



20
21
May



Tuhan Engkau GUNung batuku, Harapanku.

Recording



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**Focussing on FES Essentials -
Mission is Evangelism**

cover: Borneo Tertiary Students Camp 2021 (more on page 6&7)



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Mission & EVANGELISM



Evangelism is not my cup of tea. It is their ministry, not mine.

We often hear the above among Christians. Has evangelism become the least discussed ministry in our churches as it is thought of as "somebody else's ministry"?

Is it getting harder to share because we ourselves don't live out the Gospel in our lives and so we expect the church pastors and leaders to do it.

Is it true that evangelism is only for the chosen Christians and those gifted in this area?

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commanded his disciples: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

It is very clear that Jesus gave the command to all who have decided to follow him and have declared their allegiance to him publicly. It is not an exclusive but a general calling to all those who claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ which includes us today.

We are created with a mission to worship God, glorify Him and make known who He is and what He has done to others. The good news of Christ is never meant to be whispered in the dark but lived aloud in public. Church history is filled with courageous men and women who have taken the gospel to all parts of the world even at the expense of sacrificing their own lives.

Take a moment to reflect on how you became a Christian.

Apart from the unquestionable work of the Holy Spirit bringing the change in our hearts, it is also because someone shared the gospel to us, inspired us with their life's testimony or someone who brought the good news to the country we are living in.

Mission & EVANGELISM

If evangelism is a call for all Christians, how and where do I start? I am not Billy Graham!!

Evangelism is not an event or a one-off activity we do but ultimately it is a lifestyle we live out. We are called to embody and carry the Gospel of Christ in our heart, mind and deeds.

Living a life that applies the golden rule written in Matthew 7:12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you” can be a first step to show the love of God to the people around us. The world is filled with people who are self-centred and caught up in the race to accumulate more than what is needed. They need to see and experience the lives of the loving, selfless and humble Christians in their community. When they see the different values and lifestyle we have, it will trigger them to ask questions and that will open up more opportunities for us to share the love of Christ with them.

Most people will never read the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) but they will read the life of the Christian they meet.

Take a look at the community you are living in now. It can be our university, college, workplace or even our family. Let's start applying the golden rule in a very practical way such as caring for the needs of those around us – family members, the unfortunate, helping a friend who is in need, teaching a friend who is struggling with a particular subject, being there for a friend who is stuck in university/ college because of MCO, praying for a colleague who is going through tough times at work, etc.

We will be surprised at how God can change and transform the lives of people around us through us.

Will you take the first step of faith to be used by God in your community?



Mark Anantharaj

(with Sophia, wife & FES staff)

Assessment Officer,
Inland Revenue Board

Focussing On **CENTRAL**

Turning questions into an opportunity

How would you help a non Christian understand Christianity better?



Lyon Chua
(with wife & fellow staff, Monica)
Central Team Leader

Try reading the gospel together! Read on for the story...

How did you begin exploring the gospel of Mark, reading a chapter a week together over Zoom with the non-believer?

Early last year a student asked me to help him to answer some of the questions his friend had about Christianity. This went on for a while, until we asked what would best help him. We decided to go back to the foundation of our Christian faith that is Christ Himself!

Have you done this before?

This was my first time attempting to read a book of the Bible with a non-believer on a regular basis.

What stood out for the non-believer?

Aside from Christ's compassion was Christ's authority, the apparent conflict between Christ and the religious establishment and how easily faithless the disciples can be. At the end, what made him begin to consider Christianity was how vastly different Christ is, in comparison to the world today.

What did you learn from this experience?

Many of the things he observed and asked were things that I often overlooked or took for granted. One example was the feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6:30-44). It took me by surprise when he noticed how Christ not only taught the people but also commanded His disciples to feed them when they came to ask Him to send the people away to get food for themselves.

I also saw how the gospel is ultimately all about Christ; Who He is, His Work and Purpose, His Life, Death and Resurrection.

Bringing people to discover and encounter Christ through the Word speaks more powerfully than even a beautifully crafted gospel message!

