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Serve the East

Aug 2023

Sending the Youth to Mission



Pg 2 It is God Who Makes Them Grow



Pg 3 Walking Side by Side
With Indigenous Teachers



**TOGETHER WITH GOD'S CHILDREN,
WE SERVE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE,
THE MARGINALIZED GROUP IN OUR LAND.**

MINISTRY STRATEGY

EMPOWERMENT

To empower Indigenous churches in economy and education.

AWARENESS

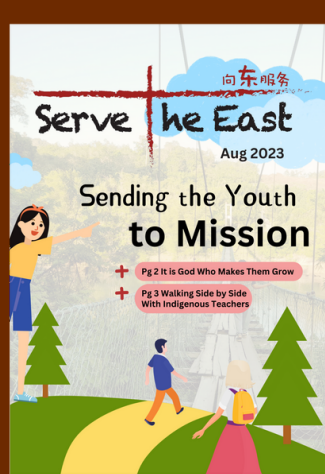
To share the vision of 'Yuan-Han Journeying Together' with Chinese speaking churches

SUPPORT

To link the Chinese speaking churches together in supporting indigenous churches

TRAINING

To equip Chinese speaking churches to involve in caring mission



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2023**

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Sending the Youth to Mission

Written by Isaac Goh



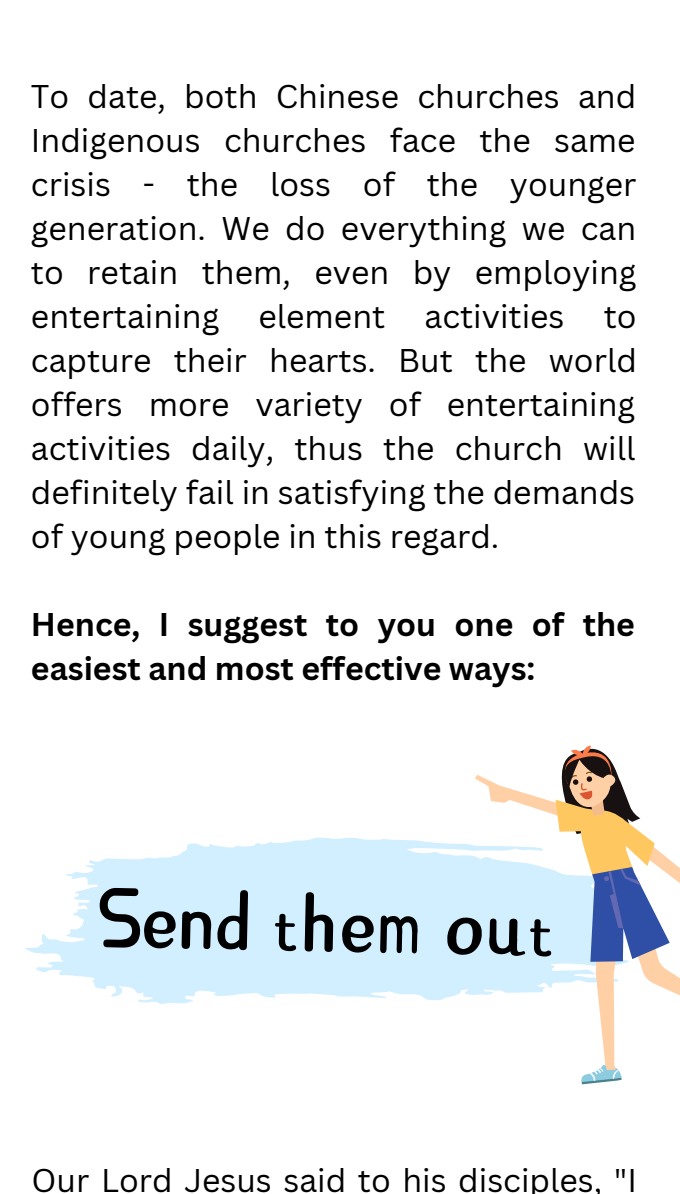
Micah Centre, which focuses on cross-cultural discipleship training, welcomed its sixth academic year in 2023. Over the past five years, we have discipled 33 trainees. God called them to be equipped at Micah Centre to learn and experience cross-cultural missions, infusing their lives with the "mission DNA" to fulfil Jesus' Great Commission.

