

CB|S|M

Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia

July 2015

# diakonia

ONE LORD, ONE MISSION, ONE HEART



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

First of all, a grateful note of thanks to all who contributed to this issue. I am sure it has been a challenge for many to commit thoughts to paper given the busy schedule of all. There is also a risk that what goes into print may not be taken in the right manner. So, in some ways, doing this is each individual's way of denying yourself and taking up your cross. May the Lord add His blessings to all of you who contributed to this issue of the Diakonia for the edification of the saints.



I want to specially thank Moey Yoke Lai and Teo Pek Bing who took the trouble to go through the entire draft of this issue and helped to make significant improvements. Especially Ms. Moey who in the midst of her very busy schedule drove all the way to my office so we could go through the draft together. What an encouragement both of you have been!

Editing this issue has been my own little journey of faith – how to find the time in an already packed schedule at work and in church; what happens if we do not have enough articles for an issue of the Diakonia? The first instinct is to indicate the usual “no time”. How much easier it would be if there was a definite sign – “GO DO THIS”. No signs were forthcoming but a need was clearly evident.

As usual, I fumbled around and the Lord picked up my mess. In the process, my weaknesses got exposed, His blessings unfolded and I move another step along His personalized sanctification process for me.

In preparing this issue, I have been blessed with communicating with so many people of the assemblies that I would not have otherwise known. After many years of myopic focus on our little assembly at Bukit Mertajam and a failed effort in starting a work in Kulim, it has been encouraging to see the way the Lord has worked among the assemblies through the many committed people who truly love the Lord. I give thanks to God for your encouragement as I read of your works and also in the various communications with so many of you.

At the end, I am glad I took this little journey through the narrow road, navigating through some personal limitations to do this. A small price to pay to learn experientially a bit more about God's faithfulness and how his Hands have moved in the assemblies. Our God is truly able!

Khong Yoon Loong

## CBSM BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



We are at a tumultuous time both in our country and in the world. We hear of religious murders, same sex marriages, secular denial of God, and murder of unborn babies. We hear of wars and rumours of wars. Indeed the end is nigh. We take comfort in the rod & staff of our Great and Good Shepherd. Indeed,

we face challenging times ahead. Will we still enjoy the freedom we have been experiencing for many years? Are we prepared? Are the Malaysian saints ready? Not that we know the worst will happen but we want to seek the Lord. It is with this in mind that we prepare for ALC 2015.

The theme will be *"The Trial of Faith"* from 1 Peter 1:7, where faith is being refined and tested by fire. The early Christians in the Diaspora were being encouraged by the apostle even as they face trials of many kinds. May we take the lessons from scripture and stand firm in His grace. We are privileged to have our brother Loh Ah Asiau to be the keynote speaker. He has seen and experienced places

where the gospel is being suppressed. Pray with us as he shares the Lord's Word & grace in such places.

It was with great apprehension that I accepted the role as chairman of CBSM in 2014. All the previous chairmen were like spiritual giants to me, serving relentlessly, initiating new moves to minister to the assemblies. I felt inadequate. Perhaps the Lord is reminding me that it is not by power but by His Spirit that these things are accomplished. And indeed, He has begun His work. The trustees he has assigned have been more than helpful. They are highly committed and have travelled great distances for meetings, sacrificed time with their families, and all the while still heavily committed to their own assemblies' responsibilities. They have taken on new responsibilities where they had no prior experience. For all that, I thank them. Please pray for the trustees that we might have the wisdom to balance our responsibilities between our homes, home assemblies and assemblies in CBSM.

Teo Pek Bing

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## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Greetings in the name of our Lord! It is my pleasure to share with you the activities of CBSM in the past year as well as those still on-going.

### 1. Trustees' Meeting

According to the Trust Deed, CBSM Trustees are required to hold at least three meetings per year. In 2014, the meetings were held on 8 March (CBSM Office), 13 May (Temerloh Gospel Chapel) and 11 October (Burmah Road Gospel Hall). Four meetings were scheduled for 2015: 7 March (CBSM Office), 9 May (Melaka Gospel Chapel), 1 August (Klang Gospel Hall) and the final meeting for the year on 10 October (CBSM Office). An Extraordinary Trustees' Meeting was held on 13 June 2015 to discuss the Nepal earthquake disaster relief budget and programme.



### 2. Assembly Elders and Commended Workers Consultation (AECWC) 2014

AECWC 2014, the 4<sup>th</sup> in the series, was held on 22 November at the Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall. The primary purpose of the AECWC, which is akin to an interim ALC, is to facilitate elders and commended workers to discuss on matters that have been raised or decided upon at the last ALC. The theme for AECWC 2014 was "Magnifying His Name Together", and topics for discussion included the following: a) Practical issues of Commended Workers, b) Commended Workers Support Structure, and c) CBSM Foundation & Legacies. AECWC 2014 saw an increased participation of commended workers.

### 3. Disaster Relief

#### a) Flood Relief – Kelantan and Temerloh

Due to the northeast monsoon, heavy rains and the subsequent flooding forced thousands to flee their homes in Kelantan and Terengganu.

Several other states were also affected by floods. In Pahang the worst hit was Temerloh and the floods severely affected many OA villages in the surrounding areas. CBSM established a "Disaster Relief Fund" to help alleviate the suffering of the flood victims. Malaysian assemblies and individuals contributed a total of RM97,143 to the Fund. A sum was given to Kota Bharu Chapel to assist members and their families affected by the flood in the Kelantan. Assistance to the OA villages was channeled through the Pan Malaysia OA Mission for the rebuilding of livelihood among the affected families.

#### **b) Earthquake Relief - Nepal**

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April and a subsequent 7.3 magnitude quake on 12 May caused massive destructions in Nepal. Thousands of homes and schools especially in villages close to the epicenter were destroyed. The death toll from the two quakes surpassed 8,500. The earthquake devastated many families and individuals gathered at KMC. Many of their homes have been damaged and their regular employment and livelihood have suffered greatly. The road to recovery for Nepal will be a long and tedious journey.

CBSM launched the Nepal Disaster Relief Fund and appealed to Malaysian assemblies to come forward to help our fellow brethren and those displaced by the quake. To-date, a total of RM352,000 was raised for the Fund. The first round of aid distribution took place in mid-May. The items distributed to some 140 families in the Ree villages included solar power sets, flysheet tents, rice, Dhal, sugar, cooking oil, raincoats and medicines. Financial assistance were also given to believers in KMC and Madi village. The next round of distribution would be in June. In the longer term, the relief efforts would involve: a) Rebuilding lives of individuals and families, b) Rebuilding houses of worship, c) Provision of resources to restart livelihood, and d) Restoring the village clinic and continuing education for the children.

#### **4. Nepal Mission Project**

CBSM office continues to receive and remit love gifts to support our commended worker Amar Tamang and the operations and activities of the Katmandu Mission Centre (KMC). A Social Fund was also established to assist some students from the outlying villages with their tuition fees, board and lodging in Kathmandu.

#### **5. Opening of Bank Accounts**

CBSM assisted two agencies (PMOAM and PITH) to open their bank accounts in 2014. CBSM will continue to assist assemblies and agencies to open bank accounts under the special arrangement worked out with Public Bank Berhad.

#### **6. CBSM Office**

CBSM is thankful to the 24 assemblies for the regular love gifts to support CBSM operations. However, the amount of financial support received in 2014 was just sufficient to meet expenditure during the same year. This was mainly because our Admin Assistant, Patricia, went on no-pay leave for 6 months. If her salary were included, CBSM would still be operating on a deficit budget. Please pray that the assemblies will take note of this need to enable CBSM to continue its service.

Sister Patricia Lim, who had served faithfully as the Admin Assistant at the CBSM Office for more than 3 years, tendered her resignation because of her personal and family commitments. We thank Patricia for her selfless service. CBSM is looking for a replacement for Patricia and anyone interested should contact the General Secretary.

#### **7. Christian Brethren of Malaysia Property Trust Bhd. (CBMPTB)**

CBSM has agreed in principle to handle the administrative duties of CBMPTB. However, the statutory matters of CBMPTB pertaining to tax and company secretarial duties will continue to be handed by professional firms. The actual date for the transfer of administrative duties to CBSM will be worked out with CBMPTB.

#### **8. Publications, Books, Resources and Archive**

The Diakonia published by CBSM is distributed free of charge to the assemblies. A monthly prayer newsletter is sent out via email. Alexander Strauch's book "Biblical Eldership" and the accompanying Mentor's Guide and Study Guide are still available at RM60 per set of 3 books.

CBSM is attempting to build up an archive of materials relating assembly work in Malaysia. Assemblies and individuals with useful materials, church magazines, photos, etc are encouraged to send copies to CBSM.

#### **9. Coming Events: Assembly Leaders' Conference (ALC) 2015**

ALC 2015 will be held during 6 - 8 December at the Grand Kampar Hotel. The conference themed "The Trial of Faith", will adopt the same 3-tracks format used in ALC 2013, i.e. the men, women and youth sessions. The keynote speaker is Mr. Loh Ah Asiau.

*Stephen Lew*

## CBSM BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2015)



Teo Pek Bing  
Chairman,  
Regional Rep., Penang  
*Sg. Nibong Gospel Hall*



Jimmy Chok  
Regional Rep. Wilayah  
*Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur*



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Dr. Stephen Chang  
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Gan Tian Eng  
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*Klang Jaya Gospel Chapel*



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Stephen Yam  
*Kampar Gospel Hall*



Chris Tay  
Regional Rep. Selangor Lead  
*Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre*



Frederick Tan  
Regional Rep. N. Sembilan Lead  
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**MMS Trust**  
*The Greatest Treasure of All.*  
Chris Tay

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (Matthew 13:44)

Lots of people are completely content to have Jesus as a Saviour, forgiving them of all their sin. Few are ready to have him as the Lord of their life, leading and growing them in godliness. But have you ever thought of Christ as your Treasure?

One of Jesus' parables in Matthew's Gospel follows a man into a field. He was walking through the field and stumbled on something unusual, something out of place. He probably did not know what he had found at first. He never expected to find random riches in a field. But he did. He discovered a lifetime's worth of wealth, just lying unguarded, unclaimed in his path.

"How can I have this treasure? What do I have to give or do to own and experience and spend this treasure forever?" That was the man's response, and he knew he had to own the field to have the treasure. So he sold everything he had so that he would have enough money to buy the field. Was it worth it?

The point of the parable is to highlight the infinite, precious worth of knowing Jesus and being known by Him. The man sold everything to have this treasure. He gave up his home, his furniture, his livestock — anything that had any value. He sacrificed things he had made, gifts that had been given to him, possessions he had for years. He said goodbye to it all in an instant, and he did so because he could see what he would gain would far surpass everything he had ever owned up until that point.

Now you may ask – what has this parable to do with the MMS (Malaysian Missionary Service)? When I read this parable, I think of our commended workers who have given up everything because they have found a treasure which demands their all. This is how I feel about our workers, many of whom I do not know. They are just a name in our year end list which we compile to send gifts.

