

iGO

*EMPOWERING
THE
PEOPLE ...04*

*GOD HAS
A PLACE FOR
YOU ...08*

*THE M
WORD ...20*



IT COULD BE YOU!

Where is God calling you to?

EDITOR'S DESK

contents

02 Editor's Desk

04 Empowering The People

08 God Has A Place For You

14 Top 10 Reasons Why People
Don't Go On Mission Trips

16 Mission At Home

20 The M Word

24 Interview with Sherman Chau

26 Facts and Stats

28 Our Partners

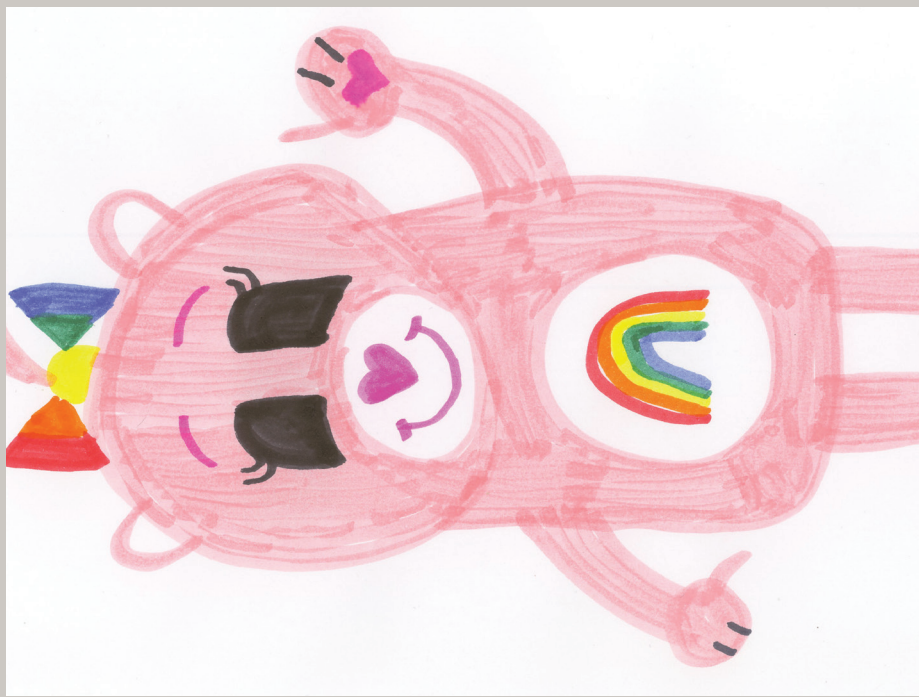
30 2011 in Retrospect

Welcome to the third issue of iGO. As the congregation of Island ECC has reached record numbers (up to 1,800 attendees on Sundays), the journeys of the people here have also grown in depth and breadth, both as individuals, and as a corporate body. Whereas the first two issues have focused on short-term outreach trips, this year we wanted to feature a wider take on missions. You will read about the different kinds of ministries God has been doing in Hong Kong and beyond. You will see how, often, all it takes is a "random" musing, a casual conversation, or a moving newspaper report for God to show you the ministry He has in store for you.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ is based on what He did for us on the cross, and not on what we do. However, as we grow in our walk, God does ask us to make daily commitments to put to the ground our own self-interest and follow Him. This publication features just a small percentage of the people who have followed the heart of God, trusted in the Lord to guide their steps, stepped out in faith into the unknown, ventured out of their comfort zone, to heed Jesus' call on their lives to *go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. MATTHEW 18:19 They have put aside their personal agendas, denied their own temporary comfort, and declared, "Lord, have your way with me." They have traded earthly pleasures for eternal treasures. The image of the red cone in this issue symbolizes how each individual has made a conscious decision to pick up this cross of Jesus. What will you do with it now? Wear it, hold it, honour it, run with it, dance with it, cherish it, speak from it, share it with others?

Yet in all this, whether you move or stay in place, whether you are in action or waiting on God, nothing matters more than having the right relationship with Jesus Christ, and fellowshiping intimately with him. It is this relationship, not the success of your service, that is worthy of rejoice. If you think there are family members, colleagues or people groups that too hard to reach; hearts too closed off to the gospel; situations too hopeless to change; cultures too "foreign" to Christianity, then I urge you: Submit all these doubts, concerns, worries, to the authority of Jesus Christ, and seek God's strategies and opportunities. Spend time in fellowship with brothers and sisters, seek intimacy with the Lord on your own, and be bold and courageous. *In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths*. PROVERBS 3:6

You are unique in this place and time in history: no one else has your thoughts, your background, your education, your appearance, your flaws, your strengths, your struggles. The purpose of all this is to fulfil a You-shaped role in God's plan. Why settle for being a Christian waiting for the day you enter heaven, when you can be a Jesus-follower and see Heaven move on Earth today? Read on, and be inspired and encouraged to step into the role that God has reserved just for you.



Contributors

01 Dawn Lau
EDITOR

God dips His pen into his ink of love in order to write the name of Jesus Christ all over our experiences. Hearing the testimonies from the congregation and working with the talented and efficient iGO Team have been a joyful privilege.

opportunity to meet and talk with people who are passionate about God! And praise God that there are so many of them out there! Woohoo!

05 Vivian Law
ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN

This is my third iGO project. What a joy to witness the transformation of lives, not only those featured in all the iGOs, but also in the very team who drives and moulds this project. Guys, your lives inspire me!

06 Ross Li
PHOTOGRAPHER
Hearing about each person's encounter with God, their journey to faith, and their unique response to their calling was a lot of encouragement and fun. It is a huge encouragement to see how God is immensely personal, not far and distant.

02 Sherman Chau
WRITER

In high school, I learned about "The Writing Process," a six-step process that includes brainstorming, writing a first draft and lots of revisions. As a journalist, I learned that my best writing came not from the Writing Process but with a hard and fast deadline and adrenaline... and a very good editor. Here's to the editor!

03 Florence Chiu
WRITER

The iGO booklet is an accumulation of many hours of coffee, dreaming, drafting and thinking what can be given to the church that could inspire and encourage people towards missions. As I see what God is doing in people's lives, I am encouraged to keep walking with Him. Working on this would not be the same if it wasn't for you iGO peeps!

