

Caring & Connecting through Humanitarian Missions



INDIA: The House that Trinitarians Built

Twenty-five children in Hyderabad, India now have a place to call home, thanks to an orphanage building co-financed by Trinitarians.

At Bethel Gospel Church Children's Home, they have a shelter over their heads, three meals a day, education, spiritual development and medical treatment when they need it. It is quite a change from their previous way of life, when they lived in slums or on the streets, picking garbage or begging for a living.

The children are aged 6 to 16. Some of them are orphans whose parents have died of AIDS or from accidents. Others have single parents who are abusive because of alcoholism, or unable to take care of them due to illness.

The aim is to give them a proper living environment and a future, through proper education and skills development. The children's basic necessities like beds and bedsheets, school books, uniforms, bags and stationery are also sponsored by Trinitarians.

"The lives of the children are transformed. You can see the joy on their faces. In the past, they were rag pickers (garbage collectors) and did not have food to eat and were not able to go to school. Now, they have a proper home."

Pastor K Sudhakar, senior pastor of Bethel Gospel Church

Hyderabad, India

According to a survey done by a missions agency, there are at least 70,000 street kids in Hyderabad. They live in the slums and pick garbage or beg for a living. Unable to attend school and with no future to speak of, they are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation on the streets. Most eat a meal a day, or whatever they can get their hands on.

Through **Humanitarian Missions**, Trinitarians are providing for the needy and underprivileged around the world.

ACEH: Road to Recovery

Before the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, Layeun Village in Aceh had a population of 10,000 residents. There now remain 756 – men, women and children. More than 90% of the village perished, and life simply has not been the same since.

The road to recovery has been slow, but things are looking up as 10 fishing boats or *palong* have been built, enabling the villagers to put the tragedy behind them and get back on their feet.

One of these is co-sponsored by Trinity Christian Centre. Costing S\$40,000, the *palong* will help seven families in the village become self-supporting. The *palong* sponsored by Trinity also supports a primary school consisting of 91 students and 10 teachers, youth activities, and activities in the community hall.

All these are significant milestones in the process of recovery. Not everything is back to what it was before the tsunami, but for these families, the boat is their ticket back to economic independence.

“The villagers and I would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to Trinity for helping our people with the *palong*. With this help, some of our people will regain their regular income as fishermen. Thank you for meeting our need!”

Pak Isranuddin,
head of seamen,
Layeun Village



Aceh, Indonesia

Layeun Village is an hour's drive from Banda Aceh. The village has 10 fishing boats or *palong*. Each *palong* comes complete with a platform, huts and a support boat, and functions like a mini floating *kelong*. Each *palong* makes six trips per week, with each trip yielding anywhere between eight to 20 baskets of fish.

Caring & Connecting through Missions Impact Trips

In 2007, Trinitarians made 29 trips to six nations, and saw a total of 3041 decisions for Jesus – a great missions harvest! Here, team members to New Delhi, India, share their experience of sowing and reaping.

I saw God do miracles through my hands!

To be honest, I never readily volunteered for this MIT trip. It was the enthusiasm of my carecell that got me going in the first place. **In fact, India was not on my list of preferred places to go to.** I had concerns about the place and fears of a few things which we would be doing, such as street evangelism, salting etc. Many times I wanted to back out, but praise God, I managed to stay the course and go by faith.

I am glad I obeyed because God blessed my socks off!

I saw many miracles which God did through my hands.

Never in my life did I think it would be possible. He used me in street evangelism, to share the Bridge Illustration in Hindi, to win souls, to pray for healing, to pray for the Holy Spirit to touch a particular person, to sense and share the word of God to the people, and to prophesy over people. Not only did He use me in these areas, but **He showed me the tangible results of my obedience to Him – souls were saved, people were healed and lives were touched.**



Through this missions impact trip, I have learnt three valuable lessons:

- 1 God will use me mightily as long as I allow Him to.
- 2 We should not take lightly the freedom to openly express our love for Jesus.
- 3 God can move in any place at anytime; He just needs people who are willing.

If you are thinking of going on an MIT: Do not worry about your inability or weakness. God will use anyone who is just obedient. For example, **I am more of an introvert, but on this trip, I opened up to people without fear.** I know that He will reward those who obey, in many ways which you can never comprehend, such as breakthroughs and miracles in your own personal life.

For those who are giving to missions: Every cent given is mightily used by God to impact the countries that the teams go to. **Never ever doubt the value of even the smallest amount given to missions** as it will enable souls to come into the kingdom of God, lives to be touched and people to rise up to take their country for God's glory.

