



The June 2010 Wangsa Maju Outreach Experience

You might not know how I decided to go to Wangsa Maju. To be honest, I cannot remember, but most likely it's probably consisted of me arguing within myself on why I did not want to go. And before coming up with a rational-sounding argument on why I should not go, I quickly decided to tell God I would go, so as not change my mind again.

Now usually I am pretty decisive when it comes to mission trips. This time this mission trip is different because it required us to random strangers to take English lessons, who are about my age, in a country as advanced as ours.

Going to the Philippines to suffer ten days without the comforts of home? Sure! Learning Bahasa Indonesia only to go to Nias and realize that you still are bad at it and have to communicate with them by flapping your arms and flipping the dictionary?

The thing about poorer countries is that the people are generally warmer and more willing to spend time to talk to you. In Tuao, the people are warm and friendly and can understand English fairly well too. In Nias, the people don't understand a word of what you're saying, but they are willing to sit next to you while you flip through the dictionary to find the word you want to say.

Essentially, the people in Tuao and Nias usually come with their minds and their hearts open, with smiling, friendly faces.

People in the more advanced countries usually do not. If you try to talk to some random stranger on the street or in schools, like surveyors or promoters, you are more often than not met with suspicion. Let alone talk about the gospel.

On the first day when I arrived in Malaysia and realized that many of the students speak in Chinese, my little

'eek' feeling escalated into an almost screaming 'oh Chen Ting what have you gotten yourself into'.

I think reaching out to the students at KTAR and UTAR easily makes it to my list of 'Most Emotionally Distressing Experiences of All Time!'. But no, fortunately it isn't among the top few. We met many friendly, interesting and ridiculously funny people in the midst of the sea of unfriendly faces.

And I really thank God for that, because the more we did it, the more easily it came. On one of the days, Eunice, Pui Yoong, Jun Ning and I sang a few songs and had a good prayer before we went out to talk to the students. The songs really reminded me not to let my fears and personal prejudices get in the way.

I have learnt and experienced a good many other things from being in Wangsa, but I've chosen to elaborate on this aspect because I think many of us shortchange ourselves because of our own prejudices. God expects

us to do well in all aspects of our lives, even the parts that we are not good at or dislike, because there will be a day where he will use it for His glory. This is why we need to ask God for strength and perseverance every single day to do what we need to do.



- Chen Ting



This ten-day trip was exceptionally good-use of my eight month long holiday. Uncle Victor's family and the church included recruiting university students, planning parties, and stay overs as items in our agenda there.

I am really thankful for all the activities and people we met. I am even more grateful to God for our little check-ins and prayers every night which encouraged me greatly for the next day. Despite some serious lack of sleep on certain nights, the lessons I learnt each day were more than worth it.

On the comfortable bus ride to Malaysia, I prayed about my objectives that I wanted to fulfil on this trip. One of which is to seek God's wisdom in serving Him, in Care teams and in my life. So God sent me Jun Ai and Jun Ning who were really wonderful hosts and Christian models to learn from.

I can still picture Jun Ning saying, "I am only 17, how can they expect me to ..." Yet in the end, she still diligently accompanied us to recruit students in the colleges, enthusiastically making new friends and talking to new students during mid-week English classes in church, helping in preparation of church activities, doing the clean up and refurbishing of the green room. Jun Ning being the chairperson of her CCA, remains involved in school activities whilst doing her best at studies too. She is more than 'only 17'.

worries for the unity of the youth and for the growth of each one of them, especially for the guys to take a stronger lead in church. I thank God for having opened the eyes of some through the larger youth group in PPCOC and leading them to pray and work on their youth ministry in church. A chat with Jun Ai and a morning prayer walk together after their youth stay over made the need for deeper relationships and for youth leaders to plan fellowships that encourages each youth's spiritual walk so evident.

Wangsa Maju congregation focuses on campus ministry through free English lessons and LST programme but Jun Ai also concerns herself with the youth ministry of the church. She told us about her

To beloved church members, those not yet decided on becoming part of God's family and especially you, dear reader – you matter!

- Eunice Ong



"Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone" - not once, everyday. Each time we approached the compounds of KTAR and UTAR. I wanted to run away, while the other part of me was looking forward to meeting these students and gradually introducing Christ to them. Thankfully Aunty Pearlie and Jun Ning helped to prepare us for our first encounter by rehearsing possible responses by students.

The power of prayer was evident on this mission trip as we prayed very frequently. Mk 11:24 reads Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. I am glad that we prayed each time before reaching out because knowing God hears our prayers helped to push me to continue and not lose hope. We were doing this for God! This roller coaster experience began from the pits as Jun Ning and I got rejected repeatedly at UTAR.

UTAR's canteen is very small and we found ourselves going in circles. We were glad that our next "target" turned out to be a nice guy to talk to and soon he agreed to try out for LST and bring his friends along. That was our turning point of the day as it lifted our spirits. There are many other interesting people that we met together as we shared a common experience. Though each of us had a unique experience with the students, we have a common hope that that the seeds we gathered may mature and bear fruit eventually.

Also, are we doing anything to create a spiritual environment in our family where both the young and mature in Christ can encourage and spur each other to walk closely with God? Camps and mission trips often offer us an environment for us to grow spiritually. Bible discussions and encouragement from warm brothers and sisters make it a joy to walk with God and do His will. Moreover, it is easier to keep the momentum going when we do things together. Amid the struggles and temptations we face in this world, it would be comforting to know we still have a cosy shelter filled with Christian love at home.

Living with the Chong family made me wonder how much we are willing to sacrifice for God. It was wonderful to be able to witness the Chong family do their part for the church despite the fact that the entire family leads a very hectic lifestyle. God should be the priority in our life and we should make an effort to fulfill that, by adjusting our activities to suit His. I believe that this can be achieved, slowly and in prayerfulness.

To those who will be going on mission trips: Whenever you feel weary, flip to Matthew 28:20b "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Chia Pui Yoong