

An Open Door

© 2003 by SH Tow

Published by

Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church

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Singapore 618720

Republic of Singapore

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Calvary B-P Church was founded in 1972 with the purpose of serving the Lord (Mk 10:45), and to be a witness for Jesus. As a result of God opening many doors and paving the way for us, He has enabled Calvary, in these past thirty years, to reach out to many parts of the world with the Gospel of Christ and to establish churches in obedience to God's command in Matthew 28:18 to 20.

FOREWORD

*"Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel ..."*
(Mk 16:15)

James Chan

"An Open Door" is a wonderful testimony of the faithful work of God's Spirit in and through Calvary in the area of missions over thirty years. "...*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts*" (Zech 4:6). Truly, our Lord has "*set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name*" (Rev 3:8).

May these pages spur you on to see the doors that our Lord may be opening for you today. And may you not only see but be faithful to enter in.

May all praise and glory be given unto His Almighty Name! Amen.

PREFACE

*"I have set before thee
an open door ..."*
(Rev 3:8)

SH Tow

Within the covers of this volume the reader will discover, to his unspeakable blessing and amazement, what the Lord has in store beyond the Gospel doors which He opens to obedient ones. Those who enter will find Gospel opportunities "... *above all that we ask or think ...*" (Eph 3:20).

It was the Spirit of God which led a group to leave their beloved Alma Mater, Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, to venture through Gospel doors into unknown territory. O how sweet to trust Him, the great Shepherd of the sheep. He says to us, "... *behold, I have set before thee an open door; and no man can shut it ...*" (Rev 3:8).

Thirty years and beyond, the door remains open, beckoning. What the Lord has done in the past, He continues to do in the present, and greater things will He yet do in the future by the hands of those who by faith enter. The open door of Gospel opportunity will soon be shut.

Reader, will you also enter?

Part I

BIBLICAL

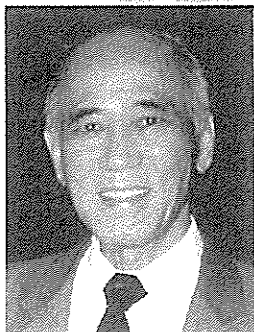
MISSIONS

1

THE DEFENCE AND PROPAGATION OF THE MOST HOLY FAITH

*“Preach the word ...
reprove, rebuke, exhort ...”
(2 Tim 4:2)*

SH Tow



Exciting days of prophetic fulfillment are with us. What we used to read in God’s Book is coming to pass in our time. The days of Noah — days of universal unbelief and violence — and the days of Lot — days of sexual liberalization and immorality have descended upon Planet Earth. The Lord Creator is supplanted by man: this is the age of man’s ascendancy.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is hid to the world because *“the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not”* (2 Cor 4:3, 4). The Church itself has defected to the god of this world: there is *“treason in the camp.”* This is an age of betrayal and deception in Christendom foretold in God’s Word two thousand years ago by our Lord Himself and the holy Apostles.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matt 7:15). *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect”* (Matt 24:24). Pulpits in churches are filled with men departed from the faith *“giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”* (1 Tim 4:1), for the time has come, and is now here, *“when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”* (2 Tim 4:3,4).

The *“falling away”* of twenty-first century Christendom gathers momentum as the father of lies corrupts the pure Gospel and *“the simplicity that is in Christ”* by offering another Jesus, and another spirit, and another gospel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light, and his ministers as the ministers of righteousness (2 Cor 11:3, 4, 14, 15).

The modern church is filled by men who *“received not the love of the truth”* to whom God sends *“strong delusion that they should*

believe a lie" (2 Thess 2:3, 10, 11). Today's churches are filled with ordained apostates preaching "*another gospel*" and "*doctrines of devils*" — sure signs of our Lord's soon return.

Christendom at large, having fallen into unbelief, has also turned its back on the **Sixteenth Century Reformation**, and has departed from its four doctrinal pillars:

Sola scriptura

Sola fide

Sola gratia

Solus Christus

It is a sad day, indeed, that this generation of Christians know little of the blessed truths of God's greatest salvation to the Church since Pentecost. The god of this world has succeeded well in blinding the eyes of modern Christians to the cardinal truths of the Gospel.

Twentieth Century apostasy has given birth to a New Christianity for the Twenty-first Century. The New Christianity has evolved over fifty years by the defection of Evangelicalism from its Biblical fundamentalist position into the broad way of accommodation and acceptance of mainline Christendom. Through years of cooperative evangelism and ecclesiastical collaboration with liberals, modernists, Catholics, charismatic and Sunday Christian groups, the Evangelicals have turned one hundred and eighty degrees to repudiate the truth of God and to embrace "*another gospel*."

In 1994 and 1997, by two epochal declarations, Evangelicalism publicly capitulated to the wily craft of the master deceiver, to tell the world that the faith of our fathers, won with the blood of the martyrs over five hundred years is no more needed, but now "**Evangelicals and Catholics are Together.**" By a stroke of the pen the Gospel of Jesus Christ was signed over to the custody of Mother Rome.

Dr Billy Graham's dream and efforts of years have come to fruition on May 31, 1997, when over television South California, he told the world that God was calling people out of various religions, and that all faiths lead to God. The New Christianity will carry the Church into the Third Millennium. The adversary has won a major victory.

THE MOST HOLY FAITH MUST BE RE-DEFINED

In the midst of the prevailing deception and confusion in Christendom, it is needful for us who stand with our Lord and the Apostles to define anew what we hold to be the faith of the Gospel, the "*most holy faith*." For this we turn to God's Word, our one source of truth.

WHAT SAYS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH?

Heed our Lord Jesus' words, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate... Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Matt 7:13,14). That "*strait gate*" is Jesus Christ our Lord. He says, "*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved ...*" (Jn 10:9). "*I am the way ... no man cometh unto the Father; but by me ...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father... Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me*" (Jn 14:6, 9, 11).

THEN WE MUST ALSO REFER TO THE APOSTOLIC WRITINGS

The Apostle Peter, exalting the name of Jesus declared: "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

The Apostle Paul: *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (1 Tim 2:5). And he says: *“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified ... For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”* (1 Cor 2:2; 1:18).

The most holy faith speaks of *“the simplicity that is in Christ.”* We are saved by faith in Christ alone: none but Christ can open to us heaven’s gate. *The “preaching of the cross”* is the all sufficiency of the Gospel message. In Romans 10:9 the Apostle says, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”* And, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works . . .”* (Eph 2:8, 9). *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost”* (Tit 3:5).

The foregoing passages from God’s Word clearly spell out the ground for our salvation and the essential content of our Gospel message, the *“Most Holy Faith.”* We reiterate the four cardinal pillars of the Reformation doctrine: **scripture alone, by faith alone, by grace alone, and by Christ alone.**

The most holy faith categorically excludes all that is extra-Biblical, man-made, and false. It excludes sacramental salvation, the mediatorial merit of priests and “saints.” It excludes any salvific part of the church, of the merit of any acts or services for God; it allows no place whatsoever for any sort of “faith” or religion in gaining one’s salvation. Finally, it allows no part for images and idols in worship and it excludes the doctrine of purgatory.

HOW SHOULD WE DEFEND THE MOST HOLY FAITH?

In this day of massive and universal defection from the faith, God must raise up men of valour, men who are fully committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who are willing to hazard their all for God’s Kingdom in the final stages of the battle for truth.

The Lord must raise up Spirit-filled men, men of discernment, who are able to see clearly the end time issues, to see through the deceptive ecumenical smokescreen, the counterfeit church, the great whore of Revelation 17: MYSTERY BABYLON and MOTHER OF HARLOTS.

That the end time Satanic church will dominate the earth is inevitable and irresistible. Nothing will stop its progression. This is clearly foretold in God’s Word (Rev 13, 17).

What then can we do? Our immediate concern is to warn our churches, the souls under our charge, so that being forewarned they may be forearmed for the battle ahead. Let us catch the spirit of God’s servant Paul, and his words to the Ephesian elders: *“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God ... For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears”* (Acts 20:27–31).

May the Apostle’s words speak to the hearts of God’s faithful servants everywhere. *“He who hath ears let him hear.”*

Let every pastor, every elder, every leader in the remnant church still holding true to the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, resolve to follow in the steps of the Apostle Paul, to be a good watchman and

soldier for God. Clear and forthright preaching and warning must go forth from every pulpit, to the building up of the most holy faith of the believers, so that they understand the issues and the peril of "*grievous wolves*" seeking to devour the flock of God which He hath purchased with His own blood.

The leader fails in his duty, who fails to earnestly warn the flock under his care. Let the words of Paul again provoke us unto love and to good works: "*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*" (2 Tim 4:1, 2)

HOW SHOULD WE PROPAGATE THE MOST HOLY FAITH?

In our propagation of the Gospel, heed the Master's words: "*Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest*" (Jn 4:35).

In the spirit of Paul, let us "*press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil 3:14). The door of Gospel opportunity will soon be shut, the day of grace over. The time to propagate the Gospel of Salvation is now. At any moment

now, we may hear the midnight cry, "*The Bridegroom cometh!*"

Until then, let us fight the good fight of faith and earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). "*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*" (Eph 5:11). Have no fellowship with the ecumenical movement or any of its related bodies or individuals. The door of Jesus Christ is the door of separation, the strait gate which leads us on the narrow way which leads to life. Be not disheartened even if no one joins you, because "*few there be that find it*" (Matt 7:14). The way of Biblical Separation is a lonely road, but it is the only safe road. At all costs, we must keep clear of the ecumenical roadway that leadeth to destruction.

We are in a mighty race. Let us run with patience, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (Heb 12:2). Our numbers may be few, but we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1), so we need never feel discouraged.

From heaven our Saviour calls: "*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be*" (Rev 22:12).

We must work the works of Him who called us while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work.

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
(Rom 1:16)*

2

A TWENTIETH CENTURY ANTIOCH CHURCH

*"Lift up your eyes, and look
on the fields ... they are white
already to harvest"*
(Jn 4:35)

SH Tow

When Life B-P Church sent out a band of men in 1969 to found Calvary, little did we dream that a 20th century Antioch Church was in the making. Calvary B-P Church in these past 30-odd years has become a centre of Gospel outreach, a fruitful "sending church" and a bastion of *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3).

Like the biblical mustard seed *"which indeed is the least of all seeds,"* Calvary has become a full-grown tree, *"so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof"* (Matt 13:32). Growth in numbers however does not necessarily extend God's everlasting Kingdom, unless converts are soundly built up in the most holy faith and nourished on the Word of God. Thank God, Calvary has been preserved all these years, *"holding fast the faithful word"* (Tit 1:9).

Church growth of the biblical pattern does not come by attending some course in "missiology" in some high-powered "School of Missions." Church growth is simply the work of the Holy Spirit through obedient men and women, heeding our Lord's command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. It is the founding of Bible-believing God-honouring churches, standing on the Word of God against the floodtide of the end time apostasy now engulfing churches around the world.

PRINCIPLES IN CHURCH GROWTH

The Word of God gives clear guidelines for church growth. These have proved true and effective during the course of Calvary's three decades. For our present purpose we have identified ten major biblical principles of church growth.

1. God Calls

The initiative in church growth rests with our all-wise and sovereign God. He knows

who are His, and whom to call. No man should attempt to do God's work, who has not received a clear call from God. The Gospel work belongs to Him and He must have a part — a vital and central part — in it. "*Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it*" (Ps 127:11).

We do well to heed biblical precedents:

- a **God called Isaiah.** "*The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother...*" (Isa 49:11).
- b **God called Paul.** "*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen...*" (Gal 1:15, 16).

In 1938, the Lord called me through His servant John Sung. He laid his hands on me, and prayed for me. This event has shaped my whole course of life, leading to my ordination into the holy ministry in 1980. "*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry*" (1 Tim 1:12).

The Lord has given Calvary many fellow labourers who have also received God's call. Together we strive for the faith of the Gospel, for the extension of God's everlasting Kingdom. May God call more faithful men and women to serve Him in these end times, before the night comes when no man can work.

2. Man Responds

The man of God, in close touch with the Spirit of God, responds to His call readily and decisively. God's call is irresistible:

- a **Isaiah heard** "*the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who*

will go for us?" His response was, "*Here am I; send me*" (Isa 6:8).

- b **Paul, confronted by the Lord** on the Damascus road, said, "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" (Acts 9:6). From that moment, he became a captive for life and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In 1969, the call of God came when I was in the "hallowed halls of academia." Had I forgotten my 1938 consecration vow? By no means, but the Lord had His perfect timing. After serving in the University for some fifteen years, and having had a taste of academic life, the time had come to enter more fully into the service of God. So, I left the academic world and went into private practice.

The years have flown by: thirty-three fruitful years. All who have been with Calvary from its earliest days have seen the Lord's hand leading and directing at every step. Our response to the Gospel call was but a small step in God's overall plan. The crucial and key factor was His faithfulness. In all this we are reminded of the weeping prophet's words: "*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness*" (Lam 3:22, 23).

3. God opens doors

Doors of Gospel opportunity are not ours to open. It is the work of the Lord of the harvest; we are but "*labourers together with God*" (1 Cor 3:9). One precious lesson we have learnt is patience. Questions such as "What shall we do? Where shall we go?" demand an answer. "*By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving*" (Phil 4:6), the Lord has come without fail to our aid. But we need to wait patiently upon the Lord.

Looking back, we say, "*Great is Thy faithfulness!*" The Lord who opened Gospel doors for the Apostle Paul has done great things for us whereof we are glad. He has led us to Jurong, Pandan Gardens and Tengah in Singapore, to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, China, the Philippines, London, Canada, Saipan, Brunei, Sarawak, Sri Lanka and even Jordan. In each place, we have seen God's hand leading on.

4. "Go ye therefore!"

Men, and not angels, are commissioned to "*preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*" (Rom 10:15). Church growth is committed to godly men and women, faithfully obeying the call of Christ to "*go ... into all the world.*" But before going there has to be preparation for the task ahead.

When Isaiah was called, he bemoaned his own wretched sinful condition, "*Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips*" (Isa 6:5). God cleansed him, then he offered himself: "*Here am I, send me.*"

a God gave a vision

My Friday afternoons were kept free of clinical commitments and wholly set apart for the visitation of absent and sick church members. One particular afternoon in 1969, **Rev Philip Heng** (then Associate Pastor of Life B-P Church) and I drove through Jurong Town. The sight of high rise apartment blocks soaring skyward on either hand appeared as a vision from heaven. It brought to mind our Lord's words: "*Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest*" (Jn 4:35).

At the next meeting of the Life Church Session, a committee of five "Lifers" was formed to spearhead the Gospel advance into the western sector of Singapore. The vision of the "human beehives" in Jurong Town, a field white already to harvest, moved the Session to take that crucial step to send forth our small group in obedience to our Lord's commandment.

To men of the world such a move would appear foolish. What could five inexperienced men do? But our confidence was in the Lord, remembering that "*the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men*" (1Cor 1:25), and "*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*" (Matt 19:26).

As the Apostle Paul "*was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision*" (Acts 26:19), should not his example spur us also to answer the call of the thousands in Jurong waiting for the Gospel day to dawn? Clearly a door to the west was opening. Our prayer was, "Lord, here we are, send us!"

Our Committee met and prayed that the Lord of the harvest would take full control: "*Lord, guide us in the way we should go, and direct us to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was named or to build upon another man's foundation*" (cf. Rom 15:20). The Lord laid on our hearts a clearly defined objective which was the salvation of the lost. Church planting must never degenerate into sheep stealing.

b God had prepared His men

The Lord directed our footsteps to the then Chairman of Jurong Town Corporation, **Mr WS Woon**. He

received us warmly, heard our request and sized up our need. Pointing to a large wall map of Jurong Town, Mr Woon identified a piece of vacant land earmarked for religious use: "Write to me, and your request will be considered."

Our application was approved in a matter of weeks: 24,500 square feet at the corner of Corporation Drive and Tao Ching Road was assigned to Calvary B-P Church on a 60-year lease for the construction of a church complex! Praise the Lord for His wonderful provision.

At the same time, the Lord prepared another man, **Rev James Chan**.



Rev James Chan

Rev Chan, now pastor of Calvary B-P Church (Jurong), recalls: "I came to Taman Jurong in 1971 with the conviction that the Lord wanted me to start His work. At the same time, I heard that a team from Life B-P Church, under the leadership of our Dr Tow, had caught the vision of coming to Jurong. I was glad and joined them to advance the Gospel in Jurong. I got a flat in 20G Block 118 Corporation Drive and commenced work in March 1971... We visited almost all the people in Jurong Town, ... a Bible study group was started, ... a Bible Club was initiated... (It) gave birth to the Sunday school."

On 1 August 1972, Rev Philip Heng (Pastor of Galilee B-P Church) was appointed part-time pastor of Calvary B-P Church.



Rev Philip Heng

"We saw to the planting of trees and helped to clear the grounds of wooden boards, rocks and building debris, so that the grass plot could grow properly. We made friends with the children who came and played rounders, badminton and 'balloon' with them.... The Lord impressed upon me that we were to evangelise and build up the membership gradually by small accretions... We held Gospel campaigns...we reached out to the children...started Sunday lunch fellowship...We worshipped family-style...Bible study and prayer meetings were held...We ministered to the needs of the people in the areas of job-hunting, boy-girl relationships, financial problems, family problems and health problems...Weekly tuition classes were held...We went tracting regularly to the block of flats around the church...The Word of God gradually took root in the hearts of the people in Jurong Town..."

c **Arise and build!**

While God's servants, in obedience to the call of God, busied themselves reaching out to the lost and sowing the Word of God, work on the physical building started. Within the stipulated 2-year period, a 3-storey church complex was built and the English Worship Service was inaugurated on January 1, 1973. This was followed by the inauguration of the Mandarin Worship Service on 3 September 1974.



*Calvary YF meeting at Blk 118 Ho Ching Road, 1972
(Standing extreme left: Rev and Mrs James Chan)*

Rev Heng recalls: “The building cost us \$350,000 and for the initial 34 members, it was a tremendous burden... But the Lord reminded me that big victories have been won by small people. David slew Goliath. And Gideon’s three hundred routed the army of the Midianites...”

God moved the hearts of His people. By the liberal giving of His people, Calvary was not burdened with a large residual debt.

Little did we realise then that here in Jurong, was God’s Antioch Church in the making.

5. “Sow in tears ... reap in joy” (Ps 126:5)

Church growth comes not but by the faithful sowing of the good seed of the Word of God by faithful men. This principle is vital and foundational. In the

steps of Paul the wise master builder, we have laid a firm foundation which is Jesus Christ the Word of God (1 Cor 3:10, 11).

On this foundation we have built, and as long as the Lord carries we continue to do so.

In the present global “*falling away*” (2 Thess 2:3), we thank God for preserving us in the most holy faith. Only by His grace have we been kept from the deception of “*another gospel*” (Gal 1:6, 7), and to persevere in sound Gospel preaching, to hold fast the faithful Word (Tit 1:9), and to “*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 3).

2 Timothy 4:2 to 4 has been our unfailing guide: “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but*

after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

Faithful sowing is “to declare ... all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), to feed the flock of God, and to defend it against wolves” (Acts 20:28-30). Faithful sowing must precede fruitful reaping of “an hundredfold, . . . sixtyfold, and thirtyfold” (Matt 13:8).

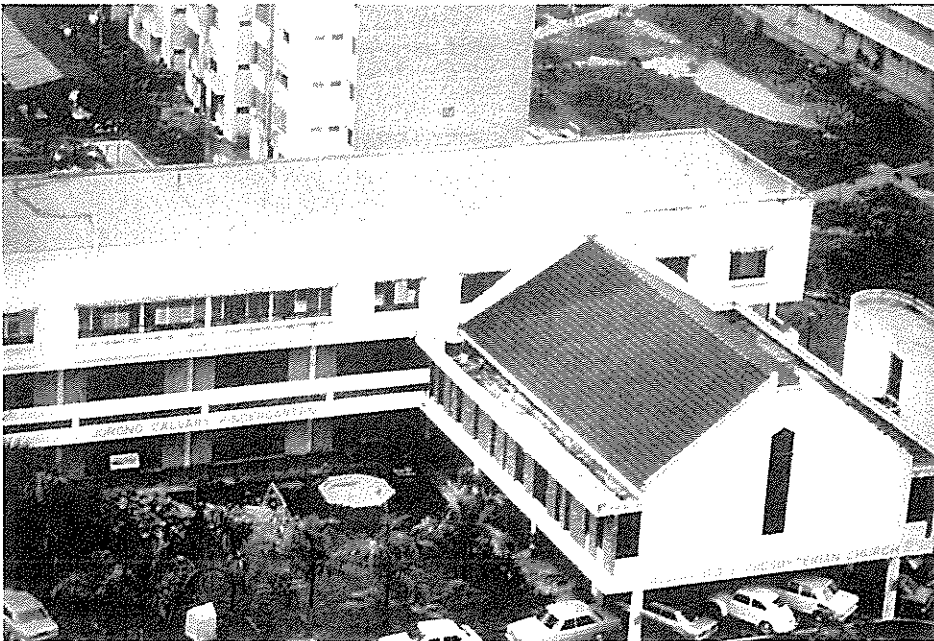
“Holding fast the faithful word,” Calvary continues to sow in every field as God sends us open Gospel doors. God’s Word encourages our hearts: *“Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name”* (Rev 3:8).

We must ever keep His Word, and never deny His name as we go forth to sow, if need be, in tears.

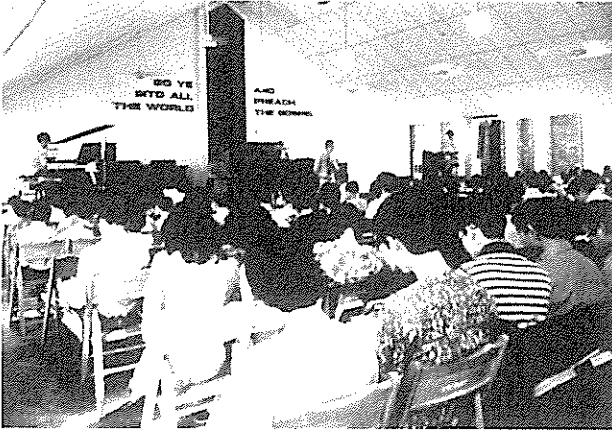
6. “Feed the flock of God” (1 Pet 5:2)

With what shall we feed the flock of God but with the Word of God, which is milk (1 Pet 2:2), bread (Jn 6:32-35), and meat (Heb 5:12). Our congregations have been fed with the life-sustaining Word at every available opportunity by every possible means:

- a. Sunday preaching
- b. Bible memorization
- c. Weekly exhortation with God’s Word through the weekly bulletin
- d. Exhortation/exposition of the Word at midweek Prayer Meeting, Family Worship/ Fellowship
- e. Basic Bible Knowledge Class
- f. Sunday School (adults and children)
- g. Bible study groups
- h. Fellowship groups
- i. Daily Bible reading, with RPG notes
- j. Annual Family Bible Camps
- k. Special meetings, conferences, seminars, with invited speakers/ teachers.



Calvary B-P Church (Jurong), completed 1972 on 24,500 sq ft at \$350,000



Calvary Jurong sanctuary

Prayer is an indispensable and vital component in church growth. In the early church, the Apostolic band recognized it: *"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer; and to the ministry of the word"* (Acts 6:4). From the day of Pentecost, the infant church grew "by leaps and bounds." The people *"continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"* (Acts 2:42, 47).

Here we have the Scriptural pattern for church growth. We find no place for sociopolitical action, liberation theology, tongues speaking, faith healing, miracles, signs and wonders, entertainment evangelism, cooperative ecumenical evangelism, or any other worldly methods to hoodwink the masses. Our sufficiency is in the Lord, and in the Word of life.

7. "God gave the increase" (1 Cor 3:6)

In God's work, there must be cooperation and collaboration with men of the same precious faith. The Apostle's words enlighten on this point: *"I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase"* (1 Cor 3:6). *"For we are labourers together with God"* (1 Cor 3:9).

The faithful sowing of the Gospel seed will not be in vain. This is our Lord's promise (Matt 13:8). The sowing may be attended with tears as we encounter difficulties along the way, but we must not be discouraged. God's Word assures us: *"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"* (Ps 126:6).

God's servants must learn to endure hardness even as our Lord, *"who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Heb 12:2). Our Lord saw ahead of Him the joy of *"bringing many sons unto glory"* (Heb 2:10), the joyous reaping which would follow His painful sowing.

God has honoured the faithful sowing of Calvary B-P Church for over 30 years by raising up many churches and related Gospel works:

a Churches established

- i. Calvary (Jurong), 1973
- ii. Calvary (Pandan), 1979
- iii. Calvary Jaya (Petaling Jaya), 1984
- iv. Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (Perth), 1986
- v. Bethel Bible-Presbyterian Church (Melbourne), 1986
- vi. Calvary Batam (Gereja Alkitab Presbyterian Protestan Indonesia, "GAPPI"), 1989
- vii. Chinese Christian Church of Saipan, 1992
- viii. Calvary Canada (Toronto), 1994
- ix. Calvary (Tengah), 1994
- x. Sydney B-P Church, 1997
- xi. Vancouver B-P Church, 1997

- xii. Brunei Reformed Church, 1999
- xiii. Ebenezer B-P Church, 1999
- xiv. Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Chapel (Colombo, Sri Lanka), 2000
- xv. Calvary B-P Church at Sibuluan, 2001
- xvi. Chinese Christian Church of Jordan, 2001
- xvii. Calvary B-P Church (Puchong), 2002
- xviii. Miri B-P Church of Borneo, 2002

b Related Gospel Work (receiving support)

- i. North Thailand, 1974
- ii. Centre for Biblical Studies (Antipolo, Manila, The Philippines), 1993
- iii. New Life B-P Church (London), 1993

8. “Watch ... and warn”

The flock of God is in constant danger from the Adversary and his agents. The Apostle Paul saw the peril coming to the Ephesian church and sounded the warning. His words speak to the pastor concerned for his flock: *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears”* (Acts 20:29-31).

Calvary is blessed of the Lord with a Session which has faithfully watched over the flock, and taken a stand of biblical separation (2 Cor 6:17) from the error and deception of ecumenism, new evangelicalism, charismatism, Romanism, and other false isms.



Calvary Jurong Camp at Cameron Highlands, 1984

By the space of over 30 years our leaders have held fast the faithful Word (Tit 1:9), and ceased not to warn every one *“night and day with tears.”* “By God’s grace we have been enabled to *“earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”* (Jude 3), and to keep watch over the flock.

God with us, we shall defend the flock against wolves, false prophets, false teachers, false Christs, so that they may be without spot and blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet 3:14).

9. “Commit thou to faithful men” (2 Tim 2:2)

No church can grow and prosper without a succession of good and strong leaders for future generations. The Apostle Paul, church planter and wise master builder, was ever mindful of this basic need. His instructions to Timothy are vital for church growth: *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”* (2 Tim 2:1-3).

And who is sufficient for the continuing task of the church in teaching, nurturing, reproving, correcting, instructing from week to week, and year after year? Leaders such as the Apostle Paul are all too conscious of their own transience, and the need to train up a generation of leaders for the future — faithful men who share the same vision and conviction.

Calvary has sustained its growth by God’s grace. Our prayers and perseverance in training have ensured a supply of younger leaders to whom we may pass on the Gospel torch in time to come. The role of the **Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC)** in

equipping workers for God’s vineyard is of inestimable value. Without FEBC, the B-P churches would fade away in a generation. We are reminded of our Lord’s words: *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest”* (Matt 9:37, 38).

So we press on with prayer until the Lord returns!

10. “And God is able”

When God opens doors of Gospel opportunity, He also sends the needful supplies. *“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein”* (Ps 24:1). The Gospel chorus goes like this: *“He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, the gold in every mine.”*

Need we who engage in His work be anxious over the supply of material needs? From the years of serving the Lord, we have learnt that the real lack is **not of funds, but of faith**. We are saved by faith; we walk and work by faith; and we accomplish great things for God by faith. Faith is the victory!

By faith, then, we instruct all our people in the biblical principle of giving to God, in the support of His work. The prophet Malachi reminds us: *“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now here with, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it”* (Mal 3:10).

The apostle Paul says, *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful*

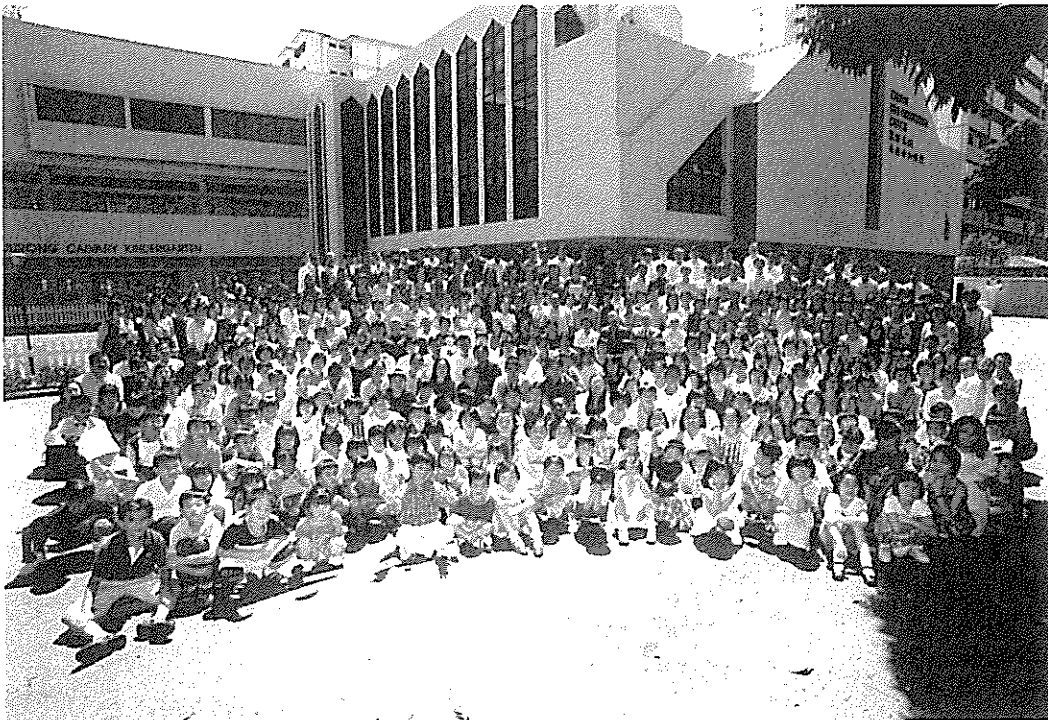
giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (2 Cor 9:7, 8).

May it please the Lord to enlarge Calvary as a Gospel-minded church, a sending church, and a giving church. What we have given is but a small portion of what we have received from the good hand of our bounteous and loving God. Jehovah-jireh!

CONCLUSION

The church grows:

- when members wait upon the Lord in believing prayer,
- when they hear God’s call and respond cheerfully,
- when they go because the love of Christ constraineth,
- when they are willing to spend and be spent for God,
- when they give to God as freely as God gives to them.



Calvary Jurong congregation, 2000

3

THREE DECADES OF SOWING AND REAPING

*"They that sow in tears
shall reap in joy"*
(Ps 126:5)

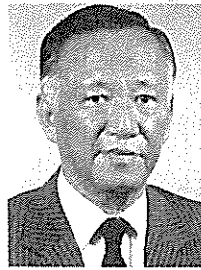
SH Tow

The missions of Calvary B-P Church is simply a "mirror image" of Life B-P Church's "mustard seed" proliferation. Church growth comes by faith in the promises of God, clearly and convincingly demonstrated by Life Mother Church over fifty years.

The spiritual principle is divinely prescribed. Dare we act on it? Do we believe the promise of God? *"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"* (Ps 126:5,6)

The untiring Church planter Paul says: *"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully"* (2 Cor 9:6).

Those who started out with the "Cycling Pastor" (Rev Timothy Tow) in 1950 with Life



Rev Timothy Tow

Church English Service, Prinsep Street, learned precious lessons of Gospel seed sowing, lessons learned by obedient doing in faith. These lessons are not found in boardrooms where bureaucratic elders hinder missions with tight fists.

We are now on the threshold of the third year of the Third Millennium — the "Momentous Millennium" when the final scene of the Drama of Redemption will be enacted, when the Lord of the Harvest shall break through the clouds of heaven with trumpet sound and angel shout, and our life work must be presented before the Master for scrutiny.

How soon will it be? Who can tell? *"Of that day and the hour knoweth no man"* (Matt 24:36), but one thing is sure: we know His return is near, even at the doors. If so, what

then must we do? Awake, thou that sleepest, shake off the deadly spirit of the age! Arise, repent, and re-dedicate yourself to the Lord for His service — today!

