



# MF14:

## MOVING MOUNTAINS

(Of stuff)







The DEPS ARRIVE IN VIETNAM.



SA'S HOUSE. WHERE THE TEAM LODGED

# JONATHAN CHAN



This is my first ever Mission Trip.

I have been a Christian for 3 years and heard about mission trips numerous times. Christian brothers and sisters often came back and described how challenging and rewarding it can be. That's why I gave it a go. I am glad I did.

This mission trip provided any learning paths. I thank the Lord for the chance to review and practice on what I've learned from the bible.

- Mathews 22:39 - Love your neighbors as yourself.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances.
- Mathews: 6:19 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy.
- Romans: 12:8 – If it is to encourage, then give encouragement, if it is giving, then give generously, if it is to lead, do it diligently, if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Thank you all Christian brothers. It was wonderful to share and learn from all of you.

Need not consider... join a mission trip NOW!



The games



A PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS WHERE WE STACKED THE RICE

# SHERMAN CHAU



This was the third Men's Vietnam Trip for me (and for a few others as well). Each trip has been memorable in its own way, each team a unique composition of great guys.

The 2014 team however was the largest team we've had by quite a lot – 19 men! When it comes to mission teams, size does not matter. In fact, when it appeared at one point that we'd 25 guys, I was quite apprehensive about a team that large. The reason for my concern is that group size and intimacy are usually at odds with each other and inversely proportional. (You probably know this if you're involved in a care group.) One of the defining characteristics of the Men's Vietnam Trip has been the depth of sharing, transparency and vulnerability that happens during our sharing time. It has been life changing and healing. I thought that we'd lose that with a large team.

But the Lord says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways." (Isaiah 55:8) From the moment we all met at the airport to check in, I could see everyone already bonding, mixing, joking, talking to a teammate they didn't know well. Sure enough, in God's economy we could have it all. All the positive aspects of a big team (greater buzz, more manpower, more camaraderie) while also keeping the intimacy of the sharing time. To do this meant that we had to be much more intentional and scheduled - eg. sitting with someone different every time we got on a bus or a train and slotting someone to share whenever there was a free moment in the schedule – but it paid off.

I realized on this trip that there is actually a formula to the "success" of this trip. Achieving this intimate sharing and strong bond among men comes down to these two factors:

# SHERMAN CHAU

## 1. Change of Place + Change of Pace = Change in Perspective.

D.J. Andy P. shared this great equation he gleaned from author Mark Batterson. As Hong Kong men, we first have to get out of our crazy environment (get on a plane: check). Then we need to shift down several gears. The pace of life in Vietnam is generally slower than Hong Kong; the pace of life in the mountains of Lao Cai province in northwestern Vietnam is considerably slower still (change of pace: check). That creates the ideal conditions for a change in perspective, which is further facilitated by...

## 2. Good “lead off” men.

This is a baseball term that describes the first guy up to bat. The lead off man is a good, solid hitter who can get on base, someone who can

get things started for the team and set up bigger plays that will follow. The stereotype is that men do not want to open up and share. This is totally untrue. Plug in factor 1, then tap a gutsy man to lead off by baring his soul and sharing his story – pain, victory, stumbles, perseverance, mistakes, insights, sin, healing, humanity and all. This demonstrates that it’s a safe environment, inspires other men to follow suit and starts a chain reaction of transparency in the group.

On a final and personal note, the 2014 trip gave me a unique vantage point to see God at work in us and through us. I had laryngitis on the first night and lost my voice for the rest of the trip. I could barely speak above a whisper. Not an easy disability to accept as the trip leader, but it forced me to step back and allowed other guys like PC, YS and MC to step up, to lead the evening sharing time, to mobilize and corral our team, basically to lead the trip. And I think the trip was better in the end!

I'm GRATEFUL to be a part of a great team!







students in morning exercise



The can cau Market



MY SECOND MISSIONS TRIP TO VIETNAM  
WAS AMAZING!

The vietnamese culture sincerely values personal relationships. This year was particularly meaningful seeing familiar children and teachers who greeted the MF14 men with a smile. The Head Mistress then welcomed and conversed with each man to understand their background and age group in order to properly address the individual by status.

