

## **Tuao Youth Mission Trip – 27 Nov to 6 Dec 2008**

In this supplement, we have the reflections from the Ooi Boo Chye's family, perspective of the youths by Irvin Wan and Chen Ting and an insight into the Home Bible Study by Joanne Seah. We hope these reflections will encourage you and show you the love, wisdom and power of our Almighty God.

### **1. Reflections of the Tuao Mission Trip by Ooi Boo Chye**

This Tuao Youth Mission trip has really been an unforgettable experience for everyone in the team. We had set out with the primary aim of spreading the joy of Christianity to the people of Tuao but in the end we learn more from them.



Our youth team this year is relatively young with half of them going there for the first time. What they lack in terms of age and experience, they more than make up for in enthusiasm and team spirit. Members were very cooperative and supportive of each other and receptive to suggestions.

We were also very fortunate to be ably led by brother Ting Chew. His military background was very evident in his precise and detailed organization of the trip down to the exact groups we were to check in with at the airport because of baggage considerations. Every detail including all our functions, designations and daily schedules during the trip were recorded in a mission handbook. Assisting him was Irvin the youth leader, with Joanne Seah overseeing the girls. Edward as usual was the key coordinator and linkman during the trip. He paved and smoothed the way for us and seems to know everyone in the village.

God really blessed us during this trip and His hand was evident in so many different ways. Spiritually, this trip has been a truly uplifting experience for the team.

a) The youth team conducted Sunday worship almost entirely. Petras led the singing, Nicholas was in charge of communion, Johnston gave an excellent sermon on contentment. His measured style of delivery conveyed his message very well to the audience. Ting Chew taught the bible class, which was subsequently divided into 4 discussion groups: men, ladies, youth (males) and youth (females) facilitated by Boo Chye, Rosie, Irvin and Joanne respectively.

b) The youths conducted 4 gospel meetings at the church. They were very well attended with the audience spilling out into the church compound and some sitting on the window ledges on some nights. Irvin, Alistair, Shawn and Joseph delivered their respective messages very well. They were well prepared and gave very appropriate and convincing messages.

c) Bible study at the homes of the villagers was a truly unique and edifying experience. Some very touching devotions and personal testimonies were shared during the home bible study, a few of them sharing their first devotion.

Rosie was moved to tears at the devotion and sharing of Chen Ting and Angelin during the home bible study. I came back from my sector of the home bible study feeling very proud of our youths. How I wish their parents were there to witness the devotions they shared.

d) Vocation Bible Study (VBS) at the 3 schools went remarkably well, particularly at Culong High School where in previous years we had some initial difficulty in getting the students to participate in the activities. This year, everything went without a hitch.

e) There were 4 baptisms during the trip, all members of the Uy family: grandmother Vilma, mother Helen, daughter Rhea and son Richard. The baptisms were carried out in the Cassily Resort swimming pool.

God's presence was with us throughout the trip. Even before the start of the trip, God made His presence felt. There was a possibility of Geraldine not being able to join the team for the flight to Philippines because of her college project work, but miraculously our morning flight was rescheduled to 7 pm, thus enabling her to join the team for the flight.

During our trip, God's hand was again very evident in providing us with excellent weather to suit our various activities. For 2 weeks before the trip, continuous rain had destroyed the crops of some farmers who had not harvested their crops. For some who had just harvested their crops, there was insufficient sunshine to dry the rice grains which became mouldy. God kept the heavy rains away while we were at Tuao. On the days that we had VBS at the schools, light drizzles soon gave way to fairly clear skies and we were able to conduct our VBS without interruption.

At our padi planting session, we had overcast skies. The walk to the padi field itself took us an hour and we had to track across knee deep mud. I think we would have suffered from sunburns if it was a sunny day.

At our mountain hike, the sun smiled brightly on us, making our paths less muddy and slippery and ensuring that we had an enjoyable time admiring the beauty of God's wonderful creation.

The Tuao people as usual received us with much warmth and hospitality especially Jhun Ma and his wife Babes who went out of their way to make us feel at home. We were greeted with warm smiles everywhere we went in the village.

The faith of the Tuao brethren is something to be admired. They showed such strong faith in the midst of life's uncertainties such as crop failures from floods or excessive rain or destruction of their harvest by moulds or fungi from lack of sunshine. It is a humbling experience to see them accepting these setbacks as part of their lives. Yet in Singapore, we often grumble in the midst of our many bountiful blessings.

