

First Nations Gospel Ministry

2022 August Bimonthly Newsletter

Dr Daniel Sze

drdrsze@gmail.com

Baptist
Mission
Australia



Dear Supporters of the First Nations Gospel Ministry,

First, thank you for your prayers and financial support! The ministry began two months ago in July 2022 and already we have witnessed together God's blessings because this is His work! God invites us to be His little co-workers so that we all can see His love and wonderful blessings to all nations and peoples! Oh, the amazing Grace of God!

Thank you to my mission organisation – Baptist Mission Australia for providing me with an experienced mentor – Rev Jim Kime. In 1962, after Jim had finished his theology training at Morling College and was ordained as a Baptist minister, he went to the Northern Territory as a missionary to the First Nations people. That year I was born!



Important Notice to all Partnering Churches – Training Session #1 to prepare for future Short-term Mission

Date/Time: 26 Nov 2022 (Sat) 2:00-4:30pm

Venue: Chinese & Australian Baptist Church West Ryde Hall

Address: 1 Reserve Street, West Ryde, NSW (1 min from the West Ryde Station; and next to the Koorong Book store)

For all brothers and sisters who have the heart and are considering participating in Short-term First Nations Missions to regional towns of NSW, this 2.5-hour training is essential. We will learn together the following:

- **First Nations history of the last 250 years showing the impact of colonisation.**
- **How to prepare and serve in the coming Short-term Missions in Western NSW**
- **Making Discipleship of All Nations by being Jesus' Disciples**



Reflection on “Discipleship”

– Being a Disciple of Jesus; and Discipling All Nations

Rev Jim heartily reminded me: “Daniel, be aware! Actually, most of the indigenous people at this time have heard about the Gospel, but it is “Discipleship” that they need – so that they understand that the Gospel is not about just going to heaven when you die; but about being “Disciples of Jesus” who **confess that He is Lord and who follow Him faithfully as they serve Him with self-sacrificing love to all peoples.**

This month I read a book by Bill Hull “The Disciple-Making Pastor”. This book was originally written in 1987; and now twenty years later in this new edition, the author has added a new section of his reflections on each chapter of the book written 20 years ago. I share here from the 2007 new edition:

The church continues to try to reach the world without making disciples . . . [p.12]

The church concentrates on getting people to say a prayer or adhere to a theological formula. It is a focus on convincing people to sign up for the ride to heaven without the road of discipleship. I must again point out that this is inadvertent, a product of the consumer culture in which we live. The gospel has been stripped of repentance and the basic call of Christ to deny oneself and follow him. [p.13]

Twenty years ago, Bill defended strongly in his book that Jesus’ disciples are made NOT born. Now twenty years later, he has changed his view – and concluded that:

“Disciples are born to be made.” [p.92]

Nowadays when people ask me to sum up what it means to be a disciple, I answer simply, “Rearrange your life around the practices of Jesus.” Live your life as though Jesus were living it. [p.95]

Progress of Regional NSW First Nations Gospel Ministry

Through connecting with my culture and language nurturer Pastor Uncle Henry Louie, I have had 2 trips to the West / North-West NSW in July and August 2022. After a 6-hour drive to Gilgandra, for my first Regional Mission trip I joined as an observer in the Kids Bible Club 2-day program (12-13 July) organised by the Korean Missionary for Indigenous Australia (KMIA). (Remember I shared with you in a previous Newsletter that KMIA was established by 60 Korean churches in Australia in 2011 with the heart to share the gospel to the First Nations people.)

The Korean team comprised a few young families with kids, led by Pastor Harry who is also a leader of the KMIA. About 20 kids joined this event at Gulargambone, a small town of only 400 people. Pastor Harry and his daughters led the singing, while others helped in bible storytelling and game activities. I helped by cooking the lunches on those 2 days for 30 people; sausage sizzles and Korean beef sandwiches.





On the second regional trip in August 2022, I visited a few towns northwest of Gilgandra - including Coonamble, Walgett, and Brewarrina. I met Pastor Isaac Gordon - the mentor of Pastor Henry Louie, and other Christian leaders in these towns. I plan to visit Brewarrina again on my September trip.

Our amazing God has stirred the heart of a brother – Alan Poon from my Sending Church of CABG-WR who has committed to join me as a co-worker to accompany my >10-hour drive to these regional towns! Praise God!

If you want to share with friends about how God has led me from a scientist and university teacher to now become an intercultural worker, here are some YouTube clips links:

15-min Introductory video - 施文遠 澳洲土著福音事工分享 in **Cantonese**:

<https://youtu.be/UWkXYlfkRzI>

18-min Introductory video - 施文遠 澳洲土著福音事工分享 in **Mandarin & Cantonese**:

<https://youtu.be/i6U2QT9tGbE>

25-min Introductory video – Dr Daniel Sze “First Nations Gospel Ministry” in **English**:

<https://youtu.be/ZQzoi5acS4c>

Prayers points for U-R-M (Urban-Regional-Ministry) Sep 2022

Urban Ministry

- Passion, perspective, priority, perseverance of indigenous Christian leaders to be disciples of Jesus
- Preparation of a First Nations contextualised discipleship and indigenous Christian leaders training material through collaboration with:

TEE Australia

(Tools to Equip and Empower)

www.tee.org.au

Regional Ministry

- Preparation of the 26/11 Training Day
- Visit to Gilgandra and Brewarrina (5-9 Sep) with my co-worker Alan Poon to confirm Short-term Mission regional towns in 2023

Thank you, Supporters! You make this First Nations Gospel Ministry possible! Praise God for this Partnership together!

This is OUR ministry together. And I need your continuous earnest prayers!

Partnering / Supporting Churches/ Organisations are:

- Chinese & Australian Baptist Church West Ryde (Sending Church)
- Agape Christian Chinese Church
- Central Baptist Church
- Chinese & Australian Baptist Church Thornleigh
- Chinese Christian Mission Australia
- Chinese Christian Presbyterian Church Burwood
- Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong
- Friends of Baptist Mission Australia
- Gordon Baptist Church
- Hornsby Anglican Chinese Church
- Maroubra Baptist Church
- Melbourne Glory Church
- Mitchem Baptist Church
- Narara Valley Baptist Church
- Templestowe Baptist Church (Cantonese & Mandarin Congregations)

And Supports from Individual Brothers & Sisters! Thank you!