Several spontaneous and challenging experiences for me were:

- I, along with YS, had to organize and lead the personal testimony sharing for 20+ men
- 10 minutes lead-time to commence children games, originally scheduled the next day
- 5 minute lead-time to become spokesperson for mission trip recap

with the Head Mistress

- Facilitating personal testimonies that touched all aspects of sin and life experiences, and hearing each man point to God's love
- Group prayer changed to post-communion individual prayer.

The above experiences have taught me the importance to serve God (and Pastors with Laryngitis...) with a humble and servant heart!

I am blessed to be able to serve God and bond with a Band of Brothers in Christ.

# Phil Chin



I have joined the first ever Men Fraternity (MF) short-term mission trip from Island ECC, back 3 years ago. Since then I have gone back every year with this year being my 3rd trip. Our mission started with helping the school to pave a concrete playground, which accordingly to GVI a very basic thing like this will give the school a good status in the community. Then last year we went back to rebuild their kitchen and also start to have more interactions with the teachers and children beside the construction work. This year we originally wanted to rebuild the dormitory which are poorly constructed and very congested, but due to the size of that project we finally was only invited to build a small cafeteria for them. We were also asked to spend more time with the students and teachers other than construction work so we planned games and team building activities ahead of time as part of our preparation.

Finally, we have gathered 19 MF men to join

this year's trip, the largest team compare to 12 and 9 from the last 2 years. The interesting part is when we arrived, we discovered that the cafeteria was fully built. According to GVI, this is due to the government official who supported this project was being transferred to another area so he want to finish the work within his term. At the same time, we were also surprised to see major construction work at the back of the school for a brand new set of dormitories. After inquiring more to the background, we were told that since the government saw the school got a paved playground and a proper kitchen through repeated support from an external group, they decided to provide funds to build the dormitory for the school. I really see this is how God answered our prayers for rebuilding their dormitory while we only need do the small part that He ask us to do. I actually shared this testimony of God's work openly in front of the teachers and the new government official who just came on board.

# MALCOLM CHIU



# MALCOLM CHIU

While wondering what labor we will be doing for the few days, the school principal asked us to shuffle a big pile of dirt that were dropped as the back of the school, presumably pushed down the hill from the dormitory construction. In addition, 2 truckloads of rice were delivered to the school yard and we gather all 19 men to help them to store them in the cafeteria and classroom. It was tough work and if we weren't there, it will take the teacher and students days to do the same job. We also had much fun doing games with the students and team building with the teachers in between. As a tradition we close the trip with an appreciation dinner prepared by the teachers.

I was really considering not going back this year since I had done this 2 years in-a-roll and missed most of my important family events last year due to busy sched-

ule, but God called me to go back this year just before the deadline by giving me this verse:

And I am sure of this. that he who began  
a good work in you will bring it to completion  
at the day of JESUS CHRIST.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

I am so happy that I went to see the amazing way God completed the good work that He started with the MF group a few years back. I learned a lot from the students and teacher on how to live a very contend and joyful with a basic and simple life. It is also such a blessing to be get to know other Christian men closely during the trip and hear what God has done on their lives through their testimonies.



SO FAR AWAY, yet so close to my heart.

A second time back to Thai Giang Pho Primary School was like going back to a really good restaurant. When it was so good the first time, it was hard to resist the chance to go back a second time to see what God has in store. This time we had more brothers going together, which means more fellowship and more brotherhood. I was grateful to see many brothers again as I was away in Canada for one and a half year.

After almost 24 hours of traveling, I am back to see the familiar faces of the children and the teachers again, 2 years older. Even though we still couldn't have much verbal interaction without

translators, most of the activities we did, moving dirts, moving rice, group games did not require much talks. Our action speaks for itself and we all had so much joy.

Throughout the trip, I got to listen to many heart shaken testimonies from all the brothers. They revealed how our God is willing to go the distance to bring us back to him. It is this realization that made me believe even though the children and teachers do not have a grasp of the gospel, I believe our presence will eventually bear fruits in this beautiful mountainous area of Vietnam.

My prayer will continue to go with these wonderful children and teachers.



HERMAN HO

Since moving to Hong Kong over two years ago, I have always wanted to be involved in a missions trip in Asia. It was something I wanted to do, God willingly. I have frequent the Island ECC global outreach page for the list of planned missions trips for the year and I came across the Vietnam missions trip. I was drawn to the trip's itinerary as it incorporated activities that I would have particularly enjoyed: renovating the school's dining hall, manual labour, setting up games and activities for the students and all in all be an example of God's love. This was actually quite similar to my previous missions trip six years ago in northern Quebec. As a result, I decided to attend the information session on the trip to meet the team and understand the objectives.

