

Go Ye!

This will be the third year we are organising a missions conference. The purpose of the missions conference is to inform our people and to move them to participate in the work of missions. And over the last two years, I believe there has been an increase in the awareness of missions. This is evident by more people participating in short term mission trips. The next step is to encourage our people to serve in mission fields, which is in line with our theme for the mission conference this year – GO YE! We praise the LORD for calling one of our own, Brother Jimmy Yip and his wife, Meifeng, to serve full-time in Maepoon, North Thailand.

I have so often heard that Singapore Christians are in such a unique position — geographically, economically, culturally and spiritually. Geographically, we are in the tradewinds of east and west. In three and half hours, one can be in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Chiangmai, North Thailand. (These are some of the places where we have Gospel missions.) On top of that, all these places are more or less in the same time and climate zones. The geographical proximity of these places to Singapore allows for easy and cheap air travel.

Economically, Singapore is a first world country in a third world region. The strength of the Singapore dollar allows us to do a great deal more in these places. Mission works also requires material support from God's people. Think about it this way, if ten people drink one cup of coffee lesser a day — one cup of coffee is about a dollar — the money saved from that one cup of coffee from ten persons collected for a month will be enough to support a missionary in Trincomalee. May our young people think in this manner: if ten of you would give up the money you spent on can drinks for a month, just one can less per day, you can support another missionary family in Maepoon.

Culturally, Singaporeans are so well-travelled that most of us easily adapt to different cultures. We can eat *thosai* for breakfast, have *pho* for lunch, and *padthai* for dinner. Besides, the influx of foreign workers here has opened the door to other Asian cultures. In that sense, Singaporeans are better placed to reach out these peoples.

Singaporeans are in a unique spiritual position. Lest I be misunderstood, let me hasten to add that we are not, in anyway, spiritually superior to the Sri Lankans or Vietnamese in the sense that we are more deserving of God's grace. As Peter told the elders at Jerusalem concerning the Gentiles, "We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" (Acts 15:11).

However, we are in a unique spiritual condition because we have access to solid theological training and books. In my visits to Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Thailand, one of the greatest concerns of the mission stations is the lack of theological training and sound theological books. Most of these theological books are written in English — a language that is not well taught in these places. Case in point, there is only one systematic theology book that is translated into Vietnamese; the same goes for Tamil. When I taught in North Thailand, the pastors had no idea what Reformed Theology is.

Because of the language barrier, it is quite difficult to send these students to seminaries in the West for training. Besides, the fees of these seminaries are usually prohibitive. The alternative is to send our people to train them, or to choose some of them to be trained here at the Emmanuel Reformed Bible College. That we have been doing in Vietnam through the Vietnam Bible Institute for the last two years.

Opportunities abound. The fields are white unto harvest. I believe that the LORD has placed us in such a place at such a time for a purpose. Therefore, GO YE into the world and preach the Gospel. All glory be to God!

Humbly in Christ
Pastor Isaac

我们要去!

这是我们第三年举办差传年会了。差传年会的目的在于让会友了解差传的意义并激励他们参与。在过去的两年里，我相信我们对差传的意识已经提高了。这可从更多人参加短宣活动看得出。我们的下一步即是鼓励会友到差传事工工场去服事，这也与我们今年差传年会的主题相呼应——“你们要去！”感谢主呼召了本堂的叶云丁弟兄和他的妻子美凤前赴泰北美本全职服事主。

我们常听说新加坡的基督徒处于优越位置 — 不论是地理、经济、文化或是在属灵条件上。地理上，我们是东西交汇的枢纽。在三个小时半之内，一个人可以飞往斯里兰卡科伦坡、越南胡志明市或是泰北清迈。（这些都是我们福音事工的所在地。）在这之上，这些地区不管是在时差或是天气都与我们没有多大不同。地理上的相近使飞行便利、便宜。

经济上，新加坡是处在第三世界地区中的第一世界国家。新元的强劲让我们得以在这地区做更多事情。差传事工也须要上帝的子民在经济上的支持。也许我们可以这么想，如果十个人一天少喝一杯咖啡，（一杯咖啡是一元左右，）那么一个月省下来的钱将能资助亨可马里的一位宣教士。希望我们的年轻人都会这么想：如果你们当中十位把一个月花在汽水的钱省下来，只要一天一罐，那么你就可以用这笔钱来资助美本的一个宣教士家庭。

文化上，新加坡人经常出国，所以很容易适应不同的文化。我们可以早餐吃印式煎饼、午餐吃越式面汤、晚餐吃泰式糯米。再说，随着更多外籍员工的涌入，更多亚洲文化的大门也为我们敞开。因此，新加坡可说是处于向这些人们传扬福音的优越位置。

新加坡人也处于优越的属灵位置。请别误会，我不是说我们比斯里兰卡人或越南人更值得得到上帝的

恩典。正如彼得对耶路撒冷的长老们所说的，关于外邦人，“我们得救，乃是因主耶稣的恩，和他们一样，这是我们所信的。”（使徒行传15:11）。

但是，我们拥有优越的属灵条件，因为我们能接触到良好的神学训练和好的神学书籍。在我到越南、斯里兰卡和泰国的探访中，各地事工工场最迫切的需要之一是神学上的培训以及带有正确教导的神学书籍。多数的神学书籍都是以英文写成，而这些地方却对英语不熟悉。举例说明，译成越南文的系统神学书籍其实只有一本；淡米尔文也是如此。我在泰北进行教导时，那里的牧师未曾知道什么是归正神学。

因为语言上的隔阂，我们很难把这些学生保送到西方神学院进行培训。此外，这些神学院的学费也不容许我们这么做。另外的途径就是差我们自己的人过去培训他们，或是选择一些到新加坡以马内利归正圣经学院来接受训练。我们在过去的两年来于越南的越南圣经学院正这么做。

我们有很多机会。举目望田，庄稼已经熟了。我相信主把我们放在此时此地是有他特定的旨意。所以，我们要去，到世界各地去传扬福音。

愿一切荣耀归于上帝！

在基督里谦卑的
王家贤牧师