

向东服务

Serve the East

AUGUST 2021



**Together with God's children,
we serve the Indigenous people,
the marginalized group in our land.**

MINISTRY STRATEGY

E

EMPOWERMENT

To empower Indigenous churches in economy and education.

A

AWARENESS

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

S

SUPPORT

To connect Chinese churches in supporting Indigenous churches

T

TRAINING

To equip Chinese churches in cross-cultural caring mission



For those interested to involve in ministry please contact Chiok Ann Nee at 010-297 9638



ADDRESS | 36-B (2nd Floor), Jalan Anggerik Vanilla R31/R, Kota Kemuning, 40460 Shah Alam, Selangor.

TEL | +603 5122 1130

EMAIL | info.ste@histeam.org.my

WEBSITE | www.histeam.org.my

BANK ACC | Maybank 5127-8101-2599
Holistic Integrated Services Bhd

CONTENT

1

YUAN-HAN VISION

Unfold the Covenant of our Land:
Indigenous People as the Firstborn

2

WORDS OF CEO

New Discoveries on the Ancient Path of
Yuan-Han Journeying Together (Part 2)

3

A STORY OF YUAN-HAN

Sarawak's Unreached People Group
- the Penan

4

MICAH STORY

Changing in Relationship:
From Church Member to Family Member

5

MINISTRY UPDATE

Resilience in Adversity: New Opportunity
for Sabah Rural Preschool Ministry

6

PRAY FOR US

Pray for Our Ministry

EDITORIAL BOARD

PUBLICATION AUGUST 2021

Publisher : Rev. Andrew Wong

Editor in Chief : Jowee Lee

Editor : Carol Lim, Z-Anne Liong

Design : Isaac Goh



UNFOLD THE COVENANT OF OUR LAND

Indigenous People as the *Firstborn*

Below are the highlights of the STE Online Vision Casting Session (31 May 2021), shared by Rev. Daniel Chin, who is the Pastor of Kota Kinabalu Bread of Life Apostolic Centre, Facilitator of Perpaduan Anak Negeri Sabah, Acting Chairman of Christian Organizations Sabah Alliance (COSA).

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him.” (Acts 17:26-27)

From these two verses, Rev. Chin pointed out that the revelation here is not just applicable in the Old Testament, but God’s destiny is also evident for our people in Malaysia. Where we were born, in which people group we belonged – these are all in God’s sovereign plan. Rev. Chin noticed that different people may hold different perceptions towards the people of the land. However, addressing them as the “Indigenous People” – people who are the first to live on this land (First Nation People) is more appropriate. From the spiritual perspective, with this identity given to them are also the authority and responsibility over the land: to protect and bring revival to the land. This in turn determines the blessings that the other races can receive.



Rev. Chin shared three verses that guided him in serving the Indigenous people for many years.

1. God Appointed the Indigenous People as the Carer of this Land

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Genesis 2:15)

Adam and Eve were the first inhabitants in the Garden of Eden. They were given the duty to care for the garden. In the same way, the Indigenous people are the first inhabitants in our land, and have been given the task to care for this land.

2. The Firstborn of our land – the Indigenous People

“This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me...” (Exodus 4:22-23)

Rev. Chin understood that just like Israel is chosen as the firstborn of all nations, there must a firstborn in the land. For Rev. Chin, for the land of Malaysia, this position is given to the Indigenous people. He believes that just as how the nations will be blessed through their association with Israel, when we (the other races) are connected with the Indigenous people, we will also be blessed. Therefore, if we the people commit to our relationship with the firstborn of this land, we too will surely enter into His blessings.

3. The Indigenous People are the Keepers of the Gates

“Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.” (Psalms 24:7)

There is a “door” that sees to receive the entry of Lord Jesus. The Indigenous people have the authority to open this spiritual “door”. In the past, there were controversies among the races, statements like “go back to India or China”. But if the Indigenous people speak up in arguments, they would not be met with such demands. In 1964, the Sabah Indigenous leaders oversaw the joining of Sabah into the Malaysian nation. For this, Rev. Chin is convicted that the Indigenous people are the gate keepers of this land.