I'm privileged and grateful that I was able to participate in this experience and bond with a group of brothers stemming from a broad background. It was inspirational hearing each and every one of their testimonies

and how great God has been in working in their lives. At the school, I can see that the kids just have the basic necessities as most of them wore the same clothes for the two days we visited them, in which they sweat profusely in during the day. Furthermore, the meals that are provided to them are very modest – rice, vegetables and tofu. However, I can see their genuine joy, laughter and happiness when playing with each other on the school field and throughout the activities we have planned for them. Though our manual labour may have assisted the school in a physical manner, I pray that most importantly the teachers and students were able to see the love of Christ from our team.

# DANNY IP





# BRAD JORDAN

I have been involved in missions much of my life so missions isn't new to me. This was, however, my first trip to Vietnam and it was great to get out into the rural village setting, spending time with people who live simply and close to the earth. (I guess I still have a good bit of the Iowa farm left in me!) Engaging with the children in the school where our team spent several days in service was a great delight!

Although the setting was great and the service opportunities were important, the most significant part of this trip for me was being able to get to know 19 other guys from Island ECC better! It was amazing to share

meals, train car compartments, long van rides, guest-house accommodations, Big Two card games, and many in-depth conversations with this group of men! As part of our "program" we had scheduled time for each of us to share our testimony of faith with each other...with 20 brothers to share it meant using van rides as well as our evenings together for this sharing. I was blessed by each brother's story and life journey...with the transparency and vulnerability with which everyone shared it was like we had a weeklong retreat campfire. I was not only drawn closer to this band of brothers but I was drawn closer to God! For this I give thanks! Thanks to God and to each of my brothers in Christ!





# EUGENE KASHPUREFF

one of

## I. CHURCHY PEOPLE

I have not been a Christian for all of my life. I've spent time as a child not understanding, a teenager who did not believe in God or Christ, an Agnostic, as Jew, and now a Christian – a firm believer that Christ is the reason that God has forgiven me for the many sins I've committed in life.

It's been a long journey for me to accept the truth of the word. I came to accept Jesus as my savior only 10 years ago. Even then, I did not walk with him and do my best to live a life as God wants. I've changed slowly over the years as I've been drawn to walk the life. I've realized through the pain of my transgressions that the closer I walk with him, the happier I am in life. He blesses my through His forgiveness, but more rewarding than His mercy is the reward of his grace when I do the right thing.

Long ago I avoided 'Churchy People'. You know – those church going folks who might start talking to you about God and Jesus and stuff. Then I became a regular church guy, and evangelist. I turned into

those 'Churchy People'.

I was still amazed at those really 'Churchy People'. Not just Pastors, but those folks who would actually take their vacation time and spend money to go off to places like Iraq, or Vietnam, or communist China on these mission trips to work ! Some of them even get arrested for talking about Christ and God.

What were they thinking ?

I woke up one morning from sleeping in the remote hills of Vietnam this last spring. I had a long day of work behind and ahead of me. I was surrounded by my sleeping brothers in Christ. I was so happy to be there. It suddenly struck me that I had turned into one of those really 'Churchy People'.

I'm happy to proclaim it to others. Christ is my savior ! He wants me to do great things for Him ! He wants me to tell others of His love, His power, His sovereignty ! Amen ?





## 2. Thanks To God

We shared our time with the kids there in Vietnam. These children have so little compared to kids in Hong Kong, the US, or any other place I've been. On previous years my brothers from IECC had built a playground and a kitchen for them. Before that they were playing in the dirt and mud, and having their meals cooked in the same conditions. This year we provided for a cafeteria for them, though the government had it built with our funds before we arrived. It led towards them getting dormitories financed and built by their government. We moved dirt for them, a leftover project from the dormitory construction. We also had a chance to spend time working and playing with those kids.

They were so happy to join in with the work. They were so happy to play games with us. They have so little, but were so happy for what they were given. I can't help but reflect on kids I've known, including my own. Maybe I've spoiled them too much.

What does it take to make us happy? What does it take to make our kids happy?

It shouldn't take so much. The love God has given us in Jesus should be enough.

