

DIVINE is Best We Are Blowing Up Recounting His Blessings !

Bro Kooyi reporting from the mountain top of Pinghe:

My wife and I were rather apprehensive about receiving and helping to host a Mission team of 15. We have had friends over at our pomelo farm, but had zero experience on hosting a big Mission team. The approaching wintry weather didn't help. H1N1 was threatening. I was recovering from a flu and my wife was showing signs she was next in line.

Anyhow, this team of young and old, spiritually-charged and lacklustre type, under the leadership of Rev. David Kerk arrived. So did milder weather. We did the best we knew how. One step ahead of the team and did the "guanxi" connections. One thing led to another. Soon we realised it was best to let this team gell with the local leadership themselves.

Steb by step, event by event, we witnessed the wonderful working of God. We witnessed the miraculous Hand of God moved on our behalf. Inspired music and life-changing testimonies opened closed doors. Selfishness and pride broke down. A fresh breeze of God blew and was operating in our midst. Hearts were touched and Christ was once again lifed up high. My wife was so moved. She called my mother in Singapore and with the help of her handphone broadcasted one song "live" to Toa Payoh from a rural brown-China church. The two of them were fellowshiping with tears of joy

Towards the end of this trip, we were obviously fatigued, but our spirits were high. God never cease to amaze us. He knew our hearts were cold and getting rather negative after working and living in these hills for the past 6 years. He brought, through this team, new life, the power of the Spirit, Christian warmth and support etc etc. The entire team is now our extended family and friends.

Because we were OBEDIENT and Submitted ourselves to Him, agreed to take time out, opened our private retreat up to semi-strangers, GOD SMILED.

DIVINE is Best. We are blowing up recounting His Blessings



Be a DISCIPLE for CHRIST Church NEEDS a Revival!

This trip to Pinghe, Xiamen affirmed His Divine Revelation to me before we left. It all started when Pastor David announced about the Mission trip to China. I had no intention to go for this trip as I just returned from Philippines in May'09 and thought I give other members a chance and moreover, China is not a place that I would love to go. Strangely, the Lord speaks in many ways to get my attention. But it is not good enough for me as I told the Lord, I got to get it direct from You. One night at home, I suddenly had this desire to listen to the Hokkien Song "Be a Disciple for Christ - 作主的門徒" and went searching for the CD and put it on my car. The next day when I was driving along the highway while listening to this track, for no apparent reason, I burst into tears and was interceding for the church in Pinghe. Through the prayer intercession, the Lord revealed to me the conditions of the hearts of his people in Pinghe church. Their hearts have gone cold and backslidden, losing their fire and passion for God, no faith, loosing focus, going to church is just another routine and going to church is boring. The Church needed a revival.

The next thing was Pastor David, not realising that I have not registered myself for this trip, asked me to think about a theme for this mission trip. So I told him let the theme be 作主的門徒 (Be a Disciple for Christ). Things happened so fast and I found myself going to Pinghe, Xiamen.

On 12 Dec 2009 afternoon, I needed a guitar for Ezekiel to play but was told by Pastor Lim's there is no guitar until I checked with his wife that she disclosed her daughter had one but no in use for a year. They had been trying to sell their guitar for the last one year but just no buyers. Truly divine. During our rehearsal for our song presentation, I witnessed the excitement and joy on the faces of Pastor Lim's wife (Evangelist Chen), his only daughter Ling Jie, the church pianist and some choir members. They were asking for the scores, the lyrics and to teach them to sing all the songs we were rehearsing. Pastor Lim's wife shared that people's hearts

are getting cold, everyone is not singing from their heart, they needed a revival, it's been so long. Like what she described "It's like 20 years ago, I was tired and God sent His messenger to kick me up again"

Then came Sunday morning and afternoon, where we sang unto the Lord and just watched His spirit moved and touching and reviving their spirit. For the first time, I spoke in Mandarin and Min Nan Yu (Hokkien) and prayed in Mandarin and Min Nan Yu (Hokkien) -- I thought I cannot do it. But He did it all!!!

Our God deserves a BIG clap offerings of praise!!!

Blessings - **Sis Lay Sim's Testimony...**



Indeed, GOD is DIVINE!

A mission team of 15, led by Pastor David and Bro Richard, arrived in XiaMen Airport at 12pm in the afternoon on the 10th December 2009. All of our hearts were filled with excitement as we collected our luggages, not knowing what marvelous things God has planned for us. Clad in our fully geared semi-winter clothings, we stepped out of the arrival hall looking for someone out there to welcome us. And there she is, Sis Xiao Wu, smiling, waving and holding up a signboard that says "COSK", and warmly welcoming us with her cheerful voice. Shortly after that, we met her husband, Bro Khoo who also gave us a warm welcome and briefed us about our trip to Ping He. Unbeknownst to us, the entire week lying ahead was full of divine surprises that God has prepared.

