

SPECIAL SOUVENIR EDITION 2010 / 2011



diakonia

ONE LORD, ONE MISSION, ONE HEART

A NEW BEGINNING

Thoughts to Ponder

**Missions at
Our Doorsteps**

Testimonies

A PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SECRETARIAT MALAYSIA • FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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EDITOR'S NOTES

“CBSM? What is it?”



After 12 years of existence, there are still many brothers and sisters in our assemblies who are not aware of the existence of the Christian Brethren Secretariat, Malaysia. Sadly too, many do not know anything about what's going on among our 60 or so assemblies and the many inter-brethren agencies that God has raised up among us over the years.

Do we really care what's going on in this 'Brethren Movement' that we all belong to? We must believe that brothers and sisters in our brethren movement do care about each other. Otherwise there is no hope for the Movement! If we believe there is hope we must work at strengthening our spiritual ties and communication links that help to bind us together in Christ. Hence, Diakonia—the servant is revived.

I expect the most common response to this publication to be, “No point, people today just don't read, especially the young. Waste of time and money.” Lamentable, but true. What then is the alternative? Should we give up all together? Yes, we should make Diakonia more attractive, have more colour, more pictures, good articles; make Diakonia available on-line, etc. Yes, we must try to do all these and more if possible. But, above all, we must continue to believe that some do read and care. We must persevere and also encourage our people to read and write. Otherwise, there is no hope! So, against a backdrop of pessimism and constraints, by God's grace, Diakonia is published.

It is the prayer of CBSM that Diakonia will appeal to leaders as well as members of our assemblies, both young and old. In trying to meet such a broad spectrum of needs it will appear to lack focus. In this special edition we have decided to give a little more focus on CBSM itself and also on the people. There are many photographs because photographs speak more vividly than words can. Effort is also made to capture in brief some of our eventful past and also God's servants who had served faithfully so that the present and future generations will not forget and may be encouraged to persevere. Why select some and not others? Obviously, Diakonia cannot meet all expectations in one issue. The intention of CBSM is not to stop at this issue. So, over time perhaps, like the work of a good servant, it will be found useful and faithful. ■

Yap Kok Keong

NOTE: All views expressed in the reports and articles contained in Diakonia do not necessarily represent the views of CBSM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Moving Ahead in Unity

By Wong Sai Weng

Since the inaugural meeting of CBSM on 19th September 1998, 12 years have come and gone by so quickly. But we thank the Lord that during the past 12 years, He has been gracious to the work and ministry of CBSM among the assemblies in the country. Over the years we have seen increasing support and participation of assemblies in activities and programmes organized under the CBSM banner. In particular we can be thankful to the Lord that we are beginning to experience a greater willingness among assemblies and brethren agencies to come together to co-operate and work in partnership for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are mindful of the vision and sacrifices put in by the previous committees of CBSM. The baton has been faithfully passed on to men who had the passion for unity and growth of the Lord's work among the assemblies. In particular we wish to record our grateful thanks to those who were appointed on 2nd November 1996 to serve in the Protem Committee chaired by our late bro. Mr David Boler, an elder of Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, for the setting up of CBSM. We treasure the contributions made by our late bro. Mr David Boler and his Protem Committee. He was instrumental in getting CBSM started and became its first chairman in 1998. He provided wise counsel and guidance and brought focus on the role of CBSM as the handmaiden of the assemblies in the country. Mr Boler having completed his term of office passed the baton on to the next chairman, Mr Kong Yeng Pooi, an elder of PJ Gospel Hall on 5th November 2001.

The formative years of CBSM were indeed very trying but the Lord kept the torch burning despite the many challenges of getting the support and participation of assemblies. We are thankful for our Bro. Yeng Phooi's vision and initiative with the support of Bro. Christopher Leong, an elder of Bandar Utama Chapel, to introduce Diakonia, the CBSM magazine for the assemblies. Bro. Yeng Phooi was the chairman of the editorial board for three consecutive issues, commencing November 1999. Thereafter, Bro. Tan

Kong Beng, an elder of Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, was appointed the editor on 21st February 2002. He was responsible for the subsequent two issues. The last issue No. 5 was published and distributed to the assemblies in January 2005. Although it was very challenging to get sufficient articles and news of assemblies for the Diakonia, nevertheless five issues had been published and distributed to the assemblies during his tenure of office. We therefore wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the contributions made by Bro. Yeng Phooi and his committee members during his two consecutive terms of office in CBSM ending on 23rd August 2005.

Bro. Yap Kok Keong, an elder of Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, took office as the next chairman on 23rd August 2005 and remained in office for two consecutive terms before passing the baton to me on 1st December 2009. We are grateful that during Bro Kok Keong's tenure of office, the CBSM charter was introduced. It provided more clarity to encourage greater support and participation of assemblies. We are also thankful for his vision and passion for the commencement of Project Paul besides other projects to promote unity and growth among assemblies and brethren agencies. Under Bro. Kok Keong's leadership, CBSM was able to organize successfully the Partners In The Harvest Mission Conference (PITH '09) with the help of a very dedicated Steering Committee headed by Bro. Kong Yeng Phooi. Bro Kok Keong also helped to revive Diakonia having published one issue on a B5 format in October 2007. He has indeed passed on a vision for CBSM to serve with greater commitment and passion for unity and growth among the assemblies. We also take the opportunity to thank our sister Audrey Tan from SS Gospel Centre for her love and faithful service as the CBSM Administrative Secretary for period 1st March 1999 to 30th November 2005.

I am aware of the heavy responsibilities placed upon me as the current chairman of CBSM. I believe in team work and therefore, the work of CBSM also falls on



the shoulders of those who have been elected into the CBSM Committee at ALC-2009 on 1st December 2009. I take this opportunity to thank both past and present assembly leaders and individuals who have encouraged and contributed in one way or another to the ministry of CBSM. I pray and look forward in the days ahead to more meaningful and fruitful partnerships in the Lord's work among the assemblies and brethren agencies in the country.

We give praise and glory to our Lord for the way He has blessed the ministry of CBSM in recent times. Firstly, we received an unexpected legacy of RM200,000 from the family of our late bro. Mr Lim Hong Nian on 18th September 2009. Bro. Hong Nian, an elder of Seremban Gospel Hall, had served faithfully in the CBSM committee from 13th April 2002 to the day he was called home to the Lord on Good Friday, 10th April 2009. We are grateful and thankful to him and his family for the gift given as an expression of their wish to encourage and strengthen the assemblies through the ministry of CBSM. Secondly, we also wish to thank the Lord for the generous gift of RM300,000 from a fellow believer who wish to remain anonymous. The gift was designated for the purchase of the Educare Centre needed in conjunction with Project Paul in Mentakab. Thirdly CBSM has also been blessed with the gift of a new office space measuring 1044 sq. ft. located in the present address. The property is registered with the Christian Brethren of Malaysia Property

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Trust. Prior to this, CBSM was first based in SS Gospel Centre from 1st March 1999 to June 2007 before relocating to the Mission House of Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur from June 2007 to March 2010 with the kind permission of the elders. We are thankful for the kindness of these two assemblies in allowing us to use their premises. We shifted to the new office on 18th March 2010. Currently the office space is shared between the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (COCM) and CBSM. We thank the Lord for the magnanimous gift from a fellow brother who wish to remain anonymous. This is indeed a sign of the Lord's approval on the ministry of CBSM to be able to work from a more conducive office environment. We are deeply encouraged by the generosity of these gifts and support given by the Lord's people. We look forward in the days ahead to better serve the assemblies as well as the brethren agencies for the glory of His Name and the advancement of His Kingdom.

Currently we have reached some broad agreement to provide limited office administration backup support to a few of our brethren agencies namely, MMS Trust, Inter-Brethren Assembly Youth Development and Malaysian Myanmar Ministry. CBSM is in the process to take over the full administration support needed by Christian Brethren of Malaysia Property Trust to look after the properties of the assemblies in the country. We trust that with these arrangements, CBSM together with other brethren agencies will be able to provide a more efficient and cost effective service to our assemblies.

A number of projects have been identified at ALC 2009 for CBSM to follow through. Apart from the ongoing Project Paul, under Bro. Kok Keong's undivided commitment and leadership,

two other significant programmes are being planned in the course of the next few months. Firstly, the Assembly Elders and Commended Workers Consultation (AECWC) has been scheduled for Friday 5th November 2010 and secondly, the Biblical Eldership Training by Alexander Strauch from Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 March 2011. We are looking to the Lord that these two programmes will receive the desired support and participation of assemblies in the country. Further details regarding these two programmes will be released in due course.

Diakonia is the assembly magazine which we intend to revive and, God willing, publish twice a year. There was a gap of a few years in the publication of the magazine because of insufficient articles and news coming from the assemblies. It is our hope and prayer that with the

revival of the Diakonia in its present form, there will be greater interests and support generated from those who could provide worthy news and articles that will encourage unity and growth among the assemblies. We welcome suggestions for improvements from the assemblies to make Diakonia more interesting and relevant to a wider age group of readership.

We solicit your continual prayer support for Diakonia and the ministry of CBSM even as we seek the blessings of the Lord upon our lives, our families and our assemblies and be committed to grow into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May we together strive towards "One Lord One Mission One Heart" as the way forward for our assemblies in the country.



Bro. Sai Weng and May were married in 1969 in Taiping Gospel Hall. They have been blessed with a family of two sons and a daughter—Andrew, Daniel and Serene who are all married and residing in Petaling Jaya with their own families. The Lord has blessed the couple with 8 grandchildren.

Bro. Sai Weng and family have been in fellowship with The Life Chapel (TLC) since May 1969. He was invited to serve in the Oversight on 8th May 1977. Currently Bro. Sai Weng is both an elder and a commended worker of TLC. He was commended on 5th January 2003 to serve primarily in the Pastoral Ministry.

Bro. Sai Weng has been a member of the CBSM Main Committee since 23rd January 1999. He served faithfully in CBSM under the leadership of the past 3 Chairmen—the late Mr. David Boler, Kong Yeng Phooi and Yap Kok Keong. Besides CBSM, he has provided leadership for many other brethren projects and ministries in the country.

INFO & UPDATES

Introducing The CBSM Office Bearers

AS FROM 2009

Name	Assembly	Office Held in CBSM
Mr Wong Sai Weng	The Life Chapel	Chairman
Mr Lee Kha Kooi	Sg Ara Gospel Hall	Deputy Chairman
Mr Lim Seok Hoay	Cheras Gospel Centre	Secretary
Mr Ng See Yen	Melawati Gospel Centre	Treasurer
Mr Cheah Huck Leong	Bidor Gospel Centre	Prayer Secretary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Jimmy Ho*	Elim Gospel Hall	Perak
Mr Teo Pek Bing	Sg Nibong Gospel Hall	Penang
Mr Chiew Sai Kee	Temerloh Gospel Hall	Pahang
Mr Rodney Tan	Malacca Gospel Chapel	Malacca
Mr Yap Kok Keong	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre	Selangor
Mr Tan Seng Kuan	Setapak Gospel Centre	Wilayah
Mr Tang Soon Hong	Teratai Mewah Gospel Centre	Wilayah
Mr Frederick Tan	Nilai Gospel Chapel	Negri Sembilan

All CSM Office Bearers are also representatives of their respective region

*Until 26th February 2010



Mr & Mrs Lim Seok Hoay with granddaughter, Dana.

LIM SEOK HOAY SECRETARY

Seok Hoay was born in Penang in 1943. At the age of six, his parents moved from Penang to Kuala Lumpur. He attended the Sunday School in Kampong Satu, Jalan Sungei Besi, conducted by Miss Gibson and Mrs David Angus. Later he moved to the Sunday School in Bukit Bintang Girls' School (BBGS). In 1957 he accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour and was baptized in Venning Road Chapel in 1959.

Seok Hoay was active in the youth work in Jalan Imbi Chapel and was the treasurer of the YP committee. He was also appointed as one of the Sunday School teachers and later went on to become Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was a member of the Working Committee when the work of Bangsar Gospel Centre started. After three years in Bangsar Gospel Centre, he moved back to Jalan Imbi Chapel. When the elders of Jalan Imbi Chapel saw the potential of starting a new work in Cheras in late 1970s Seok Hoay was invited to join the Cheras Working Committee. The Cheras Gospel Centre was eventually given autonomy on 1st January 1982 and he was appointed an elder to oversee the work. Seok Hoay is also Chairman of the Klang Valley Family Life Ministry committee.

He is happily married to Siew Peng and is blessed with four daughters Josephine, Brenda, Serene, and Frances, and a lovely granddaughter, Dana.

LEE KHA KOOI DEPUTY CHAIRMAN



Kha Kooi and Wai Leng

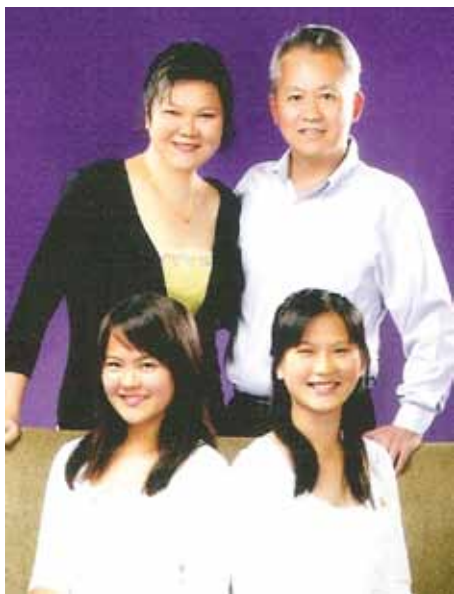
Kha Kooi grew up in Petaling Jaya. He had his primary and secondary education at our brethren mission school (BBBS). Through the meetings in Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, he accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour and was baptized in the same year.

From 1988 to 1992, he worked as an expatriate manager in Nigeria and attended the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA). While he was there he and Wai Leng hosted a Sunday School in their home for expatriate children under the supervision of an American missionary couple serving in Nigeria under SIM. He returned to Malaysia in 1992 and has been working and serving among God's people in Penang since then.

He is now an elder of Sungai Ara Gospel Hall. He and Wai Leng are blessed with two children, Jonathan and Sarah.

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FROM PAGE 4



Pek Bing and Fang Fang with their daughters, Tabitha and Natalie

TEO PEK BING PENANG REPRESENTATIVE

Pek Bing grew up in various towns in Malaysia because his father is a government servant who was often posted to different places. He accepted Christ while studying in Melbourne and is now an elder in Sg. Nibong Gospel Hall. He is married to Fang Fang and they have two lovely teenage daughters, Tabitha and Natalie. When not serving at his home assembly, Pek Bing works at Motorola's Penang Design Center.



See Yen with Choi Lan and their children, Peter, Sarah and Joyce.

NG SEE YEN TREASURER

See Yen accepted Christ when he was in secondary school and attended Seremban Gospel Chapel as a teenager. He is married to Lam Choi Lan and they have three grown up children, namely, Peter, Sarah and Joyce. He is now serving as an

elder in Melawati Gospel Centre. See Yen is a practicing company secretary.

FREDERICK TAN THIAN LAI NEGERI SEMBILAN REPRESENTATIVE

As a child Bro Fred attended the Sunday School at BBGS in Kuala Lumpur. From 1956-1998 he attended Seremban Gospel Hall where he was subsequently appointed an elder. Later he joined the fellowship at Nilai Gospel Chapel (NGC). He was a member of NGC Working Committee from 1998 before being appointed an elder in 2008.

Bro. Fred, a retired school teacher, is married to Doris Lim and they are blessed with three children, Derick, Eugene and Desiree.



Fred and Doris

YAP KOK KEONG CBSM COMMITTEE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT PAUL

Bro. Kok Keong accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour in 1962 while studying to be a teacher. He is a retired school principal and was formerly the chairman of the Teachers' Christian Fellowship, and later its General Secretary.

He is currently Chairman of the Malayan Christian Schools' Council (representing the Brethren) and also the Chairman of the newly formed Federation of Christian Mission Schools' Council, Malaysia. He is also a Board Member of Bukit Bintang Boys Secondary School and a Council Member of Scripture Union.

He served as an elder in Kuantan Chapel (1970-1982), Temerloh Gospel Chapel (1982-1988), Elim Gospel Hall (1989-1993) and Sunway Gospel Gospel Centre (1995-1997). Bro. Kok Keong is currently



Kok Keong and Lily

an elder at Subang Jaya Gospel Centre since 1998. He served as Chairman of CBSM from 2006 to 2009 and currently serves as a committee member.

Bro. Kok Keong is happily married to Lily since 1968 and God has blessed them with three children and six grandchildren.

CHEAH HUCK LEONG CBSM COMMITTEE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CBSM PRAYER LETTER

Bro. Huck Leong was born and educated in Penang. Brother Huck Leong accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in Klang Gospel Hall in 1974 while working with the Harper Gilfillan Group of Companies in Shah Alam.



Huck Leong and Daisy

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Owing to job constraints he had been in fellowship with several assemblies—The Life Chapel (1980–1990), Kampar Gospel Hall (1990–1999) and Bidor Gospel Centre.