Lastly, Rev. Chin encouraged that although we may not have too much to give, we can always walk with the Indigenous people as one family in God’s kingdom. When we can see the Indigenous people in their true identity, to honour them as the firstborn of this land, and have them assuming the rightful place, we can together inherit the blessings of this land, and to receive the glorious Kingdom of God in our nation.

PART 2

New DISCOVERIES

on the Ancient Path of
Yuan-Han Journeying Together



[Click here to read
article \(Part 1\)](#)



REV. ANDREW WONG

GREAT
DISCOVERY

2

It is only through LISTENING, that you truly know what's the plan God has destined for you – Abundant life, exciting masterpiece, and amazing destiny!

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27) From the time we knew our Lord Jesus, we learnt to read and meditate on His words; through His words, we listen to His voice; and through prayers and worship, we talk to God in all circumstances. This spiritual practice is our life offering, a service that children of God (sheep) are to offer as long as we live, a service that none others can substitute.

And if we truly want to know the Indigenous people in Sabah and other places, we have to apply the same principle of listening – to devote our time to interact and build genuine relationships with them. It's only with sincere and heart-to-heart interaction, willingness to accept their unique differences with the help of Jesus' love, that we can truly hear the agony and misery of the firstborns of this land. In this way, we can eventually overcome the barriers of cultural and physiological differences, forge closer relationship with the Indigenous people.

GREAT
DISCOVERY

3

It is only through PONDERING, that you can truly see God's presence and grace in all that you have been through and experienced – be it good times and the bad.

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.” (Lamentations 3:4) The hardest lesson to learn, for children of God as we walk with our Great Shepherd, is the habit to reflect and ponder in our hearts. We must learn to be like Mary to always come before the feet of Christ, to sit and listen silently, to meditate and ponder in her heart; and with the guidance of the Spirit of Truth, to convict and rebuke ourselves regarding sin, righteousness, and judgement. A believer who earnestly examine and ponder on himself, is a believer who reaps in abundance on his spiritual journey, one whose heart is the good soil, always ready for God's words and vision to be sowed in his life.

In this Yuan-Han journey, the Chinese believers must learn to examine ourselves, to see if we have offended or hurt the Indigenous in our past interactions with them. We recalled, between 2013 and 2014, we created opportunities for Chinese believers to reflect and repent on the actions of our forefathers who took from the natives their land, their rights, and their lives. After offering the most heartfelt apologies and commitment to reconcile with the people of the land, we began to witness how God opened the doors for us to connect and fellowship with our Indigenous brethren that not only opened up new paths of ministry, but more so the door between our hearts! Hallelujah!

...to be continued

Sarawak's unreached people group

the PENAN

Story shared by Alfred Yeh

The Penan tribe is a minority nomadic Indigenous people living in Sarawak and Brunei. Before the missionaries reached them post-World War 2, most of the Penan still live the nomadic ways in very remote forest. They are unreached people with only 5% of them are Christians. There are 60 churches among them, but 95% of these churches have no pastor. This is because the journey to reach them is dreadfully long, require several hours of walk. Besides, the pastors are poorly paid and are facing lots of rejection from the Penan.

The literacy rate of the Penan is very low. Not every child has the opportunity to receive education and some of them do not even have NRIC.

Therefore, Brother Alfred and his team dedicated themselves to serve the local youth, especially those students living in the school's hostel. The team evangelise, provide life training, Bible study and character building courses with the hope to disciple them to become mature Christians who can then disciple other believers. According to Brother Alfred, the printing of Penan language Bible has been stopped for nearly ten years. Therefore, they provide audio Bible in Penan language to the locals, but it is not for free. They do home visitation, if necessary, also provide food to those in need. It's always a great challenge to reach them and the team often encounters spiritual warfare, such as car breakdown during their trips. **But all these efforts are deemed worthwhile because the Penan are loved by our Heavenly Father.**

Brother Alfred urged more Christians to care for the Penan. He was touched by the verse in Mark 8:34. As he experienced God's love, he is willing to deny himself, take up the cross, follow the Lord and go into the Penan to serve them.

