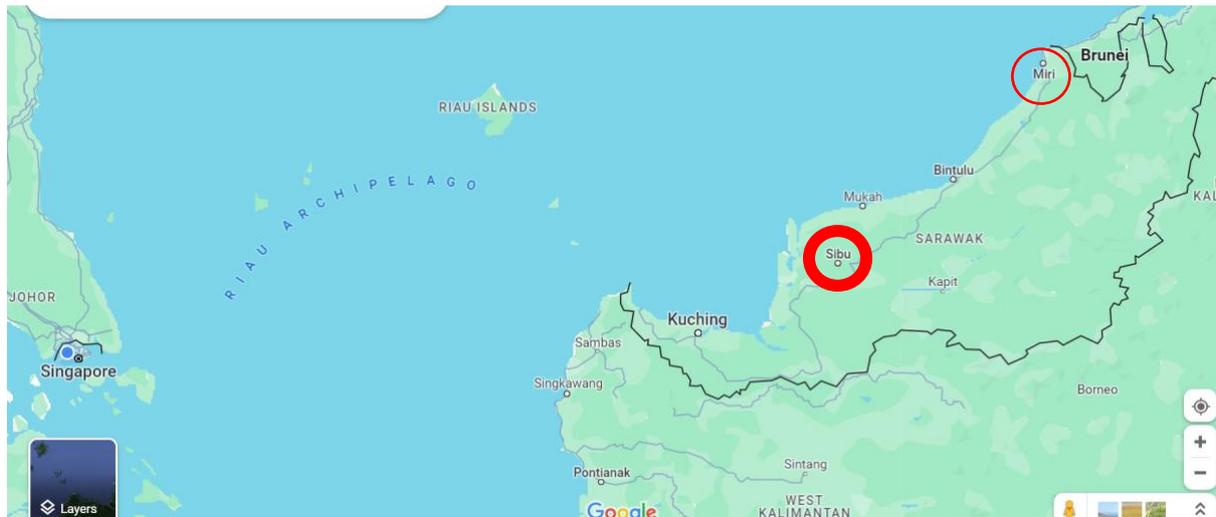


Report for Sibu Mission 2024 from 1st to 6th March, 2024 by Dn Chin Bo Thong (vetted by Dn Robin Boi).

5th April, 2024

A) Introduction

Sibu is situated in the State of Sarawak, East Malaysia & minister mainly to the Chinese or native Iban speaking Mandarin. It is not far from Miri BPC, who ministers to the native Iban speaking Bahasa Malay.



The Mission trip was held from 1st March to 6th March, 2024 during the school holiday of Malaysia. The main program of VBS was held on Saturday, Monday & Tuesday from 9am till 3.30pm. The other activities we participated were Prayer meeting (on Friday night, led by Dn Ling), Youth meeting (Saturday night, led by Dn Robin), Evangelism (Sunday afternoon, split in various groups) & Visitations (Sunday & Monday nights, led by Dn Robin & Dn Bo Thong in 2 separate vans).



(Group photo of VBS teachers and students)

B) Key Summary

VBS

1. Comparing to our past visits from 2017 to 2019 (pre-Covid), this year 2024, we could witness more proactive effort from Sibü teams in executing their responsibilities, especially those elected deacons, deaconess & teachers when the new Session was inceptioned in 2023. These deacons, deaconess & teachers helped as assistant teachers and discussion leaders.
2. During VBS lessons taught by Pandan teams, the Sibü teams sat through and learned alongside the students. We noticed the Sibü teachers were attentive during lessons and also assisted in pre-singing as well as class management.
3. For VBS lesson plans, we follow Westminster Shorter Catechism. Sis Hadassa Chew (FEBC graduate and daughter of Truth BPC Elder Winston Chew) helped to write the lesson plan (edited by Rev Quek) in English and translated to Chinese (by Pandan members).
4. Sibü faces similar situation like Miri and other smaller states where majority of adults and old teens would leave for bigger states like Kuching or KL to work, leaving behind the very young or very old. Since last year, we could see about 3~4 teens (circled in the next photo) staying behind Sibü to work part time and helped out in the logistics of the VBS (they temporarily stayed in Church during the VBS period).



5. Attendance: Total 81 registered with average 71 turned up.
Kindy (10 registered, ave 8 turned up); Primaries (30 registered, ave 27 turned up); Teens (41 registered, ave 36 turned up).
Absenteeism were due to sickness, school activities, private tuition, working & problem at homes.

*notes:-

- We would encourage the Sibü teams to sign up FEBC online English classes. If they prefer Mandarin, then go for Mandarin class taught by Rev Zhu Jian Wei.
- The Pandan team shall evaluate the suggestion from BOE to recycle the syllabus from Junior Worship (JW).
- The Pandan team shall evaluate the query from Rev Quek if the Sibü teams can take over as the main & assistant teachers.
- With the completion of the renovation, Sibü teams can consider bringing either the Primary or Teens to the Church premise and reduce the rental of one conference room from nearby local Li Hua hotel (cost RM1,800 for 3 days).

Visitations

We held 2 nights of visitation to 8 members' homes (including Dn Ling's aged mother) & VBS children's homes. During the visits, Pandan team could share the gospel in Mandarin to those family members that are non-believers.



(Student's family, Chinese father married Iban woman).



(Dn Ling's mother)



(students' family and aunt's family)



(siblings of former FEBC students Zhong De)



(Dn Henry Chua's family, still rooted in Roman Catholicism).

Logistics

1. The additional van provided extra vacancies to fetch children and teens to the Church for VBS and Sunday Worship Services/Sunday School classes.
2. Both Deacons Koon Toy and Henry helped to drive, relinquishing Dn Ling from such duty, especially on Sunday.
3. Church had joined 2 connecting units and renovated to create more spaces for Sunday School classes on Sunday.



(Kindy class using the main Sanctuary; towards the end and turn left, there is another parallel unit used for Sunday School classes on Sunday)

4. For VBS, the Primary and Teens classes rented nearby local Li Hua hotel two conference rooms while the kindies utilized the Church premise. The teachers stayed at Li Hua hotel (RM110 /night).

The End.