

July 2009

JOURNEY

Newsletter

A personal
ministry
newsletter of
Alvin Ong.

Blog: <http://geekmythology.wordpress.com/journey/>



IS IT WORTH IT??

In the face of frustration, pressure, and weariness, it can be hard to see the big picture...

"YOU DESERVE BETTER!" - my mind screamed, and I fumed privately, feeling the emotions of discontentment and dissatisfaction as I packed the equipment for Alternation's next gig. I was weary having to do the odds and ends in my role as logistics i/c in the band. This was on top of my work as a musician in the band. It was like an unwanted road-block that got in the way of 'actual ministry work'; that irritating fly that refuses to go away.

As Alternation's season went on (from April to June), I found myself increasingly dreading every band event when I should be eagerly anticipating what God was going to do at our gig. Hence I grew frustrated at seemingly getting the shorter end of the deal. After all, didn't I sign up for full-time Christian work so as to minister to the lost and hurting? I didn't see how by doing the stuff I was doing, I was going to have any form of

ministry impact. If anything, it IMPACTED my feelings towards my work!

The turning point came as I reviewed the survey results from Alternation's gigs at MGS. The following quote caught my attention:

"thank you (Alternation) for inspiring us, sharing your lives with us, leading us into God's presence and bringing us a step closer to be more like Christ. THANK YOU!"

The above is only but one of the many feedbacks we received with regards to people being influenced for life change. I realised at that moment that by doing the back-end work such as logistics for Alternation, I'm really part of God's bigger picture of having different elements of His Body work together to fulfill His Great Commission. It is truly, *ministry work*.



Alternation after our second gig at MGS

So is it worth it? For all the sweat and energy invested, I'm gratified to see my efforts leading to someone growing closer to Christ. Honestly I still do not like doing the back-end logistics work because I'm not naturally inclined towards such a role. However the next time I do it, I can be certain I'll carry out my task with a sure sense of purpose.

Thank you for your time reading this update!

HIGHLIGHTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

#1 Thanksgiving

Alternation was at Pulau Springs, JB in June to anchor the worship sessions at a four-day Bedok Frankel Estate Church camp.

Being part of the advance party and the band logistics person, I (together with Matt my band-mate) had to transport the music equipment using a goods vehicle. However I was turned back at the Malaysian customs even though the vehicle had the relevant license to enter. This meant potentially not having any audio equipment at the camp itself. Despite muttering a quick prayer and sending SMS prayer requests, the fact that the church camp was only less than 24 hours away didn't help to calm nerves.

At the Singapore checkpoint, I realised to my dismay that our passports were not given the exit stamp by the Malaysian authorities, which could give rise to problems should we enter JB again. It was back to the JB checkpoint once more.

Now here's the good part. I ended up at a different lane, with a different customs officer checking on us this time. To my delight, he waved us through once we explained our situation. After staring at the probability of having all the equipment stuck in Singapore, we were now on our way to the camp! To think I was ready to give up and settle for a Plan B. Surely God was in control all along, and with this episode I learnt the importance of praying and trusting God.

#2 Alternation: Second half of our season

Alternation is having an extended break to recover physically and spiritually from our activities from April to June this year. The band will return in August to resume our season of worship leading. We have a couple of venues lined up already, namely PLMGS where we ministered at in 2008, and ACJC (Anglo-Chinese Junior College) which will be our first gig in a JC. Please keep the band in your prayers!

#3 MinistryNet 2009

This October together with a delegation from SCCC, I'll be heading to Antalya, Turkey for a five-day Internet ministry conference called MinistryNet 2009. It will be a meeting of Campus Crusade staff representatives from all over the world, gathering to discuss how we could make the message of Christ readily available on the Internet.

The intent for me to go on this trip is to aid my development as a full-time staff. Having been involved the previous conference held in Bangkok during 2007, I look forward to see how far we (Christian ministries) have progressed with our ideas since the last conference, and to learn how new developments in the Internet world such as Twitter could be used to further Christ's kingdom.

As with other work trips, I'm required to raise **\$2600** to cover the airfare, accommodation and the conference fee. Hence I'm seeking your prayerful consideration about giving financially towards my trip so that I could be part of the event.

#4 Fund Raising

In my last newsletter, I wrote about the need to raise money for bass lessons. I'm thankful for the response from friends, and even from an anonymous donor, enabling me to raise enough to cover the fees.

The following are the current items I'm trusting God for. You may want to prayerfully consider giving to either one of these:

- **\$200 monthly (basic salary shortfall)**
- **\$50 monthly (housing allowance increase)**

#5 Two-week break

From 17-31 July, I'll be heading to Thailand for a time of rest - to simply relax and take my mind off work, and to go in time of personal retreat as I seek the Lord and reflect on the first six months of the year. I'd appreciate your prayers for me as I recharge and re-align myself with God.

AT A GLANCE



Contact Info:

If you have any questions on how to give financially to my work, please feel free to contact me at 8448 1611, or email me at alvin@forerunner.org.sg

Cheques should be made payable to 'Campus Crusade Asia Ltd' and mailed to my address 471 Segar Road #15-250 S670471

Thank You!