THE CALVARY SPIRIT

"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Mk 10:45). This is the spirit that has kept us at Calvary B-P Church going these thirty years. What is it but the Pauline **spirit of missions**. It was this Pauline spirit that speeded Calvary on the Gospel highway, ensuring that there was never a slack moment or a barren year, but that every year of bountiful sowing also brought in much bountiful reaping.

What is the Pauline spirit? It has five clearly identifiable points:

1. A Heavenly Calling

From the moment of his apprehension by the Risen Lord to be His chosen vessel to bear His name before Gentiles and kings, Paul became the bondservant of Christ. He was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision (Acts 9:15; 26:19).

The founders of Calvary B-P Church received also this "Heavenly Calling" without which we could not have done God's work, and for which we are ever thankful, as Paul: *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry"* (1 Tim 1:12)

2. An Urgent Spirit

This urgency is well expressed in Paul's letter to the Philippians: *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of*

the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13, 14).

Calvary missions caught this Pauline spirit from the beginning, and this has kept us on the move, pressing on for the Lord, never looking back.

3. A Total Commitment

"If Christ is Lord at all, He must be Lord of all." Paul was totally committed to his Master: *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ"* (Phil 3:7, 8).

When faced with the threat of death because of his loyalty to Christ, Paul said, *"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20:24). *"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved"* (2 Cor 12:15)

Calvary's spirit has been closely patterned after the "gospel Apostle," always willing to *"spend and be spent"* for the Lord and for the extension of the Gospel.

4. A Balanced Ministry

In all his ministry, the Apostle Paul observed one constant pattern: **preach the word, protect the flock**. He must be our model: unless we study carefully and follow his example in missions, we cannot effectively serve the Lord.

Even while in prison, the Apostle did not veer from his set course - *“the defence and confirmation of the gospel”* (Phil 1:7). His imprisonment had *“fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel”* - while he was *“set for the defence of the gospel”* (Phil 1:12,17).

How can Calvary in this Millennium continue to have a “balanced ministry” except you and I stand with Paul and declare with him: *“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27).

We have a grave duty to be good undershepherds of God’s flock: we are merely overseers *“to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood”* (Acts 20:29).

Our duty includes the ministry of warning *“with tears”* (Acts 20:31) against *“grievous wolves”* (Acts 20:29) entering in among the flock.

5. A Glorious Expectation

The Apostle in all his labours always held in sharp focus the prospect of the Lord’s soon return, whether by His calling or by His coming. This dominant thought is expressed in Philippians 1:21: *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”* and *“to be with Christ ... is far better”* (Phil 1:23).

It was also this thought which enabled him to *“press toward the mark for the*

prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:14), and the same thought which finally enabled him to say, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (2 Tim 4:7,8).

THE CALL TO MISSIONS IN THE MILLENNIUM

To all readers who mean business for the Lord, *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light”* (Rom 13:12).

Heed the words of our Lord, *“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”* (Jn 4:35). We must work the works of Him who called us before it is night, for when night cometh, no man can work.

Missions means “to be sent.” Pray that the Lord of the harvest will be pleased to send you into His harvest. Pray that He will remove all indifference, lethargy, complacency and lukewarmness.

Pray for Holy Spirit cleansing. Then may you say to the Lord of the harvest:

“Here am I, send me!”

4

A MODEL FOR MISSIONS

*"Pray ye ... the Lord of the harvest,
that he will send forth labourers
into his harvest"*
(Matt 9:38)

Carol Lee



The 1st century Antioch Church was a church much involved with missions work. As the Word of God is recorded for our learning, the Antioch Church missions endeavour as recorded in the book of Acts should provide

us with some important application lessons for our 20th century missions efforts. The following table shows a summary of eighteen lessons gleaned from the record in Acts 13 to 20 of the experiences of the Antioch Church.

Bible ref:	Elaboration:	Present-day application:
Acts 13:2	As the leaders of the Antioch Church “ <i>ministered to the Lord and fasted,</i> ” Barnabas and Paul were appointed by the Holy Spirit.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church leaders are to keep themselves busy serving God, in a prayerful manner, and open to the leading/directing of the Holy Spirit. 2. God will identify and call His missions workers in His own timing.
Acts 13:3, 4	When the Antioch Church leaders had “ <i>fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.</i> ” The team relied on the leading of the Holy Spirit.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Church leaders are to seek confirmation from the Lord. They must then commission God’s missions workers and send them out where the Lord wants them.
Acts 14:21	Paul and his team focused on preaching the gospel and on teaching.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Missions workers are to focus on preaching the gospel and on teaching the Word of God.
Acts 14:22	They also returned to the places they have ministered to earlier in order to confirm “ <i>the souls of the disciples</i> ” and to exhort them to “ <i>continue in the faith</i> ” because they will face “ <i>tribulations.</i> ”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Follow-up work is necessary. The workers are to return (whenever necessary) to check on the salvation of the new converts and to encourage them in their newfound faith. (Missions work is not a cold, careless or touch-and-go ministry.)
Acts 14:23	Paul and his team also “ <i>ordained them elders in every church</i> ” and “ <i>commended them to the Lord.</i> ”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Local churches are to be established in those places where there are new converts. 7. Local leaders are to be appointed to take care of their own local churches.

Bible ref:	Elaboration:	Present-day application:
Acts 14:23 (con't)		8. The missions workers leave these churches, but continue to pray for them. 9. (This shows that missions workers and the local church leaders must work towards the local church's independence from the mother church. It must be self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating.)
Acts 14:26, 27	Paul and his team returned to Antioch and <i>"rehearsed all that God had done with them."</i>	10. Missions workers are to return and report to their sending church all that they have done in the missions field.
Acts 15:28	The Council in the Jerusalem Church, when writing to help solve the problem in the Antioch Church, said: <i>"For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things..."</i>	11. We derive from this a good practical guideline: The mother church must not burden the daughter church unnecessarily.
Acts 15:35	<i>"Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the Word of the Lord..."</i>	12. Missions workers, back in the sending (or home) church, continue to teach and preach God's Word.
Acts 20:17-38	(Paul's instructions to the Ephesian elders.) v 19: Paul served <i>"the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears and temptations."</i> v 20: Paul taught without holding back. v 21: He shared the gospel to all (regardless of race or nationality).	13. Missions workers are to serve with humility and with a love for the people out in the missions field, going all out to feed the flock, regardless of race.

Bible ref:	Elaboration:	Present-day application:
Acts 20:17-38 (con't)	<p>v 25: He may never have the opportunity to return to them.</p> <p>v 28-30: The elders are to remember that God has made them "<i>overseers</i>," they are to "<i>feed the church of God</i>" and to guard against wolves and traitors that may arise from within the church.</p> <p>v 31: Paul ministered in Ephesus for 3 years ceasing "<i>not to warn every one night and day with tears.</i>"</p> <p>v 32: Paul commended the elders to God who is "<i>able to build you up.</i>"</p> <p>v 33-35: Using himself as an example, Paul exhorted the elders to guide their local church not only to become self-supporting but also to be a giving church.</p>	<p>14. The local church must be prepared to be fully independent</p> <p>15. The local church leaders' primary role is to build up their own flock.</p> <p>16. Again, missions workers are to minister with love, care and concern, tirelessly. (Paul's 3-year-stay should not be taken as a standard, as Paul himself stayed different lengths of time in different places depending on the needs of the place and the direction of the Holy Spirit.)</p> <p>17. The local church leaders are to depend on God ultimately and not on the missions workers.</p> <p>18. The local church must not just work towards self-support but after that to work towards a position where it can even give/contribute to others.</p>

May the Lord help us to glean many more lessons from His Word and to allow His Word

to guide us in our zeal to obey His Great Commission.

5

BIBLICAL SEPARATION AND MISSIONS

*“Be ye not unequally yoked
together with unbelievers ...”*
(2 Cor 6:14)

SH Tow

For 30 years Calvary has practised Biblical Separation, and as long as the leaders remain faithful, we shall continue to do so until the Lord returns. Biblical Separation is neither popular nor easy, but it is commanded of God and is safe.

The Church of Jesus Christ is commanded to be separate from the world and all that is of the world. The very word Church (“ekklesia”) means “an assembly called out.” While we are in the world, we are not of the world. *“If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (1 Jn 2:15).

Biblical Separation is:

- a) **Personal.** This means that in all our personal life, whether private or public, we must observe and maintain certain clear Christian principles, and not in any way compromise or betray our loyalty and love for the Lord. This naturally includes our alliances in business and marriage (2 Cor 6:14). Purity of personal life is everywhere commanded in Scripture, for *“ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s”* (1 Cor 6:19, 20).

We are to present our bodies *“a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world.. but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God”* (Rom 12:1, 2). Holiness of life is the evidence of personal separation from the world.

- b) **Ecclesiastical.** The worship and service of God must be according to God’s way, not man’s. There are well-defined Biblical principles prescribing how God is to be approached in worship. The first and second commandments exclude all forms of pagan and idolatrous worship.

God has also sent one Saviour for the world, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He only is the way, the truth, and the life: no man can come to God but by Him (Jn 14:6). "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

In obedience to God's holy commandment, Calvary has taken a clear stand of obedience by separating from:

- a) all pagan and idolatrous worship,
- b) all religious groups which do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, including the World Council of Churches and its members,
- c) the Roman Catholic Church for its idolatry and other departures from the Christian faith,
- d) the New Evangelicals of Lausanne II movement for their disobedience to God's Word, and their association with / approval of apostate groups,
- e) the Charismatic Movement for its unscriptural teachings and practices, and identifying with Rome,
- f) the Ecumenical Movement which seeks to unite all people to form a One World Church.

God's Word says to those who truly belong to Him: "*Come out ... be ye separate*" (2 Cor 6:17), "*Mark them ... avoid them*" (Rom 16:17), "*Receive him not...*" (2 Jn 10), "*Have no fellowship...*" (Eph 5:11), and "*Earnestly contend for the faith...*" (Jude 3).

While we practise Biblical Separation, it does not mean our missions work is limited to establishing B-P outreaches or B-P churches. God's Kingdom is our first priority. In the "Lord's Prayer," the first petition is "*Thy Kingdom come....*" This is our emphasis in missions. Making disciples for God's Kingdom, and **not** merely making more "B-Ps," has been our priority. For this reason, we have co-laboured, cooperated, and supported many non-B-Ps and their non-B-P outreaches in different parts of the world: in the Philippines, Saipan, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, etc.

As long as the fundamentals of the historic Christian faith and the principle of Biblical Separation are cherished and practised, we cooperate and fellowship to extend God's Kingdom. "*In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, liberty. In all things, charity*" (Blaise Pascal).

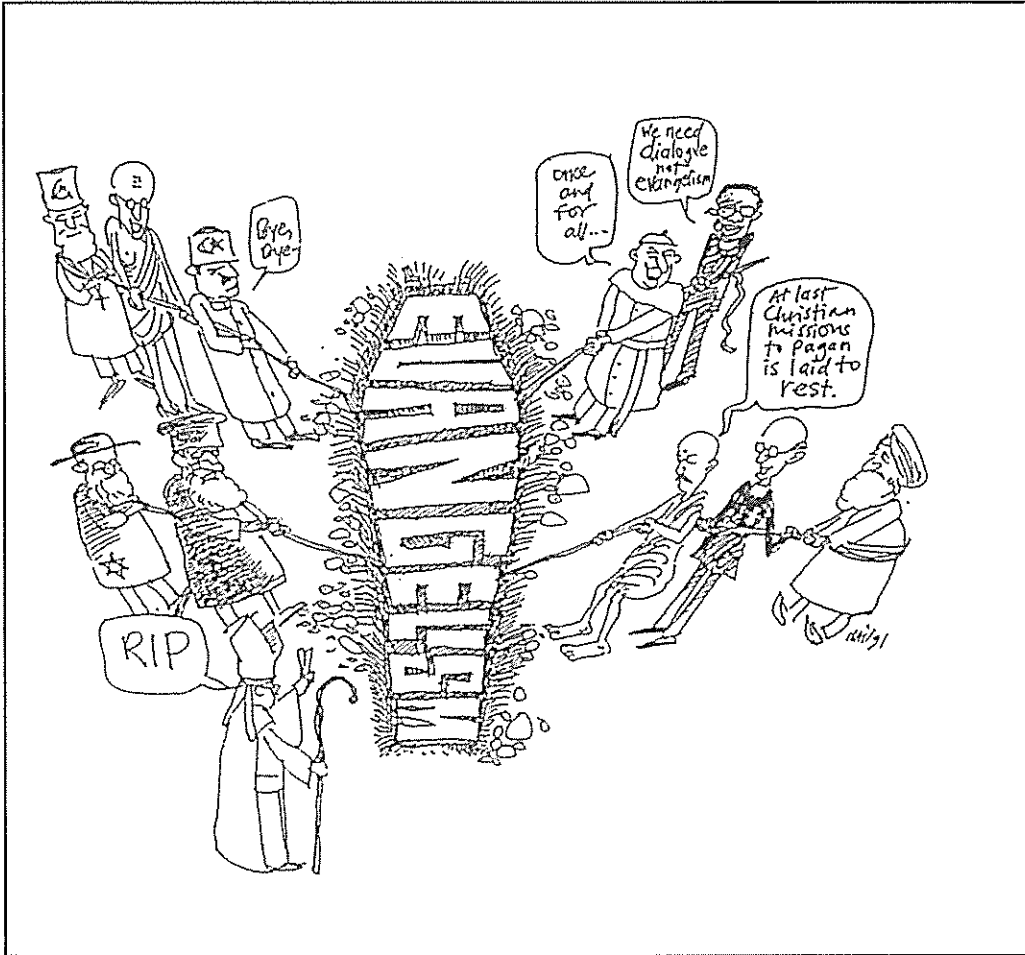
May the Lord be pleased with our obedience to Him in our practise of Biblical Separation and in the extension of His Kingdom.



Cartoonist: HS Lim

Acts 4:12:

*"There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved"
-- only the name Jesus*



Cartoonist: HS Lim

Ecumenism -- the graveyard of Biblical Missions

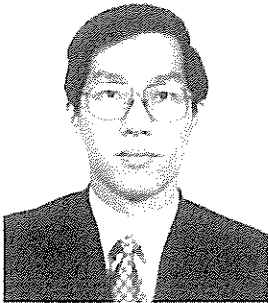
There is a general lethargy and slackness in many churches today. The “Great Commission” is often our “Great Omission.” Yet we know that the Word of God is replete with many injunctions to evangelise a dying world. How can an average believer give attention to the vital task of propagating the gospel to the lost?

6

A SACRED OBSESSION FOR MISSIONS

*“Yea, woe is unto me,
if I preach not the gospel!”
(1 Cor 9:16)*

Jack Sin



NOT AN OPTION

First, personal witness and missions must be appreciated as a duty. It is a sacred duty and obligation because it is a commission, not a suggestion. It is a clear clarion call to Christian action (Matt 28:18–20), not an optional proposal.

We are under instruction from the Lord of hosts to bring the message of hope and redemption to those who have not heard it. Peradventure, they may be saved according to the sovereign will of God. Good and faithful soldiers obey the order of their Commander. We have a solemn and sober responsibility to fulfil.

GREAT PRIVILEGE

Second, to share the gospel is a grand prerogative. It is a privilege because of the great importance of the message we are bringing. What do you think of the special envoy sent by the Secretary-General of the UN to Bosnia, seeking to bring a word of peace and conciliation? Or an emissary from the US President to China undertaking talks to mend strained relations?

I think it is a great privilege for the person selected for the job. If you agree, congratulations! For we are ambassadors sent with a heavenly mandate to proclaim the glorious message of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (2 Cor 5:20; Mk 5:19).

But there is one complication. Most of these earthly ambassadors are not doing their job

very well. We fail to comprehend the immensity and gravity of the task committed to us. One day, we will have to report back and account for our actions at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:12). Let us be responsible and carry out our tasks honourably and with zeal.

BE PREPARED

Third, gospel witness is a matter of readiness and heart preparation. The Apostle Peter puts it this way: "*sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear*" (1 Pet 3:15).

We are to be always ready to give an answer ("*apologia*"), a defence of the hope that is in us. That requires preparation and alertness.

It behooves us to be watchful for opportunities of witness and gospel sharing: in our office, camp, school, home, and even in public places whenever asked.

One afternoon, I was asked by a Korean brother to share the gospel with a visiting tourist. He had certain questions to ask and we reasoned over the Scriptures for about half an hour.

Another time, while in Pensacola for my sabbatical, I was asked to share the gospel to a Dr Hwang, a retired Taiwanese engineer in the hospital. By the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, he received Christ as his personal Saviour. He was baptized later on Resurrection Sunday and later his wife came to our weekly Bible study regularly and is receptive to the gospel.

You never know what the Lord would do in your life if you are willing to serve him anytime. We are to be on 24-hour alert. We never know when opportunity will knock. So be vigilant we are on DEF CON 1 (the highest level of alertness in the military) all the time.

PERSEVERANCE AND PRAYER

Fourth, sharing the gospel is a matter of perseverance and prayer. We get discouraged when people are not interested, and we stop sharing the gospel.

But conversion is seldom instantaneous, and in the sovereignty of God, it is not dependent on our efforts. Although God is sovereign, we still need to pray, to persevere and to wait upon the Lord.

Many have waited for years to see the conversion of their friends and parents. It took more than ten years before my mother trusted Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour. My late grandfather accepted Christ at the age of 81 and was baptised two years later. We continue to be amazed by the outworkings of our sovereign God.

COURAGE

Fifth, sharing the gospel takes boldness and courage. Often we are afraid to speak for fear of embarrassment, rejection or repercussions. We are afraid of what people will think of us and hence we keep quiet and miss the opportunity.

I must confess that I was once like this, especially with certain groups of people. Now I make a point of giving a tract to the attendant each time I pump petrol for the van! I have the opportunity to witness to someone, Christiane Doms, who lives just across Maranatha Church in Loyang. She is a Catholic from Belgium. She received a tract and was invited to church. She read the tract and came.

Consider the example of Peter and John in Acts 4:20: "*We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*" We need a dauntless spirit, not one of fear or timidity (2 Tim 1:7). A valiant spirit, to stand up and speak the truth in love and meekness. Have holy boldness for the sake of the gospel. Say

something for Christ that may have life changing consequences for someone.

REMEDY FOR SIN

Let me end with this poser. If a doctor found a cure for cancer and concealed it, how would you describe him? Cruel, selfish, inhumane — those would be appropriate adjectives.

But wait a minute! What about us who know the gospel is the only remedy for man's sin? Are you burdened for the lost? Or have you lost that burden? Are we any better than this doctor? Think about it.

Share the Gospel. Shout it out. Pass it around. "Give your faith away" by sharing the gospel and gain much more. Do it before it is too late. Our time is almost up.

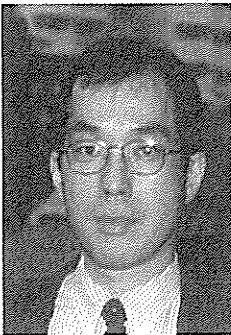
*"...Go home to thy friends,
and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee,
and hath compassion on thee."
(Mk 5:19)*

7

THE NEVER-ENDING MISSION OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world ... and then shall the end come"
(Matt 24:14)

Quek Suan Yew



The fact that man dies has instilled in man the importance of time and the finality of all things that pertain to this life. There will come a time when a student will complete his schooling days and enter the workforce. A father provides for his children and there will come a time when they will stand on their own. A mother grooms her daughter to become a woman after God's own heart and soon she gets married and becomes a mother herself. The list goes on and on. It is clear that nearly every relationship and phase of life has an end.

Of course what is most final is death itself, when we breathe that last breath. This is an end that we cannot ignore. Yet we leave behind "traces" of ourselves in our children, our work and the impact we have in the lives of friends and colleagues. But many of these things that we leave behind are temporal. They do not last. In America, airports and large aircraft carriers are named after dead presidents. These airports and carriers are in constant need of repair and upgrading. Soon they will be destroyed or phased out completely. Large multi-national corporations worth billions of dollars have collapsed and disappeared into the sea of failed businesses strewn throughout the graveyard of man's history. They are soon forgotten like the stardom of past generations.

What the Christian has to realize is that there are many things in this life that he can do which will last, not only for a long time but for eternity. One of these things is the winning of souls through the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the missionary work that God has commanded every Christian throughout every generation to keep alive, vibrant, healthy and strong. Leading a soul to Christ is salvation, building up the faith of the believers is sanctification, and maturing of the faith will ultimately lead to glorification. This is the never-ending journey and mission of every Christian. This in effect is the very heartbeat of every biblical church.

SALVATION — BE A PERSONAL WITNESS FOR JESUS CHRIST

The testimony of the Christian is critical, not so much in what he says but what he does. Countless millions have used the bad witness of professing Christians as an excuse for rejecting Christ. Christians are to be the salt of this earth, influencing the world for Jesus Christ. By our living testimonies of the grace and mercies of God in our lives, we are to retard sin and evil. We are to be the light of the world to shine forth the saving gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To help or hinder the cause of Christ by our witness is the decision of every Christian.

This is a two-choice issue. As Joshua posed to his generation before his death, "...choose you this day whom ye will serve...as for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (Josh 24:15). As long as you are a child of God your personal witness is critical. The Bible says in **Isaiah 43:10 to 12**, "*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.*" Israel bore the Name of God so she had to bear the image of God as a living testimony. Just as it was true of Israel in the Old Testament times, it is true of every Christian today.

As long as we are alive we are Christ's witnesses. There is no retirement, only glorification! As long as there are people, the witnessing never stops. As long as the Spirit of God works in the world and draw men and women, boys and girls, to God through Jesus Christ, the witness of the believers is unending.

Never stop shining for our Lord. A hymn by Bernard Barton reflects precisely this

privilege and responsibility given by God to every believer to be His light in a dark world.

*Walk in the light! So shalt thou know,
that fellowship of love,*

*His Spirit only can bestow
who reigns in light above.*

*Walk in the light! And thou shalt find
thy heart made truly His,*

*Who dwells in cloudless light enshrined,
in whom no darkness is.*

*Walk in the light! And thou shalt own
thy darkness pass away,*

*Because that light hath on thee
shone in which is perfect day.*

*Walk in the light! And even the tomb
no fearful shade shall wear;*

*Glory shall chase away its gloom,
for Christ hath conquered there.*

*Walk in the light! Thy path shall be
a path though thorny bright;*

*For God, by grace, shall dwell in thee,
and God Himself is light.*

SANCTIFICATION — BE A SEPARATED CHRISTIAN FOR JESUS CHRIST

One of the biblical ways of maintaining a living testimony for Christ is to keep ourselves from evil and sin. This does not mean that we will not sin and have arrived at the point of sinless perfection. This is impossible as the sinful nature still resides in every believer, though it has lost its stranglehold over us.

The command from God is to be holy as God is holy (cf. Lev. 20:7; 1 Pet 1:15-16). This is a striving toward holiness for the rest of our lives. We know that in this lifetime we can never attain perfection but the pursuit of holiness is a never-ending mission on earth for every Christian.

Firstly, **the Christian is commanded to be separated from sin.** This includes the sin of drunkenness, gambling, smoking, disobedient to parents, prayerlessness, coldness toward the reading of God's Word, indifference to service, esteeming self better than others, lack of growth, remaining as an infant in Christ (after having been a Christian for the past many years), and many such sins. The bane of many Christian churches today is that members indulge in worldly activities without a second thought. Living with a known sin in our lives has become so comfortable that it does not bother us anymore. It is like an enemy living in our homes and we have gotten so used to it because of its long abiding presence. Has Calvary become such a church? Are you such a Christian? Are there husbands and wives living apart because both parties refuse to make the first move toward reconciliation, or to say the most difficult words in man's vocabulary, "I am sorry"? Jesus says in **Philippians 2:5 to 8**, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*" Husbands, as the head of the house, it is incumbent upon you to make the first move toward reconciliation.

Secondly, **the Christian is to separate himself from even the very appearance of impropriety.** Many young Christian couples today have no qualms in sharing a hotel room when they travel on holiday or business together. They claim that so long as they sleep on different beds, albeit in the same room, they are not committing adultery. Jesus says in Matthew 5:27 to 28, "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou*

shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." The Christian is also charged by God to do all things to God's glory. **1 Corinthians 10:31** says, "*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*" Is a worldly way of life glorifying to your God? Is saving some money a good argument? How can we put a price tag on the reputation of our Lord Jesus Christ who shed His priceless and precious blood for our sins? Is the Name of Christ of so little worth to you as a Christian?

Thirdly, **the Christian must separate himself from all doctrinal errors.** If he is in a church that teaches wrong doctrines, then he is duty bound to inform the leaders. Having done so, if the leaders remain in their state of compromise and sin, then the Christian has no option but to separate himself from such a church. He cannot give of his tithes and offerings in a church that goes against God and His Holy Word. To worship and serve God in a biblically sound church is the duty of every Christian. If he is a father then it is also important for him that his family, especially his children, are nurtured and taught the pure Word of God in Sunday school. To subject his children to erroneous teachings, hence causing them to be stumbled, is a very serious sin to God. He says in **Matthew 18:5 to 7**, "*And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!*" Every child is precious in the sight of God. How precious are your children in your sight, Christian?

GLORIFICATION — BE A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN FOR JESUS CHRIST

The culmination of our salvation in Jesus Christ is glorification. Glorification is the transformation of our vile and wretched bodies into a spiritual and glorious body. The Bible promises us in **1 Corinthians 15:42 to 44**, "*So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*"

Very often, the Christian believes that as long as he is saved, he is fine. There is not much left to do but to sit back and relax. Giving the weekly or monthly tithe and offering and attending church once a week is all that is needed to be an obedient Christian. He is very far from the truth if he thinks this way. Just as every baby grows into adulthood with much nurture and good healthy food, every Christian must grow into a mature Christian, feeding on the "meat" of God's Word. This takes effort and discipline. Prioritizing our schedules and making the study of God's Word of paramount importance help. This is a life long journey and spiritual endeavour that never ends. It stops only when we die or when Jesus comes again.

King David understood this truth in his daily life. He testified in **Psalm 19:7 to 11**, "*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of*

the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." No amount of responsibilities as king of Israel, or wealth and power would deter David from loving God's Word. He was known as the man after God's own heart because he always sought God and His Word, even after he had sinned. Are we "a man after God's own heart"?

CONCLUSION

The fulfillment of the Great Commission is more than just sharing the gospel message of salvation. This is only the first step of obedience in a life long endeavour of growth toward conforming to the image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We do not do so with our own strength. Our Lord Jesus Christ helps us each step of the way. This is the cross every believer has to carry. It is not too heavy that we cannot carry it. Neither is it so light that we need not depend on Christ to help us. Jesus promised us in **Matthew 11:28 to 30**, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*"

Don't stop serving. Every Christian has a never-ending mission on earth. To preach the saving gospel message of Jesus Christ and to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ is the life long pursuit of every believer till we see our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ face to face.

My posting to Singapore General Hospital as a Probationer Hospital Assistant started me on the heavenly pathway which has led me ever onward and upward in the service of my Lord.

Ward 3 holds special memories for me. On that day in 1953 the Ward Doctor handed me a Gospel of John, with John 3:16 written inside the front cover, and an invitation to Life B-P Church, Prinsep Church.

Coming under the sound of the Gospel and the conviction of sin, I was led of the Spirit to receive Jesus as my Saviour and Lord, and to make public confession of my faith on 18 May 1954 by baptism administered by **Rev Timothy Tow**. Little did I realize then that three decades later that same servant of God who had led me to the Lord would call on me to join him in a global Gospel outreach upon my retirement from Government service in 1987.

ROVING AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

I had actually opted for early retirement in 1981 to do the Lord's work but my application was not approved due to the increased intake of nurses then. However, upon attaining the age of 55, I put in my papers again, and it was approved. In the same year, the Ministry of Health sent me two letters requesting me to extend my service till 60 or do part-time teaching in the School of Nursing. I turned down both requests and the financial rewards. I mentioned in my reply that since I had given the best years of my life to the Ministry of Health, thirty-three and a half years, it was my heart's desire to devote the remaining years of my life to the Lord's Ministry of Heaven.

The first Macedonian call came in 1987, shortly after my retirement when **Dr SH Tow** requested me to stand in the gap for Rev Mark Heath whose visa was not ready at that time.

8

STOP-GAP GLOBAL MISSIONS SHUTTLE SERVICE

*"... I heard the voice of the Lord,
saying, Whom shall I send, ...?
Then said I, Here am I, send me"
(Isa 6:8)*

Khoo Peng Kiat

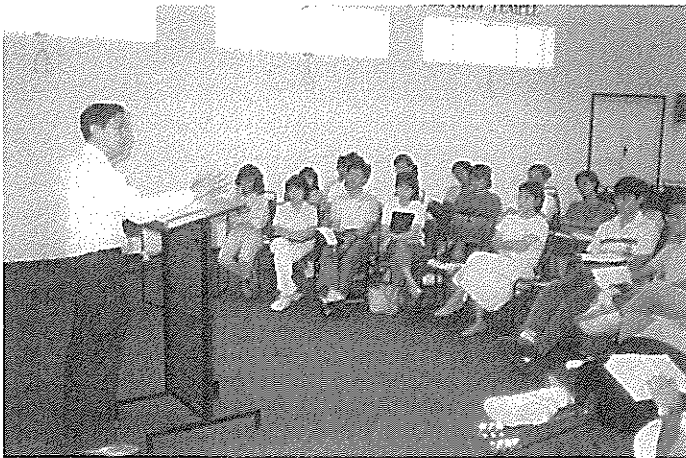


Constrained by the love of Christ and the impelling "GO" of the Gospel, my wife and I made ourselves available for this first foreign mission. We owe a great Gospel debt and we are grateful to God for all that He has done for us in saving our souls. We went by faith, not knowing what was expected of us. However, I know that God would not send us without also enabling and sustaining us.

God called us to serve in the following places:

1. AUSTRALIA

We first ministered in **Perth** at the **Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (BPCWA)** in early 1987. At the



Bible study in Perth

end of two months, we got a call again from Dr Tow to proceed to **Melbourne** to help out in the house church in the home of Tat Luen and Julie Loke which was the beginning of **Bethel B-P Church**. Through God's wonderful providence, Bethel later acquired a former AOG church building at Oakleigh, mainly through the financial help of **Calvary B-P Church**. God has been good to provide various visiting B-P ministers and elders to fill the pulpit of the church. The people had been praying for a full-time resident pastor for many years. God answered their prayer by sending **Rev Stephen Khoo** who has ministered in Bethel B-P Church for the

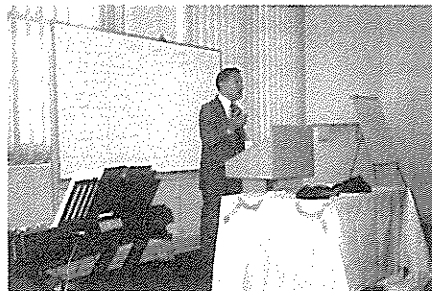
last five years together with his wife, **Hong Hong**.

In October 1999 a group from Bethel B-P Church left to establish **Ebenezer B-P Church** at Mulgrave (a Melbourne suburb) and we were again requested to minister there, as a stop-gap measure in place of **Elder Chia Kim Chwee** who had developed a severe spinal problem which required a major operation. Thus far we have ministered twice at Ebenezer. Members of the interim Committee have again requested for help and we were there in February 2002 for three months.

In Australia, we have also served at **Hope B-P Church** in **Adelaide** for two months in 1996 when **Rev Edward Pauwe** and his wife went to the States for their sabbatical leave. While in Adelaide, I preached and taught God's Word and conducted a short seminar for the young people. We had a profitable time there.

Unexpectedly, we were also called to serve in **Sydney** between 1999-2001.

In that period, I stood in for **Elder Koh Kim Hiang** on three occasions when he and his wife had to return to Singapore upon expiry of their visas. By God's grace, the Sydney B-P Church has recently acquired a beautiful church property.



In Sydney B-P Church

2. BRITAIN

We received three calls from Dr Tow and Rev (Dr) Patrick Tan between 1998 and 1999 to serve in **New Life London B-P Church**. We served there for a total of



Bible study in New Life London

seven months in our three visits, co-labouring with Deacon JJ Lim (now Rev Lim).

Every Saturday afternoon, Dn JJ and I and a group of students from Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College went out to evangelize and invite the people in the neighborhood to come for worship and fellowship. We covered more than two thousand homes in our two separate visits. Although the response was poor, we had a few who came to join us in worship both in the morning and evening services.

3. BRUNEI

The call to serve in Brunei came some time in July and August 1999 to stand in for Rev Peter Wong when he came to study at the Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore for one semester. A panel of

preachers from Brunei and Singapore took turns to minister God's Word which was interpreted into Mandarin. Initially, the worshippers met in members' homes by rotation. But by God's providence, a corner terrace house was acquired by the church at B\$200,000 for visiting preachers and for worship and fellowship meetings. The people there hunger and thirst for God's Word and the leaders are very much at home with the B-P distinctive.

