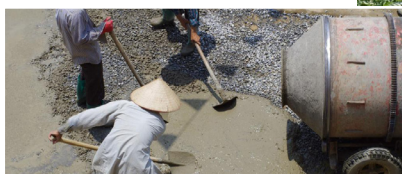




no
Dep
Jai's
left behind

THE ADVENTURE OF
MEN'S FRATERNITY'S TWELVE
IN NORTHERN VIETNAM





GO,

AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF

all nations...



Who

Twelve men with the Men's Fraternity ministry of Island ECC.

When

April 25—30, 2012

Where

Thai Giang Pho
Bac Ha District
Lao Cai Province
Vietnam

What

To pave a concrete playground for the school

To establish relationship and communicate God's love without being able to say so.

Why

WELL, **READ ON...**

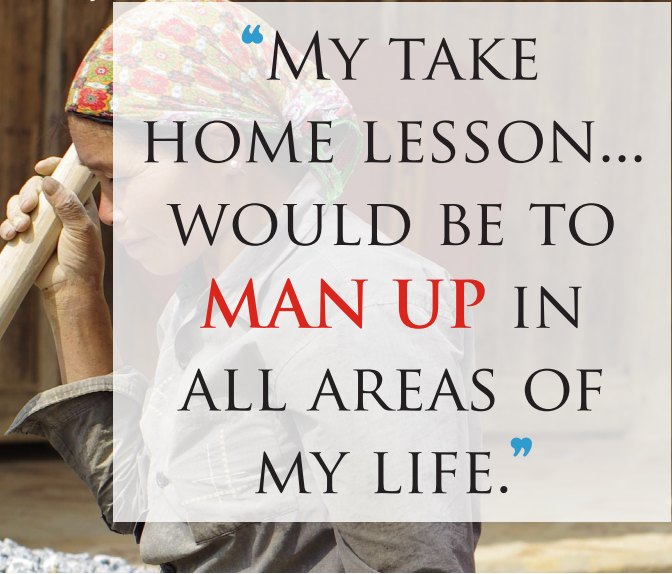


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Aaron PAN



“MY TAKE
HOME LESSON...
WOULD BE TO
MAN UP IN
ALL AREAS OF
MY LIFE.”

Wow what a trip—there is so much to share about the missions trip to Vietnam even though it only lasted five days. We had to rough it at times but it was definitely worth it. The Lao Cai project only lasted two days but it was hard work mixing that cement in the searing heat and gave me a new-found appreciation for my office job and the concept of air conditioning. Yet despite the brief personal discomfort, at the end seeing the school kids running and playing on

the concrete playground that we had helped to lay made it all worthwhile.