Most of these workers send a thank you note. But deep down in me, I feel so much inadequacy wondering whether I can do more. I wonder how our workers are faring out there in the mission field. Are they lonely? Are they discouraged? Are they under attack and need prayer reinforcement? Do they worry about what would happen when they come back and settle in as an ordinary member in the church? Will support be slowly turned off?

Have they seen a great miracle in their midst that they yearn to share not only with their commending assembly but to everyone? They want to be like the psalmist who "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises". (Ps 98:4). Do we hear their joyful sound?

Many of us are thinking about them, praying for them and supporting them. If only they know!

To be frank, I am having difficulty writing this article about our commended workers, our very own full time workers from the assemblies. I pray that this article will be a wake-up call to all of us; a wake-up call to the mission of the church.

The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit, gathering these disciples into churches that they may worship and obey Jesus now and into eternity to the glory of God the Father.

At MMS, our aim is to partner with local churches as we believe the local church has the key role to play in sending, commending and supporting workers into God's service.

There is a big difference between a church that "has" missionaries (on the back of their bulletin or as a line item in their budget) and a church that "sends" missionaries.

To send in a manner worthy of God is to so recognize the supreme importance of proclaiming the Name of Jesus in word and deed among the nations that we will do whatever we can to support those who go out for the sake of His Name - spiritually, practically, emotionally, financially.

Those who are not called to go out for the sake of His Name are called to stay for the sake of His Name, to be salt and light right where God has placed them, and to join others in sending those who are called to be cross-cultural missionaries. In God's eyes both the goers and the senders are crucial. There are no first and second class Christians in God's hierarchy of values. Together the goers and the senders are "fellow-workers with the truth" (3 John 8).

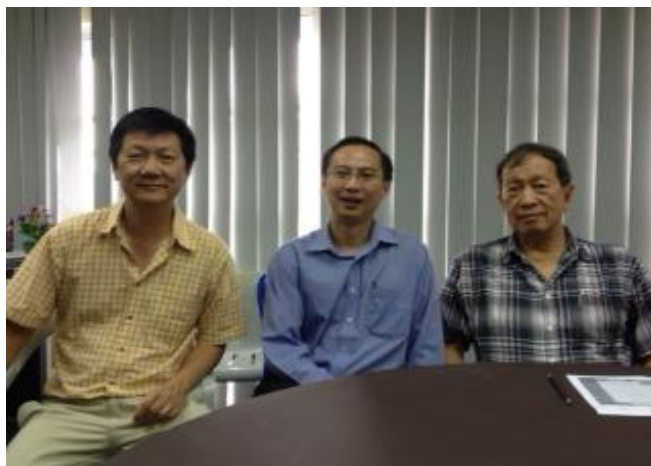
Each church will face the responsibility of supporting God's servants, whether they work locally, or are sent elsewhere. If we send, then we need to support those whom God has called.

In closing, let us come back to the parable. The message of the parable is not only for commended workers but applies to all of us!

If we don't love and treasure Jesus like this, then we don't know him. Everlasting life in and with him is simply and undeniably worth more than anything else we can buy or build or obtain here on earth. Massive homes are as nothing. Beautiful, expensive cars are as nothing. Clothing, hobbies, Apple products, books, businesses, animals, televisions — all

nothing compared with our Christ. He is worth all to us. He is all our strength, all our heart, all our hope. All our heart and all our hope is with the crucified and risen Treasure of our hearts. He truly is, and will be, our all in all.

Let us pray with the apostle Paul, "that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly (run swiftly) and be glorified" (2 Thess 3:1) through us and those whom we send.



The writer with our missionary to China (Pang) & MMS Chairman, Ong Hock Chye

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### **Pan Malaysia OA Mission**

*Chris Tay & Ong Hock Chye*



Pujilah TUHAN!

Hai kamu hamba-hamba TUHAN,

Pujilah nama-Nya!

Hendaklah nama-Nya disanjung,

Sekarang dan selama-lamanya.

Dari timur ke barat,

nama Tuhan harus dipuji

(Mazmur 113:1-3)

Every Sunday, more than 5,000 of our Orang Asli (OA) brothers & sisters lift up their hands & worship the Lord in the multitude of tribes and villages spread across the vast forest near Tapah and Temerloh. And every day, the sowing and watering done by our fellow OA brethren continue to bear much fruit, to the glory of our God and Lord! Despite the many challenges and hindrances, the Lord continues to add to His church daily and many are baptized each year.

As we continue to serve faithfully, we are aware that the window of opportunity is getting smaller by the day. However, we take great comfort from the Lord Himself who is the real builder of His church who says, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18 NKJV).

The Assembly's involvement in the work among the OA began more than 60 years ago. Through the hard work & sacrifices of many brothers & sisters and the Lord's blessings upon OA ministry, the work continues relentlessly, reaching more and more OA tribes and villages. Currently, the work is coordinated and spearheaded by the Pan Malaysia OA Mission (PMOAM). The PMOAM reports to Klang Valley Assembly Elders' Council.

PMOAM's mission is to reach out to the OA Community, to disciple the OA Christians to maturity and to equip them for service and missions. For 2015 to 2020, the PMOAM has drafted strategies in reaching and enriching the OA community.

**Strategies**

*Reaching & Enriching OA via*

**3Es**

1. Evangelism & church planting
2. Education (spiritual & scholastic)
3. Economic **enhancement** projects & assistance

#### **1. Evangelism & Church Planting**

We believe that the OA should have the privilege to know the joy of knowing the Lord. In Tapah, PMOAM in partnership with Sidang Injil OA (SIOA) has come up with:

### **Vision 50:20**

We pray that there will be **50** thriving/vibrant OA churches in the villages in Tapah region by the year **2020**. Currently, there are 32 OA churches in Tapah region.

What needs to be done?

- a. Adopt a systematic method of profiling & mapping the terrain
- b. Identify & support more workers
- c. Strengthen leadership by developing & equipping current & future leaders
- d. Actively seek the construction of new church buildings

#### **2. Education (Spiritual & Scholastic)**

We believe that knowledge is a catalyst for change & transformation hence there should be education initiatives for the whole spectrum of OA communities - adults, youths & children covering both spiritual and academic aspects.

#### **Spiritual**

- a. Systematic biblical teaching for adults, youths & children using our in-house materials or in collaboration with organizations such as CEF, RBC.
- b. Equipping & developing our leaders & workers.

## Academic

Encourage & provide facilities for youth & children to achieve academic excellence with programs such as:

- a. One church, One library
- b. Community celebration for milestones
- c. Field trips to vocational colleges & universities
- d. Scholarships & grants to pursue tertiary education in private & overseas universities.

### 3. Economic Enhancement & Assistance for OA communities



We care for the welfare of the Lord's workers and the community. By caring for the OA, we shine His light into the hearts of OA.

Some key initiatives:

- a. Identify the types of business activities via **SHINE** projects that will help them to be self-sufficient, which in turn will enable the OA church to be self-reliant and better funded in the long term.
- b. Be the first to provide relief in times of crisis & help them rebuild their lives

## Budget

Annual operational expenses amounts to RM380,000. The main bulk of General Fund covers workers allowance (for full-time & part-time workers in Tapah & Temerloh), relief, vehicle, training and other operational expenses. More OA workers are needed to cater to the increased number of believers and work in new villages.

## Building Construction Expenses

For 2015, construction of 2 new churches & a Mission House (2 storey) requires RM200,000

For 2016 – 2020, we forecast that 3 churches would be built yearly at cost of RM150,000 annually.

The Mission House in Batu 8, Tapah is the key to unlock the full potential of the various strategies.

### Evangelism & Church Planting

The Mission House would be the main venue used for training, discipling and accommodation. Presently, training is done at HCC, Cameron Highlands but it would be more cost effective & less time consuming if these are done at the mother church where it is near to most villages.

### Education

The Mission House would be the place for centralized training & study during the school holidays to help OA youth & children improve their studies. Vacation Bible School (VBS), Residential Bible School (RBS), Youth Camps could be held there. It is more productive for teachers & trainers to go to one place instead of to all the villages.

### Economic Development

The Mission House would be the main venue used to train the OA in the techniques of farming, optimizing the use of lands & financial aspects of business. We will use this place to be the launching pad for SHINE projects.

The areas in front of Mission House might be used for centralize collection of the produce from OA villages for subsequent transportation to Klang Valley, Ipoh or Penang.

We request that you remember the labour of these OA workers as they soldier on to bring the gospel to the spiritually needy OA. We also request that you uphold all the brothers and sisters from the various assemblies who travel regularly to the villages to help out the work.

Should you require further information and clarification, kindly contact us at [pmoam1@gmail.com](mailto:pmoam1@gmail.com).

## JOIN US



Pray that The Lord would guide us in this OA work as we look beyond 2015 until His glorious return.

Many challenges are ahead of us but we believe that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.

The journey is made much smoother with support and partnership of many individuals and assemblies.

Thanks for your fellowship & partnership in the various projects of PMOAM which encourage us in going further.

If you would like to support this ministry, you can prepare your gift payable to:

**"Pan Malaysia OA Mission"**

Public Bank Bhd Acct no 3192916101, Bandar Puchong Jaya branch, Selangor, Malaysia

## The Earthquake in Nepal

*Lee Kha Khooi & Amar Tamang*



25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 will indeed be a very sad day for the people of Nepal, as the country was struck by an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale.

The recent earthquakes in Nepal, and the ongoing aftershocks, landslides and avalanches have dramatically affected the lives of all Nepalis. It is estimated some 2.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

On that day, our brethren in KMC were having their Lord's Supper meeting when the earthquake happened.

The Malaysian assemblies have a work in Nepal under CBSM known as the Nepal Mission Project, providing regular financial support and guidance to our full time

commended worker, Amar Tamang who started the work at Lalitpur, Kathmandu known as Kathmandu Mission Centre (KMC) in 2010.

In 2013, KMC made contact with the Ree villages in Dhading to try to establish a work up in the hills, near to the Himalayas. A mission team from Malaysia visited the villages to share the gospel, taking more than 8 hours to track up the hills to the Ree villages.

But the work did not materialize, probably due to the distance, as it was about 8 hours journey by jeep and another 8 hours to track up the hills.



Instead, the work was extended to Madi Village in Chitwan.

On that tragic day, the earthquake devastated many families in the Ree villages and their homes were destroyed.

AND THEY CALLED US FOR HELP !

For our brethren in KMC, their regular employment and livelihood were affected.

CBSM Trustees Board took the initiative to commence a Disaster Relief Fund and notices of appeal were sent out to the assemblies in the country.



Meanwhile, 2 Nepalese brothers, John Prakash and Prakash Tamang were requested to conduct a survey of their villages and their neighbouring villages in the Ree Hills to gather information for CBSM to work out an action plan, with Amar coordinating the work. And 140 families were identified.

In middle of May, 2 committee members of the Nepal Mission Project went to Nepal to assess the situation and provided the immediate help to the people. We distributed tents, raincoats, old clothings, basic food needs (rice, sugar, etc), and financial assistance. Most of the people now live in tents as their homes were destroyed.



