



Mission Trip to Pontianak, Indonesia

3 to 10 November 2014

This is my first mission trip. Initially I just wanted to have an exposure on what a mission trip is all about. However, finally sign up and was getting prepared for the trip, I realised God instilled in me more than just an experience or an exposure. He was working in me to reveal things/ issues in life that I've never dare to face or has been running away. The eight days wasn't easy - trying to adapt to the whole culture, language, food, space, sleeping so near each other, etc... but by the grace and mercy of God, all these are trainings for me to look beyond my usual living habits. I have to admit that all along I've been very self-centered, and even through the trip, I was also very self-centered. Thank God He never give up working in me, and helped me through the deep work that was engineered in me from the beginning.

The trip itself has many miracles - like an ibu (auntie) received salvation. So much so that Pastor Junnie keep repeating the miracle. She keeps repeating to Pastor Lovleen what a miracle that was because they have been reaching out yet the auntie did not want to receive salvation. But when we went house visitation to them, through the medical mission we bring to them, the family starts to open up & share more. Miracle was done right before us. Also, In Ampaning, we built relationships with villagers, the house owner where we stayed also started to open up and share more things with Pastor Lovleen. The move of the Holy Spirit during the last service was awesome too. I remember Ken shared during the evaluation, imitation could not have happened because they did not experience similar move before. Thus, deep inside me, I know it is God.

There are many "1st time"s this trip:

* 1st time helping pastor to clean wounds - have to pretend

I'm not shock when I see the wounds;

- * 1st time worshipping in darkness due to power failure;
- * 1st time finished bathing in 5 minutes;
- * 1st time almost every day Nasi Pandang ;
- * 1st time talking nonsense due to tiredness;
- * 1st time meeting the needy people (a blind man) face to face; etc.

During the last day of the trip, we went to a park in Pontianak, where many people (Family, couples, youths) will gather. We are actually supposed to give out food to the homeless and those needy people. Maybe the timing was a little early when we reach and it was until the end when more needy people came out. There was this particular blind man, accompanied by another man, who walked past in front of us. We were seated in a row. I'm not sure why, but that blind man stopped in front me for more than 3 seconds. That stare or look was unforgettable even until today. I can't do much at that point of time, because we gave them food already... I realised I can only pray for them as I remember them and all the people I've come across throughout the trip.

My personal take away is that God loves everyone and anyone of us - from the oldest to the youngest. No matter who we are; what colour our skin is; what different languages we speak etc... God simply wants to draw us to him and to know that God is able. From the beginning to the end, it has always been Jesus - the centre of it all. And last thing, this short term mission trip has indeed been a life-transforming one for me.

Li Ping's Testimony

Xin Yi's Testimony

This is my first mission trip and at first I was worrying if I could adapt to the physical condition of the place and I had different fears about stepping out to the unknown. But it turns out that this is one of the best decision that I've made. I enjoyed the mission trip very much and I saw the power of God moving in ways I have never experienced before. For instance, when we were at ontianak doing house to house visitation, we spoke with a middle aged auntie who used to be Christian but married a Muslim and follows her husband in Islam. We sang Indonesian songs in her house to break the ice, Faz shared his conversion testimony and we prayed for her. She cried when we sang e song "dia mengerti" which means God understands as well as during our prayers even though we prayed in English. The same touch of God happened in Ampaning when we did house to house visitations. Some of the families members were tearing when we prayed for them. At Ampaning we held a children service and all the kids responded during our altar call for salvation. There were 30+ children. They worshipped God loudly with e Indonesian songs and I was moved to tears to see these little children acknowledging God as their Father and we prayed that they will grow up to become strong men and women for God. Later that night, we had a powerful night rally where many adults and youth were slain under the power of God, even the children were all crying due to the touch of God. The village of Ampaning has not seen something like this before, neither have I seen God move so powerfully despite our language limitations.



The physical conditions of the places were indeed very different from Singapore but I came to realize that this difference was really the least important factor. I used to worry about it but I adapted very quickly to e new environment and I actually grow to like the place. The focus was really the spiritual aspects of the mission trip, as we learn to pray and bind the strongholds of the place, to be sensitive to the people and their needs etc. what amazes me more is that God is actually very much concerned about us on this trip as well. He challenged me on many different issues and aspects of my thinking, some I already considered it "norm" and he assured me of his love for me as we learn to lay down our fleshly desires. I cannot fully express how much I appreciate the value of missions but I really look forward to the next trip. This is truly one of my best experience with God this year.

