

THE HEARTBEAT OF MISSIONS

I suppose there is no better place to write about missions than to be in transit on the way to the mission fields; this is where I am even as I write; in Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport waiting for my connection to Chiangmai and then another three-hour car ride to Fang.

As I sit and contemplate about the missions work in general, and those of Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church in particular, I feel encouraged as well as challenged.

I am encouraged because throughout this year, there had been numerous short-term missions trips made. There were at least three trips to Sri Lanka, four to Vietnam, three to Northern Thailand and just for the whole month of November, there are several teams visiting the mission stations in North Thailand. On top of that, the shoebox ministry has received overwhelming support from members of the Church. Just an update, the shoeboxes have made their way safely to Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church without a hitch, thanks to the efforts of College and Career Fellowship. With God's grace, I am sure those heading for New Sky Home will manage to get there with little hindrance from the Thai customs.

I am challenged because there is so much more work to do in the mission fields, so many places that need our help; so many missionaries that need our encouragement; so many people that still need to hear the Gospel.

Our involvement in missions is possible because Calvinians have always been committed to missions work. For this, I am thankful. This commitment from the Church as a whole is also important. The heartbeat for missions work must begin in the home church. To the extent that the home church is willing to support and pray for missions, the work will grow from strength to strength.

There will be honest skeptics and critics who question the viability and feasibility of missions work. Think about it this way, there was someone who was willing to go so that we had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. There was someone who was willing to give and that is why we have a place to worship. And I dare say that those who went and gave did not consider their time and effort as wasted. What we are doing now—the labour and resources that we commit to the missions—is in part obedience to the Great Commission, and in part a repayment of the Gospel debt, one that is driven both by duty and devotion to our Saviour.

In 2011, I pray that we will do more in the missions work. To do that, we need to strengthen the hearts of Calvinians for our Lord Jesus Christ. We need a stronger heart that will love Him more. We need a stronger heart that will have compassion for sinners. We need a stronger heart that will drive us to our knees to pray, to change our priorities in life, and to consecrate ourselves to Him. As Paul said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

When we set our hearts right with our LORD, the heartbeat for missions—and that of every ministry in the church—will be stronger than ever.

**In Christ,
Pastor Isaac**

差传的脉动

要写一篇关于差传的文章，我想再也没有比正在前赴差传工场的路上写更为即时了。我现在人在曼谷苏汪纳蓬国际机场，正等待着飞往清迈的连接航班。抵达之后又是另外三个小时的车程到孟芳的差传工场去。

当我坐着思量差传事工，特别是笃信圣经长老会加略堂的事工时，我感到既安慰又倍受挑战。我感到鼓励是因为在这一年里，我们差遣了许多短宣队出国。我们有至少三支前往斯里兰卡、三支前往泰北、四支前往越南的队伍；而单单是在这十一月份，我们就有几支不同队伍前赴泰北。在这之上，鞋盒事工也得到了教会会员的热烈响应。我们的鞋盒已顺利地送往斯里兰卡三一归正长老会，我要为着大专与就业团契在这一方面所做的努力来感谢主。靠着神的恩典，我相信送往新天之家的鞋盒也会顺利通过泰国关卡。

我倍受挑战的原因是在差传事工上，还有很多事等着我们去做。很多地方需要我们的帮助；很多传教士需要我们去鼓励；很多人需要听到福音。

我们能够积极参与差传事工是因为加略堂的会友对差传事工有负担。我也为此而感恩。教会在差传事工的使命感是重要的。差传事业的脉动必需自母会而来。只要母会愿意支持差传、为差传祷告，我们的事工就一定能力上加力。

当然，我们也会遇到否定或质疑差传事工的效用与可行性的人。但也许我们应该这么想：曾几何时就是因为有这么一个人愿意去，所以我们才能听到福音；有这么一个人愿意给，我们才有了一个聚会的地方。而我敢断言那些肯去、肯给的人绝不会认为自己为差传事业所奉献的时间、精力是浪费的。我们现在做的，我们在差传事工上所投入的人力物力，一方面履行我们所受委的大使命，另一方面则是偿还我们福音的债，是由义务和我们对救主的爱所驱使的。

耶稣基督的心。我们需要一颗更坚毅的心来爱主更多。我们需要一颗更坚强的心来怜爱罪人。我们需要更坚固的心来驱使我们下跪祷告、改变我们生活中的价值观，把我们的一生献给祂。就像保罗所说的：“所以弟兄们，我以上帝的慈悲劝你们，将身体献上，当作活祭，是圣洁的，是上帝所喜悦的；你们如此事奉，乃是理所当然的。”（罗12:1）。

当我们以正确的心态对我们的主时，差传的脉动，以及教会的所有事工的生命力，就会越发坚韧。

主内
王家贤牧师