Lorries were hired to send food that was bought to the foot hills and distributed to the brethren in the Ree villages.

This month, June, is the start of the monsoon period and landslides. Avalanches are expected to happen as the land has been shaken by the earthquakes. This will be the next challenge for the Committee!

This is only the beginning of the work as we bring relief to our brethren, to help them to rehabilitate and rebuild their lives.

Pray for CBSM Trustees Board and the Nepal Mission Project Committee and the Nepalese brethren especially Amar and John Prakash.



**Amar Tamang and his family at KMC**



**John Prakash and his family of ReeVillage**

**From disaster comes opportunity! In June 13<sup>th</sup>, the CBSM Trustees met to consider mission activities post- earthquake at Nepal.**

**PRAY FOR NEPAL!**

### My Journey in Education

*Moey Yoke Lai*



I never wanted to be a teacher! I had seen my cousin bring home piles of exercise books to be marked and I did not want to end up doing that myself. I wanted to be a doctor. These were my thoughts as I grew up and went to secondary school. Home life was difficult and hence I threw myself into all the activities in school.

In Form Two, I attended an evening meeting conducted by the Teen Team from America. They sang beautifully. When the speaker took the stage, I hung on to every word he said. That night I became a Christian. I kept that a secret from my mother when I reached home. Night by night I read the bible and grew quietly.

In Form Five I was elected President of the Christian Union in school. One day, the principal, Miss E.M. Cooke, spoke on "Careers" in the CU meeting. She said, "Many of us pray and ask God to bless our choice of career and to open doors for us to walk into the chosen pathway. That is the wrong way to pray. We must pray and ask God to show us what He would like us to do with our lives. God has a blueprint for each of us. Ask Him to reveal His will for your life and live to glorify His Name."

Those words hit me hard. I had chosen to be a doctor and not to be a teacher. I went home that night and confessed to the Lord that I had done wrong and asked for His forgiveness. I put away all my own thoughts and asked him to show me clearly what He wanted me to pursue. I told Him that I had only one life to live and I wanted to live for His glory. After that night I did not know what I wanted to be.

After Form Five, while I waited for the Sixth Form Entrance Examination results to be released, I taught Sunday School to relieve Miss Margaret Gibson who went back to Australia for a holiday. And I discovered I enjoyed preparing for the lessons and teaching the lessons. I enjoyed the interaction with my students and leading them to know the Lord and I found myself praying for each of them and being concerned for their well-being at home and in school.

Then I had an opportunity to teach geography in Form Two to relieve a teacher who went on maternity leave. This was different from Sunday School teaching. It involved marking books, setting tests, taking attendance, following the scheme of work set, reporting the progress of the students and a whole host of other things. I found out that I actually

enjoyed doing that as well. To this day, some of the students whom I taught then still keep in touch with me. The Lord was showing me that He had given me a gift for teaching.

In June of my Upper Sixth year, we were invited to fill up the forms for the Colombo Plan Scholarship. I held on to the form till the last night before date due. I prayed to the Lord and asked Him to open the door for me to follow His will for my life and to close the door if I did not choose correctly. Among all the fields listed in the form, two stood out – medicine and education. I picked education finally and sent the form in.

It was the first week of semester two of my first year in the University of Malaya when I received a letter from the government informing me that I had been awarded the Colombo Plan Scholarship to pursue Education in the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. In September 1969 I arrived in UBC, Vancouver and had a wonderful three years of growing intellectually and spiritually. I graduated with B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics and then went on to Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and enrolled in the MacArthur School of Education. I was awarded a B.Edn in 1973. And I was ready to begin a career in Education.

On returning to Malaysia, I was sent by the Public Services Division to Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur where I taught the third term and prepared the Further Mathematics class for the STPM and the Form Five Classes for the SPM. Then I was transferred to Bukit Bintang Girls' Secondary School, my alma mater, where I spent nine wonderful years teaching Mathematics and Bible Knowledge, and getting involved in all the activities of the school. The Senior Christian Union grew to 250 strong in membership while the Junior Christian Union which met on Saturdays grew to 350 strong. Many girls became Christians as a result of the BK classes and the CU meetings. We began a CU Camp in December 1974 and this camp continues today as the Girls' Christian Camp.

Meanwhile, the headmistress was training me in all the activities of the school. I was asked to help the Senior Assistant with the preparation of the time-tables at the end of the year. I was also appointed as Panel Head of Mathematics, teacher advisor of the Science and Mathematics Society and I helped to look after the Christian Union programme and cell groups. Another year, I was put in charge of the table tennis club, the school magazine and a sports house.

The Prefects Board was also given to my charge for me to learn what is involved in maintaining discipline in the school. The school magazine was one of the biggest challenges I faced and I learnt a great deal about proof-reading and the work involved in its production. All these on top of being a Form Teacher, House Mistress, being a member of the PIBG committee, fund-raising through Food and Fun Fairs and class food sales. School life was exciting to say the least.

In 1975, I was suddenly transferred to SMK(Ing) Rawang. It was traumatic. I was torn from my beloved alma mater. After committing the matter to the Lord, I accepted it and began to teach with all my might. In my second week there, a boy approached me and asked if I would begin a Christian Fellowship in the school. I was thrilled; but said that we should wait till the second term when I knew the school better.

The next week he came with another boy who had a list of 56 names of students who wanted a CF! I could not turn away that request. I approached the headmaster who realised that it would be a good way to occupy the students on a Friday afternoon. He suggested that we call it a Fellowship Club. I was overjoyed. The first week we had about 60 students; the following week, 80 students and soon the attendance was more than 120 students. We had wonderful times of singing and Bible studies.

Soon the students wanted more than Friday activities and began to drop in to the Rawang Church set up by the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, on Saturdays. The church which was begun about twenty years ago had only about 8 members who conducted services in Chinese on Sundays. Miss Edith Cork was the missionary there. The influx of students required more staff to look after them. I spoke to OMF in KL and it was decided that Mr & Mrs Harold Wik should go there every weekend to help with the young peoples' work.

Three months into the school programme, the Pengarah Pendidikan of Wilayah Persekutuan visited the school and related to the headmaster that I was required to go back to Kuala Lumpur and teach in Bukit Bintang Girls' School. It seemed that the girls had put in a petition to request for my transfer back to the school. By that time, I had built relationships with the staff and students in Rawang and it was a very emotional farewell that I had to bid to my new friends there. Rawang was a brief interlude in my career which the Lord used to expand His kingdom.

Back in BBGS, life was hectic. Between church at Jalan Imbi Chapel and school, the dynamics of young peoples' work took on an intensity that built in them strong roots of the Christian faith. Young people from different schools in KL and PJ gravitated to the meetings that were held in school and in church. We had an outreach into all parts of the Klang Valley. The Bible Knowledge results in the SPM were outstanding. This inevitably drew the attention of the authorities to BBGS and my involvement there.

The Education Department decided to transfer me out of the school and I was sent to Cochrane Road School.

In 1982 I found myself teaching boys instead of my beloved girls. It was a cultural shock for me. The Lord was shaking salt out of the salt shaker and taught me many valuable lessons about serving Him in the cause of education. I found like-minded teachers who loved young people and joined forces with them. Mr Tan Ooi Seng had begun a CF there and it was a joy to meet with him and the students on a Friday afternoon. Every morning, a hot cup of Milo and biscuits or bread were served to all students who needed sustenance. Within a month, three boys came to ask me to teach them Bible Knowledge for SPM. Thus, began my foray into teaching BK privately, out of school hours. These boys did very well.

During school hours I was teaching Mathematics, Additional Mathematics and Principal Mathematics. I had a taste of the best classes and the most academically challenged classes. There was a boy who fell asleep every day in my Form Five Mathematics class. One day I tapped him on the shoulder to ask him what was wrong. His neighbour pleaded with me not to disturb him and told me that he had to help his father fry *kueh teow* every night till 1.00am. The boy woke up in the middle of all this, apologised for his behaviour and promised me that he would not sleep anymore in my class and would begin to take notes. He kept his word.

Another day, a Form Three boy from a class that had hyper-active tendencies, tested me beyond what I could bear and I slapped him across his face. I was so shocked with myself that I could have done that. I do not know how I carried on teaching that day. When I left the class I immediately called his parents and told them what had happened. They came to the school and told me a long tale of woe. And they thanked me for taking the trouble to discipline their child. I apologised to the parents and to the student and from that day onwards this class was with me and they worked hard at Mathematics to pass the SRP examination.

From Cochrane Road School, I learnt very important lessons on school administration. Ajmer Singh was an excellent headmaster who communicated very well with the staff and with the students. He appointed me as Discipline Mistress. I taught the Sixth Form Principal Mathematics classes which were a joy to teach. Today, many of these students are helming their own companies or holding leading positions in large corporations.

In 1991, I was transferred to Methodist Boys' School as the Afternoon Supervisor on the request of the Council of Education of the Methodist Church. There I was able to put into practice all the things that I had learnt in my previous schools. I began to work on the restoration of the ethos of a mission school – strict discipline undergirded with love, diligent striving for the highest academic standards, devotion to God in the honouring of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To improve the mastery of English, I taught every class English Literature for one period a week, and got to know every boy by name. That helped in resolving problems. I began Bible Knowledge classes before school began and these helped to build the boys in the Christian faith and they became strong leaders in the senior school. Mr Loh Kung Sing, the disciplinarian, was a joy to work with. Between the two of us, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, every aspect of discipline was covered.

By 1995, I was promoted to Senior Assistant in the morning school. I enjoyed working with Mr Loo Wan Yong as the headmaster. We were able to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school in 1997 and successfully garnered together many of the alumni of the school. The Centenary Building Committee launched a fund-raising campaign which collected sufficient money for the new block next to the Primary School. My network of friends was multiplied many times over, reaching into the circles of current students and their parents and old boys and girls of many years back. I learnt that God is ever present to supply all our needs. All we need to do is call upon Him.

In November 1999, I was promoted to head the Methodist Boys' School in Sentul. It was like entering another world. Dirty, dilapidated buildings; demoralised staff and students; disengaged citizenry. I cried to the Lord for help and strength to plant a little bit of BBGS there. With His help and the help of His people, we were able to set up a Welfare Club that provided financial aid for the needy young people of Sentul. Vandalism was rife; but when the boys realised that there was someone who cared for them, the rate of breaking up the school facilities dropped to zero! My adventures in this school will have to be told in a book.

God proved Himself to be all supreme in the affairs of men; that He cares for His children in schools and that He is able to protect His own from the devices of men. Psalm 2 was proven to be true for this season of life. The students were real gems.

In 2002 I was transferred to SMK Kepong Baru. This is a super grade school with almost 3000 in enrolment. New lessons were in store for me there. Discipline and diligence were practised there; but the heart that loved and cared for the students was not evident. Talks at assembly were given to underscore that the individual was important. What each of us does with our lives will count for eternity. What the school needed was a hall big enough to house the large number of students and upgrading of the facilities and the beauty of its surroundings. We entered a period of improving the facilities and to raise funds for the large hall that is there today. I loved the people there and they loved me. There was a time when I helped two senior staff, who were both Christians, be reconciled to each other. What a time of rejoicing followed.

