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BB Seniors (Epic) Adventure Camp 2024 Testimony

How does one see God at work when all the months of planning were (almost) completely unravelled in just one day? This is our testimony.

The BB Seniors Section had our adventure camp at Taman Negara Sungai Relau, Pahang from 14th to 17th of September. We had been planning intensively since May considering we had to handle a record 86 participants in a place we were going to for the first time.

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

24 November 2024

**The Maker is
your Husband**

Isaiah 54:1-10

Preacher

Lee Yee Dian

PULPIT PROGRAM

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Our group left FBC bright and early on Saturday 14th September in 3 cars and 2 full buses. It didn't take long for trouble to show up.

45 minutes after departure, the group encountered heavy traffic on DUKE Highway. We knew traffic was going to be heavy because of the long weekend – we just didn't know and anticipate how bad it would be. 4 hours in, the entire group (except one car – more on this later) had just barely cleared the Gombak toll entering the KL-Karak highway!

While we were besieged by thoughts on how to overcome this big setback in our schedule, we were treated to a magnificent display of His goodness with blessings upon blessings.

First Blessing

One of our vehicles that was stuck in traffic started developing problems with the gearbox with no prior symptoms! Wonderful! Just what we needed ... more hiccups!



To understand how big a pickle we would have been in if this vehicle had been unable to continue its journey – ALL our gas stoves, gas canisters and tents were in this vehicle! Huge lesson for having all our eggs in one basket!

Without going into too much detail, for some inexplicable reason (and a lot of prayers) the problem just vanished after a futile attempt to get it looked into at 5 pm in Bentong. It made it all the way to the campsite (and back) without any trouble! We can only attribute this to His gracious mercies and intervention!

Second Blessing

We had a lunch stop planned in a restaurant in Kuala Lipis and had expected to arrive around 12 noon – worst case 1 pm.

The epically bad traffic threw all that into disarray. 12 pm became 1 pm, then 2 pm. At 3 pm the group was still nowhere near.

Remember the entire group was stuck – except for one car?

For some inexplicable reason, that vehicle took a wrong turn following the GPS near Batu Caves and as a result ended on the old Gombak – Bentong road which had less traffic but was unsuitable for buses as it was very narrow and winding. That meant the 'lost' car was able to get out of KL at least 2 hours ahead of the rest. One of our officers suggested if it would be possible to have the restaurant pack our lunch so that the cars could pick up and bring them to

the campsite – that turned out to be not only a brilliant idea but more importantly – it showed us how He blesses His people in unique and unexpected ways.

This was not our original lunch stop that was planned months ago.

Three weeks prior to the camp, the original restaurant told us they are unable to handle our large group. We had to scramble to find a replacement restaurant. We truly believe it was His gracious Providence that led us to this one to witness how big this blessing was going to be.

This newfound restaurant was very accommodating in entertaining our multiple retiming due to the delays – it went on well past their lunch service window.

When we then asked if they could pack the lunch for us instead, they immediately agreed without any complaints.

The 'lost' car was tasked to pick up the lunch and it got to the restaurant at 4 pm.

When we got there, the owner and his family (father, mother and 4 boys) were still cooking and packing.

Now, if you are in the F&B line and you are expecting 2 bus loads and some hungry patrons, you have to do some of your preparation before their arrival – this was supposed to be 12 noon – 1 pm.

As they were still cooking and the dishes were still warm at 4 pm, it meant the dishes were made fresh – not reheated or refried. We don't know what happened to the batch that was prepared before noon!

There's more.

Notice anything unusual about the packaging?