He was one of the pioneer members of Bidor Gospel Centre which began in 1999 as an extension work of The Life Chapel. Our brother was subsequently appointed an elder in 2008. Huck Leong is currently also serving as the chairman of the Batang Padang Christian Cemetery Association which oversees burial matters of Christians from churches in the Batang Padang district in Perak.

Huck Leong is married to Daisy Ho and they have a daughter, Juni and a son, Kenny. They are now grandparents of two lovely boys.



Rodney and Grace with their children, Celine and Joel

RODNEY TAN CHAI WHATT MALACCA REPRESENTATIVE

Rodney was an extremely active young man who grew up in a Christian family and found the Lord as his personal Saviour at the age of 13. He served God whenever given the opportunity. In Malacca Gospel Hall where he grew up, he had served as youth leader, choir master, cell group leader, teacher and

in 2007 was appointed an elder of the church.

While studying to be a teacher in KL he worshipped at The Life Chapel and served in the Sunday School there. Later, posted to Pekan in Pahang he attended the Baptist Church there and served in a leadership role as well.

Rodney's sense of vocation and calling as Christian teacher is very strong. He uses his profession well to glorify God, serving among students and teachers as well as in the wider community. Married to Grace Chew, they are blessed with 2 children, Celine and Joel.

CHIEW SAI KEE PAHANG REPRESENTATIVE

Bro Sai Kee accepted the Lord Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior some 34 years ago. He was then a Lower Six student in Bukit Bintang Boys Secondary school in his home-town, Petaling Jaya. He praises the Lord for the ministry of the school's Christian Fellowship through which he came to know of the Lord's saving grace! He received much spiritual training during those early years when he was in fellowship with the saints at Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall as well as through his active involvement with the Varsity Christian Fellowship in the University of Malaya.

His first posting was to a rural school deep in the Jengka Triangle in Pahang in 1983. Every week-end he would journey out to have fellowship and to serve with God's people in Temerloh Gospel Chapel. Unlike many teachers and other governments who were sent to serve in Temerloh/Mentakab and left after a while, Sai Kee stayed on. By God's design, he met Soh Teen, a local sister, married her and stayed on to provide much needed leadership to the church.

Sai Kee has been serving as an elder for many years together with God's faithful servant, Dr. Liew. He is energetically rallying TGC brothers and sisters to give of their best in support of the work to plant the new assembly in Mentakab under Project Paul.

The Lord has blessed Sai Kee and Soh Teen with four children—Jonathan, Jason, Joshua and Joy. ■



Sai Kee and Soh Teen

INFO & UPDATES

The CBSM Journey

Formation

The proposal for a Brethren Secretariat was first made at the Assembly Leaders' Conference held in July 1996 in HCC. It drew all-round support and a Pro-Tem Committee consisting of seven elders, was set up. The mandate of the Pro-Tem Committee was to deliberate on the details—the rationale, aims, and functions of the Secretariat to be set up. The Pro-Tem Committee, with David Boler as the chairman, convened its first meeting on 2nd November to begin its task.

The next Assembly Leaders' Conference held in Ipoh in July 1998 made three major decisions with regard to the Secretariat:

1. Agreed formally to the setting up of the Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia based on the terms of reference presented by the Pro-Tem Committee
2. The Pro-Tem Committee members will constitute the Committee of the Brethren Secretariat.
3. The Secretariat was tasked to
 - Plan for the hosting of the Asian Assemblies' Conference AD 2000 in Malaysia
 - Plan for the bi-annual Pan-Malaysian Assembly Leaders' Conference
 - Plan for the Assembly Youth Consultation

The first committee meeting of the Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia (CBSM) Executive Committee was held on 19th September 1998 with David Boler as the Chairman.

At the Executive Committee Meeting, on 5th November 2001, Choo Chee Choy proposed that Kong Yeng Phooi take over as Chairman and this was seconded by Wong Sai Weng and the proposal was passed. It was also agreed that future appointment of the officer bearers and the term of office would be decided at the coming Assembly Leaders' Conference.

CBSM at the Crossroads

The question whether CBSM should continue to exist and function or not, in view of the inadequate financial support, apathy and uncertainties it faced, was put to the participants at ALC 2003. After much debate, the consensus of opinion was that CBSM should soldier on.

At the ALC 2005, the special meeting of elders chose 10 elders from across the country to form the Executive Committee with Yap Kok Keong as the Chairman.

At the ALC 2005, a discussion paper entitled, *A Proposal for Enhancing Fellowship and Co-operation among Assemblies Located in the Different Regions of Malaysia* originating from The Life Chapel, was presented by Wong Sai Weng. Following this the CBSM chairman, Sai Weng and Stephen Lew worked on a new CBSM executive committee structure, management guidelines, operation procedures and parameters of authority vis-à-vis local assemblies—which were subsequently sent out as a proposal paper entitled, *CBSM—Proposals for Greater Effectiveness* to all assemblies for evaluation and comments. After a long process of consultation, the paper was finally ready for presentation and acceptance as *The Working Charter for CBSM* at the coming ALC 2007. This Working Charter marked a significant turning point as the focus, direction and limitations of CBSM became much clearer to assembly leaders nationwide. They had been involved, consulted and their views and suggestions taken into consideration in the framing of *The Charter*. Consequently they are participants and stakeholders in CBSM rather than spectators.

Steps of Faith and the Lord answered from Heaven

The Lord affirmed and encouraged us through His bountiful provisions as we moved forward in faith. More assemblies sent in love gifts. Our late brother Lim Hon Nian was moved by the Lord to leave a bequest of RM200,000 for the work of CBSM. Since its inception, CBSM has been squatting in SS Gospel Centre, and

the Kuala Lumpur Gospel Hall through the kindness of the respective elders. When the KLGH mission house used by CBSM as its office was broken into, the office moved to the chairman's home. In 2009, CBSM began to look for its own office especially as we were aware that other Christian brethren agencies were also needing an office base for their operations. Once again, our faithful Lord moved a Christian brother to provide us with a commodious office in easily accessible Desa Kiara. At about this time too, remarkably CBSM managed to open a bank account under its own name. To top it all, God provided our sister Patricia Wong who resides in Desa Kiara to come on board as our administrative secretary.

Therefore, CBSM has no excuse not to move forward with greater confidence and at a much quicker pace than ever before, in step with our Lord's leading. Ebenezer!

All praise and glory be to His Holy Name! ■



Patricia Wong, our Administrative Secretary in our new office

INFO & UPDATES

New Resources

Three thousand copies have been printed with the permission of the author Alexander Strauch for circulation among our assemblies with the hope that all who are in fellowship in our assemblies will have a better understanding of leadership in the church. This is an abridged version of *Biblical Eldership: An Urgent call to Restore Biblical Church Eldership*.

Similarly 3,000 copies of *Shepherd of the Flock of God* has also been put into circulation.

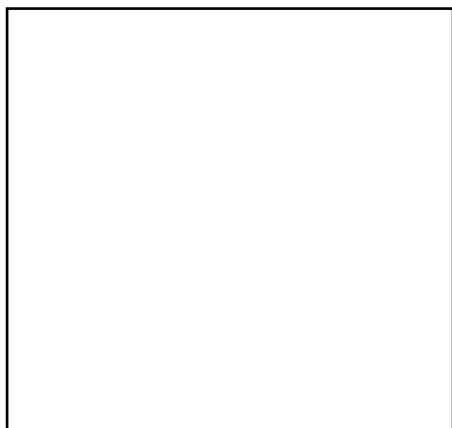
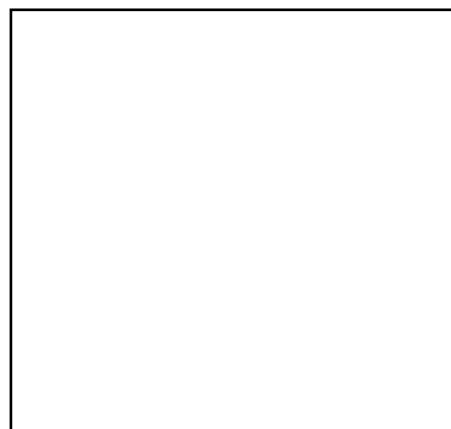
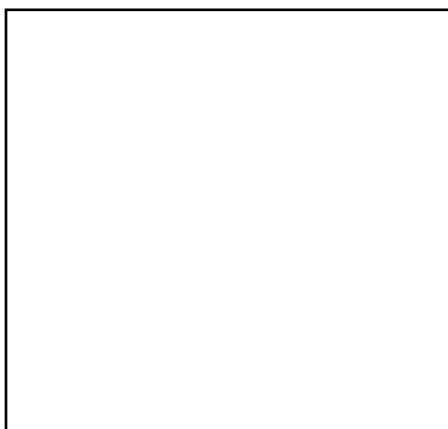
These two booklets constitute part of the preparation for next year's training seminar on "Biblical Eldership" for present and future leaders of our assemblies.

This short video is about Anthony N. Groves, one of the founders of the Brethren Movement. It gives valuable insights into why he is called the "Father of Faith Missions". This video also gives glimpses into our Brethren heritage. It is suitable also for viewing by house groups, followed by discussion.

Available for borrowing from CBSM.

A handy reference on our Brethren Agencies, this booklet contains useful information as well as contact numbers. You will be amazed at what God has done through the years in raising up service and implementation agencies amongst us.

Available for free from the CBSM office.



THOUGHTS TO PONDER

One LORD, One Mission, One Heart

By M. Selveindran

Introduction

Writing to the Ephesian church the Apostle Paul challenges the church to “...live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” (Eph 4:1). Whilst in the earlier chapters of the epistle Paul had defined and delineated the nature of that calling, in this passage he frames that imperative by reminding the church of the “givenness” of Christian unity. “Make every effort”, he says, “to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3).

So our call to live worthily is one that is to be focused on this Spirit-given unity. Paul proceeds to drive the message of ‘oneness’ in his confessional statement (Eph 4:4-6):

- “One body, One Spirit, One hope”
—We are joined together into one body by the One Spirit sharing a common hope in the Lord
- “One Lord, One faith, One baptism”
—We worship one Lord to whom we belong and for whom we live within the framework of biblical truth (One faith) because we have been united to Him in one baptism into His body
- “One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all”
—The Father before whom we bow (see Eph 3:14) indwells the church giving her the grace of union and communion with Him and with one another (see Eph 2:22).

The oneness of the church is therefore not an option but a “given”—a gift of God to be evident in the life of the church. We are to “make every effort” to intentionally focus on preserving this unity because the Church’s unity will be a vivid reflection of the Oneness of the Triune God, who has called the Church to One Mission which she is to engage with One Heart. This was at the heart of the Lord’s high priestly prayer recorded in John 17.

“I pray for them ...”

The Lord concludes His final instruction to His disciples as the time for His “departure” was fast approaching. John records that when He had finished teaching He lifted up His eyes to heaven and prayed to the Father. In this final prayer before His crucifixion He prays for Himself, then for His disciples and then for those who will believe through the mission entrusted to those disciples.

“... that they may be One ...”

When we examine the Lord’s concern for His disciples and their mission expressed in this prayer, we cannot avoid the fact that His focus was their unity.

- As He petitions the Father to protect the disciples, the purpose is “so that they may be one as We are one ...” (17: 11)
- As He prays for the Church that will be established over time through the mission of the early disciples, His concern is “... that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You” (17:21)
- As He defines the heart of the Church as being the bearer of God’s glory (see 17:22), His focus was on the unity of the Church - “... that they may be one as We are One ... may they be brought to complete unity ...” (17:22-23)

The nature of the “unity” is not what we have to create. It is not so much organizational but rather profoundly spiritual yet concrete in its expression. It is a unity given to the Church which is to be visible to the watching world. As Leon Morris commented, “It is a unity already given. Jesus does not pray that they may “become” one but that they may continually be one. It is unity in the Father and the Son ... We should be clear that the unity for which Christ prays is a unity

which rests on a common basic attitude of abiding in Him and having Him abide in them.”¹

“... as We are One.”

There are three facets of this “givenness” of the unity that we ought to take note:

- That it is a profound reflection and participation in the inner life of the Triune God—ONE LORD whom we worship. —“...as we are one ... just as You are in Me and I am in You” (17:11, 21, 22)
- That it has consequential impact on the public life of the Church—ONE MISSION that the Church embodies. —“...I have given them Your Word ... I have sent them into the world ... that the world may believe that You have sent me” (17:14, 18, 21, 23)
- That it has concrete significance for the body life of the Church—ONE HEART, united in the Lord in love and purpose. —“... May they also be in us ... I in them and You in Me ...” (17:21, 23)

Commenting on this passage (John 17), D.A. Carson makes this observation: “This is not simply a “unity of love”. It is unity predicated on adherence to the revelation of the Father mediated to the first disciples through His Son, the revelation they accepted and passed on—this display of unity is so compelling, so unworldly that their witness as to who Jesus truly is becomes explainable only if Jesus is the Revealer whom the Father has sent”.²

“I have sent them into the world”

In this prayer the Lord defines the mission of the Church as one that is patterned after His mission—“As You sent me into the world I have sent them into the world” (17:18). The world is no friend of the Church as the Lord reminded His disciples in His earlier discourse (Jn 15:18-19) and here in this prayer reiterates the fact (“... the world has hated them ...” 17:14). The Church formed out of the world (“... those whom You gave Me out of the world” 17:6) now remains in the world for mission—whilst

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facing the evil one, whose set mission is to disrupt the Church's mission and its unity. That mission will suffer where the church remains divided.

“... protect them by the power of Your name”

The NT records bear testimony to the fact that the Church often faced discord and disunity. The Lord's prayer anticipated that when He prayed for the Church to be protected from the evil one, the formidable foe of the Church and her unity. At the heart of this is the attack upon the mission of the Church into the world.

“Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your Name”, prayed the Lord. That “Name” is the basis of the Church's unity and mission. And that “Name” refers to the moral character of God revealed in and through His word (“I have given them Your Word” 17:14). Thus the revelation of God in the revealed Word of God is to shape the Mind and moral character of the Church—so that the culture of the Church and its expressed conduct are to be undergirded by an evident biblical framework. That is what the Lord seems to express when He prayed, “Sanctify them by the truth: Your word is truth” (17:17).

If this was the deep concern for the Lord for His Church, its unity and its mission, then that ought to be our concern as well—ensuring the protection of the church by the power of God's Name and praying that the Lord will grant wisdom to the Church to discern the schemes of the evil one. D.A. Carson's comments are worth pondering over: “The spiritual dimensions of this prayer of Jesus are consistent and overwhelming. By contrast we spend much more time today praying about our health, our projects, our decisions, our finances, our family and even our games, than we do praying about the danger of the evil one”.³

“... that they may be brought to complete unity”

The Lord continues in this prayer desiring that the Church may “... be brought to complete unity” (v 23). The implication seems to be that this unity is to be “growing in maturity—a maturing where the churches are growing to share in oneness, reflecting in their corporate life, the unity of purpose and the union of love in the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This maturing has both geographical and historical dimensions. In praying for His disciples the Lord expressed His concern

also for “... those who will believe in Me through their message ...” (v 20). That no doubt was the mission of the disciples in their generation—spreading the gospel to various communities of Jews and Gentiles of their day and from them over many generations to our day. For such the Lord prays, “... that all of them may be one” (v 21).

Conclusion

In every generation the message that must be heard is “... that the world may believe that You have sent Me”. And that message will become compelling when the Church's verbal proclamation of the gospel is authenticated by the visual interpretation of that gospel in its life of devoted unity in the Lord. But the haunting question is do we care enough to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”? ■

NOTES

Morris L, The Gospel According to John (Eerdmans 1971)
Carson D.A., The Gospel According to John (Eerdmans 1991)
Carson D.A., Jesus and His Friends (IVP 1986)



M. Selveindran and Kamala

First introduced to the gospel through the Sunday School at the assembly at New Bridge Road (Singapore), M. Selveindran continued at Taylor Road Sunday School (Penang). He came to know and trust the Lord at age 13 when the Lord challenged him to do so one night. Since then he has had fellowship with the assemblies at Burmah Road Gospel Hall, Island Glades Gospel Centre, PJ Gospel Hall, Ampang Gospel Centre, Melawati Gospel Centre and in recent years at TTDI Gospel Centre where he retired from eldership. For several years he was in Kuching where he was in fellowship at the Kuching Evangelical Church (SIB).

His introduction to Christian work and involvement was initially through the Christian Fellowship at Penang Free School, then in the Varsity Christian Fellowship, University Malaya and later in the Scripture Union/Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Malaysia.

He is currently serving on the boards of the Evangel Book Centre, the Klang Valley Bible Conference, the Kairos Research Centre and PADERI (Pastoral Development and Renewal Initiative).

M. Selveindran is much respected as a Christian leader, thinker and a man of vision who has contributed much to the Lord's Kingdom building work in this country, not only among brethren assemblies but also among Christians from other traditions. He had also served his country with distinction in the civil service.

He is married to Kamala and they have been blessed with 5 children—Nalini, Santhini, Anandhan, Vinodhini and Prarthini.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Theological Education

By Lee Min Choon



When I decided to enroll in a seminary for theological studies in 1991, I received a visit from an elder from one of the assemblies in Singapore. When we met after the breaking of bread service in my home assembly, he made the point that people from the assemblies should not go for theological studies. He said that we can learn everything in the assembly. I told him that I have not been able to learn anything new in my assembly for some time and that was why I decided to enroll in a seminary. He replied that if I insisted on doing studies why not go to the Emmaus Bible College in New Zealand. I said that I could not afford to go abroad for any studies.

