



CENTRAL ASIA (TURKEY) • MYANMAR  
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND • NONGPLING, THAILAND

# Mission Trip Testimonies

————— 2019

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them  
name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..”*

**MATTHEW 28:19**



# Central Asia

— 18 – 24 November 2019

## *From Bee Lan*

It is a privilege to be in the Central Asia mission team to be with IK & C for a week. It opened my eyes to see God reaching out to people in this part of the world through different ways. He loves all & does not wish any to perish. Together with IK, Pauline & her 2 girls, we made home visits to a few ladies. I was particularly amazed by God's love for this lady who had been a Christian for 13 years. She had been a devoted M believer & had faithfully prayed 5 times a day ever since she was a child, but somehow after her marriage, one day she "chanced" upon a TV channel through satellite tv that screened a film about "Jesus" that perked her curiosity. She repeatedly watched subsequent programmes which led to her spiritual hunger to search for truth. That resulted in the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ & established a personal relationship with Him. When I heard her testimony I could not hold back my tears of joy and marvelled at the way God had worked to bring the message of salvation to her. And I thanked God

too that beside this sister, there are many others who through the faithful ministry of IK & C are coming to know Christ personally with some coming forward for baptism. Their perseverance also in following up these people in different towns through their Bible correspondence course, Christian materials, etc has reaped fruits of eternity for His Kingdom. Praise be to God!

Let's continue to pray for Central Asia that God will open the people's eyes to see the Truth.

## *From Han Khim*

My reflection on Central Asia Mission trip: There are great challenges in being a missionary in Central Asia, due to governmental regulations and societal restrictions. Locals may also face major social issues should they profess faith in Christ.

Because of the sensitive and dangerous nature of evangelizing in this country open evangelism cannot be done. Missionary work is done through meetings at "prayer houses" rather than official

churches with new converts and known believers, and evangelizing through personal contacts and building friendships. One highlight was the Men's group comprising C, JX, Edwin and I to visit a missionary in a small town outside of where C and IK are based (one hour travel by car). We heard from him how the Lord is at work in the lives of the local believers and we had the privilege to meet with a local believer brother who had become a Christian. He told us of the intense persecution from friends and family when he testified of his faith in Christ. He felt a call to serve Christ in the small community of believers in this town. We spent the time encouraging these dear brothers and praying with them. We ask that you too pray for the work of the Lord in Central Asia and for wisdom and protection for those who serve the people of Central Asia as missionaries and the evangelisation of a vast country to know the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### ***From Edwin***

Earlier this year, when the church announced that there were upcoming mission trips to various countries, I noticed that Central Asia was one of the countries listed. I recalled that many of the cities in the Bible, such as Ephesus, Galatia, the 7 churches of the Revela-

tion are located in modern day Central Asia. Thus, I was really keen to visit Central Asia as part of a mission trip and prayed about this.

I prepared for my trip by reading up on the history and culture of this country since the days when the Apostle Paul walked this land, and wrote his letters to the Churches, right up to the present day.

I also prayed for my trip that I would be a blessing to the people I meet, that language barriers could be overcome with the love of Christ and that people would have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

One experience that left a deep impression on me was a visit to a seeker in a neighbouring city about an hour's train ride from the city we were in.

U is about 28 years old, university educated and looking for a job. He had reached out to C via a Bible correspondence course, and wanted to ask more questions about the gospel.

We left by train one morning and met him just after 12pm and sat down at a cafe drinking locally made tea and chatting.

U told us that he has been and still is searching for the one true religion that can also answer all of life's tough ques-

tions on suffering and tragedy. He had read various religious texts such as the Koran, Greek philosophy, and the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and was now halfway through the gospel of John.



Through the conversations, he shared with us that when he was 14, he had an 18 year old brother who died in an industrial accident and he could not close that chapter of his life. His parents, also stricken with grief, decided to have another child the following year and he said he felt “abandoned” since then as his parents then focused on raising his younger brother.