04 Ricki Yuen
WRITER

Writing is the least I enjoy doing but what brings me the most joy in serving on iGO team is the

*07 Praise Ma
PHOTOGRAPHER
It's been fun piecing together things with iGO team where words are not needed for communication. Where thoughts, expressions, sounds, and visuals can trigger instant connections and many "That's what I was thinking too!" I'm inspired always to look at where we are and where we are going. To see the intricate details and broad strokes that paint the beauty of our world. Everyday snapshots and interactions that are part of who we are.*

01



02



03



04



05



06



07



Cover Story

EM POWERING THE PEOPLE

WRITER

Sherman Chau

PHOTOGRAPHER

Praise Ma

O

kay, I'll just cut to the chase, and in this case it's a confession: I was a "long term missionary" in Vietnam for nine years; I participated in and led lots of short-term trips as a teen and as a youth leader; I'm now in the grand position of overseeing outreach and missions at Island ECC. And the honest truth is this: with all of that "experience," I think I'm only just starting to get it. It's only been quite recently that I think I've got a grasp on this missions thing. Not the trips, not the organisations and not the work and projects (although those are all part of it). I mean the bigger picture, Missions, with a capital M; missiology, even, to use a fancier term.

A big part of that understanding has come from the fact that the words we use can limit our understanding. They can put

blindness on us so that we only focus on what's in front of us while we miss the bigger picture around us. The saying, "We don't speak language; language speaks us," comes to mind. The words we choose and use have a great influence on how we see and interpret reality. A word is like a window and our outlook and view are affected by its size (also by the colour of glass and direction too, if you want to stretch the analogy). One starting point is the term "missionary," a good and classic word for someone sent out to do spiritual work in a certain place, usually in a different culture from one's own. As we know, today there are many places in the world where we simply can't enter as missionaries. Yet many people still go to the same places and with the same purpose, but under a different heading or title, like tentmaker, evangelistic language teacher, bi-vocational pastor and others. Hopefully, here, I can introduce some new word-windows that can encompass classic and traditional terms, but that can also open our eyes to more possibilities within a bigger world.

It has only been fairly recently that I've had a major shift in my perspective on missions to the one I hold now: that missions — or more specifically why we do missions — is not just a stand alone, isolated thing we do, whether it's compartmentalised as a short-term trip we take or an either/or long-term career choice we make. Missions is part of an all-encompassing calling, an even grander narrative, and that is to help reveal and restore the kingdom of God. I could spend the rest of this article (and more) defining this, but for now, let me define God's kingdom as the rule and reign of God on earth. God's kingdom is something that was created in perfection

Missions is part of an all-encompassing calling, an even grander narrative, and that is to help reveal and restore the kingdom of God.

in Eden and was lost when man sinned. The recovery and restoration process began with Christ's atoning work on the cross and continues through us as his followers. When we think of the Great Commission and why we go, we often think of John 3:16, but a verse that has helped me understand missions within the context of God's kingdom is Colossians 1:19 & 20: "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Christ), and through him to reconcile to himself all things." Christ's work of reconciliation is to restore all things — people, societies, culture, cities — to what they were meant to be in God's original design. And for a glimpse of that design, check out Isaiah 65:17–25. Later, I hope you'll see how this is a pretty significant shift.

My search for the kingdom began because I lacked answers. During the second half of our time in Vietnam, we helped launch Glocal Ventures Inc. (GVI), an organisation that hosted, facilitated and consulted for short term outreach teams. We were officially registered as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that was doing community development work to improve lives in urban and rural areas, and we were transparent with the (socialist) government about our Christian identity and Christian volunteers. We therefore didn't have an overt evangelistic, pastoral training




or church planting strategy, and so I often had to answer questions about our purpose and relevance. That led me to writings about “kingdom development” models, which were driven by Christian organisations that were doing community development. Here’s one of my favourite quotes: “Community development with a focus on God’s kingdom is a tangible way of making Christ known in this fallen world. We are not just helping people to have better food, housing and clothing, but in a greater sense we are pointing them to the abundant life that is God’s plan for all people ... Kingdom development and our efforts at addressing the deepest needs of people is a foreshadowing and even an attempt at

what life is really meant to be and will be in an eternity spent with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”*

That quote was when I began to see possibilities as many missions-related things fit within the kingdom perspective. Evangelism and personal salvation were still key strategies but they no longer had to be the singular purpose of a missions strategy. In “The Next Christians,” Gabe Lyons writes: “Christ’s death and resurrection were not only meant to save people from something. He wanted to save Christians to something ... Christ’s redemptive work is not the end or even the goal of our stories; redemption is the beginning of our participation in God’s

The kingdom perspective doesn’t just count the number of personal decisions or conversions as the measure of success. It looks beyond discipleship to the individuals allowing the kingdom of God within them to blossom, joining with others to form kingdom-minded communities in which societal change is a reflection of personal transformations.



work of restoration in our lives and in the world.” The kingdom perspective doesn’t just count the number of personal decisions or conversions as the measure of success. It looks beyond discipleship to the individuals allowing the kingdom of God within them to blossom, joining with others to form kingdom-minded communities in which societal change is a reflection of personal transformations.

In thinking about things from a kingdom perspective, it also helps to think in terms of disciples as the change agent rather than missionaries. I like this because when we think of the “where” of where we’re called, the term “mission field” can be limiting, even if we’re talking about

global missions! The term can carry a mystique or an air of exclusivity where only those who are “the most” can go: the most gifted, the most spiritual, the most obedient. But it can also relegate those who don’t or can’t go to a lower position, when in fact it’s more about hearing different callings. Since the kingdom of God is incarnate within each disciple, wherever he or she is becomes a redemption opportunity; that place becomes their missional field, be it their workplace, their classroom, their family or simply their sphere of influence.

If and when disciples begin transforming their surroundings, it’s not hard to see how the whole of society begins to

change. Christ-followers come from all sectors of society. So instead of only trying to bring people into the church, the church can release people back to their environments and equip them to be change agents and ushers of God’s kingdom in boardrooms, doctor’s offices, sales floors and seminar rooms. Exchanging the term “missions” for “kingdom” allows a lot more people to get involved in God’s transforming work. In fact, it changes the playing field from just “there” to everywhere, and in doing so, it calls on everyone to participate.