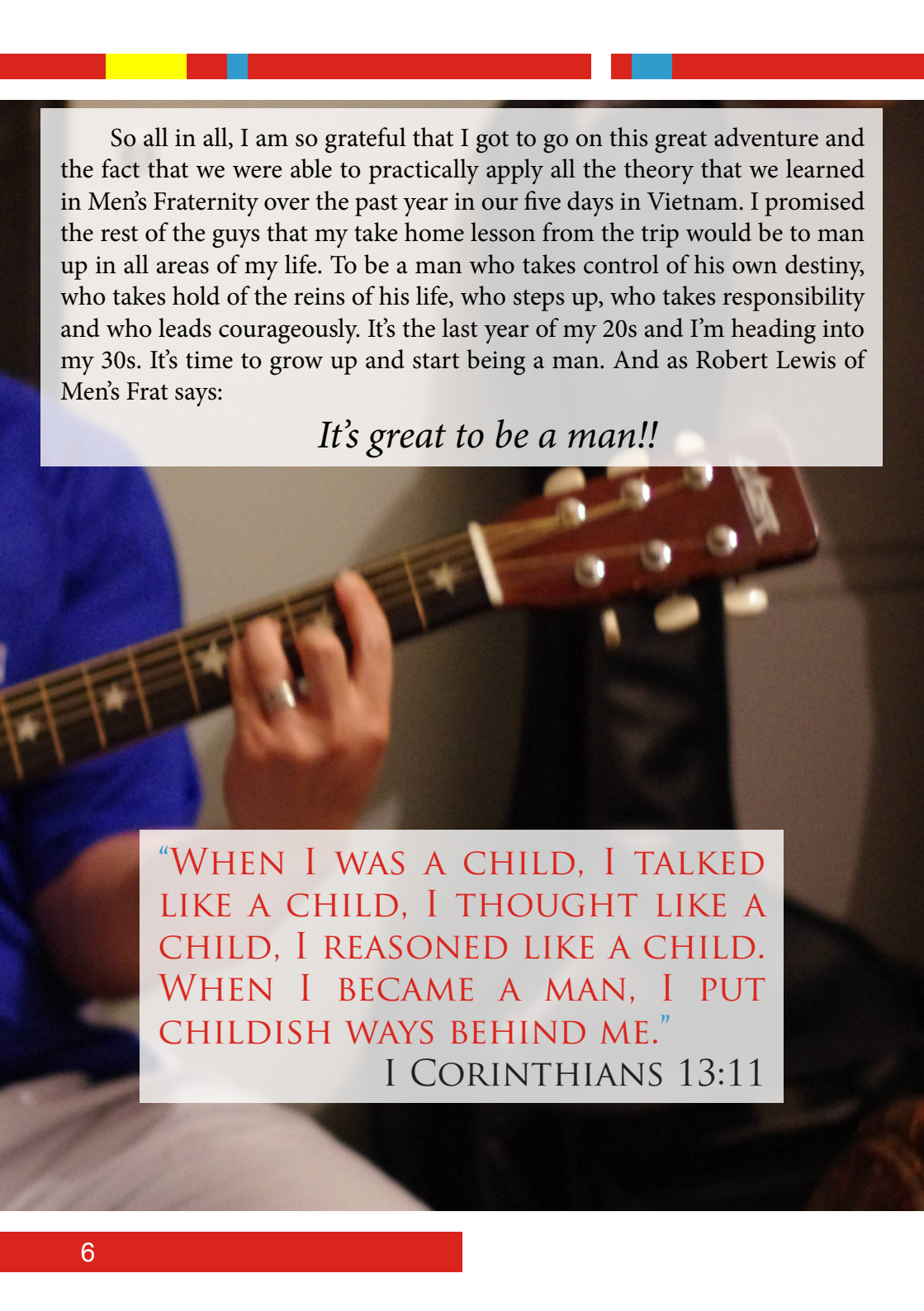
Not only was the trip physically tough, but spiritually also. I had never experienced a migraine before but unfortunately, I got to experience my first-ever (and hopefully last) migraine on the trip. The pain was unaffected by drugs and mysteriously lasted exactly from the moment the train pulled into Lao Cai train station to the moment we left on the train two and a half days later. The only logical explanation was that it was a spiritual attack and despite

the pain, I was given a much-needed reminder of the reality of the spiritual battle that we are in, having forgotten and become ignorant of it back in the shallow and materialistic culture of Hong Kong.

But enough about the challenges - the highlight of the trip was definitely the fun and fellowship we had as a band of 12 brothers hanging out together. The sharings, testimonies, jokes, laughter, banter, devotionals and meals together were really on another level. It seems strange for me to say this but I can safely and honestly say that I love all of the other 11 men that went on the trip with me and would be willing to lay my life down for each of them, even after only five days together.

I learned so much, especially from being with older, wiser and godly guys on the trip. It was such a blessing for me to hear of their stories, their experiences, their struggles, failures, victories and successes as men. I got to see what real men look like - human, honest, willing to be vulnerable, weak in themselves and yet strong in God and in each other. It was the Son of Man in each of them that makes them the men and warriors that they are.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands playing a guitar. The guitar has a dark fretboard with white stars on the frets. The person is wearing a blue shirt and a silver ring on their finger. The background is blurred, showing a dark jacket.

