

**BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY'S IMPACT UPON ME, MY MISSION TO MALAYSIA,  
AND A POEM ABOUT MY CONVERSION BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE GOSPEL  
FOUNDATION I GAINED AS A STUDENT ON THE BYU CAMPUS**

By Jeanine (Fry) Ricketts, June 19, 2025

Brigham Young University has been an important aid in my preparation and mission in life, which is not yet over, though I am 83 years old. To date I have served a stake mission among the Cambodians, a full-time mission in Malaysia, and five missions in an around Temple Square. I have also published 13 family history books, many of which are on line at BYU, the Church History Library, and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I have also written 380 poems which teach principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1962, I was miraculously directed to BYU and gained my testimony of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while a student there. My degrees were in English Literature and Library Science, studies which have helped me to research and write in the 78 assignments and church callings that I have held. I am so grateful to BYU for what I learned there. The following is a special experience and responsibility that God gave me when I was 70 years old as a missionary in the Singapore Mission.

In the year 2000, my husband and I toured Southeast Asia. After we arrived in Malaysia, I had a strong feeling that I would be serving a mission amongst the Malay people. So I asked my husband if he was feeling the same thing, to which he replied with a strong and emphatic "No." We had planned on a couples mission following his retirement. Thus, at that time, I felt my feelings must have been a mistake, and I threw those feelings out. In 2012, however, after an illness of nine years, my husband died of Frontal Temporal Dementia. Six weeks after he died, I was requested to come to Salt Lake City, and in a brief meeting, I was called to the Singapore Mission to serve in Malaysia. It was then I understood why my husband did not share my feelings while we were in Malaysia.

It didn't take me long to determine that there had been no record gathering by the Church in Malaysia. The Family History Library did not even have a call number for Malaysia. I hoped that I could somehow, with the Lord's help, be a catalyst toward that end. Before I left, I met with Family Search and was commissioned to be their eyes and ears in finding out who had records, what shape they were in, and what years they covered. This I did. The minute I arrived, the Chinese dead were on my mind and were with me day and night. I sent back 27 emails full of detail about genealogical records found on Penang Island and Melaka, Malaysia and in Singapore where we had zone conferences. Family Search personnel came to Malaysia twice, and I brought them together with important contacts that I had made in the country.

On my return to the States, I spoke to a gentleman who was just concluding his mission in the Family History Library. When I told him of my mission to Malaysia, his face lit up, and he said he knew what he was supposed to do. He had been having a dream every year for 30 years that somehow in his lifetime, he was going to help the country of Malaysia, but didn't know, until now, how that prophecy was to be fulfilled. He desired to produce a DVD of me talking about the records of West Malaysia. I wrote the script and prepared the photos, and he hired a fellow to tape a two hour presentation that took place in his home.

That DVD, entitled “I Have Wept Over This Part of the World: The Records and People of West Malaysia,” was eventually used in a meeting of the Seventies and proved to be the catalyst they needed to see the need to budget money for gathering genealogical records in Malaysia and Singapore. The DVD also found its way to the Mission President of the Singapore Mission and to interested persons at Family Search.

Record gathering in Malaysia did not happen immediately as new procedures had to be put in place. Flatbed scanning was coupled with digital camera work, because many of the Malaysian records were in walls rather than in books. A crew of six with six digital cameras traveled to Malaysia in August of 2019, and they took my DVD and other information I provided with them into the country.

Very recently, I checked to see the progress that had been made. Upon my return, I had donated the first two Malaysian genealogical books to the Family History Library, and now I found 841 entries about Malaysia catalogued in their system. I also found many, many genealogical and historical records for Singapore, but not yet for Malaysia, which is still in progress. The number of dialects spoken in that country and our presence in a Muslim country have slowed down the process, but it is going forth. I experienced miracles and the hand of the Lord in opening up digitizing in Malaysia and Singapore which had been of special interest to President Gordon B. Hinckley.

For my part, I was told the intelligence I provided Family Search would pave the way for the record gathering of all Chinese records outside of mainland China. It was my privilege to be of use to the living and dead in that part of the world.

Brigham Young University prepared me for conversion. Attached is a poem entitled “Into Abraham’s Bosom” about an inspired dream I had in August 1974 which informed me that I was now part of God’s family. (979 words) (Poem 465 words equals 1444 words)