



MISSIOCOM

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The Missionary Community of Corpus Christi

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MCCC online

Since the first issue of the MCCC newsletter was published, a website featuring news and articles and information on MCCC has also been launched. For more information on MCCC, log into www.mc-corporuschristi.org

Welcome

Welcome to the third newsletter connecting the members, friends and supporters of MCCC. This issue is dedicated to giving a better understanding of what MCCC is about and how you can help to make a difference to the lives of others through the support you give to our missionaries at home and abroad. To all our supporters we say "Thank you very much"

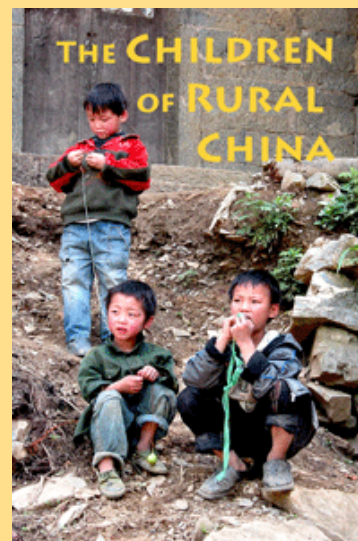
Fr. Ivan Fang MHM

Mission to China

How can you Help?

Anna Ling, our member in China will speak on her experiences on Tuesday, 28 August 2007 at St. John's Parish Hall, K. Belait at 7.30 p.m.

All are welcome.



First Six Weeks in Cambodia

The first three MCCC members describe their first six weeks in Cambodia



The three Singaporeans, (L - R) Gabrielle Low, Frances Lew and Theresa Siew pictured together with Sr. Bong, Mother Superior of the DMI sisters in Vietnam.

Our first three missionaries in Cambodia found themselves an apartment to live in after spending the first week there accompanying the group from Brunei on their visit to Cambodia as their tour guides. Though small, the apartment is new and is a highly secured facility, so they have nothing much to worry about. They embarked on the task on setting up home immediately in their new environment and in the meantime, they also managed to make a trip to Vietnam for a week to meet the DMI

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Biacha Primary School

Anna visited the Biacha School Project and the Fruit Farms



The two-storey primary school built with contributions from generous donors in Brunei.

Photo: Anna Ling

Anna, Jamie, Thomas and Rosalind (new volunteer teacher) visited Biacha School and the Kiwi, Pomelo and Golden Pear plantations on 11 July 2007. They travelled there in the car owned by NCL as the county chief did not have a car available for use. They went to see the school which was completed two weeks earlier. One week previously, the stu-

mary One to Four. On their return from the school visit in the afternoon, the principal of the Dabang School took the group to see the fruit plantation. The hill path leading to the plantations was very bad and very muddy. They went to see the golden pear plantation and pomelo next, followed by the kiwi fruit farm. The school principal informed the group



dents moved in to study in the four rooms which have been equipped with blackboard, desks and chairs. Their summer holidays began two days before the visit. As Mr. Ma did not get the keys for the classrooms from the principal, they inspected the classrooms through the windows. According to Mr. Ma, at the moment the classrooms in the new school are assigned to Pri-

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San He Bridge

The final estimates for the Bridge is still pending following a change of 'course'.



The new site of the proposed bridge

The San He villagers have submitted the plan of the proposed bridge with a span of 31.4 m. The Engineer from the local Transport Department designed this bridge. During Anna's first visit to San He, the villagers had told her that the bridge would be 15 m long. As this present measurement was very different from the first estimate, Anna decided to visit them again to recheck the measurements.

Anna went with Mr. Lu of the Science Bureau and Thomas from NCL on 28 June 2007. There they discovered that the site chosen earlier was not suitable for a bridge because a road had been constructed on the hillside nearby. Anna was worried that one day there might be a landslide which could destroy the bridge. Mr. Lu also agreed it was not suitable a place. They crossed the river (20m) by stepping on stones to search for another suitable place to build the bridge. The

water current was very strong. Finally they found a place suitable to build the bridge but the river there was 21m wide. Thomas then had a brilliant idea. He suggested that we build a 15m long bridge. For the rest of the way, the villagers could construct a "cement stone" road. This plan is very common in many villages. Mr. Lu also agreed.