We hope this testimony will encourage & challenge more of us to read the Bible with NOT just Christians. At the end, you will be amazed at how much you have also learnt about Jesus!

P/S: The student's friend finally committed his life to Christ when he saw the magnitude of Christ's death and how it reflected God's heart in contrast to his own sinful heart.



Focussing On SARAWAK

Berani berkongsi & tidak putus asa

Setelah belajar di Politeknik, saya mengikuti perkumpulan pelajar Kristian (IPCF) dan dari situ saya diberkati dengan luar biasa, bukan hanya dari segi rohani, malah seperti satu keluarga walaupun kami dari berbilang denominasi.

Praktikal merupakan sesuatu yang sangat kami takutkan dan ada juga rasa teruja sebab mahu merasa berpendapatan sendiri. Sangat asing bagi saya sebab kawan-kawan IPCF tiada lagi di sekeliling dan tidak henti-henti hati saya katakan, **"Ini dunia sebenar"**.

Walaupun pejabat bermula pukul 9.30 pagi, saya dan seorang staff sudah sampai jam 6.30 pagi sebab tempat tinggal kami jauh.

Pada suatu hari, saya bermula menceritakan bagaimana saya mendekatkan diri dengan Tuhan. Masa itu, hati saya berharap supaya dia juga berkongsi situasi dia seperti yang saya lakukan, tapi tidak. Saya tidak berputus asa untuk mengenal peribadi tersebut. Dan pada suatu pagi, tiba-tiba saya mendengar dia menangis dan suara tangisan dia semakin kuat. Saya mendekatinya walaupun saya tidak tahu apa yang harus saya buat dan sudah masuk waktu pejabat. Jadi saya mendoakan dia. Tidak lama kemudian dia sedar dari tangisan dan dia ucap terima kasih kepada saya.

Sejak itu, dia mula bercerita tentang apa yang dia alami dan saya membawa dia bersekutu bersama. Sampai ke hari ini, dia melayani kawan-kawan yang lain, malahan membawa mereka mengikut Bible study dan pergi ke gereja.

Ini semuanya bermula dengan perkongsian cerita saya bersama Kristus secara peribadi. Maka saya percaya kita mempunyai cerita kita masing-masing bersama Kristus yang boleh dikongsikan dan akan menjadi jambatan (berkat) penghubung mereka dengan Kristus.



Juliza anak Joss
Graduan Politeknik Kuching

Berasal dari Tinjar, Baram dan baru tamat pengajian, Juliza datang dari keluarga nominal Kristian dan tidak mengenal Tuhan sehinggalah dia melanjutkan pelajaran di Politeknik.

Support for students in East Malaysia who are studying in colleges & universities are crucial, especially for those who are from 2nd & 3rd generation believing families (even more so, for those from rural areas pursuing secondary school education and so are away from families).



LET'S CELEBRATE!



Borneo Tertiary Students Camp (BTSC) Online

16, 23, 30 Jan. 2021

A modified BTSC! We decided to have it over three Saturdays with meetings on weekdays for the different 'family' groups. This year, Sabahans were also invited to join as we had it online. Hear one of them share her experience (see bottom right of page).

This year's theme was **"TEGUH" (Steadfast)** specifically in **God, faith & prayer** based on Ephesians. We also touched on 3 issues - Mental Health, Voting and CF during this pandemic.



Gading family



Murud family



Kinabalu family



Wakid family



Santubong family



Serapi family



Singai family

Cara penyampaian Firman membuatkan saya lebih yakin dan teguh dalam Tuhan sebab saya pernah menyalahkan Tuhan. Rohani saya agak lemah sebab kurang sokongan secara rohani, kalau pergi gereja pun agak nadak riang bahu sebab ramai kawan tiada pergi gereja ~ Alvianna Risca (Regent College)



LET'S CELEBRATE!



BTSC *SPIN* *OFF...*

Two unexpected initiatives came out of BTSC - one from a student and the other, a staff. Here are the updates...