In 2004 the Methodist Church invited me through Miss Yin Kam Yoke to return to Methodist Boys School, Kuala Lumpur. I wondered what I could contribute to MBS in just one year

and three months left to retirement. Miss Yin said, "Plenty!" What a heartbreak it was to leave the KBians. It was a farewell of farewells that they gave me.

In April 2004 I was back in MBSKL. I took off from where things were left in 1999. The alumni came back to help and the balance of funds were raised. The networking together of PIBG, Alumni and the Board of Governors brought into reality the new block that had tripled in cost in the intervening years. God proved Himself able to provide all that we needed to put up the block that would meet the needs of the school in the future. Two new multimedia labs were built; the science labs were air-conditioned; the staff room that was planned met our dreams. The students were cared for and the staff were led into a life of constant giving of themselves. When I was about to retire, Miss Yin asked me to consider becoming CEO of Methodist College Kuala Lumpur.

Here I am today, heading MCKL; long past retirement age. God taught me that there is no retirement in His service. When I joined MCKL in March 2006, there were about 80 students; today we stand at 1460 in enrolment. The buildings were so dilapidated then that a potential student standing at the gate took one look and said to his mother, "Mum, I'm not coming to this College!" The Lord sent His people and His angels to help in the restoration of this wonderful College. Today, MCKL is among the best in providing quality education for the youth of our nation.

Young people, heed God's call to you to become teachers. You will touch lives and therefore touch eternity. Parents, release your children to become teachers. That is a vast mission field to be reached. Young people, do not be afraid of hard work and dangers. God is there to overcome on your behalf. It is His battle; follow His orders.

I sought for adventure; I wanted to scale mountains and cross rivers. God has given me more adventure than I ever dreamed of. He has given me more children than I could ever bear; more brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers than one could ask for. He is a God to be praised and worshipped and adored.

The words of this hymn sum up my life story very well:

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here am I, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here am I, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here am I, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

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## Our nation needs Christian teachers to be shepherds of the young. Will you heed God's call?

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### GLO Level 1 Training: The Benefits of Being Small

*Edwin Yapp*



THE age-old adage, 'Good things come in small packages,' may sound a little cliché but for four teenagers, this is exactly what they experienced after 6 weeks of being at the 2015 GLO Malaysia Level 1 Programme for school leavers.

For Yap Sue Vern, Low Kai Lyn, Justin Lee Jian Han – all of whom hail from Bentong Gospel Hall – and Joyce Ong Yi Nee – from Sungai Ara Gospel Hall, the memories and training they went through from 4th January till 14th February 2015 dispelled any scepticism they initially had before they signed up for the course.

All of them weren't very keen to come to GLO Malaysia's Level 1, held for the very first time at Bidor Gospel Centre (BGC), citing the lack of friends going, as well as how boring it would be attending Bible studies in this sleepy old town in the middle of Perak for 6 weeks.

But much to their surprise, the 4 of them had nothing but praises for the programme they attended, the studies they undertook, the ministries they served in as well as the time they had sharing the Good News Gospel with those who need it most – all despite only having the four of them present at GLO Level 1 programme this year.

"I thought I'd be bored to death," says Justin, adding that he wondered what it would be like to spend 6 weeks in a strange place with only 3 others. "But in the end, I'm glad I came because I learnt so much," he adds.

And for Kai Lyn, literally a new believer only having accepted the Lord in November 2014, it was a real blessing in disguise as coming to GLO Level 1 meant that she could immediately learn the basics of Christianity in the most intensive way after only a couple of months of knowing the Lord personally.

These basics include learning about various Biblical doctrines, quiet time and devotion, Old and New Testament survey, Dispensationalism, as well as hands-on practical workshops on local and overseas missions, how to interpret the Bible, how to preach the Gospel, how to discern God's will, and make decisions for life.

Sue Vern chips in, "I grew up in Bentong Gospel, attended Sunday school all my life and I'm even an elder's daughter. But I'm really glad I came as I've learnt so much more in those six weeks than I have in a long while."

"I love the Sunday School kids in BGC – they are so lively, so full of energy," says Joyce. "They really tire you out but I love working amongst them because they are a blessing, and it gave us a chance to put into practice what we learnt at GLO."

At the end of the day, all four students were convicted that it was ultimately God who had a plan for them to sign up and come for the GLO Level 1, despite the knowledge that there were only 4 who were going to be there.

In their individual testimonies on GLO Level 1 graduation day on 14th February, all four thanked the Lord for leading them to this programme and noted how it had helped them deepen their respective relationships with the Lord.

All the GLO Level 1 programmes were taught by various elders and the workshops run by either deacons or ministry leaders from the various Assemblies.

### **But why Bidor?**

For over 18 years, GLO Malaysia has trained hundreds of Christians on how to apply the living Word to their lives and has taught them relevant skills that they can bring home with them to their respective home Assemblies.

Throughout all these years, the mission of GLO has not changed, which is to equip Christians with the Word and to produce workers for the harvest field.

The Bidor Gospel Centre (BGC) was founded in 1999 and has been an autonomous Assembly since 2008. Led by Elders Cheah Huck Leong and Sivaguru, BGC is a prime example of an Assembly where the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

By shifting GLO Malaysia's Level 1 programme to Bidor, school leavers, particularly those who have finished Form 5 or 6 and are awaiting their SPM and STPM results, can look forward to a comprehensive Bible-based teaching programme coupled with skill-based training on important topics such as evangelism, how to interpret the Bible, and how to make important decisions in their Christian lives.

Best of all, students are able to immediately put into practice the skills learnt at GLO by applying them in the ministries at BGC during the 6 weeks they are there.

GLO Malaysia's move to shift its base of operations from Taiping to Bidor was led by God and can be described as something of a 'Macedonian Call' (Acts 16:6-10) for GLO Council chairman Lee Min Choon.

Elaborating on this, Min Choon says that the GLO Council had for sometime considered moving out of Taiping and was already looking for a new base of operation in 2014.

"A chance call to elder Huck Leong from BGC and then a subsequent visit there led me to think that it was a good place to relocate to as BGC is an Assembly in real need of helpers in their respective ministries, particularly in the Sunday school and youth work.

"We had several meetings and discussed this with several other elders in the GLO Council and with Huck Leong and Sivaguru, and concluded that 2015 would be the year to move over."

Although preparations were made to publicise the GLO Level 1 programme shift to BGC, Min Choon believes that the late shift made it difficult to get the word out and as such, is likely one of the reasons as to why the registration response was a little poorer than usual.

"But I believe that despite the small numbers, God had a plan for these 4 who signed up," Min Choon says. "If you look at Scriptures, you'll find that God always worked with the faithful few and through those few, great things can be accomplished, and this was testified by the students themselves."

### **What's next?**

In 2016, the GLO Council has decided to run the GLO Level 1's 6-week school leavers programme in BGC once again. Preparations are being made much earlier this year to gear up for the event and respective Assemblies can be assured that the programme will be as comprehensive as this year's and that the opportunities for practical training and ministry will be provided.

For more on GLO Malaysia's ministries, please check out [www.facebook.com/glomalaysia](https://www.facebook.com/glomalaysia) or contact GLO chairman Lee Min Choon at 012-329 2300 or email him at [minchoon.lee@gmail.com](mailto:minchoon.lee@gmail.com) or GLO Committee Member Edwin Yapp at 016-209 0900 or email at [yedwin@gmail.com](mailto:yedwin@gmail.com).



## Christian Brethren in Education (CBIE)

Yap Kok Keong

The last report to the assemblies concerning CBIE was in the May/June 2013 issue of *Diakonia*. Almost 2 years have passed. What has taken place since then?

### **Our Rights and Responsibilities as the Owners/Mission Authorities and the restoration of Christian ethos, character and traditions**

The Christian Brethren Education Board (CBEB) has been constituted to oversee the progress of CBIE and the various Board of Governor's - our private Bukit Bintang Pre-School (BBPS) Star Kids, the Bukit Bintang Primary Schools and the Bukit Bintang Secondary School. A non-profit registered entity called the Bukit Bintang Education Berhad (BBEB) has also been set up to handle the legal and financial aspects of CBIE.

We own only 3 out of the 463 Government aided mission schools in the country. As such we are working closely with the Malayan Christian Schools Council (MCSC) and Federation of Councils Christian Mission Schools Malaysia (FCCMSM), to watch over and safeguard the interest and welfare of mission schools in the country. One on-going effort is dealing with a long-standing fundamental issue pertaining to the rights, usage and responsibilities of the owners of mission school land and buildings vis-a-vis the "occupier" - Ministry of Education (MOE). There is no document regarding mutual rights and responsibilities which can be referred to when dispute arises. The so-called understanding between the owners and the MOE arrived at in 1971 has been forgotten or abused over the years to the detriment of the owners. As an example, in the past Imbi Chapel could use BBGS on Sundays to hold Sunday School classes, so also the Life Chapel could do the same in BBBS. Can we still do this today and why not?

Recently, MCSC and FCCMSM have brought together a special team including lawyers from the various Mission Authorities to work earnestly on a document which will spell out the matter of rights of ownership with regard to usage, development, re-possession of land and building, quit rent, etc. Once this document is ready later this year and is accepted by the Mission Authorities, it will be presented to MOE. Hopefully, dialogue and negotiation will begin. Basically, the owners/mission authorities of the 463 mission schools left in the country are trying their best to recover what has been lost through powerlessness and neglect.

### **Maximizing the use of under-utilized land and buildings to continue with our role in education for the good of future generations**

Since the call for help was sent out to our assemblies in 2012, RM1,164,843 (RM488,543 from assemblies & RM666,300 from individuals) have been received for the setting up of BBPS Star Kids. About RM900,000 has been spent thus far for infrastructure development and operating expenses



Maintaining the BBGS and BBBS School Motto

*The BBGS and BBBS motto:  
Nisi Dominus Frustra  
"Without God, All is Vanity"*



All the required licences and approvals were obtained in late December 2013 and in January 2014 BBPS Star Kids began the school year in faith with 8 students. Today, praise God, there are now 58 students enrolled and the numbers are growing. The school is clearly publicized as a **Christian mission pre-school** and is operating with Christian staff and Christian ethos. Yet many non-Christian parents are happy to enroll their children there. Now, we have a few foreign students as well. God-willing, by 2016, when the enrolment reaches 80, there will be sufficient economy of scale and the school would be self-financing.

We are very grateful to God for all he has done, for the hard work of Phang Su-wen and her staff team, the Board of Governors of BBPS Star Kids and for all your prayers and support.



We must keep in mind that one of the objectives of setting up BBPS Star Kids is to establish a centre of excellence for early childhood education with a Christian education philosophy and foundation. The school is intended to help upgrade teaching skills of pre-school teachers, to develop integrated teaching resources and also to act as an advisory and resource centre to encourage our assemblies to set up early childhood education centres to reach out to and impact the community in their locality.



Some Early Childhood Education students are already coming to BBPS Star Kids for their internship and an assembly and a Christian NGO had also reached out to BBPS Star Kids for help.