He eventually moved out of the family home and had a pet dog which also died a year ago and he was still dealing with the loss.

What left a deep impression on me was that U had asked us some very challenging questions on faith, and where God is in the midst of suffering. He also mentioned he had rejected both his native religion as well as Judaism.

We tried our best to answer his questions as much as possible. Before we

parted ways, he asked us if there is anything more we would like to say to him. I responded that if he seeks with all his heart (and not give up), he will eventually find the one true God.

Although we spent much more time with him than we had intended (we had 2 subsequent appointments on that day), I felt this was time well spent.

From this encounter, what I learnt was:

**1** — There are many unreached people, like U, in this land who has not heard the gospel. Many of them are not content with the spiritual state of their lives and are seeking for the Truth.

**2** — It is not easy being a Christian here. Family objections, pressure from friends and colleagues is real. This helps me to appreciate better what I have and to be able to understand what T Christians need to deal with as

a new believer.

Would you please pray that U, and the millions of other seekers like him, will have many more opportunities to seek, hear and respond to the only gospel that can save and has all the answers and provide hope for their lives ?

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

### *From Jiexiang, Pauline and children*

We have always heard from C and IK about their ministries in Central Asia and have always felt that their work has not been easy. We heard about the testimonies of people coming to faith despite their background from another faith and being ostracised by their community. However, these are just stories that we hear and imagine in our heads, we tried to empathize to only to a certain degree. With the church going into the year of P, which are Planting and Propel, my family felt that we should visit them and see what the field is about. There were doubts and concerns before the trip but we thank God for leading every step of the way and revealing to us that we should be part of this trip.

During our 7-day ministry, we seen the tireless work done by C and I. They spent their time meeting believers one on one and fellowshiping with them. Some of these believers have their own struggles and C and IK will need to invest a lot of time. Some have backslided and C and IK would still need to follow up despite the challenges. For new believers, they usually devote their time to disciple them towards baptism or be more mature in their faith. It is therefore a great joy to see that the church has grown and despite being small, they had a very lively worship during their church service. We certainly thank God that we can see the fruit of the labour of the team there. Indeed the seeds that were sown have started to grow and the church needs our unceasing prayers and partnership.

C & IK shared with us many stories and one of those involved a brother U. He was like an evangelist and he was one of those who invited many to church during our night programs. U is very fervent and is very infectious in sharing his faith. In fact, he has also brought his father to receive Jesus. This is just one of the amazing story we heard.

One of the more memorable day was during a Saturday which my family were out at a district 45 minutes away

from the church. There is no church in this district and we conducted our prayer walk there. Along the way we met with people on the streets and at the café but were unable to find any opportunity to strike a conversation with anyone. The locals there did not know English and it was hard to carry out any decent conversation. We however managed to say hello to a few and took some photos with the shopkeepers' children but that was all that we could manage. In fact, we were a little disappointed. Before we left the place, we found a park near the town square. We wanted to meet someone and hence we walked around and prayed for God's guidance.

As we prayed, we saw a playground and allowed our children to have some fun before we leave the place. There were some local women with their children and we prayed that if God wills, we can start a conversation with them. To our surprise, two of them came over to talk to us. We overcome our difficulty

in conversing through google translate. Before we left, we wanted to pass them a book on 25 bible stories. Through a series of events, we thank God that He provided a good opportunity for us to offer one of them the book and it was there we start our friendship with H. Indeed if we are faithful in our prayers, God will use us to bring His gospel to people and glorify His name.

We also want to thank God for protecting the entire team during the trip and keeping all of us healthy. Most of all, we thank Him for using all of us for His work in Central Asia and for enabling C and IK to serve Him there for so many years. All glory to Him



# Myanmar

— 21 – 26 November 2019

*By Richard Tan*

This year's trip was made exactly one year from last year even though the dates were decided based on the team's available period. The team of 12 included 7 new joiners but one fell ill and could not proceed. Nevertheless, "Here Am I" – we are stepping out in faith and we thank God for His faithfulness in sending us, comprising Richard/Lynette, Phillip/Dorothy, David/Sylvia/Tameia, Amy, Lily, Sharon and, at times, Valerie. We had the locals, led by Robin, support us before, during and after our events, not forgetting Pastor Mang Kaih Thang moving with us throughout the trip.