People Profile

God has
A PLACE
FOR YOU *in*
MISSION

WRITER
Florence Chiu

PHOTOGRAPHER
Ross Li



Praise Ma is a Canadian-born Chinese and has been living in Hong Kong for 10 years. A Christian since an early age, her dream was to be a medical missionary doctor. Praise has been leading the Rwanda mission team since 2004. She is a middle school teacher at Hong Kong International School and is an Apple Distinguished Educator. She loves nature and photography, and uses photos to tell stories about God's beauty in people and places. To Praise, missions is a part of her life. Time with her students, training others in educational technology, cooking for others at home, taking photos and encouraging people in different countries are all a part of a life of missions.



Sandeep was born and raised in Hong Kong, studying IT. His sister brought a pamphlet home about God and Sandeep was asked by his father to prove to his sister the falsehood of Christianity. However the more he searched for reasons to disprove Christianity, the more he found it interesting. He found a website of a church in California with online sermons and became a Christian while listening to an online broadcast of an outreach event. He did not go to church until his then-girlfriend pointed out in the South China Morning Post Island ECC as a church he could try. Missions to him is how he lives his daily life in order to shine the light of Christ in front of others. He wants to make it known to others this is how Christ loves people. He says that as long as he is awake, he is on a mission trip. The biggest lesson he has learnt is not to just talk about God but to act out the love of Christ in action.



Ewan Chan was born in South Africa and came to Hong Kong in 2003. She became a Christian in 2009 when she went with her daughters to Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). She finally understood who Jesus was as she was studying the Book of John in BSF and her leader asked if she wanted Jesus to be her Saviour. She was touched when she heard other people's testimonies and wanted to see how God could also work in her life. When she came across a devotional about stepping out of your comfort zone, she decided to go on her first mission trip to Qinghai. Even though she had fears of not knowing anyone, she was encouraged by the other Christians who did not judge her. As she takes little steps of faith, God has been teaching her not to judge others and to be thankful for everything.



Eliza Hui was born and raised in Hong Kong and became a Christian in high school. She never thought she would be serving in full-time ministry. Graduating from the Chinese University of Hong Kong with a music degree, she thought she was going to be a music teacher or a housewife. She started her first job as an executive assistant for the Franklin Graham ministry in 2007. In 2008, she joined Island ECC and has worked there since then. Having served in a Christian environment for more than 4 years, Eliza has realized that serving God in Hong Kong is just as important as serving in a remote country.



Fukuko Walker was born in Japan and has never been to a church in Japan. During college, she went to the States as an exchange student and met a friend from France who was a Christian and took her to church. It was in Texas that she also met her husband who was in the same class with her. Due to her limited English, she did not understand anything at church but after returning to Japan, she started searching and found a church right next to where she was working and became a Christian there. Fukuko now lives in Hong Kong as a housewife with her husband and her two children Daniel and Katy. Going back to Japan on a mission trip in 2011 took her out of her comfort zone and helped her learn to trust in God despite having her own fears and hesitations.

TOP 10 REASONS WHY PEOPLE DON'T GO ON MISSION TRIPS

1

There are many people going already so I don't need to go.

The number of people in each team always varies. Do not assume that we have enough people all the time for mission trips and would have a target number per trip. Decide on whether or not to go on a mission trip based on prayer and spending time with God rather than looking to see whether others are going or who's going.

2

I don't have a genuine serving heart. I don't feel like my motives for going would be to serve God and to love others.

There are many varied reasons and motives people go on a mission trip. Many can testify to also not having a genuine motive of serving God. We believe that God will use this journey to shape each person's hearts as they bring whatever is there in front of God and is open and teachable.

3

It's too expensive. I can't afford it.

Do not let money be the primary reason that will stop you from going. If there are financial concerns, pray and ask God whether this is a trip that He is asking you to go to and ask for His provision. After you apply, bring it up to the trip leaders to see how they may be able to help you.

4

I don't have time. I have family obligations and I'm too busy at work to take time off.

We pray that God will clear your schedule in your work and at home so that you may be able to spend time in serving Him. The important thing to do is to pray for this specifically as you ask Him whether you should be going.

5

It's outside of my comfort zone. I don't like dirt and getting to know new people. I don't feel comfortable singing, praying out loud. I don't like the activities we need to do on a mission trip. I don't like children.

Allow God to enter into the unknown and guide you through it. The beauty of having a team is God putting individuals together to bring together different gifts and how each person grows as they step out of their comfort zone.

6

There are so many people who are in need in Hong Kong. Why are we always going out to help others? We need to help our own country first.

This is not an either/or choice. As Christians, we will reach out both locally in Hong Kong as well as internationally to different countries. We pray that you can carefully consider the burden and prompting God has placed in your heart and follow Him in obedience. One person cannot do everything, but as a body, we can do a lot in unity in Hong Kong as well as outside of this city.

7

I'm a new Christian. I'm not spiritual enough. I don't know the Bible well enough. I don't have any gifts to offer. I am not equipped to do this.

You do not need to be spiritual enough or have gifts to offer in order to be used by God. As God brings together a team, we often see how He placed each person there so that they would complement and help each other's weaknesses and insufficiencies.

8

I'm not called to be a missionary. I don't know how to evangelize.

We are all called to proclaim the gospel to all people and testify of God's love and what we have received in Christ. You do not need to be a missionary to do that or any special skills — just a willing and open heart to share in love and in action what we have already received first from Him.

9

I don't have a heart for any particular country, a specific place or people group. I might be in physical danger.

Many people sign up for a mission trip not having that particular heart or burden. Perhaps they chose according to the right timing, by invitation through a friend, or because of the number of days they can take off. Part of the mission trip is learning that no matter what your initial motive might be, God can use this trip to change and transform your heart to understand God's heart, how He sees His children and how much He loves us.

10

My family will not agree with me going. I don't want to tell others.

There have been many encouraging testimonies of team members who were afraid to tell family members about their trip and as they step out in faith committing this to prayer, God has opened doors

for them to go, to their surprise. Sharing with family members and friends about a mission trip is a great bridge for Christians to share about God's love and why Christians would want to go and serve. Sometimes God

does shut the door for an individual to go and we believe that His timing is perfect and will open it at the right time again if it is His will.



WRITER

Dawn Lau

PHOTOGRAPHY

Praise Ma

MISSION AT HOME

As dwellers in the city of Hong Kong, we should all consider Hong Kong as our mission field. For wherever you are, you are a vessel of the Spirit of God...

In all you do, whether it be at work, at home, at church, do it unto the glory of God. It is not the size or significance of the task that God is concerned with, but the attitude of your heart. What a blessed privilege it is to work in partnership with God, for we all know that He does not require our human abilities, but desires our humility and thanksgiving attitude. It is in this posture of constant worship that truly we will uncover our need for a Saviour to cleanse us of all our sins.

