

“

Mission Sunday

**SPECIAL  
FEATURE**

## The Parable of the Mustard Seed

And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Mark 4:30-32  
ESV



### Today's Question

What invitation arises  
when you meditate  
on today's reflection?

# REFLECTION

Today's Scripture Reading : 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13; Psalm: Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

## LITTLE MUSTARD SEED

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)  
in *Life of the Beloved*  
(New York: Crossroad, 1992)  
123-124.

### PRAYER of the week

Lord, please teach me  
to recognise that I am  
continuously planting  
"little mustard seeds"  
through my words and  
little acts of kindness  
to those around me.  
Let them ripple out in  
ever newer and wider  
circles of love. In the  
precious name of Jesus  
I pray.

**Amen.**



*He told them another parable:*

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,  
which a man took and planted in his field. Though it  
is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is  
the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so  
that the birds come and perch in its branches."*

Matthew 13:31-32  
ESV



"How different our life would be if we could but  
believe that every little act of faithfulness, every  
gesture of love, every word of forgiveness, every  
little bit of joy and peace will multiply and  
multiply..."

Imagine your kindness to your friends and your  
generosity to the poor are little mustard seeds that  
will become strong trees in which many birds can  
build their nests...Imagine that you're trusting that  
every little movement of love you make will ripple  
out into ever new and wider circles...You and I  
would dance for joy were we to know that we, little  
people, are chosen, blessed, and broken to become  
the bread that will multiply itself in the giving."



Mission Sunday

**SPECIAL  
FEATURE**

# MISSION

## MISSION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH LOVE

By May Jean  
Mission Ministry Catalyst

### **Greetings from our Mission Catalyst**

Greetings fellow BLC-ians! Super stoked to be sharing the many stories of the journey of sharing the love and gospel of Christ in this copy of the Weekly Manna!

### **Updates, Stories and Prayer Needs**

As part of our mission ministry in BLC, we support the precious, good work at United Voice (UV), Interserve Malaysia and UTAR Christian Fellowship.

We are so grateful that we can read more about the history, prayer needs and updates from our fellow brothers and sisters who are working at, or closely with these organizations.

As we read their stories, let us all pray together for their needs.



**THE  
MISSION'S  
CHAIR**



**TO INVITE PEOPLE  
INTO THE REIGN OF GOD,  
ENCOURAGE THEM TO GROW  
IN THE BODY OF CHRIST,  
EQUIP THEM TO BE SENT  
INTO THE WORLD  
IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT.**

**"AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME  
I AM SENDING YOU."**

JOHN 20:21"

### **Not-so-CHAOS**

A few weeks ago, we had a bit of fun with CHAOS (although they really should change their name, they are not chaotic at all!) sharing about mission, the Great Commission and ingredients for successful mission work. We hope that we have awoken their appetites for mission work – they have been tasked to brainstorm on mini-projects which they could own and implement with the guidance of myself and the faithful "CHAOS facilitators". Our hope is to continuously encourage an interest in God's work as future leaders of the Christian community.

### **Touching Hearts and Agape Fund**

Apart from the above, BLC still supports the Orang Asli Touching Hearts ministry (curious what this is all about? We may share more in the upcoming editions!). Continuing on from the wonderful program that our previous council started last year, BLC also continues to support individuals through our Agape Fund. If you are aware of anyone who may be in need of financial support during these difficult times, please do speak to anyone of us on the Council. Requests will definitely be treated with utmost confidentiality unless requested otherwise.

### **Finally...**

We are open to any ideas if there are any mission ministry or initiatives that you would like to share with us. We praise God and his providence through you always. Thank you for your continuous contribution to BLC's Mission Fund and Agape Fund (just drop a note "Mission" / "Agape" in the Payment Details when making online transfers) and we hope you enjoy the rest of the articles here!

May God bless you always!

Much love,

**MJ.**



**THE  
MISSION'S  
CHAIR**







## SUPPORTING THE FAITH OF THE YOUNG

UTAR Christian Fellowship (CF)  
By Ling Ling



Our CF is doing fine but in this pandemic situation, we have been having online CF for more than a year now 🙏. Nevertheless, I want to thank BLC on behalf of UTAR CF for your kind and generous support as it has enabled us to secure a paid zoom account where we can make use of all the functions of zoom without having to worry about the time limit that comes w the free one 🙏.

Sometime before the end of last year, when we were under EMCO and were allowed to gather in small groups, the CF did have a planning camp in one of the Air BnBs where the old and new committees gathered (strictly followed SOPs, and they cooked their meals in-house. No one went out at all) to plan for the next semester's activities and for the new committee to learn how to do stuffs from the outgoing old committee.