In conclusion, God has really blessed our team during this trip. Our youths now know that the bowl of rice they have every day comes with a lot of sweat and tears on the farmer's part. They are now more appreciative of their parents' labour and toil in providing them with the luxuries of life. Most important of all, we are now resolved to count our blessings everyday and do more for God.

## 2. **Reflections of the Tuao Mission Trip by Rosie Ooi**

The Tuao Mission Trip was indeed a powerful learning experience. Simply humbling and spiritually uplifting.

Just as in the olden times when the Israelites had God with them in the columns of cloud and fire, we too strongly felt the presence of God and His protection with us in Tuao.

Firstly, the budget flight which was supposed to leave in the morning was unexpectedly rescheduled to the evening, enabling Geraldine to join us just in the nick of time. Despite repeated forecasts of bad weather and heavy rainfall in the two weeks before our arrival, we were pleasantly surprised with warm sunshine and the occasional light drizzle! In fact, at the Taribubu Elementary School, with the overcast skies threatening, God held the rain off just long enough for the VBS and the skit on God's Creation to be completed. It was only after we had returned safely to the shelter of the church building that the rain poured! On the day we went to the padi field, God blessed us with cloudy skies to prevent us from being burnt by the sun during the long hours we spent planting. We were also awed by the hot sunny weather during the mountain hike. God caused the mud and mountain slopes to dry up so that our foothold on the slopes was not slippery, ensuring our safety. God's words "and surely I am with you always..." (Matt. 28:20) had never come across so strongly and powerfully before!

Witnessing how brother Jhun Ma and Sister Babes (the minister and his wife) shared God as well as themselves with the Tuao committee was a wonderful demonstration of Matthew 24:16 "...deny himself, take up his cross and follow me". In his own humble and unassuming way, brother Jhun Ma moves among the people of Tuao. He visits their homes, talking to whoever desires or is willing to listen to God's message, constantly sharing with them the good news of God's love and salvation. Sister Babes is a petite young woman with a heart big enough to house all the little children of Tuao. This little lady rises at 4am daily: she cooks

three huge generous meals for the team of 20 and the church family of 6 workers everyday, babysits and teaches the scriptures to the little children left in her care for that day. In addition, she prepares her Sunday school lessons and vacation bible school among the brinjols and vegetables on the kitchen tabletop, and conscientiously budgets and keeps accounts of her expenses as well as keeping track of the various needs of the church members and many more...how she manages all this daily on just two to five hours of sleep per day is completely beyond me. I believe she can do so only with the strength provided by God. Watching sister Babes, I felt chastised by God, with the little that I am presently doing for Him.

As in the times of the first century Christians, many of the Tuao villagers received the word of God from our youths warmly. Many of these farmers had been up since 4am and had been out working in the padi fields all day. Despite just arriving home at 5pm and not having rested yet, they warmly welcomed us into their homes, served us their best and attentively listened to the word of God being shared by our courageous youths! I silently thanked and praised God for such receptive hearts and minds, and again I heard God speaking through Matthew 9: 37-38 " the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord...to send out workers into His harvest field."

God had many lessons to teach us on the day we went rice planting: that His love is as much for us as for these farmers in the padi fields – as simple, weather-beaten and mud-spattered as they are. Watching them bent over in the padi fields, I could feel God's hands reaching out and gently patting them on the shoulder, telling them He loves them very much. In return I could hear the incense of prayers and praise offered up to God by these faithful farmers. It was a touching and humbling experience. The hearts of these patient and trusting farmers were the kind that God desires: they were thankful and grateful when the harvest was bountiful; they did not murmur against God when their recent crops were destroyed, but trusted in His providence.

The mountain hike brought home the message that two is better than one: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one... if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow...". The trail brought us through squishy padi fields, immersed us in mud up to our knees, submerged us in slippery streams and waterfalls and awarded us many scrapes and cuts along the steep slopes. How many times had I been thankful for the hands of help offered, when I thought I was not able to go on or make a crossing! It reminded me of God's proffered hand of salvation and redemption when I realized my own hopelessness. When we finally reached the summit, what an exhilarating feeling to know that we ALL made it together – no one was left behind! Imagine the joy in heaven when we arrive to find ourselves surrounded by all our loved ones.

