



Members of Maepoon B-P Church are mostly vegetable and fruits farmers. In terms of material wealth, they are definitely not as well off as us. Yet when we were there, they would bring fresh and lefty vegetables to us every day. This is their simple and sincere way of expressing their love to God and to us.

28th March, it was an extremely cold night — 11 degrees celsius coupled with very strong winds. The sky was pitch-dark — we could neither see the moon nor any stars. After dinner, Bro. Jimmy and I thought we could have an early rest. At 7.30pm, his four faithful students walked in for Chinese language lesson. I told Jimmy that my students would not come. However, at 7.45pm, three of them appeared. Earlier during the day, we had told the parents not to send their children over if the weather gets cold and windy, yet despite of this, they came.

At the end of the lesson, I told these students that this was my last lesson with them and that I would be returning to Singapore the next day. They were surprised and could not believe that I would leave them. After the lesson, they quickly ran out. I guessed they were hiding their disappointment and sadness. What could I say to them? I was not able to comfort them for I really do not know when or whether there will be another team coming to continue with language lessons.

In this trip, the most shocking experience that I had during this trip was not the tremors both Jimmy and I felt during the earthquake which struck the golden triangle on 24th March (though the aftershock was indeed strong — so strong we were preparing to move to open space on that night) — it was a truth I learnt from a conversation I had with one senior member of Maepoon Church that shocked me the most.

One senior member told me that in these remote mountainous areas, young girls are more valuable than boys. “It cannot be! You need boys to do the farming for they have strength!” I said. “Brother, you do not understand, these young girls, when they become 16 or 17, someone will come, collect them and sell them to Geylang, Singapore as prostitutes.” I do not know whether this senior member ever ventured out of Maepoon, yet he could mention precisely in Mandarin, “Geylang, Singapore.” “What about the young boys?” I asked. “They have no value and are neglected — they will become drug addicts or drug peddlers and get shot dead by police.”

If we do not go preach these young minds the Gospel, these young girls and boys, who are as lovely and

cute as when we were young, may one day land in Geylang or end up as a drug addict. Are we directly or indirectly responsible to them?

Maepoon is strategically located at Khunjae. Within the radius of 20 to 30 minutes ride by motorcycle, there are at least 20 tribal villages of 400 to 500 people each. Most of these villages are either without church or without preachers. These villagers are living in fear and hopelessness. They believe when a young baby cries at night, it is due to evil spirits. And if, after praying for the baby, he continues to cry, it is due to their faith which is not strong enough to cast away the evil spirits. To them, every misfortune in life is the work of evil spirits or devils. Most of these villagers have not heard about the Gospel — they live without hope and die in fear. No one is willing to go and tell them that the God to Whom we are worshipping and singing praises to, seated comfortably in our pews, love them too. There is salvation and eternal hope for them! But they are not told and thus, continue to live and die without the joy of the Gospel.

Bro. Li Lindu is a member from the Mandarin congregation. Whenever he goes to North Thailand, he goes with his kitchen. For more than ten years, he has made many trips to North Thailand, especially to cook for children at the various gospel stations. He has a fairly complete set of kitchen equipment and utensils and always buys the best quality foods and ingredients. In this trip, he brought along more than 40 kgs of ingredients from Singapore — he believes in giving the best to the Lord.

He pays for everything from his own pocket. It is definitely not a small sum — I know for I went marketing with him. He told me the more he gives, the more blessings he receives from the Lord. And he told me this story: During one of the dinners, a small boy came with his plate of rice. It was a chicken drumsticks dinner, so he put a drumstick on the boy's plate. Unfortunately, the plate was full and the drumstick rolled off the plate onto the sandy floor. Bro. Lindu asked me, “Guess what did the boy do?” I shook my head. He said, “The boy picked up the drumstick, rubbed it on his shirt, put it back on his plate, thanked me, and enjoyed the dinner.” Then Bro. Lindu looked at me and said, “Brother, I can only give them earthly food, is there anyone willing to come and give them heavenly food?”

The Bible that we are holding so dearly tells us Jesus loves us. The same Jesus loves these children as much as He loves us. Will you go? Will you go to tell them? Will you?