Ken's Testimony

This is my first mission trip and it was really a precious experience that I was very thankful for not missing. Initially I had thoughts about dropping out because of my school work but I found strength in his Word. Mission trip is really an intensive time of stop living for myself but to live for Him and for others. Going for prayer walk praying for the land the people, reaching out and trying to chat with the youths to the Bapaks, going for house visits to do sharing and to pray for them, performing skits and dance and praying God will touch the people. It was also about thinking for the team, working together, helping and praying for each other, staying united. I realized I've been too focused on my own things and there are things that are higher and more important.

I also witnessed with my own eyes how God moved powerfully. During the last service at Ampangin, I was with the children and trying to keep them quiet as some of them were quite active and noisy. During the altar call I went to pray for the adults, but when I came back to the children I was quite surprised to find them seeming like crying. I wondered if someone came to scold them. Or were they really crying? One of the noisy boys is laughing as usual but yet he looked like crying too? I sat back down in front of them, unable to register that it's God touching them. Two boys were holding onto another small boy and came and told me that he peng san. I quickly supported the boy and laid him on the floor and wondered what should I do, wondered if he was slain or if really peng san I need to look for his parents. Ok, his eyelids were still moving. I asked Eugene what to do he said can just let him lie there. Later on the boys helped the boy into the house and seeing more kids going in, I decided to go check out what's going on inside. When I entered the house I was stunned. A whole row of children were just sitting there crying. Later on Pastor found them too and got us to go in to pray for them, and I finally stopped doubting the work of God.

Initially I just couldn't believe because from what I know the kids were really young, they were restless, yes they could all sing the Christian songs very loudly but they were too young to understand no? Or the message preached? They also didn't go to the altar too?

God showed me that He is sovereign and he has his plans and ways are higher. Who is to receive? Who will he touch who will he use? All too often I limit God through my own thinking, my own understanding and reasoning. I need to learn to trust him more and submit to his will.

During the feeding programme Shareen and I handed a packet of rice to a man who immediately rushed to open it and eat. I thought about how hungry he must be all the time and not knowing when his next meal will be, and I realized I'm very blessed. Comfortable and fed in Singapore, blessed with skills and education. And I thought God can use him mightily too. It renewed in me the fear of God. I am but what God choose to give, and God can take away too. What I have I need to treasure and to learn to give.

Yuyan's Testimony

When I went for my first trip to Indonesia two years ago before I entered into my new work and studies, I really wanted to go back again. Really thank God for making it possible for me to do so this year despite the limited number of leave I have. One of the reason that I desired to go back is because even though I could barely speak few words of Bahasa, I felt humbled by the simplicity of the locals that we managed to minister to when we were in the villages.

This year, through this mission trip, I felt that while there were different challenges and oppositions, but whenever we prayed and commit it to the Lord, God just made a way. I have believed in the power of agreement prayer but this is the first time that I just kept experiencing it almost immediately each time we prayed. It was as if we literally made advances through united prayer in the entire mission trip.

In all the mission trips that I went, God is always doing a new thing, but I felt that more so in this trip for me, I had to put away my past experiences in a greater extend. This trip is indeed unique in the way that there were majority of us who were first-timer and the experience of leading this team is rather unique. Things that I used to take for granted that the team will be generally managing well about, I had realized that I cannot take for granted. Even in the area of partnering with God in His ministry, it was also a lesson for me. Cos to me there has been a familiar way that God will speak to me or that I will sense His Holy Spirit's prompting and to the point that I felt that is the way to go when it comes to hearing from Him. However, during this season, and even when I was in Pontianak, I was not really experiencing God in these familiar ways when I needed a direction. Usually for a particular matter or a time of ministry, I will ask the Lord for His leading and will receive an inkling of His direction or what I should say or do, if not I would have prepared and depended on that preparation itself. However, it turns out that either God will redirect what I thought I had prepared to say or I will only receive the prompting at the instance itself when I needed to speak. This took place during instances of leading

the team or when leading certain sessions or activity. And while I thought did I say or do what God had wanted me to, God will somewhat confirm it after that.