So all in all, I am so grateful that I got to go on this great adventure and the fact that we were able to practically apply all the theory that we learned in Men's Fraternity over the past year in our five days in Vietnam. I promised the rest of the guys that my take home lesson from the trip would be to man up in all areas of my life. To be a man who takes control of his own destiny, who takes hold of the reins of his life, who steps up, who takes responsibility and who leads courageously. It's the last year of my 20s and I'm heading into my 30s. It's time to grow up and start being a man. And as Robert Lewis of Men's Frat says:

It's great to be a man!!

“WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I TALKED LIKE A CHILD, I THOUGHT LIKE A CHILD, I REASONED LIKE A CHILD. WHEN I BECAME A MAN, I PUT CHILDISH WAYS BEHIND ME.”

I CORINTHIANS 13:11



Bennet WONG

After being a Christian for more than 20 years, this was my 1st mission trip. I didn't feel that I was suitable for a mission trip before. It was because I didn't sing well and I couldn't play any musical instrument. I was not well-spoken. I had three kids to take care and my heart was not on fire...

In September last year, I joined the Man's Fraternity course III and the topic

“SO, I STEPPED
OUT OF MY
COMFORT
ZONE...”

was about the Great Adventure; a man must be more than responsible and needs to be woven with adventure. We were to conclude the course perfectly by taking a real adventure—paving a school playground in rural Vietnam. I thought I could at least do some simple physical works. So, I stepped out of my comfort zone and joined the mission trip.

During the trip, I treasure the most



was the brotherhood bonding in Christ. We worked and sweated together. We were able to share our stories and our weakness. This was a mission trip that

tested and grew me on both spiritually and physically. It is difficult to describe it and you have to experience it by yourself.





Brian
CHAN

“GOD LET ME
SEE HIS
FINGERPRINTS
ON **EACH** OF
THE BROTHERS”

After couple years joining the missionary conferences at IECC, I do admire those who walk the talk, serve the LORD and using their time to touch many lives. However, my spirit indeed willing but the flesh was weak. Until recently, I was able to join a visionary trip, to northern part of Vietnam, a great adventure I never dream of. After working and sweating side by side with the brand of brothers for couple of days, I would like to share a few learning here.

I always wonder how valuable of a short trip especially going to those areas you have minimum to no opportunity to spread the Gospel. Toward the end of the trip, this question was answered. God told me through a brother at the local church that how he was touched

by the kindness of some Christians visit him occasionally during his stay in the refugee camp in Hong Kong. After he left the camp, he decided to find out more about Christianity because someone he doesn't know was so kind to him. He was saved by the Lord and now serves at the local church. God let me see that a simple act in obedience on however small the mission is and He will multiply. One day, a teacher or a student might question why someone willing to help them, I am sure the Lord will provide the answer to them.

During the trip, God let me see His fingerprints on each of the brother. We had great moment when we worship together and sharing our story. I did not only make some friends but also band



of brothers who willing to watch out for each other. This is the most precious gift from God.

It was a heart-warming moment to see the students' feet are no longer get muddy again and see their joyful faces. I see God love them very much and open our eyes to see their need. I am so glad to be the tool of God to comfort those in need.

Last but not least, I would like to thank for my wife's prayers and support while I was off for couple days. Also, thank for the brothers in Men Ministry and those who pray for us during the trip! May God bless you all!



Brian

KUSUNOKI

The last overseas mission trips I did had to be when I was working 18 years ago for World Vision. This trip rekindled a lot of the old feelings. Feelings of admiration for those who are on the front line working for Christ in difficult situations both physically and spiritually, feelings of sadness to see how most of this world lives in poverty and feel-

ings of humility to see how these kids with so little have so much in the way of joy.