BBPS Star Kids has run out of space. The four renovated classrooms currently in use are just not enough. The dream is to construct a purpose-built 3 storey building on the vacant land beside the school. The plan has been drawn up by an architect to be presented for consideration by the BBPS Star Kids Board as well as the CBEB. We will keep our assemblies informed as the process develops.

The new building will cater for an optimum planned enrolment of 200 students. God-willing, with this enrolment, the school will not only be self-funding but also be in a

position, through CBSM to assist our assemblies in greater measure to develop their own early childhood centres.



### **Our Bangunan Christian Brethren Property Trust Berhad building**

This is basically a huge squash court complex with 10 courts and viewing galleries on the 1st floor, 2 glass courts plus many rooms large and small on the ground floor. Right now the building is grossly under-utilized.



Many proposals have been received such as setting up a BB private school, a home schooling centre, an evening theological school, a sports training centre etc. No final decision has yet been made as to what to do in the long term.

Although the building has been “re-possessed” so to speak, from the Board of Governors by the CBMPTB /CBEB; CBEB has to manage the situation with wisdom and care as the boundaries of rights and usage remain rather fuzzy. To reach the building, one has to go through the school security guards and school proper. It is not difficult to see that the regular/daily entry of large numbers of “outsiders” during school hours can be considered as disruptive and a possible threat to security by the existing school authorities.

Nonetheless, CBEB has set up its office there and has also allowed MCSC and FCCMSM to set up their office there as well because they are the guardians of the welfare of mission schools in our country. We are also looking into the possibility of setting up, at minimal cost, accommodation facilities for youth camps during holidays or long weekends

when school is not in session.

Youth groups from our assemblies and other churches as well as sports and community organizations can hold seminars and training there as well. As you can see from the picture, the building looks rather run down and so also is much of the interior. The pace of development is rather slow because of the lack of funds but we should be good stewards and press on to make better use of the facilities that God has put into our care while waiting for some grand schemes to materialize.

#### Post Script

Recently, a short circuit caused a major fire incident in the BBBS Secondary school. It destroyed the upper floor of the Boler block which housed an auditorium. The entire roof and contents of the auditorium were completely destroyed. The timely action of students and staff present that Saturday morning and the Bomba crew prevented the fire from spreading and causing more serious damage to the science lab below and the adjacent buildings. The damage is estimated to be about RM300,000. Appeal for funds to restore the building is in process.

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## ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (ALC) 2015

The Assembly Leaders Conference (ALC) is held once in two years at various locations. The last ALC was held at the Genting View Resort located at the foothills of Genting Highlands. This year, the ALC will be held at the Grand Kampar Hotel (GKH) in Kampar, Perak.

The theme for ALC 2015 is "**The Trial of Faith**" based on 1 Peter 1:7.

ALC 2015 will adopt the 3-tracks breakout session (BOS) format used during ALC 2013, i.e. the men's track, the women's track and the youth's track. Those who are involved in the youth are encouraged to participate in the youth track. Following feedback from the last ALC, this time round, the elders will not hold their session concurrently with the BOS. This will enable them to participate in the men's and youth's BOS and, if required, to sit in at the women's BOS. There is a possibility of an afternoon free for organised excursions.

**WE ARE IN TURBULENT TIMES.  
MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT MISS  
ALC 2015.**

**THE TRIAL  
OF FAITH**



**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December, Kampar**



#### Keynote Speaker: Mr. Loh Ah Asiau

Loh Ah Asiau who was in the engineering profession for many years, opted for early retirement when he was 44, and have been in full time service for the last 30 years. Fee Chin, his wife was an English teacher. Both of them have been serving together in Church planting here in Malaysia and in several cross cultural situations. They are the founder leaders of the Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW). They are currently developing new mission fields from their base at Kajang Life Chapel.

#### About the Grand Kampar Hotel

Grand Kampar Hotel (GPS Coordinates : North : 4° 19' 39.1" , East : 101° 8' 44.5") is a 3 star deluxe hotel in Kampar and lies within Kinta Valley. The hotel received the "Best City Hotel" award from Tourism Perak in 2013. Kampar founded in 1887 was a centre of the tin mine industry. The name Kampar was derived from the Cantonese words "kam pou", meaning 'precious gold' and refers to the town's previously large tin reserves.

### Overview of Member Care in Missions

*Lim Swee Gim and Cheong Wye Choon*

*As Wye Choon and I were preparing to leave for Africa in 1991, we met a Malaysian lady who had returned from the mission field. She shared with us with tears in her eyes that she found her pile of prayer letters of 2 years stacked in one of the church drawers, unopened!*

*Another family (husband Malaysian, wife British) with 3 kids shared that during one of their 3 months furlough, they have had to live in 5 different homes, cleaning each home before and after they left!*

#### What is member care?

Many words can be used to describe what takes place in member care. Some of those words are friendship, encouragement, affirmation, help, and fellowship as well as sharing, communicating, visiting, guiding, comforting, counseling and debriefing. All of these, and more, are facets of member care given by someone who understands the special needs of missionaries.

Wye Choon and I were commended by Johor Bahru Gospel Chapel in 1991 to OM in Africa. We served a total of 6 years in Africa and a year in Jordan to study the Arabic language. In between the 6 years, we were back in Johor Bahru to be involved in Church Planting and Daya Gospel Centre was birthed. Daya Gospel Centre, together with Johor Bahru Gospel Chapel and a few assemblies in Petaling Jaya have since been standing with us in fellowship.

During our first two years in Africa, a family offered us a room in their home to store our household and personal effects for 2 years. We packed up our home into boxes and these were stacked right up to the ceiling in the room of this family. They sacrificed their “maid’s” room for our use.

Whilst in Africa, we were kept in communication with what was happening at home. There were no emails then and we received only hand-carried letters once every few months. We received pictures of birds from a friend who knew that we were interested in birds.

A team mate in Africa who had returned home to Hong Kong for her furlough, couriered to us 4 packets of instant noodles that arrived just before Chinese New Year. We ate and drank up every bit of the noodles and soup, slurping them down with such delight, including the broken pieces!

When we returned home, a family had provided us his 2<sup>nd</sup> car for our local transportation. As we had ageing parents, a few individuals from the assembly generously contributed to the air-fare for us to come home every year to see our parents.

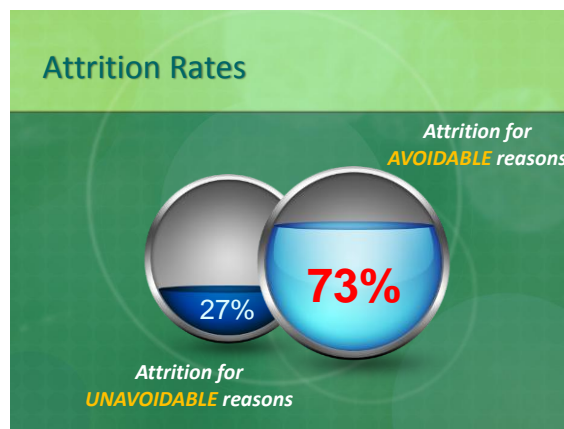
When we had finally finished our term in Africa, we were met at the airport with a group of church members and were “garlanded”!! The church then quickly arranged to help us get a new car!

Wye Choon and I have been truly blessed by a sending church who cares for us. Not many have had such a blessed experience.

#### Why Member Care?

Over the years, we have seen many returning home from the field, sometimes prematurely for various reasons. Burn-out, children’s education, sickness, death, conflicts, marital break down, lack of financial support, trauma, misunderstanding with sending church, etc. This is called Attrition Rate.

Below is the attrition rate among US missionaries:



It takes years, energy and money to prepare and train a missionary before he/she is sent to the mission field. When one returns home prematurely, much of these resources are lost.

A survey was done amongst 2000 missionaries from over 80 nationalities. Some of the results are presented below.

### Top Refreshers

1. Friendship with co workers
2. My wife/husband/children
3. Friendship with nationals
4. Attended a conference
5. Reading books
6. Field visit by family members
7. Moral support from home
8. Corporate Worship
9. Personal Studies
10. A caring leader

### Care Most Wanted From Mission Agency

1. Someone to listen to me
2. Fitting my gifting to my role
3. Personal Development
4. Friendship with co-workers
5. Regular debriefing
6. Regular accountability
7. Prayer partnership on field
8. How to raise support
9. Mutual care within my team
10. Help in leading others better
11. Field visit by member care worker

### Top Stressors

1. Financial Pressure
2. Overwork
3. Language Barrier
4. Maintaining Spiritual Discipline
5. Cultural Stress
6. Understaffed
7. Feeling Inadequate
8. Conflict with co-workers
9. Ageing parents
10. Needs of children
11. Leadership styles
12. Loneliness
13. Lack of positive results
14. Writing newsletters

### Who cares?

This is a joint effort between the sending church and the mission agency. The mission agency's sending field/office and the receiving field shares the responsibility together with the sending church.



### When do we care?



### When do we care?

We care from recruitment to retirement!

As a mission agency with a primary role in Member Care, I often find this difficult, especially in the context of the Malaysian Church. Often times, church pastors do not have retirement/EPF. How then can we suggest to the church to budget in retirement for their missionary?

## How Do We Care?

From the sending church, a helpful suggestion is to set up a support group to look into the different aspects:

1. Logistics – accommodation, car insurance, health insurance, renewal of licences, banking needs, etc
2. Prayer
3. Communications
4. Finance
5. Care

## Re-entry

When a missionary returns home from the field, he/she faces re-entry adjustments. Making the transition from missions to life at home is likened to a space shuttle in orbit re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The heat generated is enormous. Whether it is a happy landing or turbulent landing depends on many factors.

Some may ask, what can be so difficult since a missionary is returning home to friends and family who love and support them?

On the return home, a missionary's first reaction is disorientation and fear. He/she has perhaps seen suffering and his/her values may have changed. Returning home can cause a reverse culture shock.

I remember when we first came back from Africa, we went to the Mid Valley Megamall. As I was coming down the escalator and looking at the shopping trolleys of the people, tears started rolling down my cheeks. I was overwhelmed. It was near Christmas and seeing the abundance in the

trolleys of the shoppers, I couldn't help but cry. When one has lived and seen Street Kids children sleeping under the drains, homeless and without knowing where their next meal will come from, it was too much for me. One can become critical if one does not adjust back to life back home.

## Finally

My heart's passion is to see missionaries sent out receive adequate support and care from both the sending church and the missions agency. It is my heart's desire to see the missionary flourish. The ultimate goal in member care is that the missionary remains healthy, resilient and effective in the ministry that God has called him or her to.



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## WORKERS NEEDED



**THE RETIREMENT  
BENEFITS ARE GREAT!**

### Office Administrator/Assistant, Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia

Location: CBSM Office, Kuala Lumpur. Duties include bookkeeping and general clerical and secretarial work.

Please contact: The General Secretary ([cbasm0709@gmail.com](mailto:cbasm0709@gmail.com)) for details.