In Matthew 28:19, God had said "Go and make disciples of all nations...". Many times I had replied "wait", "I cannot", or "I am too busy". (Luke 14:18-20) having gone and experienced God at work in Tuao, I stand chastised and corrected and am resolved to refocus my life to God's service.

### 3. **Reflections of the Tuao Mission Trip by Judith Ooi**

10 days in Tuao passed so quickly it seemed that in no time we were waving goodbye to the people who had welcomed us with open arms into their hearts, lives and homes. God's work in the peoples' lives there was evident – the people were open, receptive and thirsty for the Word like parched ground for water. Even though the language barrier proved a daunting obstacle, God's grace and the help of many as well as some effort on our part to use Ilocano, the local dialect, helped us to overcome it.



The potential of this mission field is nearly unlimited – despite the late hour and the hard day's work ahead the next morning, the turnout for the gospel meetings was inspiring. More and more people would filter in throughout the meeting, till the back of the church and the spaces around the door and windows were filled. All present had to sacrifice their sleep: most people there sleep at 7 and wake at 4, since the children have to travel to school. Even though the meetings took twice as long as usual due to translation, the audience always waited patiently till the end and participated wholeheartedly in giving praise to the Lord. In particular, the uplifting of the children's voices moved some of us to tears.

The people of Taribubu have a heart for God that is exemplary to all. Merely walking past an elderly lady's simple house resulted in an enthusiastic invitation for us to conduct a home bible study session with her and her family. God's hand is actively at work in the people's lives there, as the four new converts, who were baptised in the pool in Cassily on Sunday, showed us.

Another miracle was the weather. Though it had been raining near incessantly for three weeks prior to the trip, the weather was clear and relatively sunny during our stay. It drizzled twice, but the prayers and faith of us as well as our supporters moved God to hold back the rain. This allowed us to proceed with our schedule, and conduct our outreach as planned. VBS with the children of Culong High School, Taribubu Elementary and San Juan elementary also produced results that far exceeded our initial expectations. Nearly all of Taribubu Elementary responded to our casual invitation to that night's gospel meeting. The sight of the church packed with so many little ones touched our hearts and bespoke God's gentleness and love.

It was unanimous among the team that we learned more from the people of Tuao than they did from us, in our short time there. Indeed, those who had gone to serve were served instead, with the best the people had to offer. Their unrivaled hospitality and care taught us much, and put into action Acts 20:35 "...it is more blessed to give than to receive." In closing, I would like to encourage more youth to step up and continue the Great Commission that Christ Jesus left to us, not merely in short trips abroad but in our daily lives, setting "an example to the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" regardless of age, as exhorted in 1 Timothy 4:12.

#### 4. **Reflections of the Tuao Mission Trip by Joseph Ooi**

God's hand in the Tuao Youth Missions 2008 was evident right from the beginning. Our flight timing was pushed back with no precedent, accommodating Geraldine's participation. We were even more awed when we arrived in Tuao to find that the rain, unrelenting for 6 days prior to our arrival, had ceased for our activities. During our Visual Bible School programs, often carried out in open fields with no shelter, it was God's providence that held both sun and rain off to allow the program to proceed smoothly.



In the trip, sharing our faith with others took on a new level for many members of the team through the myriad of home bible studies, gospel meetings, bible classes, Sunday sermon or even just sharing an evening devotion with our host family. Many of the girls shared their momentous first devotion, whilst the many guys proceeded to explore new areas of service – sermons, leading worship, gospel rally. It is a Christian's responsibility to be ever ready to give an answer for the faith we hold to. This trip pushed many of us to take greater steps forward in being ready to share our faith.

The mission trip was an eye-opener for the whole team. Many of us had never experienced village life with its water pumps, dirt roads and piles of karabau dung. Neither had most trudged through treacherously muddy padi fields to plant rice seedlings or trekked laboriously up a scenic mountain, picking up crabs with our bare hands along the way. Even the 'Tuao

veterans' soon realised that there was yet much more to be learnt about village and farming life upon interacting with the villagers.

As always, the Filipinos were extremely hospitable and welcoming towards us. In the Taribubu Church of Christ, we were well taken care of (and extremely well fed!) by Sister Babes and Brother Jhun Ma. In every school that we visited, Elementary and High school, we were welcomed with open arms and by many an excited student.