4. CANADA

In Canada, we were called to serve in the two B-P churches planted by Dr Tow: one in **Toronto** and the other in **Vancouver**. We were in each place for several months between 1998 and 2000. In Toronto, I helped out in the work there last year when Elder Daniel Chew was studying at the Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore for two semesters.

In **Vancouver B-P Church**, initially, the needs of the pulpit were met by visiting ministers and elders. Since November 2000 the Lord has provided a pastor in the person of **Deacon Isaac Ong** (from Calvary B-P Church) who is a graduate of Bob Jones University and the Far Eastern Bible College. He is now serving as Assistant Pastor under the care of Dr Tow.

5. SRI LANKA

When Dr Tow called me from overseas asking whether I could help to relieved Dr Paul Hoole, pastor of Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Chapel, Sir Lanka, for a period of one month, I agreed.

Dr Hoole planned a schedule of what I was to do from 2 to 29 August 2002 daily basis. Although the programme was quite tight, yet by God's grace and enabling I was able to cover all my duties as assigned.

Every Lord's Day, I preached two sermons: one at 10:15 am (Tamil Service), my sermon was interpreted into Tamil and another at 5 pm (English Service). On the last Lord's Day I preached at the three services: 8:30 am, 10:15 am and 5 pm. The average attendance at the Prayer Meeting / Bible Study is around 12 to 14 people.

During our one-month ministry, my wife and I visited more than ten families and shared with them from the Word of God, followed by prayers and fellowship to edify and encourage them in their walk with God.

What has encouraged us in our ministry was the fact that there are worshippers who attended all the three services. They

really had the physical and spiritual stamina. Above all the joy of their Lord is the strength.

CONCLUSION

As I look back over the last fifteen years of stop-gap spiritual shuttle service for the Lord, my wife and I praise and thank God for His grace and mercy and for His unfailing faithfulness in seeing to all our needs and in granting us journeying mercies all these years. We do not know what lies ahead for us, but we do know that God is in absolute control. By God's grace and strength, we will continue to serve Him and His people and even those who are not of the household of faith to win them to Christ. As long as God sustains us with health and strength, we continue to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. May the joy of the Lord be our strength as we labour in His Vineyard to His own glory and honour. In the words of Homer Duncan: **"When we are available, God can use us, when, where and as He wills."** Amen.



Bible study in Brunei



In Vancouver B-P Church



Visitation in Sri Lanka

Lord, use me as a vessel of honour for your glory and enlarge my tent in your ministry.”

Whatever our occupation, whether a businessman, teacher, doctor, student or homemaker, God has given each of us different missions fields or “pulpits” from which to share His Word. And wherever God has placed us, He wants us to speak a word for Him.

I am always encouraged when fellow Christians share how they were able to witness to a colleague, or a patient or a loved one. Indeed, as God’s precious children, we have an important mission, and that is to share the gospel wherever we go.

As Bishop Taylor Smith once said: “Who will bring in those sheep if our feet do not go? How will they come in if our hands do not bring them? How will they hear if our lips do not speak to them? How will they know of God’s love if your hearts do not love them?”

One reason why many of us are so hesitant to witness for Christ is that we fear failure. We tend to get discouraged when only one person, out of the many to whom we have spoken, accepts God’s gift of salvation. But the Bible tells us that *“there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth”* (Lk 15:10). We must not be discouraged.

During my pioneering years as a teacher at **Jurong Calvary Kindergarten**, I often had opportunities to meet the parents of my students. Over time, I got better acquainted with some of them and began sharing the gospel. There were times when the gospel seed fell on cold, hard, stony ground; but there were also times when the parents responded positively and came to church. By God’s grace, some of them eventually accepted Christ into their hearts. Although others may have rejected the gospel, I trust

9

EVANGELISING AND TRAINING AROUND THE GLOBE

“And the things that thou hast heard ... the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”
(2 Tim 2:2)

Alice Chan



that the Lord will continue to work in their hearts, for it is God who gives the increase.

After 25 years of ministry in the kindergarten, the Lord led me to serve alongside my husband, **Rev James Chan**, at various missions fields overseas. There were times when Rev Chan and I had to spend several



Counselling in Sydney B-P Church

weeks outstation, pastoring B-P churches in **Perth, Sydney and Vancouver**. In these places of affluence, many people do not think they need God; they do not see how Christ is able to fill the void in their lives. However, we went on with home visitations, inviting the community to the gospel services and other church activities. Thank God for the lives that were changed and the souls that were saved through these outreaches. The Lord had indeed answered the prayers of friends and



In Vancouver B-P Church

members back home who were faithfully praying for the missions work.

Each missions field — even at home — has its own set of challenges, but surely, we must not forget the life-changing power of the gospel! If you are able, join a missions trip organised by the church and see how the Lord can use you too!



In Haputale, Sri Lanka

One particular missions trip that left a deep impression on me was the one to **Sri Lanka**, which I made with Rev Chan and a team of church members. It was natural that many of us, ladies particularly, were quite concerned about how we were going to adapt to the unfamiliar environment, food and culture. Being so used to our comfortable lifestyle in Singapore, we really had to depend fully on the Lord for strength to do His work well.

Indeed, God gave us the courage and grace we needed. He preserved us and opened our eyes to see the spiritual hunger of the people for His Word. We ministered to farmers in the highlands — where the Lipton Tea plantations were located — and school children from various villages. It was amazing to see how the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts.

There was a couple who came to see us one evening, while we were having our late dinner. Our hosts had arranged for them to come at that time, when we were back from the meetings. Coming from a Roman Catholic background, the couple was eager to know more about Christ and salvation. We shared with them from the Bible and answered the questions they had. Around midnight that evening, they received Christ into their hearts! Our hearts were filled with joy, although we were exhausted by the day's activities.

Praise God that this trip to Sri Lanka saw more than 100 men, women, and children responding to the gospel call. This was the best harvest we have experienced! Again, we were reminded that God's people back home were praying for this ministry. The team members certainly came home rejoicing, refreshed and encouraged by the blessed fellowship they enjoyed with fellow believers in a foreign land.

With new opportunities for service comes the need for skills upgrading. As the Lord had laid it on my heart to serve Him in the children's ministry, I decided that I should

attend a course in Child Evangelism for Teachers. Following that, I would be able to train fellow Sunday School teachers for the ministry. I, therefore, enrolled for the course and thank God for seeing me through the three months of intensive training successfully. Equipped with this, I am now happily training Sunday School teachers in various churches.

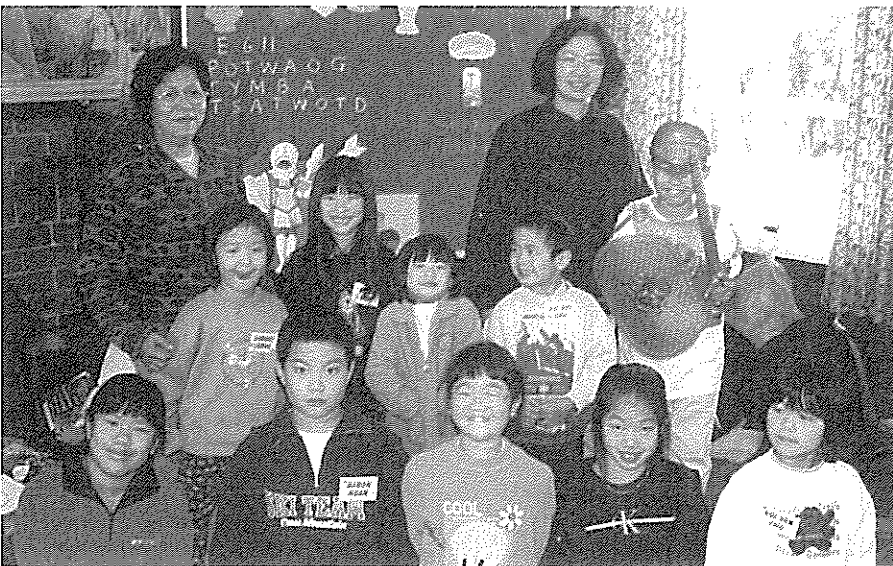
As a child of God, you too have a missions field. And it's right where you are — at home!

I speak to parents with young children: your missions field is with your home, your children. Have you shared the gospel with them and taught them the ways of the Lord? If not, start today.

As an employee/employer, your missions field stretches from home to your workplace. Let us strive to be a light for Christ through our words and actions always.

The Lord can use anyone for His work, including you! Remember: "Only one life, t'will soon be passed. Only what's done for Christ will last."

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (1 Thess 5:24)



With Mrs Mabeline Koh (top right) at the Easter Camp in Sydney

10

RPG: GLOBAL GOSPEL COURIER

*"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him"
(Isa 59:19)*

SH Tow

As Sunday School Superintendent in Life Church Prinsep Street in the fifties, my foremost concern was to promote Bible reading among the members. Unless our members read God's Word, how are they ever to grow? But merely to urge and encourage was of little effect, unless the verbal urging was backed by some practical reading aid. In those early days, Scripture Union daily reading notes were excellent, systematic, age-graded, and produced by theologically sound and conservative writers. With God-given purpose and vigour, we promoted SU Bible reading aids until Life Church became the largest subscriber in Singapore.

But the creeping cancer of liberal theology was infecting churches and seminaries everywhere. In 1980 the leaven of liberalism had seeped into SU Daily Bread Bible Reading Notes. Here is a sampling of SU's "falling away":

1. **Bible Versions.** SU commonly quoted from GNB, RSV, NIV, etc – corrupted Modern English Versions.
2. **SU is silent on the Apostasy.** The Ecumenical Movement and its deception are never mentioned.
3. **SU notes cast doubts on the authenticity of the Bible record:**
 - a) "Most Christians take the days of Genesis I to refer to long periods of time ..." (SU Notes, 2.1.80). **This is a denial of the six-day creation.**
 - b) "With forbidden fruit, a talking animal and a flaming sword it is not surprising that most people today do not take this chapter (Gen 3) literally" (SU Notes, 15.1.80). **This is another attack on the veracity of the Genesis record.**
 - c) "We cannot be sure whether the flood covered the globe." (SU Notes, 20.1.80). **The SU writer denies the clear record of the universal Flood in Genesis and other books of the Bible.**

d) On the feeding of 5,000: "So Jesus' welcome fed the crowd" (SU Notes, 17.8.80). **This is a denial of our Lord's miracle and therefore a subtle attack on His deity.**

Alas! The SU which I once loved and promoted had been infiltrated by false teachers, "... *grievous wolves (entered) in among you, not sparing the flock ...*" (Acts 20:29). The "Daily Bread" notes were no longer safe for human consumption, and, who knows, other SU materials as well.

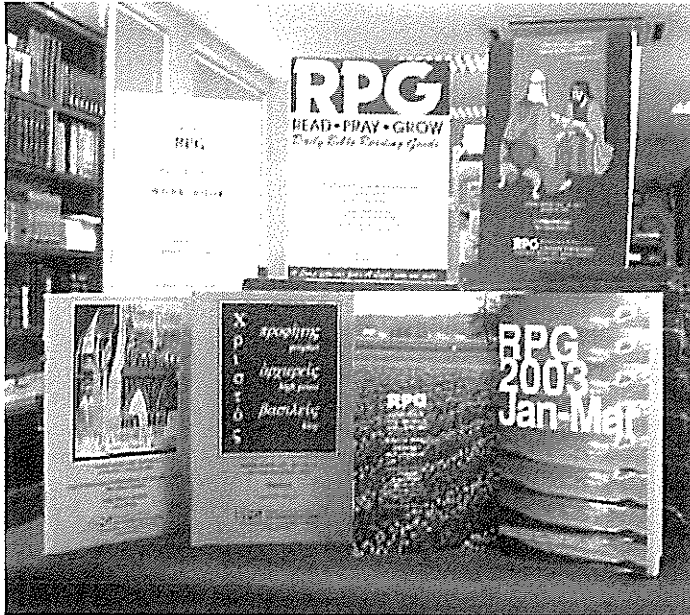
We discontinued SU notes immediately.

In 1982 the first RPG Daily Bible Reading Guide Notes rolled off the press, a banner of "Truth and Light." "*When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him*" (Is 59:19). From that modest beginning RPG notes spread from Calvary B-P Church to others in the Bible-Presbyterian and fundamentalist circles worldwide.

Today, twenty years on, 15,500 copies of RPG shine as "*lights in the world*" in forty countries around the globe, helping Christians to read God's Word with complete confidence that every book, every chapter, every line, and every word of the Book is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God. This is because **all** our RPG writers use and quote **only** from the **KJV Bible** – the **only** English translation of the Holy Bible which preserves every vital doctrine of God's Word from error and attack. This is a fundamental difference between RPG and SU Notes which use corrupted **Modern English Versions** which attack every vital Bible doctrine (and whose writers join in the attack by injecting poison into the SU materials).

Today RPG notes, as a Gospel Courier, are sent to some 10,000 users in Third World countries free of charge, as part of our repaying of the Gospel debt.

Dear reader, if you have been blessed by RPG notes, will you recommend it to another? Be a good steward of the manifold grace of God.



*RPG over the years,
now 15,500 copies in 40 countries*

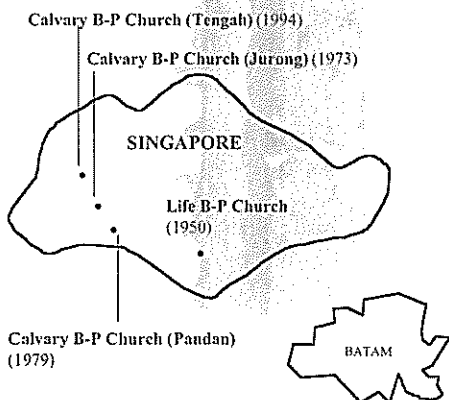
Part II

**UNTO THE
UTTERMOST
PART**

11

SINGAPORE

"I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it ..."
(Rev 3:8)



The story of Calvary is the story of God's unsearchable wisdom and power, of irresistible grace. It is the story of God's doing: did not our Lord say, *"Without me ye can do nothing"*? One looks back to 1935, the "Revival Year" of Dr John Sung's first visit and God's call to repentance; then 1938, came God's call to consecration and service; then 1969, God's call to leave the world of academics, and take up the cross.

To give up a professorial chair in the prime of academic life was nothing short of foolishness in the eyes of the world; but it was foolishness of the godly sort, and *"the foolishness of God is wiser than men ..."* (1 Cor 1:25).

To leave the ease of eldership of the Mother Church, and to launch into the uncharted missions field was also "foolishness from God," a "foolishness" sealed by a consecration vow in 1938. The *"laying on of hands"* during Dr John Sung's final meeting in Muar, Johor, was the one event which determined all others that took place thirty and more years later.

Looking back in the year of grace 2002, and recounting the events of years, they are truly inexplicable by common sense reasoning. One questions, "Why? How? Wherefore?" **Answer:** God! *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"* (Rom 11:33).

Today it all seems so easy and smooth sailing, how Calvary in 1973 *"rose from the ground"* to become a landmark in Jurong Town just three years after leaving Life B-P Church, the Mother Church. The story is more fully told in Chapter Two: **"A Twentieth Century Antioch Church."**

**THE BEGINNING OF
CALVARY B-P CHURCH
(PANDAN)**

When Calvary B-P Church opened its doors on New Year's Day 1973, little did we dream that the Lord was beginning a global ministry which, like the proverbial mustard seed, would become a great tree *"so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof"* (Matt 13:32).

In three years, Calvary's congregation had multiplied manifold, with Rev Philip Heng as "borrowed pastor" from Galilee B-P Church and later Rev Edward Paauwe from the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions (IBPFM) in USA. By 1976 the sanctuary was *"bursting at the seams."*

"What shall we do?" Once again our thoughts turned to Mr Woon, the then Chairman of Jurong Town Corporation. *"I wonder if he will help us again?"* Together with Rev Heng we called on the Chairman. He was pleased to see us. He said, *"You people kept your word and completed the building in two years."* He was impressed. This time he showed us a wall map of Pandan Gardens.

"This piece is suitable for you, at the corner of Pandan Gardens. It is 98,000 sq ft, but low lying."

"Will you let us sub-divide in two, one for Calvary and one for Galilee?"

"Why not? Then you can have half each."

We thanked the Chairman and took our leave.

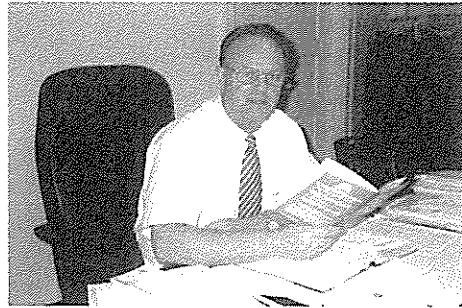
One day soon after, in the midst of a busy clinic, I received a call on the telephone from the Chairman. *"Siang Hwa, I am going on leave prior to retirement. Will you come to my office and sign the lease agreement?"*

Next day, Rev Heng and I affixed our names on two legal documents. We thanked Mr Woon for his kind remembrance. That was

our final meeting with a man who like Cyrus of old, went out of his way to advance the cause of God's Kingdom. (In later years we witnessed to him on many occasions. He was always agreeable but stopped short of making a commitment to accept the Lord as his Saviour.)

The grant of land by lease, and not by tender, saved Calvary an immense sum of money. This saving enabled Calvary to direct its resources into global missions for the next two decades and more. Our God is able to do exceeding abundantly above what we ask or think (Eph 3:20). All praise and thanks be to His holy name.

Calvary's two congregations grew under the pastoral care of Rev Philip Heng, Rev Edward Paauwe and later Rev James Chan. When Rev Edward Paauwe was recalled by the IBPFM in 1980, the Bible-Presbyterian Synod urged me to consider ordination into the pastorate. This was duly effected the same year. Since then for me it has been *"no turning back."*



*Rev Edward Paauwe,
General Secretary, IBPFM*

The Lord was pleased to raise up a Mandarin Service in Tao Ching Road (1974) as well as in Pandan (1980), to meet the needs of our Mandarin-speaking members.

Knowing our need for assistance, the Lord led **Rev Quek Suan Yew** to serve in Calvary Pandan. Below is his testimony of how the Lord called him into the ministry:

The call to fulltime ministry came in 1982 during the Sunset Gospel Hour series of messages on "The Call of Christ." God spoke to me through the testimonies of pastors and elders of the Bible-Presbyterian churches, lecturers and students of the Far Eastern Bible College. During these meetings, I recalled a prayer that I made to God a few weeks before I started work on 1 January 1981. I prayed that God would allow me to work for three years before He calls me into the fulltime service (if it was His will). I was jolted by this reminder. Deep in my heart I knew that "my time was up." But I resisted.

My excuses were quickly brushed aside by the Word of God. They were:

- (a) I do not wish to be rejected by Angie (now my wife) and my family. God's Word says, "*If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple*" (Lk 14:26-27).
- (b) I may not have a roof over my head. God's Word says, "*The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head*" (Matt 8:20).

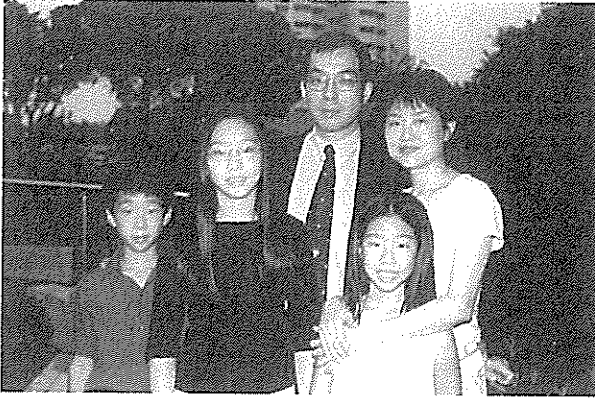
I still refused to trust and commit my life to God for fulltime service even when my excuses were brushed aside. Then on 23 February 1983, after almost six months of struggle, God called me specifically and personally. It was through the reading of the book "Evening by Evening" by Charles Spurgeon based upon the text from Mark 10:21: "*Take up the Cross and Follow Me.*" "*YOU (Angie calls me "yew" for "you") have not the making of your own cross, although unbelief is a master-carpenter at cross making; neither are YOU permitted to choose your own cross, although self-will would fain be lord and master; but your cross*

is prepared and appointed for YOU by divine love, and YOU are cheerfully to accept it; YOU are to take up the cross as your chosen badge and burden, and not to stand caviling at it. This night Jesus bids YOU submit your shoulder to His easy yoke. Do not kick at it in petulance or trample on it in vainglory, or fall under it in despair; or run away from it in fear; but take it up like a true follower of Jesus. Jesus was a cross-bearer; He leads the way in the path of sorrows. Surely YOU could not desire a better guide! And if He carries a cross, what nobler burden would you desire? The via crucis is the way of safety; fear not to tread its thorny paths. Beloved, the cross is not made of feathers, or lined with velvet; it is heavy and galling to disobedient shoulders; but it is not an iron cross, though your fears have painted it with iron colours; it is a wooden cross, and a man can carry it, for the Man of Sorrows tried the load. Take up your cross, and by the power of the Spirit of God YOU will soon be so in love with it, that, like Moses, YOU would not exchange the reproach of Christ for all the treasures of Egypt. ... The Lord help YOU to bow your spirit in submission to the divine will ere YOU fall asleep this night, that waking with tomorrow's sun, YOU may go forth to the day's cross with the holy and submissive spirit which becomes a follower of the crucified."

By the grace of God, that very night, I committed my life to God for fulltime service. The peace of God filled my heart.

Nearly twenty good years have past. All I can say is that God is faithful. He truly honours His word. I am married now to Angie for 17 blessed years. The Lord has blessed us with three wonderful and lovely children, Abigail (14 years), Alanna (11 years) and Zachariah (9 years).

I thank God for the ministry He has called me into in Calvary Pandan, since my graduation



Rev Quek Swan Yew and family

I thank God that He reached out to me and I was born-again.

From then on, I never turned back, but the Spirit led me into the deeper things of God, to discover “*the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus*” and the joy of full surrender to the Lord. As a newborn Christian I thanked God for revealing such a truth in His Word as “predestination” to me. I knew He has a plan for me and I wanted to live a life worthy of His calling.

from FEBC in 1988. The Lord is good. I have learned many things from Him through my service in Calvary Pandan.

All praise and glory be to God for calling me, unworthy though I am, into the ministry to serve Him in Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church (Pandan). Amen. (End of Rev Quek Suan Yew’s testimony.)

THE BIRTH OF CALVARY B-P CHURCH (TENGAH)

With Calvary established in Jurong and Pandan, God’s work is far from completed. Soon, the stirring of the Holy Spirit was felt once again. This time, the Lord laid upon the hearts of our members residing in the HDB Estate of Bukit Panjang to begin a Gospel Outreach under the leadership of Deacon (later Elder) Boaz Boon, which ultimately led to the formation of Calvary B-P Church (Tengah). Elder Boaz Boon’s testimony follows:

When our household idols failed to heal, our family became “free thinkers,” trusting only in ourselves. My primary school days in a Catholic institution shed no Gospel light to my darkened heart. By God’s grace, a Biology lecturer shared with me the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ during my ‘A’ levels in 1980 and

In 1982, I began my undergraduate days in the National University of Singapore. I attended a few churches including Calvary Charismatic at the World Trade Centre. I felt miserable there because of their “tongues speaking”. I pleaded with the Lord to help me. Towards the end of 1982, He led me to Calvary B-P Church (Pandan).

Through the many activities (worship services, Bible studies, prayer meetings, Youth and Adults’ Fellowship meetings), I began to grow. By God’s grace, I was privileged to be one of the founding members of the Young Adults’ Fellowship. I learned the precious doctrine of biblical separation as I searched God’s Word and read good Christian literature. The biography of Robert M. McChyene strangely warmed my heart and I purposed to serve the Lord Jesus Christ Who died in my stead on the cruel cross of Calvary. What a privilege to serve the King of kings!

I thank God for enabling me to study in Singapore, and to obtain good results. Later He blessed me with two Master Degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. He has blessed me with a godly family and good jobs. “*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?*” (Psa 116:12) As I pondered the wonderful grace of God, I resolved anew to serve Him. Then the world and all its glamour faded into nothing.

Years of faithful service in Calvary Pandan was rewarded by a blessed three-year ministry with New Life B-P Church at Queens Park London (1994 to 1997) when I motored each week-end with my family from Cambridge to fill a vital role in the infant church: nurturing, teaching, encouraging and guiding.

But my best gift to God was, in June 1988, the offering of my home for the founding of the Bukit Panjang Gospel Outreach (BPGO) which became the forerunner of Calvary B-P Church (Tengah). This was my repayment of the Gospel debt. By God's grace, He has enabled my wife and me to start this work with the help of Elder Frederick Lan and his wife, Poh Lian.

The objective of the BPGO was to reach out to the neighbourhood with the Gospel, and to strengthen the faith of our Calvary members living in the north-western part of Singapore. We organised fortnightly family worship and gospel meetings, tracting, children's gospel correspondence courses, toddlers' ministry, overseas mission trips, small group Bible study sessions, visitations, group outings and publications. The 40-odd members (adults and children) had excellent fellowship one with another as they shared their joys and sorrows together and encouraged each other in the Lord. As the numbers grew there arose thoughts of forming a church but the Lord had His timing.

In early 1994, the Lord moved the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) to offer, a garrison church complex immediately outside the Tengah Airbase, about 10 minutes' drive from Bukit Panjang, for our use on Sunday afternoons. (Shalom Baptist Church uses the same place on Sunday mornings.) With the encouragement of Rev Timothy Tow and the whole-hearted support of the Pandan Session,

Calvary B-P Church (Tengah) was born. The BPGO team met for a retreat at the home of Dr and Mrs SH Tow to pray for the Lord's guidance. We were exhorted from Zechariah 4:6 to claim another Gospel outpost for the Lord. Thus began Calvary B-P Church (Tengah) in August 1994 with a joyous Inaugural Service.

By God's grace, Calvary B-P Church (Tengah) celebrated her 8th anniversary in August 2002. Throughout its 14-year history, the BPGO-Tengah team remained faithful, practising biblical separation. Members gave cheerfully to the work of the Lord and the church was financially independent from day one. In 2001, Calvary BPC (Tengah) embarked



Elder Boaz Boon and family

on an extension and upgrading programme to meet the growing needs for worship, Sunday school, fellowship and related activities.

My continued love for missions has taken me to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Saipan, Australia, Canada and the UK. I observed how God's servants labour tirelessly in the mission fields. Serving the Lord is not without its trials, but there are worthwhile rewards surpassing anything the world can give. I serve the Lord with joy and urgency,

recognizing that He may come any moment. From heaven He calls: "*And, behold, I come quickly: and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be*" (Rev 22:12).

Today as a real estate consultant, my greatest joy — my first love — is to promote the real estate of our Heavenly King, the only estate which is real and enduring. As a serving Elder with Tengah, I continue my active interest in missions, leading groups in various mission trips to Calvary's global outposts.

What lesson have we learned? Answer: God's work, done in God's way, will receive God's blessings. It is a great privilege to serve the King of kings and the Lord of lords. May we encourage you to stand squarely with us to extend God's Kingdom. "*For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building*" (1 Cor 3:9). "*One planted, another watered, God gave the increase*" (1 Cor 3:6).

Today I can say with the Apostle, "*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for*

whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil 3: 7-8). The Lord has not called me to fulltime service; but my heart is fully His.

If the Lord could use me, can He not use you as well? (End of Elder Boaz Boon's testimony.)

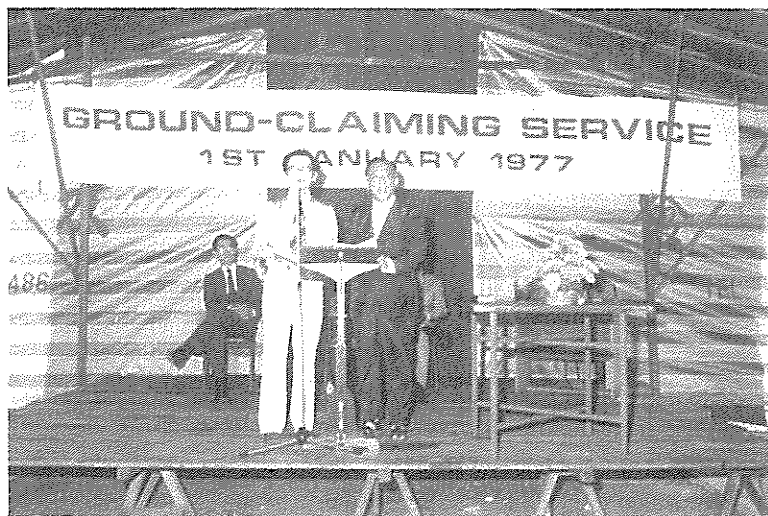
POSTSCRIPT

The story of Calvary does not end here: God's work goes on. Calvary's Gospel outreach has become a global network spanning countries and continents, aided by the Internet.

Back to our opening verse: "*I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name*" (Rev 3:8).

Thank God for giving the pioneers from Life B-P Church the "*little strength*" to accept big challenges. Thank God for keeping us faithful to His word and to His name.

Calvary stands, a token of God's faithfulness and wonder-working power, a testimony of His goodness and grace.



*A memorable day at 201 Pandan Gardens
(with Rev Timothy Tow speaking and Elder Cheng Wei Nien interpreting)*



*Calvary B-P Church
1, Tao Ching Road,
first built 1972, extended 1997*



*Calvary B-P Church (Pandan)
201, Pandan Gardens,
housing the Dr John Sung Memorial Chapel, 1,200 seating capacity*



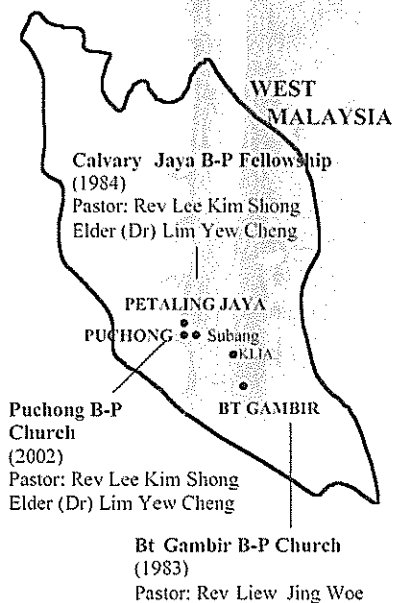
*Calvary B-P Church (Tengah)
345, Choa Chu Kang Road,
in the beautiful woodland of Tengah Airbase*

*"But ye, beloved,
building up yourselves on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Ghost,
Keep yourselves in the love of God,
looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."
(Jude 20, 21)*

12

WEST MALAYSIA

*"Enlarge the place of thy tent...
lengthen thy cords, and strengthen
thy stakes; for thou shalt break
forth on the right hand and on the
left..." (Isa 54:2)*



Calvary set forth from Mother Church Life with the mandate to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. While the Lord was pleased to establish in Jurong and enlarge our tent and lengthen our cords in Singapore, He was also laying the groundwork for us to *"break forth on the right hand and on the left"*: in 1984 **Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship** was founded in Damansara Jaya; in 1991 it moved to Section 17/1 in Petaling Jaya; in 2002 Calvary Puchong B-P Church was established in Puchong.

As in every Gospel work, the Lord raised a man of His choosing, and the man for the task was Daniel Chew. Here **Elder Daniel Chew** relates how as far back as 1972 the Lord was already laying the groundwork for the Gospel advance into the Federal Capital:

The story behind this breakthrough into the Malaysian capital is the story of God's marvellous grace in the salvation of the Chew family and of His provision and guidance that led to the establishment of the very first overseas missions lighthouse of Calvary B-P Church.

It started in 1972 with a young man leaving his hometown (Kuala Lumpur), despite well-meaning objections from family and friends, for an uncertain future in Singapore alone. He left behind his close knit family, friends, secure job and the strong idolatrous influence in his home to seek peace of mind and God. In retrospect, it was the unseen Hand of the Lord that guided his actions and gave him the confidence to head for Singapore.

Two years later in 1974, the young man found salvation through the ministry of Rev Philip Heng, the then Pastor of Calvary B-P Church. Intense witnessing to the young man's family then started. By the abundant mercies and grace of God, the whole family (including the father, old **Mr Chew Fook Wah**) accepted the Lord in February 1975.

The idea of establishing a B-P Church in Malaysia was first mooted by Rev Philip Heng after the family's baptism into Calvary's membership on 13 April 1975. The need arose as there was no biblically sound or separated church in Petaling Jaya for them to worship in and to have their faith nurtured. Initially, a monthly home worship was conducted by Rev Heng and elders who made flying visits over the weekend to preach to them and their invited friends.

