

Open Our Eyes To See

BY PS SCOTT TEY



Peter from Bangladesh and John from India are both construction workers. They graduated from the Online English Classes that Grace Missions have been conducting, in partnership with SG Accident Help Centre, and became friends of Gracians. Through the faithful sowing of our volunteers, God has allowed us to reap the harvest as both Peter and John gave their lives to Jesus Christ and became our spiritual brothers.

While taking time and effort to prepare and conduct the Online English Classes, our volunteers have also been putting in intentional effort to get to know the migrant worker brothers.

Do we view our migrant workers as people whom God loves or just numbers to beautify the statistics of our missions report?

Especially during these trying times when our migrant worker brothers have to experience countless swab tests and surprise isolation “stay-cations”, it has been our desire to build deeper relationships with them, giving them emotional, mental and prayer support.

But what is the purpose of all that we do? Is it purely to

numbers added unto His Kingdom? Do we stop doing what we’re doing when the numbers we expected fail to add up?

Well, not many experience the joy of reaping the harvest, but the bible puts it clearly that while we plant and water the seed, it is God that makes it grow. Hence, most of the time, the work of evangelism isn't a job that's fuss-free. It isn't a job to meet certain KPIs. It requires much love and patience that comes from the Lord. It requires faith.

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Mark 8:22-26 gives us an extraordinary account of how Jesus healed a blind man. After first spitting on the blind man's eye, the blind man still could not see clearly (v.23b). Then, Jesus placed His hands on the blind man's eyes and restored his sight completely, and he could see everything clearly (v.25).

Interestingly, in between these two actions, Jesus asked the blind man, "Do you see anything?" Then the blind man looked up and said, "I see people, they look like trees walking around." (v.23c - 24). What he meant was, "I can see (people walking), but I cannot see clearly (so they look like trees)!"

The arrival of COVID-19 turned Singapore's attention to the migrant workers' dormitories; what do we as Christians see? Do we view our migrant workers as people or do they just look like "trees walking around"?

Before COVID-19, Gracians have always been reaching out to the migrant workers through our physiotherapy and TCM services, helping injured workers. They need the most support and care when they get injured or are struggling in any way. We do not just distribute free masks or sanitizers during the circuit breaker.



May the Lord open our eyes to see that these are people whom he loves, not people that are like trees walking around! May we catch His heart of love and be His agents to bring these brothers into His family!

Every week, we spend time with them through Online English and the Alpha courses.

Our migrant friends' set foot here to earn a living, but they are no doubt major contributors to building Singapore's economy. They are our friends. Our Gracian volunteers have heard comments from the migrant workers such as:

"You are nice people!"
 "We can see the love of Christian!"
 "Thank you for praying for us!"
 "Thank you for teaching us English!"

Yes, the love of Jesus is demonstrated through our love for the migrant workers.

After all, we have about 450,000 foreign workers in Singapore. They are one of the largest missions fields within Singapore by any count. They are right here at our doorstep!

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