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Reflections on The India Mission Trip By Dn Paul Tan

Bengaluru

The team, comprising Pastor Jack Sin, Angelina Sin, Elder Jeffrey Cheong, Peng Ha and myself arrived in Bengaluru airport at 11.15am. Pastor Babu was there to welcome us.

It took an hour to reach the city and our hotel. Traffic congestion is a way of life here. The incessant honking and chaotic traffic flow is something the team had to face up to for the rest of the trip.

We visited Pastor Babu's New Covenant BP Church and was shown around the



premise. He runs a pre-school facility for children called KinderBees. The church sanctuary was on the 2nd floor. That evening Pastor Babu hosted us to dinner at his home on the first floor of the building. My first introduction to home cooked Indian food included Prata, lemon rice, curry chicken and boiled sweet corn. Well, the anticipated Indian flavour was light and the meal was delicious. These few dishes were to be more or less standard fare as we were hosted to various homes for meals later in the trip.

I thank God for the faithfulness and labour of Pastor Babu in shepherding more than 40 members of his congregation as was seen on a Sunday service when I attended to give my personal testimony of how I came to believe in Jesus. Most members were women but their worship and loud bible reading impressed me.



Pastor Babu was a gracious host and I thank God for his hospitality and managing



well the logistics when we were there. And I believe that Pastor Babu working under God leading is able to provide a lamp to light the path to Jesus for people around his area.



Next, we visited Pastor Lazarus' Calvary Reformed Church. Angie taught them songs with actions while I conducted some simple games for the children. I noticed that electric supply to church premise was not stable resulting in frequent blackouts. Despite this, the children took part in the activities enthusiastically.

Another Pastor I met during this trip was Pastor Lazarus. I read his write-up in our mission handbook as he quoted from Mark 10:45 that the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve. Pastor Lazarus has applied this verse in having, among other ministries, a Mercy Ministry. It gives educational/financial support to poor and needy as well as blind families and children. I saw his showing of God's love in sending a poor mother with two small children a long way home that night before proceeding to visit yet another poor family. This latter family's dwelling was humble, with cement flooring, one light bulb but with faithful eager family believers quietly listening to Pastor Jack's sharing on Phil 4:6-8. I have observed how God has laid upon Pastor Lazarus' heart to reach out to the poor and illiterate children to educate them and share Jesus' love.



Miryalaguda

In the next phase of our mission work, we travelled about 600km to Miryalaguda by road from Bengaluru. Originally, we had booked our 1-hour flight from Bengaluru to Hyderabad airport and a 3-hour drive to Miryalaguda to meet Pastor John Caleb. However, Air India had delayed the flight by a day. Due to our oversight, we did not realise this change earlier.

Sticking to our schedule and not wanting to miss the opportunity to visit Pastor John Caleb's church, we took the overland route to his place. It was a good 13-hour journey.



We arrived at the hotel 7.30pm the same day. We were pleasantly surprised to see Pastor J Caleb and 4 of his staff welcoming us with bouquet of flowers and hugs all around. Later Pastor J Caleb mentioned many times to us and his congregation how very thankful he was that we could still come despite the flight oversight. Praise and thank the Lord that He provided a way for us and watched over our long journey to Miryalaguda.

Moving about in this rural village town was a unique experience. Public transport is minimal and most use their own mean of transport which is the motorcycle. That night Pastor Caleb hosted us to dinner at his church Elder Mohan's home. How did we get there from the hotel? Riding pillion on their motorcycles of course. Without helmets, the 15-minute or so ride saw us sitting stiff through the dusty streets of Miryalaguda. Pastor Jack had his hair style temporarily changed to a combed back front and spikey back hairdo. Meanwhile my face was 'sandpapered' riding the bike by the windy dust and fumes on the streets.



Light moments aside, I believe God has laid upon Pastor Caleb's heart to bring the Good News and share to a predominantly Hindu community. He shared the testimony of his recent trip to Nepal. Moved by God that he should go to Nepal and share the gospel, he took 3 staff with him on a arduous 3-day journey to a Himalayan village. He has had no idea what God has wanted him to do in Nepal. And by faith he just followed the Spirit's prompting and go. Little did he knew that he would end up here having wonderful meetings and witnessing for Jesus in this mountainous village. Praise and Glory be to God.

