



MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH **FOOD AND GOSPEL**

by Mary Anne (Jumble Station)

Irene Tong Gek Siang looks much older than her age but that's because she has been a struggling single mother for the last 23 years. Her hubby died of an illness just after the birth of her second son Jackson Kwan leaving her to care for him and the older boy Jason.

Lacking an education herself, Irene was forced to look for jobs that required little academic qualifications which meant doing office cleaning, washing clothes for others, becoming a sales assistant in shopping malls and becoming a waitress.

As the boys grew older, the struggle to feed their growing appetites became harder even as jobs for the uneducated became scarcer and finance became very tight. When the cost of food spiraled upwards, Irene was forced to take on two to three different jobs just to put food on the table. She was hardly at home to see her two boys growing and it took a toll on her health and her well-being.

Last year, the stress of coping was too much and she fell really ill. She decided to stick to only one job, waitressing while her eldest Jason went into Segi College to take up design studies with the help of a PTPTN loan and her younger son was in Form Four.

Nevertheless, the struggle to help pay for his design centric books and put food on the table as well was a major struggle. That is until Jumble Station and Foodbank came into the picture.

Jumble Station (JS) donated a fridge, sofa set, beds for her sparse flat while CES's Foodbank gave her groceries on a monthly basis for the whole of last year. For Irene, the rice, oil and tinned food helped to ease her financial burden more so when she was forced to leave one restaurant because of a difficult boss and couldn't find another job for one month and did not have enough money even to pay for her flat rental.

The care and concern displayed by Christians during this difficult period of her life has made such an impact that by the end of 2010, Irene and her two boys accepted Christ and are now attending a church just a walk away from USJ1. "Before when I was a non Christian, I had no body to turn to for help now, as a Christian, I have God by my side, loving and caring for me and my two boys and I am really so happy and not afraid of the future any more," she testified recently.

For Irene and her two boys, Foodbank's monthly assistance brought the comfort of food and God into their lives and for that, this family is ever grateful!

STRUGGLES

OF A SINGLE FATHER

by Mary Anne (Jumble Station)



Most people are very concerned when a woman becomes a single mother struggling to care and feed her kids. Single fathers don't usually get as much attention because the general view is that men should be able to do it on their own as natural providers but in some cases, the struggle to be parent and provider can be really hard for a single father.

Hasrun Manaf found himself in this difficult situation in late 2009 when his wife who went to work as a GRO back in her hometown Johor Baru for a year, decided instead she wanted to be free and independent and wanted out of the marriage, despite having three young sons. The youngest was only 2 years old and was being cared for by his mother-in-law who had grown quite attached to the little tyke.

The two other boys, one only six years old and the other boy eight years old, became Hasrun's chief responsibility. Now he had to juggle between his job as a lorry driver for a small company in Subang and being a father to two growing and ever hungry kids.

It was a struggle because he was earning only RM1,000 a month and had to pay for the rental of his flat which was RM450 a month and have some left over to feed his boys as well as for their schooling. Jumble Station (JS) learnt of his struggle and together with Foodbank, stepped in to assist with monthly groceries for the whole of 2010 as well as earning extra ringgits from delivering and collecting items on behalf of JS.

A very shy and diffident man, Hasrun is voluble in his praise for the invaluable assistance this monthly offer of rice, cooking oil and foodstuff has been to his "ever hungry" family. "Pertolongan dari CES dan JS betul-betul baik, kalau tidak anak saya lapar sangat dan gaji saya tak cukup untuk beli barang runcit. Lagi pun harga barangan runcit makin tinggi saya berhormat dapat pertolongan dari CES. Ribuan terima kasih".

CHICKEN OR FISH

by Mary Anne (Jumble Station)

Most of us are spoilt for choice when it comes to eating. We can choose between eating meat or seafood and vegetables and we get to eat them on a daily basis. Not so for single mother Mariammah a/p Alakamalai who was deserted by her husband Muniandy some three years ago and has had to single handedly bring up her three sons without any help from her family members because they too are poor.

Her eldest Sivanathan is 16 years old, the second son Kannan is 14 years old and the youngest Karthik is 11 years old. Mariam who is uneducated, works in a factory at USJ1 and earns only RM650 a month.

She has to pay RM420 for the rental of her flat and RM70 for van transport to send Karthik to school while the two older boys walk to school come rain or shine. With only RM160 left each month, she and the boys have been surviving on eating rice with curry gravy and a little vegetables but no

meat or fish. Even then, the rice is carefully shared by them to ensure it last till the next pay day!

Chicken or fish is definitely a luxury that they get to eat only once in 5 months, hence they all looked rather undernourished and thin when Jumble Station (JS) and CES's Foodbank discovered their plight. Since then, Foodbank has been providing them with monthly groceries of rice, oil, canned foods, milk, sugar and flour while JS has been instrumental in getting the van fee paid and enabling Siva, the eldest, to work after school at JS for RM10 a day. This money is then used to buy fish or chicken for the family as well as for anything extra they may need.