笃信圣经长老会美本教会的会友多数是菜农和果农。物质财富而言，他们当然不比我们富裕。但是我们在那里的期间，他们每天都会给我们带来新鲜多叶的蔬菜。他们以既简单又诚恳的方式表达了他们对上帝和对我们的爱。

3月28日，那是个很冷的晚上——11摄氏度再加上强风。天空漆黑一片——我们既看不到月亮也看不到任何星星。吃完晚餐之后，云丁弟兄和我以为今天应该可早点歇息。在晚上7.30，他的4位忠实的学生来到，准备学习华语。我当时告诉云丁我的学生应该是不来了。但是在7.45，竟有三位出现。早些在白天时，我们曾告诉家长们如果天气转寒、刮大风，他们不须把孩子送来，但尽管如此，他们还是来了。

课程将结束时，我告诉这些学生们这是我跟他们上的最后一堂课，我将在翌日回新加坡。他们都感到意外，不相信我会离开他们。下课后，他们很快地跑出课室。我猜想他们正在掩饰着内心里的失望与悲伤。我又能跟他们说什么呢？我没有办法安慰他们，因为我不知道什么时候会有另一支差传小组去美本继续教导语文课程。

这次短宣最惊人的经验不是云丁弟兄和我于3月24日所感受到的，以金三角为震央的地震，（虽然它确实强烈——以致我们一度准备搬到空地去过夜）——令我最震惊的是与美本教会的一位年长会友交谈后所得知的一个真相。

一位长者告诉我，在这偏远的山区，女孩比男孩有价值。我说：“这不可能，你须要男生在田里劳动，因为他们有气力！”“弟兄，你不了解，这些女孩，当她们到了16或17岁时，会有人来到这里，把她们带到新加坡芽笼卖作娼妓。”我并不知道这位长者曾否离开过美本，但他确实准确无误地以华语说了“新加坡芽笼”。我接着问：“那么，男生呢？”“他们没有用，我们也不管他们——他们长大后不是吸毒就是贩毒，最后被警察开枪射死。”如果我们不去向这些年幼的孩子们传福音，那么这些如同我们年轻时一般可爱的女孩和男孩，最终将沦落到芽笼，或是沦为瘾君

子。我们是不是直接或间接地对他们的人生负责？

美本位于坤寨，地理位置优越。在半径20至30分钟摩多车车程里，有至少20个由4到500人组成的土著村落。多数的村子不是没有教堂就是没有传道人。这些村民们生活在恐惧和绝望中。他们相信如果一个婴孩晚上啼哭，那一定是有魔鬼作祟。如果他们在祷告后，小孩仍旧哭泣，那么一定是因为他们信心不够坚定，不能驱走魔鬼或恶魔。多数的村民没有听过福音——他们活着没有希望，死时充满恐惧。没有人愿意去跟他们说，这位我们坐在教堂的长凳上敬拜和歌颂的上帝，也同样爱着他们。他们有救恩和永生的盼望！但是如果没有人告诉他们，他们或生或死都没有福音的喜乐。

李霖都弟兄是我们华语崇拜的一位会友。每当他到泰北去时，他就会把他的整个厨房带去。在过去的十几年中，他到泰北无数次，特别是为各地的福音工场的孩子们做饭。他的厨房用具相当齐全，而且总是坚持买最优良的食物和材料。这次短宣，他从新加坡带去了多过40公斤的食材——他相信要把最好的奉献给主。

一切所须都是他自己掏腰包付清的。这数目肯定不小——我知道，因为我曾跟他一起去买菜。他告诉我，他给的越多，主赐给他的福气就越多。他也告诉我一个故事：在一次晚餐中，有一个小男孩拿着一盘饭来到他跟前。那天是个鸡腿晚餐，所以他把鸡腿放在那男孩的盘上。可惜的是，因为盘上的食物满了，鸡腿滚落在沙地上。霖都弟兄问我：“你猜那小男孩做了什么？”我摇摇头。他说：“那小男孩捡起鸡腿，往自己衣服上擦了擦，把鸡腿放回盘中，向我说声谢谢，就去享受他的晚餐了。”接着，霖都弟兄凝视我，说到，“弟兄，我只能给他们吃的食物，有谁愿意来这里给他们属灵的食物呢？”

我们珍惜的圣经告诉我们，耶稣爱我们。同样的耶稣也如同祂爱我们一样，爱这些孩子们。你愿意去吗？你愿意去告诉他们吗？你愿意吗？