

HAVE WE DONE THE JOB?

The Lieows involvement in the Christians ministries amongst the Orang Asli has been a long twenty-five years. It is time for them to retire and do some other things? What are the guiding directions for those faithful supporters of the Lord's ministries? This article is written to give light to the questions above.

Mary and I came into the Orang Asli ministries in the early 1981. The first ten years were spent reorganization, establishment and teachings amongst the Semai in Tapah and Chenderiang in Perak. The result is the present Orang Asli Church called JEKOA. Semai JEKOA at Tapah has her own churches, office, annual conferences and her own teachers. She is functioning as any local Church should. So it is time for us to leave them?

The Lord has the other tribes in mind, "...to every tribes and tongues". In obedience to His commission, AM'IN is established in 1991 to train our own workers. Laymen training coupled with full-time workers prepared the reaching out to the other tribes. We have followed the Lord's guidance and there are works amongst the Temuan, Jakuns, Semok Beri, Temiars, Semelai, and Orang Laut, the major tribes within 17 tribes. We also thank God for using us in opening up the doors to other minor tribes. There are works by other Church groups among the Jah Hut, Mah Meri, Jahai. Efforts have been made to reach out to the Batek, Che Wong, Kanaks, Mendrik, Kintak, Kinsiu and Lanoh.

Apart from the Semai, the other Christians ministries are at the different stages of an indigenous independent Church. And to achieve our final goal, there are great needs of more workers to expand the works so that each tribe is sizeable enough to be able to employ their own Bible teachers or Pastors. And we do not have more 25 years to give. God willing, pray for more workers to go into the harvest fields.

The Orang Asli ministries have many challenges. Illiteracy, poverty (or rather simple life style) and marginalized by development are just three of many such issues. How can we train their own teachers when they are mostly uneducated? How can we achieve financial independence when they are without proper employment or own their own lands! Just imagine, how much time had been spent to teach them to keep proper finance accounts when they have either little or no education. Yet, these are not insurmountable mountains. The JEKOA Semai is a testimony of His wondrous saving power.

My personal thoughts linger around those tribes that need greater efforts to see growths in numbers and spirituality. May the Lord be pleased to guide us into launching the next expedition? There are many difficulties for us to overcome, but they could be turn into opportunities to put our trust in Him to test again.

The length of time may cause supporters and the workers to lose stamina. But the promise of God is our stay." Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, and they shall mount up with their wings like eagle, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:30-31

Waiting upon the LORD

We received your calls to assess the needs for the next year. Some of you want to supports workers, some of us, asked about the intake of students, there are many areas where we can be partners, but we have to wait upon the Lord. He is the head of the Church, the Key to the history of man. Some good monies will be wasted on mission trips, some workers may lose their fervors, but those who are persistence and faithful , wait upon Him.

Do pray for

1. More workers, even the non Orang Asli
2. God's wisdom and counsel for our next endeavors
3. The existing Church groups working among the Orang Asli, so that we might have clear goals, cooperation and at one in the truth.
4. For Mary and Pastor Lieow, who are in their early fifties, to be endowed with renew strength and vision for the works under their supervision.
5. Fellow co workers, partners and every church members or elect of God to be faithful in their roles.

We do not like to count the numbers, so if you want to know how many baptized members in all the present ministries, we can just give thanks to God for the many souls known to Him. Your partnership counts, for it is your precious token of love to Him and those born through Him.

NO, the job is not completed yet.

Yours in Christ,

(Rev. & Mrs Lieow Meng Kuang)