Some years later, at a leaders' conference in Genting, I was seated at a table of elders from various Malaysian assemblies. One of them was very unhappy that my assembly refused to host a programme which was not well-supported by "conservative" assemblies. He made the remark that he was surprised that I of all people who had studied in a seminary was not supportive of that program.

These two incidents illustrate the expectations and the perceptions that attach to the idea of someone from the assemblies enrolling for theological studies. On the one hand, there is the thinking that enrolling for theological

studies is exposing oneself to the corruption of contrary doctrines and ideas from the denominations. On the other hand, there is another thinking that the exposure from theological studies should make one broad-minded, flexible, undogmatic and open to change. It is not only others who are capable of these expectations. The student himself may have these expectations.

Why should one go for theological studies? Is there anything wrong in doing so?

The purpose of theological studies should be to equip one for service. The emphasis is on the word "service." There is nothing magical or special about theological studies. I have often explained to people that it is possible to learn everything that is taught in a seminary by oneself. Books, journals, speakers, off-church programs, internet resources, etc abound. However, it will take a person 30 years to complete the studies by himself. A person can learn all that in 3 years by enrolling in a seminary. Therefore, the difference between personal/church education and theological studies is the timetable and the methods of delivery.

Are there any subjects that you can only learn in a seminary that you cannot learn by yourself or in church? The answer is

no. It is usually believed that you cannot learn the biblical languages by yourself or in church. I learnt Greek before I entered the seminary. I signed up for a distance learning course with London Bible College. They told me to study Wenham's book on New Testament Greek which I bought from Evangel Book Store. When the time came, they sent the examination questions for me to answer. With that certificate I was exempted from Greek classes when I entered the seminary while my fellow students struggled with it for years. I learnt Hebrew in the seminary. However, it was basically studying Lambdin's manual on Hebrew. If one knows what are the standard textbooks and have access to them, one can learn what is being taught in the seminaries.

Is there any truth to the idea that one's loyalty to one's church and its beliefs can be eroded by theological studies?

The answer is yes. However, that did not happen to me. I was already a senior leader in my assembly and had done studies on my own for years. In particular, I believed in the beliefs and practices of the assemblies with all my heart. Mine was not just a blind loyalty. I studied not only what we believe but also why we believe. I remembered that at the end of my first year in the seminary, my systematic theology lecturer asked me if after spending one year in the seminary I still held on to the beliefs of my assembly. I answered honestly that he has not shown me anything to make me change my mind. A brother in my assembly (who later withdrew from our fellowship) remarked that I left the seminary more "brethren" than when I entered.

Unfortunately, there were those who had an opposite experience. I know of fellow believers from the assemblies who enrolled for theological studies and graduated with the idea that that they should be pastors and preach every week. Of course, these ambitions did not fit into the assembly model. Eventually,

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they left the assemblies to become pastors in other denominations. For one of them, I prepared a pre-seminary reading list to prepare him for the challenges that would come his way. He ignored my counsel and guidance. For such believers, their conviction in assembly beliefs and practices were challenged in the seminary rooms and was eventually overcome. The power, prestige and paychecks of other denominations provided irresistible attractions.

So, how can an assembly prepare one of their members who plan to enroll for theological studies in a seminary?

Firstly, assembly leaders should not feel threatened. Assembly beliefs and practices can withstand the intellectual and critical scrutiny of academia. Theological education, if managed properly, can strengthen the individual as well as the assembly.

Secondly, leaders must recognize and accept their responsibility to prepare their members who are going to the seminaries. Such preparation must be in place at least one year before the candidate enters the seminary. The candidate should be guided by the leaders in understanding the essential doctrines and practices of the assemblies, working through the interpretative basis for these beliefs and, most importantly, having a scriptural understanding of his calling to service of God.

Some essential areas for a pre-seminary preparation are as follows:

1. Principles of interpretation. Many assembly doctrines are derived from a particular interpretive approach.
2. The Dispensational approach to understanding the Old and New Testament, how they relate to each other and how they apply to the Church.
3. Doctrines. Understanding which doctrines are shared with the rest of Christendom and which are peculiar to the assemblies.
4. Special areas like eschatology, work of the Holy Spirit and church government. This is where assemblies differ from other denominations and challenges will come in these areas.
5. Assembly Distinctives. A deeper study of the distinctives than that encountered in assembly bible classes is required, in particular, confronting the challenges to the interpretive basis of the distinctives.
6. Ministry and Service. Understanding servanthood and leadership as is taught in the scriptures and as applicable to assemblies.

Lastly, is someone with theological qualifications a better leader and worker than someone without?

It must be understood that not everything is taught in a seminary. The most

important things to a Christian leader and worker like servanthood, humility, devotion to God, love for God's people and sacrifice are best learnt in the crucible of service in the world. These things are experienced and burnt into the soul by the Spirit rather than learnt from books or simulated exercises in classrooms. After graduating from the seminary, I taught in my alma mater for nine years as an adjunct lecturer. I had the opportunity to compare Christians preparing for the ministry in the seminary and in the church. Some of the finest preachers and expounders of God's Word that I know of were never trained in the seminaries. I know many who graduated from the seminaries who lack the cutting edge ministry skills possessed by non-theologically trained workers. What is most important is the heart of a man. Is he a man after God's heart? Does he have the mind heart and spirit of Jesus Christ? If the answer is yes, theological training will sharpen tremendously his skills as a servant of Christ and make him a blessing to many. If the answer is no, theological education will only puff him up and prepare him for a life of division and disservice.

The challenge of theological education is a reality facing the assemblies. Our people can enroll in seminaries, do distance learning, on-line courses, attend night classes, etc. Like many things, theological studies can either be a blessing or a curse. Whichever one it becomes depends on how we manage this reality and how we guide and prepare our people. ■



Min Choon and Yoke Lin

Lee Min Choon is an Elder of The Life Chapel, Petaling Jaya, Selangor. He is married to Yoke Lin and has two children, Charity, 28, and Joshua, 24.

Min Choon has a teaching ministry among the assemblies in the Klang Valley. In 1994, he obtained a theological degree from Malaysia Bible Seminary and from 1995 to 2003 served as a part-time Lecturer in Old Testament at Malaysia Bible Seminary.

Min Choon is presently the Chairman of the GLO Council and teaches regularly at the GLO School in Taiping. He is also the President of the Bible Society of Malaysia and has also sat on the international boards of the United Bible Societies.

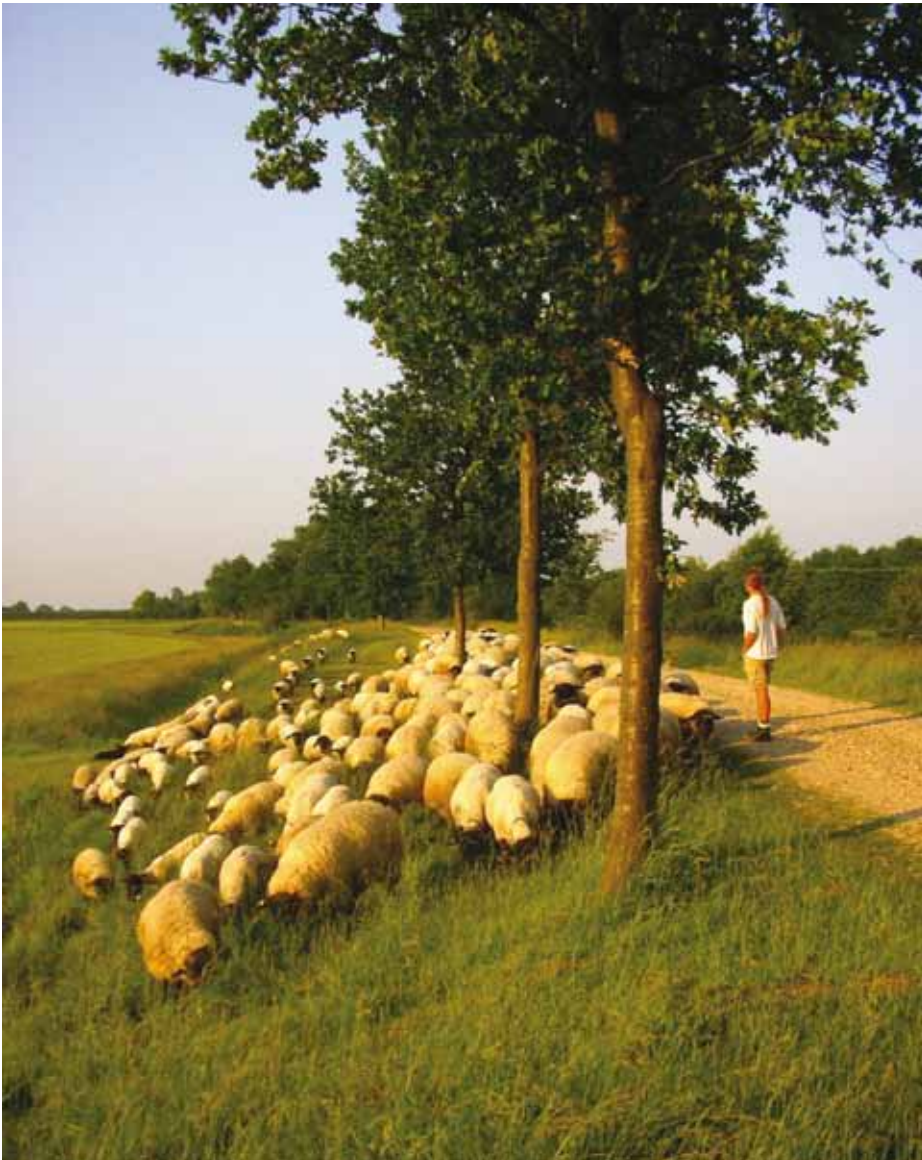
Min Choon is a lawyer by profession and uses his legal skills to serve the cause of the Church in Malaysia by serving as the legal advisor to Christian organisations. He has represented Christians and churches in many court cases involving religious issues. In 1999, he wrote a book entitled, "Freedom of Religion in Malaysia".

Since 2000, Min Choon has also been helping to organise fellowships for Christian lawyers in Malaysia and the rest of Asia under the umbrella of the worldwide fellowship of Christian lawyers known as Advocates International. He is presently the Chairman of the Global Council of Advocates International, chairman of the board of Advocates Asia (the Asian chapter of Advocates International) and chairman of the pro-tem committee of Advocates Malaysia.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Pastoral Ministry

By Colin Kirton



“Pastoral ministry” is a buzzword in Christian leadership circles today, though less heard among the Brethren, perhaps because we seldom address our leaders as “pastors”. But whatever terms we may employ, pastoral ministry is the core responsibility of those at every level of leadership in the church, from elders and deacons to cell group leaders, ministry leaders, youth leaders, and so on. Each of these are “pastors” in their own right, since the word has the same root as “pasture”, and basically means a “shepherd”.

Before we even consider the responsibilities of pastoral ministry, it is essential for us to have a heart for our sheep—no less than the heart of the Good Shepherd himself, who was willing to lay down his life for his sheep (Jn 10:11,15).

Once while visiting a church of about 100 members, I mentioned to one of the church elders about a particular Sunday School teacher there whom I had met. I was shocked to discover that he didn’t recognise her name or know who she

was! This was no occasional pew warmer; this was someone in the forefront of ministry in his church! Our own experience may not be as extreme as this example, but perhaps there are people in our flock whose names we still do not know. How can we have a heart for them when there is no relationship? Jesus calls his sheep “by name” (Jn 10:3).

But knowing someone’s name is only a starting point. There needs to be ongoing deepening relationship if we are going to be effective pastors. In pastoral ministry, we are called to teach, to care for, to encourage, to correct, to rebuke. These require a deeper knowledge of the persons we minister to – knowing how they tick, how they learn, what’s going on their lives. Indeed, the more thorny aspects of nurturing someone—correcting and rebuking—are very hard to exercise if there isn’t an established loving relationship. The danger then is that shepherds either shy away from this pastoral responsibility, or exercise it legalistically and lovelessly.

Encouragement is very lacking in many of our churches. We seem to be far more proficient in the language of criticism than encouragement. Perhaps this is a product of our Asian culture, but we need to allow the Holy Spirit to reshape us to be better encouragers, as this is a mandate that is emphasised in Scripture over and over again (e.g. 1 Thes 5:11).

Part of the ministry of encouragement is in helping people discover their spiritual gifts and their roles in the Body. We can often be mistrusting of people, or quick to come down hard on them if they mess up. In a class on spiritual leadership and mentoring I once attended, Floyd McClung shared these words that have been a guiding light in my interactions as a shepherd: “It is better to err on the side of trusting people than on mistrusting them.” As in any family, the family of God should be a safe place where grace abounds, and where you know you will be encouraged and loved even if you fail.

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Another key area in pastoral ministry is what veteran pastor H B London Jr describes as “the ministry of presence”. Referring to a pastoral survey he once conducted, he says, “Few of the respondents talked about what great preachers their pastors were or how adequately they administrated. Most related stories about a pastor who was there when they needed one ... when people are hurting, confused, and frightened; when they suffer loss and feel isolated and cut off; when they have won and need to celebrate; when they have been faithful and need affirmation.” He also shares these great words of wisdom from his own grandfather who was also a pastor: “It’s one thing to tell people how much God loves them, but it is also very important for them to know that you love them as well.”

Much of our pastoral ministry often tends to be reactive. We need to be proactive instead. The “ministry of presence” is not just for when a member of the flock calls for the elders to pray for them in illness or some other crisis. It needs to be an ongoing thing—coming alongside our sheep and spending time with them, talking to them, listening to what is happening in their lives. As an elder, I intentionally try to connect more with people. I try not to be involved in meetings after our Sunday worship service so that I am available to chat with a few people each week on a deeper level. As people know you genuinely care about them, they will often share about problems they are facing, which opens doors to pray with them there and then for whatever needs they may be facing.

Visitation is another form of presence. Again, this is so important when people are facing crises in their lives, but it is equally important when such crises are not present. The informal setting of a home environment often leads to more heart-to-heart sharing of needs and struggles. If some people are awkward having you in their homes, why not invite them to yours for tea or a meal? With young people, I often invite them to the mamak, and one-on-one over a teh tarik get to hear what is happening in their lives, and to minister to them where needed.

We need to take time to listen to the heartbeat of the people under our care. And when we hear their struggles, we need to take them to heart, prayerfully weigh them before the Lord, and respond to them as best as we can. Never treat any issue or feedback as “a small thing”. We could end up being the proverbial ostrich with its head in the sand.

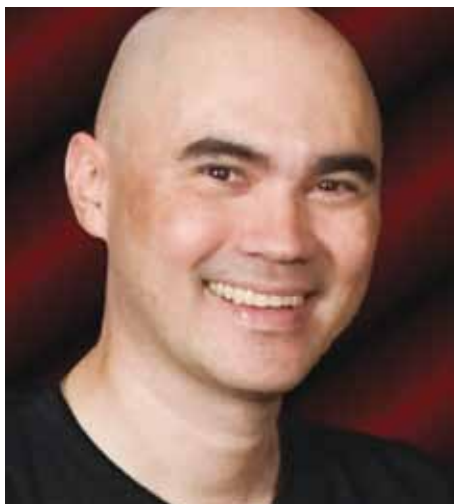
With young people, the online social media website Facebook is often a place to hear their heartbeat. For all its detractions, Facebook has often allowed me to catch a glimpse of things our youth are dealing with that I would never have known just from our weekly church interactions, and to be able to reach out to minister.

In seeking to build up our flock, it is also important that we learn to share our own lives with them. Too often, we are seen merely as knowledge dispensers rather than life models. This calls for vulnerability on our part. It shows people

that we are not far-removed or aloof, but fellow pilgrims with them in their spiritual journey. It builds understanding and a greater trust. Jesus spoke of knowing his sheep and his sheep knowing him (Jn 10:14)—a reciprocal knowledge. The Greek word here for “know” (ginosko) speaks of an intimate knowledge, not just a superficial awareness.

We also need to lead by example. There is no other way our sheep will follow (Jn 10:3-4). For example, rather than just saying, “We’ll pray for you,” pray for them there and then. Not only does this immediately bring their problem to the Lord in prayer, and encourage the person, it also sets an example for them to follow. Actions teach louder than words.

Finally, we need to be well equipped to handle the diversity of issues that call for our response. These include counselling for grief, illness, re-entry (after spending time overseas), addictions, marriage/family problems, job issues, or dealing with conflict, spiritual doubt, backsliding, spiritual or demonic oppression, and many more. There are no shortcuts. We need to equip ourselves with the principles of Scripture and be well-read on these issues that we are likely to face, as well as to humbly allow ourselves to be led by the Chief Shepherd as we shepherd the flock he has put under our care, “so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph 4:12b-13). ■



Colin Kirton is an elder in Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, with active involvement in teaching, writing, creative arts, worship, youth and pastoral ministries.

Colin teaches and also serves as full-time staff at the annual Residential Bible School, and is also the man behind the well-known “Footstool Players” which has served the assemblies and churches in Malaysia well through their theatre ministry. He freelances as a performing artist in the local arts and entertainment scene. He is single, and enjoys back-packing, nature, computers, music, theatre and movies during his spare time.