Most of our problems are "First world" problems. We should think more about the more important things in life, the basic things. We should think more about the blessings God has given us.

I am now more thankful more the greatest gift I've received – Jesus!

## 3. I'm Not Alone

We spent a lot of time on the trip sharing our stories. Sharing our journeys in coming to Christ, dealing with the challenges we've had and do have in our lives. Sharing our faith in Jesus.

I used to think that I was alone as a sinner in church, I used to think that all those other 'churchy' guys had just grown up that way. They'd had blessings I didn't?

I learned differently through the sharing we did. I learned that I am not alone in the challenges God has set for me in life. I learned that I can lift others up through Jesus Christ.

I learned that I do truly have brothers in Christ!

EUGENE KASHPUREFF

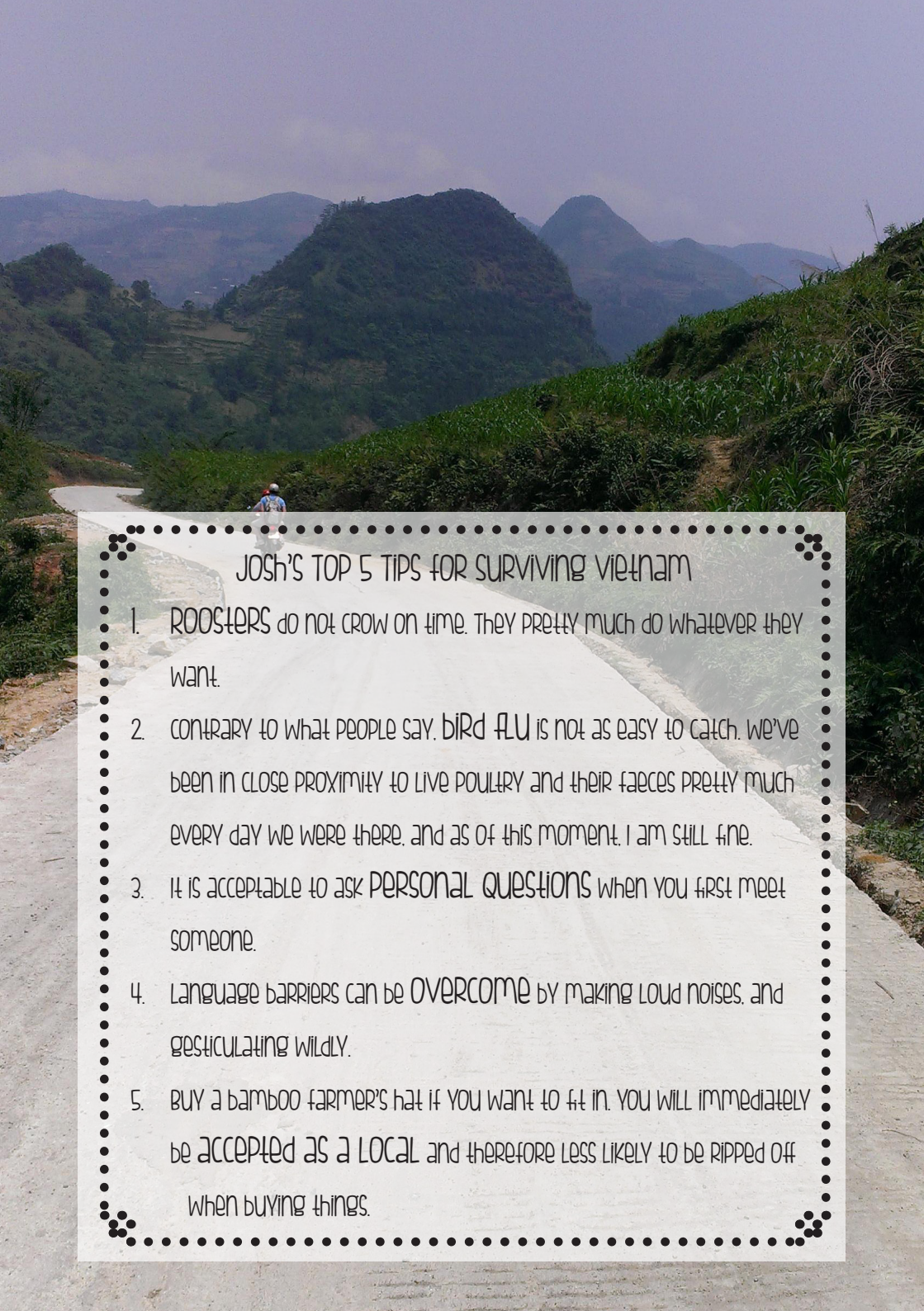


I had never contemplated going on a mission trip before, so I was surprised that I actually thought about going when this trip was announced. Aside from re-enacting scenes from Rambo, I didn't have any specific expectations prior to going. I just thought it'd be a new way for me to serve and to know some more brothers in the church. Also, the physical aspect of the project appealed to me. We were supposed to help construct a dining hall for a school, so imagine our disappointment/joy when we found out that it was already built before we got there! Endless hours of practising with Lego wasted! To be honest it was for the best, as we probably

would not have done as good a job.

We were instead asked to shovel dirt and move 50kg bags of rice (yes we're that strong), which gave us more time to bond with the kids. Manual labour is not usually considered a suitable bonding activity with children, but I can assure you that it is no less effective than getting ice-cream together or participating in the parent-child relay at sports day. What struck me from the children was how even simple things could genuinely excite them, and the enthusiasm they'd shown as they worked alongside us. They are also very tough, as we found out when a toddler was hit hard on the head





## JOSH'S TOP 5 TIPS FOR SURVIVING VIETNAM

1. ROOSTERS do not crow on time. They pretty much do whatever they want.
2. CONTRARY to what people say, BIRD FLU is not as easy to catch. We've been in close proximity to live poultry and their faeces pretty much every day we were there, and as of this moment, I am still fine.
3. It is acceptable to ask PERSONAL QUESTIONS when you first meet someone.
4. LANGUAGE BARRIERS can be OVERCOME by making loud noises, and gesticulating wildly.