Pastor J Caleb 's church is called CALM Church and a congregation of about 70-80 men, women and children included. We were thankful to God for about 20 invited local pastors who came to the lecture on History of Reformation by Pastor Jack Sin. Their enthusiasm to know deeper about the Christian faith was reflected by the topics they asked in the Q&A session namely on Baptism, Holy Communion and the Sabbath.



Besides the serious teaching by Pastor Jack Sin, sister Angie brought much joy and fun in teaching the children songs and hand actions. She also taught the children the significance of the various furniture in God's tabernacle in a interesting way with illustrations and videos to capture their attention. Even the adults commented that they had not learn of the tabernacle in this informative way.



By the way, on this last day of our mission's children ministry, sisters Angie and Peng Ha conducted the activities dressed in traditional Indian sarees. Thanks to Pastor Caleb and Elder Mohan's wives, they managed to put together 2 beautiful sarees for our pretty sisters. CALM Church members hospitality and their love of God extending to others touched my heart deeply. We were given showers of flower petals as blessings as we made our way to

the front for a final group photograph.

Many families came forward to Pastor for prayers. And I prayed that God would see their faithfulness and answer their prayers according to His sovereign will.

We left the next day for Hyderabad to catch our flight back to Singapore. Entering Hyderabad city, the chaotic traffic reminded us of Bengaluru and of God's servants there working tirelessly sowing seeds and reaching out to those in need that the love of our Lord Jesus may touch their hearts and bring them into His Kingdom.

All in all, it had been an enriching experience, and I am blessed to see how God uses his humble servants in India for His Glory.

Paul Tan



The combined Sunday school class on Sunday 19 Nov 2023 on the study of Psalm 37 by Pastor Jack with good discussion and participation by all.



With Grateful Thanks from Calvary Reformed Church

To Session members and worshipers SHBPC,

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

I am Pastor Lazarus Calvary Reformed Church, I give praise to our saviour Jesus Christ, for enabling mission team (Ps. Jack & team) to minister to Sunday school 40 children at Calvary Reformed



Church, all 40 children and our Sunday school teachers, and few parents became a very happy and enjoyed by your action's songs specially games and stories.

And also, I praise to almighty God for such a meaningful and fruitful family seminar at Calvary Reformed church, there are 30 convent families and youths are able to attend and they all are very much impressed and blessed by Rev. Jacksin inspired teachings. There are many families given testimonies in the last Sunday service at CRC that the Lord has spoken in the family seminar and some of the family decided to start family devotion and discipline their children and stop fighting, bad languages in the family and decided to build Godly family to glorify his name. also, their request is that when you visit next time India, you need to



conduct at least one full day family seminar, they want learn God's word more on how to build God honouring families.

We have received your love gift Sovereign Hope BPC Rupees 30,000 to buy an inverter for the church & SHBPC Worshiper's S\$500 towards needy families at Calvary Reformed Church.

I am writing this letter to express my genuine gratitude and sincere thanks for your love gift and deeply appreciated for your sacrificial love to build the kingdom of God.



We have used your love gift to our children, family needs and to buy a grocery item to 7 needy families in the church and Sunday school and outreach ministries.



Your sacrificial love gift is very much valuable and useful to family and ministries to build his Kingdom for his glory. Very much appreciated to Mission team their tideless mission work and ALL SHBPC members, for your genuine love and your gift. we will be praying for Ps. Jack and family and all SHBPC members and ministries. your prayers are very much appreciated, kindly uphold our family and Calvary Reformed Church in your prayer as we are reaching the unreached.



May God be the glorify. May God bless you all. Thank you.

Ps. Lazarus and family.
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Memory Verse

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on ***The Body of Christ & the World (Rom 12:1-13)***", the quarterly series on "***The Nature and Duties of the Body of Christ***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***The Body of Christ & its Doctrinal Stand (1Tim 4:6-16)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith - Pastor
 - Studies in 2 Chronicles - Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Kingdoms, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551]
6. Pray for our brethren in their travels: Dn Yue Kay (15-27/11), Eld Loke (20/11 - 1/12), Paul Kong (24/11 - 4/12), Agnes Ho (28/11- 7/12), Dn Paul (28/11- 18/12).
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178]
8. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.