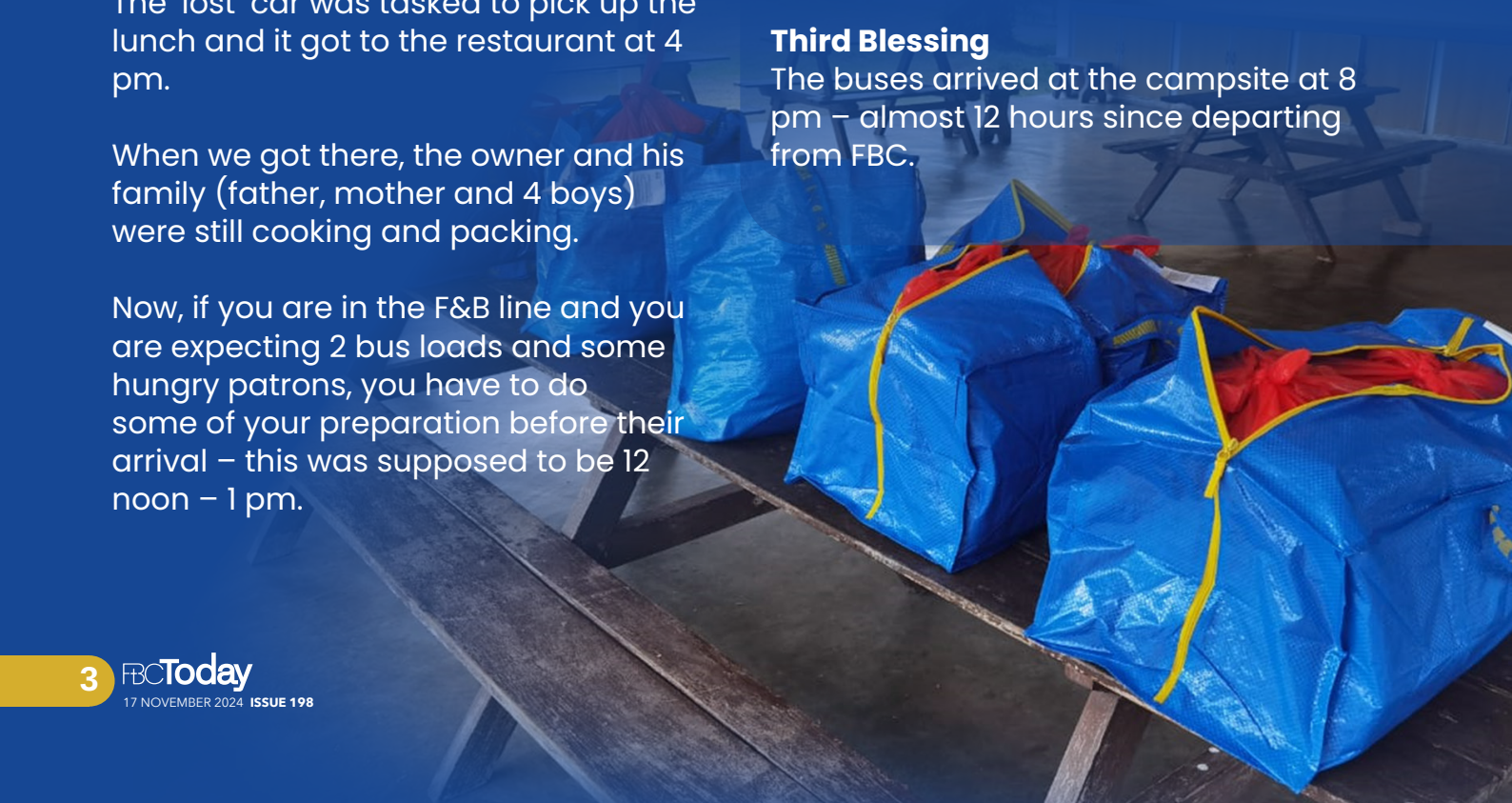
It is very unlikely for restaurants to provide this kind of separated containers (86 units) for budget meals as they are more expensive. The rice was even packed separately as well in the more common styrofoam box.

We then wondered how we were going to fit all this food into the 'lost' car (minivan) which was already full. The restaurant owner told us not to worry as they would bring the food to a petrol station along the route so that it can be loaded into the buses. That petrol station was 5 kilometres away!

Thankfully with a bit of creative reorganisation, we managed to fit all these into the vehicle.

Third Blessing

The buses arrived at the campsite at 8 pm – almost 12 hours since departing from FBC.





The pitch-black area between the trees in the background was where the tents were supposed to be but we were just thankful we could get all the tents set up next to the buildings for the night.

Think about it – three great blessings in one day amid setbacks.

It was raining and everyone was hungry.