However, the people that touched us most deeply were those who sincerely hungered for God's Word. Brother Villiamor, soon to be baptised, stayed home for an entire day in hope of the youth calling on him and sharing a devotion. Such pure hearts are a truly a rare find and an edification to all, both the young and old in faith.

This was a trip where every one of the youth learnt valuable lessons, socially, emotionally and spiritually, whether we were young or old, newcomers or veterans. God formed the team in such a way as to allow us cover up for one another's weaknesses with our strengths – when some of us were tired, others remained 'Everready'; when some were over-enthusiastic, others remained sombre. Despite the relative youth of the team, the diversity of talents and personalities really helped us to function effectively as a team in Tuao.

There is something universal and priceless in reaching out to share your faith with a community young in its Christian faith. Whilst we share with them the experience of our Christian walk, we in turn interact with pure and sincere hearts seeking God and are touched by these souls so much less tainted by deception and selfishness than our own. Doubtlessly, even as we reached out to the Tuao community, we were irrevocably changed by our experiences in the Cagayan.

#### 5. **Reflections of the Youth (Male) by Irvin Wan**

Ecclesiastes 12:1 – "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, "

Parents of the young men on Tuao Youth Mission Trip 2008, you can be proud of your sons. In the grueling 10 days from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December, the 7 guys on the team (Shawn, Johnston, Joseph, Alistair, Petras, Nicholas and myself) were spiritually and physically challenged to come out of their comfort zones to "shine like stars" for Christ (Phil 2:15). It filled my soul with great joy to see my brothers in Christ stepping up with conviction to preach the Word, give devotions and lead songs of praise to God.



From the first meeting as a team, it was made compulsory for all team members to prepare 4 devotions and their personal testimony on why they became Christians. All these were typed and printed out to ease the translation process. On top of these, the guys were tasked with running the Sunday Worship Service and the 4 Gospel Meetings on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. It was definitely a lot of work and some of us were hard pressed for time and ideas to complete the lessons. But the Word of the Lord never returns to Him void (Isa 55:11). We were eager to share God's Word, so God made a way for us!

The Sunday Worship Service team consisted of Johnston, Petras and Nicholas. Petras kicked off the service with some excellent songleading. Although it was his first time leading a congregation, his pitch and tempo were perfect. He was steady and collected, and he showed no signs of anxiety. After a few songs, Nicholas proceeded with the Communion. It was well structured, and he spoke with steadiness and conviction. Up next would be Johnston, who shared a lesson on contentment. The adults would later commend on Johnston being a 'chip off the old block' and praise him for his tasteful delivery of the sermon.

The 4 Gospel Meetings were planned around the theme of who God and Jesus are and what they mean to us. The first lesson was taught by me and was titled 'God Is Seeking Us'. It was

aimed at getting the audience interested in God and to convict them of His existence. The second lesson was taught by Alistair and was titled 'Jesus Is The Son Of God'. Alistair showed the audience that Jesus was a real person who lived 2000 years ago, and that he fulfilled all the prophecies made about him. He also spoke about the miracles that Jesus performed when He was on earth. At the end of Alistair's lesson, the audience was convinced that Jesus was the Son of Jehovah God who came down to earth in human form. Shawn delivered the third lesson, 'Jesus Is The Saviour'. He spoke about the nature of Sin, how it separated Man from God, and how God has given us Jesus Christ to bridge the gap between sinful Man and God. Joseph wrapped up the 4 lesson series with 'Jesus Is The Lord Of Our Lives'. In this lesson, Joseph taught the congregation the importance of the 3 way relationship between us, God and the Church. He encouraged the congregation to be faithful both to God and to their Christian brethren, and to take an active interest in their brethrens' spiritual walks too.

However, the speakers were not the only ones who were busy during Gospel Meeting nights. Because the crowd took some time to come in, the guys often had to lead songs for half an hour each night. We used a 3-man rotation of Petras, Nicholas and Alistair. Although they were inexperienced in leading songs, all 3 of them performed very well! Looks like PP can add 3 more youths to the songleading list.