The group then talked to the head of the village and told him that they would supply the materials for the bridge only. The villagers would have to build the bridge themselves. Anna inquired from Mr. Lu, the liaison officer of the local Government, whether the villagers were capable of building the bridge. Mr. Lu knows them quite well and he has every confidence that they can do it. At the present moment Anna is still waiting for the new estimate of the cost of the bridge from the village head.

We need Volunteers

MCCC is looking for volunteers to join in their overseas mission programme. There is a request from Myanmar for us to join in their mission work there. We also need more volunteers to join in our China and Cambodian Mission programmes. Furthermore, we

need people who are willing to form the support base for our overseas volunteers. The only prerequisite is that you become a MCCC member at home. We believe that any volunteer can be supported through community and prayer. If you are interested, please contact us.

Visit to Vietnam

Our MCCC members in Cambodia offered their services to the Daughters of Mary Immaculate in Ho Chi Minh City and Hue in Vietnam.



Frances teaching the novices

After arriving in Ho Chi Minh City by coach from Phnom Penh, a journey (240 Km) that took six and a half hours, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, a local congregation founded by two French Bishops in 1920, welcomed our missionaries into their community and they stayed at Thu Duc, 45 minutes away from the city centre.

At one of the churches in Thu Duc, the local residents are allowed to collect 20 litres of

drinking water per family from a tap in the church compound. At one of the orphanages/children centres run by the sisters, built as a gift from a French couple, three elderly

sisters (age 60 to the late 70's) still manage to run the place with volunteers coming in to teach the nearby under-privileged children simple English. There is also a little centre for the orphans (sometimes abandoned at their doorsteps) and at the same time, the sisters take in children especially those whose parents are too sick to care for them, on a temporary basis until their parents are better.

The Singapore Trio was able to share the Shared Book

Approach (SBA) of teaching English with seventeen of the aspirants and professed sisters who are kindergarten teachers. A smaller group from the Hue community also attended a session. An hour from Hue, is La Vang, the place where Mother Mary appeared to the villagers in 1798. Mass is celebrated there every hour.



At La Vang

(cont'd from page 1)

sisters there and it was also an opportunity for them to offer some help to the sisters who are teachers. Frances shared with them the SBA of teaching English.(see article on this page) and there might also be a possibility of working in Vietnam in the future. The group spent the weekends in August in Battambang offering the SBA to the youth and teachers there. For the full story, please log into our website at

www.mc-corpuschristi.org

How to Help

Many people have asked MCCC members how they can help. Other than giving monetary donations to all the various good and worthy causes, why not become a friend of MCCC. A friend is one who prays for the success of the work of MCCC and supports the work of the overseas volunteers. Many people are willing and ready to support projects but unfortunately, our volunteers are often overlooked. Much of the funding for the overseas centres and the volunteers upkeep come from our own members' contribution. Often this is not enough to sustain the work of the overseas volunteer. Units are supposed to be the support base for the volunteers. So really, if anyone wants to help, then the best way is to become part of a unit.

Log into our website for more details on how to help.

SBA in Battambang

Teaching the youth approaches and strategies that will enhance their teaching of English to the children in their parishes.

On the first weekend of August, the three Singaporeans M C C C members went up to Battambang for their first ministry.



Frances introducing the SBA to the youth

They had their

first session on the Shared Book Approach to teaching English on Saturday morning, 4 August. Fourteen youth 'teachers' from different parishes in the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang attended the first of four sessions.

Fr. Totet Banaynal SJ is the overall in charge of this project. He warmly welcomed the group. He suggested that before Frances teach the "teachers" how to teach, she might have to work on their pronunciation, so Frances went through phonics with them for 30 minutes. Later she introduced the BIG BOOK -strategies on how to make reading fun and interesting and how

participants were given a certificate of attendance at the end of the course which would be helpful in their future job application. At the closing party, they showed their gratefulness to the group for travelling all the way for the four sessions.

to draw teaching lessons for young readers. The 'students' responded like young curious readers themselves as the story unfolded. At the end of that session, they all agreed that it was a fun and non-threatening way to teach reading to young charges.