Even though XiaMen/ PingHe is only a 4-hour airplane trip away from Singapore, the culture in China was drastically different from Singapore. Unlike Singapore, China is a political country with many restrictions when it comes to religions, therefore we must be careful what we say over there. This is also partly why Bro Khoo had to give us a short briefing about the culture shock that we're about to receive in China, expecting the unexpected, and simultaneously practice humility using the verse from Gal 5:21-23 (Fruits of the Spirit).

With our prepared hearts and mind, we set off the next day to 5 rural churches in PingHe. First stop was at Ping He Church, and then to Ban Zai Church which was built in 1983, where we mingled with the pastor, had tea with the sweetest oranges and pomelos. Next, we had a short tour of Prof Lin Yu Tang's (1895 – 1976) hometown, who is the ex-Nanyang University principal. His father was a Christian pastor, and he also wrote his journey of faith from Christianity to Taoism and Buddhism, and back to Christianity in his later life was recorded in his book From Pagan to Christian (1959). Pastor David felt touched and spiritual about the entire tour because of his inspiring history. The next few churches we went were Wu Han Church, Shan Ge Church and Wen Feng Church. Especially in Wen Feng Church, Sis Shuang Feng shared her fantastic testimony with us as being an avid idol-worshipper before she came to know God. She also went through numerous trials and struggles especially when she was called up by God to set up a church with only 3 people serving at the beginning. But she prayed by faith every single day without fail, and now many has been saved by the Lord and it is only by His grace that the church can grow successfully. And this was an excellent testimony for all of us, that we should have this faith and pray with confidence that God will definitely bless us.

On Saturday, 12 Dec 2009, we visited Prof Zhou Pi Chu Arts Museum and the Pottery Museum, where we look at the fantastic art pieces and the pottery they collected for many years. After which, we went over to Ping He church to have a good sports fellowship with the fellow church members, playing table tennis and badminton, while the music team had a song rehearsal for Sunday service. Later that night, all of us interacted with Pinghe Church elders and their choir with exchange of songs, and Pastor David and Pastor Lim exchanged a brief introduction of each of their churches. Bro Wee mentioned that he had such an enjoyable time singing God's praises that he had the urge to speak and sing in Hokkien with the choir. Pastor David also shared about the life of David, reminding all of us that we should give our best to the Lord and follow in His footsteps till the end, and not halfway. The most important message was if you honour God, God will also honour you.

Sunday came, and it was time again to give that special day to our Lord to praise and worship Him. And what makes this Sunday more special was sharing our love for God with the brothers and sisters in Ping He. As Sis Florence and Bro Wee shared their testimonies, both of them almost choked on their own words and their testimonies touched many hearts in Ping He Church. Sis Florence shared about how she was saved by God's mercy and grace when she was in coma for 6 whole weeks. With her faith that God will heal her, she finally walked to the church to get baptized. Brother Wee shared about his experience of owing a debt of \$7mil to the bank. We presented our songs, sang our hearts out and worshipped the Lord with the Ping He brothers and sisters. It was so heartwarming to see everyone clapping and singing along to the songs on their own accord. After the service, many came asking for song lyrics and song chords for the songs presented.

After that, we went over to the 6th church, Nan Sheng Church to attend their afternoon service. This time round, Bro Peter and Sis Angie shared their testimonies with the brothers and sisters in Nan Sheng Church, and it also touched many hearts and even made some of them cried. Unexpectedly, Pastor David felt the urge to have an altar call and asked the congregation if anyone's relatives have not been saved. Surprisingly, a few came forward and it was only due to Pastor David's continuous persuasion that they came forward to receive the blessings as Pastor David prayed for them.

Then later that night, we had a sumptuous dinner and a short interaction with Pastor Lim and some elders from Nan Sheng Church. We had an exchange of introduction and history of the churches, and Pastor Lim shared that there is a global problem currently that Christians are losing their fire and passion for God.

>> cont' next page



Of course, how can we miss out the opportunity of visiting the majestic scenery of God's creation and Pomelo Farms that Bro Khoo and his friend Ah Lor own! We went up the bumpy roads to Bro Khoo's lovely house at the mountain top, and we experienced the most breath-taking view of the landscape after trekking up the steep slopes. Indeed, we were all staring in awe of His awesome creations. After which, we had a delicious lunch there and spent time interacting with one another with Bro Wee praising the Lord with his urge to sing for Him, up above. Then we went over to Ah Lor's farm for a visit and also had a short song presentation to praise the Lord.