5. BUY a bamboo farmer's hat if you want to fit in. You will immediately be ACCEPTED as a LOCAL and therefore LESS LIKELY to be RIPPED OFF when buying things.



Dawn in Bac Ha



FELLOWSHIP



ANDY  
PUFFENBERGER

**AS I REFLECT** back on our Spring 2014 Vietnam Men's Missions trip, the overall trip really felt like it was one of those "thin place moments" where the distance between heaven and here in this world was minimized because of the Kingdom work that was done in our midst. Of course, I recall the Kingdom work that we were privileged to be a part of and continue at the

school through our efforts over a few short days. However, what really surprised me was the Kingdom work that was accomplished in all of our hearts as we shared so deeply with each other our lives and how Christ is so at the center of them. Given this, I thought the most impactful reflection that I could share is my personal journal entry that I wrote on our flight home from the trip:



## Journal Entry Date: April 27, 2014

(Written on the way home from our Vietnam Men's Missions Trip)

"Father,

I thank you You and Praise You that You are so the God of this world and universe! Thank you for such deep fellowship that I experienced for the first time in Asia. You so have the world in the palm of Your hands. Thank You for how real and genuine these men are and how very much they love Jesus! Their love for you is passionate and definitely inspires me to kick my walk with you much more into gear.

Thank you for the HALF TIME that you have me in right now and speaking so clearly to me during this trip. I am reminded again that: CHANGE in PACE + CHANGE in PLACE = CHANGE in PERSPECTIVE. Thank you for showing me what real, Christ-centered emotions are through these men like Brad, Eddie, Raymond, and ALL of the men. I will not forget this experience of life on life and real iron sharpening. I rarely looked at these men as

Asian over the last 5 days, but as true brothers whom just love Jesus like me... Broken men like me, but also men who really are trying to follow you in a real way. We covered the gamut of sins and life experiences in our stories, and hearing them all points to your incredible power and Sovereignty. You are the God of ALL nations in this world and yet you are our personal Savior who loves us ALL intimately in a deep, practical way!

Lord, I was also amazed on this trip that as men we did not try to judge or "fix" each other's problems. Rather than spending our energy to fix the issues by ourselves, we redirected the focus to praise You. Although we all are men who fall down daily and even hourly, we remembered and reminded each other that You are then lover of our souls and that we are clothed in Your Righteousness shining in Your perfect love!

We believe in a real God, and I will follow You forever!