Mother Teresa said, “God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful.” Faithful to the love He has poured into your heart — what shall you do with it now? How can you make an impact for the name of Jesus Christ in Hong Kong? Every ministry starts off as a mustard seed of faith on our part, which God takes and grows. The following are just some examples of what God has done with our small steps of faith:

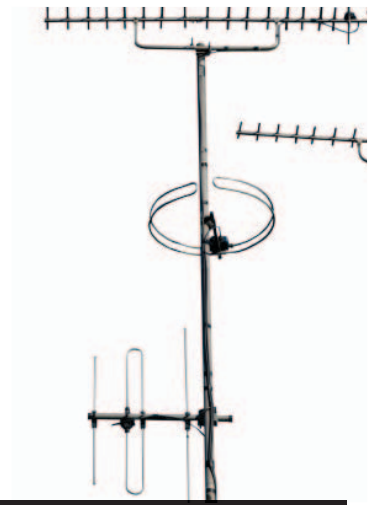




Kit

Kit, a dentist by profession, met a group of Union Church elders at a caregroup, who asked him to consider starting a ministry of providing free dental care to asylum seekers and refugees in the ChungKing Mansion church. Kit did not hesitate to say yes, and he has been devoting every Wednesday afternoon to providing this service to these brothers in need for the past 3.5 years. At that time, he thought, “What’s the big deal? I am just using the skills, tools, and time, that God gave me!” Little did he know, this ministry was paving the way for a grander mission. Last autumn, he was asked by a doctor he met at Pastor Rick Bates’ caregroup to consider joining him on a medical mission trip to China. Now this was stepping out of his comfort zone, but he felt the Holy Spirit prompting him to say yes, without consulting his wife! (Thankfully she was on board too!) Looking back, he realized “the Chungking Mansion ministry was God giving me a trial run.” Since then he has been on two medical mission trips to China, and is planning two more for next year.

“What’s the big deal? I am just using the skills, tools, and time, that God gave me!”



Sobee

Five years ago, Sobee moved from Australia back to Hong Kong, working through a shaky relationship as well as taking up working for her father’s watch company in Hong Kong. Through the support of her friends and family, and devoting herself to bible study, she refused to let her heart grow bitter, despite the trying circumstances of adapting to a new life. In the meantime, her father became Christian — her whole family is now saved. Inspired by God’s vision, she painted an image on a canvas, which she later thought of incorporating as designs onto the faces of the watches, so that buyers, suppliers and company/factory staff would read the Bible story that would be printed along with the watch packaging. She found an artist on the internet whose work approximated the images she had painted; she contacted him and flew to Australia soon after to meet him in person. Things moved quickly from there, and the line of watches is ready to be launched in 2012. In terms of church ministry, Sobee once went along on Island ECC’s visit to the teenage boys’ drug rehab centre. She was touched when she saw these young boys singing worship with such confidence that they were saved — that God would give people second chances. It all started when she rather innocently asked if Island ECC arranged visits to girls’ centres — and now Sobee heads up the Barnabas Girls’ Drug Rehab Centre visits, with 10–15 volunteers visiting once a month.



Sarah

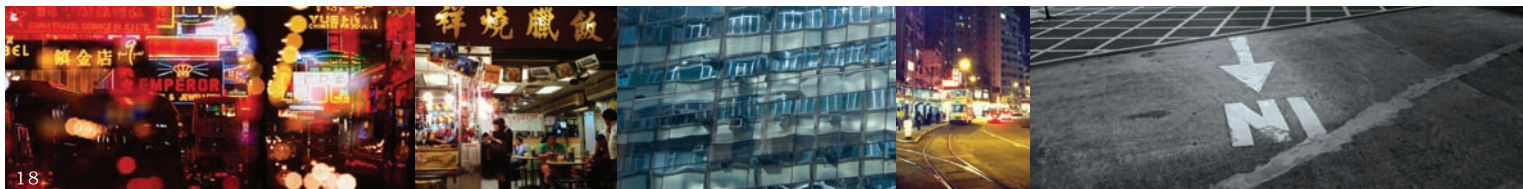
For those who are full-time church staff, you might wonder what they do on their days off. For Sarah, who works full-time for the Kids' Ministry at Island ECC, her weekends and some weekday evenings are devoted to Inner City Ministries (ICM), an organisation that ministers to Nepalese children in Hong Kong. They are a marginalised group in the city, with parents who work long hours. Rather than hanging out at a public park after school and in the evenings, they can go to the centre in Jordan that ICM runs, where volunteers like Sarah come and tutor them. To Sarah, this is not "ministry," or an "extension of work," but just what life is like when God has shown you His heart for children.

Esther

Esther is a missionary who works at Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association, a non-profit organisation ministering to prison inmates. Esther came to Hong Kong from Australia without a concrete plan. She went travelling and had several job interviews, but nothing seemed to work out. She had enough savings for one year, she figured, so she wandered around Hong Kong, wondering why all her ways of attaining security and achievement were failing. In that time, she cried out to God, "You're the only hope that I have!" With that, she let go and surrendered her agenda. Then God gave her three passages in the Bible that spoke about prisoners and the Kun Sun Association, whom she had interviewed with, called. She went in to meet the inmates — but "I was so broken at that point I had nothing to say to them. I could just listen." Why prison, you may ask? "Freedom is a big theme in my life — freedom for the captives. What I found out in prison ministry was that I was the captive, captive of my own self-sufficiency and a need to succeed in order to prove my worth. Ironically it was in working with these prisoners that I found true freedom." Freedom that can only come from trusting and following God in every circumstance.

Nadia

Nadia, a young lawyer at an international firm, works gruelling hours. Despite that, she finds time to co-lead a caregroup, co-head the Mongolia mission trip last summer, and is hoping to organise a feeding programme to distribute food coupons to provide meals to children in Kwai Tsing, the second poorest district in Hong Kong. She first felt a calling to feed the children when she came across several news articles and reports about how many families in Hong Kong were unable to provide adequate meals for their children, and was saddened. God moved her heart to mobilise some resources from the financially rich to the financially needy, so that all can be spiritually blessed.