Msgr Kike, the Apostolic Prefect, invited all the youth leaders to stay for lunch. He told the youth that it was an opportunity for them to come together to learn and to have fellowship. The



A Cambodian Experience

A group from Brunei visited Cambodia to learn first hand about the work of the missionaries there



On Friday 15 June 2007, a group of seven people consisting of three women, and four boys, the remnant of what was supposed to be a group of fourteen people, departed from Miri airport on the AirAsia flight to Phnom Penh. For various reasons, the rest were prevented from joining the group. It was also the same day the three Singaporeans departed for their mission work in Cambodia. They arrived later that evening and were able to join the Brunei group on their trip around Phnom Penh, Pursat, Battambang and finally to Siem Riep. While in Phnom Penh, the

the Silver Pogoda, the National Museum, the Central and Russian Markets, went on the Night City Tour, and attended mass at World Vision. They also had an opportunity to visit the Killing Fields, Cheong Ek Memorial, the Independent Monument, Wat Phnom Temple, and took the Day City Tour.

On Monday, 18 June, they left for Battambang, stopping at Pursat along the way to visit Fr. Hernan's project at CROAP, and also visited the floating village at Kompong Luong. The next day, they went to the Ran-cha Workshop, Arrupe Centre and Tehan Village. In the eve-



At the Church in the Floating Village

ning, they were invited to join the mass with the many priests present along with the Perfect Apostolic, Msgr Kike and the participants of the workshop.

The rest of the time was spent at Siem Riep to visit the ruins of the Angkor Wat and the surrounding temples. They returned to Brunei via Siem Riep.



group visited the Royal Palace,

Living a Purposeful Life

The Executive Council of MCCC is organising a training course for all those interested to finding a deeper meaning in their lives through greater involvement in their church community. The course will introduce participants to various aspects of church life and ministries through an under-

standing of discipleship and mission and equip them with the necessary skills and tools to embark on their personal mission within community. This five-day course is scheduled for the end of February 2008. Further details will be given at a later date. Please put this in your diary.

MCCC in China

The mission to China explained so that you may be able to support our efforts without prejudice.

It all started with an offer to sponsor the Ziyun Station in Guizhou, China by Fr. Matt Carpenter MHM. Fr. Ivan took up the offer, seeing an opportunity to broaden the perspective of the parishioners at St. John's Church, Kuala Belait towards mission work overseas. Numerous exposure trips were organised to try to get the parishers to own the station and to see the need for outreach to the needy. Initially it began as a parish venture but sensitivity towards China by numerous quarters eventually led to the group supporting the venture making it independent under the auspices of an organisation called Rice Bowl & Chop Sticks (RBCS). The agreement therefore exists between NCL and RBCS to continue to provide volunteers to run the Ziyun Station. During the period when RBCS was unable to provide any volunteer, NCL was generous to offer the help of her own volunteers. Since last November, RBCS Brunei has been blessed with the service of Anna Ling who has been supervising the numerous

projects from Ziyun Station. **RBCS is essentially a non-profit agency providing aid and services to any individual or organisation and facilitates and manages development projects.** It relies on volunteers and supporters to fund the requests and applications for financial assistance through fund-raising activities. **What is the difference between RBCS and MCCC?** MCCC is made up of communities concerned with furthering gospel values and building God's Kingdom. Members are obliged to abide by a certain way of life. They have to do mission work at home or abroad. For instance, Anna is a member of MCCC and is supported by MCCC. She requests for assistance from RBCS to fund the projects in Ziyun. Likewise, the members in Cambodia may eventually apply to RBCS for funding for projects. RBCS volunteers are not necessarily MCCC members. Their main concern is to find the funds to finance the projects of MCCC members in the various countries.

An Invitation to Help

There are a number of ways in which you can make a difference to the lives of others less fortunate than you are. We invite you to help out through any of the following ways:

- a) become a donor either by giving a donation or making a pledge
- b) become a friend of RBCS by supporting and assisting in fund raising events and by inviting your friends to help

- c) become a member of RBCS and help out in its organisational work
- d) join MCCC and become a serious member to deepen your spiritual and community life
- e) form a MCCC unit to prepare members for mission work at home or abroad
- f) become a friend of MCCC by praying for her members
- g) tell others about the work of RBCS and MCCC

All general enquiries: please contact the secretary

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