Thank You Jesus,  
Andy"



# HENRY Shih

I was encouraged by my tennis buddies Brian and Phil to join the Vietnam Mission Trip. My last mission trip was a few years back visiting missionaries in Cambodia. The feeling of traveling with 19 men is like going on a Boy Scout camp, but with a mission. During the orientation session, I get to know that we are represented as voluntary workers rather than a gospel team. Spreading the gospel is prohibited in Vietnam.

The trip started out quietly at the beginning. Upon arriving Hanoi airport, we have a restful evening taking the overnight train from Hanoi to Lao Cai. Four of us shared a cabin with double decker bunk

beds, being not too familiar with each other, we even managed to sleep for a few hours. Over the next several days, we get to know each other much better through serving, sharing and prayers. By the time we are on the return train from Lao Cai to Hanoi, we hardly have time to rest. We have non stop visitors around the cabins, making videos, taking photos, singing, laughing..... as if we known each other for ages.

## My personal observation from this trip:

Lao Cai is a poor border town between China and Vietnam. The school has limited funding and support from the government. The kids are clever and happy but relatively small primarily due to poor nutrition. The town is notorious for human trafficking, due to poverty, some of these innocent young girls may one day be sold as child brides across the border.





Although spreading the gospel is restricted, through serving, playing and sharing of gospel songs, we feel the kids understand there is a God that loves them.

It is the feeling among the DJs that we wanted to do more than just visiting and serving them once a year. We want to support a milk program that could improve the nutrition of these kids. We want to

work on the possibility of supporting some of the kids to receive higher education.

This is not only a mission trip, but also a bonding trip between 19 Dep Jai. I came from a large family with five sisters and one brother.

After the trip, I got 19 more brothers!



# YS TONG

I have been fortunate to have been introduced to the importance and beauty of missions since college days, and, guided and led by Godly men and women, had a few adventures to witness and experience how vast God's Kingdom really is.

And so gratefully, when it came to going on a mission trip last year, my struggle was not so much "why" but "where": should I go back to the very same village and school as the year before, when there are so many other great options?

I had my answer on last year's trip—for people there, seeing a team bothering to come back year after year says much more about our heart than anything we could have delivered. It felt more like a welcome for friends than honoured foreign visitors; the school has put to use what we helped build the first year. The village was given a paved road from the closest market town;

the children have grown, and even became ever so slightly less shy; we even had more opportuni-

- 24

ties to connect with the teachers there than we dared hope for.

With that, it did not take long for me to decide to go back again. My complaint for the past trips was the few chances we had to approach and spend time with the children. The manpower from this year's larger team answered that. Dep Jais new and old pulled together and planned games, some at the last minute, for the students at the school, and were met with incredible enthusiasm. Our work project morphed and shifted, as the nature of these things are, into manual labour work that seems to have been scheduled for our arrival.

Between the offices and flats of urban Hong Kong, one can easily lose sight of the greater picture of God's Kingdom. I am eternally grateful that trips like this one continue to put me back in perspective. As the Thai Gi-

ang Pho school continues to develop and its student grow, I cannot wait to go back and revisit the projects and friendships we are experiencing, and perhaps plant a legacy of more than a few concrete buildings.

"The harvest is plentiful,  
but the labourers are few..."

LUKE 10:2 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)



I've never been on a mission trip and was encouraged by this opportunity to serve in Vietnam. Being my first trip, I went without much expectations, but ended up in awe of what God can do. God brought together men in all stages of life, from all over the world, to serve and labor side by side, opening up their heart and sharing honestly with one another. As steel sharpens steel, the brothers built up one another and we developed a bond that is truly unique.

Although we didn't have many opportunities

to share the gospel with the teachers and the kids, I know that this trip was fruitful. As I went to serve The Lord and hopefully bless the people of Vietnam, ultimately it was me who was blessed. I was blessed by being able to see the simple joy on the faces of the children, and also marvel at His wondrous creation in the mountains of Lao Cai.

Vietnam trip will always hold a special place in my heart, and I pray that God can continue to bring men back year after year, and that one day we can see the God's message prosper in this nation.





# JOHN VOON

This was the first cross-border ministry trip I'd been on. Although I was expectant of good things, I couldn't honestly say that I was convinced that I was called to go; or that I really wanted to go; or that I could clearly see the benefits and blessings that would flow from it. I had constant doubts about what God could do in a few days. I had doubts about whether it would be worth the time. But with God having paved the way there, I went anyway. And I'm really glad I did.