A very happy Mariam, a Christian, has this to say: "Saya terima kasih Jesus kerana CES Foodbank dan Jumble Station banyak tolong saya dan anak anak saya. Kalau tidak, hidup kita susah sangat. God Bless you all!"





from hopelessness to
HOPE
 by Oh Bee Leng



“I am a widow with 6 children to feed. I have to work very hard. I walk very far every day to get bamboo shoots carrying 30kg on my small frail body alone. And at the end of the day I only make an income that averages RM30 per day. I have been doing this for years and sometimes shedding tears in hopelessness that nobody will help me. I thank God for sending in the church to come to my aid. I have come to know God and love Him and His family. Together they have provided for me and given me aid that has relieved me of having to do that strenuous work. Foodbank has shown me much care in being part of that relief and I am very grateful to God for it.”

“We are very grateful for the Ministry of Foodbank in providing us food supplies these past 2 years. The relief has lightened our burdens. Recently the shops in our village had withheld selling oil for whatever the reasons. Other shops were very far from our village. For a month we had no oil to cook as our resources were depleted. Then, came the Foodbank supplies and we were greatly relieved.”

**HE IS OUR
 HEALER AND PROVIDER**

Matthew 9:37 - “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”

by Timothy Lee

PBCC was set up in November 2008, when a brother saw the plight of the refugees in the Selayang Pasar Borong area and with the help of CES Foodbank started to provide the refugees with free meals every Sunday.

The Lord put Alan in touch with several churches and individuals and PBCC is now sponsored by –

1. DUMC
2. River of Life
3. FGA (Selayang)
4. Grace Assembly
5. CFC
6. Individuals



*Early days of PBCC, Sunday free meal.
 Now 40 regulars attend this.*

PBCC has expanded its facilities and is now providing English classes, Computer classes, and since June 2010 has a Myanmar Cell Group meeting every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the centre. The Lord has also provided a Myanmar Pastor to run the cell and it has 14 members. PBCC is looking for volunteer teachers to help in educating the refugees.



Chris Fung Hrang conducting CG meeting in PBCC
Chris Fung Hrang conducting CG meeting in PBCC



Education Level 1 -3



Education Pre-school



PBCC Picnic / Outing

A Ministry cannot be complete with no miracles and healings. On one occasion, a Myanmar women came for prayers. Her husband had been scolding her daily and wants to send her back to Myanmar. After prayers, her husband had not scolded her since.

Woman with diabetes for seven years went to local clinic to seek cure for fever. Doctor gave an injection that broke the fever but caused the cells around the injection to die, resulting in a hard lump. The lump was removed by a local hospital, leaving a gapping hole on the thigh. The hole began to heal after prayers. It is completely healed now.



Gapping hole after removing lump



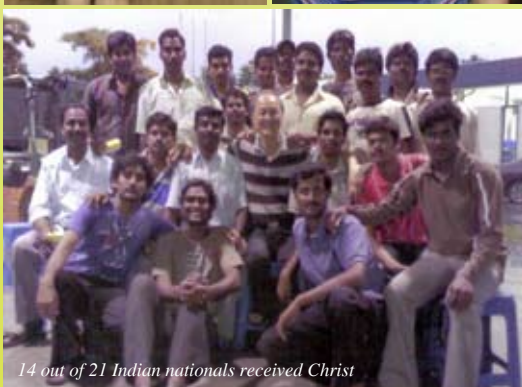
1 month after prayer



Chinese Nationals who accepted the Lord

So far PBCC has seen 24 salvations. 14 of these were Indian nationals who were cheated by the agents, finding no jobs or accommodation on arrival from India. They were staying in Batu Caves but had no money and passport. CREST and Tenaganita referred them to PBCC and food was provided to them. 3 salvations were from Chinese nationals and the rest Myanmaris.

See a need, meet it.



14 out of 21 Indian nationals received Christ

TOGETHER WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

by Timothy Lee

In March 2010, we were approached by a Falam Refugee Organisation (FRO) to help in whatever way possible, as there are too many refugees who are in need of urgent help. They were referred to us by Tenaganita, an NGO protecting the rights of women migrant workers and fight against human trafficking.

Falam is a tribe of the Chins state of Myanmar. They are mainly Christians. Our first response was to provide food packs from the Foodbank. The first deployment of 30 packs was delivered in April 2010 followed by 40 packs for May, 48 for June and 50 for July. The following are pictures of some families benefiting from this.



Pastor Thomas, wife and baby Paul

Pastor Thomas Thawm Hu Thang is a volunteer pastor. He is suffering from Tuberculosis. He cannot find employment because of his illness. He has a wife and 2 sons. His younger son, 9 months old baby Paul has a heart problem. Only 3 valves in his little heart are working. UN has secured a place for them in US to enable baby Paul to get immediate medical attention. The mother and child is awaiting issue of air tickets. Pastor Thomas and the other child will have to stay behind for 2 years until he is completely cured of TB.

