

## YEAR-END THOUGHTS



*Preaching at the NEDA (National Economic Development Authority) Baguio Office Christmas gathering*

Working in a missions-focused school, I had to spend a lot of time thinking about how missions can remain relevant in these changing times. The Church today has inherited some wonderful traditions from the great missions

pioneers of the 19th Century but are they still relevant today? We have also inherited wonderful missionary strategies and models from Western missionaries but do they work in 21st Century Asia?

I grew up in the 20th Century and now work in the 21st Century. I was trained under a Western education system but now have to apply what I have learned in a world where non-Western cultures and economies are becoming increasingly influential.

Here are some of my preliminary thoughts on the changes Christian missions may need to make to remain relevant and effective:

**We need to be more relational than institutional:** Missions has been institutionalized with many agencies, often representing different theologies or schools of thoughts. Jesus did not come to die for any of these agencies but for people. And, people need to work with people to finish the job of the Great Commission. Are we working together?

**We need to be more intergenerational than intercultural:** Missiology is often euphemized as "intercultural studies." Perhaps the greatest "cultural" gaps between peoples is intergenerational rather than ethno-geographical. The "4/14 Window" is now taking over the "10/40 Window." Are we reaching our young people?

**We need to be more prophetic than paradigmatic:** The prophetic is willing to listen to God and move beyond whatever established theories of missions. It takes a prophetic calling to make paradigmatic shifts.

The greatest paradigmatic shift in history took place at the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus. That first Christmas took plenty of people by surprise. God continues to surprise us. I would like to do some surprising things with God for the new year.

**MALIGAYANG PASKO AT MANIGONG BAGONG TAON!**  
*(Please visit our website for the translation.)*

## OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS IN BAGUIO



*Moon Tee leading the Baguio International Chinese Church Christmas Service. It was a double celebration service because we also had a baby dedication.*

I had thought about relaxing over this Christmas season and get some of my overdue work done. However, we have been busier than ever. We had preaching engagements almost every day for the last week. (See our website and facebook pages

for fuller and more up-to-date reports on our ministry activities.)

Unlike Christmas in Malaysia, the actual Christmas day celebration here is very quiet. Many of the pastors in our church here in Baguio are going back to their home in the province, after finishing 10 days of early morning service; which began every morning at 5 am. We attended a few of them and Tham Wan preached in one of the services. At the APTS front, we will be having a pot-luck dinner with those who are still on campus.

We did call home, though. And we are glad our folks are doing well. Tham Wan's father was hospitalized for a few days but he has been discharged and is doing fine. Please pray with us for the salvation of all our loved ones at home.

### PRAYER NEEDS

1. Salvation of our loved ones, especially Tham Wan's dad who has been sick recently.
2. For more scholarship funds for the 20 new students from mainland China expected to enroll for the next school year.
3. For our personal well-being: physical, emotional and spiritual.
4. For the members of the Baguio International Chinese Church to bond into a viable church.
5. For the APTS 2014 Jubilee Vision: 200 students, 14 full-time faculty, Prayer Mountain and debt-free by 2014.

Visit our website ([www.thamwan.org](http://www.thamwan.org)) for more detailed reports, travel/ministry schedules, photos, videos,...



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