We also had online Christmas programmes where apart from the sharing and message time, we had games online and gave gifts to the winners of the games...so that was part of our expenses too 🙏. Recently, we were told that our keyboard which was previously donated to us, is now broken. So we plan to get another one. Currently their keyboardist is using a loaned one 🙏.



## APPLAUDING EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS

United Voice  
By Moh Foong



United Voice is a self-advocacy society of persons with learning disabilities.

Currently in view of the Covid lockdowns, all the Self-Advocacy trainings and Social Skill Transition trainings are now conducted online. 80% of our employment project members are working from home doing weaving or sewing.

We managed to launch our small cafe in March this year. Business has been slow after the 1st month but we are doing a lot more promotions on both cafe and bakery and introducing new products like the UV signature cheese tartlets; lemon, chocolate and butter cake loaves; a variety of seasonal pastries, almond thins, and other goodies.

Please click & LIKE our Project *ImPossible* FB page for updates or promotions



ImPossible



We also managed to launch a **Patron "Subscription" Page** last year in December. Do check out our Patron page at I'm Possible, where you can read stories about our members at

<https://www.unitedvoice.com.my/im-possible/>

Also updating on our recently launch a "Self-employment" program for UV members who are interested in setting up their own business!



Home Get Help Get Involved About Us Contact Us [I'm Possible](#) Startup Project

Savour cookies, tarts and cakes made with a special uplifting ingredient called love. Ideal for parties. They taste extra delicious, naturally.



Blueberry Cheese Tart

RMB \$100



Chocolate Tart

RMB \$100



Egg Tart

RMB \$100



Home Get Help Get Involved About Us Contact Us [I'm Possible](#) Startup Project



United Voice created a Social Enterprise in 2003 to provide a link to new employment for unemployed members. The proceeds are used to pay monthly salary, SOFICO, EPF and an annual bonus for the employees. The success of this enterprise is testimony to the potential inherent in persons with learning disabilities and how they can help themselves with the right motivation and opportunities.



Follow our project "I'm Possible" facebook to get updates on our latest proceedings or products.



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- Handwritten Thank you note from the members

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- Baked goods
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- One UV member's mini artwork, in a form of a postcard or sticker
- Handwritten Thank you note from the members

#### Quarterly Gift Box

- Baked goods
- RMB200 worth of UV products
- One UV member's mini artwork, in a form of a postcard or sticker
- Handwritten Thank you note from the members

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- One UV member's mini artwork, in a form of a postcard or sticker
- Handwritten Thank you note from the members

#### Quarterly Gift Box

- Baked goods
- RMB400 worth of UV products
- One UV member's mini artwork, in a form of a postcard or sticker
- Handwritten Thank you note from the members

[BECOME A HERO](#)





## Mission Sunday

## STORIES AROUND THE REGION

OTAR Christian Fellowship  
Building Church



*“What if you were running a development organization, and your target audience included people from dozens of different language groups? How would you help them? That’s a question our ministry is trying to address.”*



For the past 3 years, I (Karl) have been putting together and directing a collaborative assessment project in Island Southeast Asia trying to figure out where the most urgent needs are for translation of the Good Book. 16 people are involved full-time from various countries.

Before the pandemic, we were in full swing, traveling and updating strategic information for various organizations. Since the pandemic, we have shifted gears and focused more on training and doing some things online.



Now we are finally able to start some field activities again and have hired 4 new people.

We are thankful that:

- We continue to clarify where translation is most needed, and translation agencies are responding by sending people to meet the need!
- We have been able to recruit some new people to help with the increased demand for our help.
- We have been able to collaborate more closely with key local partners, which increases our effectiveness.

We ask for wisdom and provision in the following areas:

- Organizations have been active in translation in the country for the past 50 years. During that time, most of the “low-hanging fruit”, the easy projects, have been finished. What remains are the really difficult projects. May we and others have wisdom to know how to approach these projects.
- We just found out that our sole funder will not be continuing our project funding after June. We are in shock. May Jehovah Jireh provide what we need to help others well.
- One of our biggest priorities is partnership and collaboration. That can be difficult as people/organizations have different focuses. We need wisdom in how to serve others well within our competencies. This has definitely improved over the past year (2020) but needs continual attention.
- That the project team members, especially the new ones, would be encouraged and strengthened in their desire to serve those who do not yet have the Word in a language they understand well.

THANK YOU BLC

for your love and support and prayers over the years!  
Together, we build for God's kingdom.





## HOW A SEED GREW TO IMPACT THE WORLD

Interserve Malaysia

# 1800

In the 1800s, women in India had no status, no education and no access to basic health care. The poorest of them were confined to the zenanas (closed quarters), neglected and forgotten. It was this that gave birth to Interserve.