The orphanage on the nearby D Island, accessible by ferry is run by a humble principal of the orphanage who is wife of a pastor, one of whose sons is graduating from theology studies next year. And, except for 1, all children in the orphanage attend school. There is no age limit when children have to leave the orphanage.

Though our focus remains on the village's GC School and the orphanage on D Island, we visited Grace Church pastored by our Pastor Mang Kaih Thang on who shared the opportunity he had in training students whom he subsequently found had planted churches when they returned to their villages. Meanwhile, the church premises are now better utilised on weekdays for morning corporate prayer and evening small group bible study, besides nightly family devotions. The pastor's prayer is to be a self-sustaining church eventually, even though he is comfortable with the current GMC support.

At P's GC School, we recall that in the past year, with a donation we had last year, the wall and flooring of the elementary school had been refurbished, so were the classroom wall and zinc roof. Praise God for the speedy actions.

Our sponsorship of milk for children had been widened to include porridge, now known as the nutrition and food programme. We also provided the children with a second set of school uniform



*The team*



*Orphanage kids*

to enable them to change during the week. And, for hygiene reasons, children now have their personal cups for drinking water when in school, instead of everybody sharing one cup.

The school is now praying for Improvement works to replace the damaged ceiling (which provides a buffer for the heat from the zinc roof), additional/replacement toilet, separating boys from

girls, and to have a separate teachers' toilet. The library, set up last year now needs more books to be brought in as more students enjoy and prefer reading in school with the new and clean flooring.

Carnival 2019 took place as scheduled. This was an outreach initiative supported by the school, village head and church, the objective being to involve students and residents in the activities and to invite their families and residents to church. The carnival attracted an estimated 150 turnout and activities included football, bursting balloons, arts and crafts, cookie decoration.

The impromptu "dance-xercise" and playing eagle-catch-chicken attracted the younger children with their parents watching amazingly at the fun it generated. Meanwhile, school teachers also enjoyed the activities as some did the cookie decoration and learnt to play five stones. Our photo booth drew curious onlookers but it surprised families as their coloured prints glided out of the

printer we brought with us.

The village church's Sunday service was a little different. There was no sermon. But between our song items, we shared 6 testimonies of God's power to save, heal and in other aspects of our lives, which we hoped strengthened the villagers' faith in Him. The village head expressed gratitude for GMC's support of their school's education and facilities, which is testament to God's love and faithfulness for that village.

For first time trippers, one shared that our mission camp in June paved her way into this trip; she came by faith. Another saw the passionate love the orphanage principal had for the children, some of whom had been in the orphanage for over 20 years and 12 of whom had become their legal children. It is amazing how the orphanage sustains itself without a fixed sponsor. Yet God

is faithful. Another felt that though the carnival blessed the villagers, the team was also blessed this trip. Keep it up, everyone.

Come, see for yourselves on the next trip. At the end of the trip, there was also talk of a teaching programme in the next trip. We praise God for His un-failing love and faithfulness over the village and us.

*By Lynette Loo*

We 1st met to discuss our trip here in end September. One thing I needed to buy was the potato snack to give away as reward for



**Colouring**



**Scratch Paper Drawing**



**Clay Art**



**Teachers learning 5-Stones**

**Carnival activities**

winning games.

So I went to look for a shop that sells it at the best price. After searching, that shop turned out to be so near my home! And why this snack? It is baked; not fried, so more healthy. You all ate it yesterday?

I found a shop that sold it at a more special price and I bought all that the shop had for that day. That was the exact number of boxes I needed! There was no more special price boxes after that.