It also affirmed to me the role we are to play. We are salt of the earth, we are our brothers keeper, wherever He places us be it for a week in Lao Cai or right here in Hong kong, Shamshuipo, Shek Kip Mei. There are poor physically and spiritually wherever He places us. We really focused and poured ourselves into the task of building relationships and the work of building the school while we were





in Lao Cai. The message I got was that in Hong Kong. He expects that same level of intensity,

the same awareness that we are ambassadors, the same feeling of really being used for His glory each and every day not just when we are on a mission trip. The mindset should be that we are always on a mission trip.

That really encouraged me to “step it up” and really focus more on making a real difference in my everyday life back

Did we make a difference in Lao Cai? I think we need to look at how the Lord measures it. He has plans for Lao Cai and we were part of that plan. Some plant and others harvest but the point is there is no harvest without planting the seed. I am convinced that everyday those kids and teachers see that courtyard it reminds

“THE MIND-
SET SHOULD BE
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MISSION TRIP.”

them of some crazy guys who worked really hard for no obvious reason except for love for them and for this God they serve and they have to think about what kind of God motivates that kind of action. This was not a one off trip, we will be going back, God willing; relationships were made and we will continue to foster those relationships, if not by physical visits then by prayer and other means.

In Psalms 103, the promise is that He will restore our youth by satisfying us with good things. I was blessed being the eldest of the group to be surrounded by 11 guys, most half my age who didn't

treat me a bit as a senior but as a brother, or maybe I should say as equal (equally deserving of being shown no respect). In short I had a blast. I came away from the trip not only refreshed spiritually but with a new group of much younger friends who I have a lot of respect for. They also let me hang out with them which is truly amazing grace. There is a closeness and tightness of this group now that I think you can only compare to a sports team or military squad where a group has faced challenges and really needed to depend on each other. I think God will now use this group in some incredible ways.





“THIS
BROMANTIC
TRIP HAS BEEN
TRANSFORMATIONAL”

Christopher
YU

I decided last minute to join the men's mission trip two weeks before the departure date. At the time, there was a lot of turmoil in my life, and I felt nothing was in my control. To be honest, I didn't even know what the trip was about and signed up on a whim, but somehow knew I could find inner peace by surrounding myself with Godly men and gain wisdom from them. I've been a Sunday Christian up until this point, and never in the past spent so much time surrounded by Christians. In the beginning, I was worried about how I would blend in with these guys, none of whom I knew before the trip and from all walks of life. I didn't know any Christian songs by heart, any bible verses, and how to give a testimony let alone lead a devotion. I also do not like to open up and share inner thoughts and feelings; afraid of putting myself in a vulnerable situation whereby people I was not close to would judge and gossip. All I had to offer was an open mind and heart. It was the first time I didn't know what my decision would lead me to, but knew I had to let down my guard to allow God guide and use me through this journey. After 6 days, with God's presence, the shared experience with my 11 brothers was so much more than I asked for.

What I cherished most from the trip was the fellowship time. We had

amazingly deep and open discussions on issues all men deal with; relationships, love, marriage, manhood in God's eyes, dealing with past wounds, leadership, responsibility, control, temptations, identity, grace, satan and spiritual warfare, etc. (if you want details you can speak to me or come to the next men's mission trip!). These conversations made me realize how little I knew about what it is to be a man. Had I asked myself this question earlier and sought answers via Men's Fraternity, I would at least have the "playbook" earlier on in life, and know how to face and handle issues differently.

Looking back, this bromantic trip has really been transformational. I've noticed a stark difference in my

- (i) openness to discuss my faith,
- (ii) appreciation for friends and family around me,
- (iii) attitude towards sharing,
- (iv) grateful, softened heart,
- (v) perception of love, relationship, and responsibility,
- (vi) purpose at work,
- (vii) re-centered priorities and goals to have a fulfilling life,
- (viii) understanding of what it means to have God be in full control, and
- (ix) mission at church. I can't say I know fully what it is to be a man in

God's eyes, but at least I know I've found a community in which I can start learning from.