### Youth Worker, Bukit Mertajam Gospel Center and Kepala Batas Gospel Center

This position is to develop a youth and children ministry and to explore church planting opportunities in localities around Bukit Mertajam and Kepala Batas. Candidates should preferably be conversant in Mandarin and English. Some Hokkien would be useful. This will be a funded position with a minimum commitment of at least two years.

Accommodation shall be provided. For further information please contact elders: Raju Kasimani ([rajukasimani@gmail.com](mailto:rajukasimani@gmail.com)) or YL Khong ([yl\\_khong@yahoo.com](mailto:yl_khong@yahoo.com))

## Blessed in the Lord's Work

*Chan Mei Lai*

Grace and thanksgiving to the Lord for this privilege to write and share my experiences in foreign missions abroad.

First of all, I want to give thanks to the Oversight and faithful saints of my home (and sending) assembly at Burmah Road Gospel Hall.

I strongly recommend that every mission-minded Christian should read the book, "Letters Missionaries Never Write" if you have not done so. This book would just answer most of your questions and anything that I might write here. The book speaks so much of what I have experienced myself during my short missionary life.

What do I think about my time in a foreign mission field, in my case, Indonesia, which is so close to my homeland?

I was greatly challenged when Chuck Harrison and Andrew Cowell came to Penang on several occasions to share on the Lord's work in Indonesia. One statement they always said was, "There are Malaysians working or doing business in Indonesia but not (many) in the service of the Lord."

What is the fear of us especially the Chinese going to Indonesia?

Psalm 116:12 "How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?" was a challenge to me. How can I repay God for all that He has done for me and my family?

I praise God that I was blessed with a home assembly which had supported my living expenses throughout the time I was in the mission field. Initially, the first few years were hard. Besides the emotional aspect of being a single missionary, there were lots of hiccups and financial constraints that I had to face but God was good. Our LORD, Jehovah-jireh always provided although how I wished the supplies could come in earlier so that I need not have to worry!

I am thankful too that there were also other assemblies in Malaysia and Singapore including individuals and families which had practical and prayer partnership with me during my time in Indonesia.

At times, I felt lonely and missed my family and friends. But it was during those times that I drew much closer to God. God has to be the only answer to all our needs, whether we are at home or in the mission field. We are to look to Him, focus on Him and not to any human being. Humans can fail us but God never fails us!

Psalm 118:8 "It is better to trust the LORD than to put your confidence in man."

In my small capacity and ability, God had used me to be involved in His work in Indonesia in partnership with Grace

Indonesia / Grace International Ministries for 7 ½ years from the year 2005 till 2012. How I wished I had started out earlier in the foreign mission when I was much younger, maybe by 20 years earlier?

I became a believer at age 35 and a missionary in Indonesia when I was 49 years old. I have started late to become a believer, and I started late in becoming a foreign missionary. I prayed and said to the LORD, "I wasted years to become a Christian and I have wasted years as a Christian but Lord, please help me not to waste my years as a missionary in this foreign land."

I was indeed privileged and blessed serving in Indonesia. I do not regret serving there although I have lost years not being at the side of my family - my siblings and my nieces, nephews in their teen growing years. In fact, now I still miss the time and people there in Indonesia. They are precious memories!

Those serving in foreign mission fields not only need practical support but most important also are the prayer, emotional and communication support. They need to be informed, be in touch and updated on what is happening in their homeland (and church).

Many of us use the term, "God's calling!" but it should be "God calls" (i.e. command) us to be mission-minded!

We are all called, to be witnesses in our own land (Jerusalem), and in all Judea and Samaria. So for us Malaysians, where is our Judea and Samaria?

All of us know that our mission field begins once we step out of the door of our church building. I like the sign above the exit door of a church building in Tasmania which says, "You are entering into the mission field now."

But sadly, many beloved people of the LORD are just sticking to their homeland because "there is tremendous need for workers in our own local church". Yes, this is true but even more so in the unreached nations!

It would be great if there is at least 10% from each church serving in a foreign land and 25% or more serving locally?

It was my silent prayer since before I went out into Indonesia that God will raise up 10 person/ families who would go out from my home assembly to serve in a foreign land. I am not sure whether this prayer has been answered or not or when it will be fulfilled. I was not specific in my prayer then, so I guess that those who relocated or those are serving as expatriates in foreign lands, God included them in the list too

My challenge to the young beloved people of God, Do Serve Him while you are still young, strong, healthy and energetic.

Does our love for God push us to serve Him? To what extent do we love Him? (Psalm 116:12)

I pray that God has challenged you in this. Meanwhile, do get interested and be mission-minded through the various channels, such as autobiographies of God's servants, past missionaries; attend Mission Conference etc. Stay in touch with current mission news and prayer bulletins from missionary reports of countries all around you. Listen to God's heart and His challenge to you. Listen and obey!

Now that I have been back in my homeland for good (now aged 59), what is my role? That was and is the question of many friends especially those concerned sisters in Christ. God has His plan for me, ministering to my youngest sister's family in a way that many people might not understand but it is His plan and providence for my every need and service unto Him in this way.

At the same time, I try to be useful in any small way that I can in my home assembly.

May I continue to serve Him through my interpersonal actions. There is no retirement in God's kingdom!

Love in prayer, with all glory to God.



**The New Burmah Road Gospel Hall buildings**



**The Saints at Burmah Road Gospel Hall**

### Kepala Batas Gospel Center

*Sharon Raju and Raju Kasimani*



Kepala Batas Gospel Centre is an extension work of Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre. The work in Kepala Batas started in 1996 as a small Bible study group among Brother Raju's Tamil speaking staff. Over the years, God has blessed this little gathering and it has grown to about 35 believers who meet weekly to break bread.

KBGC first started having their Sunday service in 2004 in the home of Brother Raju. The small group was definitely growing. After much prayer, the Lord provided a 2-storey shop lot in Kepala Batas situated in an area surrounded by the Indian and Chinese community. In 2009, KBGC moved to their new home.

Now the believers in Kepala Batas meet up to break bread every Sunday at 5pm. God has truly blessed this assembly as they have had dedicated men of God who come and share His word amongst the believers. There is also a Sunday school which is held during the pulpit ministry. The number of students varies but they have about 6 regular students (the number can go up to 12 certain weeks). There is great promise for work among the children here. Do pray for the Lord's guidance for the assembly in this area.



KBGC also has been organising the Tamil Easter Conference annually. 2015 was the seventh year of conference. Speakers have come from all over to attend this conference. Tamil speaking believers from as far as Singapore and Cameron Highlands also attend this conference faithfully every year.

In the past 6 years, there have been a number of changes. The KBGC building itself underwent some renovation. The area around the church has also changed. There are many housing areas and various other buildings coming up in Kepala Batas. There is tremendous amount of potential to sow the Gospel in this area, not just among the Tamil speaking people but also among the Chinese speaking and the English speaking community as well.

Continue to pray for the work that is being done here and for the doors that could possibly open. Do pray that the leaders of the assembly and the believers would continue to seek God's wisdom and guidance in doing His work here.

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### Burmah Road Gospel Hall

*Colin Tan*

On Monday, 30 September 2013, the saints at BRGH received a piece of very good news: a certificate of fitness for occupation ("OC") had been issued by the local municipal council to the assembly. That meant that the saints could finally move back to their long-term meeting place at 164 Burmah Road. It also meant that a nearly 18-year wait—from sketch to reality—had come to an end!

But the two new buildings (the main hall and annex) and the land on which they stand do not belong to BRGH. This is because God is their rightful owner, and BRGH is but a steward. So how can BRGH be a good steward of the Lord's things? How can the assembly use the buildings in a way that would please God?

To glorify God: this must necessarily be every assembly's overarching goal. Consequently, every ministry of the local church—practically all of which could be subsumed under

the categories "reaching out to the lost" and "building up the believers"—must contribute to that goal. In a manner of speaking, these are "the old paths, where the good way is", and BRGH has set its mind, with the help of God, to "walk in it".

The following is a partial snapshot of BRGH's current ministries.

#### ***Reaching out to the lost***

In its effort to reach out to the lost, BRGH has revived its monthly Gospel meetings. (The last meeting was held in August 2010 at the temporary meeting place, which is actually a single-storey terraced house.) These meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month and open to all the assemblies in Penang. The response has generally been positive.

The outreach work is not limited to the assembly level. The other ministries are doing their part as well. For example, the Young People's group has planned six evangelistic meetings for 2015, one in every two months.

There is, however, still much to do because the "harvest truly is plentiful". Please pray that the Lord will empower BRGH in all its outreach ministries.

BRGH is also happy to report that eight believers were baptised in 2014. Do join us in praising and thanking God for these brothers and sisters who are not ashamed to own the Lord.

### ***Building up the believers***

A Christian education programme has been put in place at BRGH to strengthen the believers in the faith. It contains several components, and the AEP (Assembly Education Programme) is one of the new ones.

The AEP is a programme that caters to believers who desire to delve into God's Word. In 2014 the students had an in-depth look at "Assembly Distinctives" and eight of the New Testament epistles and a bit of comparative religion. In 2015 the AEP underwent a minor format change: besides the book study and comparative religion sessions, there are

also Question & Answer sessions that allow the saints to deepen their understanding of the Sunday morning messages.

In addition to its education programme, BRGH would occasionally organise and/or host state-level teaching/training events which are open to all the Penang assemblies. One such event is the Bible reading conference (3-5 July 2015). The conference is blessed to have Mr. Mike Attwood as its speaker. Mr. Attwood will be teaching from the Song of Solomon.

The assembly also hosted two GLO regional training sessions in 2014. The subjects were "Church History" and "Issues in Eschatology". The sessions were well attended, and the saints in Penang were greatly edified.

BRGH welcomes any opportunity to collaborate with others to organise teaching/training events that will benefit the local saints.

Please continue to remember BRGH in prayer. Pray that its buildings *"may ever be to the glory of God, in the salvation and upbuilding of souls"*. (These words are from a 1938 prayer—1938 was the year in which assembly work began at 164 Burmah Road.)

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## **Balik Pulau New Outreach Work**

*Teo Pek Bing*

For some years the elders at PAP (Penang Assemblies Partnership) has been prayerfully considering where and how we should go about establishing a new outreach work. The last assembly established in Penang was Sg. Ara Gospel Hall in 1999. We felt that it's more than time to launch out to a new area to testify for the Lord. Several areas were considered such as Balik Pulau, Batu Maung and Teluk Kumbar, all of which appears to be without Christian testimony.

In 2012, the Lord led a brother to acquire a property in Balik Pulau, with the intention of it being used as an outreach point. It is a double storey detached house sited on some 8000 sq. ft of land, sufficient for some outdoor activities. At the right time when the Lord deems fit, the property will be purchased by Christian Brethren Properties Trust for proper ownership. In the meantime, the building will be used for outreach work until such time an assembly can be established.

After several discussions, a "kickoff" meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to pray and discuss strategies and approaches to begin the outreach work. About 23 brothers and sisters from various Penang assemblies attended. Ideas were discussed and a committee of 4 people was formed. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014, fortnightly prayer meetings on Sat mornings began with a typical attendance of 8 people from different assemblies. Our burden was for the people of Balik Pulau, many of whom are in bondage to idols and superstitions. As we discovered later, many also had social and physical needs.