Bro Alfred Yeh from Miri, responded to God's calling to serve the Penan tribe in 2014. He joined GCGC as volunteer in 2017. He then served as full-timer in 2018. Now he joined as part-time mission worker in Miri Gospel Chapel.



Changing in Relationship

From Church Member to Family Member

Story shared by

Timothy Lee

“To avoid going to crowded spaces, we minimised the number of descents, turning to our neighbouring Indigenous families to purchase fresh vegetables and fruits, this helped us to sustain our life on the hill. Unexpectedly, this has enhanced our relationship with the Indigenous people from mere church members, meeting once a week, to become friends or even family members.”

During the pandemic, everyone stays at home, only one person is allowed to leave the house to buy daily necessities. It becomes a new norm for each household, to plan ahead the purchase quantity, prepare sufficient storage place, put on facial mask before going out in the midst of some concerns. It is everyone’s responsibility to contain the pandemic with no exception to our three mentors and eight trainees in Micah Centre. Our mentors had to made some adjustments on how shopping is to be done.

The journey from Micah Centre to the hypermarket takes around 30 minutes, and the ride is rugged and bumpy. Due to MCO, the travelling radius is restricted to 10km, hence, limited the choice of hypermarkets resulting in us buying our daily necessities at a much higher price. Since the beginning of the pandemic and early stages of MCO, many people were panic buying causing urban residents to face the threat of “food shortages”. But all these have no effect on most of the Indigenous families who farm their own crops. Despite the extension of the MCO, the Indigenous people can still sustain their livelihood with own planted crops, although the same cannot be said of their family income.



There is an Indigenous church less than 15 minutes away from Micah Centre. Every Sunday, we will go to this church and worship together with them. When our mentors learned that some Indigenous families couldn’t transport their fruits and vegetables to the local market for sale, which has greatly affected their family income, they decided to change their shopping routes in order to support the Indigenous people, the firstborn of this land. Unexpectedly, such a change has not only reduced the number of trips down the hill, avoid crowded and confined spaces, they also get to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at much cheaper price. This helps to contribute to the income of the Indigenous families and also forges a closer relationship with them.

One of the mentors commented, “In the past, we only meet them once a week on Sunday, now because of buying their product, we have more opportunities to connect and chat with them. Sometimes they would invite us for meal and we will chat until we lost track of time. It’s beyond our expectation that our relationship can progress from being friendly to friends and to even like families. For us, this is the beauty of Yuan-Han Journeying Together!”

Such encounters led us to re-evaluate what is cross-cultural ministry. It is not just a weekly gathering, more often, it is a relationship, intercepting each other’s life. It’s akin to Jesus’ sacrifice that make it possible for sinners to be reconciled with Heavenly Father, also for the Indigenous people as we are all children of God. Therefore, in Christ, we are to help, serve, build up and edify one another, all for the glory of God!



New Opportunity for Sabah Rural Preschool Ministry

RESILIENCE

in Adversity

Story shared by Carol Lim

At the beginning of 2010, the committee of SIB Sabah Preschool Ministry (JPPS), aimed to provide a good head start for Indigenous children in the area of education as well as safeguarding the faith of their next generation, started to collaborate with local churches to establish 90 preschool centres in the interior of Sabah.

The pandemic continues to wreck the nation early last year, bringing much hardships and misery to many people, particularly the rural Indigenous children. Sister Rumba, head of JPPS, lamented that they were at a loss upon hearing that the rural preschool centres were forced to suspend their classes. At that time, God's words in Isaiah 60:1-2 provided the much needed encouragement to her: "Arise, shine! See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you."