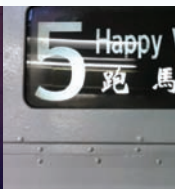
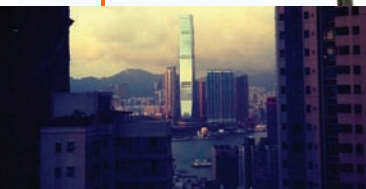
**To Sarah,
this is not
“ministry,”
or
an “extension
of work,”
but
just what
life is like
when God
has shown
you
His heart
for children.**

Mun

Having come to Christ through the Alpha Course two years ago, Mun has since continued to serve on every Alpha course Island ECC has held. Earlier this year, during a 40-day partial fast, she asked God to reveal His army to her at her workplace. Within a week, she found out that two colleagues at the financial services company where she works were Christians; one even attended Island ECC. She started a Christian Lunch Fellowship, with five people. Today this group has grown to more than 40, and her company has even recognised it officially as one of its social community clubs. This past fall, she started Workplace Alpha. In November, the group of 14 Alpha participants from her workplace joined Island ECC’s group at the Alpha Retreat in Lantau Island. At least six people have come to Christ, and two have recommitted their lives to Christ. Indeed if people cannot come to church, why not bring church to them?

What does a vision from God look like?

As you can see from the stories above, it often starts with a nudging in the heart or a spark of interest, and is followed by faith, prayers, patience and support from fellow Christians. Oswald Chambers observed, “God’s method always seems to be vision first, and then reality, but in between the vision and the reality there is often a deep valley of humiliation... When God gives a vision and darkness follows, waiting on God will bring you into accordance with the vision He has given if you await His timing.” If God puts a vision in your heart, be prayerful, faithful, and obedient. For if God wills it, then so it will be. He will be accomplishing it whether or not you go... but believe me, you will want to be there. Beware also of holding on too tightly to what is ultimately God’s work—for we must constantly bring the vision back to God, lifting it up in prayer and with open hands.



the



WORD

You don't have to be a 'missionary' to live a mission-minded life.

WRITER
Florence Chiu

“Missionary” conjures up a wide range of different images. For example, I used to have this image of female missionaries being in long flowing skirts and having a bad hair-do. Missionaries were people who were sent overseas to remote places and you would not hear from them for a long time. They were people who had big faith, little money, lived in wooden stilt homes and were willing to pay huge costs for the Lord. I’m not sure where I had gotten these stereotypes from; now some of these perceptions may be true, but this stereotypical image was stuck in my head even before I started meeting people who were actually missionaries.

It wasn't until I started attending Island ECC in Hong Kong and I visited a friend from Australia who had moved to Cambodia as a missionary that I realised my perception might just be a little off. I started to realise that many of the staff working in our own church were in fact missionaries. In fact, it seemed like missionaries in Hong Kong often came in the form of people like you or me. I started to know missionaries who needed to raise their own financial support and some who worked to provide for their own support. Missionaries were not people who just wandered around preaching the gospel door to door, from village



01



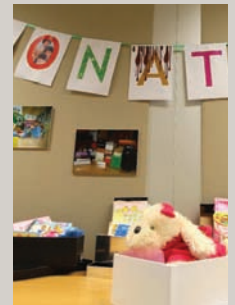
02



03



04



05



06

01 Bobby left his comfortable corporate life in 2009 to follow God without knowing where He was leading him to. With a heart for mission, he went on multiple mission trips in a single year to China, Africa and Philippines. Eventually God led him to Sowers Exchange, a social enterprise that helps under-resourced social purpose organisations get linked up with corporate resources. He is now serving as a Managing Director at Sowers Exchange.

to village, but they can also have jobs: office jobs, skilled labour, professional jobs. I started to understand that God can send anyone anywhere, including banks and schools in a developed city like Hong Kong, and that is their realm of missions. All of a sudden, my definitions of “missionary” and “missions” had to change.

I must confess, I love meeting up with missionaries. In the last few years, I have met missionaries who live in persecuted countries, missionaries who have given up their jobs and comfort to move somewhere else, missionaries who have stayed right where they were to minister to their own people. Often over a meal or coffee, I would listen to stories of God at work through both the valleys and the mountains, and we would share lives. Normal lives that are also not so normal. Over the years as I got to know them, they stopped being “missionaries” in my vocabulary, but friends and part of my family in Christ. These are friends I would catch up with when we were in the same

“Missionary” conjures up a wide range of different images . . . I used to have this image of female missionaries being in long flowing skirts and having a bad hair-do.



07



08



09

02 - 03

Carl speaking at an event at his Wanchai art gallery. Carl has a passion to empower underprivileged youth in Hong Kong. His focus this year of serving God has shifted from giving time to giving resources. Owning a few properties in Hong Kong, Carl sponsors overseas missionaries with free accommodation and offers his art gallery space for outreach gatherings. Carl loves the arts and he is active in preserving local culture.

04-06

Christine believes that true success of great leaders lies in their strength of character which forms at a young age. Seeing many teenagers struggle with low self-esteem, addictive

behaviours and broken relationships, Christine started JEMS, an education centre that focuses on building character in young children from age 3-12. Her dream is to see them grow up embracing their God-given character.

07-08

Jenny knew God was tugging at her heart to do something for the marginalised women in India since her first visit to the country in 2009. Using her marketing background and social networks, Jenny founded the “Ups A Daisy” foundation, a Christian NGO focused on empowering women in India through business.

09

Seeing the amount of time children spend surfing the Internet and playing online video games, Angela felt the need to create a safe and fun virtual environment for children to play and learn. Angela and her team created Vineyard Stories, an online interactive game designed to help children aged 4 and up to learn about the Bible, and develop English, Maths and analytical skills. But most important of all, Angela’s prayer is that the game will help to develop a child’s moral character at a young age.



10



11

city, people I would keep in touch with throughout the years. I am encouraged by the conscious decisions each has made to follow Christ. I see their answer to His call, a response to His love in the way they have chosen to live. I am often challenged by their passion for God and for His kingdom.

Like the twelve disciples, these are ordinary men and women who answered Jesus' call of "follow me." For some, it did mean being sent out to another country to serve the poor, the widows, the abandoned, the lost. For others, it meant taking up a job in a non-profit organisation or church that could utilise their professional skills and willing heart to serve. Missionaries were not as "removed" from my everyday life as I had thought, but they were rubbing shoulders with me at work; they could be your colleague at the bank, or your teacher at school. I thank God for these men and women who are examples of what it means to take up the cross.

Missionaries were not as "removed" from my everyday life as I had thought, but they were rubbing shoulders with me at work; they could be your colleague at the bank, or your teacher at school.