One day, a wealthy Indian woman who was literate, found a copy of a Bible. As she reads it, she was so convicted that she desired to be baptised. Word of this reached an English merchant's wife, living in India at that time. In response, she quoted, "If we can give them the power to read and the Book to read, God will bless His word".

She wasted no time and wrote to Mary Jane Kinnaird (founder of YWCA) in the United Kingdom. She requested funds to train women teachers who would then be sent out to these zenanas to teach the Indian women to read and write and empower them to think. The Calcutta Normal School was founded in 1852 for this purpose. In just 15 years since, 72 zenanas opened their doors to these pioneer teachers. While teaching the women in the zenanas, these teachers realized the necessity for women doctors to attend to their healthcare needs.

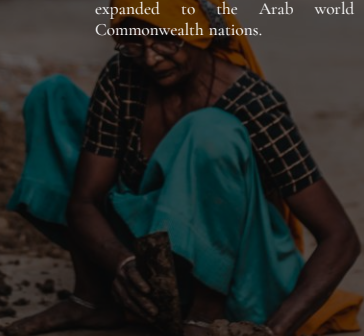
In India in the 1800s, there was not a single woman doctor. Male doctors were not permitted into the zenanas regardless of the gravity and urgency for medical attention. Again, an appeal was sent to England, urging British universities to train women doctors who can be sent to the zenanas in India. That commenced the medical mission work of Interserve. English women doctors were trained and deployed to India. Interserve was then christened Zenana Bible and Medical Mission (ZBMM).



Right from its early days, Interserve approached missions from a wholistic perspective. Believing in the value of complementing knowledge, giftings, skills with Scripture to meet the hunger and thirst of many. Attending to spiritual needs while also meeting material, physical and emotional needs. In the traditional and conservative society of India, ZBMM chose to be unconventional and nonconformist in its approach to Christian missions, well ahead of its time.

Less than a century after the birth of the first teacher training school, by 1939, ZBMM founded hospitals, schools, orphanages and evangelistic missions. These were wholly led and managed by women – 300 Indian women and 55 foreign women missionaries. In an era where a woman's role and purpose were confined to the home, where a woman had no status or regard in society, these Indian women were rule breakers and courageously defied social and cultural norms. Having discovered their value and worth in Him and in His Truth, they boldly ventured out to live out God's call on their lives. ZBMM paved the way for engagement of national workers in missions work. It was a radical approach to missions for its time. Post-World War II, out of India, Interserve expanded to the Arab world and the Commonwealth nations.

# 1939





Beginning in the 1960s, following a road trip around the subcontinent, the National Director of Interserve India then felt a strong conviction that the way forward for mission work in the nation needed to evolve. Full ownership of all hospitals, schools and orphanages was entrusted over to our Indian partners. Yet another ground breaking move for its time.

True to the beliefs and principles of our founding women, today we partner with individuals to support them in their own profession to transform lives and communities through encounter with Jesus Christ.

Our fellowship today includes teachers, engineers, accountants, agriculturist, graphic designers. We hold firm to the belief that all and any gifting and profession can be used for the glory of God. In these present times, we have partners who engage with issues of the day - migrant crisis, human trafficking, extreme poverty, climate care and equipping indigenous Christians for cross-cultural discipling.

With 14 sending bases, over 800 partners in over 40 countries, we pray the Spirit of God will continue to move in and through us for His glory and purpose.



14 Sending  
Bases

40 Countries

800 Partners

1960s





# PRAYER for India

As our story began in India, the land and its people hold a special place in our continuing journey.

The devastation, deaths and despair wrought by the current pandemic pierces the heart and soul of our fellowship.

Please pray for:

- God's mercy and compassion over the land of India and the Indian people.
- Christ to preserve His church in India – many priests, pastors, evangelists, nuns have perished as they open the doors of their churches to tend to the sick and dying.
- Christ to protect and strengthen our partners in India as they continue to faithfully meet overwhelming needs on the ground, at the risk of their own lives and that of their families.
- God to raise workers to return to their homeland to be His hands, feet and heart in rebuilding lives and communities in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Amen.

We are a family based life group, with families sharing our ups and downs in life together. Expect, a noisy atmosphere with kids running around and parents chasing after them. Food forms a central part of our experience with BBQ's and Pot Blesses being a main part of our routine. The commitment is low stress, with us targeting to meet at least once a month unless there is a special occasion to celebrate with food! Currently we are meeting online only with no particular agenda except to support each other during this Pandemic. Whenever we meet, I enjoy the Sharing aspect the most. Our highlights are sharing the ups and downs of life as well as the best places to find food, whilst praying for each other and discerning God's Word and Will for us. Come join us and be part of the family.