### **Kids' English Club (KEC)**

By August 2014, we felt strongly that we should start out with a Kids' English Club for primary school kids.

Miraculously, the Lord led us to the Christian principal of primary school nearby. She graciously allowed us a 30 min demo of how we would teach English through activities and play. We printed flyers and distributed to the students.

The flyers were also distributed to many in the area of Balik Pulau including the market places. Although we had planned on starting in October but due to delays in some renovation works, we postponed the start to 1 Nov 2014. More flyers went out and later we heard that the students from the school were also spreading the word.

We decided to name the building as Balik Pulau Gospel Centre and we've put up a banner indicating it so. We felt that it was important that people know that this is a Christian work and there is no trickery or subversive intent when the gospel is preached.

The day finally came. We waited anxiously and we praise the Lord for the 22 kids who came. Some of the parents stayed to observe as we carried out an Action word activity, followed by the account of David & Goliath, a game and some refreshments. The children were excited and the parents appeared forthcoming. From then on, we held the Kids English Club every Saturday at 9.30 am. Each week, we share from the Word in various ways, as well as teaching English, and giving the children some fun time. Transport needs to be provided for most of the kids as their parents work on Saturday's and are unable to bring them. We praise the Lord for able brothers and sisters to take the time to use their vehicles to drive the children. We also thank the Lord for those who set aside their Saturday to conduct the activities and lessons. These brothers and sisters are already serving at their home assembly and this

is on top of their current commitments. How we thank the Lord for such love!

We've also had a couple of special events such as the Christmas Magic Gospel and outing to Sg. Ara Gospel Hall's Fun time. Attendance is mostly over 20 kids each week, with one outstanding week where we had 37 children! Our target is the primary school children and they seem to enjoy themselves and are very keen. With the exception of one child, the rest are from unbelieving homes and have never heard of the name of the Lord Jesus! In fact, the idea of a creator God seemed alien to them! Indeed the harvest is already ripe and plentiful.

Pray with us that the Lord will continue to raise up laborers. As mentioned, the current set of workers is already heavily committed in their home assembly. Pray that the gospel will go forth from this place, beginning with the children. Pray for wisdom and love as we also reach out to the needs of the families of the children.

Since our program is targeted at the primary school students, we sensed that the older ones, Std 6 and Form 1 (they were Std 6 last year) are feeling out of place. We are seriously considering starting a Secondary school English tuition twice a week. We praise God for a sister who is willing to start this. Pray for students and wisdom and protection for our sister.

**Balik Pulau Gospel Centre (BPGC)**  
 浮罗福音堂

## KIDS' ENGLISH CLUB

**Activities 活动 (Standard 1-6) 儿童英语学会**

Story telling 讲故事	Drama 戏剧
Singing 唱歌	Games 游戏
Music 音乐	Craft 手工



**Starting from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
**Every Saturday 9.30am - 11.30am**  
*Bring your children to join us!*  
**记得带小朋友来报名参加哦**

📍 8, Jalan Air Kampung Putih 4, 11000 Balik Pulau  
 📞 Mrs. Ngui 012-5872687 or Ms. Chua 蔡老师 016-4533009



Balik Pulau Gospel Centre



## Temerloh Gospel Chapel

Chiew Sai Kee

### ***Where the rivers rise and its waters roared.***

The early warning bells were already sounded when newspapers reported that foreign tourists who were stranded at Taman Negara Resort were being airlifted out. The water levels of the rivers there were alarmingly high as a result of heavy and continuous rainfall. It was reported that the rainfall recorded was three times higher than the rainfall recorded for the same period of time in the previous year!

True enough, the torrents of water came gushing down, the Pahang river burst its banks and inundated vast areas as it weaved its way to the sea. The town of Temerloh and its surrounding areas were not spared the wrath of mother-nature. For the brethren at Temerloh Gospel Chapel, it was a massive flood, second only to the one that hit the town in 1971. But as always, our God's gracious hand was upon us in the midst of all this.

In the aftermath of the floods, villages in the outlying areas suffered terrible losses. Parts of the roads leading out of Temerloh to towns like Triang were covered with silt and mud and the dust took weeks to settle. Large swaths of brown foliage and dead vegetation along most roads into and out of Temerloh were a testimony of how high the flood waters were. Of biggest concern to us was the outlying Orang Asli villages which were cut off and their livelihood affected because some of their agricultural crops were destroyed.

Temerloh town was not spared the furore of the flood waters, with most parts of the town submerged under water, some under more than six feet of water! Some parts of the roads became like rivers with swift flowing waters that even deterred experienced boatmen from trying to ride the fearsome torrents on rescue missions. There was an incident where a boat capsized and its passengers tossed into the raging waters. Thankfully all survived.



Swift flowing flood waters

The homes of six families of Temerloh Gospel Chapel were flooded, with flood waters ranging from 1.5 feet to 2 feet deep. Our Elder Dr Liew and his wife were among the victims. Most of these families stayed at the Mentakab EduCare Centre for almost a week; taken care of by the brethren residing in Mentakab town, which was not badly affected by the floods. We thank God for the wonderful time of fellowship despite the difficult period of waiting for the flood waters to subside. We were also concerned about the church building, of which access was already cut off by the flood waters. We thank God that the flood waters only reached the gates and the church building was spared.

As the flood waters begin to subside, the flood victims became flood relief workers as we together ventured out to help distribute food to nearby flood relief centres. Finally, after the flood waters had subsided, we busied ourselves helping to clean up the huge mess in the homes of the affected families. It was quite a depressing scene seeing piles and piles of garbage and damaged household items lining the roads in the residential areas.



Transferring food supplies using boats

While all this was going on, another rescue mission was taking place. On 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014 our brother Charles started on a full two day mission sending food and supplies to OA villages in the outlying areas using our church van. In some places where kampong roads were still submerged, he managed to send boxes of food and other items with the help of boats owned by the OA folks.

To top it up, he arrived literally at the eleventh hour the next day, to join our Watchnight service on 31<sup>st</sup> of December which was held for the first time at the EduCare Center. The brethren welcomed him at 11.00 pm. As we watched and prayed, we also lifted our voices together and praised and worshipped God for his faithfulness and mercy that night. We were especially touched by the song "Still", and obviously we sang our hearts out!



Baptizing new believers

*Hide me now,  
Under your wings,  
Cover me  
Within Your mighty hand.*

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar  
I will soar with you above the storm  
Father you are King over the flood  
Find rest my soul  
In Christ alone  
Know His power  
In quietness and trust  
I will be still, and know you are God.*

In the weeks that followed more aid missions reached the OA people. Charles was also helping to lead various voluntary groups like the Rotary Club, World Vision and other church groups into the OA villages. Also, with the help of the Pan Malaysian OA Ministry, the Rebuilding of the Lives Program was launched and many OA families received aid.



Baptized new believers

One of the significant outcomes of the relief work going out to the OA people is the discovery of new groups of believers among them. A new church was started and later new believers were added to this church. Praise be to God!

There were other blessings as well. We were overwhelmed by all the well-wishes from other believers, and aid coming to us.

With remaining funds, we started our own Temerloh Gospel Chapel Disaster Relief Fund for future relief work. And we thank God we were able to send help from this fund to the victims of the recent Nepal Earthquake tragedy.



A new work started

As much as torrents of water came gushing down the Pahang river, we praise God that the torrents of His grace, mercy and favour have never ever stop flowing towards us. As promised throughout His Word, He is with us and will never leave us nor forsake us.

As the Psalmist wrote,

- <sup>1</sup> I will lift up my eyes to the hills –  
from whence comes my help.
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth
- <sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to be moved;  
He who keeps you will not slumber.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, He who keeps Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
The Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
He shall preserve your soul.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord shall preserve your going out and your  
coming in.

From this time forth, and even forevermore.

(Psalms 121)

We would certainly not want another flood of this magnitude to hit us again. Nevertheless, we will be much more prepared if it happens again, simply because we know that God is always with us. Amen!

## Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Extracted from program of BPGC's anniversary event on 7<sup>th</sup> June*

In 1993 the leaders of Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall (PJGH) decided to start an outreach centre in the fast growing Puchong area. PJGH then consisted of Jalan Gasing Gospel Centre (JGGC), SS Gospel Centre (SSGC), Subang Jaya Gospel Centre (SJGC) and Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre (BSGC) with one combined oversight. The elders of PJGH together with 6-8 believers from JGGC began meeting together for prayer meetings and bible studies regularly.

In April 1995, a terrace house at no. 2, Jalan Bangau 4 was rented and was called Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre (BPGC). An inaugural worship service was held on 2 July 1995. A four storey shoplot at no. 41, Jalan Bandar Enambelas, Pusat Bandar Puchong, was purchased and BPGC moved into it on 14 May 1997 and its first worship service was on 18 May 1997.

In the year 2002, PJGH elders decided that all the centres except BPGC should go autonomous and have their own oversight. It was decided that BPGC be under the leadership of SSGC as it has only one elder. (Our church believes in the plurality of leadership and for any assembly to be autonomous, we must have a minimum of 2 elders.) JGGC then reverted back to using the name PJGH.

On 30 July 2006, we celebrated our 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a thanksgiving dinner at the Bukit Jalil Golf & Country Resort Ballroom.

In January 2010 we became autonomous, and bought the neighbouring shoplot in the year 2011. The leadership at BPGC decided to expand the worship hall by breaking down the wall separating the two shoplots. The renovation for this expansion of the worship hall took place in May 2014 and the new hall was ready for use on 20 July 2014. During the renovation, the worship meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor area.

We acknowledge that God has been faithful in many ways during the last 20 years and are deeply grateful to Him.

By His grace and mercy, we have crossed the threshold of two decades. Therefore, let us hold fast to the truth of God and unitedly step forward in complete obedience to His commands for "He must reign." (1Cor15:25)

Let us all arise, build and shine, for our Lord and His glory, now and until He comes (Isa. 60:1).

Let your light so shine – lighting up the world (Matt.5:16)

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## Setia Alam Gospel Assembly

*Chua Eng Keong*

Setia Alam Gospel Assembly (SAGA) is an off-shoot of Klang Gospel Hall and was inaugurated in January 2010. A small group from Klang took the step of faith and came out to start a new work in this booming township of Setia Alam back in December 2008. We began, as is often the case, by holding Sunday School classes on a weekly basis in a rented house until the Lord saw it fit, one and a half years later, to bless us with 2 back-to-back units on the second floor of a 3-storey shop-lot, the rental of which was very affordable, even until today.

Praise be to God that He has caused us to grow from just the 20-odd of us 5 years ago to about 50 regular worshipers now excluding the 25 plus Sunday School (SS) children and the handful of young people that make up the Youth Fellowship (YF). Our Oversight comprises Elder Chua Chee Beng & Elder Chin Fook Lim, Deacons Mary Yap, Christina Phuah, and Jason Lee. Many of our new members are young families with kids ranging from the ages of 2 to 7. However, we also have a group of aging believers who are finding it increasingly more difficult to traverse the 3-flights of stairs to get to the main hall every week.

