic Message III: Fruitful in God's Work (Rev Ho CL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing things through God's eyes: The greatest need of mankind is to be rightly related to God and His will – no satisfaction to physical needs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discern your spiritual gift 2. Develop your spiritual gift for the benefit of others 3. Depend upon God's grace 4. Direct all glory to God • Do you feel a burden for the church? What is your response? Neh. 1:11, Isa. 6:8

11.00am	Q&A Session (Panel: Rev Jack Sin, Rev Ho CL, Dr YG Tan)
3.00pm	Singspiration (Led by Sharon Youths) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mission Team taught some youth songs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Little by Little 2. Therefore being Justified 3. His Sheep am I 4. In His Time
3.30pm	Thematic Message IV: <i>Founded on God's Word</i> (Rev Ho CL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance to build up the people on the foundation of the Word of God – the church does not depend on one or two individuals. • The importance for the people to progress from the “milk” to the “meat” of God’s Word. • The importance of communicating with one another and to have a same shared vision for the building of the church.
8.00pm	Reflection and closing
Day 5: Sun 18 Dec 2011	Activity
10.00am	Special Christmas Service (English) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Item by Mission Team: To India with love (Esther on flute, Faith on piano) 2. Testimony: Joyce Watt 3. Dedication of Covenant BPC Protem Committee (Venkatesh, John Rakshith, Praveen, Rev George) & Elim Childcare Ministry (Sister Bessy Skariah) 4. Message: When God became a Man (Rev Jack Sin) [John 1:1-18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4Ps of Christ: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personage of Christ (v1-3) 2. Purpose of Christ (v 4-7) 3. People that acknowledge Christ (v11-12)

	4. Promise of Christ (v14-18)
2.30pm	Children's programme: 49 children in attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singspiration: Faith & Joshua • Message: Mrs Irene Tan • Craft & goodie bags: Joyce & Esther
5.00pm	Evening Kannada Service <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Item by Mission Team in Kannada: (Esther on flute, Faith on piano) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His name is higher</i> • <i>Emmanuel</i> • <i>Jesus, name above all names</i> 2. Testimony: Joshua Tan 3. Message: Message of Christmas (Rev Ho CL, Interpreter: Pastor Babu) [Matt. 1:20-21, Isa. 7:14] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miracle that surpasses all miracles • Fulfillment of prophecy (Isa 7:14) • The son of God must become the son of Man, so that the sons of men can become a sons of God (Gal. 4:4-6)
7.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner at Spices Restaurant, followed by reflection and prayer
Day 6: Mon 19 Dec 2011	Activity
9.00am	Devotion by Rev Ho: Exodus 3:1 – 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call of Moses into the ministry, his response (v4,11) and God's response (v14) • Reminder to rely on God's strength; because it is God who calls us, and God will deliver
10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youths outing with CBPCI youths (Rohan, John Charles, Praveen) • Adults: Committee meeting on the work of NCBPCI followed by lunch at Backwaters Kerala Restaurant and home visitation to Prateep & Indu's house. Rev. Jack shared the Word.

4.00pm	Set-up for Elim Childcare Ministry
6.00pm	<p>Covenant Academy Night Lecture 1 (Rev Ho CL, Interpreter: Pastor Babu): “<i>Doctrine of the Sovereign Grace of God</i>”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History of redemption: Romans 5: 12 – 21 2. Righteousness of God: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How God’s righteousness is needed for all (Romans 1 – 3) • How the righteousness of God is imputed – justification (Romans 3 – 5) • How righteousness was manifested (Romans 6 – 8) • How righteousness was vindicated (Romans 9 – 11) • How the righteousness of God ought to be practical (Romans 12 – 16) 3. Sin & Death (Romans 2:11 – 15) 4. Comparison between Adam & Christ (v12) 5. Dispensational Theology vs Covenantal Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenant of Works • Covenant of Grace 6. Doctrine of Salvation (Calvinism): TULIP
9.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visitation to Manoj and Relda’s home. Rev. Jack shared the Word and Mrs. Irene Tan shared a testimony.
Day 7: Tue 20 Dec 2011	Activity
9.00am	<p>Devotion by Rev George Skariah: Isaiah 40:1-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V10-11: How God alone is the hope for the nation and the parallel to the land of India, Bangalore (lack of spirituality)
10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up for Elim Childcare Ministry (Placing up of wall decals, posters and notice board). Led by: Joyce Watt • Lunch at Nandhini Restaurant

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to OM Bookstore (Where the Mission Team collectively spent ~40,000 rupees on books)
6.00pm	<p>Covenant Academy Night Lecture 2 (Rev Ho CL, Interpreter: Pastor Babu): <i>Doctrine of the Sovereign Grace of God</i> (continuation)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calvinism vs Arminianism: TULIP vs LILAC 2. What is Salvation? (Romans 5:20,21) 3. Before and after conversion (Adoption, Justification, Regeneration, Sanctification & Glorification) – Romans 3:20, 7:13 4. Decisive separation from sin (Romans 6: 1 – 14) 5. Christ's resurrection (1 Cor 15: 15-23) 6. Slaves to sin or Slaves to obedience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By His mercy, God did not give us what we deserve. By His grace, He gave us what we do not deserve.
9.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner at Coconut Groove Restaurant
Day 8: Wed 21 Dec 2011	Activity
9.00am	<p>Devotion by Dr YG Tan: 1 Cor 12: 1 – 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual gifts: Greater gifts need greater grace to keep you humble • Sharing & Testimonies from the Mission Team • Devotion and fun challenge by Pastor Jack from Joshua 22:21-29 on importance of drawing nigh to God for victorious Christian living.
1.00pm	<p>Final Shopping, Clean-up, Packing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch at KFC at TOTAL
3.00pm	<p>Staff meeting by Pastor Jack for Rev. George, Bessy and Angie</p>
7.00pm	<p>Departure for BLR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send-off from Rev George, Pastor Babu, Praveen and families

- | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love gifts for Rev. George, Pastor Babu and Praven |
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MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday English Worship Service : Sunday 10.45am

Sunday Chinese Worship Service : Sunday 6.30pm

Prayer Meeting : Wednesday 8pm

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

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