*Carnival participants with team.*

My car was near but after buying, I realised I could not carry all the boxes at once. So the shop manager put everything in a big box. She made a box handle and with it I carried the box to my car. The box was only 7 kg but the next day, I had a back pain, so bad that I had to lie down, flat. Many years ago I had this pain and I become well only after a long time. I remembered I forgot to pray then!

This time, I prayed and as I lay down, I asked the Lord to help me get well faster because I had many things to do. I believed I will quickly be well again. So 2 days later, the pain was gone! I told my friends that this was a miracle. Long time ago, I had this pain 3 times and the pain always took a long time to go. But this time I healed very quickly.

I thank God for reminding me that I must pray and when I pray, God hears and He heals in His time. He heals us because He is our great doctor. Amen.

*By Sylvia Tan (personal testimony given during the trip)*

My father was a staunch Buddhist his whole life. He used to make jokes about seeing Jesus when he dies and how he would not follow Jesus at his death because he would not be able to recognise Jesus as his God because Jesus was “Caucasian” and he was “Chinese”. Despite my father’s rejection of accepting Christ as his Lord and Saviour, I continued praying for my dad’s salvation.

In early April 2019, my mum discovered that my dad had been borrowing money from the bank. We suspected my father to be hiding some secrets from the family and I confronted my father about it. However, my father refused to tell me. He gave me the cold shoulder and kept telling me to leave him alone and not bother him with my questions. I pleaded with my father to come clean, not with the family but with God. I

told him that Jesus is the only one that can cleanse him of his sins, and all he needs to do is repent and believe in Him. However, my father continued his silence and cold treatment towards me.

Thereafter, I felt compelled to fast for my dad's salvation. I felt an urgency for my dad to be saved and decided to fast for a week before Good Friday. I fasted for my dad's salvation. Three days after my fasting, a shocking thing happened. All of my dad's front row capped teeth fell out at once and he became toothless all of the sudden. It was as though the Holy Spirit was trying to convict my father, sending him a message about "lying through his teeth". By then, my father had stopped talking to me and it was as though he had rejected me. I was totally heart broken but all I could do was to continue praying for my dad. To me his salvation was more important than my relationship with my father.

However, on 20 April 2019, the day after Good Friday, I received a shocking news that my dad had a heart attack and he died while he was in JB. I was totally devastated and could not understand why God had allowed my dad to die before he was saved! However, on the 3 days after his death, the Lord revealed to me, during my quiet time

what had happened moments before my dad's passing. The revelation happened while I have my quiet time that morning. While I was praying, suddenly, a very bright blinding light came before me and I heard a voice calling out my dad's name in Hokkien and said "Cheng Hock, I am Jesus". It was then I knew that Jesus was showing me that he had come to reveal Himself to my father moments before my dad's death, and my dad was given the opportunity to repent and follow Him. Although God didn't reveal to me my dad's response, I believed that my dad would not have resisted Jesus. He would have repented and followed Jesus.



*Meeting with school/village heads*

Later that day at Mt Vernon columbarium, my cousin came to me and told me that she had asked the Lord where my father was and He told her that my dad was with Him. I was overjoyed when I

heard her sharing. It was a confirmation that God had saved my father and I was just overcome with joy and peace. Even though I was saddened with grief with my father's passing, yet I was rejoicing in my dad's salvation and God's promises of salvation.

It was a bitter sweet ending to my testimony but I would like to encourage my brothers and sisters to continue praying for their unsaved family members because God can really do wonders in His salvation. I also wanted to remind my brothers and sisters to go to God for repentance and turn to Him for salvation and redemption. It is never too late to repent and give your life to Jesus for it is only in Him that one finds life. For my father, it was through his physical death that he found eternal life, only possible through Jesus.

All praises and glory to Him forever and ever.

