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# 5miles

light the way

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

## Blessed are the merciful....

*for they shall receive mercy*

In our February newsletter, we shared a little about Sabila who needed surgery on what looked like a huge growth. Her condition is the result of a birth defect where the bones of the skull did not fuse while she was developing in the womb, thus causing 85% of her brain to grow out of her skull. On 16 February, doctors in Batam decided it was best to operate on her and removed 85% of her brain. She was in ICU for a few weeks and discharged at the end of March. The active little one is drinking well and bringing much joy to her loving parents, Pak Marlin and Ibu Damah.



Although Batam doctors have said that Sabila may need another operation soon to close up the hole in her head, the last review on 15 April 2017 showed some promise that it was healing and closing gradually on its own. We are elated to hear this news and pray for the best for this lovely miracle.



The other good news is that Sabila's medical bills are fully covered by the Public Health Department. 5miles helps with practical needs such as transport to and from the hospital. Pak Marlin also needs to find work in the area of servicing and repairing airconditioners or an alternative vocation. He is amiable and speaks English moderately well.

## OUR KIDS ARE GROWING UP!

Four of our children living in the orphanages/homes will be taking their Class 6 exams in May and moving up to Junior High School in July. Two of our older children aged 15 and 16 will be taking their Junior High School exams and entering Senior High School in July as well. Please keep all six in prayer as they prepare for the national exams. We have identified the schools for them to enrol in July. Registration alone for the Christian Junior High School (Batam) is more than \$600 for the first year per student and monthly fees could cost as much as \$50 per student. We have appealed for a subsidised rate and are awaiting approval from the school board.



## BINTAN KINDERGARTEN NEEDS A NEW BUILDING

*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." Malcolm X*

5miles and Petra PAUD Bintan share the same vision to provide quality education to the low-income families in Tanjung Uban. Oma Elsje Rompis, who is the school principal, has invested the last nine years providing values-based education to the community around the school; she is in her sixties but has incredible passion and love for the children. We believe that not only is education important for the poor to break out of the poverty cycle, but it is also important to start them young. At Petra, children (K1 and K2) learn positive values such as discipline, diligence and honesty.

5miles is helping to raise funds for Petra kindergarten in Tanjung Uban which needs a new building by June when it vacates the current rented shophouse. Construction of the new school has begun but funds are insufficient to complete the building. Please pray for the 70 students currently in the school. If you'd like more information or to help in any way, please contact **Charlotte at danchar@singnet.com.sg**.



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## TOWDAH GOAT FARM

On 13 April 2017, four goats—one male and three female—arrived at Towdah Goat Farm, Sebung, Bintan.

We are excited and hope that our goat farm will be able to provide some income for our orphanages, and that we will be able to expand later to provide livelihood opportunities for others living in Bintan. We are also planning to work with the Bintan Lagoon resorts and travel agencies to offer a farm experience for tourists in Bintan.

5miles wishes to thank our sponsors for believing in our mission to help the needy and for supporting this cause.



## STEPPING UP SECURITY IN THE CHILDREN'S HOME

We have fortified the home in Batam with grilles and gates to keep our children safe after news broke of child kidnappings in broad daylight and organ trafficking in the country. There have also been some break-ins in the local neighbourhood. Do pray for protection over our children and houseparents. We have been reminding the younger ones not to wander outside the home without supervision.



## THANK YOU, BANYAN TREE RESORT!

Thank you to the General Manager of The Banyan Tree Resort, Mr Alpha Eldiansyah, and staff Henry and Renald for welcoming us back to the resort on 28 March 2017. Our Towdah Uban children spent a fun day at the Angsana Resort Beach and enjoyed the activities and lunch very much.



If you wish to make a love gift to 5miles, please send a message to Charlotte at [danchar@singnet.com.sg](mailto:danchar@singnet.com.sg).



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