13



12

10-11
Priscilla was a finance lawyer in Hong Kong before she moved to Cambodia in 2010. She now utilises her well-honed legal skills and God-given compassion to support women and children who have survived sex trafficking, exploitation and abuse.



14



12-13

Need some inspiration on how to spend your \$6,000 incentive from the Hong Kong government? Consider participating in “GeneroCity,” an initiative started by Andrea and Christine to help the poor and needy families in the Sham Shui Po area by providing character-building and development programmes for a hundred underprivileged children and youth in the area.

14

Since going to Cambodia for the first time in 2008, this country has become an inseparable part of Sharon’s life. She is one of the founders of Kairos Fellowship, a Christian NGO that serves the people in Cambodia. Through her vast personal

and professional network working as an executive in the finance industry, Sharon has raised awareness for Cambodia among her corporate clients and leveraged financial support for the work that God has called her to do.

15-16

“Let there be light!” Utilising their passion for fashion and business, Geoff and Salina successfully launched their own fashion brand “Amenpapa” in 2010. Their Bible inspired products are available at major retail chains in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

17-19

Charlene started Mustard Seed Workshop believing that God can use her mustard-seed-sized faith to empower impoverished communities to move mountains and make a difference in the lives of the poor. An idea that started after meeting a missionary on a Qinghai mission trip has now turned into a Christian social enterprise selling quality hand-made products.



16

15



17



18

In other words, you don’t have to be a missionary to live a mission-minded life. While some are sent to other countries for His work, God has also called us to be a light in the marketplace, in schools, hospitals, government, and media. These too have answered Jesus’ call of “follow me” and have been sent out to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the place He has assigned for us. Modern missions is evolving along with the rapidly changing world of technology and communication. We need to ask God what a mission-minded life looks like in our lives, and listen to His answer.



19

I pray that as a church, we will continue to encourage and support our partners in different countries, many of them local missionaries faithfully living out the gospel in word and deed. I pray that we will be a church body that responds to God’s call in our lives to be light and salt so that others may give praise to God and follow Him.



interview with
**SHERMAN
CHAU**

Sherman Chau, Island ECC's new Pastor and director of Global Outreach, sits down with iGO and tells us how he came a full circle back to the church of his teenage years, and the vision that God has placed on his heart.

i: Sherman, you grew up at the Kowloon ECC church (the church from which Island ECC was planted). How did you end up back here?

S: Let me backtrack a little. I was born and raised in Kingston, Ontario, Canada and moved to Hong Kong when I was 15. We were a non-Christian family; I had a younger brother. My mom started attending church in my teenage years, and my brother and I would accompany her. When we moved to Hong Kong, because of my dad's job as a physics professor, my mom found ECC church. I wasn't Christian at the time, and was adjusting to life in Hong Kong — not speaking Cantonese, it was difficult to be in a school like Diocesan Boys' School. At ECC, I really connected with the English-speaking youth group called Harvesters, and that's where I accepted Christ, got baptized and really grew in my faith. My father accepted Christ near his last days in his battle with cancer, and my brother became Christian shortly after that.

i: You are now overseeing Global Outreach at Island ECC. What were your first experiences with missions like?

S: I remember our youth group took a mission trip to China to do outreach. At the time, it was more about being part of the team. Then we also welcomed a group of Vietnamese kids and we took them to Ocean Park. I didn't think that I would end up serving long term in Vietnam for 9 years as an adult! I did my university degree in communications in Canada, and then in 1986 I moved back to Hong Kong and worked in video and advertising. In 1997–99, I took up the position of youth director of Harvesters, and led mission trips to the Philippines, etc. Then I felt like I wanted to work in the marketplace and use my background in communications, so I became a journalist with The Hong Kong Standard.

i: People are always interested to know how missionaries become missionaries. How do you hear God's calling?

S: After marrying Becky, we felt being led away from Hong Kong, maybe North America, since Becky grew up there. We wanted to raise kids in the Pacific Northwest, so we scouted out houses and schools and I went on a couple of job interviews there. We got some positive signs from God, we thought. On the flight back to Hong Kong, everything looked just about set, but there was something missing. One of us thought: "What if God is calling us to full-time ministry, in Asia?" And this really resonated with the other person. After a few other confirmations, conversations with other Christians, and our own prayers, we felt like Vietnam was the place. After all, Becky's dad fought in the Vietnam War and was mentored by a missionary couple in that time, and she had been there once as a young child. So we ended up serving in Vietnam for 9 years, at ELIC (English Language Institute) and Glocal Ventures,

a volunteer-mobilising organisation.

i: How did you end up back at Island ECC, as pastor and head of Global Outreach?

S: In January 2011, Becky and I were invited back for the GO (Global Outreach) Conference. Pastor Brett Hilliard told me that the current director of Global Outreach was leaving, would I be interested in the position? I told Brett I'd pray about it, but I told him that there was a low probability, the answer would probably be no. Because it came at a time I thought things were starting to really take off in Vietnam, when I felt like we were in the centre of God's will. That night I was wondering out loud, "God, do you want me to take this offer?" and then I heard a very clear "Yes." It was just like hearing someone say it, except that it didn't pass through my ears, but it was with the same kind of certainty that I "heard" it in my heart. Becky prayed and heard the same response. At the start of the conference, I was just breaking a fast. The last devotion of the fast was about growing a vision, and the question of the devotion was: "What if you can go back to the place where it all began?" For us that was a clear confirmation.

i: How do you see Global Outreach and missions for Island ECC in the coming year?

S: I'd like to bring a bit of my experience in community development into our strategies for countries where we're doing that kind of work. Raising up and multiplying leaders is something that I'm passionate about. I'm thinking about how awareness, education and discipleship can be a part of that leadership process. There are already so many strong trips and outreach projects. The challenge for us — and for any church — is to consider how we can be more effective in the Great Commission, and that will come from seeking His will for us.

FACTS AND STATS



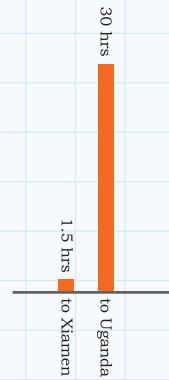
When and where was the first Island ECC mission trip?

Dominic Chan led the first Island ECC mission trip to Hubei in February 2000. A subsequent trip was led by Jim Pang in November 2000. Since then, Island ECC had been sending teams to Hubei every summer to participate in the Love English Camp. The main objective of this trip is to share God's love through teaching English. The last trip was in 2009.