What's next? Workshop or forum is in the works!

1. RISE UP (RG) GENERATION MINISTRY

Joel Balang (UPSI) shares that BTSC taught him how to live as a community, especially during this crisis period. *It's about watching & caring for people around us. Not just to focus on "what I need" but also "what we need /what our needs are".*

As an action for this calling, he went on to create a new team/ministry in collaboration with church, which focusses on mental health issues, raising awareness & finding solutions together with members who're majoring in "Bimbingan & Kaunseling".

2. IPTGen, bah!

Anticipating that campus might not be opening soon and online learning will continue, an impromptu invitation was given to Sabahans to continue to meet until September so that we check in on each other. As we exchange stories, we end our time with reflection on passages from 2 Timothy.



Meets on Sundays, 11pm, once a month.

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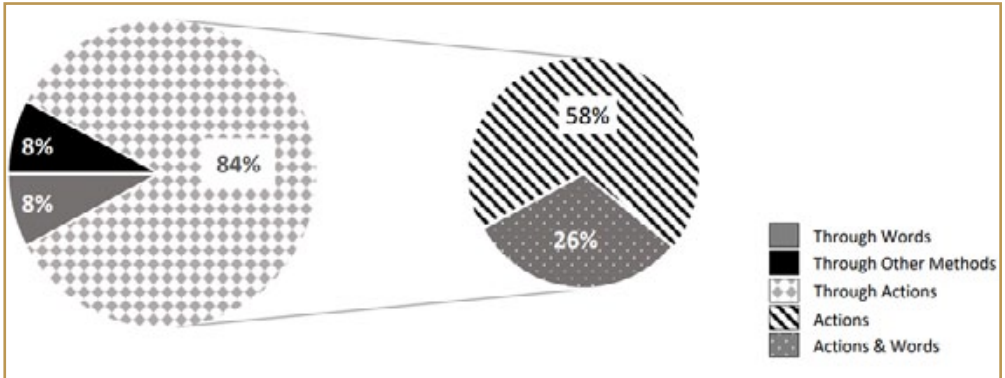
Up Next
National

Camp Cameron hybrid@regions
1-8 August

Focussing On **NORTH**

How should we do Evangelism?

Words?
Actions?



The 2-5 years that students spend in campus presents many opportunities for them to reach out to classmates or roommates with the message of the Gospel.

With this in mind, a small group of students in the northern region were polled and asked what they felt was the best way to share the Gospel. They were deliberately given just 3 options (actions, words, other methods) to give them a chance to think through & explain their responses.

About 1/3 of the responses came from students in private tertiary institutions and the rest were from government tertiary institutions.



The Northern Team
Carol, Grace (centre) & Gabriel

The bulk of the respondents (84%) chose action.

However, of this 84%, 26% explained that action should be paired with words. Those that chose “other methods” also stated that actions and words needed to be combined in order for the Gospel to be shared effectively. Hence, 34% chose actions & words.

The students who opted for “actions” felt that actions speak louder than words and that the way we act / live can either be a bridge or a hindrance in our attempts to share the Gospel. Another reason why they chose actions is because they felt that it was a more subtle approach and easier for a non-Christian to connect with. While all these may be true, we know that without actually sharing about what Christ has done for us on Calvary, the people around us will not know.

So, the challenge for the **students who chose only action** will be whether they are able to identify & seize the opportune moments to share the Gospel. **For those who chose only words**, the challenge is to demonstrate Christ's love to others in practical ways.

In short, both actions & words are needed for us to be able to make disciples of all nations!

Grace Yoong | Northern Team
Leader

I have found depressingly that many people think evangelism is reserved for full-time ministers, whether pastors, missionaries, or FES workers. Such a concept is completely foreign to the Bible, yet absurdly prevalent among the modern church.

“Bring your friends to this event!”, “Bring them to church!”. These are the common cries for modern evangelism, yet is that the Great Commission? We expect the unchurched to make the first move. Yet even there, do they hear the Gospel? Are they led to repentance of their sins? Do they hear the message of the cross?