Meanwhile, Mr Chew Fook Wah, having been soundly converted at age 57, became a fervent follower of the Lord and an ardent promoter of the Gospel. God had implanted in his heart a burning desire to start a B-P witness.

He immersed himself in the study of the Bible and in prayer. A *"man with a mission,"* he seized every opportunity to witness for the Lord, and enrolled in the Far Eastern Bible College (in Singapore) to prepare himself for the work ahead. Through his ministry many came to salvation in the Lord and had their idols burned. Malaysian Chinese churches started to invite him to preach and to join with them. But his heart was for a B-P Church to be established.

In 1984, the Session of Calvary B-P Church appointed Elder Koh Kim Hiang to head this outreach and to prepare for the inauguration of Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship which was held on 2 September the same year. The Cantonese Service was started six months later on 10 March 1985 under the leadership of Elder Cheng Wei Nien.

Mr Chew Fook Wah became Calvary Jaya's first local preacher, ministering the Word of God to the people in Petaling Jaya. His zeal for the Lord made him travel far and wide to preach the Gospel winning many senior citizens and relatives to the Lord. He served

his Lord and Master till the Lord took him home "in a flash" on 20 March 1985 after a short but fruitful ministry.

The untimely demise of Mr Chew Fook Wah, the mainstay of the Cantonese ministry, was a serious setback to the Church, but praise God, the Ampang Gospel Hall, having been greatly blessed by the late Mr Chew's ministry, rallied to help.

For the next six years, Calvary Jaya continued to meet in rented premises in



The rented premises in Damansara Jaya

Damansara Jaya, until the Lord led them to their own "Promised Land" in Petaling Jaya. (The story of this exciting development is worth re-telling.)

Thank God also for the persevering faith of our Senior Pastor, Dr SH Tow, and the Calvary Session in Singapore, the planting of the gospel seed, watering and harvesting in Calvary Jaya, albeit a slow process, was maintained. During its formative years, preachers from the mother church in Singapore, namely, Rev James Chan, Rev Stephen Khoo, Rev Tang Wai Kay, Dr SH Tow and Elders Joshua Lim, Cheng Wei Nien, Koh Kim Hiang and William Seah made regular visits to preach and nurture this young congregation. (End of Elder Daniel Chew's report.)

HOW THE LORD LED US TO OUR PROMISED LAND

God's Word is so true: for four years Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship met in rented premises — the law did not allow foreign ownership. By 1988 it was relaxed: *to every thing a season!* The time to buy had come: the better way was, and is, to have our own premises. That is the key to growth.

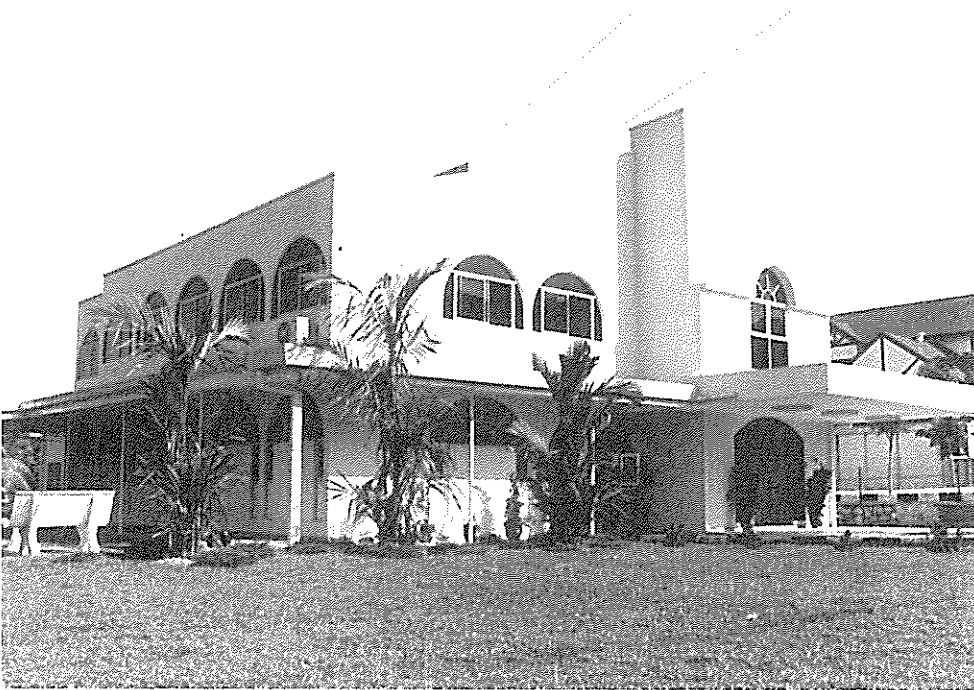
One day, the leaders of Calvary Jaya posed me this question: "*Both Melbourne and Perth which started after us have their own property. When will you do the same for us?*" My answer was Matthew 7:7: "*Ask and it shall be given.*" Soon after that the brethren showed me three properties. The last one was our "Promised Land"! By faith we knew it was the one for us.

No: 7, 17/1 in Petaling Jaya, a property under receivership, had gone through two unsuccessful auctions, and was being put up

for a third. The reserve price originally M\$820,000 had been reduced to M\$560,000. At our request, the bank agreed to sell at the reserve price and not go to auction, subject to court approval. Many had seen the property but none was interested. But by faith we saw!

It was an extraordinary dwelling house: solid concrete, two-storey building with seven rooms, five bathrooms, a curved staircase and a large airwell. The amazing feature was this: the windows and doors were gone, the electrical wires ripped off the walls, the whole place was overgrown with shrubs and trees — trees growing from the garden into the house, and trees growing from the airwell reaching to the outside. One had to see it to believe it!

But the building was strong and full of potential, and it was sitting on a corner lot of prime land, 13,000 sq ft. Therein was the prize. But if we wanted the church to survive, we



Calvary Jaya -- architectural transformation

needed the adjacent vacant land, an ideal lot of 11,000 sq ft, for a buffer and car park. The agent we contacted, for some reason refused our offer, but the Lord led us to another agent who persuaded the owner to accept! *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

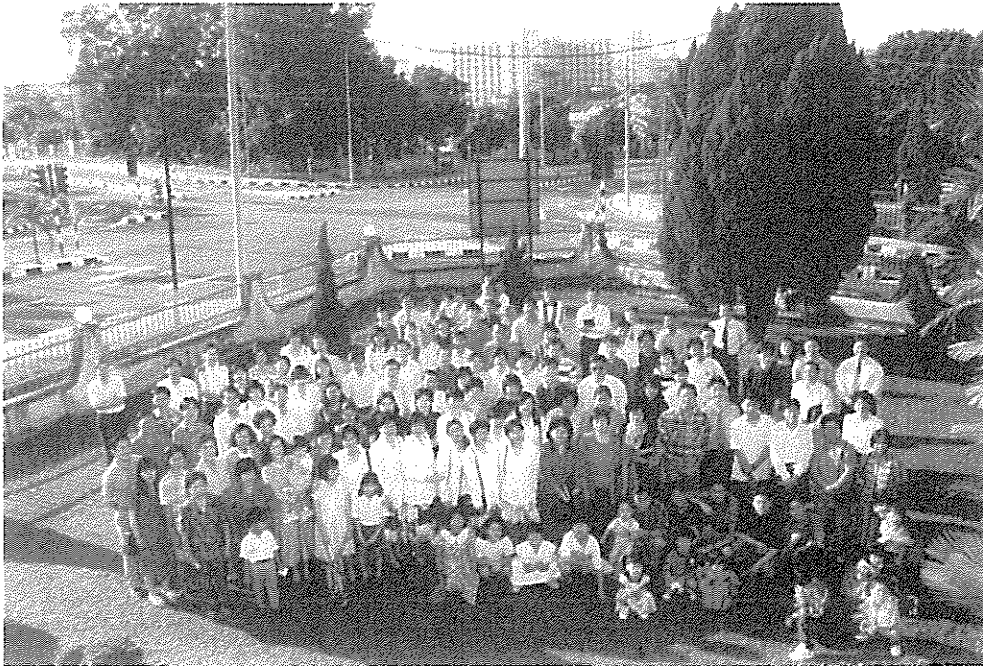
With Calvary Session’s blessing, the negotiations went ahead without a hitch. (When we began in 1984, our original intention to purchase had to be abandoned due to official policy.) On hindsight it was clear that our God was working for us something wonderful, doing *“exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think”* (Eph 3:20). Then came “D-day” (Document Day)!

It was an exceptional day, to have all the legal documents for the purchase of the two properties, the legal counsels representing the owners, and the Calvary Jaya leaders, to meet all in one day — 20 February 1989 in the

Federal Capital. My wife and I flew up in the morning. That afternoon within a space of two hours, all the needful legal requirements were completed, a ten percent deposit down payment was made (in Sing-dollars) and the two properties were secured! *Praise the Lord!* *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

Calvary Jaya Session was overjoyed, and urged me to help with the renovation and restructuring of the “ghost house” (for that was what it was!). Thank God, He had prepared Palmer and Turner Architects, an old friend Mr Bill Chen who happily offered to help, free of charge! For the next eighteen months, we worked closely on the project — drawing plans, getting official approval, executing the restructuring, renovation and re-equipping. The entire project took me many *flying trips* to KL to ensure “perfection” in every detail.

On 15 September 1991, Calvary Jaya held its Inaugural Service with great joy and thanks



Calvary Jaya congregation

to our all-wise and all-gracious God.

It is a fact that passersby stop to admire the beauty of the building, the garden and the grounds. Some have enquired after the architect who drew such a beautiful church building! Truly, God's Spirit had used Mr Chen, a Christian, to transform the entire external facade with beautiful arched windows and a large porch — a far cry from the former structure.

Lastly, the Lord enabled us to undertake the entire project at “rock bottom” prices, when the property market was near its lowest, the ringgit exchange making our Sing-dollar go “double distance” and before the boom years which followed soon afterwards. Today the property has appreciated three or fourfold. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

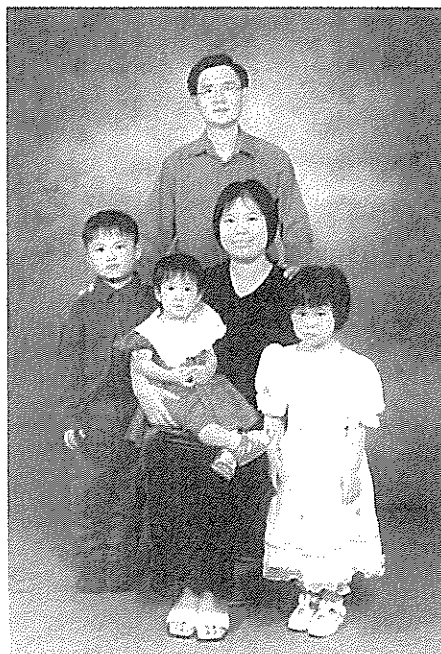
Calvary B-P Church in Singapore has continued to give much substance, time and energy to build up this church in PJ which now has 150 in the English congregation and 60 in the Chinese.

Now, Calvary Jaya with two worship services is under the guidance of Advisory Pastor, Dr Tow Siang Hwa, and Supervisory Pastor, Rev James Chan. Rev Lee Kim Shong is the Resident Pastor.

Calvary Jaya, firmly established in the Malaysian capital, must produce its own missionaries and fan out into its own hinterland for the Lord.

GOD SENT US PASTOR LEE

How did Rev Lee Kim Shong come to be the Resident Pastor of Calvary Jaya? His story is yet another testimony of the Lord's Hand in the missions work of Calvary. For while the Lord raises up His church, He also prepares a servant to lead His flock. Rev Lee testifies of how the Lord led him to his present ministry in Calvary Jaya:



Rev Lee Kim Shong & family

I was brought up in a family hostile to the Christian faith. As a young boy I hated Chinese who gave up their traditional religion to believe in Jesus Christ. In 1983, I read a book by a Canadian evangelist called “The Marvel of Grace.” The message of the gospel touched my heart. I began to attend church but I did not know whether I was born again. Soon I was persuaded that I was a sinner bound for hell and that I needed Jesus Christ to be my Saviour. Immediately after that I prayed and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Some time after my conversion I felt an urge in my heart to serve God in the full-time ministry. At first I thought it might be just an emotional passing phase but the urge remained. I resisted the “call” because I didn't like to be a poor preacher. I wanted to have a comfortable and easy life. I tried to push it out of my mind, but I couldn't. There was no peace in my heart. Finally, I surrendered to God. I was afraid that God's punishment would come upon me should I resist further.

The call came when I was doing commercial studies in a private institution. After my studies, I worked as a sales assistant in a departmental store. I worked for three months there before I got a clerical job in a commercial bank in my hometown.

My parents were very happy about this new job in the bank. My father bought me a new motorcycle so that I could go to work conveniently. There were worldly temptations while I was working in the bank. The thought of serving the Lord as a layman came to my mind. But I also remembered my call. While I thought on this matter, I doubted my calling. I was afraid of becoming an unfruitful servant. Then I consulted my pastor. He felt that the Lord was calling me after he listened to my testimony. So we prayed about it. Again and again I felt the Lord's calling through God's Word, Christian literatures and hymns. He had shown me the need of perishing souls: "*the harvest is plenteous but the labourers are few*" (Matt 9:37). So I prayed like Isaiah: "*Lord, here am I, send me!*"

At that time, my aunt who was worshipping at Calvary Jaya gave me a copy of RPG Bible Reading Notes and other literature. (I was attending the Methodist church in my hometown.) Through reading all these publications I came to know of the worldwide *ecumenical movement* (working to reverse the great work of the 16th Century Reformation) and the need to separate from it. I also found out that the Methodist church was involved in this movement.

Through the RPG, I came to correspond with the editor Dr Tow and met him at Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship. I consulted him on the stand of a certain Bible College in Singapore. At first, I thought this college would provide sound theological training for the ministry. But he told me that it did not take a stand against the *ecumenical movement*. The pastor of my hometown church had tried to persuade me to study at that college which was known

for its liberal theology. I thank God for preserving me, for He led me to leave my former church, and to join the Far Eastern Bible College.



Calvary Puchong Worship Service

After completing my four-year theological training, the Lord called me to serve at Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship from December 1989 and to take a stand against the apostasy. Thank God for His grace and mercies in His service all these years.

May the Great Shepherd continue to use me to guide His sheep into His righteous path and bring those who are in spiritual darkness into the kingdom of light. (End of Rev Lee Kim Shong's report.)

Indeed, the Lord has used Calvary Jaya to sow the gospel seed: in 2002, 18 years after its founding, it established **Calvary Puchong B-P Church** in Puchong, a neighbouring



Calvary Puchong Sunday School

town. The Lord's timing is perfect for He is the real Leader of our missions efforts.

Rev Lee Kim Shong and Elder Lim Yew Cheng write:

Calvary Puchong B-P Church is the first church to be planted by Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship. We pray that it will be the first of more daughter churches to come. The first hint of this present day reality was dropped by Rev Kim Kah Teck at Calvary Jaya's 10th Anniversary in 1994. At that time, it was merely the potential offer of a parcel of land in Puchong Permai by its owner, Mr Chua Keng Hong, to be dedicated for God's use. Today, after a lapse of eight years and against all odds, we witness the fruition of that blessed desire.

We at Calvary Jaya, who owe a debt we cannot pay, would like to dedicate ourselves to God's service. In accordance with His command to launch out into the deep (Luke 5:4), we seek His help to make this a Gospel beachhead, for further evangelistic advance. We pledge to labour for Him in this new vineyard. May the words of this hymn inspire us:

*Oh, let us launch out
on this ocean so broad
Where floods of salvation o'erflow
Oh, let us be lost in the mercy of God
Till the depths of His fullness we know*

*Launch out into the deep
Oh, let the shoreline go
Launch out, launch out in the ocean divine
Out where the full tides flow.*

(End of Rev Lee and Elder Lim's report.)

ANOTHER DOOR IN BUKIT GAMBIR

Calvary's work in Malaysia is also found in Bukit Gambir. The **Bukit Gambir B-P Church** was started as an outreach of Rawang B-P Church and is located about 13 miles north of Rawang. It began in an outhouse built adjacent to the house of a Rawang Church member, some time in 1983.

In the beginning, they functioned as a Sunday School and then a kindergarten was established. As the children grew up, a Children's Ministry was formed, and later a Youth Fellowship (YF). The YF held its activities on Saturday evenings and the worship service every Sunday evening, supported by some adults from Rawang. The worship service was later changed to Sunday mornings.

In 1988, a two-storey shophouse was acquired. The upper floor was converted into a sanctuary while the lower floor was used as a kindergarten. In 1990, Rev Liew Jing Woe, a member of Calvary B-P Church (Singapore) and a graduate of Chin Lien Bible Seminary, was sent by Calvary to help in the work. The main focus is on the children and the youths. The older folks in the area are deeply rooted in ancestor and devil worship, and are very resistant to the Gospel. Let us pray that one day the Lord will break their resistance and open their hearts to the gospel.

The Mandarin brethren from Calvary Jurong help in their pulpit ministry once a month. Calvary's fellowship groups also help annually in organising their Children and Junior Youth Bible Camps and gospel rallies.

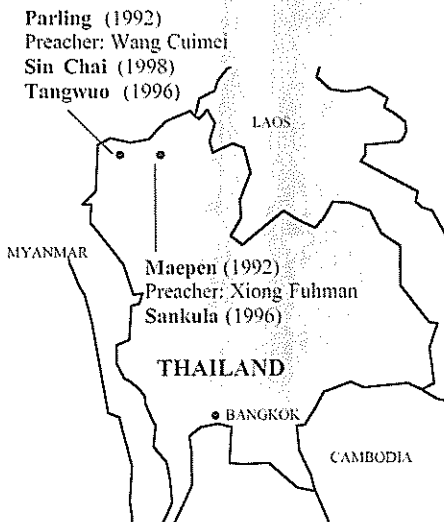


Calvary Jaya -- a shining light in Petaling Jaya

13

THAILAND

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...” (Matt 28:19)



Calvary's missions work in Thailand has its beginnings in 1974 when the Lord put into Rev James Chan's heart a burden for Thailand. In obedience to the Lord's call, and without knowing where to begin, Rev Chan paid a first visit to the southernmost part of Thailand praying that the Lord would direct his steps. Below, Rev Chan testifies of the Lord's wonderful leading:

I went with brother Michael Lim to South Thailand to visit the OMF hospital in Saiburi. Before arriving there, news came that the hospital had been attacked by bandits who demanded a million dollars. I was troubled and asked the Lord for direction. During the night, Psalm 23:4 kept ringing in my mind: *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”*

With this assurance from the Lord, we proceeded to Saiburi. Thank God everything was fine. The villagers pleaded with the bandits not to disrupt the hospital work and they withdrew their demand. We were in Saiburi for a few days, witnessing to the patients. On the day that we planned to leave for Pattani, our next stop, the OMF missionary requested that I stay to give a morning radio message. I did. And just as we were preparing to leave, news came that two OMF missionaries in Pattani had been captured at gunpoint by guerrillas that very morning. I was shocked. What might have happened to me if I had not been “delayed” in Saiburi? The Lord indeed is in control.

I thanked God for that safe first trip to Thailand. After that I did not think of going to Thailand again. In any case, the Church Session was not enthusiastic about missions work in Thailand.

In 1976, God's call to go into Thailand came to me again during a worship service. The Lord spoke to me through the message and the scripture verse on the wall behind the

pulpit, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel*” (Mk 16:15). The words “*Go ye*” kept ringing in my mind. I was very troubled and apprehensive of Thailand. As I turned my eyes to the right, the Lord spoke again through His Word on the Bible plaque by the pillar: “*Be still, and know that I am God*” (Ps 46:10a). When the Service ended, the Lord spoke yet again from His Word on the wall at the sanctuary entrance: “*Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only*” (Jas 1:22a). The Lord’s direction was so clear. I surrendered and submitted to Him.

This time, I went to Bangkok, seeking the will of God concerning my area of service in Thailand. I had the opportunity to preach at a few churches. One of the pastors recommended that I go to Maesai. Armed only with his recommendation letter and not knowing anyone there, I headed for Maesai.

On arrival, I asked a stranger for directions to the church. The stranger turned out to be the pastor of that church! I was so glad. I handed

him the letter of recommendation. He read it. As he had to attend to some important matters and had to be away for a few days, he apologized that he would not be able to entertain me. I was very disappointed. At that time, a young man who heard our conversation said to me, “There is an older pastor around here. Do you want to see him?” I quickly answered, “Yes!”

I met up with the old pastor, Rev Paul Kuo, who shared with me that he had been praying for a helper for the past two years. Seeing me as God’s answer to him, he invited me to help him! However, I did not commit myself. That night, the Lord spoke to me to help that old pastor. But I was troubled because Maesai was at the Thai-Burmese border where illegal activities take place at night. It was a dangerous place to live in. I stubbornly refused to accept God’s calling. The Lord questioned me: “Didn’t you sing ‘Wherever He leads I’ll go’?” I surrendered. (End of Rev James Chan’s testimony.)



Rev Paul Kuo (with white hair), Rev James Chan and Singapore team, 1976

By calling Rev Chan, the Lord has led Calvary to set up five missions stations in North Thailand: Maepan, Parliang, Sinchai, Sankula and Tangwo.

MAEPAN AND SANKULA

Maepan is situated deep in the mountains of North Thailand. It is difficult to reach by outsiders, because the roads are bad, steep and hazardous to inexperienced drivers. Deep in the hills live the Lisu and Lahu tribes, who came over to Thailand from the Yunnan province of China during the communist takeover. Although, they have their own dialects, most of them understand and read Chinese. The tribal people are friendly, and accept the Gospel relatively readily, and many souls have been saved. They agreed to be part of our B-P Movement, and we are glad to be able to help them both materially and doctrinally. Their old church building was grossly inadequate. Calvary helped them build a new church building in 1999.

Not far from this place is Sankula. The church building was completed in 1995.

The local leader in charge of these two places is Preacher Xiong Fuhman, a humble and



Preacher Xiong Fuhman

caring person. He is not only a preacher, but also a farmer and a medicine man. He is assisted by Preacher Mu Fengqin and Preacher Li Mada in the area of children,

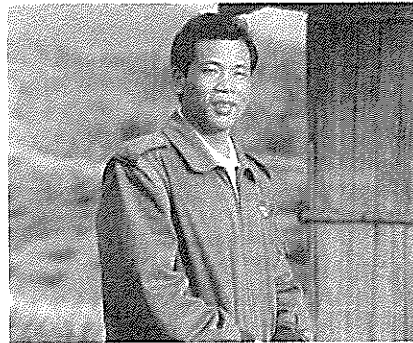
youth and women ministries. Preacher John Luo ministers to the flock in Sankula.

Since 1998, leadership training is conducted twice a year by Calvary.

PARLIANG, TANGWO, SINCHAI

Parliang is another mountainous area. It is about six hours drive from Maepan. It is more accessible because the roads are better. However, the hearts of the people are difficult to penetrate. Many, if not all, are either opium smokers or, in some way, involved in the opium trade.

This outreach was originally started by a young Christian lady named Miss Li Shou Li. Unable to take the work pressure, she left it to Preacher Zhou Zhenjing, who was a gifted worker among children. A soft-spoken



The late Preacher Zhou Zhenjing

person, he was able to win the hearts of the children with the hope that, through the children, the Gospel might one day reach the parents. He also looked after the work in Tangwo, about 3 km away. However, Preacher Zhou passed away in 2001. He was succeeded by Preacher Wang Cuimei, who was already involved with the work there since 2000.

Calvary supports the education of about 75 children from poor families there as well as



Preacher Wang Cuimei

the salary of a Chinese teacher. Preacher Wang conducts weekly gospel meetings at the school. The work there is very difficult, but the Lord is very gracious.

THE LAHU PEOPLE, MYANMAR, AND YUNNAN (CHINA)

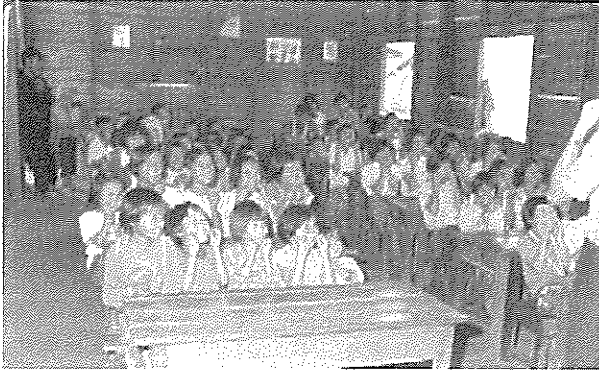
The Lord also brought Calvary into contact with Joshua Jupio, a young Thai Lahu Christian. He was encouraged to come to

FEBC for training which he did in 1991. On completion of the Certificate of Religious Knowledge programme in 1993, he has been ministering in Thailand among the Lahu people. His work includes translating Christian materials into the Lahu language and conducting Christian leadership training. He also ministers to Lahus in the remote areas through the Lahu Christian Correspondence Programme. To date, there are 170 Thai Lahus (in 32 Thai villages) and 200 Burmese Lahus (in 31 Burmese villages) registered with this correspondence programme.

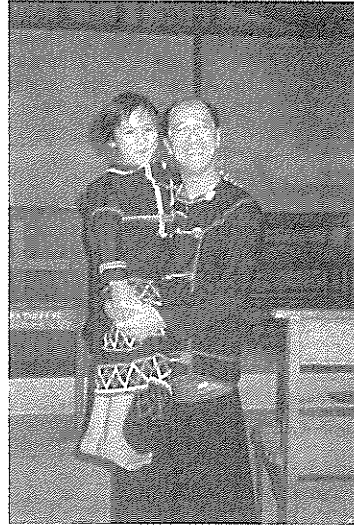
Calvary's experience with missions work in Thailand is yet another testimony of what great things God can do when His people submit themselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and are prepared to go wherever He leads.



Joshua Jupio (3rd from left), Xiong Fuhman (in jacket) with Singapore team



Lahu Sunday School



*Rev James Chan in
Lahu costume*



Baptism by Rev James Chan in Tangwuo

PERTH

"Come over... and help us." (Acts 16:9)

When my wife and I obtained our Australian permanent residency and sent our daughters to study in Sydney, it seemed that the Lord was pointing us to start a work for Him there. That was in 1983. Over the course of the next couple of years, we made exploratory probes in that direction. On one occasion, Rev Peter Clements took me to inspect an old church building being offered for sale. But the time was not yet. Man proposes, God disposes.

One Lord's Day in August 1985, Mr Seethor Weng (a member of Calvary B-P Church) said to me in Cantonese: "Our family is emigrating to Perth. When our house is ready, will you come and start a church?" Of all unlikely persons, God moved Mr Seethor, a recent convert, non-English-speaking, not highly educated, to take the initiative to offer his house for a church. His proposal took me completely by surprise. But the Spirit of God moved and the call was accepted without hesitation. How marvellously our God was working! That one request (from one who desired to serve the Lord with his earthly goods) led to the establishment of the **B-P Church of Western Australia (BPCWA) in Perth!**

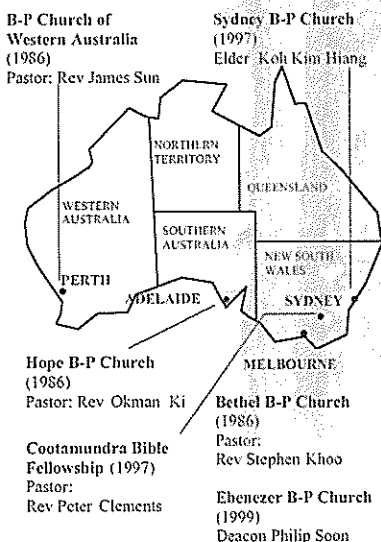
A first preparatory meeting of BPCWA was held on 9 February 1986 at the home of Mr and Mrs Seethor Weng, with almost 100 persons present. The BPCWA was inaugurated on 23 February 1986 with 92 persons attending. Immediately following this, a convenient meeting place was rented at the Melville City Council Lesser Hall. It was rented and became the meeting venue.

Without a resident pastor, the pulpit ministry was manned by guest speakers (Rev Timothy Tow, Rev Edward Paauwe, Elder Khoo Peng Kiat, myself and others). When no preacher was available, video-taped sermons from Calvary B-P Church, Singapore, were used.

14

AUSTRALIA

*Speeding the Gospel
"Down Under"*





Rev James Sun (2nd from left, front row) with the 1999/2002 Session of BPCWA

In May 1986, a church property on 19,000 square feet of land in Mt Pleasant was procured. The Lord moved a sister from Life B-P Church to underwrite the entire sum of A\$140,000! Great is the faithfulness of the Lord, our great Provider!

By 1989, BPCWA was ready to stand on its own feet and became independent of Calvary's support. In November 1999, James Sun was appointed full-time assistant pastor. He was subsequently ordained in February 2001.



B-P Church of Western Australia in Perth

Below is **Rev James Sun's** testimony of God's guidance:

I was born into a Christian family. When I was still in my mother's womb, my father dedicated me to the Lord. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord in 1968, at the age of eleven. Since my baptism in 1976, I have been involved in the underground churches in China (1978 to 1993) and in churches in New York (1993 to 1994). But I was only serving the Lord part-time.

In 1994, while I was considering which part of Australia I should go to and whether to serve the Lord full-time, Dr SH Tow called me from Melbourne, "Bethel Church has a vacancy for staff worker. Are you interested?" Without a second thought or discussion with my wife as I usually would when major decisions are to be made, I replied him there and then, "I will serve the Lord at Bethel. This is my greatest delight. It's better to serve the Lord than the world." I have not regretted my decision, as I am sure this call was from God for me to serve Him full-time.

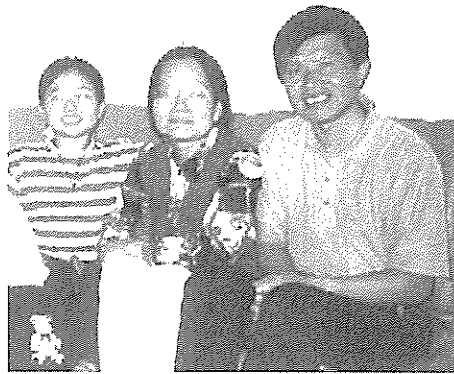
Since 1998, I was asked many times to minister at BPCWA. Every time I visited the church, I was asked to take up the pastorship of the church. On a few occasions, Rev Pang Kok Hiong proposed that I co-labour with him and later serve as a pastor in BPCWA. For two years, I had been praying and seeking the will of God in this regard. A number of times, I sought counsel from Rev Timothy Tow, who also advised that I should take up the position. However, I decided to wait for the Lord's confirmation.

In the last few months of 1999, the urgent need arose in Perth when Rev Pang had to return to Saipan. This time, God gave me Ecclesiastes 8:2 to remind me of the oath of my father and my decision to serve Him full-time. Also the circumstances clearly indicated that the Lord was calling me to Perth. Thus, in November 1999, I accepted the invitation of BPCWA and became Assistant Pastor of BPCWA.

The subject of my ordination was brought up at the first Session meeting after my arrival. In the latter part of this year, it was brought up again at two successive Session meetings. Since the day I answered the call of God to shepherd the flock at BPCWA, I have decided to serve Him as a pastor, whether ordained or not. What is most important to me is the glory of God, the advancement of His Kingdom and the benefit of His people.

My wife Melody has supported me in my decision to come to BPCWA. She has been using her gift of music to serve the Lord in worship service, meetings of cell groups, prayer meetings, Church Choir, Easter Hymn Presentation, Night of Praise Music Presentation. She helps me in visitation, and counseling. She is also involved in Ladies' Fellowship. Our daughter Hannah helps play the piano for worship service, junior worship, and YF and cell group meetings. I thank God for using my family too in the ministry.

The story of BPCWA tells us that one invitation is enough when we are sensitive to the Lord's direction and are prepared to heed His call. And the Lord will reveal His will day by day and provide accordingly. Missions work requires us to be always prepared to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). And when we are prepared to obey, the Lord shows Himself to be even more prepared than us!



Rev James Sun and family

Calvary's experience in doing missions work convinces us that we can depend on God to provide the finance needed for His work. When we launch out by faith into the missions field, in accordance to His leading and guidance, we need not fear. He who has directed will also provide, step by step. Our fear stems from our lack of faith. "*Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?*" (Matt 8:26). "*O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*" (Matt 14:31).

For more than a year, we had been planning to build an extension to Nehemiah House to meet our various needs, but the application for this extension project met with ten objections from the neighbours and was rejected by Melville City Council.

Soon after this, the owner of the house behind Nehemiah Place contacted me to give the Church a first option to purchase his house. The area of the property was 1190 m². It has

four bedrooms, a study, three bathrooms, a tennis court and a swimming pool. This property will meet the Church's need for Sunday School, staff residence, car parking and recreational facilities, with potential for future development.