# Chiang Mai, Thailand

— 24 – 28 November 2019

## *Team Introduction*

8 of us went on the trip to Chiang Mai: Pastor Andy, Audrey, Kimberly, Sally, Steven, Shouye, Wynne and Zenia. GMC has a local missionary Pastor there – Cassandra. Our trip to Chiang Mai was to assist her with her school ministry. We also had a chance to visit the one of their cell group sessions in the local home church led by Pastor Niwet.

## *School Ministry*

We spent 2 days in school assisting with the English lessons and organising games for the students. We thank God that the locals are open to the idea of foreign missionaries coming in to teach English, which provided an avenue into the school. Each session had about 100+ students. Cassandra starts the lesson by sharing about the Creation story, then she teaches conversational English (how to buy things) then we will play games with the students. After that, Pastor Niwet

closes with a sharing on the Fall of man and a time of prayer for the students to accept Christ.

We were also touched by how appreciative the children were with the small gifts and snacks and felt blessed with everything that we have in Singapore.



*Cassandra sharing about creation*

The simple life of the students in Chiang Mai made us reflect how we can be contented with little. With limited resources we saw how the students were better stewards of the equipment that they had. The students were also



**Games**



**Fellowship with local church**

extremely respectful towards us when we were there, which shows how the Thai culture teaches them good values like discipline and respecting their elders.

### ***Challenges***

For the local team, one of the challenges we faced was the language barrier. Despite that, we are still thankful for the opportunity to connect with the students. For Cassandra, one of the challenges that she faces is evangelising to the parents of the children who attend the Paddy Children's Ministry led by Pastor Niwet. We thank God that the locals are open to the idea of Christianity and more of them are coming to the faith.

### ***Thanksgiving + Lessons Learnt***

We thank God for his provision, especially during school ministry. On the first day we had to change the venue from the large hall to a small open MPH with no PA and no A/C. It was a really small space, which caught us by surprise. Yet, it was one of the better times of ministry as the whole atmosphere became cosier and more intimate. It was totally unexpected, but God is a God who provides all that we need: physically, spiritually and emotionally. We would like to thank Pastor Cassandra, Pastor Niwet and the local church for their hospitality. We also want to thank God for his faithfulness in protecting us even though a few members fell ill. We are also thankful for the chance to prepare food for the local church and to have fellowship together with them.



*Students praying*



*The team*

### *Reflections*

“Fellowship with Tung Yao Church over home cooked dinner and old school Christian songs was awesome! Even though we were singing in different languages, we were connected in heart and spirit” – Zenia

“Even though it was our first meeting with the local church, I really felt the ‘kampung spirit’ and warmth from the community” – Sally

“God has deposited in my heart to go along with the flow and allow Him to do what is necessary to bring about a change in their attitudes towards knowing God.” – Audrey



# Nongpling, Thailand

— 12 - 16 December 2019

There were 10 of us on the trip. Namely: Ang Chin Guan & wife Bee Lian, Cheong Soh Lim, Han Hai Kwang, Lim Tiong Hock, Chia Chin Chin & daughter Angelin, and my wife Lay Choo & daughter Natalie & myself.

GMC has been supporting the Nongpling church for more than 10 years, starting with the Pioneering Stage when we would go with the local pastor to do outreach in the villages; through to the Parenting Stage when the new believers were nurtured and disciplined; to the present Partnering Stage when we share in ministry to the needy and in outreach.

The purpose of this trip was to encourage the leaders and congregants, participate in the church ministries, and understand the heart-burdens of the pastor and church leaders.

*By Lim Tiong Hock*

— **Where is Nongpling?**

Nongpling is in Central Thailand's Nakhon Sawan District. It takes 4 hours by road to get there from Bangkok International Airport.



*The team*

— **What is the connection between GMC and Santasuk Church in Nongpling?**

GMC's Cheong Soh Lim had served with OMF in Thailand as a nurse in the hospitals in Nongbua and Manorom since 1975. She came back to Singapore in 1995 but in 2007 the Lord led



***Baptising of a young believer***

her back to serve with Santisuk Church in Nongpling for 3 years. During this period another church member, Edmund Koh now a Methodist Pastor had also spent a year in the same district when he went there as a missionary with OMF. Santisuk church is pastored by Pastor Prasit assisted by his family and a handful of elderly church leaders.