She was uplifted, and together with her colleagues, they started to send these scripture verses to encourage the other preschool teachers, to remain strong and bold in facing the challenges caused by the pandemic. **Despite the unwelcome change of events, she did not lose faith in God, instead, continued to believe that God is still in control.**



JPPS immediately convened a meeting and drew up action plans for teachers to continue assisting students in their learning during the closure of the centres. Teachers are to submit their weekly teaching plans to the headquarters. As long as the plan is feasible, it can be approved. Even with an approved plan, implementation remain challenging for centres situated in the interior of Sabah. Many centres are located in rural areas where there is no power supply and the communication network is poor or unavailable. For villages with accessibility to telecommunication networks, teachers can WhatsApp the weekly homework and activities to parents. But for rural areas with weak or no network connectivity, teachers have to personally walk to villages to deliver the weekly homework to either the village chief, parents or students. After a week, the teachers will again walk to collect the students' completed homework and distribute new set of homework. **The pandemic has forced teachers to make adjustments in the teaching, also created new ways and opportunities for teachers and parents to work with each other to help their children to complete the homework at home.**

When MCO was lifted at the end of last year, the centres resumed their classes. But the good times did not last long. In June this year, the pandemic in Sabah worsen. The government implemented the EMCO, forcing the centres to once again suspend their classes. Having experienced similar suspension last year, the teachers are no longer at a loss, they know how to deal with it. Even so, teachers are still facing huge constraints and challenges, such as inferior learning equipment and underdeveloped communication facilities. Therefore, your prayer support is sought to intercede for the Lord to grant the teachers, wisdom and abilities, to deal with the challenges ahead.

HISTEAM works with Chinese churches to fund 12 rural pre-schools in JPPS. If you are interested to support them financially, please kindly contact Carol Lim (012-4240118).

PRAY

FOR OUR MINISTRY

1. EMPOWERMENT

RURAL COMPANIONSHIP CLASS

UPDATES The school holiday ended in June, but due to MCO, school remained closed, teachers had to arrange homework for students to complete from home. Two of our companionship class teachers were prepared to receive students to their own house to provide homework guidance for those who need assistance, subject to strict compliance with standard operating procedures (SOP).

PRAYER Pray that children in rural areas can learn and master the fundamental knowledge through the homework specially arranged by their teachers. At the same time, grant wisdom to the two Indigenous teachers to effectively teach and guide the children.

2. AWARENESS

ONLINE VISION CASTING / PRAYER

UPDATES In the 3rd online Vision Casting cum Prayer Meeting, Pastor Lam Kee Hing shared about the challenges faced by the Indigenous churches, and we prayed for the Indigenous churches with the participants. We will usher in the 4th online prayer meeting on 13th September. To register, please contact Carol at 012-4240118.

PRAYER Pray for God's guidance in this bi-monthly online gathering to enhance attendees' knowledge on "Yuan-Han" ministry, and raise more Chinese churches to be proactive in caring for the Indigenous communities that have long been neglected in our country.

3. SUPPORT

RURAL PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

UPDATES Due to MCO, the preschool centres cannot conduct classes as before. In rural areas, due to lack of telecommunication facilities and poor internet connectivity, teachers are not able to conduct online classes. They can only assign homework for students to complete from home.

PRAYER Pray for teachers not to lose faith but remain steadfast despite facing difficulties and challenges. Pray that parents will cooperate and provide supervision to help their children, complete the homework at home.

4. TRAINING

MICAH CENTRE

UPDATES The training has come to the 4th month, and the trainees have adapted to the lifestyle of the training: disciplined and simplicity, teamwork, and spiritual practice. Malay language learning and communication is one of the most important training in cross-cultural mission, and it is also a challenge for most trainees. By reading the Malay Bible, reciting Malay scriptures, learning Malay songs, and pray in Malay, they began to have a better mastery of the use of Malay language.

MCO prevented some teachers from going to Micah Centre, and there is no Internet signal in Micah Centre. As a result, many classes were delayed and internships were also affected. The three mentors continued to lead the training and arrange internships as best as they could.

PRAYER Pray that the training runs smoothly during the pandemic. Pray for the teachers and co-workers so that they are not timid as God has given them a strong, loving, and disciplined heart. We also ask God to give them wisdom in teaching. Please pray for the trainees as some of them have poor physical conditions (stomach pain, back pain, lack of energy). They have started the internship in 16 August. Pray that the Lord will open the way, so that the mentors will make wise arrangements in the unstable situation of the pandemic. The trainees also need to raise fund for their internship. Pray that God provide.

I thank my God every time I
remember you... because of your
partnership in the gospel from the
first day until now. (Philippians 1:3,5)

END