Over the trip, the guys grew a lot closer to each other as we worked together for the Worship Service, Gospel Meetings, and as we sang and acted together. But besides these there were also many memorable moments we shared together – Mountain Hike, Rice Planting, and of course, the Soap Incident which kept us laughing and screaming at the same time for nearly an hour. (Approach the guys for details)

On the whole, we could say that we have accomplished a lot as a team. After all, we learnt how to sing in 4 parts when most of us had no prior experience even in singing alone, let alone in 4 parts. We learnt how to act, we wrote our own scripts, we taught lessons from the Bible, we braved the mountains and paddy fields. There is so much that we did. But we will never forget that it was all only possible because of the Lord God Almighty. It was because of His providence that we had the opportunities to serve, the abilities and ideas we had, and the good health we had too. We will always remember that special moment, just before our VBS session at Culong High School, where the crowd of about 800 students were surrounding us, eagerly waiting for us to perform. It would have been so easy to return their smiles, their cheers, by singing a song or two for them. But the Lord's work should never be taken lightly, and so in front of that huge crowd, we gathered and submitted ourselves to God's use in prayer. We told God that we were His, for His use, to show others the love of Christ and to tell them the Good News. That VBS session would eventually turn out to be the most memorable experience in the trip for many of us, for it was a moment where we saw the Hand of God at work, using us, showing us what to do.

Psalms 18:3 – 'I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised...'

Psalms 121:1-2 – 'I will lift up my eyes to the hills – From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth'

We called upon the Lord in our time of need and He answered us. Will you do the same?

## 6. **Reflections of the Youth (Female) by Chen Ting**



I'm supposed to write about how the girls bonded and how our performance was in general. I could sum it up in one sentence, but at the same time there were so many wonderful things it would take pages and pages to describe how God work through us.

How did we bond? Honestly, as I thought about this, the first thing that came to my mind was, "Er, we talked? I don't

know. The bonding happened so naturally!" That was pretty much how we bonded; we talked and we listened to each other. Not so much through activities or games but more of our open attitude helped us to bond. If we really focus on God and what He wants, we will want the bond of our team to be strong, so we will open up ourselves and share with others. Fellowship for us became a lot more natural and easier because we had a common purpose, the common purpose being service to the Lord.

When we focused our mind on God, He really worked through us. The performance by the girls on this trip was awesome and made me really, really proud to be a girl.

One of the pictures I liked most of the girls was when we were all inside the small hut in the church, teaching and sharing with the Filipino youth girls together about God, His Word and our own faith. "What an awesome sisterhood," was my first thought when I saw that picture. "And hopefully, in the future, an awesome motherhood as well!" and though it tickled me to imagine what kind of mothers the girls would become, I really think that the girls did a wonderful job guiding the Filipino girls, and in the future I sincerely hope we will be able to do that with the younger girls and children in our lives. Though we struggled with the language barrier, seeing all the girls doing their best to share God's Word was great. I'm sure God would be pleased too, thinking, "What a wonderful sisterhood and future motherhood."

Another thing that struck me was how the girls really bonded with the children there. Hannah and Joanne even took the trouble to learn Ilokano so they could explain to the elementary school how God created the world. Though they struggled with it, the children understood, and they liked it. Most importantly, they remembered the lesson. Despite the age gap, I remember Geraldine talking to one of the young Filipino boys during the mountain hike, asking him when he got baptized and so on. Judith was surrounded by small children asking for her hand-drawn pictures. There are so many instances I want to list, but it would be endless.

And always, I could see the girls putting in a lot of effort in everything they did, full of praise and never complaining. All these things were so small yet so important on this trip. At the schools, Lijun would run around to see if we needed any materials and always tried to get us what we needed. Every mealtime, Eunice would always, always be praising the food, saying how good it was no matter what they gave us. What pleased me the most was listening to the devotions of the youngest girls in our team, Jacqueline and Angelin. I had the privilege of being there when the two of them gave their devotions, and it was amazing how God spoke through them, despite their youth. They had put so much thought into it and so much effort as well.

In summary, the girls on this trip were very blessed and each of them held a very important role. Once again, I must say I am very proud to be a girl, and very thankful that God gave me a chance to go on this mission trip with the rest of them.



#### 7. **Reflections of the Home Bible Study by Joanne Seah**

When I first arrived at the Tuao church building, something caught my eye. It was a simple white piece of paper on the wall of the humble dining room at the back of the church building. On it was the weekly timetable belonging to brother Jhun Ma and sister Babes. They recorded their weekly activities on it. For example, there was a time for cleaning, off day, sunday worship, midweek service, etc. But the program that really caught my attention was "Home Bible Study with the Xxx family". In fact, a large proportion of the week was dedicated to "Home Bible Study with the Xxx family". "What was this home bible study for?" I wondered to myself. I was about to find out very soon.