During the boat ride out of Ampaning, God was speaking to me regarding Life. It was something that there was no words, but I just know that He left a deep impression in me regarding this issue and I had to search further deliberately to find the words to express it out. I felt that He was asking me to consider this thing called "life" and asking me what does life means to me when I saw the vast difference in the lives of the villagers and us. On the cognitive level of understanding and on the very surface level, my life is simply what I have in my daily living and consists of what I have perhaps materially, the people I love, the work I do etc. and this is the life I will return to when I go back to Singapore. A main bulk of this life was socially constructed by men according to the society and culture that we live in whether is it Singapore or Ampaning. It has become our "reference point" when we say that we want a better life, and it's very subtle even when we made this connection. But the Lord began to speak into my heart that the Life that I hold onto in Christ is not in all these. It's beyond the transient, beyond the social or cultural construct. The Life Jesus refers to is above and beyond this life. I began to understand what it means in Matt 10:29, Gal 2:20. And when the only life I hold onto is what Jesus talks about, no matter where He may lead me, or where I live, what I do, there is no issue. I think I understood further what it means to lay me down.

These are not thoughts or understanding that I did not understand in my mind prior to what I felt God was speaking. But God went beyond the cognitive understanding and did a deeper work.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20



Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. (Matt 10:39)



Esther's Testimony

When I first made the decision to go despite of all the different things I had to do. (Exams, work etc...) God was challenging to enlarge my capacity and it was really tough. I know that God has spoken specifically to me yet it was still quite a struggle. But I am thankful that I did and I believe that God was actually more interested in the moment I decided to go and He started the work in me prior to the trip itself. Not that I don't struggle, in fact I was feeling unprepared and I struggled even on the day when we were setting off. But on the plane, I took some time with God and he reminded me of the verse in Mark which says, what would profit a man if he loses his own soul and gain the whole world. And whoever loses it for my sake and the sake of the good news will find gain. Something along the line... Which is true, the best in life aren't things. Not my results/school but rather what God has spoken.

In the trip, God was speaking something personal to me in regards of different dreams and promises he placed in my heart. I guess this song that spoke to me about 'One life, I lay at the altar, one love I have with You.. One word, you know I will follow and one heart, broken to You.' Different incidents God was teaching me about laying down of myself and more of Him. I guess sometimes it feels as though it is easier to do it there in the mission field than back here in Singapore. God was reminding me of the work I'm doing in Singapore, not forgetting the dreams for children and needy girls... Sometimes, life can become such a routine that I missed out why I'm doing what I'm doing, or for the matter of fact, why am I studying what I'm studying.

One very significant reminder and God moment I called it, was actually during the last night in Pontianak when we had



to prayer walk... when we were all done and seated at this place, God spoke to me through a very simple sight and it was indeed a revelation and promise of what he has spoken to me a few years ago. What happened was actually Ps Eko and her youngest daughter, Ruth. Ruth had a balloon with her and she let her older sister play with it... somehow, I don't know how, the sister let go of the balloon and it flew away. So when Ruth saw it, she told her dad and Ps Eko taught her to say bye to it. I think it took her awhile to realized that the balloon was gone for good and then she started crying. But what happened next was that which God spoke to me.. Ps Eko comforted her and she stopped crying and he then they both looked up at it and said bye to it again and Ruth was back to herself. Stopped crying and was just in her dad's arm. At the moment, I tear. Cos I felt this imprinted upon my heart, 'When I have God, I have everything' And Ruth displayed that meaning so child-like and personally to me.





Mei Cheng's Testimony

For years, I have never felt the pull towards going for missions. In fact, I would always dread the Missions Conventions during church camp as I found it long and irrelevant to me. But God has his ways of changing us. It was in 2013 Missions convention, after 10 years in church, when I started to have a mini desire go for missions. Then in 2014, when God started to do a deeper work, throughout the missions video, I felt deeply stirred to go and was tearing throughout. I knew it wasn't me because I would never have felt this way. So when the opening for the Indo trip came up, I knew there was a call and I really wanted to go.

Again, God has his ways of moulding us. Because I was in the process of changing post within the police force, I could not confirm my leave. It was a challenge to get leave whether I change post before or after the trip. If I changed before the trip, my chances of leave was very low. If I was still in my current post, then my boss would have concerns because we have a major meeting during the leave period. After an internal battle within me, I decided to still join in the training and to pray that I can go, since God has called, he will make a way - but I genuinely feared that I would be disappointed and had to submit that to God. But He did make a way! My posting was postponed from Oct to end Nov so I was still in my current post, and the major meeting was postponed to one day after the trip ends!