Over the years quite a number of GMC members have also visited this church regularly to give encouragement to the Pastor and befriend its members. Some GMC members have contributed towards helping the poor and needy members with regular food items and sponsor schooling for the poor children in their midst. The church members are mostly elderly as the young people tend to move on to cities to find work.

### **Program for the 3 days in Nongpling**

**Day 1** — We followed Pastor Prasit and church leaders to visit 2 families. The first family (Mr Boonsong and wife Suthin) asked prayer for their 2 chil-



***Blessing of food items***

dren to have stable jobs. The second family (Mr Ched and wife Anna) will be baptized by the following Sunday. We were blessed by their steadfast faith despite their struggles in life. Both families showed great generosity despite their humble background and provided delicious food and fruit which we ate gratefully as our lunch for the day! In the evening we joined the church for their prayer meeting. Many had to travel quite a distance to get to church.

**Day 2** — In the morning we attended a teaching session. Alvin gave the exhortation with interpretation by Bird (pastor's daughter). After lunch we witnessed the baptism of the couple we visited the previous day, and Keow a student who is also serving faithfully.

**Day 3** — Today is Christmas Celebra-

tion Sunday. The church had gone out to the market place to invite people and some of them turned up. Hai Kwang presented an evangelistic message. The Lord led 8 people to respond to the altar call with one other going forward for rededication. Meanwhile Lay Choo, Bee Lian, Chin Chin and daughter Angelin and Natalie engaged with the Santisuk children at the second level of the church in a craft session and also prepared them to present a song item “This little Light of mine” later at the Sanctuary. After service a delicious lunch was served and a simple gift of rice and oil was handed out to the worshippers.

After lunch there was a meeting with Pastor and the leaders. It ended with a renewed commitment to do outreach visitation to nearby villages as a church. Following which was Natalie’s session with a good number of members (which was initially meant for the youth). They all wanted to sit in to listen to her sharing!

Late afternoon Hai Kwang, Alvin, Soh Lim and Piya (pastor’s wife) went out in faith to visit a significant member who had not been to church for 2 years. Hai Kwang had in the past been instrumental in leading this member’s father to

faith. By divine appointment they sighted him just as the car was parked. They ministered to him at his home. This incident reminded all team members of God’s love and providence and that he will not forsake His love for His people. That was the enduring lesson etched in our memory on this visit.

We left for Bangkok the following morning to catch our flight home – feeling tired but richly blessed!



***Fellowship with church members***



***Craft at Sunday school***



*Visitation of a new believer*

### *By Chia Chin Chin*

This year at the Missions Camp, I responded to the altar call to commit to a mission trip by end of 2019. It was challenging initially as the dates of most trips overlapped with our family vacation period which we had committed to.

Eventually, Hanley informed me that Alvin was leading a group to Nong-pling. Out of a 'desperate' desire to keep my word to the Lord before the year ended, I said yes! Hence, I didn't truly get to 'choose' the trip I wanted to go for. God decided for me, in His sovereign wisdom!

It turned out to be a very rewarding experiential trip for me! The simplicity of hearts & obedience of the local church members tugged at my heartstrings, as they struggled & persevered to give God the little that they have.

On top of this, the greatest takeaway is being able to serve alongside the

seniors and a young adult, Natalie on this trip. As I brought my 9 year old daughter Angelin, with me, our team became a 4-intergenerational team! The seniors, including a retired missionary to Thailand, had rich experiences I learned from! Natalie inspired me with her zeal & love for God! While I was observing & learning from my companions, I had the opportunity to show my daughter what it meant to live out the Great Commission! This is indeed an opportunity & experience I would not have given up for something else!

Thank God for His loving mercy & grace! In Christ, we are made worthy & transformed in His power to be effective vessels for Him! Hallelujah!