By the grace of God, five graduates have committed themselves to cross-cultural missions, mainly serving Indigenous people in the interior of Sabah. Beside these five, another six graduates have chosen to be equipped in seminaries to prepare themselves for full-time ministry.

For the sixth batch of Micah training, God called six young brothers and sisters between 17 and 27 years old to enrol. In my eyes, they are all brave young people. Unlike in the past, we recruited two young Indigenous people this year. They are the Indigenous youth we met at our inland mission work in Sabah in these recent years.



I remember there was one afternoon when I ministered in their village last year, I saw a group of young people playing football on the field. At that sudden moment, God moved me, **He showed me not only the youth from Chinese churches will be equipped for mission but also gave me the hope to see God raises up young people among Indigenous churches to become Christian missionary soldiers.**



To date, both Chinese churches and Indigenous churches face the same crisis - the loss of the younger generation. We do everything we can to retain them, even by employing entertaining element activities to capture their hearts. But the world offers more variety of entertaining activities daily, thus the church will definitely fail in satisfying the demands of young people in this regard.

Hence, I suggest to you one of the easiest and most effective ways:

Send them out

Our Lord Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you to look, and you will see that the fields are ripe and ready to harvest."(John 4:35). Therefore, I call upon the church to send the youth out **to see and experience the needs of this world, to see the lost souls, to understand the heart of God in mission, and to find the true meaning of life - that is, to fulfil the mission of the Lord.**

The best gift we can offer to our young people is not to keep them by our side, nor to content ourselves by keeping them in the church, but to give them a mission in life just as the Lord Jesus did to the church - to make disciples of all nations.

This generation of youth is quick at learning new things and can adapt easily to cross-culture environments. **What they need most is not our provision of more knowledge or information but the giving of a mission to them to transform the lives of others, and then they will transform the world.**

Micah Centre has been established for six years, and its mission is to see more youth being sent out, so when they see the fields are white for harvest, they would be willing to respond to the Lord as the prophet Isaiah responded, "Here I am. Send me!"

Finally, I would like to call upon the church again

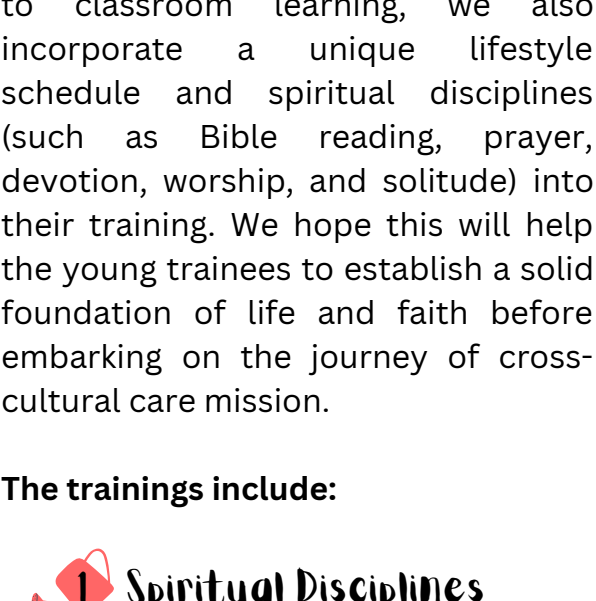
To send our youth out on a mission to fulfil the Lord's commission





Written by Isaac Goh

On 1st June 2023, Micah Centre's sixth cross-cultural discipleship training commenced officially



with four Chinese youths and two Kadazan-Dusun youths enrolled. This is the first time Micah Centre has recruited both Chinese and Indigenous trainees to learn and be equipped together in our discipleship training. I believe that this is a new undertaking from God, asking us to step out of our comfort zone to experience His grace.

Micah Centre is a training centre that focuses on shaping lives. In addition to classroom learning, we also incorporate a unique lifestyle schedule and spiritual disciplines (such as Bible reading, prayer, devotion, worship, and solitude) into their training. We hope this will help the young trainees to establish a solid foundation of life and faith before embarking on the journey of cross-cultural care mission.