Lastly, I want to address a question that people always ask: "what impact can you realistically make on such a short mission trip?" I now see a mission trip as a way of meeting the needs of people in both developing and developed countries. In a place like Hong Kong, people

have great spiritual need; we constantly struggle with pride, greed, power, temptations, etc. Going on this Vietnam mission trip, I was given time to slow down and regain perspective on life, humble my heart, and center God. On the other hand, in developing countries like Vietnam, people have spiritual and material needs. When people from developed countries go on a mission trip, they show the local people that they are loved



and worthy. I enjoyed the satisfaction of helping pave a school playground after 2 days of hard physical labor; this small act of kindness in fulfilling the local, underfunded school's material needs can go a long way in influencing the young students and teachers there to question, "why did these Christian men from Hong Kong do this for us?" On our second to last day in Hanoi, I recall a conversation we had with a Vietnam-

ese man, prior to Sunday service, who found out we were visiting from Hong Kong. In the 80s/90s, he was a refugee in Hong Kong, and told us how he came to Christ because of the kindness that a group of Christians showed him when the rest of society saw these refugees as nuisances. Similarly, it may not be today or tomorrow, but I have faith we left a mark in at least one person to ask, "who are Christians?"



Daniel TSE

Four days before the departure date, I had a high fever and was ensnared with some serious infections that my wife Rebecca suggests that I might have to be hospitalized going off to a remote mountains of Vietnam might not be too wise...

God was faithful. After professional consultation and a well supplies of medicine, with much pain, I grind my teeth and set forth on a mission with my men of 12!

Vietnam will never be the same because of this journey. As a co-leader with Pastor Sherman, this is my first mission trip and my heart was eager

awaiting his God can use us “men” and what He will reveal to me in this trip.

From the youngest 23 to the most experienced at 50 something, we see characters of young king David to Caleb emerging in our midst...working together bringing a tangible school courtyard for the kids to play on.

Results? Amazing! 12 brothers with very different personalities came together in the name of our Lord; I was astonished by my brothers’ redemptive stories and how God continues to work in their lives through daily struggles, joy and pain! God comes through every time!

God’s presence was vivid in this

trip, what God's message to me was: "let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich! Because of what the lord has done for us..."

If you have never experienced be-

ing strengthen through the lord and have never felt rich even though you have plenty. Come join us next year to experience our powerful God with a band of brothers!

**"COME JOIN
US NEXT YEAR."**





The school at Thai Giang Pho, where we served.



The twelve men of Men's Fraternity.



Playing team-building games with the teachers.

Hard at work.





Herman HO

What an adventure!

There is really so much I want to write about this trip. The trip was a promise to myself and to my God. From this trip, not only was I able to help the school paving the playground, I got to work with these 11 other amazing men, and achieving a common goal with them. As we shared during the trip, I can see we all came from different backgrounds with different abilities. God really painted a beautiful image for us, when we put our differences behind, and focus to achieve the goal, we celebrated together joyfully afterward.

Before the trip, I know mission field is central of our Christian life for it is written all over the Bible, which to make His name known, but it was all theory on my mind without action. I know there will be some difficulties. After the trip, I realised this was truly a great adventure that I want to be part of many years to come. I got to see changes physically with the school improvement and spiritually with the got

“A GREAT
ADVENTURE
I WANT TO BE
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MANY YEARS TO
COME...”

me warm hearted. Really, no “dep trais” (vietnamese for handsome guys) left behind.

Haa...there seems to be room for a bit more. I was playing soccer with the school kids, kicking the ball around. It went into a trench, so I go to pick it up. Then I realized the trench was a cesspit filled with poo. I picked the ball and the game goes on. That was disgusting, but God seems to tell me through that incident, “welcome to the mission field”.



Joshua SUNG

Our six-day missions trip to Vietnam was a unique experience where I witnessed how intertwined Jesus' greatest commandments and His last commandment are.