I would say that short-term missions is worth the time and effort, and here are just a few reasons why:

1. God enriched and led me to experience the joy in the happiness of others when I got out of my comfort zone to reach out to others, even to those of different cultures and languages.
2. God helped rid me of the sentimentality in serving and led me to experience the joy of serving others together with brothers in Christ.
3. God showed us what happens when the Holy Spirit is in the midst of our fellowship and what happens when men are able to share openly and authentically for the purpose of edifying one another.
4. God reminded us that there is much joy when I deny myself of comforts at home in order to serve as part of a group of brothers; that there is much gain in Christ's command of, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)
5. God led us to depend on Him more and to show me that prayer is essential for anything meaningful to happen.



I have been to the same school three times already. In the 1st year, we worked hard to pave the playground and barely finished the work before we left. In the 2nd year, we helped to build the rooftop of the new kitchen. We could still find time to play volleyball with the teachers. This year, we were very efficient; the project to rebuild the school cafeteria was completed before our arrival. So, besides helping to move the mud and dozens of 50kg rice bags, we spent most of the time to organize games for the students. The games were simple and some were silly (especially the cheese ball game), yet the students were really enjoying. Looking at their

laughing faces, I believed that it was worth for me to be there. Thought we couldn't communicate with the students directly due to language barrier, I do hope that we could leave a little joyful footprint in their lives.

# Bennet Wong



# BRENDAN WONG

When I first signed up for Vietnam, I was stationed in Korea on a 6 month secondment for work leading up to the trip. I was admittedly quite nervous, as I knew no one else on the trip and would be missing all the team get togethers before we left for Vietnam. Also, although I was Christian, my life up until the last few years had not been blessed with many Christian friends, while the Christian friends that I did know were relatively new to the faith. In addition, I had very few Christians in my life who were men, so my view of a Christian man was stereotypical at best. So although I was nervous, I was also eager to be with Men of God.

God certainly did not disappoint. There were many great moments on this trip serving at the Thai Giang Pho school. Being with my superman brothers moving thousands of fifty

kilogram rice bags, to shovelling and moving a giant mountain of dirt with the kids, and seeing the kids laughing with the brothers.

There were two memorable moments for me on this trip. The first was on the train on the last evening during the overnight train ride back from Bac Ha to Hanoi. All the guys didn't have enough bonding, so we all decided to squash into a single room on the train and sing happy birthday to just about anyone who wanted it, for no reason at all. It was crazy, it was fun, but most of all it was brothers all together just being men. The other moment was just before leaving for the airport. As one, we stood together prayed for each other and sang a final worship song loudly and proudly. A oneness with my brothers and as a servant of God amongst many servants. Moments I will never forget...





“... EVERY BRANCH THAT DOES BEAR FRUIT HE PRUNES SO  
THAT IT WILL BE EVEN MORE FRUITFUL...  
THIS IS TO MY FATHER'S GLORY, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH  
FRUIT, SHOWING YOURSELVES TO BE MY DISCIPLES.”

JOHN 15:1-2, 8 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

BRENDAN WONG

# Brendan Wong

I believe that every mission trip has it's own face of God that becomes apparent. In Vietnam, God showed himself to me through strong Christian men. Through our sharing, it was obvious to me that my brothers and I were all pruned to serve him, to bear much fruit, to be Friends, Fathers, Sons, Brothers and Servants in Christ. God showed me through my brothers, that Christian men lead not just through his words of faith, but through his actions driven by faith and in His glory.

I grew up as a Catholic believing that my faith was not a direct connection with God and based on guilt. Since my first service at Island ECC in February 2013 my faith has transformed to a personal relationship with God based on Love and Worship. This was moulded by mission trips. My advice to anyone who wants to grow spiritually, is to go on a mission trip and be with your Siblings in Christ.



"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

James 2:17 (New International Version)

Dear Lord,

I thank you for leading me to this mission. Thank you for pulling together such great brothers who showed me what it was to be vulnerable yet strong, leaders yet servants, and role models to the least of us, including me.

Through your Plan, I am forever grateful to you Lord that you used your servants to pull me in to nurture and bring me closer to you Lord through the Men's

Fraternity at IECC, for which I am now attend. You have always been there Lord, I know that now, whether in Spirit or visibly through the actions of your servants. I ask you Lord that through this experience, each one of us has been pruned by you, renewed and strengthened for your Glory.