His father was the late Bro. Eric Kirton, the last Brethren foreign missionary to Malaysia, who lived and served the Lord here until his homecall in 2007. Colin was with Kuantan Chapel (the assembly started by his parents) till 1980, Island Glades Gospel Centre (1980–1981), Sg. Nibong Gospel Hall (1982–1984), SS Gospel Centre (1984–1992) and Subang Jaya Gospel Centre (1993 till now).

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Working Abroad and Migration

By Daniel Wong



Malaysia is a multi-racial society largely because our forefathers immigrated to our shores over the last few centuries. Many made the journey for economic reasons. Others due to social and political concerns. Whatever the reasons may be, it was always to seek a better and brighter future. So working abroad and migration is not an exclusive feature of the modern, savvy lifestyle.

Closer to home, my wife and I have spent most of the last two decades abroad, completing our tertiary education in Australia before spending a further eight years in England whilst I underwent my post-graduate medical training. Prior to that I did my pre-university studies at a junior college in Singapore.

Having lived abroad, studying and later working among people from many

different cultures, I feel that my life has been enriched by the experience. I miss the four seasons with all their unique features. I can certainly appreciate the perceived advantages of living somewhere else. My wife and I were sorely tempted to live long term in the UK because we were so well adjusted to life there. It was a struggle for us when we were considering our “options” at the end of my specialist training.

I have a hypothesis.

Although evangelical Christians make up less than 5% of the country’s population, I have a sneaking suspicion that they make up more than 5% of those who leave our country. It’s instructive to see that God “calls” Christians (mostly mobile, middle and upper class

professionals) to emigrate principally to developed countries. Developing countries, where earning capacity, the comforts of life and educational opportunities are likely to be curtailed, seem to somehow escape God’s notice when he leads people abroad. It is also interesting that many of those who choose to go have not spent more than 3–4 years at their intended destination.

May I suggest a few things we might like to do or consider before we make the move.

Take a step back and think about the big picture. What does the better and brighter future mean for Christians? What should be the Christian’s purpose and motivation when deciding where to

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settle down? Surely our theology should influence this area of life in the 21st century. God's will is for all Christians to grow in Christ-likeness, that God might be glorified in our lives. The Christian's primary concern in life is therefore to know Christ and to make him known in our world. How does your going abroad promote this ultimate mission? It is essential that your thoughts on this matter are covered by prayer.

Honestly assess your own reasons for desiring to go. Is it because you have been offered a higher paying or higher profile job? Is it because the exchange rate is very favourable? Is it because premium quality education is available without having to pay the exorbitant overseas students tuition fee? Are you looking for a life of greater comfort? Are you running away from someone or something back home?

Jesus came into our world to suffer and die for us and he calls us to follow in his steps. Think of what Jesus might say to you as he looks into your heart. There is no need to justify emigration on special spiritual grounds. The whole world belongs to God. The only difference is, with AirAsia "now everyone can fly". Nowhere in Scripture do we learn that God's will is a single track and that straying away from that path spells disaster.

A word for parents whose children are studying or working overseas—please

do not counsel your children to remain abroad because of the perceived political instability, racial bias and dim future of our country. Encourage them instead to return and serve God in Malaysia, despite the many challenges that may lie ahead for Christians here.

Greener pasture syndrome

Is life at our intended destination truly better? Better for whom? Each country has its own troubles. Some of these are very serious. Religious freedom is gradually being eroded in the UK. The last decade has seen the ascendancy of Islam and secularism. Strange bedfellows I know, but the reality is that the UK is in a confused state. The UK has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Europe. In many schools, more than half of the children are born out of wedlock. The police are struggling to contain increasingly pervasive gun-crime and drug culture. The prevailing (and often decadent) culture and values of society elsewhere may eventually creep into your family and return to haunt you.

No man is an island

We do not exist in a vacuum. The decision to emigrate is not one which simply affects one man and his immediate family. How about those who are left behind? It is true that we cannot live our lives for others but we need to seriously

consider the impact on others. In our own deliberations, we felt that a family relationship was an excellent reason to return. We have not regretted it.

Some of you may be involved in productive and fruitful Christian ministry at home. Whilst it is true that no one is indispensable in the kingdom of God, the church in Malaysia desperately needs faithful disciples who will stand up and be counted in the long term. It is challenging enough thinking of strategies to support local churches in smaller towns, whose youths migrate to the Klang Valley, let alone replacing folks who move abroad.

The Word of God tells us that a lifespan of three score and ten years is to be considered a blessing from God. The better and brighter future of Christians is not to be found in this world, in our earthly lives or in a country of equal opportunities. Our ultimate destination is heaven, where Christ is. It is also necessary therefore that our minds must be set on things above when making all of life's decisions. ■



Daniel and Chee Chee with their children

Daniel is married to Chee Chee. They have four children—two daughters, Zhu Shi and Zhu Yin, and two sons, Zhu Xin and Zhu Wei. They returned to Malaysia in 2008 after spending most of the last decade in England and Australia. They live with their two labradors in Section 17, Petaling Jaya. He was born and bred in Petaling Jaya and grew up as part of the church family at The Life Chapel. He was baptised in 1987. He is currently leading a cell group which meets at his home.

A clinical oncologist based at Universiti Malaya Medical Centre, he is a regular speaker at various churches on cancer awareness and a holistic approach to caring for those diagnosed with cancer. He enjoys writing the occasional article in local newspapers to stimulate discussion on issues related to cancer, particularly the spiritual and emotional aspects.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Simple Strategies for Leadership Succession

By Andrew Cowell



Max Depree, author of *Leadership is an Art*, once stated that “succession is one of the key responsibilities of leadership”. Anyone who has studied the life of Christ would have to agree with that statement. Even a cursory glimpse at the ministry of Jesus Christ reveals that He committed considerable amounts of time and energy to the development of future leaders. Unlike many leaders today, ‘Leadership Succession’ was not something that was haphazardly tacked onto the end of Jesus’ ministry; instead it was proactively pursued from the very outset. Let’s consider Christ’s example and discover three simple yet effective strategies for “Leadership Succession”.

Strategy No. 1: Selection

Richard Branson maintains that a staff selection policy where you “Hire for Attitude and Train for Skill” is the single greatest secret to his business success. From Branson’s experience he has discovered that you can “train smart people to do just about anything, but a bad attitude could bring the business down”. The same could be said for a local church. You can train a gifted leader to do just about anything, but a leader with

a bad character could bring the church down.

That is the reason why the New Testament emphasises that a “godly character” is the single most important requirement for future leadership (Tit. 1:6). For instance in 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul gave the following command in regards to “Leadership Succession”; “what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” According to Paul “faithfulness”, not “successfulness”, should be the primary focus when selecting future leaders. In short “godliness” must always be prioritised over “giftedness”.

Thus the first step towards “leadership succession” is selecting a few godly candidates. I would suggest that when you are doing this it is helpful to look for “F.A.T.” men—that is people who are “Faithful”, “Available” and “Teachable”. After all it doesn’t matter how much potential a person may have, unless they are “faithful” the results will be short lived. Furthermore if the mentoree is not “available”, then they won’t have the time or the commitment to go through the leadership development process.

Finally, if the protégé lacks a “teachable” spirit their raw potential will never be fully realized as they will not accept the corrective input that is necessary for shaping future leaders.

After “faithful”, “available” and “teachable” candidates have been selected it is important that leaders spend quantity time with them.

Strategy No. 2: Association

King Solomon, the wisest man of his time, shared one of the secrets to gaining wisdom. In Proverbs 13:20 he states, “He who walks with the wise grows wise”. From Solomon’s perspective one of the key ways to grow in wisdom is simply to be around wise people. It would appear then that the influence of the people with whom we associate is truly ‘life changing’.

Jesus was fully aware of this principle which would explain why the essence of His training program was just “being with” His disciples (Mark 3:14). Richard Coleman asserts that “the time which Jesus invested in these few disciples was so much more by comparison to that given to others that it can only be regarded as a deliberate strategy. He ate with them, slept with them, and talked with them for the most part of his entire active ministry”.

The church today has been slow to come to grips with this. It would appear that many church leaders still believe that “leadership” can be taught in a classroom context or studied in a Seminary setting. The reality is, however, that leadership is more “caught” than “taught” and thus there must be on-the-job training.

This is why many of the churches that are enjoying the greatest success when it comes to leadership succession have implemented some sort of internship program where elders are paired up with elder mentorees. The internship training

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will often involve the elder and the elder mentoree studying the Bible together, visiting church members together, discussing fundamental theological principles together, brainstorming specific case studies together and praying together. In addition to this the elder mentorees will occasionally be given the opportunity to preach to the congregation, sit in on certain counselling sessions and attend selected elder's meetings. The programme can be "formal" or "informal", so long as it remains highly relational and extremely practical.

'Quantity time' alone, however, is not enough. There must also be 'quality time' where the character, knowledge and skills for leading are imparted to the mentoree.

Strategy No. 3: Impartation

I can remember attending a seminar where the presenter talked about the "World Cup" syndrome. He commented that during a World Cup soccer match there are usually twenty two fit players who urgently need a rest being cheered on by millions of 'out of shape' spectators who badly need some exercise. Such is often the case in the average church today. Usually there are a handful of core members who do the vast majority of the ministry whilst the remainder of the church applause from the pews.

How can the "World Cup" syndrome be avoided? One of the primary ways for

turning spectators into players is for leaders to rediscover their God-given role as "coaches". Church leaders have been given by God for the primary purpose of equipping saints with the character, knowledge and skills to do the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). Jesus has provided the perfect example of how this can be done. If you look at the training of the disciples you will discover that they were equipped to do the work of ministry via a simple five-step process.

Step 1: Instruct—"You Listen to Me"

During this step the disciples listened to Christ teach the multitudes publicly and themselves privately.

Step 2: Illustrate—"You Watch Me"

Throughout this step the disciples watched Jesus as he ministered in various settings and to different audiences, from sympathetic to hostile. During this time Jesus demonstrated and applied the content of His teaching to all parts of life.

Step 3: Involve—"We Do It Together"

In addition to the above the disciples had the opportunity to "get their hands dirty" as they ministered together with Jesus throughout Judea, Galilee and Jerusalem.

Step 4: Improve—"I Watch You"

Eventually Jesus sent the disciples out on short term ministry trips without his direct presence. When the disciples came back to report on their activities Jesus

pointed out areas where they could grow and improve.

Step 5: Inspire—"I Encourage You"

Jesus personally visited His disciples numerous times after His resurrection with the primary aim of encouraging and exhorting them to do the ministry for which they had been trained.

Notice that Jesus assumed the responsibility for equipping His disciples for ministry. He didn't just announce one day that they were leaders and drop them in the deep end. 'When he said, "I will make you fishers of men," He declared He was the one in charge of the equipping process ... He didn't just pick up the fishing pole and pass it to His disciples; He invested His life in teaching and training and equipping them to fish for men.'

Simply stated the secret to successful "leadership succession" is dedication to discipleship and mentoring. Once godly candidates have been selected it is important to faithfully associate with them by giving them "on-the-job-training" where the character, knowledge and skills for godly leadership are effectively imparted to them. This was Jesus method and if we are to succeed in building His church then it must become ours too. Jesus didn't make a mistake when He emphasised leadership development, instead He was leaving us a 'Master Plan' to follow. ■



The Cowell Family

Andrew Cowell and his family have served as missionaries in South East Asia for the past thirteen years. The first three years were spent in Malaysia where Andrew and his wife were involved in discipleship and local church ministries. The last ten years have been committed to assisting with a New Testament Church Planting ministry in Indonesia. In his most recent role Andrew has had the opportunity to assist with the preparation and appointment of elders in a number of village assemblies. He has also helped prepare indigenous leaders to carry on the assembly Church Planting ministry in Indonesia. At the end of 2010 the church planting ministry in Indonesia will be entrusted to indigenous leaders and Andrew together with his family will return to Australia where they will continue their involvement in cross cultural ministry by serving with GLO Australia.

Please note that this article is based largely upon Richard Coleman's book entitled, "The Master Plan of Evangelism". For a more detailed discussion of the strategies mentioned in this article please refer to the above mentioned book.

THE CALL TO MISSIONS

Ministry with Grace International (Indonesia)

by Chan Mei Lai



Mei Lai with Demos and Mei Sheen

How did I become involved with Grace International?

Grace International Ministries is a cross-cultural church planting ministry that is committed to planting “New Testament” churches. It was started by Littleton Bible Chapel in the United States.

I was working as an industrial engineer with Intel Malaysia when I first heard the Lord’s call to go and serve Him in Indonesia. The challenges came at two ‘Mission Night’ gatherings in Burmah Road Gospel Hall, my home assembly, in 1997 where I was a member of the church missions’ committee then. God challenged me again at a special missions meeting at Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall. The call came through two of the Lord’s servants Chuck Harrison and Andrew Cowell.

Subsequently, in 2004 I went to GLO Smithton, Tasmania for a 9-month discipleship course. While I was there the call to go to Indonesia was confirmed again. After the training, I went on to Cambodia to serve for 6 months under GOWW. Although my eyes were opened to the many needs in Cambodia, the call to Indonesia remained firm.

I have studied Javanese and served with Grace International for more than

five years now. My primary work is to co-ordinate the “Partners Program” and its information ministry. This ministry is mainly communicating with our sponsors and Prayer Chain Teams; keeping all our Partners informed regularly through prayer updates and also special reports on the progress of specific projects. I obtain news and prayer updates from our church planters/workers, translate them and then send them out to the respective sponsors who are mostly from Malaysia, USA and Australia. My other responsibility is the quarterly “Grace Warfare” bulletin. Besides these, I also help with the work of our financial team.

Encouragement from God

Throughout these years in Indonesia, God has encouraged me greatly by his timely providence and faithfulness. He blessed me with many faithful friends, new and old. I am very grateful, thankful and love each one of them. Among them is Demos, my spiritual “god-son” whom I am privileged to help mentor. Demos from Palu, in Central Sulawesi, is presently doing his field training to serve God in Pulau Kaladan. He has so much potential to serve the Lord in the coming years.

Among the many personal blessing I have received is the salvation of my

family members; especially my younger brother, Jimmy and three of my nieces. This has brought me much joy in the Lord.

How can assemblies and individuals be involved?

Assemblies in Malaysia can be involved as a partner by:

- persistently praying for them,
- practically providing for them,
- Visiting and encouraging the church there

You can contact me at chanmeilai@yahoo.com. To God be the glory! ■



Sis. Mei Lai is a commended worker of Burmah Road Gospel Hall and has been serving with Grace International (Indonesia) based in Malang, East Java for the last five years. She is in charge of the Partners Programme. Prior to going to Indonesia, she had served in Cambodia under GOWW. She had also undergone a 9-month discipleship course with GLO Smithton, Tasmania in 2004. Before entering the mission field, she worked as an industrial engineer with Intel Malaysia.

Sis. Mei Lai is single and the eldest in the family. Her spiritual strength is in mentoring, exhortation and hospitality. She also enjoys reading and handicraft.

Steps of Faith with Operation Mobilisation (OM)

By Cheong Wye Choon



The MV Doulos



An old Chinese proverb quotes: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one small step." The first small step of my journey into missions was taken at an OM mission camp in Singapore in 1987 when I answered God's call to serve in the mission field. My wife, Swee Gim attended the next year's camp and was also convicted to serve in missions.

We then took further steps of faith in our missions journey initially through "Love Europe", a month-long OM mission campaign in Belgium, to assess our suitability. To our surprise, weeks of tedious door-to-door evangelism, even with doors slammed on our faces, excited us and we felt more prepared for longer term missions.

The next step of faith led us to two years of service in North Africa. In 1991, I resigned as an insurance loss adjuster and joined OM. Johor Bahru Gospel Chapel became our sending assembly with Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall as our supporting assembly and joined in later years by SS Gospel Centre and The Life Chapel.

Based in a city in North Africa, our ministry comprised evangelism, Bible

distribution, discipling, preaching and administrative work. OM also started schools, street kids centres and poultry farming for internally displaced peoples (IDP) and orphans of war. Such acts of love, community development and even business as missions (BAM) had a strategic role in transforming lives and communities. We were granted student visas through studying language in the university where many contacts were also made.

Our greatest struggle in the field was coping with extreme hot weather (average 40 C), regular electricity and water cuts and the *haboob*, a dust storm that frequently messed up the house. Malaria was common as common cold and both of us contracted malaria twice and for months after were sapped of our strength. A constant source of stress was the security of our identity.

Despite the difficulties, the two-year stint was a spiritual watershed in our journey of faith. We sowed many spiritual seeds and were overjoyed when one yielded fruit the next day. The Bible came alive when we saw the power of prayer in many incidences triumphing over evil and restoring the sick. Some churches

held regular overnight prayer meetings! The boldness of believers and their readiness to suffer inspired us to share courageously. Their love and outreach to rival tribal groups despite the civil war between them caused us to examine and change our own attitude of prejudice against other ethnic groups.