In Matthew 28, before Jesus ascends to heaven, he gives his disciples one final commission: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to

me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus invited His disciples to participate in the bountiful harvest, to proclaim His name to all nations, beginning in Judea, and spreading all the way to the ends of the earth.

I had only been attending Island for a few months, and was a part of Men's Fraternity for an even shorter time, when the missions opportunity to go to Vietnam came up. Part of me was hesitant to sign up at first - I didn't know anyone else going and my work schedule conflicted with several of the pre-trip meetings. However, the excitement of participating in this Great Commission ended up quickly overshadowing any of my doubts, and I signed up.

As the date approached, my eagerness to go on the trip increased. There was an opportunity to bond with fellow brothers, the adventure of exploring a new land, and the chance to display God's mercy to the rural reaches of northern Vietnam. In addition to those things, I was also eager to experience the Lord more whole-heartedly. Over the past few years, my walk with the Lord had felt stagnant. As the burdens of work and the distractions of life crept up, I had found myself placing my relationship with God lower on my list of priorities. I figured this trip would give me a retreat to seek the Lord and reignite my passion for Him. However,

“GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE IS OVERFLOWING...”

I did not expect that in living out Jesus' last commandment, that I would be so challenged and convicted by his greatest commandments.

In Matthew 22, Jesus is questioned by a Pharisee: “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

We arrived in Hanoi to sweltering heat, took the night train up to Lao Cai (at the border of Vietnam and China), and in a few hours, were laying concrete at a rural school in Bac Ha. As we served the students and teachers at this school, my heart began to flow with love for these people. I desired for them to not only have better living conditions, but I also really desire for them to be able to experience the Gospel in their lives. My love for these neighbors was further echoed by the love my fellow brothers on the trip showed me. The community of men on this trip was so genuine.

Although many of us were unfamiliar with one another, God's love was pouring out from each one of us and lavishing and blessing the others on the trip. It was these experiences of love for others and from believers that reminded me of God's love for me - and in response, my deep love for Him.

God's love for His people is overflowing. I believe He invites us to participate in sharing that love with others, not because He needs us to. If he desired it, he could have an army of angels proclaiming His goodness to all people across the world, night and day.

But, I think He commands us to participate because He doesn't want us to just 'hear' about His love, but He wants us to 'experience' His love. He understands that our human hearts are frail, easily swayed and distracted; But even more so, He knows that in picking up a shovel and digging sand, or sharing a heartfelt conversation with a fellow brother, or suffering through heat and headaches, those frail hearts become strong muscles that more fully understand and grasp the depths of His love for us. I witnessed that in Vietnam, and pray that other men in Island will have the opportunity to in the future.



A portrait of Malcolm Chiu, a man with glasses and a grey polo shirt with a blue collar, looking slightly to the right. The background is blurred, showing other people in blue and yellow clothing. At the top of the page, there are horizontal bars in red, yellow, and blue.

Malcolm CHIU

“IT IS A GREAT BLESSING...”

This is the first time that I have been on a mission trip since I became a Christian over 20 years ago. To take time off work and invest my own personal time, financial resources and physical effort in a foreign people and culture is something that I have never done in my life. To have the privilege to take part in this unique adventure with 11 other great Christian men was just an amazing experience for me. I had many first-time experience during this trip: first-time sleeping overnight on a train, first-time sleeping on a traditional wooden hut on flat wooden floor for a several nights, first-time shuffling / carrying dirt and gravel for concrete-

mixing etc. I had never performed such labour-intensive hard-work in my life, and doing it for two straight days was just exhausting. However, seeing the students finally being able to walk about the school without stepping on mud and have a safe concrete ground to play on was really rewarding for me. Getting to know students who walk must 20km to school, and paying “dormitory fee” by rice to stay there with three students sharing one level of a small bunk bed is just an eye-opening experience for me.

