

What's On

Our field leader, cheuk-chung Lau, visited our mission workers in Europe from 28 April to 8 May.

At the end of January, Sin-mei Tang set off to South Africa for the missionary preparation programme. May God lead her to grow in the cross-cultural team.

In February, Suzanne Leung joined our team as Member Care Coordinator. May God help her to serve with strength.

With guidance from the Lord, Benny Lai, our former outreach worker, resigned from our team in February. May God reward him for his faithful service over the years.

In March, Sun Smile (Central Asia) set off to her field. Please pray for her adjustment in the new culture.

Our designated mission worker, Ms Yip (Middle East) has been to Macau for pre-field training since April. May God prepare her body and spirit for the challenges ahead.

In April, McVey Ma and Suki Lai have joined the Great Commission Discipleship Training Programme held in Macau. May God encourage them in the training programme.

OM Monthly Prayer Meeting

Date: Apr 18, May 30, Jun 27, Jul 25 (Mon)

Time: 7:30 - 9:00pm

Venue: 11/F, Tai Lee Mansion, 165-167 Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, Hong Kong

OUR PURPOSE

OM's role in the body of Christ is to motivate, develop and equip people for world evangelization, and to strengthen and help plant churches, especially among the unreached.

We all are Hongkongers!

Ekide

Since Hong Kong is a multi-cultural metropolis, we can never overlook the presence of Southeast Asian groups in our own territory.

Southeast Asians born in Hong Kong

Have you ever heard about an Indian stand-up comedy artist called Vivek Mahbubani? Actually, he is a local and he can perform stand-up comedies in Cantonese with no difficulties. His performances aim at reflecting the racial discriminations in our society in a jocular manner.

Besides, there is a Southeast Asian female journalist called Nabela Qoser in TVB News. Everyone who listened to her news reports agree that they cannot tell if she is a Southeast Asian only by her voice.

Still being rejected

It seems as if the Southeast Asians are gradually localized as Hongkongers, but still, they cannot fully integrate into the Chinese society.

One of the biggest obstacles is Cantonese. Though they grow up in Hong Kong and the government has implemented laws to let ethnic minorities enter main-stream schools. However, they cannot catch up with lessons even at the very beginning point. The higher the forms they are promoted to, the more they lag behind from others.

I know a number of primary six students who can only read "我" (ngo), "的" (dik) and "了"

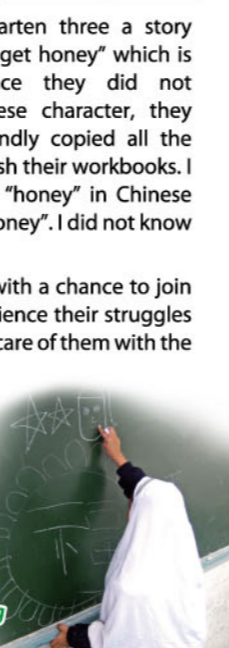
(liu) in a sentence. (The first means "I", the second is just a functional device with no meaning and the last means "already").

On another occasion, I taught some Southeast Asian children in kindergarten three a story book called "Bumble bees get honey" which is written in Chinese. Since they did not understand even a Chinese character, they could do nothing but blindly copied all the words written by me to finish their workbooks. I even had to explain what "honey" in Chinese was by the English word "honey". I did not know whether to laugh or to cry!

Now, I have come up with a chance to join their primary school, experience their struggles and think over how to take care of them with the love of Christ.

Southeast Asians are just around us. How do you show them the love of God, then?

Ekide, Outreach Worker
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To Serve, Not to Be Served Serving Indonesian Domestic Helpers on Sundays

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." (Matthew 20:28)

From 10 April onwards, Doulos Centre (serving local ethnic minority groups) became a place for Indonesian domestic helpers every Sunday!

With Guidance from God, we started our partnership with Christian & Missionary Alliance Indonesian Faith Church in April. An Indonesian Service is held every Sunday morning, and there are various activities or classes in the afternoon. We would like to serve those who serve the HK people 6 days a week. This is a place for them to relax and gather, also to feel the love and care we offer.



JOIN US!

Join us to serve the ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong through tuitions, playgroups, women meetings and anything that come to mind!

Mail our outreach team at: outreach.hk@om.org

How to support us?

Make your cheques payable to "Operation Mobilisation (HK) Ltd". Transfer your donations to our account 082-5-026461 at HSBC, please send us your bank receipts.

*Donations of HKD 100 and over are tax deductible in Hong Kong.