In Christ I pray,

Amen

One piece of advice. don't bunk with a small guy who play guitar. they snore like the biggest guy!

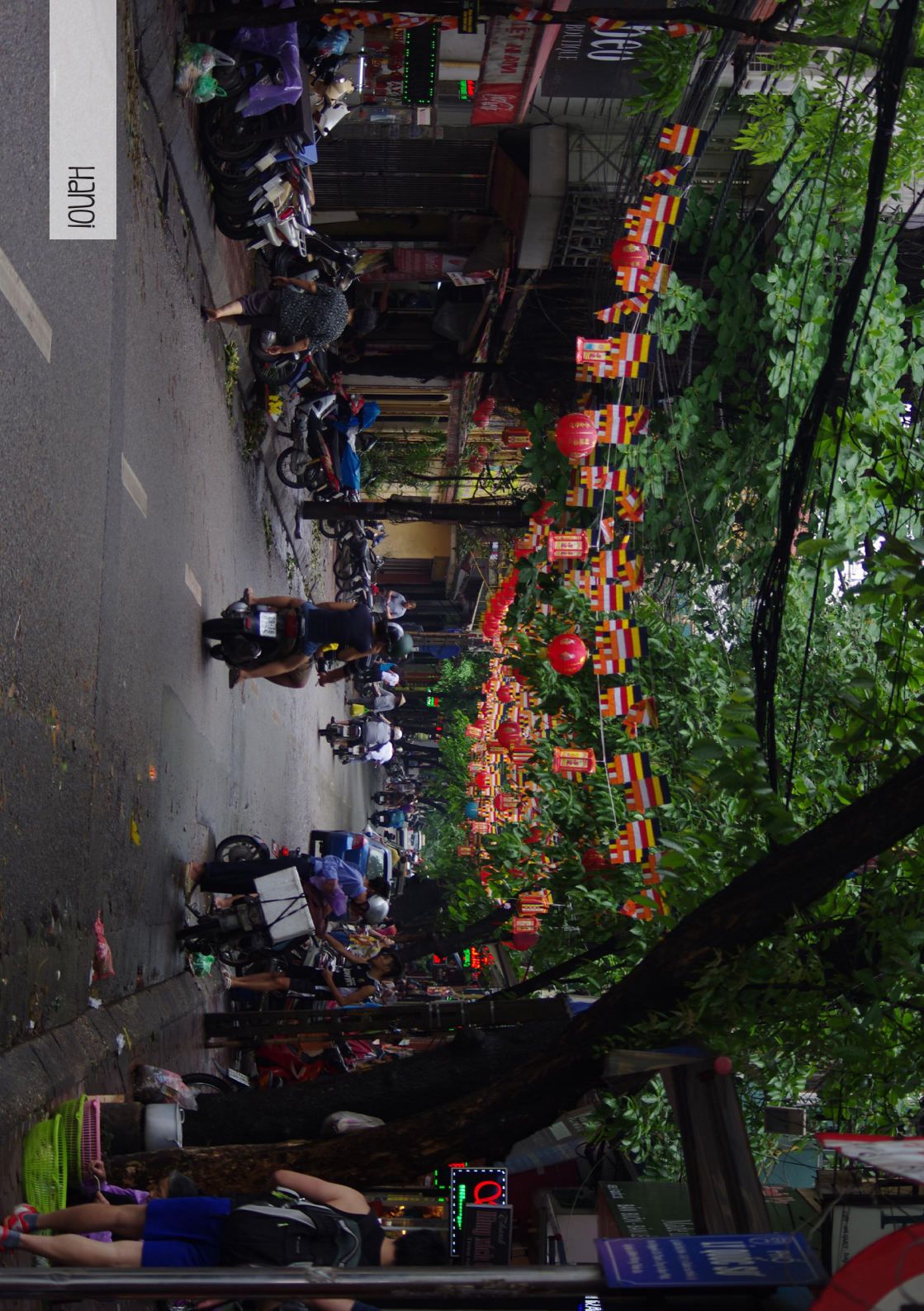




COLOURFUL breakfast



Thai Giang Pho students



HANOI





THEREFORE

GO

AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF  
ALL NATIONS...