On the final evening, the teachers cooked dinner for us and we all had great fun learning and share our different cultures and languages. Situated in a very remote rural location in a com-

munist country, we were not allowed to share our faith and the gospel directly. I was wondering “is that all? Have we come all the way here to do manual labour work just for a fun dinner and go home?” So as we all sat in the principal’s office after dinner chatting along, I took the courage to suggest that we should sing a song together. The song was “Give Thanks” and since we learnt the Vietnamese word for “Give Thanks” which is “Cam On”, I suggested replacing the words “give thanks” to Vietnamese and sing the rest of the song in English (we did pass them the lyrics as most teachers can read English reasonably well but just could not speak well). After the song, one teacher shared through a translator that the English lyrics “let the weak say I am strong and the poor say I am rich...” really moved her heart. I was glad that we were able to leave something beyond the concrete playground for them—something in their hearts for them to search for—the creator who

cares and loves them and is there to give them strength to live through every day and has prepared riches for their heart for the ones who seek Him.

Being able to walk to school without stepping on mud and having a safe concrete floor to play on are such basic things we city dwellers take for granted without second thoughts. Yet now I realised it is such a blessing and privilege for us to have these things in our lives. The most amazing part is that I found the students and teacher were all so contented about what they already had, so much more content about life than most of us city dwellers. This, perhaps, is something that we should all reflect on.

We really should be grateful for the many simple things that we have, and it is a great blessing to be able to give your time, resource and effort to others and establish a relationship with those who receive.



Richard YAP



This was my first mission trip. I did not have much of an expectation except to support Daniel in the call to perform a service trip upon the completion of the Men's Fraternity "Great Adventure" series. Nevertheless, I came back from the trip physically stretched but spiritually refreshed.

We were each responsible for a de-

votional topic and our own testimony to share with the group in the morning and evening. As we were in a remote part of the country, there was no internet or wifi. Therefore, we were able to spend solid quiet time in the Lord's word during our free time (because there is nothing else to distract us from the Lord). It is a reminder of simplicity in life and a call for us to turn back in awe of the Lord and the beauty of nature He created.

Under the spiritual leadership of Pastor Sherman and Daniel, we had a wonderful time worshipping the Lord and encouraging one another. Every man came to the mission trip with a piece of 'baggage'. Almost all of us are spiritually renewed in our faith as we were forced to face some of these issue by being vulnerable with others, especially on the last day in Hanoi when we had communion and deep sharing. Challenging questions were asked; time was spent for self examination, and praying

for and encouraging one another.

Overall, I agree that it is a great idea to do a Service Trip upon the completion of MF Great Adventure as a graduation project. Perhaps if the service trip was in Hong Kong, we would be able to get more brothers involved. The service trip not only allowed us to live out the Gospel in Life, but also to build up our Faith and our involvement in community.





Sherman

CHAU

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

This verse was exemplified on the Men’s Fraternity Mission Trip to Vietnam. There was something very special about having a group of men at various ages and stages of their walk with God spending so much time together. We sharpened one another as we worked hard alongside each other and as we opened up our lives and shared transparently. And we were sharpened as we sensed that together we were being used by God for a greater purpose in Vietnam.

Simply from the perspective of our project, the trip was a success. We went to the middle school of Thai Giang Pho commune to pave their dirt schoolyard with concrete. Before we even completed our project, we could already see the impact: as soon as a section was dry enough, students were immediately running around and playing on it with big smiles on their faces.

One of the highlights of the trip



was when the school prepared a Thank You dinner for our team on our last night there. It was a “home-cooked meal” that was served in what was normally their teachers’ room, converted that evening to a dining hall to host us. What made it special to me was watching our team build friendships with our Vietnamese friends with such ease. It’s pretty easy for a short-term team to lift shovels and concentrate on a work project. It’s not

so easy for a team to overcome culture and language barriers and really get to know a person from another country. I knew this was not a problem for us when I looked around the room and saw every member of our team in conversation with the person next to them. From time to time, a table would erupt in laughter at someone’s poor but brave attempt to speak Vietnamese (usually this was around Brian C and Brian K’s

vicinity). And that’s what touched me: seeing guys who were stepping out of their comfort zones to make friends, even at the cost of some good-natured ridicule.