Before the trip, Irvin told the team to prepare 4 devotions each. "Who are we giving these devotions to?" we asked him. "The villagers. But to who exactly, I don't know."

We had two sessions of Home Bible Studies during our week there. Operatively, things were simple. The youths were divided into groups of three or four. Each group was accompanied by a Singaporean adult and a local church member. We would walk a short distance to the pre-selected homes (by brother Jhun Ma) to share our devotions. During the short walk there, the local church member would give us a short introduction to the family we were about to visit. Then, we would select one youth to present one of the four devotions that he or she prepared.

Most of the families were very friendly and hospitable. We were usually greeted with warm smiles and firm handshakes. After a short conversation and introduction, we would sing some songs, share our devotion and pray for the family. Sometimes, they would even treat us to cookies and coke!

Spiritually, however, things were not as simple. While most of the young guys had preached one, two or more sermons before, many of the girls had never ever given devotions before. Not even to their closest friends or families. But now they were asked to give a devotion to a complete stranger. No, I mean, a large group of complete strangers! While we were all very nervous, it was also obvious that each girl had purposed in her heart to share with others about her heavenly Father and her saviour Jesus Christ. She was not about to let her fears stop her from sharing the good news!

I hope I can speak for the rest of the youths as I share my experience in giving devotion to my homestay family. It was very difficult because we hardly knew the family. We couldn't even converse smoothly in the same language. We had to use English words, some Ilokano words, gestures, facial expressions, etc just to understand more about them. My buddy Hannah, was very dedicated to get to know the family better so that we could give them a devotion that would meet their needs. She went off by herself one afternoon to chat with the lady of the house. And after an hour, she came back with a mini report on our homestay family. So, the both of us sat down to plan a devotion. We decided to share about Jesus performing miracles, Jesus being a provider for all our needs, not worrying about tomorrow, storing treasures in heaven, and being prepared for the second coming. We found suitable bible passages and rehearsed the short devotion.

Then, armed with the mini family report, poor Ilokano, a simple devotion, and a lot of fear and uncertainty, we waddled into their house and asked if we could share our devotion with them. So, the man of the house, woman of the house, and son of the house sat down with two small Singapore gals, three Ilokano Bibles and a lot of mosquitoes. We had problems with insects flying everywhere, the men of the house appearing distracted, missing pages in the Ilokano Bible, different Ilokano Bibles! It was all rather worrying.

But soon I discovered something amazing about the word of God. Though I started off scared and stuttering, the more I read the Bible, the more I believed in what I was sharing, the more I believed, the more I wanted to share and then the more confidently I shared. There was just something about the word of God that made me fiercely and increasingly passionate about it as I shared it. I wanted to share more. I wanted to share longer. The more I shared, the more I believed.

Romans 1: 16 - 17 says "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

The word of God had a power of its own. It came alive when I shared it. And I saw that it was living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating even to dividing

soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. The word of God touched my heart and increased my faith as I shared it. I knew, for certain, it would definitely do the same, or even more, for the villagers.

After each devotion given, the visited family would kindly thank the youths for their devotions. While walking back to church, I would often wonder " How did the devotion affect their lives? Was the devotion effective? Did we just waste their two hours? Did they learn anything?" There were no baptisms which followed these devotions. There were no emotional outbreaks or confession of sins. They just simply smiled and said "Thank you".

It was then that I remembered that little white paper hanging on the wall of the humble dining room at the back of the church. Brother Jhun Ma's weekly timetable. A few years ago, there were no saved souls in Taribubu. Today, the church is about 70 strong. Seventy souls added to the kingdom of God in three years. The Home Bible Studies must have accomplished its purpose over time.

Isaiah 55: 11 says "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. "

I believe that each devotion given by each youth will not return to God empty. But it would have accomplished God's desires and the purposes for which He sent it. In God's time.



**The Tuao Youth Mission team**

Back row: Edward, Boo Chye, Angelin, Li Jun, Joanne, Johnston,  
Alistair, Joseph, Irvin, Nicholas, Shawn, Petras, Ting Chew  
Front Row: Rosie, Judith, Eunice, Hannah, Geraldine, Jacqueline, Chen Ting