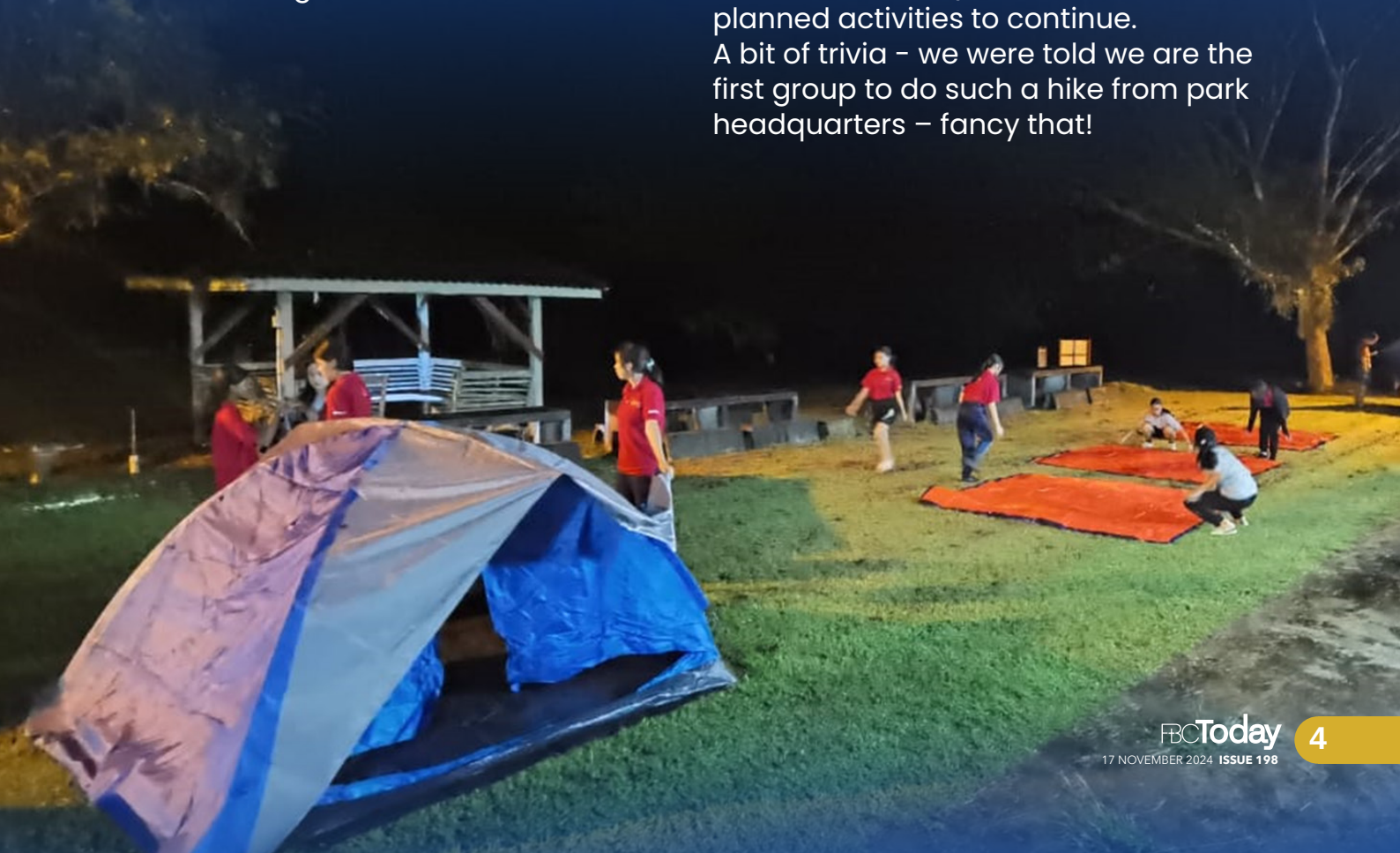
This was where the brilliance of God's plan came to fore – what was supposed to have been our lunch became our nice warm dinner! That also meant we were spared from the need to cook as that had been our original plan.

After dinner, we still had to set up our tents and it was still drizzling but that was not enough to deter us.

Fourth Blessing

We were told by the park guides to expect around 3 hours of heavy rain daily during the period of our camping. Indeed, it rained on the first night but not to the magnitude described.

The second day it had been raining early in the morning but stopped when we were ready to start our 8 KM hike into the restricted area of Taman Negara. That meant we had cool weather throughout the hike! The afternoon was dry and enabled our planned activities to continue. A bit of trivia – we were told we are the first group to do such a hike from park headquarters – fancy that!



The third day was also similar where it rained early in the morning but stopped when we were ready for the tree top walk activity. Blessed with cool weather to experience nature and to see some of the wildlife which would have stayed hidden had it been warm.



The afternoon weather was also perfect for our “Kenduri BB”, a communal cooking activity which we attempted for the first time! Finally, on the last day, perfect dry weather in the morning enabled us to break camp and do proper cleaning before packing up our tents. The rain came only after we had left the campsite!

Epilogue

There are more we can share but it would make this TLDR (Too Long Didn't Read) testimony even longer.

This epic journey may have ended but we pray our young ones have had their eyes opened and recognised God's goodness amid trials, challenges and when things didn't go our way – a vital lesson to trust in Him for the rest of their lives.

Galatians 5:13 (NIV):

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Thank you for praying for us and with us!



BB Prayer Request

It would be remiss to talk about the many of God's gracious blessings without talking about the people He has used to bless us.

God does not just use folks who are already in His Kingdom for His work.

Many times, if we are attentive, He will use those who are also outside His Kingdom to bless His people.

This epic journey was a testimony to that.

This is the humble family of Mr and Mrs Chin and their 4 wonderful boys who redefined what it means to go the extra mile and go way out of the way – without expecting a single sen extra.

If ever anyone is headed to Kuala Lipis, Google for Restoran Hong Kee Kuala Lipis and pay them a visit – you will not be disappointed!



These 2 gentlemen are Mr. Letchu (left) and Mr. Suresh (right) – our bus pilots. They had to start their journey earlier to pick us up from FBC on Saturday morning and had to return home to Sungai Buloh after dropping us off as they had jobs lined up for the next 2 days.

That meant they had driven at least 18+ hours on Saturday itself!

Tuesday morning, they arrived for the return trip at 10:30 a.m. which meant they had to start their journey from home at 5:00 a.m.!

While we are more than grateful to witness such gracious displays of commitment and competence, we are also concerned about their spiritual well-being as well.

Please keep the Chin family, Mr. Suresh and Mr. Letchu in your prayers so that their hearts would be open to the Gospel and they would come to believe in the Greatest Blessing of their lives.