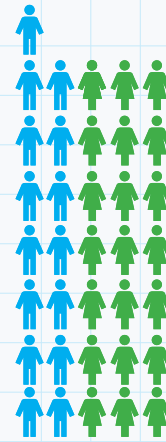
The largest and smallest team

In 2009, Island ECC sent out the largest mission team of 57 people to Sichuan, China, in response to the deadly earthquake that struck the area a year ago. The main goals were to rebuild homes for the earthquake survivors and show them love in action. The smallest mission team that Island ECC has ever sent out was to Xiamen, China in April 2011. The team consisted of a doctor, a nurse and a dentist. They ministered to factory workers who had very limited public health care access. It was the first medical mission trip that Island ECC sent out. A subsequent trip took place in the same year in September.



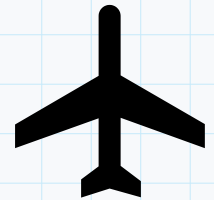
The shortest and longest flight time

Shortest flight - Xiamen Trip, 1.5 hours (direct flight)
 Longest flight - Uganda Trip, 30 hours (1 connection, 9-hour layover)



Who led mission trips?

In 2011, we sent out a total of 13 overseas mission teams. Our trips are usually led by 2 to 4 volunteers, depending on the size of the team. Our mission trip leaders come from all kinds of background, age and professions. Our most experienced leader is Praise Ma who has led a team to Rwanda for 8 consecutive years.



You've got Miles?

You can earn enough mileages to redeem the following awards on Asia Miles if you join all the mission trips that Island ECC organised in 2011:

- A round trip economy class CX ticket from Hong Kong to Los Angeles
- Movie ticket vouchers for 16 at Director's Club @ UA Cityplaza
- A flight experience simulator package
- An iPod touch 32GB



2011 Number of participants

Out of 253 people who went on a mission trip this year, 111 of them were going for the first time.

Reaching the Unreached

Unreached People Group (UPG) refers to people groups that have a small percentage of Christian presence (in general less than 2%). Many of these people have never heard of the Gospel. There are either no Christians or not enough of them to evangelize in their community.

Japan, Thailand and Cambodia are some of the most unreached countries in South East Asia where there is only a 0.5% Christian population.

Most of the UPG live in places stretching across the maps of northern Africa and Asia. This rectangular area has been called “the 10/40 window.” It is the area between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude of the equator. It is also called “The Resistant Belt” and includes the majority of the world’s Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

India and China alone make up two thirds of the world’s population— more than 4.4 billion people.

OUR PARTNERS

Island ECC is involved in a lot of ongoing long-term Kingdom work in many countries through our supported missionaries and organisations. Many of the people described here have been raised up and sent out from Island ECC. All together, our partnership with them represents a whole expression of the Good News in many cultures and countries. Due to space (and sometimes security) we can only tell part of what they are doing in their area — come talk to the Global Outreach department if you'd like to learn more!

1 **Achim & Lhaki Appel**

flying local pastors, Bible translators and relief supplies to remote areas of Uganda

2 **Touch of Mercy**

orphanage serving the poorest of the poor in Visakhapatnam, India

3 **Helen Tijsterman**

fostering five children in Mongolia with Alpha Communities

4 **Chew & Aileen Thong**

using multimedia to serve minority groups by preserving their culture and self-esteem

5 **Steve Wible**

training pastors and developing training curriculum in China and Asia

6 **Tim & Debbie Vinzani**

alleviating poverty through agricultural projects in northern China

7 **Rob & Joy Penner**

nurturing and discipling migrant leaders

8 **John & Annalisa Gates**

equipping and sending mainland Chinese workers to Central Asia and the Middle East

9 **China Source**

formulating strategies and convening resources to advance the Kingdom of God in China

10 **Samuel Chiang**

making disciples of oral learners using traditional communication forms such as stories, proverbs and songs

11 **ELIC**

sending teachers to East and Southeast Asia to provide quality English instruction

12 **Wilson Ho**

sowing seeds and touching hearts in Hong Kong through music

13 **Eva Lee**

reaching and discipling foreign university students in Hong Kong

14 **Wilson Chan**

using radio, internet and new technologies to reach young Chinese adults with the gospel

15 **Breakthrough Ministries**

a Christian youth organisation offering integrated services and training youth leaders

16 **Inner City Ministries**

reaching the South Asian community through education, employment, drug rehabilitation and other services

17 **Chung King Ministries**

providing a daily drop-in centre for refugees, drug addicts and the poor

18 **International Care Ministries**

uplifting and transforming the poor in the Philippines by addressing emotional, educational, physical and economic needs

19 **Daniel & Anna Mayhugh**

creating Livelihood Curriculum and training program managers and staff for ICM

20 **Le Khac Cuong**

pastoring churches in South Vietnam and training church planters

21 **Thong & Mary Tao**

evangelism and church planting in South Vietnam; developing and equipping women leaders

22 **Sundanese Christian Fellowship**

planting churches in Banten, West Java, Indonesia, a strong Muslim area with no Christian presence

23 **Priscilla & Nathan Chan**

assisting vulnerable women and children, survivors of trafficking and exploitation, and streetkids in Cambodia

24 **Arab World Evangelical Ministers Association (AWEMA)**

planting churches, training pastors, developing women leaders

AWEMA

Achim&Lhaki Appel

Samuel Chiang

ELIC

Chew&Aileen Thong

Steve Wible

Tim&Debbie Vinzani

Rob&Joy Penner

Helen Tijsterman

John&Annalisa Gates

China Source

Touch of Mercy

Wilson Ho

Eva Lee

Wilson Chan

Break through

Inner City Ministries

Chung King Ministries

Le Khac Cuong

Thong&MaryTao

International Care Ministries

Priscilla&Nathan Chan

Daniel&Anna Mayhugh

Sundanese Christian Fellowship

2011 *in* RETROSPECT

01 **CAMBODIA** *FAMILY MISSION TRIP*

Six families came together to go on the first family mission trip to Cambodia. The trip opened our eyes to how children can minister to other children, families to families, and everyone from the youngest baby to the oldest male have their own place in missions. We saw a beautiful picture of families serving together as one. Adults looked after their own children as well as other children. Children played together regardless of language or cultural barriers. In a nation where daughters can be sold and families broken, we pray that the example of a family in Christ can be demonstrated in love and action.