The deal was closed at A\$353,000. When the Form of Offer and Acceptance was signed on 13 September 2001, we had only about A\$70,200 in our building fund. Whether to go for a bank loan, or to totally rely on God was a decision we had to make before the settlement on 14 November 2001. After much deliberation and prayer, Session by faith decided to just look to God for help. The whole congregation was called to pray and to bring in their tithes, offerings, pledges and interest-free loans. God moved the hearts of His people, and funds in various forms flowed in from the local congregation and from overseas.

On 11 November 2001, three days before the settlement day, we had A\$196,415. How were we going to make full settlement? How will the Lord help? Indeed, the Lord stepped in. Our neighbour seller had some problems on his part and the settlement was postponed to 19 November 2001! And during those God-sent extra days, we received a total of A\$175,000 in loans from God's people. As a result, we had more than enough to pay for the purchase! Our God certainly never fails! Praise God from whom all blessings flow! (End of Rev James Sun's testimony.)

Indeed, once again, "Jehovah Jireh" has lived up to His wonderful name.

MELBOURNE

"Greet the church that is in their house..."
(Rom 16:5)

In the same year (1985) that the Seethor family emigrated to Perth which led to formation of BPCWA, Loke Tat Luen (member of Calvary Pandan, now an Elder) and his family emigrated to Melbourne without realising that **Bethel B-P Church** would come out of that move. Before Elder Loke departed, I urged him to start a Gospel witness in his home. Shortly after arrival in Melbourne, Elder Loke and his wife Julie began to have fellowship meetings at their home. Gathering together their neighbours, they called on the name of the Lord.

At Easter 1986, the Lord sent Rev and Mrs Paauwe from Adelaide to strengthen the hands of the Lokes. They conducted a Sunrise Service and a week's Daily Vacation Bible School. These two events heralded the birth of Bethel B-P Church in Melbourne. Sunday Services began in the home of the Lokes, with Elder and Mrs Loke as the mainstay of the ministry, looking after the Sunday School and reaching out to the neighbourhood. Preachers from Life and Calvary B-P Churches in Singapore took turns to minister God's Word to the people through



Bethel B-P Church meeting in Clayton Primary School

Sunday preaching, Friday night Bible study and prayer meeting, Basic Bible Knowledge class, etc.

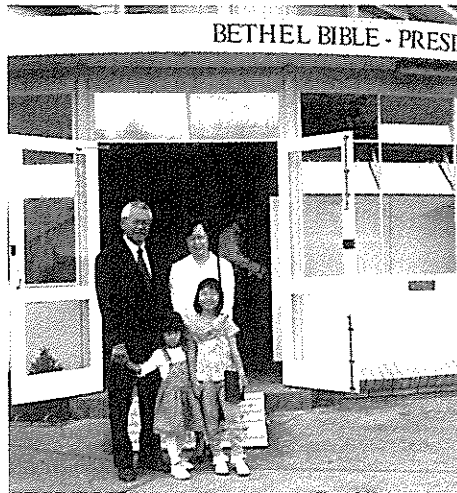
With increased numbers, they spilled into the garage and then across the street to the more spacious home of the Choongs. By December 1987, another move was necessary, this time into the Clayton Primary School. The Church was steadfast in *“holding forth the word of life”* in preaching, in building up of the members in the faith, and in evangelism.

In October 1988, the Lord opened a way for Bethel to procure a church complex (on 26,000 square feet of land) in the suburb of Oakleigh at a cost of A\$750,000. The property comprised a beautiful sanctuary with a seating capacity of 500, two outhouses and a dwelling house. The two outhouses later were demolished to be replaced by a two-storey building providing living quarters, Sunday School rooms, a large fellowship hall and kitchen.

BETHEL'S DECADE OF GROWTH

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase”
(1 Cor 3:6)

“For we are labourers together with God,” says the master church planter Paul. Bethel was God’s building, God’s flock, blessed by Him in many unspeakable ways. While the flock was without a Resident Pastor until the coming of Rev Stephen Khoo in 1997, nevertheless the Lord did not leave them comfortless, but sent Staff Worker Brother Lim Hai Seng and a succession of visiting preachers — pastors and elders who stayed varying periods of time over the first decade, so that the church *“grew in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Pet 3:18).



Rev & Mrs Stephen Khoo with their grand-daughters

Of particular mention (among the many who helped Bethel during the formative years) is the part played by Life B-P Church, Singapore, in sending Rev and Mrs Timothy Tow, Elder and Mrs Chia Kim Chwee, Elder and Mrs Khoo Peng Kiat, and Associate Pastor Patrick Tan and Mrs Tan to Bethel.

As Founding Pastor, my role was to supervise and co-ordinate the administrative and spiritual affairs by *“long distance pastoral care”* (by phone and fax) and by periodic visits, averaging four to five trips per year.

The Church had its own Session elected from among the resident members. Over the years, faithful service was rendered by a group. In the early years, they included: Loke Tat Luen, Eric Choong, Jeffrey Gan, Chew Hou Lian, Norman Lee, Lim Hai Seng, Paul Koh, Mrs Kimmy Chong and Mrs Anne Koh.

In 1994, after the resignation of Brother Hai Seng, the Lord sent a *“house church leader”* from China in the person of James Sun who became Staff Worker. He was later joined by another house church leader from China, Samuel He. They served until 1999/2000. Then they left to serve in BPCWA, Perth.

In 1997 God sent His faithful servant Rev Stephen Khoo to become Resident Pastor, a position he has effectively filled since then. This was in answer to long years of prayer and at the urgent invitation of the congregation (by referendum). Under his ministry the members are spiritually nurtured by the introduction of systematic Bible study with the aid of "DHW" (Dig His Word) Bible Study notes.

The present Session (elected in 2002) comprise the following members: Pastor: Rev Stephen Khoo; Deacons: Charles Choong, Eng Teong Gan, William King, Paul Koh, Jonathan Loh, Victor Nah, Danny Seng, Peter Wan.

EBENEZER B-P CHURCH

"Then Samuel... called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." (1 Sam 7:12)

In 1999 Ebenezer B-P Church was formed by

a group of believers from Bethel B-P Church, to establish another Bible-believing Gospel witness in the suburb of Mulgrave, Victoria. The Church meets at the Southern Community Centre, Rupert Drive, Mulgrave.

Dr Philip Soon reports:

As we stepped into our Third Anniversary in October 2002, our hearts rejoiced because truly *"Hitherto the lord has helped us"* and we continually praise God for being our Stone of Help. Ebenezer is God's work, preserved by His Grace, sustained by His providence and testifies to His Glory.

Although we do not have any full-time pastor, God provided us with pastoral care from our Senior Pastor Dr Tow and faithful ministers including Elder Khoo Peng Kiat, Pastor Denis Gibson, Pastor Sid Bell, and we will soon enjoy the blessings of Rev and Mrs Bob Vandermay from 10 October to 22 December 2002.

We thank God for His blessings from the time



*Sunday School children of Ebenezer:
"Anniversary Music Makers"*



*Ebenezer Youth Choir;
making a joyful noise unto the Lord*

in Bethel B-P Church whom we cherish as our brethren in Christ, to the formation of Ebenezer B-P Church three years ago. Yes, as God blessed us with increase, we are mindful that we serve a Missionary God and we fix our vision on Jesus and the Cross. Therefore, in response to the great Commission, we have taken the step to support missions work. Our Brother Lim Hai Seng has travelled this year on missions trips to Cambodia, Singapore and Malaysia to share the Gospel through his multimedia presentations. In addition, we are sponsoring two full-time students from Cambodia to study in FEBC so that they can return to serve in their homeland after their training. We are encouraging our members to participate in missions not only in giving but also in undertaking short term missions trips. Ebenezer can only fulfil its mission by going as *"fire exists by burning."* Do pray for us that we be willing to burn out for the Lord, in our hearts willing to spend and be spent for Him and *"to earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints."* (End of Dn Philip Soon's report.)

SYDNEY B-P CHURCH

"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one..." (1 Cor 3:8)

In late 1995 due to job relocation, Dn KC Wong (formerly from Bethel B-P Church, Melbourne) moved to Sydney. He and Anthony Ngan (former Calvary Pandan member who emigrated to Sydney in 1987) met for Bible study and prayer on Wednesday nights after work. Together with one or two others who joined them occasionally, they continued to meet. Then sister York Hoon emigrated to Sydney with her family in mid-1996 and they began to invite more friends and "ex-BPs" living in Sydney to have home fellowship and prayer meetings at one another's homes.

This continued for a while until 15 June 1997 when the first Sunday Worship Service (using cassette-recorded sermons from Calvary Pandan) was inaugurated at Sister York Hoon's home. Pastor KS Moon (from Pure Presbyterian Church in Adelaide), Pastor Dr E.K. Ng (from Evangel Bible Church, Epping)

and brother Yock Lin provided the group (which grew to almost thirty in number) with spiritual support.

In late 1997, God sent Elder Koh Kim Hiang (from Calvary Pandan) to Sydney to be the resident ministering preacher after the Sydney B-P Church was formally registered. As the numbers began to grow it was necessary to hire a bigger hall at Gordon Community Centre which we have been using till now. In September 2000, the Lord blessed His people in Sydney by giving them a permanent place of worship in Gladesville, which is presently undergoing renovations.

the gospel of life with the thousands of Aussies who are heading towards a Christless eternity. Surely the Lord has located the church strategically at Gladesville for this great purpose: to save some among these thousands. The challenge for the Sydney members is therefore to "Go and Tell" others about this Saviour of ours Whose return is nearer than we think, even "*at the doors.*"

The story of how Elder Koh Kim Hiang got to serve in Sydney B-P Church is yet another testimony of the Lord's partnership with the church missions work. Soon after his



Elder & Mrs Koh Kim Hiang in front of Sydney B-P Church, Gladesville

This Gladesville building should be ready for use in 2003. The challenge for the Sydney members is not just to build this physical house, but more importantly to build up the spiritual house of God. They must continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ so that they may be steadfast and unmoveable in the most holy faith. They must also look beyond the church and share

conversion in 1963, came God's call to consecration and fulltime service. In 1996, he took the decisive step to leave the secular world (Administrative Manager with Caterpillar Incorporated) and serve God in the newly formed B-P group in Sydney.

Today, five years later, Elder Koh Kim Hiang is defacto pastor of Sydney B-P Church, a growing congregation of fifty to sixty in

suburban Sydney.

Behind that crucial move into the gospel ministry were thirty long years of preparation as Deacon and Elder with Calvary B-P Church, serving in the Session, various fellowship groups, teaching, preaching, and supervising. But more important were the many hours of hard discipline spent studying God's Word at home and the grounding in basic theology at Far Eastern Bible College.

God also prepared an able "*help meet*" Mrs Mabeline Koh, who had put in many hours of study, also at FEBC, besides her years of faithful service with Calvary's Ladies' Fellowship and in the visitation ministry.

Elder Koh relates his story below:

Not long after my conversion in 1963, I surrendered my life to the Lord. To me it meant fulltime service eventually. The big question was when?

I thought I would be a "tent-maker" like the Apostle Paul, holding a secular job and serving the Lord with all my "left-over time." But for Paul it was the other way round: preaching the Gospel fulltime and making tents with whatever time left.

The message was clear: for the Lord one must give the best.

After my dedication to the Lord, He enabled me to grow spiritually through my personal quiet time, participating in worship services, prayer meetings, fellowship meetings and Bible camps. I thank God for FEBC which grounded me in basic doctrines vitally essential for Sunday School teaching, preaching and for the defence of the faith. Thank God for the "school of the Holy Spirit" and the many hours of hard grind, with Bible commentaries, dictionaries and other aids, in order to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Word.



Sydney B-P Church Easter Camp 2001



*Sydney Family Worship,
rejoicing in the Lord always*

The Lord also provided teachers and pastors like Rev Timothy Tow and my Senior Pastor (Dr SH Tow) who over the years nurtured me and showed by example and precept how one should follow the Lord. He chose me to be part of his team when we ventured out of Life B-P Church to start Calvary (in Jurong) in 1969, and again when we moved to Pandan in 1979.

The Lord of the harvest, in His wonderful wisdom, prepared me an help truly meet for me. Over the last few years in Australia often my wife and I would review the Lord's call. She would tell me: "I know the Lord's call for you is to serve Him, but I know His call for me is to follow you to follow Him." I thank the Lord for her because truly she is more than a right hand to me. Before Australia she had attended various courses at FEBC. The Lord was preparing her for our Australia ministry!

Our not having children was once a regret. Today we see it as God's will, giving us the liberty to travel and move freely for Him. Indeed *"all things work together for good*

to them that love Him, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom 8:28).

The Lord has faithfully guided me in my career growth. First, He called me to be a school teacher, in which position I had many opportunities to serve Him through youth group activities. After 10 years, the Lord moved me into the commercial world. For the following 22 years, as the Lord prospered my work, I realized more than ever that *"... promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south"* (Ps 75:6), but from the one true living God.

Time passed and soon we were talking of retirement and fulltime service.

With the advent of the information age and the revolution in business methods, the challenges in the office were becoming greater by the day. Things were not as before. With the mounting pressure I could not give quality time to serve the Lord, and I was not going to wait till sixty-five to retire and then give the remaining years of my life to the Lord.

By then I might just be too frail to serve. So at fifty-one, I planned to resign.

For years we had observed how Elder and Mrs Khoo Peng Kiat actively serving as missionaries in our church's global ministry. My heart desire was, "Lord, let my wife and me follow in their steps." At that time our friend David Yap in Brisbane was planning to build a grammar school with hostel facilities. He needed a counsellor-chaplain for the hostelites and sought Dr Tow's advice. "Speak to Elder Koh" was his instant response.

That sparked the idea of serving in Australia. David successfully built the school, but because of problems and the Asian economic crisis, his plan to build the hostel didn't take off. Man proposes God disposes. We had planned to go to Brisbane, but the Lord directed us south to Sydney.

When I resigned in 1996, there were already several former Singapore B-P families in Sydney meeting regularly for Bible study for over two years under the guidance of Dr Tow. We responded to their call for help. Our intended help of one month has now become a ministry of four and a half years! Sydney B-P Church has opened a new and exciting chapter in our life for which we praise the Lord.

Question: Reader, what are you doing with your life? Ours have been blessed beyond measure. *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."* (Eph 3:20, 21) (End of Elder Koh Kim Hiang's testimony.)

COOTAMUNDRA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

In addition to planting B-P churches in Australia, the Lord allowed us to have a part in helping with the work of the **Cootamundra Bible Fellowship**.

Pastor Peter Clements writes:

The Past

For the past 15 years I have been stationed in the New South Wales country town of Cootamundra. The first year was a "bitter sweet" one, firstly because as pastor I was voted out of the local Presbyterian church by members of the Wagga Presbytery. Secondly, on a visit to FEBC in Singapore in August 1986, I met a wonderful student named Anne Gradussov who was to become my wife the following year.

My "sacking" from the Presbyterian Church was not the end of the story. Although willing to move on to other ministries, I was persuaded by friends to allow an appeal to be lodged to the General Assembly to examine the circumstances of my dismissal. By a handful of votes, I was reappointed to the parish in Cootamundra, and remained for a further nine years.

During this time the Lord blessed us with a "quiver full" of children, and many precious lessons. Some folks left the church, others came. We were both loved and hated. Physical threats were made against us, but others came along who were like angels, strengthening us in the task.

In 1997, the Presbytery of Wagga terminated our appointment due the inability of the parish to meet its financial obligations. These were difficult days, and we took time out for a visit to family in Perth (Western Australia) and on to Singapore. In the midst of this upheaval, we were preparing for the arrival of son Andrew (number 6), who is now 4 years old.

The Present

The circumstances of our exit from the Presbyterian Church of Australia were such that the Lord gave us a "ready made" congregation to begin afresh: the Cootamundra Bible Fellowship. This is an independent Bible Church, which began in our lounge room, and now meets at Bimbadeen Aboriginal College on the outskirts of town. We have a congregation averaging around 18 adults, and a Sunday school with 15 to 20 children. A youth group meets fortnightly, prayer meeting and Bible study each week. Some of our folks are travelling from out of town, in search of a non-ecumenical, non-charismatic church using the KJV Bible.

We have several missions outreaches including Africa, and Australian aboriginalies.

There is a weekly news sheet which travels far and wide, plus a "Children's Corner" column in the Cootamundra Herald which is read by young and old alike.

The Future

We find the job becoming harder, not easier. Of course, we are looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). The Apostle Paul found it tough going in Corinth too, but he was encouraged by the Lord: "*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee; for I have much people in this city*" (Acts 18:9,10). (End of Pastor Peter Clement's report.)

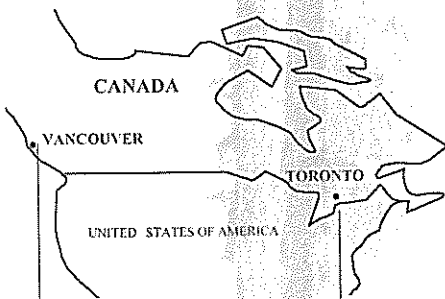


Rev Peter Clements and family

15

CANADA

*"How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel of peace..."
(Rom 10:15)*



Vancouver B-P
Church (1997)
Pastor: Isaac Ong

Calvary B-P Church (Canada)
(1994)
Pastor: Elder Daniel Chew

Calvary's church planting half way across the globe in Canada is not by calculated planning but by the Lord's own perfect timing and the response of His children to the Gospel call. Elder Daniel Chew recalls how God used him to found the Calvary B-P Church (Canada) in Toronto:

"I'll visit you when you have a church started," were Dr SH Tow's parting words when he bade my family farewell in January 1989. We were then preparing to emigrate to Canada.

I did not take seriously the second part of Dr Tow's words as I did not then have any serious intention to plant a church. But at the back of my mind, I was ready to obey the Lord if that was His will and purpose for sending us to Canada.

Having worked under Dr Tow since I was marvelously saved in May 1975, I thank God for the fourteen years of preparatory training in the fellowship groups and in the Church Session of Calvary B-P Church, Singapore. I have benefited much, spiritually, from his missionary zeal and fervor as he spearheaded the establishment of outreaches in Malaysia and Australia.

Led by God's unseen hand, I had a pulpit made in Singapore, and through Rev Philip Heng, I received a Lord's Supper set and four offering bags. We bought twenty IKEA folding chairs and a multi-system VCR & TV set. Dr Tow donated twenty Revival Hymn books and 200 Revival Choruses. Armed with twenty Sunset Gospel Hour video-tapes and a 'Flora' upright piano, we were well equipped to initiate a gospel station if it was God's will!

Together with my mum and sisters, we arrived in Toronto on February 3, 1989. My brother Andrew and his family had come a year earlier and were comfortably settled. We joined him and family in worshipping in his adopted church, a non-denominational, warm, friendly and caring church, but weak in doctrine and

in the defense of the historic Christian faith. We did not stay very long; as soon as we were mobile and able to move about on our own, we went "church shopping."

Over the weeks and months, we worshipped in different churches close to our home in Burlington. Not one was able to meet our expectation of a Bible-believing and Bible-preaching church.

Thank God, our RPG (Read, Pray & Grow) devotional guidebook came to our rescue. Through the RPG, we came in contact with Calvary Baptist Church in Brampton, three cities away from us. The Pastor of the Church was Rev Denis Gibson who took a strong stand on the Bible, and faithful to the Lord in practice and preaching. Despite the one-hour drive (one-way) from our home, we were thankful to God for good spiritual feeding from Pastor Gibson, Sunday morning and evening.

We were grateful for this but being non-Baptist, we could not have any serious part in the ministry.

Our heart desire was, DV, to start a B-P Gospel witness.

With Pastor Gibson's agreement and help, we were allowed to rent the basement of Calvary Baptist Church for our gathering. Our service commenced at 3 pm. Pastor Gibson taught "The Westminster Shorter Catechism." Dinner was at 5.30 pm and after that we attended the evening service of Calvary Baptist Church. All in all, Sunday was a delightful afternoon and evening spent in the Lord's House.

A phone call was made to Dr SH Tow on March 6, 1994 to inform him of the establishment of an outreach in Canada. After a five-year silence, it was indeed unexpected

"good news from a far country." Keeping to his word, Dr Tow and Mrs Tow came from October 21 to 26, 1994 to minister to us, to assess the work and to plan for the future.

Two significant developments came out of his visit:

- (a) I responded to God's call to full-time service and resigned from my secular employment.
- (b) Appropriate premises for a church were to be identified.

From the very beginning of Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church, Canada (established on January 9, 1994), our objective was clear: the salvation and building up of the faith of worshippers. Our goal was simply to provide the knowledge to enable members to be saved, to be trained, to grow, to teach and lead others, and to defend their faith. Our prayer and trust in God was to establish Calvary Canada as a spiritual oasis for hungry and thirsty souls.



Elder Daniel Chew, Mrs Chew Fook Wah, Mrs SH Tow and Miss Grace Chew in front of Calvary Canada (Toronto)

We have been blessed by the young people from Singapore, Malaysia and Australia who have come to study in Canada. Here they have the fellowship of a faithful Church, opportunities to serve as well as to encourage our people.

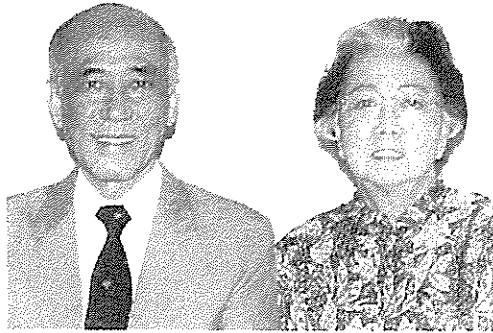
In this brief account, we can say that God has been very good to us. We may not have grown in numbers as other churches but we have been able to reach out to all who come to us with the life-saving gospel and to challenge them to faithful stewardship for the Lord. As in all human enterprise there are challenges. We have our share of joys and disappointments, but our Lord is merciful. He has comforted, sustained and piloted us through storms and tempests. We thank God for the stability in the Church and the unity of members and leaders in treading the path that we are taking to be a separated, faithful and obedient witness for Him.

The Lord has established us in the city of Mississauga, *"a city set on a hill"* that beams its light and sounds its Gospel call to the commercial and residential development around us. Sadly, the ground is exceedingly hard. We humble ourselves and plead with the Lord to have mercy and to use us effectively in this difficult missions field. Readers, please pray with us for God to break through this stronghold of the world, and open the people's hearts to the Gospel call.

We tread the old paths! We use the dependable time-tested Gospel message to nurture and establish the flock. We praise and thank God for Mother Church Calvary Singapore and those who have ministered to us over the years from near and far. They have helped to make Calvary Canada a haven for weary souls and a centre for the faithful exposition of the Word of God.

Besides ministering to the people in Toronto, we praise our Lord for raising Calvary Canada as a "Gospel Beachhead in Canada." From this beachhead, the Lord has been merciful and gracious to use us to extend a "Bridgehead to Vancouver."

Ever since Dr and Mrs Tow's first visit to Calvary Canada in 1994, they had made it a



*Dr and Mrs SH Tow,
by God's grace pressing toward the mark*

point to stop over in Vancouver to nurture a group of ex-B-P members there. They have a good core of B-Ps from Singapore who could establish a work there.

In November 1996 William Chia, an ex-Lifer from Vancouver came by and we discussed the possibility of starting a B-P outreach in Vancouver. The Lord laid upon me the burden to pray and stimulate an outreach in the west coast of Canada.

Working with Robert and Pauline Liu, a meeting was arranged in the home of Joey Seow in December 1996. I exhorted the group of thirteen adults and six children. There was unanimous agreement by all to start the outreach. A Working Committee was formed. I drafted a report entitled "Framework for the Establishment of Calvary Vancouver," more *"good news from a far country."*

We are now in our eighth year and still going! We are small in numbers but not small in faith! This is the Lord's work and He will prosper us in His time. Our duty is to be faithful and persevering. *"As cold waters to a thirsty soul ...,"* this is what we are! The Lord has blessed us with a well-equipped Resource Center of Christian publications, audio/video tapes and books. Our literature ministry is fulfilling a great need in these times of deviant teachings and scarcity of sound reading materials. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. (End of Elder Daniel Chew's report.)



Our sign on Lougheed Highway -- seen by "hundred thousand eyes"

THE BEGINNING OF VANCOUVER B-P CHURCH

Dr SH Tow recalls:

Shortly after the visit of Elder Daniel Chew in December 1996, the working Committee began to meet for prayer and study of the Word. Rev Ian Goligher of the Free Presbyterian Church, Cloverdale, conducted fortnightly Bible study in the spiritual building up of the group.

By December 1997, the Vancouver B-P Church was officially inaugurated, meeting at the Holiday Inn on Lougheed Highway from January 1998. Meanwhile, a commercial building on Lougheed Highway, Port Coquitlam, was purchased at a cost of C\$1.1 million and restructuring/renovation works costing over half a million dollars took most of 1998.

The Inaugural Service and Dedication of the new church-complex was held on 2 January 1999. The pulpit was supplied with visiting Elders and Pastors until Deacon Isaac Ong arrived in November 2000.

It was my blessed privilege to see the church through its formative years 1999 to 2001, spending about three months each year. By early 2002 Pastor Designate Isaac Ong had been fully initiated and established in the ministry and was well beloved by the congregation. To him I committed the care of the church.

At the time of writing (October 2002), Isaac is ably assisted by his wife Rebecca and a Session comprising Elder Don Cameron, Deacons Derrick Chang, Andrew Chow and Thng Poh Huat. Since July 2002, the staff has been strengthened by the addition of Deacon Poh Huat who has answered God's call to the holy ministry. In August Miss Wong Wei Ping joined as Staff Worker and Evangelist to children and youths, doing a much appreciated ministry to these young ones.

Vancouver B-P Church stands on a main East-West Lougheed Highway with its prominent "Jesus Saves" signboard visible to the thousands who drive by the highway, attracting many passersby to our service. The congregation of 70 to 80 is set to grow as God gives the increase. (End of Dr SH Tow's report.)

Robert Liu gives us the details of the beginnings of the **Vancouver B-P Church**:

My family and I emigrated to Vancouver in January 1990. After settling the family, we proceeded to look for a suitable place of worship with the earnest desire to continue serving the Lord.

The first Church we worshipped in was a Baptist Church in Coquitlam. The Pastor and his congregation were friendly and supportive but something was lacking in his messages. It was unlike what we were used to in Pandan. We were asked to play an active role and to be baptized again.

We next moved to another Baptist Church. We came across the same scenario: friendly people, supportive Pastor and we were asked to take on a leadership role. The Pastor conducted regular Bible studies in our home. He was even willing to overlook our "non-immersion" background and to approve our membership in the Church. The much-to-be-desired contemporary influence and the lukewarm preaching left us spiritually unsatisfied. But God had a better plan for us.

We kept in touch with Pandan through the Church bulletins. It was a refreshing spiritual uplift for us. At the same time, Elder Daniel Chew started the first B-P Church in Canada in Mississauga, Ontario.

Learning of their ministry to the church in Mississauga, we invited Dr and Mrs Tow to stop by our home enroute to Toronto. Desiring for renewed fellowship with them, who have a major influence in our lives, we

decided to take advantage of his gift in preaching by organising meetings in our home.

For three successive years we gathered friends and fellow Singaporeans and Malaysians to hear Dr Tow. The attendance averaged between 30 to 50 people each time. The messages were thought-provoking and caused people to enquire about the B-P stand. Many, including our Baptist Pastor, told us that they had not heard such messages.

Little did we dream that the starting of a B-P church was in the offing. We continued to pray and seek the Lord’s wisdom. We received continuous encouragement and support from Dr Tow and Elder Chew.

In December 1996, Elder Chew flew in from Toronto to encourage us to move forward to start a B-P group. There was unanimous agreement by all. A Working Committee was then formed. (End of Robert Liu’s report.)

PASTOR ISAAC ONG TELLS HOW THE LORD LED HIM

Vancouver B-P Church is now pastored by Isaac Ong from Calvary Jurong. How did the Lord prepare and lead him and his family all the way from Singapore to serve in Vancouver B-P Church? Pastor Isaac testifies below of how “*I being in the way, the Lord led me*”:

I remember sitting in morning chapel at the Founder’s Memorial Hall in Bob Jones University (BJU) as a student. The morning speaker was Dr Bob Jones III, the president of BJU. His message was a challenge to the students — “*Give two years of your life to help in your local church or a missions station.*”

That thought, engraved in my heart and mind, was used of God to lead me into the full-time ministry.

There was no one single event that caused me to leave the Foreign News Desk of the



1996 Preparatory Gathering in Vancouver of ex-B-Ps and friends

Singapore broadcasting station to be a preacher of the Gospel. It was the Lord directing my life step by step. I did not see any burning bush. I did not have a visitation from an angel. I did not even have my heart strangely warmed. But I know that I was just doing what the Lord had given me to do, and He was, as it were, enlarging the circle of my service for Him.

"I being in the way, the Lord led me." The first step began when I first arrived in BJU in the fall of 1990. At BJU, it was a whole new Christian experience for me. There is no one institution and no one group of people that have left a greater impact on my spiritual life than BJU and my BJU professors.

It was at BJU that I saw at first hand a group of people living wholly for our Saviour. It was from my BJU teachers that I learnt what it really means to present our bodies a living sacrifice unto God (Rom 12:1). It was at BJU that I was first given the opportunity to preach.

Several of us started a Foreign Students' Fellowship. We met every Sunday evening in the home of Pastor James Phoa. The more senior students took turns to preach.

I was involved also in a ministry at the detoxification centre for substance abusers and alcoholics. Every Lord's Day morning, a few of us would drive down to the centre, hold a short worship service, and follow with a time of personal evangelism.

These were the opportunities that were given to me to preach the Gospel. Never mind the fact that very few of us (including myself) were training to be preacher boys, but our hearts burned with a love for God and His Gospel that our lips could not be silent. I preached at every available opportunity. In every sense of the word, *"I being in the way, and the Lord led me."*

When I returned to Singapore in 1993, life got back to normal: work, marriage, family. Rebecca and I were still very active in the church. We made a promise to God on our wedding day that we would not allow anything to hinder our service for God.

However, the fire that burned within my heart was slowly dying. I felt that I was getting back to being normal, and spiritual normality is but a first step to spiritual stagnancy.

Then came the opportunity to preach. Over lunch a few days before the Chinese New Year, Rev. James Chan asked me if I could take over the place of an elder on the Sunday of Chinese New Year. I could never turn down a request to serve God, so I preached my first sermon in Calvary Jurong on 8 February 1998. The late Martin Lloyd Jones of London's Westminster Chapel said that *"the work of preaching is the highest and the greatest and the most glorious calling to which anyone can ever be called."*

In my case, God called by providing opportunities for me to serve Him. God's call became clearer as I was doing what He had given me to do. *"I being in the way, the Lord led me."*

When I was a foreign news editor at the news station in Singapore, I had to work on weekends which kept me away from worship service. So, Rebecca and I started praying for a way out so that I would not have to work on weekends. At about the same time, an opening was available on the morning shift.

The working hours were midnight to nine the next morning. The perk was no weekend work. It was an answer to our prayers and I seized the opportunity. From then, I was free to use my weekends for the Lord.

When I first talked to Rev James Chan about my going into the ministry, his advice to me

was, "Go study at the Far Eastern Bible College." I enrolled in FEBC in July 1999. Working the night shift meant that I was able to attend FEBC classes after work and Monday night lectures before I went to work. The sovereign God had arranged the schedules so that I could do what He had given me to do. *"I being in the way, the Lord led me."*

I am privileged to have been called by God into this blessed ministry. At the same time, I must confess that I could not say that I am or will ever be sufficient to the work to which God has entrusted to me. For indeed, who is sufficient for these things? And the answer from the Word of God is: *"not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God"* (2 Cor 3:5).

When I informed the Jurong Board of Elders of my desire to serve in Vancouver, it must have come as a shock to them and particularly a disappointment for Rev Chan. He had been praying for someone to help him in Calvary Jurong, and the answer to that prayer, in the minds of many people would naturally be his son-in-law.

However, Rebecca and I felt very strongly about helping to start a Gospel work in Vancouver that we had been planning the move even before I left my job as a news editor. However, it was very clear to us that we would move to Canada only if we were in the Lord's work.

The Canadian immigration department

requires PR applicants to meet some financial prerequisites. The thought to pad up our bank accounts with help from our parents did come to mind, but we resisted. If it was the Lord's will, He would open the way for us. When we presented the Canadian immigration department with all that we had, we were told that we met the minimum requirements!

We had our immigration visas late November 1999, and they were valid for one year. The one-year grace was timely. It would give me time to finish all my courses in FEBC. My family and I left for Vancouver on 9 November 2000, a few days after my finals in FEBC. *"I being in the way, the Lord led me."*

But why Vancouver? Why not Macpen or Parliang or Haputale or some other remote villages in a developing country? Are not these places where "real" missions work is being done? Well, Jesus *"went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom"* (Matt. 9:35). The people in the cities need the Gospel as much as those in the villages.