The trainings include:

1 Spiritual Disciplines

A fruitful morning would be a good start for the day, dawn is therefore the best time for trainees to spend time in fellowship with God. Through regular devotion and Bible study, trainees would absorb the Word of God in great amounts. Not only does this help in the spiritual life of the trainees, but it also allows the Holy Spirit to shape their hearts and minds through the Word of God. "Private room prayer" periods are also assigned to each trainee to practise solitude and learn to listen to the voice of God. In addition to individual spiritual practices, Micah Centre also has group spiritual practices such as congregational worship, fasting and prayer, and intercession.

2 Discipline and Simplicity

Micah Centre requires trainees to live a "disciplined" and "simple" lifestyle during their training period. One of them is to foster an early-to-bed and early-to-rise routine. Trainees also learn to make their beds, do their laundry, and keep their rooms tidy and clean. Besides daily routines, Micah Centre also places great importance on the manners of trainees, hence providing special guidance in both etiquette and hospitality.

3 Serving Life

Everyone in Micah Centre has to learn to serve others. "Everyone" here includes the mentors, co-workers, and trainees of Micah Centre. Everyone learns to serve others through cleaning, cooking, farming, leading worship, and buying groceries at the supermarket. Although the trainees might not like all of the chores, yet they are still willing to learn humbly, living out a servanthood life.

4 Fellowship Life

During training, mentors and trainees live in Micah Centre and are surrounded by nature. Since everyone lives together, we have the opportunity to get to know each other up close, and close the gaps between us. At times, everyone is like friends, playing together and sharing with each other; other times, the trainees do remember their identities and roles, knowing how to respect the mentors and follow their instructions.

5 Life Mentorship

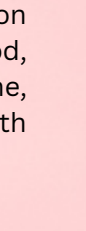
Not only can mentors and trainees establish mentor-mentee relationships through one-on-one life mentorship, but mentors can also follow up with and care about the lives of trainees. During the process, trainees also learn to open up their hearts and share their fears, doubts, struggles, or concerns with their mentor. The mentor will listen to the trainees, pray for their emotional and spiritual condition, hoping that they will once again experience our Heavenly Father's love, the healing of the Lord Jesus, and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

6 Cross-Culture

Mastering the language of the people we serve is the primary condition for cross-cultural missions. Micah Centre uses Malay Language as the medium of training; due to the presence of two Kadazan-Dusun trainees in this batch, the Malay communication skills of other trainees have improved significantly. Meanwhile, the two Kadazan-Dusun trainees also taught everyone their native language and traditional dances, thus exposing other trainees to an early cross-culture experience. On weekends, Micah Centre would arrange students to visit Indigenous families in rural areas as well as to participate in Indigenous churches' Sunday worships and funerals, to observe and learn about the Indigenous way of life.

Conclusion: It is God Who Makes Them Grow

In the process of training these young people to become disciples of the Lord, God often reminds me through the words of the apostle Paul, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." (1 Corinthians 3: 6) My earnest prayer is that, "Lord, it is not my job but yours to make them grow. What you want from me is to help them prepare and nurture their good soil of life so that the seed of God's words can be sown on it and bear fruit thirty times, sixty times, and a hundred times more!". "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15: 8)

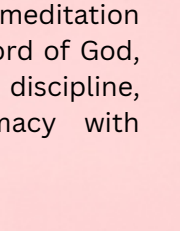


Sharing of the Trainees

Initially, I found it difficult to adapt to the environment here because I was not good at communicating with others in Malay Language. Communication became a major challenge for me, and I hope to overcome this challenge as soon as possible. On the other hand, I think that the training courses arranged by Micah Centre are great, it left a deep impression on me. I can maintain a disciplined life here, and I am now accustomed to going to bed and waking up early.



Elaine Ng
17, Kuantan



Goh Pay Song,
22, Melaka

Rifiana Akop,
23, Sabah

I really like the environment and atmosphere here; the view is just like Kundasang. I have learned many new things here, such as offering, meditation on the Word of God, spiritual discipline, and intimacy with God.