Gary Koh, sales manager



I experienced the abundant life God has for me!

It all began with an SMS. When I saw the date of the mission trip to New Delhi, I knew instantly that it was the perfect timing of God for me to go for this MIT. What followed was a series of preparations. I had about three weeks to make all the necessary arrangements, from family to ministry commitments. In the midst of all the preparations, doubt began to set in. I started thinking; “Am I really ready to go?”, “Am I equipped enough to be a vessel to be used by God in India?”. Furthermore, I had not even prayed about it and I was on the verge of withdrawing. Thankfully, the Vision Rally sermon by Rev Rob Yanok put my heart at peace. He said that the Bible says “to go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28). **God did not ask us to pray about going, but to simply go.**

When we arrived in New Delhi in the wee hours of the morning, the sight of so many homeless people affected me greatly. **Compassion took a greater meaning as I witnessed the needs of the lost.** Indeed, the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. What ensued over the next few days were many home visits, cell meetings, empowerment sessions and street evangelism. **I had never been so focused on doing God’s work! It was so**

exhilarating! God was in control of everything that the team was doing and because of that, there were many breakthroughs and miracles among the team members and the people around us. **For the first time, I truly experienced the abundant life God has for me** – the freedom to exercise my faith fully in ministry, to serve God with all that I am, letting Him stretch me in all areas.



Upon reflection, I realised that all my doubts about not being ready were unfounded. God had already begun the preparation work in me while I was serving in Singapore. **The training and equipping that I had received in Trinity – serving in the carecell and various other platforms – had prepared me** to serve in New Delhi too.

This MIT greatly impacted me. There is such an urgency to rise up and let the light of Christ shine through me in this season and hour. I am determined “to be a lamp that burned and gave light” (John 5:35) and to make use of every opportunity to proclaim clearly the mystery of Christ (Colossians 4:2-6). I would like to encourage everyone to go on missions. “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

Jasslyne Ng, homemaker

I did things which I had never done before!

This was **my first missions impact trip and a breakthrough experience for me** in many ways. During the six days in India, I did many things which I had never done before in Singapore – praying out loud, prayerwalking, praying for people, sharing the bridge illustration, leading someone in the sinner’s prayer, sharing my very personal testimony, acting and many more.

I was encouraged and touched by how God used me to share His love and grace with others. **With my minimal knowledge of God’s Word, I didn’t expect that I would be able to lead others to salvation.** But as God gave me the boldness and compassion, I no longer wasted time beating around the bush. I just walked up to someone, introduced myself and shared the bridge illustration. This resulted in many lives being saved, and given a reason for living. How wonderful! I have been encouraged to have the same boldness and compassion back home in Singapore to share the gospel.

The most unforgettable incident was when our mini bus broke down. While the men tried to push and get the engine started, the ladies were all waiting by the side. Then I saw my fellow team member Jasslyne sharing the bridge illustration with the use of some Hindi words. **She got 4 souls saved within that time!** I am really amazed by her boldness and passion for God, making use of every opportunity to sow and share the gospel. She has encouraged me a lot on my walk with God. I thank God for such



a wonderful sister who is full of compassion for people and God.

It was an honour to play a part in the extension of God’s kingdom. I truly have learnt, grown and enjoyed this missions impact trip!

Kimberley Lim, *music teacher*

I was renewed and refueled!

During the seven days in New Delhi, India, God challenged me to step out of my comfort zone, and stirred my spirit up to give more of myself to His ministry. **I was renewed, strengthened, empowered and refueled to continue in the marathon with our Lord Jesus.**

I realised that to win souls, we first have to “lose” our lives and draw close to God. Through this trip, I “lost” my identity as a Singaporean who is proud of her country’s efficiency, and as a pharmacist who is particularly obsessed with hygiene and cleanliness.

We learnt the local cultural norms, like covering our heads with a shawl (for the ladies) during worship, using our right hand to put rice mixed with curry into our mouths neatly, and enjoying the fragrant masala tea that chased away all our fatigue and sleepiness.

I learnt to share the gospel using the Bridge Illustration in the limited Hindi vocabulary we picked up. **I learnt that all of us can fulfill the Great Commission that God has given, regardless of our nationality, race, culture, language and personality.** This is because we can do all things

through Christ who strengthens us!

