

FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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THE GOSPEL UNLEASHED



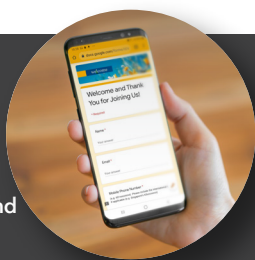
The very last words of Jesus recorded before his ascension was a command given along with full authority and a promise that God would go with his disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). Almost as soon as he appears to the disciples upon his resurrection, Jesus also gave this command: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15). Later, in another conversation, he again reminds them of the command: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the

earth." (Acts 1:8). In Jesus' death and resurrection, God had unleashed His gospel. And in Jesus' last moments on earth, contained in his last words, he extended an invitation to his people to take their place in the ongoing narrative of the gospel.

The book of Acts is a beautiful picture of the entire church taking hold of this command and invitation, resulting in the gospel being unleashed in the places the disciples lived in and travelled to. It was a gospel community praying, teaching, giving of their

NEW?

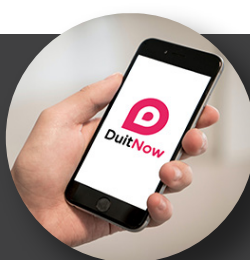
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resources, supporting, and sending their best to places yet to hear the gospel. For how can the unreached call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:14-15).

Today, more than 2000 years later, the command and invitation is still resounding through the church across the globe as more than 3 billion people have yet to hear the gospel. While many among us at FBC are not sent by God to the far-flung places on earth, we are still called to step into that invitation and be a part of the ongoing narrative of the gospel. There are many things we are doing and can do locally but, at the same time, we need to play an active role in sending and supporting those called by God into full-time missions to go to the ends of the earth, to the unreached, to those who have no access to the gospel.

Here are 5 simple ways to consider as your response to Jesus' invitation:

Pray Faithfully

- Pray and ask the Lord to raise up missionaries from among us- even our children.
- Keep missionaries in your prayer list and pray specifically. (Being on their mailing list will provide specific prayer requests.)
- Pray for the nations. There are many resources, like *Operation World*.

Give Financially

- Your faithful giving to the FBC Missions Fund enables the church to support missionaries, full-time workers, and ministries like the discipleship efforts in Sabah.
- In the coming year FBC hopes to support even more missionaries, especially the younger generation and those from less affluent churches, who are often impeded by lack of funding.
- Every year, prayerfully ask God how much to set aside for your missions giving. Then, trust and obey.

Share the Gospel

- Be equipped to share the gospel.
- Pray and ask God for opportunities for gospel conversations with those around you.
- Make your home and Life Group a place of hospitality to the unchurched.

Read, Listen, and Tell

- Include books on missions and about missionaries in your reading list. For example, *Latte to Lathi* by Jea Ng and *Pseudo Discipleship* by George Verwer.

- Sign up to receive newsletters from missionaries and various mission organisations to keep abreast with what God is doing in the world.
- Re-tell stories from missionaries to your children, Life Group, and friends as it's a great way to inspire and nurture a missional heart.

Advocate

- Learn about issues that plague our society – such as human trafficking, the persecuted church, the plight of refugees, and equal access to education.
- Seek ways to bring kingdom light through the gospel, and advocate for change.

We, as a church, have been faithfully supporting the ministries of our brothers and sisters in Malaysia and around the world. As much as we miss hearing from them when we gather on Sundays, we know that this pandemic is also hitting them just as hard, if not even harder. Let us take on the challenge to always remember them in our prayer, and to pray and respond to God's mission for ourselves – knowing that He has placed us in our specific context for a reason. In today's newsletter edition, we will hear from our missionaries and get a glimpse into the various ministries that we are supporting amidst the pandemic.

We echo Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 for our ministry partners and for FBC as we heed the call to unleash the gospel: "For this reason [we] kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. [We] pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen [us] with power through his Spirit in [our] inner being, so that Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through faith. And [we] pray that [we], being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that [we] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." 🙏



By Pari Bala

Pari is the leader of FBC's Missions Department.

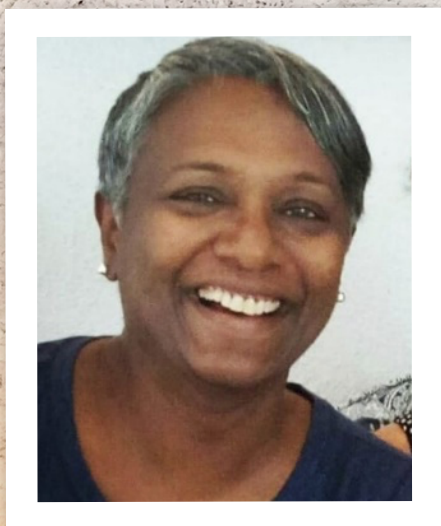
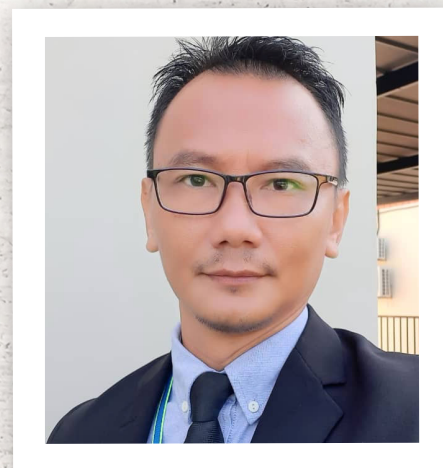
Hear From The Missionaries & Students WE SUPPORT