*If only helping is
as simple as giving food
to the hungry and water
to the thirsty...*

Walking Side by Side With

Written by Liong Z-Anne

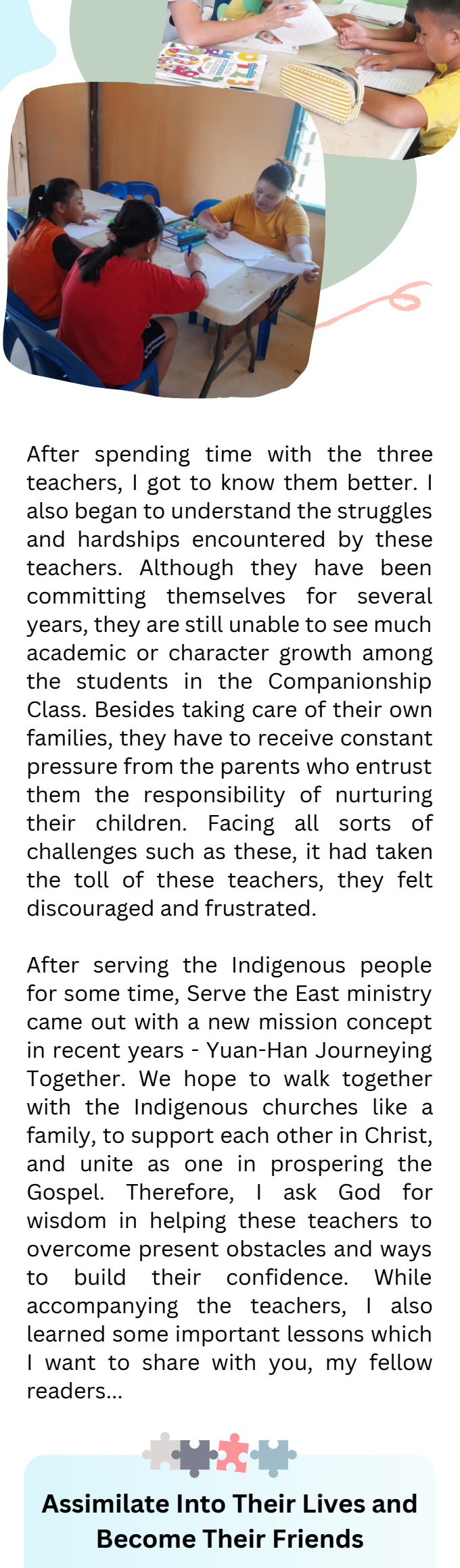
Indigenous Teachers

If only helping is as simple as giving food to the hungry and water to the thirsty...

In 2015, Kampung Kapur in rural Sabah set up its first rural companionship class. Rural Companionship Class (KTB) is an education centre, with Form 5 Indigenous graduates as teachers, using their after-school time to help primary school students in the village to complete their homework and studies of the day. Most of these students find it hard to keep up with the school's progress, especially in subjects such as English, Malay Language, and Mathematics, and the school work they brought home always leaves no sign of work on it. "Companionship Class" was set up to help these Indigenous students to improve their learning ability while building their character through biblical teachings and moral education. This differs from "tuition/tutorial classes";

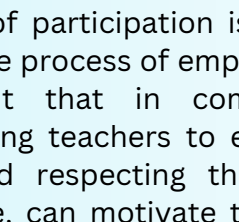
"companionship class" is a community empowerment program for marginalised Indigenous people in rural areas.

This Companionship Class has been established for nearly eight years but has always been tepid. However, despite the pandemic that hit three years ago and forced the suspension of the Companionship Class, the teachers still insisted on accompanying the students to complete their homework at home. In October 2022, I was stationed in the village and assigned to pay regular visits to the Companionship Class, keeping an eye on their progress. Recalling my first visit there, I remembered I saw a group of energetic students running outside the classroom door while the class was in progress. The situation was quite chaotic, and lost control due to the disciplining of the energetic and restless students while teaching, it was no joke at all. The teachers were comparatively helpless with such a form of teaching. However, as mothers, they believe that every child deserves a good education. Despite the difficulties, they did their best to guide the students through their homework.



