

## **TRUTH B-P CHURCH**

### **Report of Missions Trip to Cambodia (1-9 September 2018)**

*by Justin Wan*

Team members: Ng Boon Choo, Karen Lee, Justin Wan

The main objective of this missions trip was to assist the four Cambodian preachers in their running of the three Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) in True Gospel, True Faith and Lively Hope BPCs. The three churches adopted the theme "Salvation is of the LORD," taken from Jonah 2:9. The children were taught four lessons from the book of Jonah: "God is love", "Jonah experienced God's love", "God's love saves sinners" and "God's love extends to all men". In view of this theme, the Singapore team presented the song "For God so loved the world" in English and Khmer on the last day of each VBS. Our team had daily evening devotions on "The call to serve" led by Sister Boon Choo which drew lessons from God's calling of Jonah, Samuel, Moses and Isaiah. Thank God for the lessons learnt as we reflected on how these prophets responded to God's call of service.

On Saturday (1 Sep), our Singapore team left on the 12.10pm flight to Phnom Penh. Pr Rotha met us at the Phnom Penh airport and we took a 3-hour ride to Kampot in a hired car. At Kampot, we joined Pr Rotha and family for dinner and then went on to have a VBS briefing with True Faith's leaders and helpers.

The team worshipped at True Faith BPC on Sunday (2 Sep). We presented an item "For God so loved the world" during the Junior Sunday School. During the worship service, Pr Thaven spoke from James chapter 2 on how faith without works is dead. Immediately after worship, Pr Rotha taught the Adult Sunday School and reinforced the message that was preached during the service. After lunch, the team went to True Gospel BPC to have a VBS briefing, before joining Pr Sopheak and family for dinner fellowship.

#### True Faith VBS (3-4 Sep)

Despite True Faith BPC having few helpers, the VBS ran smoothly. Thank God for holding back the rain though the sky was dark. Thank God also that 63

children attended the VBS on Day One. Another seven joined on the second day. After registration, opening prayer, singspiration and memory verse, the children were split into two groups (younger and older) for messages. Sister Boon Choo, Pr Sopheak, Pr Rotha and Sister Karen were the speakers on Day One. The children also had a time of break and snack followed by a short singspiration in between the messages. Thank God for enabling Justin to teach the children the English version of "For God so loved the world" at True Faith and True Gospel's VBS. For craft work on Day One, the children coloured pre-cut paper plates to make the big fish, which swallowed Jonah. They also attached a beaded figurine (representing Jonah) to the inside of the paper plate so that it could be seen hanging inside the fish's mouth when the mouth opened. Sister Saron led the children for the craft at True Faith VBS. This craft idea was also used by the other two churches.

Pr John Saray, Sister Karen and Pr Thaven spoke on Day Two of the VBS. The children also enjoyed the games which Pr Thaven planned. The children had to first crawl under a string before walking with part of their body inside a wire bent to look like a fish towards a box filled with ice and water. They would then put their hand into the box of icy water to get either a cross, a fish or a figurine representing Jonah. The VBS ended with a time of Gospel sharing where the children were split into four groups. Each preacher took a group and shared the Gospel with them.

### True Gospel VBS (5-6 Sep)

Thank God for the True Gospel VBS. There were 54 children on Day One, and 59 on Day Two. Both True Faith and True Gospel had similar VBS timetable and shared the same speakers as well. Thank God that True Gospel has sufficient helpers. In fact, they had the most number of helpers as compared to the other two churches. The Bible school students came to help too. They led the children in the Bible verse memorization while Sister Thavy led the children in the craft work. Brother Bun Kouy was supposed to come from Siem Reap on 5 Sep to serve with us at True Gospel and Lively Hope VBS. But he fell ill and was not able to join us in the end. Thank God Pr Sopheak could help to translate Sister Karen's message in place of Bun Kouy. Pr Thaven conducted the same games on Day Two and the children really enjoyed it.

The team left for Sihanoukville on Thursday (6 Sep) after the VBS debrief with True Gospel leaders and helpers. Thank God that Pr Sopheak could drive us to Sihanoukville as planned, although he had to first send his mother-in-law who was unwell to the hospital. Thank God she was able to be discharged the following day. On reaching Lively Hope's new premises, we had dinner fellowship with Pr John Saray and family before our VBS briefing.

### Lively Hope VBS (7-8 Sep)

The Lively Hope VBS ministered to 38 children on Day One and 37 children on Day Two. The children were grouped into four different groups. They were given points for good behaviour during the VBS, and how well they participate in the games and their skit presentation, so that "the best group" can be identified. Like True Faith and True Gospel, Lively Hope BPC also had a half-day VBS program which ended at about noon. A notable difference, however, was that Lively Hope VBS Craft was on the second day instead of the first. This allowed our team to help with the craft preparation after the first day of the VBS. Sister Lydia was not well before the VBS, and there was also a change in the amount of work they wanted the children to do during the craft, resulting in the last minute preparatory work needed. Thank God that all the preparation was done in time and Sister Lydia, by God's enabling, managed to lead in the craft during the VBS. As Pr Thaven had just recovered from his illness, he did not make the trip to Sihanoukville to help with the games. Instead Pr Rotha conducted the games. Pr Sopheak took over Pr Thaven's lesson, thus requiring him to stay an additional night in Sihanoukville. We were blessed to have Pr Sopheak with us in the guesthouse. He provided us with the necessary transport. He joined our team for our evening devotions and also helped us to better prepare for our song item on the night before our song presentation at the Lively Hope VBS. The VBS ended with skit presentations by the children of the various groups. They acted out the story of Jonah to help themselves and others to better remember what they learnt from the messages.

Before we left for Phnom Penh airport for our flight to Singapore on Sunday (9 Sep), we sat in at Lively Hope Junior Sunday School, where Sister Lydia taught the children a lesson on Noah's Ark. Thank God for blessing the three

churches with good weather during their VBS and for granting the team good health and journey mercies. Truly, God is good. Praise the Lord!



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