At the end of 1993 we returned home to two years of home assignment with Johor Bahru Gospel Chapel who commended Swee Gim and I as full-time workers to a newly established assembly, Johor Jaya Gospel Centre (later renamed Daya Gospel Centre). We constantly emphasized missions to both adults and children and sent youth to mission camps and to the mission ship, Doulos for exposure. Years later, two of them served two years in China and on Doulos whilst others went on mission exposure trips abroad.

In 1998 we stepped out in faith again to study a foreign language for a year at a missions training institute in the Middle East prior to serving in North Africa. Mastering a new language had its stresses, headaches (due to long

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hours of class and homework) and throat-aches! (from twirling the tongue to constricting the throat to make the right sounds).

The following year, we were back in North Africa with OM. Previously we were primarily engaged in the frontline work of evangelism. We now saw the more strategic role of training and supporting national workers. It made sense—the foreign missionaries would leave the field sooner or later but the national workers would be there for the long haul. We strengthened Communications, Finance and Financial Development and trained nationals for these functions. We made time for personal friendship evangelism and I preached in churches during the weekends. Weekly evangelistic Bible studies were held in our home for Malaysian and other business expatriates. For visa, we registered an IT business but were frustrated by the bureaucracy and the business never took off.

In our third year of service, we were invited to return to lead OM Malaysia. We were convinced of the Lord's call

though several people felt otherwise. We reasoned that so long as we remained in the field, there would be only two of us but if we went back to mobilize, perhaps a dozen or more would come to that field, which would be far better!

A step of faith "against all odds" brought us back in 2003 with my appointment as National Director. As Personnel Manager, Swee Gim was responsible for recruiting, training, member care and re-entry of our workers. Over the past 7 years, 50 or more Malaysians had been recruited to serve at least 2 years in various countries and on OM's ships whilst at least 200 had been on a short exposure trip. We had hopes of mobilizing twice as many but the task had been challenging and sometimes discouraging. The wealth of resources within the multi-cultural and multi-lingual Malaysian Church with the added advantage of a Malaysian passport that has easy access to most unreached nations has yet to translate into a significant global missionary force.

It is my hope and dream too that the assemblies will witness a significant increase in the sending of workers. I am

greatly encouraged whenever I recall the missionary zeal and passion of the early assemblies who at one time in history collectively sent out a sizable proportion of the world's total missionary force. While the door remains open in many needy countries, let us urgently seize the opportunity to go or to send, besides just praying or giving to missions.

Today, many 'steps of faith' later, as we look back to the Lord's call several years ago, we are indeed glad to have taken those small first steps of faith that began our missionary journey of literally a thousand miles, if not more. May I urge you, when you hear God's call, to take a step of faith, however small that first step may be, to begin your own journey into missions for 'the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few'. ■



Wye Choon and Swee Gim

Bro. Wye Choon comes from a Buddhist family. He was saved through the witness of school mates from Bukit Bintang Boys' Secondary School and was disciplined at Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall.

In 1984, he married Swee Gim, and they served together as missionaries in a North African nation for three years through OM. They have been with OM since 1998. Prior to joining OM, Bro. Wye Choon had served as a branch manager in Ipoh, Kota Kinabalu and Johore Bahru with an international loss adjusting firm. He served in that company until he left for the mission field.

Based on their faith and experiences gained in serving the church and in the mission field, they planted and established the work at Daya Gospel Centre. Wye Choon was also a commended worker of Daya Gospel Centre during the period 1994–1997.

They are now worshipping in SS Gospel Centre as they are currently based in Kuala Lumpur with OM.

THE CALL TO MISSIONS

Church Planting in Cambodia

A Report by Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW)



SLCC English Class with the teacher, Mrs Loh (2nd row, 3rd from right)

Loh Ah Asiau and Fee Chin came from Jasin, Malacca to Kajang in Selangor to plant a Church (Kajang Life Chapel or KLC) in 1990. Motivated by the Lord's teaching and command that a local Church must spin out, ultimately, to the ends of the earth (Acts 1: 8), and not to limit our outreach or disciple making to our own ethnic group (Matt. 28: 18-20), they began their first meeting in Kajang on 1st July, 1990.

By 1992, they had an experience of a local Church planting in Seremban, and bringing two short term mission teams to Betong, South Thailand. They also had the first experience of Bible teaching in the house Churches in China. All these taught them many lessons and widened their horizon for mission.

In 1994, they ventured into North West China to work among the Muslim minorities, and in 1995, they crossed over to Kazakhstan. These again taught them many valuable lessons, including catching the 'Back to Jerusalem' Vision. By this time, they have also gone to Nilai and Banting to start a Church in these places.

Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW) was formed by the participants of KLC's first mission conference at Pangkor

Island in May, 1994. The idea arose due to the realization of the vastness of the mission task and the need to mobilize the Churches to face the challenges.

At the end of 1995, we heard of an English Assembly short-term mission team to Cambodia. Having heard of the open door and the opportunities there, we requested one of the team members, Dr. Lian Thian Fook to come to KLC to share. Seeing such an opportunity, Ah Asiau made a survey trip to Cambodia in March, 1996. During his ten days there, he was surrounded by helpers and was led to see open doors. The KLC Oversight team, including a potential missionary candidate made a trip in the following month, April. The team received clear indication from the Lord, and as a result, a twin building near the Monivong St. was rented during this trip, and business was opened on 25th June, 1996.

We soon secured with ease, a Non Government Organization (NGO) status to open a reading room with full options and the flexibility to train the Cambodians. These facilities in the name of Shalom Life Care Serve Centre (SLCC) brought us into contact with many students. They came to use the reading room and to attend the English classes. From contact to friendship and then to evangelism

and disciple making, and we see a local Khmer Church established in His time. It was natural for our missionaries to learn the Khmer language from day one. So, preaching done in the English language and translated, gradually changed to Khmer language preaching. If you come to the meetings today, you will not only realize it is a Khmer Church, you will also see the locals conducting meetings and preaching. We also established a training program known as 'Nazarite Training Centre' or 'NTC' in 2000. This was a two-year Bible and ministry training course for lay people. Today, a few of them are in the leadership in all our three centers- Phnom Penh, Suong and Takeo.

Takeo's work was initially a trial project by the NTC students under the subject of 'Church Planting'. The real action was in 2008, where a centre proper and subsequently a church was started.

Suong's work was started in 2002. The main thrust in Suong was originally to do the Cham (Muslim) work, but due to the shortage of worker, this work was temporary put aside later in 2007. Now, in Suong we have a reading room, English language classes and a Kindergarten.

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Sok Lan (Takeo)



Annie Khoo (Suong)



Lee Fatt (Has returned to Malaysia)



Brenda Lim (Phnom Penh)

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We have a total of five missionaries and two boys in the Cambodia field at the point of writing. As these works are already established with the locals' participation, we do not really need additional foreign missionaries. Perhaps, we need a long term worker for Suong so that the Cham work can resume.

KLC is the project Church for the Cambodia work. Up to the present, all the GOWW projects in Cambodia and other areas like China and Kazakhstan are under the Project Church, KLC.

We are grateful for the help of the English Assemblies to partner with us in providing short term English language teachers and trainers, and also sending long term missionaries to work in our team. We appreciate their faithful contribution.

GOWW's projects also provide field exposure and training facilities for all the Assemblies in Malaysia and from other places.

It is KLC's intention, God willing, to establish other centres in Cambodia, or to help other Assemblies to do Church planting in Cambodia. We have in mind a few other potential areas where we have conducted Church planting surveys. ■



The Chue Family (Suong)



The church building in Suong



The Rainbow Kindergarten



Phnom Penh Bible Camp 2010 (Mr & Mrs Loh in the centre)



Loh Ah Asiau was a very successful engineer in a top management position which he set aside to go for Bible training when he heard and obeyed the Lord's call. He and his wife Fee Chin, a language teacher, were especially called by the Lord to be church planters. They have been faithful to this calling through many decades of labouring together. The Lord used them mightily to plant many churches both in Malaysia and in other countries.

Ah Siau comes from Jasin Gospel Hall, Malacca, and is presently the elder of Kajang Life Chapel, an assembly he started with his wife in July 1990. They are the founders of Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW, 1994), and are still actively involved with this ministry. Besides Church planting in Malaysia, the Kajang Life Chapel is also the project assembly spearheading the GOWW church planting work in China, Kazakhstan and Cambodia. Both of them also serve as itinerant missionaries in several other countries as well. The discipleship training programme and modules for potential missionaries which they designed and their own personal example have resulted in many younger people going into the field. Their vision, hard work, perseverance, simplicity of lifestyle perseverance and humility have been truly inspiring.

In Fond Remembrance: Ng Yu Hock



Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Psalms 116:15



The Late Bro. Yu Hock



Yu Hock with son, Kim Guan, and wife, Siew Shia

Our brother Ng Yu Hock, leader of the GOWW team in one of the countries in Central Asia was killed in a road accident while actively serving the Lord on 18th Sept 2010.

Yu Hock was born in Melaka. At the age of 17 he accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour in Jasin Gospel Hall. While studying engineering in Kuala Lumpur, he was also doing Bible and missions training in Kajang Life Chapel. Shortly

after graduation, the door was opened for him to serve in the mission field through Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW).

He and his wife Siew Shia had been in that far-off country since 1995. CBSM adds its voice to that of many saints throughout the country to praise the Lord for his brief but fruitful and impactful life, fully given to the service and glory of His beloved Lord and Master. His faithfulness has led the way for many to follow.

These two pictures were taken of him and his family in May 2009 during the CBSM-organized Partnership in the Harvest Conference (PITH) in Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, when the entire GOWW team returned home to participate in the conference. All at the conference would remember the presentation by this talented missionary family especially winsome young Kim Guan. ■

MISSIONS AT OUR DOORSTEPS

Nepalese Ministry

By Heng Thin Fook



Personal Computing Classes



Outing at Taman Jaya, Petaling Jaya



Guitar Lessons

It began in the year 2006 when Luther House Chapel, recognizing the great opportunity to reach out to the migrant workers particularly to the Nepalese, started their first outreach to the Nepalese in the PJ area. The Nepalese was the second largest group of foreign workers next to the Indonesians. English Language classes, computer lessons, Bible studies and fellowship meetings were conducted on a weekly basis. At the same time Sungei Way Christian church also started a Nepalese ministry too. Through a chain of events that was totally unpredictable, which we now on hindsight could only ascribe it as the leading of our Lord, the leaders from both Luther House Chapel and Sungei Way Christian Church met and felt a great need to move the ministry forward. We realized that much more could be done for the Nepalese community if we could invite more churches to pool and share resources in the area of venue, ministry workers and finances.

After much prayer and seeking out other churches to share in this vision to reach out to the Nepalese, Migrant Ministry Partnership (MMP) began in July 2007. The four partnering churches are First Baptist Church, Antioch Christian Church, Luther House Chapel and Sungei Way Christian Church. Many of the Nepalese who arrived to work in Malaysia cannot converse nor read the English Language and Bahasa Malaysia. This is one of the many reasons why many had great difficulty adjusting to the local conditions as they have great difficulty communicating with their local counter

parts and employers. Since 2006 we have been conducting English language classes. Till April 2010 more than 900 students have enrolled in the basic English, IT and guitar classes offered weekly.

Reaching out to the Nepalese with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ remains a primary goal of MMP. Many forms of evangelistic activities are conducted regularly to draw in the Nepalese. Outdoor events such as picnics are avenues used to build bridges to the Nepalese community.

Outings to places of interests such as Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands and Forest Research Institute Malaysia are trips that the Nepalese really looked forward to with great interest and anticipation. For a landlocked country like Nepal, even a trip to the Morib beach or Pulau Ketam, a trip that most Malaysians would not look forward to, is a welcome break from the monotony of working long and tiring hours. Some have only a day off in a month. Many Nepalese are expected to work long hours with little time for their bodies to receive sufficient rest. Poor nutrition further contributes to many of the Nepalese suffering from ill health. Medical Clinics are conducted regularly to provide them with free medical treatment and advice. Health talks further help to teach the Nepalese to take better care of their bodies. The Christian Nepalese are encouraged to invite their fellow friends from their hostels to come for the free medical treatment and health talks. Many Nepalese do turn up for the medical clinic

as many of them cannot afford to pay for proper medical treatment as it is beyond their means to pay. During Christmases, Christians' homes are opened for the Nepalese to spend an evening to enjoy the season of Christmas. Many of them missed homes and by opening the homes to the Nepalese, it is hoped that they will see the love of Christ and be less homesick.

During Christmas, MMP would also organize caroling to the different hostels to spread the message of the good news of the birth of Christ. Many Nepalese would not go to church but through the carollers that are made up of the Nepalese from MMP, many Nepalese would get to hear of our Lord Jesus Christ for the first time.

Evangelistic meetings cum concerts are held and MMP will bring in Nepalese evangelists and singers to preach Christ to the Nepalese. Weekly visitation to workers' hostels are carried out to befriend and reach out to the other Nepalese who are hesitant to join their Christian friends in coming to church. Through God's mercy many Nepalese has come to know and receive our Lord Jesus Christ. Between the year 2006 to 2010, a total of 148 Nepalese have publicly declared their faith in Christ Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord, being fully aware of the strong objections facing them from their families, relatives and community back in Nepal. Despite the obvious persecution and the very

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real threat of being ostracized by their own community, especially so among the highest Brahmin caste, they have chosen to obey Christ Jesus by taking the step of obedience in going through water baptism.

MMP is constantly aware of the fact that the door to reach the Nepalese can be closed at any time as the government of the day may stop the hiring of Nepalese as foreign workers. This has been proven true as all the migrant workers that have been in the country for more than five years will not be allowed to renew their work permit.

In view of the pressing need to save and disciple as many as possible, Bible camps are conducted yearly. In the recently concluded camp held at the Ulu Yam resort a total of 80 participants came for the camps. Efforts are made to invite their own native speakers from Nepal to come and teach. Many practical issues are dealt with in the Bible camps. One of the topics that are addressed often is about Hinduism versus Christianity. Many of the Nepalese comes from Hindu background. Often upon their return to their homeland they face immense pressure and persecution from their family members to revert back to Hinduism. Many were threatened and some were ostracized. It is imperative that the faith of the

believers be strengthened so that they will not turn away from the faith when trials, difficulties and temptations come their way.

To further strengthen and eventually build up core leaders that would be able to serve the local church in Nepal upon their return, MMP has embarked on various levels of theological education. MMP recognizes the need to train leaders from the midst of the Nepalese themselves. Many Nepalese who have embraced Jesus Christ since 2006 as their Savior and Lord has shown consistent spiritual growth. Many amongst them have also taken on leadership roles by serving in the Sangati (Nepalese word for fellowship) and Cell Groups. By providing them with training on leadership and teaching them the word of God, it is MMP's hope and desire to see that these trained leaders are able to contribute to the local church when they return to Nepal or even start their own home churches in remote villages.

MMP trains a core group of 20 Nepalese leaders who serve as leaders either in the Sangati or cell groups in their hostels or factories. We now have nine Cell Groups led by these Nepalese leaders operating in Shah Alam, Subang Jaya, Bandar Sunway, PJ Section 8, 21 and 51, Bdr Bkt Puchong, Taman Industri Puchong, and Sg Way. MMP has been

invited by Bentong Gospel Centre and Malacca Methodist Church to help to set up Nepalese ministry to reach out to the Nepalese. We are glad to note that four Nepalese believers were baptized by the elder of Bentong Gospel Centre in the recent Easter service.

Please do pray with us in the following areas :

1. Please pray that God will continue to impress upon the local churches that there is a great opportunity to reach out to the foreign workers that God has miraculously brought them into our country.
2. Please pray that we will constantly be aware that the door to the Nepalese can be closed anytime and therefore gives us the urgency to work faster and harder in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Nepalese.
3. Pray for the spiritual growth of the new believers that they may stand firm in their faith. Despite of persecution, they will not renounce their faith in Jesus Christ.
4. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will continue to provide for the ministry in terms of manpower and finance to further expand and reach out to more foreign workers. ■



Thin Fook and Fei Lee with their children

Heng Thin Fook had his early education in Bukit Bintang Boy's Secondary School. It was in the year 1977 when he was in his Form Five that a classmate, Wee Keong, shared about Jesus Christ with him and in that same year he received Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord.

He started attending Sungei Way Christian Church in the year 1978. He grew in his faith and was appointed as an elder of the church since 1994. The Lord has impressed upon his heart to work amongst migrant workers especially the Nepalese.

Thin Fook is married to Lye Fei Lee and they are blessed with four wonderful and lovely daughters.

MISSIONS AT OUR DOORSTEPS

Ministry to China Students in Malaysia

By Chen Mee Foong



China, with an estimated population of 1.3 billion, has a history of over 4000 years. God is doing an amazing work among the Chinese people. According to Liu Peng, a government researcher and scholar from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, there are at least 70 million Protestant Christians in China. This tremendous growth in protestant Christian population since the last missionary left China in 1953 bears testimony to the fact that God loves China. The phenomenon of Chinese people turning to Christ is happening not only within China but outside its borders as well.

The Beginning of CSF

According to a BERNAMA news report, dated 25th Dec.2008, there were about 10,000 China students studying in Malaysia. About 75 per cent of these students were taking first degree courses and 10 per cent were pursuing

postgraduate studies. This challenges the church in Malaysia to consider missions to mainland Chinese who are right at our doorstep.

