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NLEASHING THE GOSPEL

#### **INSIDE** THIS ISSUE

#### ARTICLE

**Beyond Education:** Molding the Future in Sabah

PAGE 1 - 3

Pulpit Program

PAGE 4

**Prayer Spotlight** Zo Community (Burmese Refugee)

PAGE 4

**Upcoming Events** 

PAGE 4



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## Molding the Future in Sabah

According to UNESCO, Education is defined as the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. Generally, it is a topic that everyone takes interest in. Most people would agree that education is important as it aids the growth of a person. And rightly so! We see that there are many verses in the Bible which speak about knowledge,

wisdom, and truth - specifically, a knowledge of God's truth and wisdom.

Education then, from a Christian's point of view, should be to grow a child or person's knowledge about God's truth and to develop a person's character so that they will be ready and able to obey God's calling, to do His work in due time. It was this



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Seeing the situation in Sabah, God stirred the heart of Rumba, a Christian educationist. She felt a burden for the younger generation and considered the possibility of establishing private Christian kindergartens.

challenge that spurred a movement to build and run Christian kindergartens in Sabah 12 years ago.

There was minimal access to Christian education in Sabah. Rural preschool education in Sabah had always been under the Jabatan Kemajuan Masyarakat (KEMAS), and all children between the ages of 4 to 6 were sent to the village Tabika Kemas. And under the Government Preschool Curriculum, all preschool children are to be taught about the Creation of Man and to learn prayers over meals. This meant that the Kemas teachers had every opportunity and right to teach their beliefs to the little children. The teachers had free access to mold these little minds that were in their formative years. And so when Christian children returned home, they started reciting Muslim prayers over meals. The subtle indoctrination of the indigenous Christian children would definitely affect the future of Christianity in Malaysia. This was a huge concern for the SIB church pastors and members.

But God is a merciful God who provides and meets all our needs as long as we seek His kingdom and righteousness. Seeing the situation in Sabah, God stirred the heart of Rumba, a Christian educationist. She felt a burden for the younger generation and considered the possibility of establishing private Christian kindergartens. As time went on, God



began to open-up opportunities for her to speak to Christian leaders, rural villages, and significant leaders who encouraged and supported the start of the ministry. God even opened the 'big door' in June 2010, when the Government allowed private preschools to be established in Sabah to help provide early childhood education to the many (30-40%) unreached preschool children in Sabah. Opportunities continued to grow in Sabah and in 2012, FBC heard about the movement and connected with Rumba through mail. That sparked the start of this partnership.

Over the course of the past 10 years, God has provided financial assistance through FBC and different ministry partners. Today, there are 85 kindergartens that God has kept progressing well despite the challenges of the pandemic! Rumba and her team deeply believes that 'His word that goes out from his mouth will not return empty but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it' (Isaiah 55:11) and this partnership still thrives to this very day, thanks to the support of the church and its people.

However, the work is far from done. As the kindergartens continue to thrive, God continues to call them to establish more rural kindergartens with 4 clear guidelines:

- · The kindergartens are to be under the local church and local ownership
- The kindergartens are to be registered with the Government for recognition and continuity
- To train and equip teachers candidates that were selected by the local churches, keeping the most important component, Christian education, in the curriculum
- To work towards self-sustainability with ministry partners

Even after 12 years of hard work, the passion that the Lord has instilled in Rumba's heart has not vanished. It continues to grow every day. Witnessing God's providence, blessings, miracles and faithfulness through the years, Rumba stands faithful to her calling.

Let us, as a church, continue to support this ministry not just financially, but most importantly keeping them in prayer as the work continues. Let us remember that education is not just for knowledge's sake, but pursuing God's knowledge and truth as we prepare ourselves to obey His calling.



#### By Dickson Kam

Dickson serves and is a part of the Mission Ministry



March 13, 2022 **Why Should We Forgive?** (Matthew 18:15-35)



March 20, 2022 **The Rich Young Man** (Matthew 19:16-30)



March 27, 2022 **The Gospel in Marriage**(Ephesians 5:21-33)



April 3, 2022

Potraits of Family Life

PREACHER

Arnold Lim



#### Zo Community (Burmese Refugee)

- Pray for their integration with the local churches when they are here that they are equipped and blessed for His Work wherever He sends them later.
- 2. Pray their spiritual and material needs are abundantly provided by the riches of His Grace
- 3. Pray for God's protection will be on their loved ones who may be still in Myanmar especially from the oppression of the Junta regime and that they will continue to trust and labour for the Lord under persecution.
- 4. Pray for FBC that we will have a better understanding of the community to empower them (e.g. through education and skill training) for them to have a sustainable future.

### **Upcoming** Events



- MAIN SERVICE | IZOOM |
  - Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am
- YOUTH SERVICE
  |zoom|Sundays 9:00am
- SUNDAY SCHOOL for Ages 0-12yrs |zoom|Sundays





Romans From Wretchedness To Righteousness Every Wednesday

For more information, contact Church Office at 03-5621 2623



Alpha 21 is ongoing.

The next Alpha program will start tentatively from 14 July 2022

Every Thursday 8:00pm

<u>CLICK HERE</u> to register for the next Alpha program.



Daily Prayer Meeting Every Monday to Thursday

9:00pm Zoom ID: 929 735 694 Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting 26 March 2022 (Saturday)

2:00pm to 3:30pm Venue : Transit Hall

**More Information on Upcoming Events**