So God created the way for me to go. During the trip, I had the chance to build a deeper relationship with God. I started to understand what it means to enjoy being with God - every session we had, I felt like I was receiving so much from God, be it the morning devotions, house visits, prayer sessions and services. I have always had difficulty being with God on the emotional level, and I more recently realized that I find it hard to care deeply for others beyond the surface level. And through this trip I have (and I'm still discovering) how to simply sit at Jesus' feet and to engage with God on that emotional level ie not just head knowledge. Aside from this, God has also started to do a work in me to remove the layers around me so that I can go deeper in my relationships with people, to let love be my motivation. He reminded me of how much a father loves by the love displayed between Ps Eko and his daughter Ruth, and that is the reflection of His love for me. He reminded me that I am a treasure in His eyes and no work is needed to gain his love.

God also opened my eyes and heart to the truth and power of Jesus' work on the cross. I have a lot of head knowledge of Jesus restoring the relationship with God as he died for our sins. But in this trip, God helped me to see, in my heart, that Jesus is truly worthy.

Through the trip, I started to understand what it means to do your best and let God do the rest - To work like it all depends on me, but to pray like it all depends on God. Very often I tend to do with so much of my own strength that I kick God out of the picture. During missions, I witnessed how partnering with God is really like, how powerful a prayerful heart is, how important sowing with prayer is, and how one can be physically tired but truly refreshed in the spirit. And it's simply amazing - some examples was the night rally at Ampangin, the prayer before the youth oikos and the house visits.

I also learned about leadership and the submission to authority. There needs to be trust in the leaders that they know what they are doing as they see the full picture while we only see part of it. So we must know when to simply trust and follow their lead. While it's ok to suggest things, the approach/attitude must be appropriate as this will affect the whole team, and it's very crucial that the whole team is united and supporting each other. While there, I have been blessed to witness the wisdom of the leadership in action eg. from the house to house (knowing what to say for certain households, what to do), youth oikos (resolving the problems together, playing captains ball, having praise & worship).

Aside from all these, I gained an appreciation of having a heart of a servant. Ps Eko and Juni opened their home and their lives to others on such a sacrificial level eg. going out to Ampangin to reach people (3 hour boat journey with young kids), making multiple journeys to transport people to the house of God.

Now, I can give to and pray for missions with real understanding in my heart. Before this, I thought that going missions is like an item on my "to do" list. Once checked, I'm done for life. But now, I see myself wanting to go again, to give what I can for the kingdom of God!

I thank God for the work he is doing in my life. I think the key thing that he is working in my life is in the area of faith in him. How important it is to have true change inside of us, otherwise we will end up having the form but without the substance. I want to continue to let him work in me especially now that I'm going to a tough place for my work and I have fears of what will come. I pray that I will hold on to all my lessons learnt through this and let my faith go to another level with God.

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. (Psalm 52:8 NIV)

In the recent years, I felt I was getting more and more complicated in my thoughts and response, more closed-up and generally, quite dissatisfied with my spiritual growth. There was a desire to experience freedom to love and serve God and be as simple as a child but I found it difficult. During the 40 days of fasting and prayer this year, I felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit to sign up for the mission trip to Pontianak. It was an initiative that I would have never considered, given my personality so I was certain that the prompt was from God.

However, when we had to confirm our passport details to Ps Lovleen, my mum fell sick and I was shaken. My mum had serious refluxes in the middle of the night and used to wake up, choking and coughing badly. Her cough used to be so bad that she could not breathe. It was for a prolonged period so the doctor suggested that my mum perform several medical tests. When that happened, I struggled with the decision to go for the trip. I wanted to be sure that my mum is well before I committed to the mission trip.

On the closing date for the purchase of tickets, I told Ps Lovleen that I could not make up mind. I recalled having trouble concentrating at work that day and left my desk to make a short prayer to God in the washroom. As I was rationalizing my dilemma, I felt the Holy Spirit asking me why I had to wait till the medical tests show that my mum is fine before committing to the trip. By doing so, it was like I believed something bad may happen. I was challenged to have faith - to be confident that my mum is well and be assured that God is good. I contacted Ps Lovleen immediately, gave her my passport details and told her that I believed my mum is well. After sending that text message, I received peace in my heart and I knew that God had taken over the situation.