The Life Chapel work among these students began modestly as an effort to show hospitality. In 1999. This venture was well received. The Life Chapel leaders were quick to recognize the potential of this work and sister Mee Fong who had originally intended to serve in China was appointed as a full-time worker for this work. The China Students' Fellowship (CSF) of The Life Chapel was officially formed on 11th May 2003 as a local cross-cultural missions venture for the Lord.

The Changing Profile of CSF Members

In the early days of CSF, the students were here to study English with the intention of eventually relocating to a 3rd

country to work or to study. This has since changed. The students we now have, are here to do tertiary education with some doing their post-graduate studies. Some are in twinning programmes. One girl is doing her PhD. This means that they will be with us for 2 to 5 years and we have the unique opportunity to win potentially influential foreign Chinese students, ranging from 20 to 28 years old, for Christ. They come for all sorts of background. Some are atheists; some have never heard about Jesus before; some have heard of Jesus and have even been to church and a few are Christians who know little of their faith. Many are brought up by grandparents.

Many are introduced to us by their friends and course-mates who are members of the CSF. Sadly, many drop out from our fellowship after they realize that we have a Christian message to share with them. However, the genuine seekers continue to

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attend our meetings and by God's mercy many have eventually been saved either in TLC or in other countries after leaving us.

Experiences & Struggles

These students are complete strangers in our land.. When they first came to us, they came with suspicion, not knowing why we want to get to know them or help them. As such, we have to gain their friendship and confidence by being genuinely interested in them and loving them as persons. They have many problems and needs - emotional, educational, social, financial, medical, etc. We see these as opportunities to understand and minister to them. When we have earned the right to be heard, we would share the Gospel with them and through Christ bring about character transformation too as most of these students have grown up as the only child in the family.

Sometimes, the work can be so demanding, the needs so great that I feel desperately overwhelmed. But I recognize that these are in fact God's blessings as they present opportunities to enter in the lives of these students. I thank God for the leaders, church members and other Christians who have shared the vision and have come alongside in this vital work. Over the years many workers have come and gone. At the present moment

we are very short-handed. To meet the needs of all these people is indeed a constant challenge but God has been faithful. It is His work and he will provide.

Blessings

Over the last seven years, the joy, satisfaction and fulfillment derived from serving in this special mission work is tremendous. My own faith has been built up through involvement in this work. Time and time again, I see God's mercy and love at work showing Himself so real in the lives of these students and also in my own life.

Blessings Unexpected

With air travel being made so affordable nowadays, students travel in and out of Malaysia fairly often. As a result, the Gospel is being carried back to China by these students more often than ever before. It is indeed very thrilling to see how the power of the Gospel has changed the lives of some of the parents of these students as well. Here are some encouraging anecdotes that we know about:

1. One mother came to know the Lord through her daughter and we had the joy of strengthening her faith further when she came to visit her daughter recently during the Chinese New Year season.

2. One set of parents hear of the Lord through their son who had been sharing his new found faith with them in China. They came with their son to our CSF one night and were saved. Now they are attending church back home.

3. One mother came to the Lord through her daughter. Both mother and daughter were baptized together in TLC a year ago. This mother has subsequently brought her husband whom she divorced 12 years ago to the Lord. Both are attending church back home now. They are intending to get married again. Her husband is now seeking baptism, God willing in TLC also.

4. One brother together with his wife whom he met in the church back home visited us last year and told us the good news that they had started a family church in their house.

Conclusion

Over the last 7 years we have come into contact with students from all the provinces of China Tibet and Qinghai. The potential of this missions at our doorstep is tremendous. The work that TLC does though significant is only a drop in the ocean. If more assemblies begin to work among these foreign students who are in our neighborhood, we will be able to turn the ripple into a wave reaching all the way back to the shores of China. ■

Sister Chen Mee Foong came to know the Lord in 1977 and has been with The Life Chapel ever since. She has served as a deaconess for the last 22 years. Mee Foong felt called to serve among the Chinese in mainland China and was exploring the avenues of going there in a mission capacity. The Lord had other plans and brought the mainland Chinese to her instead. Indeed God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

Mee Foong enjoys reading and listening to music when not busy serving the Lord.



MISSIONS AT OUR DOORSTEPS

Malaysian Myanmar Ministry

By Jimmy Chok



MMM: Cross-Assembly Mission

The inaugural MMM protem Committee Meeting was held on 1st September 2005, with the participation of local Assemblies and representatives of the Myanmar Brethren in Kuala Lumpur at that time.

Pastoral Ministry

The tribal factor of the Myanmar people were, initially, not fully understood. It was much later, especially after the mission visit to Yangon by MMM Board members in July 2007, that the level of persecution of non-prime tribes became clearer. It became apparent that the Chin tribe in Myanmar was subjected to dire livelihood challenges due to, among other factors, its Christian heritage. Most of the Chin Tribe workers in Malaysia are refugees, either already holding UN High Commission for Refugee status (UNHCR Identification) or are seeking to obtain one,

and hold hope of acceptance to be resettled in a third country.

The major problem is language. With the help of Bro. Loh Ah Asiau and the Dagon Christian Assembly in Yangon, under the leadership of elder Philip Cin Suan Nang, Bro. Ling Kee came over to study and to serve in Kuala Lumpur.

Immediately after arrival, Bro. Ling Kee explored various commercial areas in Kuala Lumpur and adjacent townships (e.g. Petaling Jaya and Subang Jaya) and made direct contact with Myanmar nationals working in restaurants, coffee shops and factories, especially those of the Chin Tribe.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship Service was quickly arranged by Bro. Ling Kee and commenced on 25th September 2005 at an assembly in the

heart of Kuala Lumpur. Since 2008, two other Sunday Worship congregations have commenced—one at a rented shop lot in Sungei Besi, Kuala Lumpur and another in Section 17, Petaling Jaya.

In the initial period, local Assembly leaders from several Assemblies in KL/PJ help out in pulpit ministries once a month. Our prayer is that this help will continue.

Home Cell Groups

Owing to extremely difficult living conditions, work demands and logistic problems most Myanmar believers are unable to congregate together for normal Sunday worship services. As a result, Home Cell Groups with regular meetings were established in several locations.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

FROM PAGE 30

These Home Cell Groups were important for spiritual growth and Christian fellowship and all efforts are being undertaken to keep them active. During the first year of MMM, i.e. 2005-2006, there were a total of nine cell groups, which have been reduced to eight groups—seven the Klang Valley and one in Cameron Highlands. The main challenges are the uncertainty and mobility of the members especially the leaders.

MCAM

A "Myanmar Christian Assembly Malaysia" (MCAM) has been set up to enable the Myanmar believers to help themselves.

Evangelism and Baptism

Through personal evangelism and evangelistic gatherings many souls have been saved and 33 new believers have been baptized.

Humanitarian Needs: Exciting Development of Refugee Children School

By the Grace of God, in conjunction with a well established NGO called SHELTER a refugee children education centre was established in 2009, in Kuala Lumpur. The centre is officially labelled "School 5". SHELTER undertakes the registration of the children and related

liaison with UNHCR, while MMM seeks to obtain support for the operation of the school including rental, utilities bills, liaison with local Assemblies for prayers and support. Myanmar volunteer teachers and community leaders together with our MMM representative, sister Ong Suan Sim, manage the running of the school.

Up to December 2009, School 5 has 29 students. Commencing from January 2010, the number of students has increased to ranging in age from 4 to 16. There are currently 5 volunteer Myanmar teachers. Sister Leong Wai Yue from SS Gospel Chapel, Petaling Jaya, who did weekly Bible study with the teachers has since left to serve in Myanmar. UNHCR furnishes text books on English Mathematics and Science. Recently, it has also provided a grant of RM2,500 for school supplies.

MMM has begun to help in another school called School 3 in Puchong. Subang Jaya Gospel Centre has also started to help set up a similar school in Subang Jaya called SHELTER Community School 1. May the Lord cause compassion to arise in our hearts to help the refugee children to have some education before their childhood days run out, while they wait for a new home which may only be realised in two to twenty years down the road!

The humanitarian needs are so overwhelming. MMM has set up a 'MMM Humanitarian Fund'.

Contribution of love gifts and essentials like rice, canned beans and cooking oil are most appreciated. Local brethren seeking to serve these people in need have to understand the different challenges, limitation and constraints that they face so that our services are, as far as possible, timely and relevant.

Would you consider rendering help in the furtherance of this vital mission at our doorstep in some practical way?

Please address your communication directly to:

Jimmy Chok, MMM Board
c/o Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur
No. 3, Jalan Hang Jebat,
50150 Kuala Lumpur

or call 012-3078117

or email to jchokkh@gmail.com

NOTE: The term that refers to the people of Myanmar is 'Myanma'. ■



Jimmy Chok was saved in Elim Gospel Hall, Ipoh in the mid 1960's while in secondary school. In 1968, he ventured to Kuala Lumpur to look for a job and commenced fellowship with Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur (GHKL). He worked in Sydney for about three active years during which time he was active in the East Sydney Asian Christian Church. After his return in the mid-1990's, he renewed his fellowship with GHKL. Soon after, he was appointed an elder.

Presently, Jimmy is the Chairman of 'Yi-Sheng Resources (M) Bhd', the Chinese equivalent of Emmaus Bible School where short term Bible training is conducted for believers from the Chinese assemblies. He is also the Chairman of the Malaysian Myanmar Ministry which came about as a result of the challenge to cross-cultural missions by Bro. Loh Ah Asiau of Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW).

Jimmy is married to Nina since 1970, and they are blessed with two sons, Raymond and Desmond.

MISSIONS AT OUR DOORSTEPS

Letter From Amar

By Amar Tamang

Dear Saints and Elders,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise and thank God for safe journey and a good time of reunion with my loved ones at home in Kathmandu, Nepal. I also thank God and to you all, for your continuous prayers and encouragement.

It has been past a week that I come from Malaysia, missing each one of you and remembering your acts of kindness with my family and we have been giving thanks to the Lord in our prayers for all of you and at the same time we are also waiting upon the Lord in prayer to begin ministry in Nepal.

Please pray for God's guidance and passion to start a new work in Nepal along with all of your partnership; and as I sit down with my wife, Shanta, to make plans and decisions. May God help us to meet up His will for the work. Thank you.

In His service,

Amar and Shanta Tamang



About Amar

Amar successfully completed a One Year Training Programme in Biblical Studies in GLO Malaysia based in Taiping. While he was here he has been of much help in caring and sharing the Gospel with fellow Nepalese working in Malaysia. He was commended for full-time ministry in Nepal on 21st March by Nibong Tebal Gospel Hall.

MISSIONS AT OUR DOORSTEPS

Project Paul

A Pilot Church Planting Project by CBSM

Project Paul (PP) is a Pan-Malaysian brethren assembly missions project, coordinated and driven by CBSM, in Mentakab, Pahang with the help and for benefit of all assemblies in the country. It is aptly named after the Apostle Paul, the first pioneer church planter.

The PP Management Council consists of both local believers and leaders from the Klang Valley—it is chaired by Yap Kok Keong and is accountable to CBSM)

The objectives

1. To reach out to a local community in a holistic way with the love of Christ and the gospel.
2. To stir up our assemblies to be actively involved in missions.
3. To raise up a pool of 'missioners' who would be available to help our assemblies to be more engaged in missions.
4. To help kick-start an assembly church planting movement in the country.

This two-year pilot project began in late September 2009. One year has passed. With God's help we have reached the point where regular meetings have begun in a newly rented shophouse close to the Educare Centre. What has happened so far? From the photographs on these two pages showing some of the sample activities carried out in the course of this year, it is evident that the Lord's hand is with us. To Him be the glory! ■



The Educare Centre provided by the Lord through the generosity of one of His servants at the start of Project Paul



Sister Sok Nging, commended by Temerloh Gospel Chapel to serve as PP Supervisor



Project Paul Management Council meeting in the Educare Centre



The third issue of the Project Paul Newsletter to keep assemblies informed and in prayerful support



Planning the next move (L-R: Yueh Siow, Sok Nging, En Li—our first missionary from GHKL, Fong Ying and Bee Lian)



Strong support from other assemblies like this youth team from Subang Jaya Gospel Centre and material support from other assemblies



Sunday School, Youth Meetings, Bible Studies and other activities (English and Chinese) in the newly rented shophouse began in September 2010.



The Missions Team from RBS 2010



Mrs Lai teaching during the seminar for exam students at the Educare Centre

LEST WE FORGET

My Testimony

by David Ng Kong Lam



Elder Ng Kong Lam, an elder in Port Klang Gospel Hall is the longest serving elder in our country. Now, at the ripe old age of 91, he shares with us “glimpses of the Lord’s gracious dealings with me and my family, these 91 years” ...

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.
—Ps. 126:3

My father came to Malaysia at a very young age and married my mother, a

Penang Nyonya dressed in sarong kebaya and kerosang. They later moved to stay at Jalan Raia Timor (Jalan Raia East), Klang. I was born there on 20th March 1919. After a while we moved to stay in an old attap house at Jalan Tepi Sungai (Riverside Road), Klang.

As for God, His way is perfect.
—Ps. 18:30

The Lord sent His faithful servants, Mr. & Mrs. E.V. Brewerton, Elder Lim Chin

Kheng, Elder Lim Teck Hock with the Gospel to our family. We were all steeped in idolatry. My father had many terrible habits—alcoholism, chain-smoking, and opium addiction but the Lord touched his heart and also that of my mother and grandmother. They received the gospel with much joy and wanted to be baptized. However, Mr. Brewerton told my father that he had to get rid of his bad habits first.

My father told our kinsmen of his new-found faith, and his readiness to give up his bad habits and be baptized and go to heaven rather than keep his habits and go to hell. So, against his kinsmen’s advice and derision, he, together with his wife and mother were baptized. As a result God was able to change the history of the family.

Jehovah-Jireh—Gen 22:14

As a young boy, I was admitted to the Klang Anglo Chinese Primary School where Mr. Lim Chin Kheng was the Headmaster. I started to attend the Klang Gospel Hall Sunday School where Mr. Lim Chin Kheng was Superintendent and also teacher. When I was promoted to secondary school, my father, who was then a hawker during the day and ran a fruit stall in front the Klang Regal Theatre at night could not afford to pay the \$4.00 school fees and I had to stop schooling. When Mr. Lim came to know about it he advised me to ask God for help. After a few days, Mr. Lim obtained a Chettiares’ scholarship for me. Not only that, he was able to get used books for me as well. On top of that ‘Sir’ also asked me to be the Port Klang Gospel Hall caretaker for a princely salary of \$4.00 per month. Yes, the Lord provides!

I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and was baptized in 1936 in the Klang Gospel Hall. I was 17 years old then, but the Elders persuaded me to join them. I felt very incapable but they advised me to trust God to prepare me for that solemn responsibility. The Elders then were Lim Kheng Liat, Soon

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FROM PAGE 34

Seow Khai, Ng Liam Choo and Ng Teong Hoe. The Lord blessed me and with the guidance of the Elders I was able to fit in.

**God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
—Ps. 46:1**

In December 1941 Japan declared war. The rumour was Japanese troops would land in Morib. Fearing the worst the family moved to a small township, called Sasaran, midway to Kuala Selangor to stay in our relative's sundry shop. When the soldiers come down from the north we decided to return to Klang. The day after we left Sasaran, the small town was flattened by bombs. God had indeed spared us. The Lord worked in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

Japan wanted to construct a railway line from Bangkok to Burma, a distance of 450 km. Young single boys were conscripted and put in the railway goods-wagon to be taken away. One way

of avoiding conscription was marriage. Again the Lord provided. He sent an old aunt to come to our house with a few photographs of her nieces and young girls to get them matched off with young boys. It was unsafe for young girls with so many soldiers around. I was shown the pictures but I was too young and know anything about girls. so I told my mother to go check out for out. She went to the house of one and sat through the whole day observing her. She came back and declared that she was the right choice. So Lee Beng Kwee and I were married in a simple quiet ceremony in our old attap house. Two years ago we celebrated our Diamond Anniversary.

The Lord blessed us with three sons and eight daughters. They all love the Lord and are active in serving the Lord as Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Full-time Workers, Missionary and other assembly ministries—six generation of Christians! It was a really blessed moment for me and Bee Kwee as our grandchildren sang a hymn for us at our Diamond Wedding

Anniversary thanking the Lord and praising Him for the exemplary life that God gave to Grandpa.

**Living for Jesus a life that is true,
striving to please Him, in all that i do**

I thank the Lord that I was able to serve Him full-time from 1978 to 2003. The Lord supplied all my needs from the faithful monthly pledges of my loving brothers and sisters in the assemblies.