Benny Bobson bin Gubil & Jason Kelly, *2 of 5 students we support in Borneo Theological Seminary in Sabah*

Benny Bobson bin Gubil: I believe nothing can stop the gospel from being shared. But the pandemic has made us change the methods - like using the internet, and even using walkie-talkies and karaoke sound systems for areas without internet. Praise God that, by His grace and provision, I can face each day of seminary as I prepare to be a pastor and serve the local church.

Jason Kelly: The pandemic has changed our view of church life. Almost all churches have closed their physical doors to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Covid-19 hit us very hard but the changes are not all negative. Many pastors have intensified efforts to stay in touch with the members of their congregations and maintain their church communities. Now, we mostly communicate via text, Zoom, and WhatsApp, and most worship services are entirely online. Many have also shared that because of the pandemic, they are now back home in their villages and have been able to spend more time worshipping and praying together with their families. I believe in Philippians 4:13, which says: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Part of being a Christian is sharing God's love with others. If you have known God's love and guidance through your life, you need to share that with others.



Pari with OM East Asia

With or without Covid, most of my work is now online, coaching leaders via video calls. I have three roles in **OM**, and one of it is being the Regional Director for **TeenStreet Asia**, a youth discipleship movement. There are several countries wanting to develop TeenStreet, and the pandemic has propelled us to launch an online TeenStreet for all of Asia. It has been fun creating a conference that reflects the diversity of Asia.

The past year has been a year of transition in my roles at OM, and also moving homes. In addition to that, I haven't seen my sisters in almost two years. Yet, in all the ups and downs, God has been a constant, comforting presence. Experiencing transition in the midst of the lockdowns has been a time for me to create new rhythms for life and ministry. And I discovered gardening as a way to slow down and connect with God.

Hear From The Missionaries & Students WE SUPPORT

Andrew Ng with *El Shaddai Centre*

The recent pandemic opened up new ministry opportunities which otherwise would not be possible. For example, the plea for help by unseen, marginalized communities surfaced, which has allowed us to know where they are located. Most humanitarian NGOs by-pass these groups deemed "illegal" in the eyes of the authorities. But it is humanitarian aid that gains the people's trust, and this has opened doors for further missional engagement.

The unseen enemy (the Covid-19 pandemic) has brought the whole world to its knees. It reminds us of the vulnerability of mankind and is a timely reminder that we have no control over our lives. Our trust is only in the Lord, Who is unchanging and ever-loving in these uncertain times (Psalm 20:7).



Tan Yu Keong & Li Min with *OMF Malaysia*

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought great challenges for missionaries and missions work but **OMF** has faced other unique challenges before in its 126-year history. From the Boxer Uprising, to two World Wars, the Spanish flu, the Great Depression, and the Communist Revolution, missionaries had to adopt new and creative strategies to carry on the task of evangelizing people in East Asia and around the world every time. Field work and home-side work will merge in the years ahead and we hope that our experience as field workers will help us and others prepare for this.

We have continued to experience God's love and provision throughout the year in a very personal way. Our daughter was able to go back to India to finish her schooling despite the fearsome pandemic and was able to fly home safely. We also saw how God made it possible for some workers to carry on ministering in the field while doors opened to others to reach out and teach online. Attending courses with the Center of Expository Preaching brought a fresh delight to our reading of God's Word, and Zoom prayer sessions brought us together with a wider community of friends who love God.

Hear From The Missionaries & Students WE SUPPORT



Martin & Diana Chow with Wycliffe

We learned we had to be creative in our approaches. Though we cannot be there physically, we can WeChat and have Zoom sessions with our partners and staff. We know that God is in control despite the situation. We are keeping our doors open to new ways of doing things.

Conversation Catalyst:

- How have you seen that God has placed you in your current context especially for a time like this?
- How has God's presence encouraged and strengthened you in the past year?

Recommended Websites and Resources:

- Wycliffe: <https://wycliffe.my/>
- Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF): <https://omf.org/my/>
- El Shaddai Centre: <https://ecb.org.my/elshaddai/>
- Operation Mobilisation (OM): <https://www.om.org/en>
- OM Ships: <https://www.om.org/ships>
- OM TeenStreet: <https://teenstreet.life/asia/>
- *A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael* by Elisabeth Elliot
- *Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot
- *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* by Christopher J H Wright
- *Latte to Lathi* by Jea Ng
(Available on www.raffhause.com - written by a young Singaporean woman who spent 1.5 years in Nepal with OM.)
- *Pseudo Discipleship* by George Verwer
(Available on [George's website](#))
- Support ministries that provide victims of human trafficking with the opportunity to leave the sex trade with confidence and be engaged in dignified labour by purchasing their handmade natural soaps and candles through Touch Nature: <https://touchnature.in/>.

