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5miles

light the way

If someone forces you to go one mile,
go with him two miles.
Matthew 5:41

CROSSING BOUNDARIES: BATAM

HOW THE BATAM MINISTRY BEGAN

Our family began visiting Batam regularly after a beautiful young girl we knew and grew to love went home to be with the Lord on 24 Sep 2011. Vercella Veronica or VV was only nine. We sensed a calling from the Lord to minister to her grieving parents and sister.

Our families had grown very close during the months of chemotherapy treatment at KK Hospital, the Lord's miraculous healing of VV's cancer, and VV's subsequent death due to chicken pox. It seems ironic and tragic that VV had been certified cancer-free by the attending doctor two weeks before she succumbed to the chicken pox virus. She died from multi-organ failure. The Lord spoke to Charlotte while she stayed by VV's side reading the Psalms : 5miles was to be set up in VV's memory.

Initially, we visited VV's family in Batam every month, then every two months. Now, we visit them every quarter. More than one year on, Song Tie and Yani have come to terms with VV's passing. They have become 5miles' 'agents'. They help us identify those in need in Batam. Whenever we are in Batam, we will 'shop' for groceries and essential things; Song Tie and Yani will then help to distribute to the needy.

Song Tie and Yani are also beneficiaries of 5miles and we support them financially and reimburse them for the time and transport they provide in this work. They are extremely happy to be a part of 5miles; they have no money to offer the poor, but they can give their time and love to those less fortunate



SINGAPORE TO BATAM
BY FERRY FROM
HARBOURFRONT: 45 MINS

BATAM TO TANJUNG UBAN
BY SMALL BOAT: 20 MINS

TANJUNG UBAN IS
THE SECOND LARGEST
TOWN IN BINTAN WITH A
POPULATION OF 200,000.

TANJUNG PINANG IS
BINTAN'S LARGEST TOWN
AND CAPITAL CITY.

than they. We are blessed to have their support, and we very happy to be able to bless them in return. They have not faltered in their walk with the Lord since VV's death and we are very encouraged by how much they have grown spiritually!

There are a number of things going on in Batam under 5miles. Here are two of them:

ANNUAL BATAM CHRISTMAS PROJECT

About 1.5 years ago in 2011, Song Tie's church had 400 members. The church is now more than 1000-strong, and has been making a big difference in the community.

Two Christmases ago, we were approached by a church member who was involved in some work with 50 orphans. She asked if we could donate foodstuff and water bottles as Christmas gifts for the children (below).



That request marked the beginning of 5miles' Annual Batam Christmas Project. The following year in 2012, thanks to support from friends in church and on Facebook, 5miles donated 240 biscuit boxes to the 50 orphans, 130 disadvantaged families and a few individuals we are in contact with.

DAVID, WIFE AND SON

It was David who asked Yani if she knew anyone who could help his sister living in Singapore and Yani gave him our contact. David's 17-year-old nephew/godson had fallen seven storeys and was in critical condition in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, with a 3% chance of survival.

5miles assisted the family financially and gathered a group of prayer warriors to visit and pray for him. The Lord was merciful and his recovery was pretty miraculous! He is now up and about and doing well!

Recently, we've been led to focus on David whose wife became mentally ill weeks after his baptism. The doctors do not know the cause. David looks after her 24/7 and can't work as a result. You'll be amazed at David's faith and the peace written all over his cheerful face! We asked the Lord for S\$2000 to support David and He provided the exact amount through a friend! Thank God that David's wife is also recovering day by day!

THE ROAD TO BINTAN

HOW THE BINTAN MINISTRY BEGAN

Four months after V V died, Song Tie and Yani were approached by their old schoolmate to relocate to Uban in Bintan to run a cinema he had just built. Song Tie felt that a change of environment would do Yani good and help her move on. They moved to Uban in Apr 2012.

While in Uban, Song Tie was eager to find a church. He met Pastor Henry who had just taken up his appointment as pastor of a small, struggling church.

The church in Uban, Bintan, is a part of the largest church in Indonesia called Gerajah Bethel Indonesia. Yet this little church in Uban is the smallest we have ever been to, and we thought our church in Singapore was small!

When we visited the church in June 2012, the service was held in a remote industrial area that was slated to expand but that never happened.

There were nine people at the Sunday service including our family. Many pastors have come and gone in the last seven years — six, to be exact. Discouragement, disillusionment and lack of financial support are often cited as the reasons for leaving.

We thank God that Ps Henry is determined to stay, believing passionately that this is God's calling. When we met in June 2012, the rental contract at the industrial site was expiring in August and Ps Henry was keen to rent the hall in the cinema Song Tie was managing. Song Tie talked to the cinema owner who agreed to rent the hall to Ps Henry's church, every Sunday morning, for approximately S\$2000 a year.

Now where was the money going to come from?

JEHOVAH JIREH

That same evening, Charlotte happened to be chatting with her old college mate on Facebook about Ps Henry's church's financial needs and, immediately, her friend offered S\$1000 to defray the rental cost! God is indeed our Jehovah Jireh! We felt led to give the remaining amount and, in a few weeks, the money was wired to them and the move became a reality in August.

By God's grace, the cinema owner bought Ps Henry a laptop, a keyboard, materials, etc., with the rental collection, saying it was God's money and he couldn't keep it for himself. He eventually spent much more equipping the church! The Lord supplied all the church's needs according to His riches in glory!

NOTE: Shortly after our visit, Song Tie and Yani returned to Batam as their older daughter, Venny, then 14, was missing them and under-performing in school. They had been sent to Uban to facilitate the church's relocation and that work was done. And the Lord brought 5miles there for the purpose of supporting the church.

SECOND TRIP TO UBAN

On 24 Mar 2013, we visited Uban for the second time and attended the Sunday Service with Ps Edmund Chua and his wife, Esther, Song Tie and Yani. There were about 30 members and quite a few children!

We were also delighted that the owner and his wife made a special trip from Tanjung Pinang to join us for the service.

It was Song Tie who initiated the meeting so that we could discuss Ps Henry's needs. Song Tie and Yani appear to have a gift for connecting people!

At the meeting, Ps Henry revealed a desire to make use of the hall on weekdays — to provide tuition services.

Without hesitation, the owner said that Ps Henry could use the hall on weekdays!

MINISTRY NEEDS IN UBAN:

- Arranging for speakers to encourage Ps Henry and his flock. On 24 Nov 2012, 5miles sent Ps Freddy to speak at a special service. On 24 Mar 2013, Ps Edmund Chua spoke on spiritual growth.
- Raising funds for Ps Henry and his family of five. His current salary of S\$240 is insufficient to support his wife and three sons. They need about S\$500 more every month.
- 5miles has begun supporting Ps Henry with a monthly stipend; please pray with us as we try to raise about \$5000 each year so that Ps Henry can focus on the ministry in Uban and his wife can focus on the family.

If you'd like to offer a love gift to the families under 5miles, please email Charlotte: danchar@singnet.com.sg.

We appreciate your prayers for our beneficiaries and your interest in our ministry.



We are now reconstructing the 5miles website. In the pipeline is a book on V V, first in English, then in Mandarin and Bahasa Indonesian. The mission is to share her story of Jesus and how He revealed Himself to her on many occasions.

We look forward to updating you again after we visit Batam and Tanjung Pinang in June 2013. God bless you!



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