We go to the "cities" because it was God who opened the way and directed our paths. Our



Pastor Isaac Ong & family at his FEBC graduation, 2002

only desire was to serve Him and to be part of the team of labourers being sent into the harvest field. It was God who directed our way (Prov. 3:5, 6).

The first year in Vancouver has been a great learning experience. Like any place on earth, where there are people, there would be problems. And we have had our fair share of problems. There have been times when we thought about the easy way out: pack up and leave. But each time we resisted. I would rather be in the way of the Lord, so that He could continue to lead me. And sometimes being in the way of the Lord means to hang on and finish the job. So as a family serving God, we never pray for easy loads, we pray for strong shoulders.

Despite all the trials and testings, disappointment and discouragements, there was never a day when I woke up dreading doing the Lord's work. The only regret that I have is that some one had not challenged me to come into the full-time ministry sooner.

Is it a good trade off to leave a well-paying

job for the full-time ministry? If we are going to look at it from the standpoint of profit and loss, then I must say that I have the better end of the bargain. *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* (Mk 8:36). In the words of Jim Elliot: "He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."

The Lord told the prophet, *"I sought for a man . . . that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land"* (Eze. 22:30). That is all I am doing: making up the hedge and standing in the gap, being in the way, so that the Lord may continue to lead me. Soli Deo Gloria. (End of Pastor Isaac Ong's testimony.)

POSTSCRIPT

The Vancouver Bible-Presbyterian Church building was purchased as a gift in memory of the late Dr Tow Siew Ai, with help of Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church (Jurong) in the restructuring and equipping, and help of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, and anonymous individual donors.



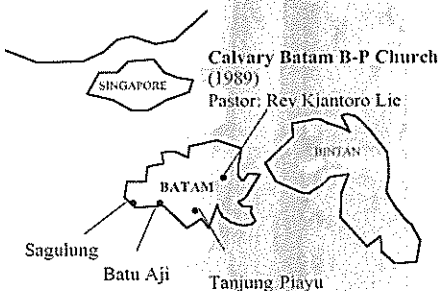
Graduates of the Vancouver Sunday School Training Programme

16

INDONESIA
— BATAM

*"This is the Lord's doing; it is
marvellous in our eyes."*

(Ps 118:23)



In the work of the Lord, we must have perseverance and faithfulness. No matter how difficult the task, we must press on and the Lord will surely bless. The willingness to endure hardship and to remain undaunted under testing is a lesson we can draw from Rev Pang Kok Hiong's account of the beginning of **Calvary Batam B-P Church (or GAPPI, Gereja Alkitab Presbyterian Protestan Indonesia)**.

I knew Brother Tan Nam Siang through the Tanjung Pinang Sion Presbyterian Church in June 1987 when I taught at their Youth Camp organized by FEBC students. When I learned that Nam Siang had moved to Batam in 1989, the Lord laid on my heart to challenge him to start a church in his home. An Indonesian Chinese Christian businessman who received his education in Singapore, Nam Siang made frequent trips to Singapore to import goods to Batam. During one of his business trips to Singapore, we met and I quickly jotted down his Batam address with the aim of visiting him in the near future.

On the third Saturday of October 1989, my fiancée, Guek Mui (who is now my wife) and I made our first trip to Batam to visit Nam Siang. With our limited spoken Bahasa Indonesia, we were unsuccessful for one whole hour in getting the Indonesian taxi driver to take us to Nam Siang's address.

Walking under the hot sun for the next one-and-a-half hours or so, we prayed fervently in our hearts to the Lord that He would lead us to find Nam Siang, somewhere, somehow. Lost in this strange land and with no one to turn to, we prayed unceasingly as we decided to cover each and every row of the shop houses in the town of Nagoya.

After going through a few rows, we spotted a Christian brother whom we had met before in Tanjung Pinang!! Right away he took us to a 3-storey shophouse. Hallelujah! Praise God for answering our prayer. We finally met up with Nam Siang! That night, we had a

fellowship meeting at 7.30 pm in the third storey of his shophouse with about 10 people present.

The next day was the Lord's Day and we conducted a worship service there. Calvary Batam B-P Church was born!

Since then, Sunday services in Batam have not stopped. Besides going to Batam on Saturdays for the fellowship meeting and staying overnight for the Sunday worship service, we made weekly trips on Wednesdays for the prayer meetings, and for visitation and evangelism. Thank God for His guidance, protection and providence to Calvary Batam.

However, we were not without problems. The pastor of the only Chinese Church in Batam (who was a Charismatic), started going to our church members to plant seeds of discouragement, fear and threat. This went on for several months. However, we continued to do God's work faithfully, committing this matter into His hands.

As the Batam work progressed, Elder (Dr) Cheng Wei Nien began to help out in the pulpit ministry on a regular basis. He was later joined by Rev James Chan and Elder Su Jing Jun. They are from Calvary Jurong. We took turns to go to Batam for the initial three years.

During the intense attacks by the adversary, the Church Committee members and brethren stood strong, unwavering in the faith. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"* (1 Cor 10:13). When the trial reached its height, the Lord marvellously stopped all the fiery

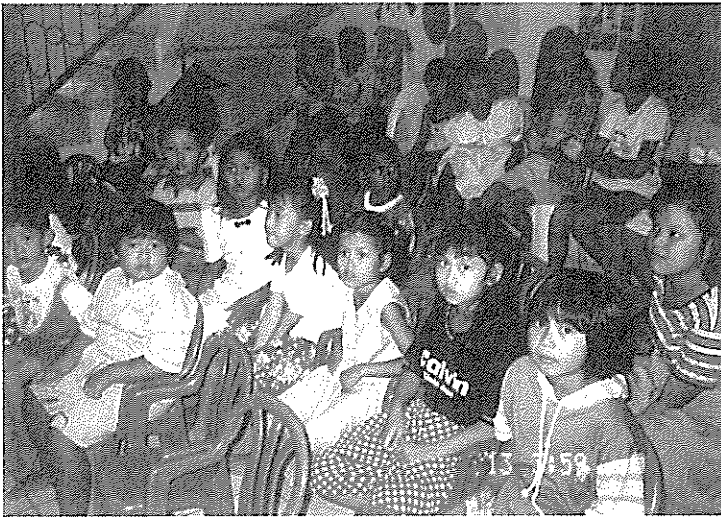
darts of the evil one. One day, the Chinese charismatic pastor's son, while riding as a pillion rider, was seriously injured in an accident. The pastor took his son to Singapore for treatment and the specialist who administered first class treatment without charging him a single cent was none other than Calvary's Elder (Dr) Cheng! *"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head"* (Rom 12:20). With a grateful heart, the charismatic pastor stopped his attacks on our work!

Just a few months after the founding of Calvary Batam B-P Church, a two-storey shophouse in Nagoya, a more central location, came to our attention. On being told of this property, Elder Cheng wasted no time to make a "spot check," put a ten percent deposit to close the deal. This quick action proved most timely as property prices were on the up trend. After purchase, a third storey was added increasing the useful space by 50 percent. So all the church meetings were held there instead of Nam Siang's shophouse. This new facility provided more rooms for Sunday school, guests, storage and also a proper kitchen.



*Rev Kiantoro Lie & family,
effectively trilingual*

Indeed, our God knows the needs of His children. The church grew in quality and quantity. A year later, the developer of Batam Center, Mr Roslan (the husband of Sister Bai), offered us a piece of land for FREE in Batam Center for religious purpose. We immediately accepted his gift to build a proper church building. Calvary Jurong gave its fullest support to the Batam brethren and before long they found themselves worshipping in a church building of their own. Rev Kiantoro



Sunday School children in Batam

Lie, my college mate from FEBC, was later appointed pastor of Calvary B-P Church.

Whenever we visit Calvary Batam, our hearts just cry out with joy thanking and praising God for His marvelous doings. Fond memories of how the Lord started this Church still remain vividly in our minds. Today, Calvary Batam has a strong children's ministry with about 150 Chinese and Batak Sunday School pupils every week. Missions are also emphasized to reach out to the neighbouring islands. Truly, God plants, gives the increase and blesses His own work for His own glory. Blessed be the name of Jesus. (End of Rev Pang Kok Hiong's report.)

CALVARY BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE

"Go ye therefore, and teach ..."

Matt 28:18-20

Calvary Batam's thirteenth Anniversary Thanksgiving Service was held on 13 October 2002 with over 250 attending. It was followed by the Ground Breaking on a part of the church compound to mark the beginning of building operations for a new Bible School complex to train workers for the Indonesian Gospel work. All praise to God!

Calvary Bible Training Centre (CBTC) was inaugurated on 15 August 1999 by Rev Charles Seet, marking the birth of a fundamental Bible School in Batam, using the premises of Calvary Batam.

Patterned after Singapore's FEBC (Far Eastern Bible College) the school is set for the training of lay leaders and full-time Christian

workers in the Indonesian language. This is the vision of the Pastor Rev Kiantoro Lie, to accelerate the Gospel outreach to the Indonesian people (population over 200 million).

The need for such a Bible-believing and Bible-teaching school is urgent, as it is a fact that there are no fundamental schools available in Indonesia to which we may send our students. CBTC will greatly increase our Gospel effort, catering to full-time and part-time students, offering day and night classes.

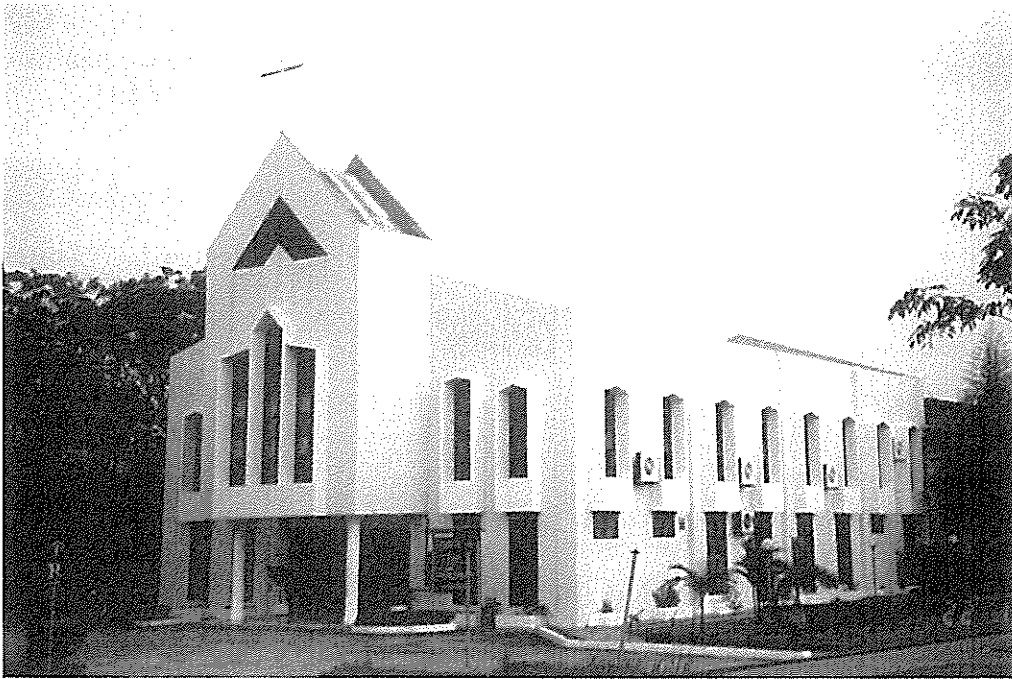
Presently there are three teachers: Rev Kiantoro Lie, Ang Liang and Samson — all graduates of FEBC and eight full-time students. An "education block" of two

storeys is being constructed, to be completed by the end of February 2003. This will provide classrooms and living quarters for students. The Faculty will be strengthened when Indonesian students Johnyanto and Leni complete their studies at FEBC in 2003.

How is the school financed? Presently the main support comes from GAPPI. Full-time

students may receive support from their own churches. Funds for the new building will come from GAPPI's own members as well as B-P churches in Singapore and Malaysia.

CBTC is a major milestone in the B-P advance in Indonesia. It is God's work initiated by God's faithful people, "*... not by might, nor by power; but by my Spirit, saith the Lord*" (Zech 4:6), All glory to God!



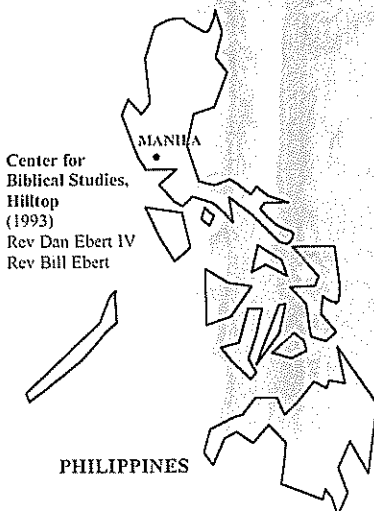
*Calvary Batam B-P Church,
beachhead to Indonesia*

17

PHILIPPINES

— the land of 7,000 emeralds

*"Hear the word of the Lord...
declare it in the isles afar off."
(Jer 31:10)*

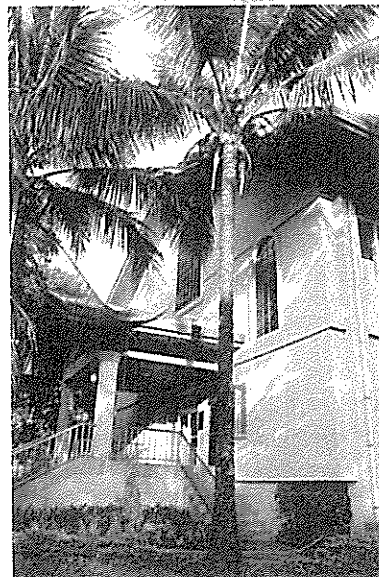


Calvary is glad to have a part in the building of “Hilltop for Christ” — with the **Christian Training and Missionary Fellowship (CTMF)** in the Philippines. These are the words of Rev Dan Ebert IV, the founder of the CTMF:

In 1955, my missionary parents came to the Philippines because of a vision based on God’s promise that His Word would not return to Him void but would accomplish His purpose (Isa 55:11) At first our vision was to see that the Palawano people have an understanding of the Gospel, that the Bible is translated into their language, and that the Church be established. However, God’s purpose extended further than this, and He led us into a teaching ministry in the city of Manila It was at this point that God gave a new dimension to the vision. It was the “Hilltop for Christ.”

Twenty-five kilometres from Manila Airport, high in the hills of Antipolo, overlooking Manila Bay and Metropolis, is the five acres of land now known as “Hilltop for Christ.”

As a result of God’s goodness, the Hilltop now houses the CTMF as well as the classrooms and dormitory buildings of the



*The Hilltop Chapel,
400-seat capacity*

Center for Biblical Studies (CBS). The development was completed in four phases. The project started at the end of 1989 and was completed in November 1994. The whole complex consists of a chapel that can sit 500 people, a staff house with a prayer tower



On the Prayer Tower

block, two students' dormitories, a missions centre and a library cum classroom. Praise God that Calvary B-P Church was able to finance this beautiful project for the extension of His kingdom.

It is amazing the way God has guided and blessed the work in the Philippines. As I look back over the years, I am often reminded of that day in June 1980 when my wife and I arrived as young missionaries, I remember well the first class that I was assigned to teach: the Pastoral Epistles. What a joy it was to prepare the syllabus and get ready for my new students.

It was only a short time later that my brother and I were approached by some of the graduates asking us about setting up a program of advanced studies. That was 1982 and was the start of the Center for Biblical Studies (Seminary). Shortly after it started, many of our graduates began to come back to further their studies. Very quickly we had between twenty and thirty full-time pastors studying at our parents' home.

Struggling in such cramped quarters, my brother and I started to talk about finding a bigger place. We would drive around the city and look at all the lame old houses that were for rent. We saw some places that would have met the immediate need, but we did not have the additional US\$1000 a month needed for the rent. As we drove around, we were praying and asking God why he did not give us the money we so badly needed. But God was working behind the scenes in a much greater way than we could have ever imagined.

My father, who had been in the Philippines since 1955, was beginning to minister and fellowship in Singapore. I can still remember him coming home and all of us gathering at his house as he would tell us of his experiences in Singapore. He would talk of Calvary B-P Church and Dr SH Tow, Life B-P Church and Rev. Timothy Tow and other Singapore B-P churches. He told us of their great vision for missions and of their many outreaches. He often mentioned the great kindness shown to him each time he visited. As the years went by and Dad's trips became more frequent we came to know the names not only of many of the pastors, but also many of the leading elders and deacons of the B-P churches in Singapore. We never realized that God was bringing these works together for an even greater purpose.

My brother and I continued our search for a place in which the seminary could meet. We traveled great distances around the city and spent many hours wondering if we would ever find a place large enough for the ministry and yet not larger than our budget! Then one day as Dr Tow talked on the phone with my father and the Philippines ministry was being discussed, the need for a bigger place became known. His response was: "You need to look for and buy a place that God can develop." My father answered: "We do not

have that kind of money.” Dr Tow’s response was one of extraordinary encouragement and faith: “God will take care of the money, you look for the place.”

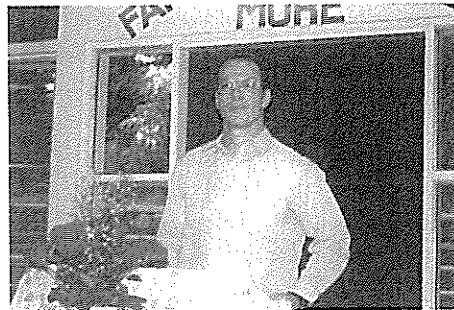
So the looking began in earnest. A 500 square meter piece of property costing about US\$50,000 was located. We were all excited about the property, and when Dr Tow called, he encouraged us to make arrangements for buying it and said he would see that the money was raised. What an amazing blessing! Up to that time our mission had never received a one-time gift of over US\$2,000. Could this really be true? Well, as the time came for finalizing the contract, we learned that part of the agreement the owners wanted for selling the land was that we should put a cement road in. The road would have cost more than the property itself! “Why, Lord?” We again asked.

It was not long after that we found a 1,000 square meter piece of land for about US\$75,000. This land had 3 fruit trees and seemed just what we needed. When we called Dr Tow, we explained that the new piece of land was bigger but also will cost more. He again encouraged us to believe that God would provide the money and we should move forward with arrangements to buy it. Everything was going smoothly, but as negotiations were coming to a close, another problem arose. There were some people living on the lot and they refused to leave. “Why, Lord?” we asked yet again. It looked so good. But we never realized what God had in store for us.

When we spoke to Dr Tow, he encouraged us in the Lord: “Keep praying and looking. Our God is able.”

Our search continued over the coming months. The next piece of available land we located was 20,000 square meters with over 80 fruit trees. The price was yet higher: US\$150,000, so we were not sure the money could be raised. But when Dr Tow heard about

the beautiful piece of property, he told us that God would provide the money, so buy it. We had the down payment from the former property, so we put 30% down, with the understanding that the rest would be paid in a short time. As the time approached for the final payment, Dr Tow called and told us that the money had been sent. What a blessing from God! Calvary B-P Church in Singapore has been behind Hilltop from the beginning. God is using this group of believers mightily in their missions outreach. Who would have ever guessed that my Dad’s ministering and life long friendships made in Singapore would be used so mightily in the work for God here in the Philippines? (End of Rev Dan Ebert IV’s report.)



Rev Dan Ebert IV

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

Missions is the backbone of the Church, and Calvary B-P Church can truly say that we have had and continue to have an eternal blessing as all that is accomplished on Hilltop is for the Glory of God.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom 10:13–15).

Below the Founder of the Mission, **Rev Dan Ebert III**, gives the details of the bountiful harvest of the Lord's work in the Philippines:



Rev Dan Ebert III

The missions outreach of Calvary B-P Church in the Philippines through the Hilltop Ministries has been blessed by the Lord with a bountiful harvest to start the new millennium. Although a country beset by problems in recent years, the fellowship of Christians trained at the Center for Biblical Studies (CBS) on the Hilltop continue to use every opportunity to bring people to the Lord and build up the Church.

From the beginning of the ministry, we have rested in God's promise that His Word will not return void but will accomplish His purpose (Isa. 55:11). Therefore, we train men and women in the Holy Scripture in order that they can in turn spread the good news of salvation to the lost and bring Christians to spiritual maturity.

Along with this teaching, a program of practical work enables the students to spend each weekend working in a church pastored

by one of the CBS graduates. During this time, each student is given various responsibilities, which, under the pastor's supervision, gives them vital experience in different forms of evangelism, encouraging new believers, and assisting in other ministries of the church.

Every summer two teams of students go out into provincial areas to work with local churches assisting in evangelistic outreaches, children's programs, and other ministries of these small churches. Each year the students return greatly encouraged as they see the power of God working through the simple preaching of the gospel to bring many souls to Himself.

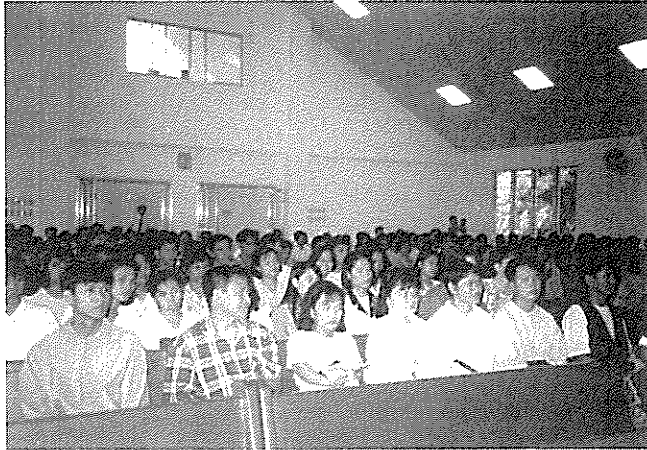
They are also greatly challenged as they come to see the sacrifice joyfully made for the Lord by these pastors and their congregations.

As some students on a team that recently ministered in Mindanao wrote, "...During the tour there were many evangelistic meetings conducted. Our hearts were thrilled as we saw many people come to repentance and accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.... The workers in Mindanao are in the midst of a crisis and experience great difficulties in the



CBS graduating class of 2001

ministry. They lack financial support, travel is difficult and dangerous, and their houses are far from the church. And yet, I saw their commitment to the work of the Lord as they continually gave praise to Him in spite of their situation... while we were visiting there I was reminded that poverty is not a hindrance to serving the Lord as the joy in serving Him enabled those serving there to do so with fervent commitment to their calling."



Gathering of the churches at Hilltop

The Philippines has the highest birth rate of any Asian country. Each village and town is filled with crowds of children playing. The poverty of these little children is matched by terrible spiritual emptiness. CBS students spend time on Saturdays and often Sunday afternoons teaching these little ones. This is often done under the shade of a tree or along the side of the road. Some would question the value of the countless hours spent in this ministry. However, through the years we have had a number of students at CBS who, as little children, came to know the Lord while attending one of these Bible studies.

Each year, pastors and workers return to the Hilltop for the annual Bible conference. As we look out over this great throng we are

reminded that through the Hilltop ministry over 60 churches are being pastored by CBS graduates. Countless Bible studies and evangelistic outreaches are conducted by our workers who are seeing a great harvest of souls because of the ministry of the Hilltop for Christ.

As I look back over the long years of our labor and the great effort in prayers and financial support by the Calvary B-P Church of Singapore, we must say that God has surely blessed above anything we could ask or think. We can look forward to the next year of this new millennium and the Lord's soon return with the phrase, "to God be the glory" on our lips.



Pastors' Bible study seminar

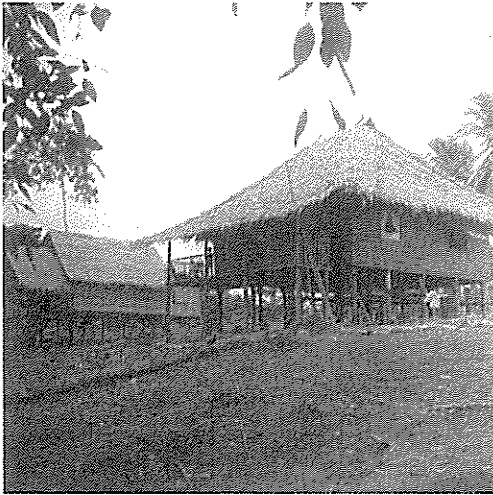
The Scripture contains many exhortations concerning the importance of the missionary effort by the church. John 15:16 gives the added promise that the spiritual fruit gathered would remain. Implied in this promise is that the church will move forward through the ages as the faithful continue to win souls. It has been a great joy for me to see the Lord fulfill this promise in the mountains of Palawan, in the Philippines. Close to fifty years ago the Palawano Tribe first heard the Gospel and believed. My younger son, Bill, was

there recently on an evangelistic trip. He was accompanied by a team from the Center for Biblical Studies (CBS). The following are excerpts from his account:



Rev Bill Ebert

"For the early years of my life a large grass house deep in the uncharted jungles of Palawan was the only home I knew. My sisters, brother, and I have always looked back with fondness on those days when our



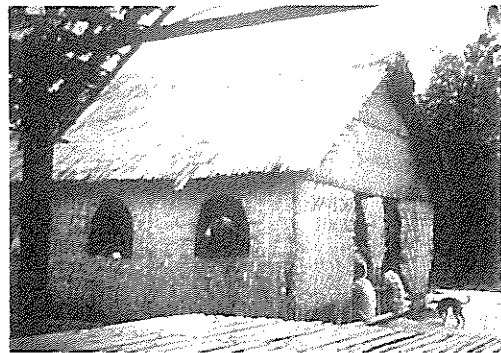
*The Ebert home in Palawan
from 50 years ago*

school was held at the table in our dining room and the Village of Many Waterfalls was our playground. However, the time has passed rapidly and for many years, my ministry has kept me from returning home. Now, with my son, Billy, I was to join with the CBS team on a missions trip to Palawan.

I remembered as a young boy that the trip to the West Coast of Palawan took six or seven days hard travel ending in a full day's hike across muddy jungle trails. Now, however, a road was completed across the island and after just three hours, we arrived on the West Coast. That evening, the team conducted a meeting that was the first in a long series of services that stretched over two weeks. We were greeted joyfully by believers in each village that we visited. Some of the churches I visited brought back memories of those days of long ago when the first churches began to form.

One Sunday morning, I spoke in the village of Marintub, 25 minutes away by pedicab. As we rode along I thought of those days nearly fifty years ago when the people of this village would come for my dad in an outrigger canoe. They would paddle for hours going out into the sea then up the Marintub River. From Friday until Sunday they would have a time of continuous teaching interspersed with eating and sleeping. Then they would paddle my dad back home. As we crossed the river on a modern bridge, I remembered the stories of the dangers of this deep river with its infamous crocodiles, now all gone.

Speaking in this church was a special time as a number of people remembered me when I was just a small boy. This church was very special to my dad. After those in the village became believers they grew rapidly in the Lord. They did all they could to witness of



Early Palawano church building



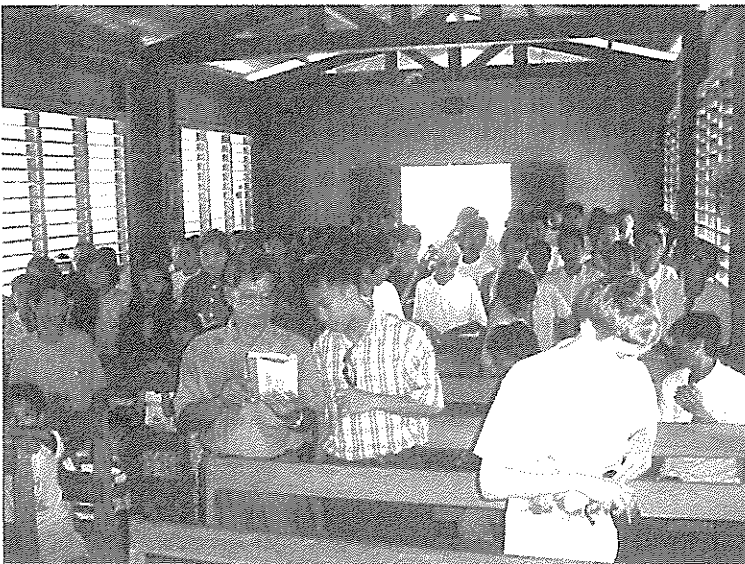
Palawanos of long ago, out of the "stone age"

His love and saving grace to their fellow Palawanos. The village sat in the shadow of a large hill. Approach to it was forbidden because in a tree on its peak lived a powerful spirit. One day, after much prayer, the chief and the converted witch doctor led the Christians to the top of the hill, chopped down the tree and built their grass chapel there. It was a testimony to all that passed by that the

power of Christ was greater than that of the most powerful of spirits. Now the children and grandchildren of the first believers still meet to testify of Christ's saving power.

After this meeting we hurried to another church to speak. It was near the river that led up to the house where I had lived as a small boy. Now the course of the river had changed along with so many other things. However, tucked away amidst the tropical undergrowth was the pool where my brother, sisters, and I swam. When we first arrived the people said the pool was dangerous because of a crocodile that lived there. Later, as people learned about the saving and keeping power of Jesus Christ, the new

Christians told us there was no crocodile living there. The pool was taboo because it belonged to the village spirit. Anyone who swam there was threatened with sickness and death. Now the new Christians had come to rest in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we village children had a swimming pool just in front of our house. Today, after all these years the descendents of those first Christians continue to meet nearby.

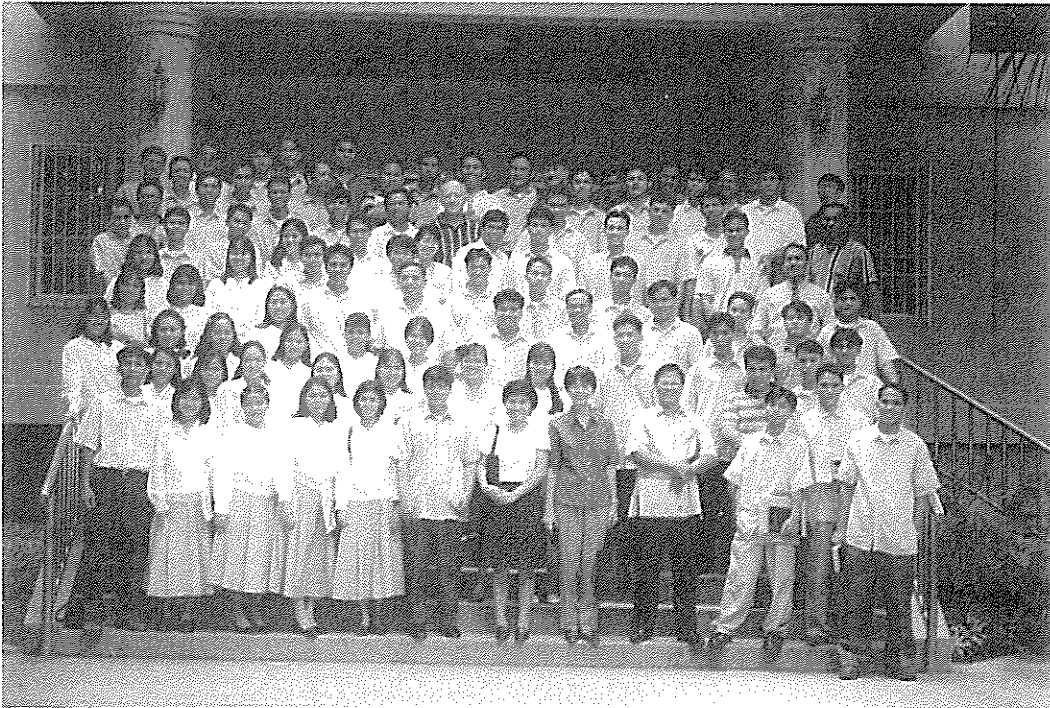


Present day Palawanos

The visit to my home ended all too quickly and we returned to Manila. All but a few of the original adult believers have gone to be with the Lord. However, their children and grandchildren have carried on. As God had promised, the spiritual fruit has remained. The land where I had grown up has changed dramatically but the grand old gospel story of Jesus and His love lives on unchanged." (End of Dan Ebert III's report.)

POSTSCRIPT

Our RPG Daily Bible Reading Notes are sent to 282 recipients in the Philippines (churches and individuals), a total of nearly 4,000 copies per issue, free of charge. This ministry is supported by gifts from God's people. Praise the Lord for the many appreciative readers, and the many cheerful givers.