Kindergartens in Sabah

An Update from the Teachers



Making the best of pandemic uncertainties, the village kindergartens had to cope with different Standard Operating Procedures for teaching and learning, such as delivering teaching and learning from home, to customized on-site operations. We are thankful that most of the village kindergartens are pressing on with much wisdom and help from the Lord. It is heart-warming to witness the unity between parents and teachers. Besides cooperating with teachers in teaching and learning at home, parents have been helping to upkeep the kindergartens so that we can continue to provide early childhood education for their children.

Our fourth cohort of teachers taking the Diploma in Early Childhood Education Program (school holiday program) completed their 2 modules for Semester 5 in March, and we had to make adjustments to switch to online classes. Due to limited internet coverage in Sabah, some of the teachers had to gather in Pekan Ranau over a period of 2 weeks for their online classes and Semester 5 examination. Making the best of the situation, we also proceeded with our Online Teachers' Training for new teachers. Even though a couple of the teachers had to search for internet line on higher ground, we managed to cover 80% of the training. We thank God for all the trainers and especially teachers from the interior who made much effort to be online with the rest. 🙏





Loved by God, *Chosen by God*

The Women's Ministry is organizing a **Ladies Praise & Thanksgiving Zoom Gathering** on Saturday, 14 August 2021! Our theme for this year is **Loved by God, Chosen by God**, just as 1 Peter 2:9 says, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light".

Undoubtedly, it has been and still is challenging times for us all. We have endured through various kinds of difficulties since the pandemic started in March 2020. Some of us have experienced discouragement and even despair. But through it all, God has remained faithful and we have persevered by God's enabling power. Let us, therefore, come together with grateful hearts to give thanks to God for His abundant love and blessings of protection and provision for us and our families!

Come and...

- Worship our Gracious God with songs of praise.
- Listen to how God has touched the lives of some ladies as they share their testimonies of His presence, His love, and His work in them.
- Pray before our Holy God to acknowledge that He holds our lives in the palm of His hands no matter what circumstances we may be in.
- Have an encounter with the Living God!

This is an invitation open to ALL women. Ladies, invite your family and friends! No registration needed.

Date: Saturday, 14 August 2021

Time: 10am - 12pm

Zoom ID: 924 5362 6068

Password: fbc

For more information, contact Pearly Yeoh (019-316 2657) or Grace Yap (010-430 5952).

| Pulpit Program

August 1, 2021

The Authority of Jesus

(Matthew 8:1-17)



PREACHER

Lee Yee Dian

August 8, 2021

The Church As The Priesthood Of Believers

(1 Peter 2:9-10)



PREACHER

Arnold Lim

August 15, 2021

The Mission of Jesus

(Matthew 9:1-17)



PREACHER

Pastor Joash Chan

August 22, 2021

To Be Announced

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE

| ZOOM |

Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |

Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs

| ZOOM |

Sundays



Call office to know more:

03-5621 2623

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Missions Week



1. Pray for our missionaries and seminary students, and their family members. Pray for good health and good family relationships.
2. Ask the Lord to make each one of them a vessel of His gospel to a world in need - giving them divine appointments with men, women, and children so that the gospel may be unleashed.
3. Ask the Lord to soften your heart. Pray to be in tune with God's heart for a lost world, and for a willingness to act on God's call.

CONDOLENCES

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to our sisters **Toh Kai Xian** and **Toh Kai Ying** on the passing of their grandfather, **Mr. Cheah Kam Sooi**, on 17 July 2021 in Ipoh.

May God's peace and comfort be with the family during this difficult time of loss.

| Upcoming Events



VBS Volunteer Recruitment

VBS is upon us this 13 to 17 December!

We need all the help we can get to bring children to build their foundation in Jesus!

CLICK HERE to register as a volunteer for our very first online VBS. For enquiries, please email vbsfbcsubang@gmail.com



Ladies Praise & Thanksgiving Gathering

14 August 2021

Saturday
10.00am - 12.00pm

Zoom ID: 924 53626068
Password: fbc



The Pastoral Epistles

Study on the Books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus

Every Wednesday
8:30pm

Zoom ID: 830 3462 5458
Password: fbc

CLICK HERE to view video lessons.
(Password: fbcgamma)



Sermon on The Mount

Explore the Teachings of Jesus on the Beatitudes

10-Week Program
Beginning on 3 August 2021
Every Tuesday

To register/ for more information, contact **Lammy Tan** at 012-386 8460.



Is There More to Life Than This?

Every Thursday
8:00pm

CLICK HERE to register
Registration closes on 4 August.



Daily Prayer Meeting

Every Saturday to Thursday
9:00pm

Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting

28 August 2021 (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm

Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137
Password: pray

More Information on Upcoming Events