By 15th Dec, we reached Xiamen from Ping He, and stayed in a motel near Xiamen University. The very next day, the youths met up with Bro Khoo and his friend Lucas, where we talked about discipleship in churches. It was not by pure coincidence but by God's plan that we all met. We invited Lucas along with his friend, Cody to join us to tour around an island known as Gu Lang Yu, also known as the Island of Music/Piano. Even at that small little island, we can sense God's presence amongst us. We visited the first church ever built on Gu Lang Yu started out by Dr David Abeel from Michigan, and one of the oldest churches, known as San Yi Tang. It was also all under God's plan that we get to meet Rev Timothy Hau, the Secretary-General of Church Council, who walked through the history of the churches with us. We also met Sis Chen Mei Qiong, owner of a Tea Garden and many other businesses, who shared about going through the struggles she experienced in her life, and coming to know God, and saved by God. Now she not only owns a tea garden, but also a hostel, restaurant, and many local product stalls.

She believes that everything is according to God's plan and is thankful to God for the blessings she has been receiving. And the most important thing to her was to "Believe, Love & Rely on Him." Even over at China, we can also experience the Christmas aura in Pastor Jim's cosy little house, where the Music Team was invited by Lucas to have a short song presentation. It was so heartwarming seeing the Chinese all gathered

to sing God's praises, even though they are not Christians because they were there just to have English lessons.

What? It's the last day already? Even though it's cliché, time really passed very fast, and before we know it, we've to be in SilkAir returning back to Singapore. We all bade goodbye, gave our last hugs and words of encouragement to the lovely couple, Bro Khoo and Sis Xiao Wu for their wonderful care and concern for us during the entire trip. From this entire trip, I can see the wonders of God's work and His doing, and they are beyond whatever we can imagine. And this is by far, the best out of the mission trips I've gone, I must say. And I'm sure the team agrees with me too. Let us continue to walk by faith and follow in His footsteps till the very end, and let this be an unforgettable journey.

Indeed, God is divine.
Sis Kaelyn Tan



SURPRISED by GOD!

We were scheduled to present hymns of thanksgiving and choruses of praise during the Sunday Service at the Church of Pinghe (CoP for short). The team needed a guitar for Bro Ezekiel Wong to company with the team of Praise & Worship team.

(1) The daughter of Rev Lin has a guitar which she intended to sell but miraculously wasn't sold. In the words of Rev Lin's wife "It's really God's Plan!" In addition, I was also SURPRISED by God by:

(2) A sister from CoP just returned to Service after been away for a long while due to her busyness in business. She was so ministered by the Worship in songs that she phoned Sis Lin trusting God will give her another chance to serve HIM

(3) Rev Lin was deeply touched that our team has visited so many churches. In his 19 years of ministry, he commented of our enthusiasm, zeal and excitements regards the work of God in the Chinese churches.

(4) The congregation was so touched and moved by the Worship in songs led by us that many were requesting for those songs we sang. Thank God, we have recorded those songs in CD to company our Mission booklet.

(5) Bro Khoo from Pinghe brought us to visit a pre-believer Ah Lor who is an idol worshipper. The team was treated to dinner at his farm-cum-residence. We sang and Pastor David was invited to pray for Ah Lor. God surprised us because an idol worshipper doesn't permit others to sing praises to Our LORD in front of their idols.

(6) Rebuilding & Restoration the physical building seems to be the theme on those 7 churches we visited. That church at Gu Lang Yu with more than 100 years is in the process of rebuilding and Rev Timothy Hau requested us to pray for this reconstruction project. We are indeed very honored.

(7) Sis Xiao Lu was deeply touched by our musical worship in the village church that she phoned her mum-in-law in Singapore (Toa Payoh) to let her enjoyed the singing. Both sisters were moved in tears by the anointed musical worship. Once again, God surprised us and all glory, honor and praise be unto our Lord.

(8) Rev Timothy, Secretary General of the Xiamen Christian Counsel, who accompanied us during our visit to Gu Lang Yu that an unofficial exchange between Singapore and Xiamen Christian churches. It is indeed an honor for COSK to be part of this exchange fellowship. Surprise, surprise, such surprise comes very timely as an encouragement to COSK and the leadership.

(9) Our spirit-powered musical worship surprised the brethren in Pinghe. In the words of Sis Lin, wife of Rev Lin, "You all sang from your hearts more than technical singing skills"

(10) Last but not least, we witnessed His faithfulness throughout the entire mission trip. Physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially; God has abundantly blessed us.

Surprised By God
Bro Peter Tan