Lal Eng Zau, another family receiving food pack from Foodbank. Lal is also suffering from Tuberculosis and he has yet to seek treatment. Lal is also unable to find employment because of his health. The family is depending on handouts and loans. Arrangement is being made for his wife to work, while the children attend school.



Sui Ngun Par & baby Peter

Sui Ngun Par with 7 months old baby Peter Thian is also dependent on handouts and loan. They are struggling to pay the RM200 monthly rental. Her husband, David Siang Lian has been detained and held in detention for more than a year. Baby Peter is suffering from defects caused by delayed birth as an operation cannot be performed without the father's approval. We are organising a medical check up for baby Peter to determine the extent of damages.



Level 2 students



Nursery children sleeping on floor



Level 1 Students

Many more families are in similar conditions requiring financial aid. Myanmar Migrant Learning Centre (MMLC) in Kepong Maluri, is a school set up by FRO to provide some form of education to their children. The Foodbank provides milk and biscuits to the school. MMLC is looking for sponsors to provide lunch to the children. They have 30 students and expects to increase the numbers to 50. They are looking for sponsors to provide the children with lunch. A nursery for 2 to 5 years old was set up recently in August 2010 in Taman Miharja. The purpose of which is to free the mothers to look for gainful employment. The Foodbank is also supplying milk and biscuits to this nursery. This nursery is also looking for sponsors to provide lunches. They commenced operation on 2nd August 2010 with 20 children. They are expecting a rapid increase in clientele to 50 children.

Christmas at Kid's Haven

by Paul and Emily Sebastian



On the 12th December 2010, Kid's Haven held our first Christmas celebration with all the children and their families. The children of Kid's Haven came in earlier for exercise time, play time and practice time. These were the regular routine that we were having for the past 2 months, and the only variable that we were having was the audience during performance time. The teachers prepared the children by being the audience themselves and for the last practice, we had our volunteers from Terence's cell group to be the audience.

I must admit that serving in Kid's Haven was never an obvious choice of ministry for me as I did not have much to offer. However, I was curious to see how God would use me and so I first volunteered to help out with their Social Time event in August. It turned out to be a special experience for me and I quickly volunteered to help out for the Christmas Celebration in December. This time, I was asked to be involved in the coordination and though had less direct interaction with the kids I could see how some of the kids have progress and grew in a short time; credit goes to the dedication, perseverance and patience of the teachers.. Overall, I must say it went mostly according plan while the helpers were able to improvise well to overcome minor surprises. I believe the kids were encouraged and overjoyed with a larger family participation this time. - Kevin Chung



Serving at Kid's Haven during the Christmas Party was truly a tremendous experience for me. It was my second time serving in Kid's Haven and I have seen a lot of improvement in these kids in just three months time. The most impressive event of the day was to see these kids performing on the stage, such as singing and playing drums. Not to mention their parents, they were happy while seeing their own children performing on the stage and some even watching with their joyous tears in the eyes. This was such a touching moment for me. I truly appreciate the unfailing love and patience of the teachers who have made this happened. Their perseverance has brought forth hopes and motivations to the kids and families in many ways. God has really used them to bless the many hearts who attended the party. - Esther Tang



My immediate reaction would be "When is the next event?" Yes, I count it a great privilege and joy to be able to serve at the Kid's Haven Christmas celebration. From the delight on the children's faces to the beaming family members, and of course the bond of working with fellow cell members, it was a Sunday afternoon well spent. I had the opportunity to serve alongside Paul (MC) as the media support in managing the sound, projector and PC. I thank God for having helped us make the event a resounding success. Despite little surprises like having to come up with an impromptu ice breaker for a group of mixed ages and nervous child performers, things went exceedingly well. Just like Jesus, it was an honour to be serve and not be served. Truly, in serving, I have been served in more ways than one. To God be the glory! - Terence Chong



Play Group

at Kid's Haven

Play Group at Kid's Haven focuses on structured play, which from it, we learn about boundaries, social acceptance, discipline, coordination and independence. Let's come together to encourage our families to grow positively in a fun way.



Age group: 2-4 years old
Number of children: 15 at a time

*We specifically reserve 5 places for children with learning differences in our Play Group.

Fees: RM 50.00 per month
Day: Tuesday & Friday
Time: 9:30 am - 11:30 am



Ministries

Tadika Juara Cerdik
Stephanie Wong

Excel Tuition Club
Lana Lin

Kid's Haven
Emily Lee

Ministry for Intellectually-
Challenged Youth
Tracey Chan

Breakthrough Drug
Rehabilitation Centre
Samuel Krishnan

Street Ministry
Steve Yew

Foodbank
Tan Hong Looi

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Youth Excel Services
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