We are fortunate people, with easy access to the Bible. In 1 Timothy 1:8-17, Paul says that the law used rightly shows people that they are sinners, yet Christ came to save them. Evangelism is vital because Christ is the only way, truth, and life. Those who do not come to Him will have no defence before God. Entrusted with a mission to save the dying, we must preach the Gospel confidently. *I highly recommend reading Tactics by Greg Koukl.* Let every Christian obey 1 Peter 3:15-16*.

The world will not be stepping into church any time soon. Christians need to bring the Gospel to the world.

So then,

Why is evangelism important to CF's?

Because Christ is the only way, truth, and life.

How would evangelism look like on campus?

See 1 Peter 3:15-16 and read Tactics for starters.

How can churches support students' evangelism efforts?

By preaching the Word of God faithfully, pointing to Christ and the Gospel. See 2 Timothy 3:16-17**.

* (1 Pet. 3:15-16) But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

** (2 Tim. 3:16-17) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



**Nicholas
Nathan
Nimbalker** | E&E Engineering,
University of
Southampton
Malaysia

7 January 2020: Flight from Kuching to Kota Kinabalu

The roller coaster life in a new region began. Why roller coaster?
As we now know, MCO began about 2 months later.

Starting over in Sabah is very different, even after being in Sarawak for 4 years.

It is a letting go of what I have observed there so that I can view things afresh through a Sabahan's lens first, before jumping to what I think they need.

Milestones, old & new.

I had the privilege of sharing in Poli CF & ILKMM CF as well as visiting SIDMA CF. I treasured my time there. Covid-19 certainly changed our timeline here. The next half of the year will also be another milestone - God willing, there will be another staff coming here for the work in this region as we do the pioneering work together.

God's gracious providence was evident in so many ways. Among them were:

- Finding an apartment cum office (from website) that I can feel safe in, within 2 trips to KK.
- Having a graduate, who collected my car from the port and drove it to the apartment plus providing me with a list of places to shop / eat (with the price range included).
- Fellow colleagues' initiative to help pack up in Kuching and help me clean the office.
- Providing a graduate from Kuching who started working here just before I did, who helped bring some of my things over.
- Being able to connect with CFs within that short window available before MCO. *Without this window, the work would have to wait again for the next season and staff.*

Please pray for us.

Pray for the ministry and for discernment how to serve as a team, in a timely way, to encourage & challenge the students in their faith as well as the uniqueness of their contributions to our nation.

Pounsikon!

(Thank you in bahasa Dusun)

Chong Eu Pui

Sabah Regional
Staff



TIMOR LESTE

Kernels of Wheat (K.O.W.)

p11

In Timor, we need to change the idea of what Evangelism is.

We focus not on merely sharing about God

but also with an intentional and continual effort to be a brother's keeper for the person whom we share or study the Word with.

We can see how the students slowly change and understand this concept of evangelism. One need not be a missionary, pastor or church leader to do this as we are called, each one of us, to do evangelism. *Friendship evangelism* as we call it, is one way it is being done in Timor and it takes time to build trust.

Through friendship we see students being open to God and having the initiative to bring their friend for a Bible study. When we started this calling of “+1 (plus one in Word)” 2 years ago, learning from Andrew's character in the Bible (John 1:40-41), we can see how this helps to grow the group through intentional journeying with a friend.

This is how evangelism is being done in Timor.



Chris Herbert | *Team Leader
(Seconded to
IFES East Asia
Timor Leste)*



Daniel (right) and Ageu are from Dili Institute of Technology (DIT) who came for the *KOW Bible Study Group Coming Together* event.

This picture shows how Friendship Evangelism needs to be done - standing side by side and being a Brother's Keeper. Daniel finished the Gospel of Luke together with a staff during last year's lockdown and is passionate about the Living Word.

As they approach their final year in campus, they have a desire for their peers to also know God and that this will prepare them to face the working world.

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