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Worship
in Spirit and
in Truth

Dear brothers and sisters,

Peace be with you!

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks." (John 4:23)

Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman had helped resolve her puzzlement over worshipping the Creator God, that it was truth and spirit which are much more important than form and place, as God is spirit. Even today, groups where the gospel is heard the least are filled with misunderstanding and prejudice about Christianity as a "western religion".

Over the years, mission scholars have tried their best in keeping Christianity and western culture separated, lest seekers confuse Christian faith with westernization. They put great emphasis on localization whenever and wherever they plant churches, so that converts could feel comfortable with appropriate forms of worship and their faith flourish in their respective cultural situations.

Awareness of the significance of folk music to church planting, many mission-minded musicians are learning indigenous music and instruments so that they could write hymns close to their hearts to enhance worship.

Bamboo, our dear colleague is enthralled with music and creative arts ministry. Could we count on your prayer and monetary support?

In Him,



Cheuk-chung Lau
Field Leader



Having a Taste of Original Tibetan Music

Bamboo*

In October 2010, I did not take part in the Chinese National Day celebration or The Commonwealth Games. But rather, I sat in a small house in Area B of Nepal on an altitude as high as 1,300 meters and squeezed myself with more than twenty Tibetan-blood believers. Beholding the colourful costumes of ladies as well as musicians who held in their hands three-string wooden lutes called "Dranyen", listening to "ding-dong-ding-dong" of dulcimers named "Gyumang" and sniffing the fragrance of appetizing spicy curry diffusing from the kitchen, it seemed as if all were but a dream.

Worship is the Will of God

I have come to know the service of "ethno-doxology" in the last 2 years. Having always been enthusiastic about music, I strongly believe that each and every nation has the rights to worship God with music suitable for its own culture.

The highest goal of every believer is not just about preaching the gospel, but helping others to worship God for it is His will to draw all nations and all people to worship Him.

Hey, am I off the topic? I hope not. For it was exactly this conviction which made things happened back in paragraph one. The reason why I went to this Nation of Mountains was to assist in a 5-day music workshop and experience how ethno-doxology came into practice.

It was the first time when four local churches who speak 5 different Tibetan dialects could be summoned to learn how to worship God and write new Tibetan hymns together (Oh! Although they are Tibetan, they didn't know the details of Tibetan music!).

Every morning, we worshiped with hymns written in traditional Tibetan tones. The pastors from the four churches shared the words of God respectively and our speaker explained to them what "soul



music" and "worship" were and how ethno-doxology helped localize their music. We hoped to open the door of gospel with the key of culture.

Then, we introduced the elements of Tibetan music which includes "chanting". It is to tell stories with songs and express the mysteries of life via questions and answers. The emotions expressed are gentle and graceful whereas the melodies had better be calm and tender (It is quite difficult for Tibetans to understand musical pieces like the Hallelujah Chorus which includes too many crescendos and decrescendos). The chants should have embellishing gutturals whereas the musical instruments should include "Dranyen" (three-string lutes), "Piwang" (two-string lutes), "Lingbu" (flutes), "Gyumang" (dulcimers), "Nga" (bass-drums) and "Tingshak" (cymbals) °

Finding the Disappearing Music

On the first day of the workshop, people moved various Tibetan musical instruments to the assembly as they would learn different musical instruments in groups in that afternoon. I was

privileged to teach Chinese flute there. Of course, they could only try the instruments due to the limited time. But still, we hoped to motivate them to continue music learning from then on.

On the last two days, they were separated into five different groups according to their dialects and learned music composing. I was responsible to record the songs which they had written in order to modify the songs later on. On the last day, different groups performed their new songs one by one. It was surprising that the five groups had written altogether 11 new songs with completely different styles!

Let me share with you one heart-warming example. The traditional music of Community K is disappearing, but two brothers in the workshop created 2 new songs of Community K when they recalled the melodies of traditional songs in their childhood. One of them was originally a die-hard fan of western rock-and-roll music, but he was touched by the song he had written.

The Worship of a Great Multitude

The four Tibetan churches in the workshop were dispersed around Nepal and they could hardly meet together normally. But at that time they got a chance to learn and cooperate with one another, which indeed resembled "the worship of a great multitude" in Chapter 7 of the Book of Revelations! I am thinking whether all believers would use a common language or different languages of different nations in that massive worship of heaven above.

I believe the later one can embody better the characteristic of the body of Christ, which is diverse but still in one.

**Bamboo is an OM mission worker who is going to serve in the South Asia from September.*