This highlight has a highlight of its own: after dinner when we all retired to another room

“EVEN ONE SIMPLE
CHRISTIAN SONG
WAS PROBABLY MORE
OF THE **GOOD NEWS**
THAN THEY’VE EVER
HEARD BEFORE.”

for tea and more fellowship. Vietnamese people love singing and our worship leader, Aaron, was ready with his guitar. Malcolm Chiu suggested singing “Give Thanks” (which was became our unofficial trip song) but inserting “Cam on” (Vietnamese for Thank You) whenever Give Thanks appeared so that our Vietnamese friends could join in.

This may not seem significant at first, but Lao Cai, the province we were in, is one of the most tightly-controlled provinces in Vietnam and one of the hardest for Christians to have an impact in. So even one simple Christian song from a group of foreigners was probably more of the good news than they’ve ever heard before. (Even when we noticed

that the song was warmly received by our Vietnamese friends and wanted to follow it up by sharing more of the good news, our local host organization – all strong and committed believers – felt it would not be safe or wise to share more. So we had to trust that God would use that moment and that song somehow in the future.)

The other highlight came on our last day in Vietnam, Sunday. As Daniel and I drafted the schedule, this was intended to be a slow day: attending the international fellowship in the morning, a bit of sight-seeing and shopping and a debrief in there somewhere. It ended up being the most vulnerable and transparent sharing time of the whole trip and



going way past midnight. God was definitely doing something special in our midst.

All through the nine years that my family and I served as missionaries in Vietnam, I was always hoping for a missions team from Island ECC. So this men's trip was like a dream come true, and in fact, better than I could have imagined!





Yat-shuen TONG

In June 2011, I moved back to Hong Kong after six years of education in the US. I was very reluctant as I was leaving behind many of my closest friends, a familiar environment, a church I committed to, and years of fond memories. A few months at home and I found myself lonely, disconnected, and angry without quite knowing who or what I was particularly angry at.

“IT WAS WONDERFUL TO BE IN A COMMUNITY LIKE THIS AGAIN.”

The recovery process was slow, and a lesson in patience for me. Not long after realising that it would be impossible for me to participate in a mission trip with my church in the US, an alternative presented itself in the form of the Men’s Fraternity trip to Vietnam.

Leaving for Hanoi, I was praying for community and a rekindled fire for His Kingdom. It had been difficult to remain excited and passionate without a stable and upbeat group of brothers and sisters around me as I almost took for granted.

Since the first moment on the trip, I found myself to be in good company. This was a group of mature, godly men who can be goofy or vulnerable, who loves their families and willingly befriended myself, someone years (in some cases decades) their junior. Moreover, I found myself not to be the only one looking to connect and grow.

It was wonderful to be in a community like this again—it felt like a long time since I have last sat with a friend on Sunday, let alone sweating, worshipping and praying as we did. It was a small step of faith I took to sign up with a group of strangers, and prayers were answered beyond my hopes. The beautiful

mountains, delightful students and the slight sense of accomplishment from seeing them having gym class on the freshly-paved playground made the experience all the more meaningful.

Leaving Vietnam, I believe that our team share in the vision that there is much more to be done at the school at Thai Giang Pho, not to count how many schools like that there are across the rural areas of the country. I for one cannot wait to go back, God willing, and see those dear faces again. Hopefully, many, many more men will be able to share in what we had that weekend in Vietnam, and little by little our witness would make an impact beyond gravel and dirt.





Sa's House, our home near Thai Giang Pho, where we slept, ate, shared, and fellowshipped.



“AND NOW
LET THE WEAK SAY ‘I am strong’
LET THE POOR SAY ‘I am rich’
BECAUSE OF WHAT
THE LORD HAS DONE FOR US
Give Thanks”



ISLAND
EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