02 **INDIA** *TEACHER TRAINING TRIP*

The Banjara tribe are a nomadic people group, forgotten and neglected by most people. BBPT

was a ministry formed with a vision to reach out to this tribe with the love of Jesus in the hope of also training and empowering the underprivileged in their social, economic and spiritual life. When asked regarding their needs, BBPT requested for us to send teachers who would be willing to train their teachers. We were not only met by children and teachers hungry to learn, but also by stories of faith and how God can work through a seeming lack of resource.

03 **QINGHAI**

Braving altitude sickness at 4000m, a long journey and basic living conditions, a part of the team went up to Yushu into the earthquake-hit area while the other half stayed in Xining. Yushu is largely dominated by Tibetans and the worship of idols. The team visited families, helped in a medical clinic, taught children and cooked meals. In such an isolated area, the team brought with them love that comes

simply from being there. In Xining, we spent time with students, local workers, orphans and the needy. Despite the hard spiritual ground, we pray that God will continue to send labourers into this field and reveal Himself to the people of Qinghai as the one true God.

04 **JAPAN**

Six months after the earthquake and tsunami, we sent a team to Ishinomaki, one of the hardest hit cities in North Tohoku. Our entire trip was about joining hands with other brothers and sisters intertwined for one purpose—to demonstrate God's love and hope to the locals who have lost so much. Short-term teams, long-term volunteers, Japanese, non-Japanese all came together to help in demolishing homes, building relationships, doing community outreach, sharing meals, encouraging believers, and making smiles and laughs come back. As volunteer numbers diminish, the journey

of grief and rebuilding continues for those on the ground. We pray that God will continue to use our team to be a part of the rebuilding—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

05 **RWANDA** *YOUTH AND ADULT*

“Peace, be still” are the words that God gave the team from preparation to the end. As the team danced with widows from the genocide, filmed with streetkids, made bricks for a broken home, prayed with the sick and worshipped with the youth, God showed us time and time again that His provision is enough, His timing is perfect, and His beauty is in the broken. In Rwanda, we see God using the ordinary to do the extraordinary as we walk each step by faith and see God's love poured over those we love—brothers and sisters who have become a part of our family and whose lives we have seen transformed over the years.

06 **MONGOLIA**

From a summer children's camp to the city of Ulaanbaatar, the team served street children, orphans and people who live in the slums over two weeks in a beautiful country with lush grassy plans and endless blue skies. Social issues such as poverty, alcoholism, and unemployment plague this country where 36% of the population are below the poverty line. Through fun times with the children, home visits and fellowship with local missionaries, we saw God's hope and love for every lost child and every broken family. By walking alongside them and loving others, we too grew to understand more deeply the love of Christ for us.

07 **UGANDA**

“Renew” was this year's theme and indeed God showed us what it meant individually to be renewed spiritually and emotionally. There was a renewal of faith as members stepped out

of their comfort zone; a renewal of obedience; a renewal of hope and love as we experienced God in the midst of building, doing a sports day, giving a spa treatment, looking after babies and praying for patients. Renewal starts from the inside and is a testimony of God making things new in Uganda and within the team because of His redemption and hope.

08 **XIAMEN** **MEDICAL** **MISSION TRIP**

Island ECC sent out a medical team comprising four medical doctors, one dentist, and six helpers to give medical care to migrant workers in three factories located in Xiamen. God opened doors of opportunities for us to enter the factories for two full days and provide free medical attention and care to the employees. In the two days of operating a makeshift clinic within the factory walls, a total of 174 workers were treated and 42 gave their lives to Christ. Jesus's love in the team's own lives enabled us to experience compassion for the workers, as we ourselves were also blessed to see the fruit of the gospel changing lives and

bringing joy.

09 **PHILIPPINES**

In the Philippines, the spirit of poverty is a stronghold that is a daily struggle. A team of 8 went to the small rural city of Tagbilaran on Bohol Island, partnering with International Care Ministries, to reach out to the poor. The team bonded as one in Christ, and focused on reaching different areas affected by poverty ranging from pre-school education for children, feeding programmes for malnourished children, and sanitation projects to improve personal hygiene. We came back with a better understanding and heart for the daily struggles the Filipinos faced everyday and how a ministry like ICM can minister to their physical and spiritual needs.

10 **CAMBODIA**

A country scarred from the wounds of a genocide and struggling to deal with even deeper issues of broken families, human trafficking, poverty and corruption, the Cambodia known to the team is one of beauty—a place God is turning ashes to beauty and did not leave abandoned and without

hope. As we travelled to the village to paint a mural of Noah's ark for a kindergarten, built toilets and wells, and run children's programs before returning to the city to visit slums, student dorms, and anti-human trafficking ministries, God was changing and healing team members even as they served and pointed the Cambodians to God's healing and the gospel of love.

2012 NEW TRIPS

MEN **VIETNAM** **in APRIL**

Would you like to go on a great adventure together with other men? Join this band of brothers as you spend time in Hanoi both in the city and in the mountains, exerting physical strength to help with local projects for community development, as well as time working with local partners to understand the deeper spiritual needs of the people. Contact Daniel Tse at daniel@islandecc.hk.

WOMEN **INDIA in END** **of FEBRUARY**

Women will reach out to women as they spend time with each other in worship, the Word of God and in prayer. We will be visiting the two cities of Chennai and Trivandrum and working with ministry leaders in different ministries in training, empowering and encouraging women. We will also be working with children of the lowest caste as well as providing vocational training. We seek to build relationships that will help us understand the diverse needs of India and how God is at work as we walk with them and partner together for the gospel to be spread. Contact Vivian Law at vivian@islandecc.hk.

YOUTH **(MIDDLE** **SCHOOL)** **PHILIPPINES** **in APRIL**

In partnership with International Care Ministries, youth aged 11 to 18 are invited to share the love of Christ with those in need in the Philippines. While we will focus primarily on constructing homes in the slums, our heart is to build relationships

within the community, to bring the hope we have in Christ to many who feel hopeless. We will also spend time at local churches and preschools, help out with feeding programmes, and encourage individuals at the Care and Recovery Shelter. This trip is designed to be a safe, first-time mission experience. Students are sure to meet God in a real way as they show His love to the people of the Philippines. Contact: Grant Franke at grant@islandecc.hk

For this year's trip dates, announcements and updates, please visit www.islandecc.hk/ministries/missions or email go@islandecc.hk.

www.islandecc.hk