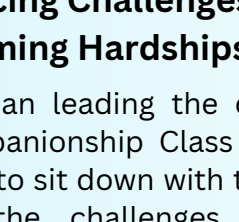
After spending time with the three teachers, I got to know them better. I also began to understand the struggles and hardships encountered by these teachers. Although they have been committing themselves for several years, they are still unable to see much academic or character growth among the students in the Companionship Class. Besides taking care of their own families, they have to receive constant pressure from the parents who entrust them the responsibility of nurturing their children. Facing all sorts of challenges such as these, it had taken the toll of these teachers, they felt discouraged and frustrated.

After serving the Indigenous people for some time, Serve the East ministry came out with a new mission concept in recent years - Yuan-Han Journeying Together. We hope to walk together with the Indigenous churches like a family, to support each other in Christ, and unite as one in prospering the Gospel. Therefore, I ask God for wisdom in helping these teachers to overcome present obstacles and ways to build their confidence. While accompanying the teachers, I also learned some important lessons which I want to share with you, my fellow readers...



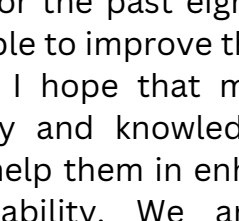
Assimilate Into Their Lives and Become Their Friends

Indigenous people value relationships and are very perceptive of others and their surroundings. We must first earn their trust before we share ways to overcome hardships and improve their situation. It takes time to build relationships, understand their situation, and let them feel our genuineness while forming bonds with them. Hence, I occasionally play sports or go to the riverside with them. I would also often take the initiative to visit their homes. As a result of continuous fellowship and sincere sharing, the teachers and I have gradually developed a sense of trust towards each other.



Respect Their Voice and Value Their Opinions

A sense of participation is an integral part of the process of empowerment. It turns out that in communication, encouraging teachers to express their views and respecting them as they should be, can motivate them to take up responsibilities in overcoming their hardships and continuing the mission of the Companionship Class. Therefore, we need to have a humble and open heart to listen to their thoughts and learn to accept their views so that we can better understand the needs and challenges of the children through their sharing, for only teachers can best understand the needs of students.



Facing Challenges and Overcoming Hardships Together

Rather than leading the operation of the Companionship Class alone, I see the need to sit down with the teachers, discuss the challenges faced, and develop a better teaching and classroom management plan for the Companionship Class together. Additionally, the teachers and I would visit the parents to understand the student's family background and living situation, indirectly collecting information regarding villagers' views on education and the impact of the Companionship Class on the students.

This is my Yuan-Han journey with the teachers for the past eight months. It is impossible to improve their situation overnight. I hope that my long-term accompany and knowledge in social work will help them in enhancing their teaching ability. We are currently looking for an English teacher who is willing to commit to helping the three Companionship Class teachers to master English and improve their self-confidence and creativity in teaching. Please pray for us so that we can find the right person. I hope that through the determination and enthusiasm of these three teachers, this seemingly ordinary Companionship Class can continue to ignite each child's desire to study. **Through Companionship Classes, we hope to help more Indigenous children in becoming students with both academic and moral excellence, reaching their full potential and positively impacting their communities.**



Companionship Class teachers showcased their masterpiece in a fellowship's activity.

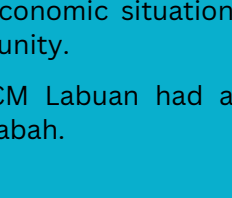
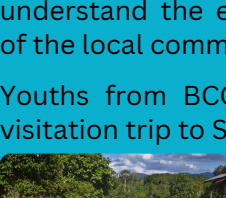


Serve the East Updates

Prayer Items

May

5th Siew Yoong, a volunteer at Serve the East department, was stationed in Kampung Rui for two months to train the youth and women from the local Indigenous church and to prepare teaching materials for their Sunday School.



6th Co-workers met the local teachers to follow up and discussed the Christians Student Ministry at the local secondary school.

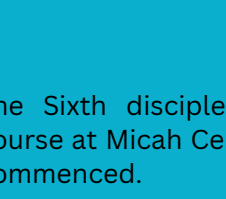
10th-15th Co-workers visited the Youth Fellowship's president of Kampung Kapur. They also conducted family and community visits to better understand the economic situation of the local community.

11th-16th Youths from BCCM Labuan had a visitation trip to Sabah.