**Giving Tree meets twice a month on Fridays at 8:15pm. Please contact Larry for more information!**

# GIVING TREE

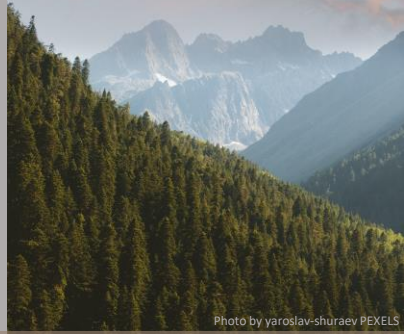
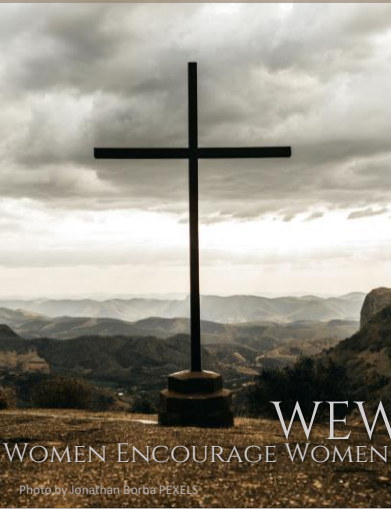


Photo by yaroslav-shuraev PEXELS

# LIFEGROUPS



WEW  
WOMEN ENCOURAGE WOMEN

Photo by Jonathan Borba PEXELS

WEW is a space for women meet, share openly and be heard without prejudices; to encourage and pray for the needs of one another. It is a multigenerational group, with women young and wiser. Most of our meetings revolve around eating, cooking, short bible studies, exercise, prayer and discussion on current Christian topics important and close to the hearts of the women community. Currently we are only meeting once a month online via Zoom. To foster greater bonding, this March we started a voluntary prayer buddy project, where those involved contact one assigned buddy weekly for prayer and updates. Despite the restrictions on physical meetings, we are grateful that we are still remain as a group with real life stories to encourage and steer us to hope and look to our Lord!

**Women Encourage Women (WEW) meets next on 19 June at 3pm. Please contact Sheh-Ren for more information!**

“...Men ought  
always to pray,  
and not to faint;”

Jesus, Gospel of Luke  
18:1b KJV

#### *Personal*

That the people of God will be even  
more fervent in prayer.

#### *World & Malaysia*

For the Covid situation in our nation, and  
worldwide. For the frontliners, and healing for  
those infected. For equitable access to vaccines,  
including foreign residents, migrants, urban  
poor, the rural and the marginalised.

#### *Economy*

For the economic situation. For God's  
provision for those who lost their jobs  
and those in need.

#### *Leadership*

For good governance and able leaders.

#### *Those with health challenges in our midst & their caregivers.*

For God's guidance, providence,  
strength and grace for each day.

### **Prayer Support**

Supporting you in prayer.

Send in your requests via  
WhatsApp to Rev. Thomas,  
Adeline or our Council.

#### *Prayer Spotlight on Families* *The elderly and our aging parents.*

That God will meet them in the midst of  
their silent questions and concerns.

#### *Marriages*

For the bond of friendship, love and unity  
to grow stronger daily.  
For God's wisdom and clear  
communication.

#### *Parents*

For God's guidance, grace and provision to  
raise our children in the way of the Lord,  
with the deep assurance they are beautiful,  
loved and accepted as the gifts of God they  
are. For wisdom and humility as to learn  
from mistakes and grow from these  
experiences in parenting.

#### *Children*

That Jesus will be in the centre of their lives,  
guiding and protecting them in every aspect of  
their growth, life choices, friendships and  
education. That they would learn to place their  
trust in the Lord even from a young age.

#### *Teenagers*

That they will grow to know God's faithfulness  
and goodness, and place their identity in Christ.  
That in the pressures of life, they will lean on  
Christ, and learn to discern God's counsel and  
wisdom in their choices.



Lectio 365



Malaysia United  
FIREWALL

External Prayer Link

# Announcement

# Tithes and Offerings

Upcoming BLC Zoom Meetings

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday  
June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
8:00pm

Upcoming BLC Zoom Meetings

WEW

Saturday  
June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
3:00pm

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\*The BLC Missions Collections  
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- Batu 20, Orang Asli (OA) Congregation
- United Voice - Moh Foong
- Bible Translation Researchers
- Alongsiders (<http://alongsiders.org>)





# THE FATHER'S HOUSE WELCOMES YOU



Bangsar Lutheran Church  
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# Weekly Manna

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Issue