I am now 91 years old (will be 92 on 20th March.2011), confined to the house because of poor mobility as a result of prostate cancer, acute asthma, vertigo, a cataract operation and a sustained broken bone on the right leg. I am able to walk about slowly with a walker. My children drive me to the meetings where I also participate, pray and exhort the saints, as and when the Lord enables me. I praise God for all that He has been to me. ■



Mr & Mrs Ng Kong Lam with their family at their diamond wedding anniversary celebration

LEST WE FORGET

80 and Still Going Strong!

by Edward Low, Elder of Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall

An Elder in His Early Twenties

Daniel Jevaraj is still going strong in the Lord and presently serving as an elder of Taiping Gospel Hall. Daniel's association with Taiping Gospel, where he found the Lord, started in the early 1950s. In those days, the Lord's work in Taiping was in the hands of foreign missionaries, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stott, Mr. & Mrs. AE Philips, Ms. Betty Dyer (Mrs. W Mcvey and two other lady missionaries, Mrs. Blick & Ms. Parkinson. Such heavy concentration of missionaries in the small town those days must have had a telling effect on the young man, who, within a short time after accepting the Lord, found himself in leadership roles in the youth & Sunday school work. He was appointed an elder in 1952 while still in his early twenties.

1954 was a year of reinforcement when at the age of 24 he found his soul mate in the person of Ms. Ruth Ingram, someone we all affectionately and respectfully call Mrs. Daniel. After marriage, the responsibility of being a husband and later a father did not deter him in his commitment to the assembly in Taiping. Instead, the young couple lived out the purpose of their union "each for the other and both for the Lord".

That same commitment and devotion to the Lord continued even when the family had to move over to Penang owing to job transfer in 1965. No time was wasted. The Daniels immediately became an outstanding couple amongst believers in Penang. Daniel served Burmah Road Gospel Hall (BRGH) as an elder with Ruth playing her beautifully supportive role both in church and at home, where the two children Esther & David grew up.

A new assembly work was started in Penang in 1970. Daniel was seconded by BRGH to help take care of the new work, which became the Island Glades Gospel Centre (IGGC). He stayed on as the elder, providing leadership that saw the impressive growth of a new and vibrant assembly, in addition to his responsibilities at IGGC.

As if these responsibilities were not enough to keep busy, he also availed

himself to help out with the work in Butterworth Gospel Hall.

Very soon IGGC was bursting at its seam and the need for yet another extension work became the vision of the day. Daniel was very much in the team that had this vision. He and the late Mr. Tan Wah Kim and late Mr. Chia Siak Leng became the prime movers of a new extension work in a new housing estate. Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall (SNGH) came into being in 1981.

On top of his responsibility in IGGC, Daniel was also very much in leadership role in the new work. By mid-1980s, he relinquished his eldership in IGGC to become an elder of SNGH, by which time he was into his mid 50s. It wasn't unreasonable to think that SNGH and Penang was likely to be his last station of Christian service.

This notion changed when a leadership crisis took shape in Taiping Gospel Hall. The only elder, the late Mr. Ooi Hoay Yam was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Daniel responded to the urgency of the situation and, with the blessing of the Oversight of Jalan Imbi Chapel in Kuala Lumpur and SNGH, began to make regular trips from Penang to Taiping to help out with the work. This was faithfully done for many years until the Daniels felt that it was time to take up residence permanently in Taiping again.

On 10th July 1998, Daniel, at the age of 68, was officially commended by SNGH to serve the Lord full time in the Taiping Assembly.

The presence of the Daniels in Taiping saw revival in the work. Taiping, an otherwise sleepy hollow, shot into national limelight when the GLO School serving the Assemblies in Malaysia—also very much an initiative of Daniel—became a reality.

This is a man on the move for God, undeterred by age, he persevered amidst challenges, declining strength and energy level and even a heart attack sustained about three years ago. He has been advised to go slow and consider

retirement. His answer? "I will serve the Lord until I drop dead".

You won't believe it! He is at it again at 80, spearheading yet another new extension work, after doggedly pursuing the successful construction of a building on a government given land in Kamunting, Taiping. The life and service of Daniel is nothing short of awe inspiring. He can surely be counted amongst the faithful and notable servants of God in assembly work and witness in Malaysia.

We praise and thank God for a man like Daniel Jevaraj! ■



Daniel & Ruth Jevaraj



Taiping Gospel Hall

LEST WE FORGET

Past CBSM Office Bearers 1998–2007

NAME	ASSEMBLY	OFFICE HELD IN CBSM
CBSM Pro-Tem Committee • Period: 2nd November 1996 – 19th September 1998		
Mr. David Boler	Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, Selangor	Chairman
Mr. Christopher Leong	Bandar Utama Chapel, Selangor	Executive Secretary
Mr. Daniel Jevaraj	Taipng Gospel Hall, Perak	Member
Mr. Yap Kok Keong	Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre, Selangor	Member
Mr. Wong San Tosh	Jalan Imbi Chapel, Kuala Lumpur	Member
Mr. Ong Hock Chye	SS Gospel Centre, Selangor	Member
Dr. Ong Cheng Leng	Kuantan Chapel, Pahang	Member
Period: 19th September 1998 to 5th November 2001		
Mr. David Boler	Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, Selangor	Chairman
Mr. Kong Yeng Phooi	Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, Selangor	Exco Chairman & Editor, Diakonia
Mr. Ong Hock Chye	SS Gospel Centre, Selangor	Exco Member
Mr. Christopher Leong	Bandar Utama Chapel, Selangor	Exco Member
Mr. Choo Chee Choy	Setapak Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur	Exco Member
Mr. Yap Kok Keong	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, Selangor	Exco Member
Mr. Wong Sai Weng	The Life Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. N Thiran	Bangsar Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
Mr. Daniel Jevaraj	Taipng Gospel Hall, Perak	Committee Member
Dr. Ong Cheng Leng	Kuantan Chapel, Pahang	Committee Member
Mr. Wong San Tosh*	Jalan Imbi Chapel, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
* Until 23rd January 1999		
Period: 5th November 2001 – 2nd September 2003		
Mr. Kong Yeng Phooi	Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, Selangor	Chairman
Mr. Tan Kong Beng	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, Selangor	Editor, Diakonia
Mr. Wong Sai Weng	The Life Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Choo Chee Choy	Setapak Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
Mr. Lim Hong Nian	Seremban Gospel Hall, Negeri Sembilan	Committee Member
Mr. Ong Hock Chye	SS Gospel Centre, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Christopher Leong	Bandar Utama Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Leong Sea Fook	Kledang Community Chapel, Perak	Committee Member
Mr. Daniel Jevaraj	Taipng Gospel Hall, Perak	Committee Member
Mr. N Thiran	Bangsar Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
Dr. Ong Cheng Leng	Kuantan Chapel, Pahang	Committee Member
Period: 2nd September 2003 – 23rd August 2005		
Mr. Kong Yeng Phooi	Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, Selangor	Chairman
Mr. Tan Kong Beng	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, Selangor	Editor, Diakonia
Mr. Wong Sai Weng	The Life Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Choo Chee Choy	Setapak Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
Mr. Lim Hong Nian	Seremban Gospel Hall, Negeri Sembilan	Committee Member
Dr. Ong Cheng Leng	Kuantan Chapel, Pahang	Committee Member
Mr. Ong Hock Chye	Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Christopher Leong	Bandar Utama Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. N Thiran	Bangsar Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
Mr. Leong Sea Fook	Kledang Community Chapel, Perak	Committee Member
Period: 23rd August 2005 – 21st August 2007		
Mr. Yap Kok Keong	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, Selangor	Chairman
Mr. Wong Sai Weng	The Life Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Tan Kong Beng	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Stephen Lew	Kepong Gospel Chapel, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
Mr. Jimmy Ho	Elim Gospel Hall, Perak	Committee Member
Mr. Leong Sea Fook	Kledang Community Chapel, Perak	Committee Member
Mr. Lee Kha Khooi	Sg Ara Gospel Hall, Penang	Committee Member
Mr. Choo Chee Choy	Setapak Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
Mr. Christopher Leong	Bandar Utama Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Lim Hong Nian	Seremban Gospel Hall, Negeri Sembilan	Committee Member
Period: 21st August 2007 – 1st December 2009		
Mr. Yap Kok Keong	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre, Selangor	Chairman
Mr. Leong Sea Fook	Kledang Community Chapel, Perak	Deputy Chairman
Mr. Stephen Lew	Kepong Gospel Chapel, Kuala Lumpur	Secretary
Mr. Michael Goh	Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur	Treasurer
Mr. Wong Sai Weng	The Life Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Jimmy Ho	Elim Gospel Hall, Perak	Committee Member
Mr. Gan Tian Eng	Bethany Gospel Chapel, Selangor	Committee Member
Mr. Lee Kha Khooi	Sg Ara Gospel Hall, Penang	Committee Member
Mr. Teo Pek Bing	Sg Nibong Gospel Hall, Penang	Committee Member
Mr. Low Pheng Chuan	Kota Baru Chapel, Kelantan	Committee Member
Mr. Chiew Sai Kee	Temerloh Gospel Chapel, Pahang	Committee Member
Mr. Lim Hong Nian*	Seremban Gospel Hall, Negeri Sembilan	Committee Member
Mr. Robert Quay	Jalan Imbi Chapel, Kuala Lumpur	Committee Member
* Called Home to be with the Lord on Good Friday 10th April 2009		

LEST WE FORGET

David Boler

First Chairman of CBSM



David Boler's close association with the Brethren assemblies can be traced right back to his childhood. Born into a brethren home, he made his own profession of faith at a series of brethren mission meetings and was baptized at the age of 15. Throughout his life, he served in brethren churches which included taking up the role of elder in Elim Gospel Hall, Ipoh and then in Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall. Realizing the need for a central help-point for the brethren assemblies in the country, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Christian Brethren Secretariat of Malaysia and became its first Chairman.

An educationist by vocation, David Boler was Principal of the brethren mission

school—Bukit Bintang Boys' Secondary School—from 1966 to 1978.

The years following his retirement saw him actively involved in several other Christian organizations such as Scripture Union, the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship, the Malayan Christian Schools Council, MAP Partners Berhad, the Bible Society of Malaysia, the Council of Churches Malaysia, Malaysia Bible Seminary and the Teachers' Christian Fellowship. While he may have been brethren at heart, David Boler was warmly regarded as a Christian statesman for the wider Malaysian church until the Lord called him home in 2008, aged 88.

Kong Yeng Phooi

Second Chairman of CBSM



Yeng Phooi and Julia

Kong Yeng Phooi hails from Ipoh where his faith first took root at Elim Gospel Hall during the mid 50's. After his studies at Universiti Malaya in the early 60s he returned to his hometown where he worked until 1967. He worshipped at Jalan Imbi Chapel after he relocated to Kuala Lumpur. In 1969, he married Julia and shortly after that they joined the Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall (PJGH) when they set up home in Petaling Jaya. Since then they had served the Lord faithfully together PJGH. In 1988, Yeng Phooi was invited to serve in the PJGH Oversight.

At present in addition to his responsibilities as an elder, he also serves God through various Christian organizations in different capacities.

These include the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF), Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM), Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM), the Christian Brethren of Malaysia Property Trust Bhd, and the Board of Governors of our brethren school, Bukit Bintang Boys' Secondary School. Apart from all these Christian organizations, he had also served as the Chairman of the Christian Brethren Secretariat, Malaysia.

Yeng Phooi and Julia have two married sons, Alex and Benny, and are the proud grandparents of PJGH's only set of triplets born to Alex and Angela. Alex works with Ericsson, and Benny is full time with Focus on the Family. ■

Partners in the Harvest—Count Me In!

International Conference on Missions Organized by CBSM for Brethren Assemblies in the Asia Pacific Region



Partners in the Harvest (PITH) Conference 2009 held from 29th April to 2nd May 2009 at the Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall, Malaysia

Organised by CBSM with the following objectives:

1. To broaden our vision of missions
2. To create and foster national and international networks on missions
3. To challenge an increased involvement in missions, especially among the young
4. To share aspirations and experiences on missions

5. To provide an avenue for serving missionaries to share and for participants to pray

This conference was attended by 360 conferees from 20 countries. Among the views expressed and decisions taken at the final Business Session chaired by the CBSM chairman and attended by delegates from 12 countries were:

- PITH 2009 was a very meaningful conference and the spirit engendered by PITH should be continued under the

same name but with a different theme in place of “Count Me In!”. PITH would be held once in three years. India agreed to take up the offer to host the next conference probably in August 2012.

- The delegates affirmed that PITH would be an assembly missions conference and be inclusive in nature.
- Younger leaders would be encouraged to attend future missions conferences as this would help them know what is happening in other parts of the world and to expand their vision.
- Some delegates expressed surprise at the existence and work of CBSM and opined that assemblies in other countries should also try to set up similar national bodies like CBSM.

CBSM reiterates its thankfulness to God and to all who worked so hard to make this major conference a success for the glory of our Lord—One Lord! One Mission! One Heart! ■

The First Formal Christian Brethren Agencies Consultation on 7th November 2009



Some of the leaders and office bearers representing CBSM, GLO Training School (GLO), Emmaus Bible Centre, Malaysian Missionary Services Trust (MMS), Christian Brethren of Malaysia Property Trust (CBMPT), Highlands Christian Centre (HCC), Pan Malaysian Orang Asli Committee, Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW), Malaysian Myanmar Ministry (MMM), Assembly Fellowship Camp (AFC) and Inter-Brethren Assembly Youth Development (IBAYD). This consultation resulted in a renewed sense of common purpose and the publication of the booklet on Christian Brethren Agencies, “One Lord, One Mission, One Heart”. ■

FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Perak Updates

By Jimmy Ho



General

Dr Mah Hung Soon of Barisan, Perak organized a Christmas & New Year Celebration with Christians and churches at Ipoh Indera Mulia Stadium that saw a crowd of over 3000 attending. The State has good rapport with the Christian community. We are requesting State land for a burial ground as the present one in Ipoh has about 500 plots left which will only last for maybe 3 years. Assemblies scene

Breakaways

In the last few years, we have seen some breakaways. A former member of Elim Gospel Hall left to fellowship with Kuala Kangsar Gospel Hall. After a number of years, he left Kuala Kangsar assembly and decided to start an assembly (called Ipoh Gospel Centre) in Ipoh under the covering of our brethren from Paramount Garden.

A group of about 30 young adults from Batu Gajah Gospel Hall broke away to form Perdana Gospel Hall in Batu Gajah. This resulted from an inability to reconcile from a conflict with the Oversight over the handling of church discipline. As most of these adults were nurtured by Francis Chan in earlier days, he has taken up

the spiritual care of this group. They are not affiliated to any brethren group or to the splinter group, Ipoh Gospel Centre. At present this group is in limbo and perhaps ostracized by many assemblies because of the presumption that they subscribe to Professor Yap's teaching.

Loss

Full-time Worker Timothy Yong from Batu Gajah Gospel Hall resigned to take up another pastoral role in Kepong. He had served in Batu Gajah for many years and the assembly felt a great sense of loss to see him go.

Commendation

Batu Gajah Gospel Hall and Cheras Gospel Centre co-commended Brenda Lim to the work in Cambodia late last year. She is now in Cambodia learning the local language.

Feeding the poor

Kledang Community Chapel, Elim Gospel Hall and Vineyard Keepers have teamed up to run a weekly food programme every Tuesday evenings in Taman Mas, Ipoh. It is called "Open Doors Kledang Community Centre". About 15 to 20 needy people come to eat weekly. Progressively, they will expand to more days in a week.

GLO Training School

Taiping Gospel Hall is shouldering the work of GLO Training School in Taiping despite the shortage of manpower. Co-operation with the OA ministry is encouraging.

Elim Gospel Hall

This assembly is anchoring the work of evangelism through sports with seven other churches in Ipoh. It is called "Ipoh BUG". Currently about forty over seekers are in football training and "Sports

Partnership, Malaysia" sends trainers and coaches regularly to help out. Foray into badminton, freebie, futsal, etc. are also underway. They will make a Mission Tour into Myanmar in the second quarter of this year.

Leaders in Elim are also taking the lead to involve assemblies nationwide in the OA work in the Tapah/Cameron Highlands area. Once they can intern another assembly to adopt one centre, they will move on to the next to build up the work. Currently medical work is regularly conducted in the Tapah region. The leaders are also working closely with Batu Gajah Gospel Hall with the BM weekly Sunday service in Batu Gajah.

Bidor Gospel Centre

Chinese youth work saw good inroads into the schools but also mounting opposition. Praise the Lord for more "labourers" in the harvest-field. Two busloads of NS trainees are attending regularly and some have already professed faith in the Lord through their labour.

Kampar Gospel Hall

They are struggling in the work with a shortage of manpower. Some from other assemblies have come to University TAR and are helping in the work. Opportunity in UTAR work abounds. ■



Jimmy Ho, an elder and commended worker in Elim Gospel Hall, with his wife, Josephine.

FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Penang Updates

By Teo Pek Bing



Burmah Road Gospel Hall (BRGH)

moved to the Sunday School wing on the 10th of June 2007 after the Chinese Speaking assembly received the approval to renovate BRGH. Since then we have seen members growing at the Sunday School wing until we are almost full with about 120 saints each Sunday. Our Christmas meeting was held at the Christian Convention Centre where three candidates were baptized in the sea off Batu Ferringhi. The response was tremendous as we received so many people including some tourists. Three souls were saved at that meeting with Mr N. Sinnappan as our speaker. One Korean girl who accepted the Lord was baptized before she returned to Korea that week.