14th-17th Co-workers visited the church leaders and pastor of Kampung Kalan to share their vision and ministries, understand the needs of the church, and to visit the communities.

18th Co-workers led a fellowship meeting with Companionship Class' teachers to discuss the plans and activities for the second half of the year.



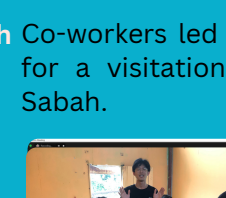
20th Principal Isaac Goh was invited to share his personal testimony in a campus fellowship at Sabah's Campus Crusade for Christ.

29th Principal Isaac Goh was invited to share the Sabah Indigenous missionary work in an online course of Malaysia Bible Seminary.

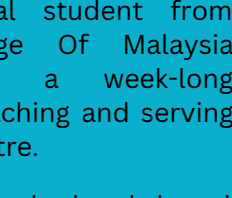
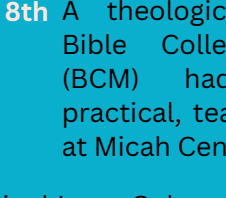
1st The Sixth discipleship training course at Micah Centre officially commenced.

Jun

3rd Opening ceremony of the Sixth discipleship training course of Micah Centre.



10th Yuan-Han Journeying Together online workshop: Economic Empowerment for Rural Indigenous Communities (Session 1).



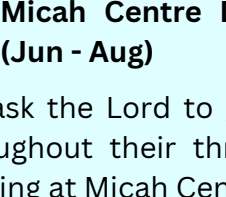
25th Principal Isaac Goh was invited to share the culture of Sabah's Indigenous people in the short-term missionary training at Christian Fellowship Center (CFC).

30th Co-workers led trainees of Micah Centre for a visitation trip into the inland of Sabah.

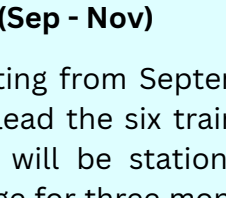


8th A theological student from Bible College Of Malaysia (BCM) had a week-long practical, teaching and serving at Micah Centre.

16th Principal Isaac Goh preached and shared STE ministry at Sabah Gospel Church.



17th Co-workers and trainees from Micah Centre visited the stateless ministry of El-Shaddai Centre Sabah.



30th Aboriginal Victory Association from Taiwan visited Micah Centre.

Prayer Items

1 Micah Centre Discipleship Training (Jun - Aug)

We ask the Lord to guide the six trainees throughout their three months stay and training at Micah Centre. We pray that they will experience God's hand in transforming and shaping their lives, to prepare them to serve the Indigenous people.

2 Micah Centre Internship (Sep - Nov)

Starting from September, our co-workers will lead the six trainees of Micah Centre who will be stationed at an Indigenous village for three months to complete their internship. We ask the Lord to lead all the preparation work and to use the trainees to serve the Indigenous people.

3 Companionship Class at Kampung Kapur

For some personal reasons, two teachers of this Companionship Class had to step down temporarily until the end of this year. We managed to find substitute teachers for the Companionship Class. Pray that the Lord will grant wisdom to these two new teachers. Beside this, please continue to keep in your prayers the classroom's renovation work at the Companionship Class, pray that our Lord will provide all of our needs, so that the renovation work will complete successfully.

4 Secondary School Student Ministry at Kampung Kalan

We give thanks to the Lord that the local secondary school Christian Fellowship has been approved by the school and can recommence. Please pray for the upcoming discipleship training for the students.

5 Short-term Mission Trips to Sabah

These Chinese speaking churches from Peninsula Malaysia will be going into the inland of Sabah for a short-term mission. Please pray for God's leading hand and protection be upon them;

- Aug 11-16 : True Blessing Church Skudai
- Sep 13-20 : Penang Christian Centre (PCC)
- Sep 29 - Oct 5: Kuala Lumpur Christian Fellowship Centre (CFC)

弥迦学院第六届结业礼兼筹款晚宴

6th Graduation cum Fundraising Dinner

皇子宴会厅  PUTERA



1 DECEMBER 2023
(FRIDAY)



7:00PM - 10:00PM







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