Throughout the preparation for the trip, my prayer life became stronger and I grew in faith. As a family, we prayed for my mum and we were so relieved when her medical results showed that she is completely fine. God restored her health and she was no longer choking, coughing and having difficulty in breathing. However, shortly after that, my dad had a muscle pull at his back and could not walk. The last time he had such a problem was years ago so I was quite shocked that it happened all of a sudden this time. The spiritual warfare was intense and I kept praying.

That night, my heart really broke. All of us went to our bedrooms to rest but my dad was alone in the living room, trying to cope with the pain. I prayed and told God that I do not want the devil to win. The devil was trying so hard to discourage me but I trusted in God's power and sovereignty. As I continued to pray and trust God, my dad received healing. Usually my dad will take weeks to recover and that too, after doing therapy in the hospital but this time, he was able to walk again in a couple of days. We did not have to call the ambulance, get him admitted and he did not have to do any therapy. The healing came through prayer. By then, I knew I should not fear anymore, even when I am in the mission field because God will take care of my parents.

During the trip, God used very simple situations to speak to me. When we first arrived at Pontianak, I struggled with the fact that I could not have any personal space. The group was big so even to brush our teeth, a few of us had to share the toilet space and it was very uncomfortable for me. Initially, I decided that I will do anything I can to create space for myself. If I have to wake up the earliest, I will and I did not think there was anything wrong with it.

However, as I reflected, God showed me that I struggled to let go of my personal space because of past hurts and possibly due to low self-esteem. I can't be open about myself, especially in the recent years because I do not want to look vulnerable. I am afraid of being judged or misunderstood so I create defenses to protect myself. God challenged me to let go of my fears and past hurts and to be assured that my weaknesses, if ever exposed, is not to embarrassed me but to help me become better and grow in character. Having heard from God, my response in the natural changed and I believe something happened in my spirit as well.

During the house to house visitation in Ampangin, I was upset to hear that some families lost their children and it was later explained that it was possibly due to a generation curse. God filled my heart with compassion for the many children who used to gather at our kampong, just to receive some love and attention from us. As a team, we took time to pray against the strongholds in the village and we believed that God would do a great work in that place. During the night rally, God moved powerfully and everyone, including the children was touched. I thank God for the opportunity to pray for the adults/youth/children and it was heartwarming to hear that it was their first time experiencing the move of Holy Spirit. Through prayer, I believe we will see more spiritual victories in that land.

During our cell group session in Ampaning, we experienced a power failure. Being the worship leader that evening, I was very anxious. However, the word of God cannot be disputed. The bible says that when 2 or 3 gather in His name, He is with us and that was what happened that evening. God was with us in that power failure and we could sense His presence as we worshipped the Lord. Through that experience, I was convinced that God is not limited by any circumstance and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Finally, I was very blessed during the Sunday morning service at Pontianak. All these years, I've prayed for our mission work during prayer meeting and day of conquest but to worship God with my fellow Harvesterites in Pontianak was an awesome feeling. Towards the end of service, Ps Eko made a closing prayer that touched my heart deeply. I could not stop the tears as I hear him pray with so much humility. He was the same man who drove us around, ensured that we had our meals and together with his wife, did every small thing to make our stay comfortable. The simple lives of Ps Eko, Ps Junie and even their 2 young kids are so encouraging that I felt so ashamed of myself. I am impatient; complain about a lot of things, gossip at work and far from Christlike. In fact, on the last day, Ps Eko apologized if there was any shortcoming in his hospitality and I was again moved to tears. This man did so much but apologized for what he could not do. However, many times, I do so little and I think I have done so much. I am challenged and I desire my life to be a fragrant offering as well.

Overall, I have received more than I given in this trip. I enjoyed every part of the trip including performing eye check-up during medical mission, travelling on a sampan and doing everything I never thought I would do. I have been blessed and I hope that I will continue to work on all that God has spoken to me about and receive complete breakthrough. For the people in Pontianak and Ampangin, I pray that God will continue to touch them and if possible, bring me back to those places to do the little I can to bless them. Thank you.

Parveen's Testimony