Alongside the SS and YF, we also have the Adult Bible Class regularly on Sundays after the breakfast fellowship. While

we have always tried our best to optimize the use of space and at the same time keep the noise level to an acceptable level, it is not a situation that would be tenable for long. Hence, after praying and waiting on the Lord for about 18 months, we strongly believe that the time has come for us to seriously look into purchasing our own premises.

By God's grace, He has now made, what seemed like wishful thinking back when we just started on this journey, a reality. Our prayers have been answered - we have been blessed by our Faithful Father with a 3-storey shop-lot of our own. Not only that, He continues to pour His blessings on us through the generosity of many individual believers and churches throughout the country as well as from abroad in the form of gifts and/or soft loans.

And so, we continue to look unto Him for grace, wisdom, and strength as, God willing, we will be moving into our new premises by November 2015; therefore, we request that you pray with and for us that we will be faithful in our calling as well as being ambassadors of the ministry of reconciliation that He has entrusted us with to the larger community of Setia Alam and even beyond.

## Cheras Gospel Centre, Tamil Ministry

*Lim Seok Hoay*

When God entrusted us with the care for the Indian children, little did we realize that this ministry would demand so much manpower and financial resources. After 27 years, this ministry has grown into a community outreach where we provide school buses to bring them to Sunday school and tuition sessions. We also sponsor many to go to kindergarten and school by paying their fees and bus fares. We check on their progress in kindergartens and in schools. Today CGC sponsors 70 children to kindergarten and 40 children to school.

We faced many challenges when we try to register them for schools. Many do not have birth certificates and identity cards. We have to go through many processes to convince the authorities that they are Malaysians. This is a long and tiring effort but we do manage to help them in getting their birth certificates and identity cards.

With the help of many members from Cheras Gospel Centre, Jalan Imbi Chapel, Batu Gajah Gospel Hall, Kajang Gospel Centre and with God's help we are able to go on with this Tamil ministry. This ministry has now been extended to Kuala Pilah and Sungei Buloh.

We hold camps for youths, children aged 10 to 13 and Kids' Club. Every Sunday we have about 120 children coming to CGC Sunday School and we provide them lunch before they have their tuition sessions.

We continue to look to the Lord for manpower and financial resources.



### Residential Bible School Testimonies

RBS has been an interesting journey and at many times, unexpected as well. Through the five and a half weeks up in Cameron Highlands, I grew and did things I never imagined I would ever do. Till this day I am still amazed by God's unfailing love that He revealed to all of us.

In RBS, I was truly forced out of my comfort zone from the very first day itself! For a person who is rather introverted, seeing everyone mingle around so openly was a little awkward for me. But I am grateful that God led so many wonderful and friendly people there, eventually I was able to make friends.

I used to think that someone of little talent like me would never be able to achieve great things for the Lord. However, the most important lesson I learned was that as much of a great God He is, He too is a God of little things. We are never too small or inferior in His eyes. After all, we are all wonderfully and fearfully made in His image. It's never about how well we do things, but whether are we willing to do it for our Lord.

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***Jannie Diong, 18, Melawati Gospel Centre***

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My name is John. I am from Bentong Gospel Centre. RBS taught me to put my trust in God rather than doubting what God can actually do in my life.

A particular incident that happened in RBS had impacted me the most. On the second of February, while we were having our devotion in the morning. I realized that I had forgotten to take my wallet back from a friend named Edmund the day before at the field. Unfortunately, he accidentally left it at the bench of the basketball court without informing me before he left. I was so afraid at the moment but all I did was to kneel down and pray. However, I lost my wallet but my important documents were safe and well protected when found at the police station. Although I lost my money, having this trust in God that morning that eventually, I'll be able to get my wallet back was a good experience in itself.

My takeaway from this experience is when we pray, we really have to pray with faith. Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen, it gives us the assurance about things we cannot see. Therefore, I hope this encourages all of you to put 100% trust in Him no matter what happens! Don't doubt the amazing things that God can do for us. With God nothing is impossible!

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***Chow Kinn John, 18, Bentong Gospel Centre***

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RBS has been like a roller-coaster for all 52 students and staff included. It strapped us down tight, and escalated to exhilarating heights, where God demonstrated His greatness through the picturesque environment of Tanah Rata, and greater yet His love and grace for each and every one of us.

We were also plunged into the terrifying deep, where the once-in-a-lifetime experiences of going on mission trips forced us to hold on tightly to God, trusting him wholeheartedly and relying solely on His strength to get through them. RBS also bulletted us through unnerving spirals, where our faith and courage is truly tested as we face our fears, failures and baggage in the face, and we told them to get behind us, surrendering all to God.

Through it all God has been so real to us, He was our refuge and strength, the secure harness on our roller-coasters, so to speak. On a personal level, I have recommitted my life back to God, resumed practicing my spiritual disciplines, and rekindled that burning desire to serve Him once again. This bunch of 51 other students whom I address as my brothers and sisters, have been the most encouraging and cheerful bunch I've ever met. They were key to making RBS an unforgettable experience for me.

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***Benjamin Ngai, 18, Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre***

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The past five and a half weeks in RBS made me realise how much I should read the Bible. I learnt to not just read but to also delight in the Word. There were classes that kept me on the edge of my seat wanting to know more about what God has to say.

Other than the Bible, I discovered how Christian books can really help in our spiritual walk with God. I looked forward to reading the book I chose for my book report entitled Gospel Centered Discipleship by Jonathan Dodson.

Another major lesson was to be constantly aware of my sin. As Christians the process of sanctification involves us playing our part by taking up the cross daily and Jesus makes it possible for us as He has already won the victory over sin on the cross. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for Christ and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:35. All in all, RBS was a great experience where I learnt to read God's Word and trust Him.

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***Lim Yi Fen, PJ Evangelical Free Church***

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RBS is a milestone that I would look back in years to come and thoughts and memories would still be real and meaningful. Watching God working in the lives of others and feeling God being so close and real for the 5 and a half weeks spent in RBS was my greatest takeaway. Knowing that God works so differently in each and every one of our lives gives me the assurance that He does indeed, care for the little details in our lives.

Through the mission trips as well, I'm amazed by how our God is so big and how His family is so big as well. Realising that my Christian life goes beyond my church and my community, growing deeper in faith and being equipped in RBS gives me the passion and courage to want to achieve more for God, because of love for our God who is bigger than we can ever comprehend.

Reiterating the experiences that we've had, we were all thrown out of our comfort zones to gain experiences worth a lifetime and valuable lessons that were made to last. Hopefully, we could all keep that fire and passion for God burning, till the day we see Him again.

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***Kenrick Lim, 21, Shah Alam Gospel Centre***

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Throughout my entire time in RBS, I had learnt so many things about the Word of God. Most of my questions were also answered throughout the sessions that we had. I used to doubt Christianity in the past, but there came a time in RBS when I was questioned about my faith. That really hit me and it got me reflecting on my faith in Jesus Christ.

I am very thankful that God made me join RBS, because it during my time there, as I meditated on His words, I remember God speaking to me one two occasions. One of it was when I was forced out of my comfort zone in my mission trip where I had to share my testimony. The pastor preaching there made me realised that I was actually a nominal Christian and I wanted to change for Him. Another one was a session on Apologetics and basic Christian Beliefs which really struck me and answered many of my questions concerning my faith.

I am glad that I know God more intimately now. My change of perspective towards my faith has really opened my eyes to how God works in my life.

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***Joshua Yap, 18, SS Gospel Centre***

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## The Gospel Cup

*Jimmy Chok*

Looking back, indeed, The Lord has planned and prepared! When His People stepped forward in response to The Call, His Mission took off!

As of 2014, annual COPA IBA Sports Evangelism has been running for 14 years. With current average of 800 participants, 50% of which were pre-believers, and followed up by various local Assemblies, Gospel Seed was sowed and souls have been saved. Out of this ministry, Shah Alam Gospel Centre (SAGC) has also started a Chinese Speaking congregation. As a result of this Chinese Speaking ministry development, SAGC came into more contact with Chinese speaking agency Yi-Sheng Resources Berhad (formerly, Emmanuel Bible School) and joint ministry efforts ensued.

At the same time, Chinese speaking student ministry through Life SOAR Resources Berhad, came into being. By God's Grace, it was about 10 years in the making which involved the spiritual growth of a group of relatively young parents in Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur (GHKL) and some Christian teachers from the nearby Confucius Private Chinese Secondary School approaching GHKL for the use of premises to help students through tuition. By 2013, Life SOAR ministry for Confucius Private Chinese Secondary School (and other Chinese medium schools) was "fast growing" and called upon to meet increasing needs to nurture students to compliment and supplement the school's academic programme.

After about a year of praying and preparation, Captain Ball Tournament Evangelism "**GOSPEL CUP**" was born! After many months of sharing and road-show visits to various Assemblies within about 100+ km of Kuala Lumpur, the inaugural tournament was held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 (Saturday) at the same tournament as the COPA IBA.

38 Teams of 13 members each came from mainly Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, comprising of 50% pre-Believers. Together with organisers and workers, total gathering was well over 500 young people. As the Gospel message was proclaimed, friendship and relationship fostered.

New friends and team mates have also joined GHKL Youth Fellowship and came to know Lord Jesus Christ! The whole mission has also been integrated with the student ministry of Life SOAR and the GHKL Youth Fellowship.



**Inaugural Gospel Cup**



**38 Teams 500 Young People**



**GOSPEL Cup Reunion**

We understand many other Assemblies are also similarly blessed! We are thankful for the initial vision for outreach from The Holy Spirit and the response, courage and commitment of His stewards to step out in faith on the Sports Evangelism Mission!

Much of the needs of young people are obviously family related and, by God's Grace, through Life SOAR and the support of the schools and teachers, home visits are being pursued and will be an ongoing mission and challenge!

Now, the 2<sup>nd</sup> **GOSPEL CUP** has being scheduled to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015, commencing at 7am. The venue remains the same at SPORTS ARENA KLANG (which is also the same venue for COPA IBA).

We trust The Lord who has started this good work will sustain us as long as He Wills. However, it is not for the interest in sports nor the festivity of a large scale event, but for The Church whose witness through various Assemblies must be built up as a bright beacon in this darkening world!

So, it is crucial that various Assemblies with their respective leadership at the helm, come together to urge their young people on until we see them safely in The Fold and living as salt and light of the world!

**Colossians 1:28** "Whom we are preaching; guiding and teaching every man in all wisdom, so that every man may be complete in Christ;"



# 福音杯 GOSPEL CUP

日期: 25th July 2015

(Saturday)

地点: Real Sports Arena

Lot 2156 Jalan Sungai Bertih 41100 Klang.  
GPS: 3.34902 101424225



## 队长球

Captainball

U24 | U18 | U15

欲知更多详情, 请联络我们, 谢谢!

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“向软弱的人，我就作软弱的人，为要得软弱的人。向甚麽样的人，我就作甚麽样的人。无论如何，总要救些人。凡我所行的，都是为福音的缘故，为要与人同得这福音的好处。”

哥林多前书 9:22-23