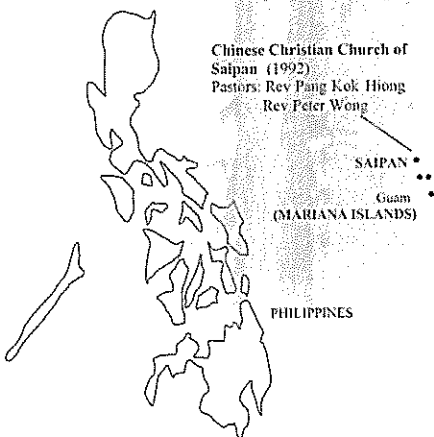


CBS students & staff in the citadel of the faith, Philippines

18

SAIPAN

*"How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel of peace, and
bring glad tidings of good things."
(Rom 10:15)*



Calvary's work of planting the gospel seed in Saipan is another confirmation of the importance of heeding the still small voice of the Lord and to go in obedience. It is also an undeniable testimony of the mighty power of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of souls to our Lord and Saviour Lord Jesus, definitely *"not by might, nor by power; but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts"* (Zech 4:6).

Rev Pang Kok Hiong shares his experience below:

God confirmed my calling to reach out to the Mainland Chinese after my first China trip in June 1988 led by Rev Yap Beng Shin. Since then, the desire of my heart was to go in to China upon the completion of my studies at the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) in November 1989. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord"* (Isa 55:8). God had a better plan for me. He directed me to the "backdoor" instead.

It was an ordinary day in July 1991. Slides of my June China trip were being shown to some brothers and sisters in the FEBC lecture hall. In the midst of it, a FEBC Korean student, Lee Hyo Chang, pulled me aside. He urged me excitedly to go to Saipan saying that there were thousands of Chinese there but no Chinese preacher! Hyo Chang discovered Saipan when he was with a Korean missions ship. Without giving it a thought, I told him that it was impossible for me to make another trip overseas because I had just come back from China. Moreover, I was pastoring the Mandarin congregation of Calvary B-P Church (Pandan). Refusing to accept the negative response, he pestered me until I assured him that the Calvary Missions Committee would be consulted regarding this matter.

What had begun as just another ordinary day was to turn out a most extraordinary milestone in the Gospel endeavour of Calvary

B-P Church. Truly, God's ways are not our ways. With blessings from Rev James Chan, Chairman of the Missions Committee, I embarked on my first Saipan trip. There, about 40 Chinese garment workers came for the first meeting at a factory canteen. When they were greeted in Mandarin, there was a sudden loud applause from the group. They were overjoyed and thankful to hear a preacher who spoke a language they could understand. When God's Word was preached, one could see their eagerness to learn, their thirst for the Word of God and their yearning for more. Deep down in my heart, I knew it was God's will for me to be in Saipan. I called Guek Mui after the meeting and told her to be prepared for this missions field. However, two hurdles had to be cleared before we made any preparations: Calvary B-P Church to release me to serve in Saipan and Guek Mui's teaching bond with the Ministry of Education (MOE).

During the weekly Saturday Pastors' Prayer Meeting at Dr. Tow's house, the Saipan experience was shared accompanied by a comprehensive slide show. In the middle of the presentation, Dr. Tow was moved to tears, obviously touched by the Holy Spirit with the burden for the lost souls of Mainland China. Immediate arrangements for the slides to be presented in both Calvary Jurong and Calvary Pandan English services were made the following day. With the information given to the brethren, God moved the people's hearts. Both Rev Timothy Tow and Elder Cheng Wei Nien were then approached to make a trip with me to Saipan in December 1991 to seek confirmation that it was God's will for us to be there. Seeing with their own eyes and touched with love for the lost souls of the Chinese, they gave a positive urgent report. Praise the Lord, Calvary B-P Church gave us the blessings to serve in this missions field!

Having signed a teaching contract with the MOE, Guek Mui was bonded for three years,

and at that time she had only taught for eight months and our first child was due for delivery at the end of December 1991. We prayed very hard that her school principal, Mr Lim of Bukit Batok Secondary School, would grant her no-pay leave to accompany me overseas. Guek Mui told him that if that was not a good reason, then she would apply for childcare leave. Mr Lim found it difficult to make any decision on the spot saying that he had to check with MOE about Guek Mui's case. Meanwhile, we waited upon the Lord and prayed that if it were really His will for us to go to Saipan, He would give a solution to this seemingly impossible application (for there were many past applications that had been disapproved).

A week later, Guek Mui went to her principal anxiously hoping to get a favourable reply. He said: "You can't apply for any leave while you are serving bond. You are supposed to complete three years of teaching before you can apply for leave because the government paid a large sum to train you ... Your case is the first in Singapore history where a teacher who hasn't completed her bond applies for no-pay leave to accompany her spouse overseas and is expecting a child..." Guek Mui's heart pounded loud and fast! She was on the verge of giving up hope when she heard the last two words that came out of Mr Lim's mouth: "Anyway, approved." We thank God for His clear direction. Praise God for making the impossible possible!

Having cleared these two hurdles, we had other objections to our leaving Singapore, mainly from our family members. En Yang is the first grandson in our families and he is, of course, treasured dearly especially by the grandparents. Our loved ones were extremely worried for our safety and well being in this Saipan Island that they had never heard of before. Our parents were especially concerned about us as new parents whether we were able to do a job taking care of our newborn son. We were not going to have our mothers,

sisters, aunts or nannies to help us with babysitting if anything went wrong. Nonetheless, we assured them that God was with us and all would be well. Truly, God grants us the wisdom and patience to raise our children that every year when we return to Singapore, both En Yang and En Hong are well, strong and healthy, to our parents' delight.

On 7 March 1992 — a historic day in our life — we arrived in Saipan with our two-month-old son, ready to be moulded by God for His vineyard. As we look back, we marvel at how God guided us here to be labourers together with God in the spiritual harvesting these past 10 years.



*Rev Pang Kok Hiong and family,
pioneers to Saipan and China*

*All the way my Saviour leads me,
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercies,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

2001, the first year of the New Millennium, is a year where God's faithfulness is visibly

shown in both Saipan and China.

1. New Church Building

First of all, He calls us to *"have faith in God"* (Mk 11:22) and that faith is the victory, *"for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"* (1 Jn 5:4).

The Lord leads us to build the House of God by faith, that is without appealing to anyone, any church or organization. We learn to trust God and God alone. Earnest prayers ascend to the throne of God several times a day everyday! With our little faith, we stepped forward to plan for the building and we start by giving ourselves.

2. Ebenezer: *"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us"* (1 Sam 7:12)

Marvelously, God moves the Chinese believers to give a handsome amount of US\$250,000. Another US\$750,000 are offered by lovers of God from all over the world. Everyone who gives cheerfully will reap the reward of every soul saved through this building.

3. Jehovah Jireh: *"In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen"* (Gen 22:14)

On 15 April 2001, Easter Sunday, we moved into our brand new sanctuary. Almost everything was ready: the air-conditioning, the grand piano, the pulpit, the PA system, the chairs, the dining tables and even the kitchen that cooked our very first fellowship lunch in this new building.

4. Harvesting of precious souls continues
An average of 400 worshippers attend the Lord's Day service and about 150 people come for the nightly meetings. 26 groups meeting in various factories and dormitories, fellowshipping and praying one for another every Monday without fail. Two missions trips to China were made in 2001, in July and September with 45 and 16 baptised respectively. The purpose of the trips was for the training of leaders, for visitations and the consolidation of house churches with the 1,150 returnees.

About 60 souls were baptized end of 2001. How the Lord brings souls to Himself speaks of His mercy and love for the lost, especially for the Chinese in the New Millennium. May China be saved!

Praise the Lord. Glory to Him and Him alone.
Amen. (End of Rev Pang Kok Hiong's report.)

HISTORICAL NOTE

When the Gospel door to China was shut by the Tienanmen crackdown of 1988, God opened a "backdoor to China." Over 10,000 Chinese nationals had come to Saipan's factories to earn American dollars. But no amount of dollars could satisfy their longing souls.

Their quest for inner satisfaction took them to the Korean Presbyterian Church of Saipan, to be ministered to by a Korean pastor, Rev Lee Man Yuel. When Pastor Pang Kok Hiong arrived in 1992, he was welcomed to co-labour together with Pastor Lee. The congregation grew, just as the Word of God says in 1 Corinthians 3:6, one planted, another watered, but God gave the increase. Helped by Mrs Pang Guek Mui, the Chinese Church grew "by leaps and bounds" from one hundred to four and five hundred, as the



Regular Sunday congregation of four to five hundred Chinese workers

Chinese workers drank in the living water of God's Word, attending Bible study and prayer meeting — a work which kept the Gospel team fully occupied seven days a week. It was a time of happy sowing and busy reaping of a plentiful harvest of precious souls. The prayer was, "Lord, send us more labourers for the harvest."

In time, God answered: Life B-P Church sent Sister Ho Heng Sau (a graduate of Far Eastern Bible College) in 1998. And from the Brunei Reformed Church came Pastor and Mrs Peter Wong in 2001. What a joy it was for the Gospel

team to labour together. *"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy"* (Ps 126:4).

To date (October 2002), some 1,400 converts have been baptised, about thirty house churches have been planted in sixteen provinces of China, and the dispersal of "Saipan converts" has opened a new Gospel door in Jordan. What do we say to these things? *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and th eknowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"* (Rom 10:33). To Him be glory for ever. Amen.

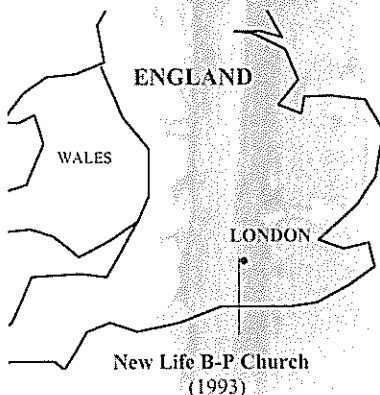


*Chinese Christian Church of Saipan,
back door to China,
built largely with "local" funding*

19

ENGLAND

"Behold... I will send a famine... not of bread... but of hearing the words of the Lord." (Amos 8:11)



Moderator: Elder Cheng Wei Ping
Supervisory Pastor: Rev (Dr) Patrick Tan

For years the Chinese United Reformed Church (URC) in London had been fed the husks of the Social Gospel laced with the poison of Liberal Theology. In God's good time, He moved Elder Cheng Wei Ping and the congregation to pray for deliverance, that the Lord would "lead them out of the bondage of spiritual Egypt."

In a letter of 10 December 1991 to his elder brother Elder Cheng Wei Nien (of Calvary B-P Church), Elder Cheng Wei Ping wrote:

"We at the London Chinese URC have discussed in great depth the need to separate from the mainline URC. We steadfastly refuse to return to "liberal theology" ... It was with heaviness of heart that I arranged to meet with Rev Eric Kwan of New Life B-P Church, Singapore (and therefore theologically sound) to ask whether he would be willing to come and help us. Our faithful God answered our prayers (and unknown to us also answered his prayer), and so he became our Pastor. Praise the Lord. During the short period of six months the attendance of our church increased from 15 to 40."

At Calvary Session meeting on 20 January 1992, Elder Cheng Wei Ping's letter was presented by Rev Eric Kwan, Asst Pastor of New Life B-P Church (Singapore). Session responded to the "Macedonian call" by resolving to support the Gospel effort, on a fifty-fifty basis with New Life B-P Church.

For the next four years, New Life B-P Church (London) met in hired premises, e.g. the Public Library at Willesdon Green. Pastor Eric Kwan returned to Singapore at the end of his sabbatical year and was succeeded by Pastor Vincent Hee, with help from Singapore (Rev Patrick Tan, Elder Khoo Peng Kiat, Dr SH Tow).

In early 1996 news came from Elder Cheng in London that a 100-year-old Church near Queen's Park was being offered for sale by

the URC. Calvary Session agreed to continue its collaborative effort with New Life B-P Church (Singapore) on the same fifty-fifty basis, and to support the London outreach to a successful conclusion.

By God's marvellous grace the congregation of the URC at Queen's Park voted to sell the property to New Life B-P Church (London) and not to a Hindu temple group. The cost was 465,000 pounds sterling. (Our bid was 5,000 pounds higher than the rival group's.)

Rev Patrick Tan of New Life B-P Church (Singapore) requested Calvary B-P Church, to help in the London project. A consultative meeting led to the formation of a Task Force:

Chairman: Dr SH Tow

Members: Elder Cheng Wei Nien

Elder Lim Teck Chye

Rev Dr Patrick Tan

Elder Boaz Boon joined later when he was studying at Cambridge University for three years.

The Task Force set a three-year period, during which time all needful measures would be taken to establish a strong and stable Church administration able to manage its own affairs and effectively extend the Gospel witness.

Below are excerpts from a "Final Report" dated 15 July 1999 submitted to Calvary Session by the Task Force Chairman:

New Life B-P Church has been registered / recognised by the relevant Government body as a "Bible-Presbyterian Church," with the help of a "Church affairs lawyer" Mr John Bale (recommended by Dr Peter Masters).

The 100-year-old Church Complex was purchased, repaired, renovated, extended at a total cost of S\$2,398,394.00 (including incidental and operational expenses). The builder Mr Tedd Scruton, Chief Steward of London Metropolitan Tabernacle (recommended by Dr Masters) did an excellent job (at half the cost estimated by another party). Mr Frank Flynn, our member efficiently



Arrival for the first worship service, 4 Aug 1996

supervised the entire project as our "Site Manager."

Calvary's share of 50 per cent is S\$1,199,197.00. A summary Financial Statement is attached to this report.

As of June 1999, the Task Force having achieved its objectives declares its own dissolution, and its task for New Life B-P Church concluded with full satisfaction. All glory be to God.

Our gracious God has used our two churches in Singapore — New Life B-P Church and Calvary B-P Church — to co-labour together over a seven-year period (1992 – 1999) to found a Bible-Presbyterian Church in the "Capital of the world."

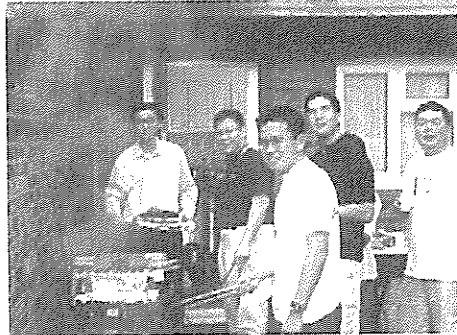
At the time of reporting (end of 2002), New Life B-P Church (London) is being managed by a Session comprising Rev Dr Patrick Tan (Supervisory Pastor), Elder Cheng Wei Ping (Chairman), Elder Dr CG Teo (Teaching Elder), Dn Peter Chong and Dn Daniel Poh.

Elder Teo reports from London:

The Lord has indeed been pleased to continue to bless our church here in London. Over the years, we appreciate more the uniqueness of this church that God has in His wisdom established in this part of the city. Small though we are, we continue to have great potential to exert a great influence upon the many who join with us, no matter their length of stay. We continue to impart the credence and agenda of Biblical Christianity - unapologetically and lovingly. We wait upon our Sovereign Lord to revive this country, in many ways degenerate and in the grip of Satan, but once a great nation from which thousands left to go into all the world in fulfilment of the Great Commission.

Our congregation is as varied as ever. There is that core of members — residents of London and the Home Counties — who

maintain the premises, do the ushering, man the PA system, extend hospitality, cook the fellowship meals and run the Bible classes. Then, there is that small group of residents in Queens Park who have made our church their home church; some, who are members of another church, have made it a point to join us regularly for our evening services and prayer meetings. There are, thirdly, the college and university students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, most of whom originate from B-P and associated churches back home. Finally, there are the many visitors, both short and long-term, who come from various parts of the world: in the past year, we have met friends not only from Singapore and Malaysia, but also Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, South Africa, Italy, Ukraine, Romania, China, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the USA; most move on,



BBQ fellowship London

but others do stay throughout their period of study or assignment in London.

Currently, our morning worship services are attended by 40 to 60 people and evening services by 20 to 30 people. The Lord has also been pleased to bless our established ministries. There is our small Sunday school, run by a small band of faithful young people. And there is our Sidewalk Evangelistic Ministry, where on dry Sunday afternoons, evangelistic tracts and books are displayed at the entrance of the sanctuary. (The church strategically fronts a busy high street.) So cosmopolitan are the passers-by that our

tracts are in languages that include Tagalog, Japanese, Chinese, Greek, Italian, French, Dutch, German and even Croatian!

The Lord has also enabled us to start new ministries. The former Students Ministry has been expanded to include teenage schoolchildren, graduates and post-graduates, and renamed the Youth Fellowship. This Fellowship meets every Lord's Day afternoon. Post-graduate students and recent graduates take up mentoring and leadership roles. There was a Korean Fellowship, now disbanded, made up of a small number of Koreans who meet weekly for an intense period of singing and instruction. Then, there is what might be considered a Cantonese Fellowship, catering for an even smaller group of individuals desiring interaction in that dialect, and who have spontaneously formed a circle to provide extemporaneous translation of English sermons to Cantonese.

The Lord had blessed two special meetings held during the year. In celebration of our Church's 5th Anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the Bible-Presbyterian Movement, a programme of lectures and sightseeing was organised during the Easter weekend. The work of the Holy Spirit through the English Reformers, the Huguenots and William Chalmers Burns was commemorated, and God glorified. Rev Timothy Tow (Life B-P Church), Dr Alan Clifford (Norwich Reformed Church), Mr Chris Richards (The Protestant Alliance) and Rev Gordon Ferguson (Walthamstow Free Presbyterian Church) spoke. These meetings were attended both by members of our congregation and brethren from the wider Reformed circle in and around London.

In September, a special study day was devoted to studying the relationship between Chinese characters and the narratives in Genesis. The speaker was Dr SH Tow, whom the Lord used to open our eyes to Biblical truths embossed in the Chinese language.

In the absence of a full-time minister, the Lord has throughout the year provided us a wide range of Reformed preachers to fill the pulpit. Truly the Lord has been good to us. Continue to pray for His blessings on our church ministries. Pray also for His blessings on our congregation members, that we will be resolute in serving Him whole-heartedly and joyfully, not slipping into nominalism till our Lord Jesus returns. (End of Dr Teo's report.)



Elder Khoo Peng Kiat, visiting Elder

In addition to the guest preachers from various fundamental Protestant bodies in and around London, the pulpit is supplemented by a team of preachers from New Life B-P Church in Singapore (Rev Patrick Tan, Rev Peter Tan, Rev Daniel Khoo) and preachers from Life B-P Church (Rev Colin Wong and Mr Mark Chen). New Life B-P Church is a welcome haven for overseas students in London and the surrounding areas, as well

as migrant and local people in the Queen's Park area.

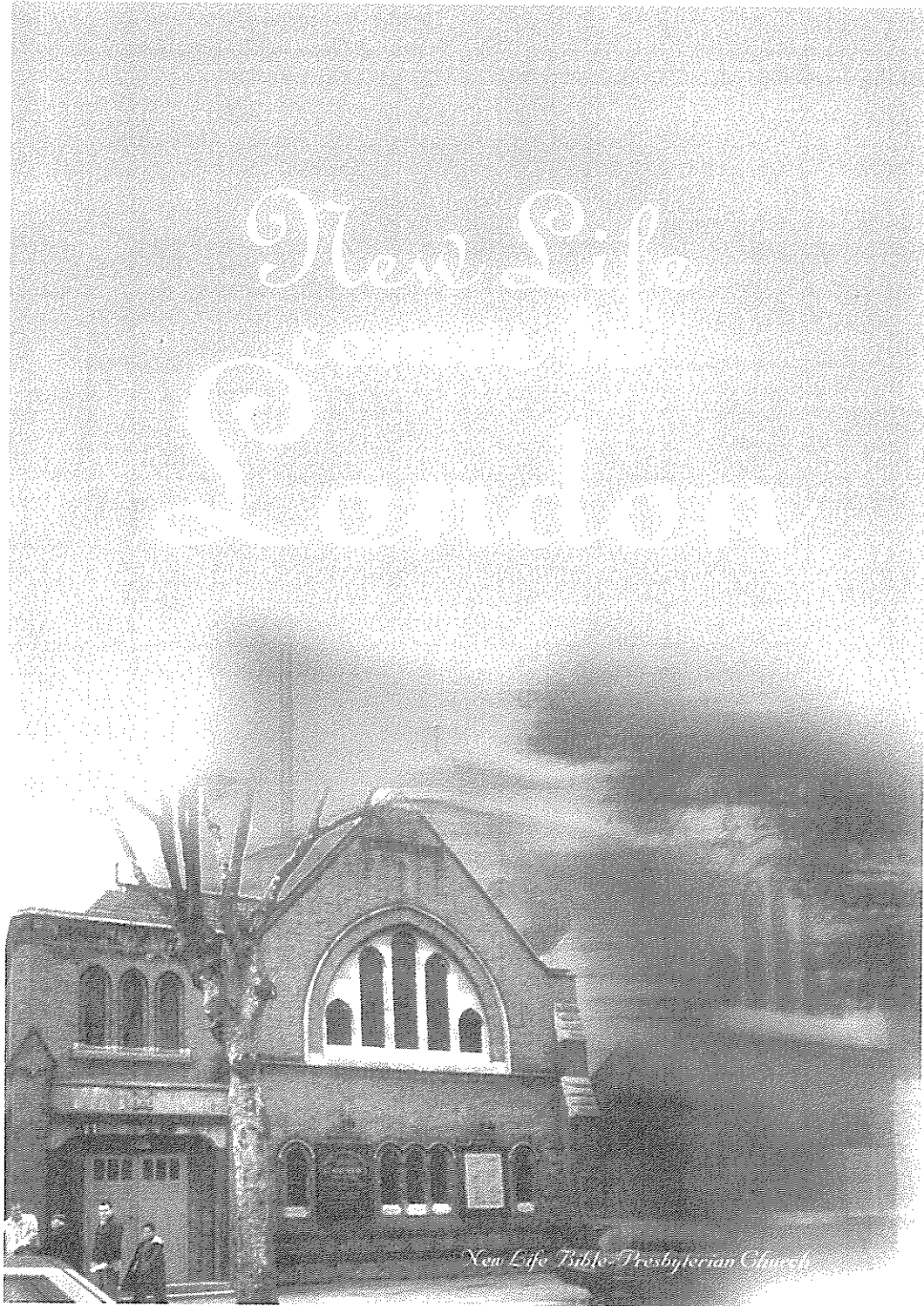
By the exceeding riches of God's grace, may

this outpost of Biblical Christianity continue to shine its beacon of truth and light, "*for the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ*" (Rev 1:9).



*The New Life London Choir;
small but effective*

*"Great is the Lord,
and greatly to be praised;
and his greatness is unsearchable."
(Ps 145:3)*

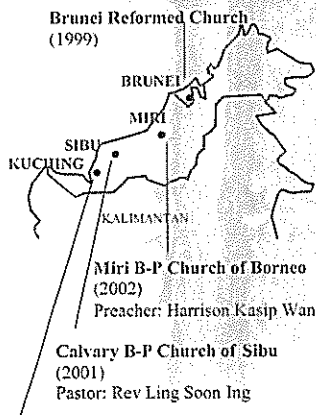


A B-P witness in the Capital of the world

20

BRUNEI AND
EAST MALAYSIA

— *Biblical Christianity comes to
Dyakland*



Kuching B-P Church
(1986)
Evangelist: Bong Muk Chong

Easter 1997 Family Bible Conference brought me to London New Life B-P Church. One morning after I had spoken on the peril of the *ecumenical movement*, now engulfing the churches around the world, a young man came up to me and said, “*Will you come and speak to our church in Brunei on the same topic?*”

The next year September 1998 marked my first visit to Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB), Brunei, at the request of **Pastor Peter Wong** of the Bethel Church. Thus began a series of events which led to the birth of three churches: Brunei Reformed Church in BSB Brunei; Calvary B-P Church, Sibiu; and Miri B-P Church of Borneo in Miri.

The worldly-wise would say, “That surely was a happy “**chance meeting**” in London in 1997. With our God there are no *chance meetings* but the sure leading of His unseen hand. This will become evident as the story unfolds.

The word of God – to *earnestly contend for the faith* – having been sown in Peter Wong’s heart, began its good work. At my first visit



*The late Bill
Khoo*

to BSB, we met at the home of **Bill Khoo Wah Ann** a former Youth Fellowship leader from our Mother Church, Life B-P Church (whom we had known for some thirty years). It was a warm revival of our old friendship.

Bill and wife Diane had been eagerly looking forward to my visit. Their ardent hope and desire was for a Bible-Presbyterian witness to be started in BSB. To them it was a dream coming true. I expounded on the theme of Biblical Separation and stressed the enormous dangers and deception of the *ecumenical movement*.

But Pastor Peter Wong needed to see our B-

P churches for himself, and the work of Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). In early 1999 he and his wife came to Singapore and fellowshipped at Life and Calvary B-P Churches, and FEBC. This strengthened his resolve to take a stand of separation for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. This event was a *turning point* in the advancement of Biblical Christianity in Borneo.

Elder Ong Eng Lam) flew to Brunei to help in the crucial formative stage, with the ministry of the Word.

Initially Pastor Peter Wong led the church, but in 2001 the Lord called him to Saipan to co-labour with Rev Pang Kok Hiong in Saipan. Question: How could he leave the Brunei and East Malaysia work? Answer: The Lord was quietly preparing a number of



Rev Peter Wong & Dr SH Tow (seated 2nd and 3rd from left)

Returning to Brunei, Pastor Wong and his family (parents and brothers), together with Bill and Diane Khoo, and a group of about thirty/forty formed the nucleus of the Brunei Reformed Church. However, Brother Bill Khoo was suddenly called Home by the Lord on 15 September 1999, a great loss to the Church.

Shortly afterwards, a church property was acquired (a 2-storey house) with the help of Life and Calvary B-P Churches. Two Elders of Life Church (Elder Khoo Peng Kiat and

faithful men to step into the gap:

- (a) A team of co-labourers in Brunei: George Wong, Terry Jayasuria, Johnny Teoh
- (b) Brother Harrison Kasip Wan in Miri (Sarawak)
- (c) Pastor Ling Soon Ing in Sibiu (Sarawak)

In Dec 2001, the Church in Brunei released Rev Peter Wong and family to join Rev Pang Kok Hiong in the Saipan mission. This was God's perfect timing just when Saipan needed help to launch out in another Gospel door in

Jordan opened by the Lord.

Praise the Lord for His assurance, given to those who wait for Him: *“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; while they were yet speaking, I will hear”* (Isa 65:24).

Rev Peter Wong writes:

I was born in the little oil town of Brunei in 1958. As a child, my mother had brought me to the small chapel where I came under the influence of the Bible and the Gospel. But it was not until I was sixteen that God caused me to come to Him personally. It was when we sang the song “Rock of ages” that I was strongly convicted of my need for cleansing from my sins. I repented and gave my heart to my Saviour Jesus Christ.

I remember the great joy that came to me when I became a Christian. Literally a new life had come to me and for the first time I was able to understand the Word of God, the need to love

one another and the importance of fellowship in prayer with God daily. I began to be active in my church and found every opportunity I could to serve God and share the Gospel. At that time, there were few Christian resources in Brunei so I often went to Malaysia to buy Christian books and to look for seminars to attend. At that time, I was working for the Brunei Shell Petroleum company as a gas production foreman. The pay was good and the temptation to stay was great. Many of the church leaders also encouraged me in the gospel ministry.

When I came to know about the Campus Crusade for Christ. I was thrilled to know of their gospel activity. At that time, I did not know of their stand and their unbiblical methods. I was involved with them for about two years after which I left to study at the Baptist Theological Seminary in the Philippines. After that I returned to Brunei to pastor the Bethel Church in early 1987.



*Brunei Reformed Church, 11 July 1999, raised of God
(Founding Pastor Peter Wong standing centre)*

In 1995, I heard of the *reformed* group who take a biblical stand especially in dealing with the charismatic issues of tongues and healing. I came to know about the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London and its publications which convinced me that many of the churches today have compromised the gospel message. So in 1996, I went to London on sabbatical leave to study and to find out more about the old paths which many churches have forsaken. Today I am convinced that the right teaching is found in the Reformed churches which uphold and defend the truth, and make the Bible the standard of faith and life. My position then changed from New Evangelical to Reformed.

While in London in 1996, I attended a talk by Dr SH Tow on Eschatology organised by the New Life B-P church. I was particularly pleased to see the B-P Church planting churches around the world and thrilled to know that the B-Ps were much concerned with reaching lost souls. During my recent trip to see the B-P work in Singapore, I saw for myself how the B-P churches operate and I was quite impressed with their emphasis on gospel preaching and church planting.

In 1999, Rev Pang Kok Hiong from the Chinese Christian Church of Saipan invited my family over to Saipan. During the two weeks, I saw how God had blessed the gospel preaching by bringing almost a thousand Chinese souls into His Kingdom. I was convinced that God's hand was upon the B-P movement and I wanted to be a part of it.

In July 1999 I resigned from my church which had become more compromised in its stand and I went to the Far Eastern Bible College for a short course. I thank God that He has raised up such a Fundamental and Reformed school in Singapore. The principal as well as the lecturers are strong in the Word and they have proved to the world that we do not have to follow the charismatic method in order to attain church growth.

In that same year, the Lord began our B-P work in Brunei when He moved some people to form a Reformed church. One of them was Brother Bill Khoo Wah Ann. He was a teacher and a former member of Life B-P Church in Singapore. He led a Bible study group in his home. Later, God provided funds from local and overseas sources to buy a church house for B\$150,000. It was impossible, humanly speaking, but the Lord opened the windows of heaven to pour us a blessing. Dr SH Tow was the speaker when we dedicated the building in September and baptized seven people and confirmed one as the first-fruits unto the Lord.

However, on 15 September 1999, the Lord suddenly took Brother Bill home by a heart attack. It was a deep blow to our church but we submitted ourselves to the Lord. Bill had been a faithful brother and had done what the Lord had asked him to do. I was in Singapore when I received the news. I shelved my plan for Saipan, left FEBC and returned to Brunei to lead the infant church there (started in July 1999). Man proposes but God disposes. How we need to look for divine guidance and to obey.

When I returned to Brunei, I organized the work and began to launch out. We had three Gospel stations in Brunei and even branched out to Miri, a town in Sarawak (East Malaysia). For the next two years, God enabled us to press on with the gospel work. We were joined by Rev Ling Soon Ing. He saw the dangers of the ecumenical movement and of spiritual compromise in these last days and decided to join the B-P movement in February 2001. He started a B-P church in Sibu, Sarawak. Another blessing was to see Harrison Kasip Wan, an FEBC graduate, returning to his hometown in Miri to serve with us and to establish the work in Miri. Then there is Pastor Peter Bong, pastor of the Kuching B-P Church for some years. Supported by Life B-P Church, he had heard about our work and we naturally linked up

and began to have fellowship together to encourage one another in the service of the Lord.

With a few faithful brothers who had taken on the work in Brunei, I prepared again to leave for Saipan as directed by the Lord to reach the many Chinese from mainland China. The harvest is indeed plenteous but the workers few. The Lord said to the prophet of old: "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*" (Isa 6:8). May we be able to answer like Isaiah, "*Here am I, send me.*" (End of Rev Peter Wong's report.)

Here we sound a note of caution. **Brunei is a strict Muslim country, and every Christian work must be done discreetly lest the door be closed. Brethren, pray for the work.**

The beginning of a B-P work in Miri (in Sarawak, East Malaysia) dates back to 1999 when the B-P witness in Brunei spread to Miri, just south of the border. In December 2001, following his completion of four-and-a-half years of theological studies at FEBC, Brother Harrison Kasip Wan (a native Kayan of Sarawak) returned to head this work.

Brother Harrison had been a preacher with the Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) Kayan Church in Sarawak. Having been enlightened by the Word of God of the perils of the *ecumenical movement*, he was led of the Spirit to take a stand of separation with us. After much prayer and seeking of God's will, he is now fully persuaded of the Biblical stand. He pastors the Church in Miri, mainly labouring among his native Dyak Kayan tribesmen in Sarawak. In addition he also helps in the other related Gospel work in Brunei and Sarawak.

Mr Lim Seng Hoo, member of Calvary Pandan, shares how the Lord led him to have a part in the Sarawak harvest field and how the Lord prepared brother Harrison for His work in Miri:

At our church weekly prayer meetings, I had the privilege to hear often about our various overseas missions. At one of these meetings, Pastor Peter Wong shared with us about the work in Sarawak. Then on 7 March 2000, Dr Tow announced to the prayer group that he would leave on 14 March for Kuching and Miri. On Sunday at the close of Sunset Gospel Hour, as I meditated in prayer, the Lord spoke to me to go with him! I only had time to whisper this into my wife's ears as we walked out of church. And the next thing, I was on the plane with Dr Tow to Kuching! The Lord has guided this non-Mandarin speaking unprofitable servant to have a part in this ministry among mainly Mandarin-speaking folk. Since that first visit, the Lord has guided me back to Sarawak.