Our building plan was approved sometime in April 2008. The commencement of work started in May 2008. The new hall (phase 1) is scheduled to be completed

in June 2009. See our website at <http://brgh.penang-assemblies.org/> for photographs of our building progress. We moved over to 95, Jalan Hijau Empat, Green Garden Estate 11600, Georgetown, on 1st March 2010. This is because we had decided to build phase 2 behind the new hall. Total cost is estimated to be about RM6 million. We praise the Lord for His abundant supply to us as a small assembly of mostly aged believers. I think BRGH had been giving to all appeals for funds throughout Malaysia for the past 70 years. This is the first time we are appealing for funds from the other assemblies.

At the same time we are also renovating the Christian Convention Centre (CCC). The site is jointly managed by the Burmah Road Gospel Hall English and Chinese speaking assemblies. We have spent about RM130,000 recently to renovate

the CCC with better facilities for our campers. Plans are in the pipeline for more renovation to accommodate more family rooms and other facilities. As our funds are limited, fellowship gifts are welcome. If any are led by the Lord, please contact Bro David Martin on 016-4592862.

We hope that you will continue to pray for us that the movement of our members to facilitate construction will be without problems or hindrances. Pray also for funds so that we can be like Moses in Exodus 36:5-7 *"The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done."* Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: *"No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary."* And so the

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people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work. (NIV)

Butterworth Gospel Hall has about 50-60 persons attending Lord's Supper. This year, we were the organizers of the Annual Penang Easter Conference. We praise God for good meetings and messages by our brother, Koh Gim Lam. Please pray for us as many are losing interest in the Lord's work and many have grown cold. There is a drop in attendance both in Sunday School and Youth meetings. We are working on restructuring the program and activities.

Island Glades Gospel Centre, as of 2010, we have about 95 baptized believers meeting regularly in our assembly. Our regular prayers are for the workers who have gone out from among us to serve the Lord in other lands. We thank God for the measure of peace in Bangkok as we pray and uphold our sisters Lay Bee and Rachel Flintstoft in their ministry among the Thai people. Please pray for sister Annie Khoo who is serving in Suong, Cambodia. Our sister Lai Har who has been serving in China is currently on home leave in Penang.

Last Christmas, a mission team consisting of eight persons visited Annie Khoo in Suong. They were there to assist her in the Christmas special meetings. This year, we are planning for a team to visit her again for the same purpose at the end of the year.

Sg. Nibong Gospel Hall's typical Sunday Lord's Supper attendance is about 90 persons, Youth meetings about 30 and Sunday School about 40 children. The monthly Sisters' Fellowship meeting has about 30 in attendance, with a number who are unbelievers. The Tadika Ministry has about 85 students. We praise the Lord for the Christian teachers who are in the majority. We now have vacancies for 2 additional teachers which we are seeking the Lord for. Pray with us for wisdom concerning impending Education ministry's new rules. We are also seeking the Lord concerning outreach and mission work. We see needs and opportunities but we are seeking the Lord's direction. We are also praying for guidance on preparing for the next generation of leaders. Our brother Sinnappan continues with the monthly Tamil ministry that sees about 20 attending with about four families of non-believers.

We are also privileged to continue to host the ABC (Assembly Bible Class), which is entering the 9th year. Our brother, Mr. Ung Kim Cheng has been faithfully conducting the twice monthly class on a number of topics, such as Biblical Distinctives, Understanding Bible Prophecies and Biblical Hermeneutics. We will be embarking on Current Assembly issues in July.

Sg. Ara Gospel Hall is now 11 years old. We have about 45 in attendance at the Lord's Supper each Sunday. Sunday School is a healthy 40 children and we

have a number of Indian children. Our youth ministry is combined with Sg. Nibong Gospel Hall and we praise the Lord for quite a number of young working adults who are actively serving in this area. They are also well grounded in the Word. Please pray for wisdom on how to groom these young men for future leadership without discouraging some of the older ones.

We are organizing a CEF Super Seminar Basic, learning how to lead children to Christ and helping them grow in their Christian faith on the 31st July and 1st August 2010, to be held in SNGH. Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre's Lord's Supper is attended by 30 to 40 believers. Being a small assembly, we struggle with making sense of what activities would match our current resources, talents and commitment levels. Small numbers make it difficult to plan events and activities. Pray for us for wisdom on how an English speaking assembly like us, can be a testimony and to witness to a community that is largely Hokkien speaking. Many young people have moved to the Klang Valley and elsewhere plus our Sunday school numbers are dwindling. We are re-packaging it to be an English hour as a service to the community where children learn English and have fun. Please pray for our English tuition ministry, and wisdom on supporting the Kepala Batas Tamil ministry. ■

Opportunities in Tadika Sg. Nibong

Tadika Sg. Nibong, a ministry of Sg. Nibong Gospel Hall, is urgently looking for suitably qualified brethren to fill the following positions. If you love the Lord and are looking for an opportunity to serve Him among children, here are the opportunities:

EXPERIENCED CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS who are proficient in English. Knowledge of Mandarin and music are added advantage. Minimum qualification is SPM.

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANT PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL who has experience in supervising and managing affairs of Kindergartens.

For enquiries and application, please contact:

The Principal,
Tadika Sg. Nibong
51-A Jalan Pantai Jerjak 1
11900 Penang

During Office Hours: 04-658 4251
After Office Hours: 012-587 2687
E-mail: nguiyimlie@yahoo.com
<http://sngh.penang-assemblies.org>

FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Klang Valley Regional Report

Klang Valley Assembly Elders' Committee (KVAEC)

The Klang Valley Assembly Elders' Committee (KVAEC) was formed in 1993 and its first Chairman was N. Thiran, then an elder of Bangsar Gospel Centre. He is now currently an elder of Kelana Jaya Gospel Centre. The formation of KVAEC was to address the felt need for the elders of English Speaking assemblies to come together for prayer, fellowship and to discuss and where appropriate to decide on matters deemed beneficial for unity, development and growth of the assemblies in the Klang Valley.

In the initial years a few assemblies were represented in the KVAEC. We praise and thank the Lord that interests among the assemblies grew and today we have a good number of assemblies which are actively participating in the activities and programmes planned by KVAEC. As of today, we have 12 English Speaking assemblies located in Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur and 16 others in the Klang Valley making a total of 28.

We are grateful to the Lord for the various Chairmen who had held office faithfully since 1993. Presently, the normal KVAEC meetings are held bi-monthly at the Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur with the kind permission of the elders there. However, when there is a dinner meeting, this will normally be held in the host assembly in order to promote unity and enhance fellowship among the elders of Klang Valley assemblies.

The KVAEC has proven to be an effective forum to discuss and disseminate timely information to help keep assemblies abreast of current events and situations that might affect the assemblies and churches in the country. In addition, it has been effective in planning events and programmes for the benefit of the assemblies in the Klang Valley. We are now witnessing a better networking and partnership among the assemblies in carrying out specific projects for the development and growth in the Lord's work within the region and beyond.



Besides, the assemblies, representatives from other Brethren Agencies are also invited to sit in at the KVAEC meetings. The purpose is for them to update the assembly elders regarding the progress and development of their respective ministries. The regular agencies represented are GLO, MMS Trust, OA Ministry, Inter Brethren Assembly Youth Development (IBAYD), Family Life Ministry and CBSM. Occasionally, the KVAEC also receives reports and updates from other agencies for purpose of prayer and support.

We look forward to see greater commitment and more fruitful participation of elders and assemblies in the Klang Valley to extend God's Kingdom to the praise and glory of His Name.

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Photo(Above): A Klang Valley Assembly Elders Committee Gathering

NAME OF ELDER ASSEMBLY

Front Row (L to R)

Christopher Leong	Antioch Network Community
Chong Ah Kow	Klang Gospel Hall
Ng See Yen	Melawati Gospel Centre
Lim Heng Leong	Teratai Mewah Gospel Centre
Chang Siew Hong	Ampang Gospel Centre
Stephen Lew	Kepong Gospel Chapel
N. Thiran	Kelana Jaya Gospel Centre
Kwan Kow Chuen	Sg. Way Christian Church
Heng Thin Fook	Sg. Way Christian Church
Philip Ng	Port Klang Gospel Hall

Middle Row (L to R)

Robert Quay	Jalan Imbi Chapel
Lian Mung Yee	Petra Gospel Centre
Wong San Tosh	Jalan Imbi Chapel
Yap Kok Keong	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre
Tang Soon Hong	Teratai Mewah Gospel Centre
Ong Hock Chye	Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre
Wong Sai Weng	The Life Chapel
Lim Seok Hoay	Cheras Gospel Centre
Jimmy Chok	Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur
Mow Kam Yeen	Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre

Rear Row (L to R)

Calvin Tan	Bangsar Gospel Centre
Rudy Yeoh	The Life Chapel
Allan Yong	Ampang Gospel Centre
Tan Seng Kuan	Setapak Gospel Centre
Wang Leong Heng	Setapak Gospel Centre
Anthony Too	Jalan Imbi Chapel
Tan Kong Beng	Subang Jaya Gospel Centre
Dexter Ng	Shah Alam Gospel Centre
Michael Goh	Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur
Lim Hon Chew	Jalan Imbi Chapel
Daniel Chew	TTDI Gospel Centre
Kuek Heng Kuang	Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre

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CHAIRMANSHIP OF KVAEC

Term	Assembly	Elder
1991–1994	Bangsar Gospel Centre	N. Thiran
1995–1996	The Life Chapel	James Khoo
1997–1998	Cheras Gospel Centre	Lim Seok Hoay
1999–2000	Petaing Jaya Gospel Hall	Ong Hock Chye
2001–2002	Kepong Gospel Chapel	Stephen Lew
2003–2004	Ampang Gospel Centre	Chang Siew Hong
2005–2006	Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur	Michael Goh
2007–2008	Melawati Gospel Centre	Ng See Yen
2009–2010	Petra Gospel Centre	Lian Mung Yee

Getting to Know N. Thiran



Since his childhood, Nyanen Thiran has been associated with the assemblies, commencing with the Sunday school and receiving Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord in his youth. He was baptized in the Taiping Gospel Hall by elder Daniel Jevaraj on 21 August 1962.

Thiran's first labour of love and service for the Lord was, in the mid-1960s, when he was in the Serdang College (now known as UPM). He initiated the setting up of a student Christian Fellowship with the prayer support of Chua Wee Hian (the general secretary of FES, Malaysia). The fellowship began with just five attending but by the end of two years just before he completed his studies, the fellowship had grown to about 40 and the college authority even authorized the use of its college bus to send the Christians on Sunday to Jalan Imbi Chapel (JIC) for the Lord's Supper.

His first posting was to Kuala Kangsar (Perak) in 1968 for two years. He soon found himself managing (together with some of local believers) the medium-sized Sunday School of about 60-70 children that was held each Sunday in Clifford School. In early 1970 he gladly handed the work over to William Chee who still oversees the ministries there. Thiran's next posting was to Ipoh and this led him to move into Batu Gajah to help Khor Khoon Wau. Hence, Thiran together with Fun Chen Cheong (both bachelors then) helped in establishing the English work and maintaining the Sunday school started by the Ditzers in the Royal English School. The first Lord's Supper in English commenced in early 1971. Initially the congregation members were all men.

Between 1978 and 1981 when Thiran was an elder of Seremban Gospel Chapel (SGC) he traveled regularly around the whole of Negeri Sembilan. Seeing need for Christian fellowship in Kuala Pilah he began a Christian fellowship group in a doctor's clinic there. He travelled every Tuesday night to conduct Bible Study as well as to have fellowship with believers and non-believers who came. Initially, the group started with three members and in less than a year the group grew to more than 20 people. However, with Thiran's transfer back to Kuala Lumpur most of the members moved on to join other local churches.

In 1998 Thiran discussed individually with many of assembly leaders regarding the possibility of organizing the first "Assembly Leaders Conference" where elders, deacons and ministry leaders could meet for fellowship, and interact with one another on current issues, proclamation of the gospel, training, OA missions and resources sharing. His initial initiative bore fruits when he was able to organize the first Assembly Leaders' Conference on 26th–28th April 1990 at HCC, where 102 persons attended. This resulted in greater cooperation amongst assemblies particularly in the areas of OA ministry and the training ministry. Additionally, in July 1990 he was able to bring together the oversights of JIC and the Kuala Lumpur Gospel Hall, together with some members of the Christian Brethren Property Trust, to settle amicably the issue of the KL mission house in Jalan Hang Jebat (Davidson Road). Finally, in 1991, by the grace of God, he was able to bring together the Klang Valley Elders to meet once in three months to discuss assembly ministries and other matters related to collaboration, co-operation and sharing of assembly resources including visiting speakers, for greater growth and development of the Lord's Kingdom. ■

FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Highlands Christian Centre

by Chin Yean Leong



The new Mission House which will be ready soon.

The Pioneers And Their Vision

Cameron Highlands is renowned for its cool and peaceful surroundings. The mountains, trees, flowers and fresh clean air make it an ideal place for rest and spiritual renewal.

In 1959, Mr. Sung Chiew Hoay, a pioneer of Cameron Highlands Gospel Hall, managed to secure a piece of land for the church. It was the vision of the early pioneers to have a church building for worship and witness, a Mission House for Full-Time Workers and Christians to have a rest and a campsite for spiritual renewal of believers.

An example of vision and sacrifice moved by the Lord brought the dream into reality

One day, I visited a local Christian farmer who had been giving regularly and generously to the HCC building fund. He invited me into his simple wooden house. Everything inside was simple and I noticed that the house actually needed repair. Why was he giving so much to the HCC building fund where he would not even stay when the house he was staying needed repair? So I asked him, "Why are you giving to the HCC?" He told me this: "When I accepted Jesus Christ, this was the most wonderful thing in my life. If I

can, I would like to be a missionary to bring the life giving gospel of Jesus Christ to others, but I cannot. I am a farmer and I only know how to plant. If I can, I would like to be a preacher, to teach the Word of God and build others up in their faith, but I cannot. I do not have the knowledge and ability. If I can, I will like to be a Sunday School teacher to teach children the truths of God while they are young, but I cannot. I do not have the skills and capabilities. I am a farmer, not a teacher. The HCC is a good thing. Cameron Highlands is a place many people want to come. God has given us this piece

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of land. When the HCC is built many camps and retreats will be held here. Many will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and many will be saved. Many will listen to the Word of God and be refreshed, strengthened and built up in their faith. Tired missionaries and Christians can rest here in the cool, beauty and peace of Cameron Highlands and be refreshed and go back ready to serve the Lord. This is a very good thing. Here is something I can do. I can give to the building of the HCC."

Over the years, thousands have used the HCC, heard the gospel, received Jesus Christ as Saviour, have been encouraged and built up in their faith, fellowshiped with other Christians, and enjoyed the cool and beauty of Cameron Highlands. The RBS (Residential Bible School), O.A. camp, Tamil camp, and many church and family camps were held here. Thousands have used this place and have been blessed. ■

For bookings, please contact:

Bro. Randy Chok
Tel: 05-4956487 / 012-5070398
E-mail: randychok@hotmail.com



(L to R): Mr. Chin Yean Leong (present Chairman), Mr. Ang Chui Pek, Mr. See Kah Leong, Mr. Randy Chok, Mr. Kodimani, Mr. Paniselvam and Mr. William Tan.
(Not in photo): Mr. Cheah Wing Choong, Mr. Tiong Kian Boon and Mr. Andrew Kee



Good food with good cooks : Sister Kam Yoke, the HCC cook, and Mrs .Chin



The Chins in Cameron Highlands

Bro. Chin Yean Leong is a retired District Education Officer of Bentong District. He is active in preaching and occasionally ministers at Temerloh Gospel Chapel as well as Cameron Highlands Gospel Hall where he had once served as an elder. He also teaches at GLO School, Taiping. His other interest is in Gospel illusions in children's ministry. Bro. Yean Leong is also the current Chairman of the Highlands Christian Centre Committee which is currently busy with the Mission House Project undertaken by Cameron Highlands Gospel Hall.

Bro. Yean Leong fellowshiped with Malacca Gospel Hall, Cameron Highlands Gospel Hall (1969–1982) and Temerloh Gospel Chapel (1984–1989). He has been an elder with Bentong Gospel Centre since 1990.

Bro. Yean Leong married his wife, Chan Siow Hong, on 15th February 1969. They are blessed with a son, En Tek who is married to Constance and a daughter, En Ai.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Biblical Eldership Training Seminar

Jointly Organized by CBSM & Jalan Imbi Chapel

Date:
17th to 19th March 2011

Venue:
Genting View Resort, Genting Highlands

Trainer:
Alexander Strauch
Author of the influential book,
*Biblical Eldership—An Urgent Call to
Restore Biblical Church
Leadership*

Alexander Strauch's other books include-

- *Meetings that Work*
- *The New Testament Deacon:
Minister of Mercy*
- *The Hospitality Commands*
- *Agape Leadership*
- *Men and Women: Equal Yet Different*
- *Love or Die*

In order to better understand the felt leadership needs of our assemblies, CBSM conducted a nationwide survey in April 2010. The needs of the local assemblies, large and small are many and urgent. These common issues have been identified and will be addressed at this coming seminar. This coming—Biblical Leadership Training Seminar—is intended not just for serving elders but also for deacons and other potential male leaders. God knows our needs and out of His love for our assemblies has put in place this critical seminar for our benefit.



Participants of Alexander Strauch's training seminar held in Jalan Imbi Chapel in 2009

CBSM'S NEW OFFICE IN KUALA LUMPUR