On the final night before flying home, we were at the youth carecell meeting. **Their fiery passion for God, the innocent but firm trust they had in Jesus, and the deep desire to live for God, left a deep imprint in my heart.** One of the boys shared how he was facing fierce persecution at home because of his Christian faith. His Bible was confiscated and his parents threatened to throw him out of the house. I felt prompted by God to pray with him and bless him with my pocket-sized Bible.

Before I left, I made a commitment to uplift the church in prayer, as I believe that **God draws us close in spirit despite the physical distance.** The bashful smiles of the young girls, the warm hospitality of the women, the low baritones of the men resounding within the church hall during worship and the spontaneous children shall be part of the memories that I carry in my heart. May God continue to fan the passion we have for Him!

Tan Pei Ling, *pharmacist*

Simple but powerful!

In September I signed up for a mission trip to India with my carecell members. I wanted to do something meaningful and different, a break from my normal routine. As this was my first mission trip, I did not know what to expect.

All this while, **I felt that I did not have anything to bless or encourage people with, because I do not have any dramatic life-changing testimonies.** During the trip, however, I discovered that this is not



true. We were at a believer's house when a brother shared that he wanted to be water baptised, but his parents did not allow him to. To encourage him, I shared how I feared that my parents would object to my water baptism, but took the courage to tell them and go ahead with it. God worked things out and my parents even came to church to witness my baptism. Another team member shared a similar testimony. This brother stared at us intently and listened attentively to every word we said. I realised that he must have been so desperate to hear a word of encouragement. **I never knew I could bless and encourage others through my testimonies!**

I had fears about street evangelism. I am shy and struggle in talking to strangers. But on this trip, I could walk up to a stranger on the street, share the bridge illustration, and lead the person to receive Christ! I discovered that the Bridge Illustration is a useful and powerful tool in leading people to salvation. This renewed my confidence in reaching out to my friends – I am now encouraged to use

the Bridge Illustration in my sharing. **Previously I thought it was too simple, but now I realise it is a powerful tool.**

Through this trip, I realised we are blessed in Singapore. Freedom of worship, which we take for granted, is not available in many places. Persecution and fear are very real for believers in some places. I want to encourage all of you to go for mission trips. There are many places where the harvest is ripe. Everyone can play a part to share God's love to people and extend God's kingdom in the nations!

Toh Saw Huay, *pharmacist*

Impacting Strategic Leaders

Trinity's global missions programme supports **Naomi Dowdy Ministries**. In this interview with Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy, we discover how she is impacting strategic leaders, churches and denominations around the world.



What has kept you busy throughout 2007?

2007 was an extremely busy year! I spent about 100 days in different cities in the USA, helping churches and their leadership on restructuring issues, plus preaching and training. I was able to open new doors for some key churches to begin working with Trinity's Carecell Model, and see breakthroughs in growth and vision.

We have heard you share on what God is doing in Colombia. Could you share more on what is happening there?

2007 was a turning point for Colombia. We have been going into Colombia for about 17 years now. We have trained them in Carecells, and Apostolic-Prophetic Leadership (along with Pastor Gerald Tan and Pastor Ong Sek Leang). We have ministered to hurting pastors, denominational leaders, and more. God has used all of these things in such a way that we now have a voice into the whole nation.

The President of the National Wesleyan Methodist group has adopted Trinity's Carecell Model for his church, and it is fast becoming a model Carecell church. Another breakthrough for them was ordaining their first woman pastor. She is also a product of Carecells.

I could go on and on about the powerful things taking place in Colombia. Keep praying – 2008 is going to be another significant year.

What are the key happenings elsewhere?

It has been a joy to work with Pastor Chua Wee Hian and Emmanuel Evangelical Church in London. Pastor Chua will be 'turning the church over' to a new pastor in 2008. The new Senior Pastor, Peter Loo and his wife Saw Lan, are presently in training with us here at Trinity. It is their time of preparation for his new position. We are working with them to ensure a smooth transition and forward vision and growth.

How is God using you in mentoring strategic women leaders?

Our mentoring clinic in the USA, "Women in Strategic Leadership", has grown in significance. More women leaders are wanting to attend. Participants have testified of an increase in anointing and influence, new doors opening, and a time of refreshing for themselves personally. They are a powerful group – business women, pastors, evangelists, women working in Hollywood, and leaders of missions organisations that have trained over 32,000 women. Who can they talk to, and where can they go to receive and be built up for another year of labour? So the mentoring clinic is like an oasis for them. It is raising up a new generation whom I am challenging to also go forth and raise up another new generation.

Any words for Trinitarians?

My special thanks for all the support and prayers! Your partnership is making a big difference in the lives of these leaders.