From 30 May to 3 June 2001, the first B-P Camp in Sarawak, with the theme "Earnestly Contending for the Faith," was held. That camp brought together the small congregations from the Kuching B-P Church (founded by Life B-P Church more than 15 years ago, and led by Evangelist Bong Muk Chong), the newly established Calvary B-P Church of Sibü (pastored by Pastor Ling Soon Ing), and the believers from Miri and Brunei (under the care of Pastor Peter Wong). On hearing how Pastor Ling has led his flock of mostly young people out of the CNEC to take a fundamental biblical stand with us, the Lord put it on my heart that my next visit must include Sibü, to preach the gospel and to encourage saints in our mutual faith (Rom 1:12). The Lord also gave me a gospel message, "The New Birth" (John 2:23-3:21) for my next trip.

My fourth missions trip to Sarawak (from 23 November to 3 December 2001) brought us to Kuching, Sibü and Miri. I was accompanied by my family, sister Lee Siew Hiang (my secretary) and brother Lek Aik Wee. Despite the fewness of our days of co-labouring, the blessings from the Lord were abundant! Truly as Dr Tow said to me on my first trip with him

in March 2000, "*One shall chase a thousand but two shall chase ten thousand*" (Deut 32:30). Robin (my wife) had a first taste of translating sermons into Mandarin, which the folks appreciated! We spoke at the church camp of Kuching B-P Church, held in the hills of Serian. We had about 20 campers comprising 10 adults and 10 children.

On breaking camp, we flew to Sibü where we met with Pastor Ling and brother Harrison. The latter had taken a seven-hour bus trip from Miri the day before in order to meet us in Sibü! There, we held a gospel meeting attended by about 40 young people with a few older folks. Four raised their hands to indicate their need to be saved and to request for prayer. Praise the Lord!

That Lord's Day, our team ministered to our Sibü brethren at the morning and evening services and through home visitation and counselling. We also discussed the needs and the outreach of the church.

Then, we moved on to Miri. The church there worships in the home of brother Tan and his wife Agnes. Tan and Agnes' gift of hospitality has never failed to bless and encourage. We ministered to the brethren there on three evenings. Some of the brethren commuted every evening from Kuala Belait (Brunei) to Miri, a journey of about 90 minutes including a ferry crossing.

We also ministered at their Lord's Day morning and evening services. About 50 people attended the morning service. Two raised their hands to receive the Lord as their Saviour and one sought to know more about the faith.

The following day (3 Dec 2001), we left for Singapore. Do continue to pray for the work in Sarawak (Kuching B-P Church, Calvary B-P Church of Sibü, Miri B-P Church of Borneo). May our Lord move the hearts of more

Calvarians to obey His great commission in these last days.

The work in Miri is headed by brother Harrison. He is of the indigenous Kayan tribe. He was saved in 1989 while in the heart of the jungle, after being convicted by a tract "*Which Way Would You Go?*", which made him realise the vanity and emptiness of worldly pursuits. After his conversion, he worked as an evangelist with the SIB (the OMF-initiated indigenous church of Borneo), among longhouse tribes in the Sarawak interior.



Preacher Harrison

In 1996, he came to Singapore for formal theological training, and ended up, against all odds, at the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) despite objections from his friends and having no savings or any means of financial support. Harrison testifies: "Through my years of training at FEBC, I came to find that God's grace and mercy are greater than all my burdens and anxieties." There, he persevered by faith and completed five-and-a-half years of training!

Having just returned to Sarawak in November 2001, he has been in earnest prayer whether to return to his old church to be a witness or to immediately break ties and start afresh as a co-labourer with Rev Peter Wong. We praise the Lord for Harrison's clear decision to take an immediate stand for the Lord and be separated from ecumenism. He now ministers at the Miri B-P Church of Borneo. Do pray for the Lord's provision, guidance and blessings upon him as he serves among the largely Chinese congregations in Sarawak and also to start a B-P ministry among the Kayans. (End of Lim Seng Hoo's report.)

CALLED TO THE DYAK PEOPLE

Brother Harrison gives his testimony of salvation and call into full-time ministry:

Life to me was something of a mystery, full of worries and doubts. All I looked for in this life was satisfaction. When I grew up and



Kayan Worship Service

started to earn my own living, I began to think much of my future. I tried smoking and drinking but none of these could help or satisfy. I wasted my money on unnecessary

things, and fell into debt. Although I was born in a Christian family, going to Church was just a matter of habit and did not mean much to me.

One time, after serious thought, I came to the conclusion that there must be a life beyond and more precious than this present life. I was then working in a timber company, deep in the thick forest of Borneo.

In 1989, I experienced a turning point in my life. While still in the forest, a friend sent me a Christian booklet about how to receive eternal life. The booklet quoted Romans 6:23: *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* I willingly received Christ into my heart and trusted in His power to forgive my sins.

Deep in my heart I experienced the blessed assurance and hope for eternity. I thank God that I was set free from the bondage of sin.



*Sarawakian young believers,
leaders of the future church,
waiting to be nurtured*

My focus in life and direction became clear. By the power of God I stopped my old sinful habits. Although there are times I do face difficulties and discouragement and even to the point of stumbling, the grace of God has kept me from falling. I thank God for saving my soul. I am not only contented after accepting Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord but in response to God's everlasting love I resolved to serve Him in full-time ministry.

In 1992, I went to a local Seminary to do my biblical studies for three years. After my training, I had the privilege to go and serve in the church as a full-time worker for another two years. There I realized that the church did not have a strong foundation of God's Word. I thank God for putting the desire in me to be more deeply rooted in God's Word. I could sense that something had gone wrong during the worship service. For instance: someone slain by the spirit fell down on the floor and roared or began to speak in tongues. I asked myself, "Is this really the teaching of the Bible?" Sad to say that at that time I did not have the courage to defend the truth. I was confused. I could not bear to see myself remain in that kind of situation, so I prayed to God to let me go for further theological training, and to learn more of God's Word.

In July 1997 the Lord granted me the opportunity to go to Far Eastern Bible College, Singapore. Through the teaching of FEBC I became clear what actually had happened in my previous church during worship service. I dare to say now, it was wrong and quite confusing. I thank God for sending me to FEBC that I may learn His Word truthfully and faithfully. I finished my course (Bachelor of Religious Education) in October 2001. Once

again I thank the Lord for enabling me to go through many struggles and hardships during my training. I confess that learning God's Word is thrilling to the soul and is an unfinished task.

I am now back in Sarawak to serve Him at the **Miri B-P Church of Borneo**. So with the things that I have learned I want to serve the Lord faithfully. May God help, nurture and train me as I continue in His service. All glory and praise unto God. (End of Brother Harrison's testimony.)



Chinese Sarawakian believers gathering in a home

CALVARY B-P CHURCH OF SIBU

And what about **Pastor Ling Soon Ing**? What made him take a stand of Biblical Separation with Calvary? It was no easy step and surely the hand of the Lord was very much behind the move, directing and guiding.

For ten years, Pastor Ling had served with the Christian National Evangelism Commission. One day, Pastor Peter Wong gave him a copy of Calvary B-P Church's Weekly Newsletter. This caused him to take stock of his ministry and consider the challenge of separation from the *ecumenical movement*.

Let **Pastor Ling** tell the story:

After I read the Calvary Weekly I immediately called Pastor Peter. I know this is a very conservative Church. Peter Wong responded, "Calvary has a strong Biblical stand." At that time I had not fully appreciated what "Biblical stand" meant. I was planning to attend a seminar conducted by a charismatic pastor in Singapore. Peter's reply was clear and emphatic: "You'd better not go. I challenge you to go to Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) instead for a short-term course."

This was the first time I had heard of FEBC. I was willing to give it a try provided Pastor Peter was able to relieve me for the same period. He agreed, and this allowed me to attend FEBC in March 2000. We stayed at FEBC for two months I saw that God was really using the B-P Church to accomplish His purpose.

At the end of two months I returned to Sibü. Pastor Peter challenged me to take a stand and join the B-P Church. My reply was, "I will consider, but let me pray." Thank God, He showed clearly the Biblical position of separation especially from those churches

now fallen away into the ecumenical movement. In January 2001 I took the decisive step to resign my position with CNEC, and to sever all links with Campus Crusade. (End of Pastor Ling Soon Ing's testimony.)



*Pastor Peter Wong in front of
Calvary B-P Church, Sibü*

Pastor Ling has re-named his church "Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church, Sibü." Groups of helpers from Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship and from Calvary (Pandan) have gone over to help. The Sibü church is now supported by these two churches. Praise the Lord!

*"I have shewed you all things,
how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak,
and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus,
how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."
(Acts 20:35)*

When the Lord brought Dr Paul Hoole into our fellowship in Singapore, He was laying the groundwork for a Gospel outreach to Sri Lanka.

Mr Philip Tang, a member of Calvary Jurong, recounts the introduction of Dr Hoole to Calvary B-P Church, which led to the establishment of the **Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Chapel** in Colombo:

While studying in England (1975 to 1979), I got to know Paul Hoole, attending the same Railway Mission Church, a fundamental and Bible-believing Church in Brighton. I was deeply impressed by Paul's commitment and ambition to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in his homeland Sri Lanka, sadly torn by civil war.

In later years, having completed our studies, Paul used to lament the fact that no reformed and fundamental churches were willing to help set up a church in Sri Lanka, whereas charismatic churches appeared to be very generous in sending workers and funds.

It was in 1993 after one Sunset Gospel Hour service at Calvary Pandan that I approached Dr Tow and urged him to consider the possibility of helping Paul Hoole in Sri Lanka. (Dr Tow was giving a timely series of sermons on the life of William Carey, how God had used him in the 18th century to spread the gospel in the Indian subcontinent.)

Soon after, Dr Tow arrived in Sri Lanka to assess the situation. He wasted no time in drawing up a plan which required the Hoole family to be in Singapore for some three years to observe Calvary's operation and lay the foundation of the future Sri Lanka mission.

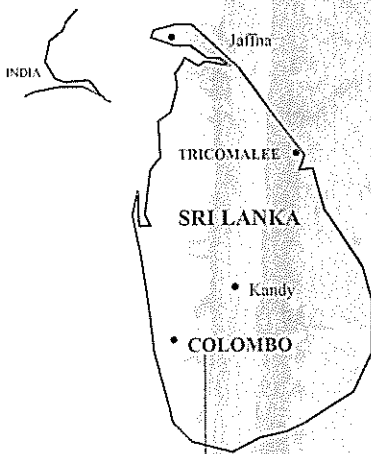
By God's wonderful working, Paul obtained an appointment as Associate Professor at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore for three years from 1997. During that time he (with his family) worshipped and

21

SRI LANKA

— Jewel of the Indian Ocean

"...the isles shall wait for his law."
(Isa 42:14)



Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Chapel
(2000)
Pastor: Rev (Dr) Paul Hoole

fellowshipped at Calvary B-P Church (Jurong), while taking part-time courses at the Far Eastern Bible College.

In 2000, Paul and family returned to Sri Lanka as missionaries supported by Calvary B-P Church to found the Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Chapel in Colombo. Thus was born a fundamental Bible-based church in the country of Sri Lanka. To God be the glory. (End of Mr Philip Tang's report.)

Below **Dr Hoole** testifies of the Lord's working in his life and the joys and trials of serving God:

I am a native of Sri Lanka, born and schooled in Jaffna, and am from a traditionally strong Christian family. It was all in the sovereign providence of God, that I went to England for my higher studies, at an age when my character was not decidedly formed. Christ settled me in the student house and I was looked after by a Reformed Pastor. It was there in England that I came to a full assurance of salvation and first began to consciously rejoice in the presence of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. And it was there also that I first came into contact with Mr and Mrs Philip Tang, now members of Calvary B-P Church (Jurong). After completing my doctorate at the University of Oxford, I was conscious that I should prepare myself to serve God. So I went to the South Pacific, where while lecturing in Engineering I was also in charge of the University Chapel, which grew over the two years I was in charge from about 7 to 110 regular worshippers mainly University students and members of staff and families.

Then I decided to return to teach in Sri Lanka and to seek to go into the full-time ministry. I also helped with the Sri Lankan work of the Reformed Baptist churches in UK, but increasingly saw the declining effects of a work that was not doctrinally confessional or genuinely accountable to God and to man. The church I was with was doctrinally becoming more and more corrupt, rapidly

falling into pluralism.

It was at this time that I, who had already moved out of the University for seven months to serve Christ without any financial support to promote the Protestant Reformed faith through teaching wherever doors opened, was taken an interest in by Dr SH Tow who invited me and my wife to visit him in Singapore. We came back refreshed with the impression of a man with strong passion for the truth of God and a warm heart towards God's people and His cause. This led to me going over to Singapore to work at the Nanyang Technological University, to let the church in Singapore get to know me and for me to work out my own long term calling and convictions.

In December 1999, my family and I were commissioned by Calvary B-P Church



*Rev Paul Hoole and family,
"to live is Christ"*

(Jurong) to establish, with the help of God the Holy Spirit, a church that will be a Christ-glorifying, shining and burning light in my homeland, which is immersed in spiritual death. We returned to serve as missionaries in our own home country to proclaim the free offer of forgiveness of sins, life and justification by faith in Christ, and to establish

a church that would stand for the faith once delivered and as restated by the Protestant Reformers and enshrined in biblical Calvinism of the Westminster Confession. On 11 February 2001, I was ordained by Rev James Chan and Dr Tow in Sri Lanka. The Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Chapel stands without apology for the old, biblical, separatist paths of the Calvinistic Protestant Reformed faith.

1. The joys of the ministry

With eight people (my family together with pastoral assistant Devaprasath and his wife Vijaya) at the first meeting, the Lord Jesus Christ gradually gathered souls to hear His Word. We see the Word of God glorified in lives and souls coming to obey



In the sanctuary

Christ as their only Redeemer. Children seriously studying the Word of God and now about 30 of them quietly, attentively sitting through the evening service. A dedicated group of workers is growing within the Chapel community with much goodwill and hard work resulting from it. Our tasting the grace and power of God continues to keep us through tribulations and to bless us. The educational arm of the Chapel, the Geneva Institute, is drawing people to deeper study of the truths confessed by the Protestant Reformers and the Puritans. In February 2002, the generosity of God's people in Singapore enabled us to acquire the premises chosen by God for us at Boswell Place. We thank God for the trust and

prayerful goodwill of Calvary B-P Church (Jurong) through our times of triumphs and misgivings. And also for the leaders of Calvary who have always been there for us to turn to for counsel. And also for those from the Calvary church office keeping us in constant touch and prayers.

2. The trials of the ministry

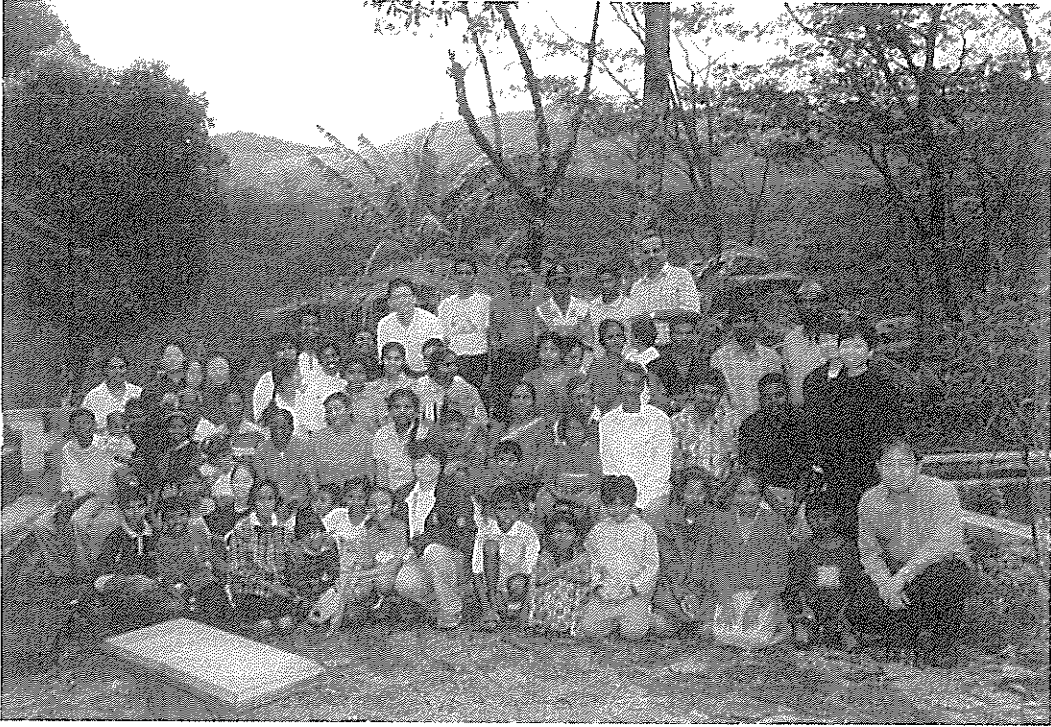
The painful times are when we look back and say that we would have done certain things differently if we could begin all over again. Except for Devaprasath, there is none doctrinally and ethically mature enough yet to be co-elders or deacons to share the burdens. The load on me as pastor could be very heavy and crushing. I also experienced an unhealthy state of anxiety regarding success and finance. My health setbacks also discouraged me. Sometimes the terrible loneliness, isolation, anxiety and fear of failure, doubt and inadequacy torment the soul. I am learning the lesson of obedience through these sufferings.

3. The Chapel

The Chapel 8:30 am English service is attended by about 20 people, the 10 am Tamil service about 80 to 90, the 4 pm Sunday school by about 50 children and



Entrance to the Chapel sanctuary, awaiting renovation



Chapel Camp 2000 at Norton Bridge, giving themselves to prayer and the Word of God

the 5 pm English service by about 25 adults and 30 children. The Wednesday prayer meeting (6:30 pm) has about 15 attending. There is an outreach at Hatton, Haputalle (both in the mountain region), Kalutura (a rubber estate) and Trincomalee.

It has been just two and a half years of hard sowing of the Word, with not a little anxiety and sorrows, but also seeing the joys of the fruits of our labor to the praise of God's Name. Over the last month, three families that have come to us have testified how their whole home life has been blessed and made happy in Christ after sitting under the ministry of God's Word at the Chapel. Our young people are also showing great joy in receiving the truth through studying the Westminster Shorter Catechism. And there are those who, having tasted the joys of God's Word, are telling others to come and receive that same blessing.

All praise be unto our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. (End of Dr Paul Hoole's testimony.)

PLEDGE

*by Dr Paul Hoole,
dated 22 November 2000,
(worthy of serious study by all pastors
and pastors-to-be)*

1. I pledge myself to serve as the Pastor of the Chapel in Colombo — to preach unerringly the Gospel, to teach the doctrines of the Christian faith as set forth in the Protestant Reformed Westminster Confession, to defend the faith, to counsel and care for individuals, to pray for them, to provide an example of holy living and dedication to the church of the Lord Christ, and to lead both in worship and in the government of the flock with dignity and affection.

2. I will systematically teach the Word of God and from it, the doctrines, piety and practice of the Reformed faith as stated in the Chapel Handbook (AD 2000), with application to heart and life, and to defend the faith from erosion of the authority and inerrancy of the Scripture from **charismatic** teaching, from **theological liberalism** and from **Romanism**.
3. I shall maintain biblical separation from all institutions, churches and persons who promote those things contrary to the Reformed faith and practice as stated in the Chapel Handbook, seeking to maintain purity of doctrine and life.
4. I will preach the Person and Work of the Lord Christ Jesus that hearers may be moved to love Him above all else and to do the work of an evangelist, preaching frequently soul-winning sermons on the Lord's Day with earnest persuasion and entreaty.
5. I shall lead public worship with dignity, observing honor and glory to the Lord, using hymns that truly reflect the doctrines of the faith, reading distinctly from the Old and New Testaments in the Lord's Day services.
6. I shall lead the church in constant outreach efforts, counting as paramount the sounding forth of the Gospel in this community and honor the great commission to teach all nations and tribes by promotion of missions outreaches.
7. I shall recognize the common, national leadership of the Chapel according to the Presbyterian form of church government, taking all decisions affecting the Chapel throughout the country of Sri Lanka in mutual consultation with the Board of Elders and abiding by the decisions made by the Board of Eldership of the Chapel.
8. I shall undertake to perform all requirements for further study and training as required by the Chapel's Board of Elders, in order to pursue all godly learning and practice to become all that God expects me to be to the congregation.
9. I will lead the church in the building and sustaining of child evangelism through Sunday School and other means, and feel for the lost children in this district and long to reach them with the Word of life.
10. I will strengthen the Christian family within the congregation observing that it is God's covenant family in which each member shall play its God-given role and be shining lights to the neighborhood and others.
11. I will advise, comfort and exhort with gentleness not being overbearing and autocratic, and observing the duty of believers to discern the righteous will of God in their personal affairs, and save the people from worldliness, by example, by affectionate appeal, by application of the preached Word, avoiding scrupulously quarrels with any, maintaining the deportment of a minister of the Gospel ready to absorb personally much criticism and offense.
12. I will maintain confidences of individuals, and never complain of this congregation to any outside., to keep firm the bond of love and loyalty.
13. I will stand loyally and resolutely by this congregation never dreaming of pastoral betterment and removal, unless the Lord

should unmistakably guide, and should discontent of any kind, or the decision of the Chapel Board of Elders, lead to my departing from this office (excepting for the congregation departing from the Truth as confessed in the Chapel Handbook, from evangelism or from the practice of discipline), I promise to go out quietly, preserving the unity of the fellowship and honor of Christ, and hand over to the Chapel's Board of Elders all property, belongings, Chapel identity card and any other thing rightly belonging to the Chapel.

14. I pledge to work tirelessly, accepting long hours and arduous study for the sake of the ministry, counting it always the greatest privilege on earth, and will remain committed to this glorious calling even through trial, persecution, faithful unto death, and to the gaining of the crown of life.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Sri Lanka is a country of 20 million souls (70% Buddhist, 15% Hindu), devastated by over two decades of civil strife, and without a

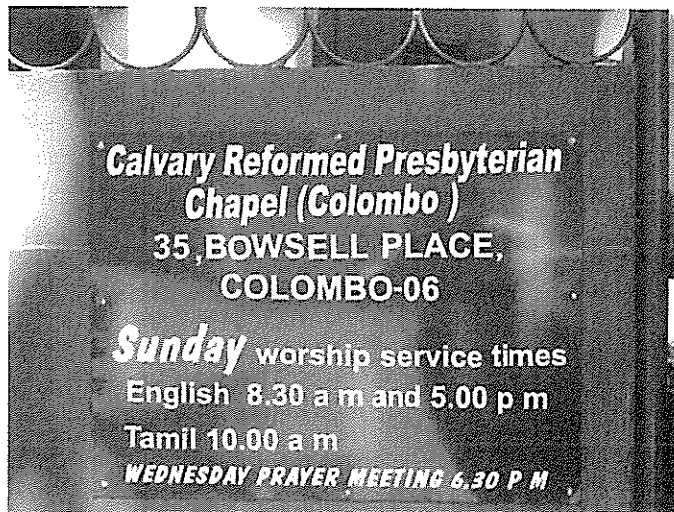
fundamental, doctrinally sound Bible witnessing Church. The mainline traditional churches (Protestant and Roman) have lost the light of God, dealing only in formalistic and ritual-bound ecclesiastical systems.

Against this backdrop, God raised Dr Paul Hoole, a professor of electronic and electrical engineering, and his wife Chrishanty, a medical doctor, to respond to God's call, to forsake all and to give themselves to the Gospel witness, "*for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ*" (Rev 1:9).

Years of pastoral experience in England, Papua New Guinea, and in his own homeland Sri Lanka had well equipped him to establish the Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Chapel in Colombo.

After three years' fellowship with Calvary B-P Church (Jurong), Dr Hoole began his new role as missionary pastor sent and supported by Calvary B-P Church to evangelise his own people in Sri Lanka.

In the three years of this infant church, Dr Hoole has proved himself the man of God's calling, to lead the flock in a new and growing witness for God.



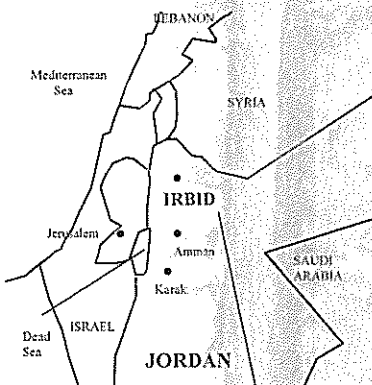
*Chapel sign board:
despise not the day of small things*

When Rev Pang Kok Hiong was called to Saipan some ten years ago, little did we think that God was opening up a vast new missions field, not just in Saipan, but in China's vast mainland. God's ways are surely not our ways. Now, ten years after that first call, comes another, this time a "*Jordanian Call.*"

22

JORDAN

"... a great door and effectual is opened unto me..." (1 Cor 16:9)



Chinese Christian Church
of Jordan (2001)

Pastors:
Rev Pang Kok Hiong
Preacher Clarence Chee

1. **Nizar Haddad** of Irbid Baptist Church in Jordan writes in November 2001:

Dear brother Pang,

My name is Nizar Haddad. I am a preacher in Irbid Baptist Church. It is a small church in Jordan with 40 members. A brother and I are helping the pastor. I have a PhD in bee keeping and I am working as a researcher. The other brother is a soldier in the Jordanian army.

For the last half a year, we had some Chinese (5 to 10) coming to our meeting. We invited them to meet in our church but the problem is that we cannot speak with them because they do not know English and we do not know the Chinese language.

We got them some booklets in Chinese. On the 23rd of this month, we will have a party in our Church for them.

We have in Irbid more than 4,000 Chinese. They are working in some factories in Irbid.

We ask you to pray for this meeting and if it is possible for your church, please send us some Bibles in Chinese. We are praying that the Lord will also send us someone who can speak in Chinese to minister to this big group of Chinese.

There is one very good sister who comes to this meeting and who knows you. She is "Jian Shumei." She was a member of your church.

In Christ,
Nizar Haddad

This Jordanian call to minister to a population of 4,000 Chinese was absolutely unexpected! It is amazing in our eyes. Rev Pang prays for God's will to make it possible for him to visit Jordan. *"Maybe the Lord of the harvest is calling us to establish another outreach in Jordan! Already seven of our Saipan members are there."* Our faithful Lord made it possible for Rev Pang to visit Irbid from 7 to 19 December 2001.

2. **Rev Pang** writes on 20 December 2001:

With gratitude and joy I report to you my recent exploratory trip to Jordan. What a blessed and thrilling trip (7 to 19 December 2001)! Thank God for His amazing grace and mercy in saving precious souls for Himself that goes beyond our expectation and imagination. Yes, a Chinese Christian lighthouse is established in this ancient land east of the famous Jordan River. In the last 12 days, we witnessed the conversion of about a hundred Mainland Chinese who were convicted of their sins and trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour. We thank God for our Arab Christian brethren who welcomed us warmly with open arms. They were amazed and much blessed to see for the first time how the Holy Spirit works mightily in our kinsmen's hearts to bring repentance. Thirty-seven young converts were gloriously baptised on our last meeting on Tuesday night. Together with our seven Saipan members, they form the nucleus of this infant church. Tears of repentance were shed and joy of salvation was felt when they partook of the Lord's Supper for the first time!

I was amazed and blessed to see how lives were changed in a matter of days. Yes, the Gospel is the power of God to save those who believe! It was such a joy to see how sure they were of their newfound faith when I interviewed them a day before the baptismal service. After the service, all of them refused to depart although the service ended around 11 pm. They stayed on for a blessed time of fellowship. They entreated me with tears that our family be sent to pastor them as soon as possible! I told them to pray and my heart felt strongly for them. "Lord, send thy servants to care for these needy people!" With grateful and joyful hearts, they left the Church building reluctantly.

Dear brethren, please pray for these young believers in Jordan. Let's pray that the Lord will send more labourers into the harvest fields. Amen.

Yours gratefully for Christ,
Kok Hiong



*Irbid Baptist Church, Jordan,
beyond what we ask or think*

3. **Pastor Shukri Al-Rabadi** (of Irbid Baptist Church, Jordan) writes on 4 January 2002: What the Lord did in 2001 with the Chinese brothers and sisters was an amazing grace. It started with three sisters only. They were very tired from being lonely surrounded by non-believers and also being far from their families and homeland. And what made it worse is that they did not know English or Arabic, until our Saviour saved the situation by sending a sister who could understand and speak a little English. After half a year, the Lord gave the church the wisdom to write an e-mail to Rev Pang in Saipan, asking him to send some Bibles and hymn books. We prayed also that the Lord would send a brother to come and be the shepherd of the Chinese in our church. We have more than 20 Chinese coming to our church. What was surprising was that the reply to my e-mail did not take much time. In Rev Pang's second e-mail, his answer was: 'I am coming.'

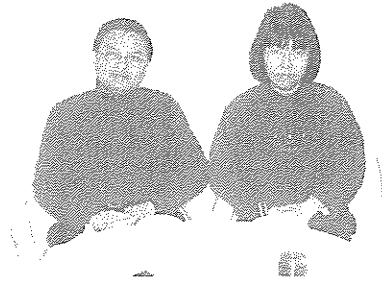
During Rev Pang's fourteen-day visit in December 2001, many Chinese became Christians, and about 40 of them were baptised on the last day of his visit. It did not stop here. Together with the Chinese believers and Rev Pang, we kept praying that the Lord would send someone to come to take care of this new church that was established inside our church. The answer to our prayers did not take much time because now we are waiting for Rev Pang and his wife for a one-week visit and we are also waiting for another couple that will be used by our Lord for a longer time.

The Chinese believers are a real gift to us from the Lord. And we feel, know and believe that this ministry for the Chinese will grow more and more. We ask the Lord to use us as a church to help in any way the Lord chooses.

In His service,
Pastor Shukri

4. **Rev Pang** writes from Irbid in July 2002: Our family is now in Irbid, standing in for Preacher and Mrs Clarence Chee Khuen Wah, to take care of the infant church here. The Chees have just returned to Singapore for their annual leave to visit Mrs Chee's ailing father and for Preacher Chee to see a good doctor for his gastritis problem.

There were another 46 precious souls baptised into His kingdom last Friday (12 July). The Arab Church hall overflowed with over 200 young and eager Mainland Chinese even half an hour before the service started.



*Preacher & Mrs Clarence Chee,
labouring night and day*

It is amazing and heart warming to witness how, in a short period of seven months, the gracious Saviour has saved more than 150 to Himself, with 93 already baptised since this outreach started last December. Together with another 30 ex-Saipan believers from China, there were more than 120 Christians who took part in the Lord's Supper after the baptism.

Thank God for the Chee's faithfulness in reaching out to the lost and nurturing the many young converts who need much feeding and care. The Chees have to change their strategy by having the meetings in the dormitories scattered around Irbid city. This is because there is much overtime work in the factories in the last two months. For six nights a week, the Chees arranged for us to visit these

dormitories to minister to yearning spiritual infants in the Lord.

One particular dormitory is in Sahab Industrial Estate, a new outreach near the capital city Amman. It is two hours drive from Irbid. This is how the Lord led us to this place:

Just a few weeks earlier in Saipan, I received an e-mail from China sent by the husband of an ex-Saipan convert (sister Xia). He asked for my help to bring his wife back to China as she found the working condition deplorable! I gave him Preacher Chee's telephone numbers and sister Xia contacted the Chees. Three weeks ago, after much inquiry, weary travelling and getting help from the local Arab drivers, the Chees finally found sister Xia and a group of believers from China and some other new friends. The sisters were so joyous that they wept throughout the lunch time meeting.

When our team visited this dormitory in Sahab Industrial Estate, more than a dozen new friends accepted Christ as their personal Saviour instantly upon hearing the comforting and hopeful gospel being preached in our meetings. We were so touched that our hearts cried out to the Lord to minister to this needy lot. They are like sheep scattered without a shepherd.

We found that there were at least four factories in this Sahab Industrial Estate with over a thousand Mainland Chinese workers. All we met were just a handful compared to the multitude unknown to us in other factories. We were informed that there were at least two more industrial estates around or south of Amman where thousands of Mainland Chinese are now working in the factories. "*Who will go? Whom shall I send?*"

We pray to the Lord of the harvest for another missionary couple to be sent to this area to start another Chinese church to reach out to these very needy precious souls who are working and living in sub-standard conditions with very low wages as compared to the Saipan workers.

Yours gratefully for Christ,
Kok Hiong

How will the work in Jordan develop? The Lord has led and saved many. Surely, He will continue with His mighty work in Jordan. Let us be faithful and continue to labour for Him, looking to Him for direction and provision in His own timing! Surely, the Lord of the harvest will guide and provide.

LATEST REPORT (25 NOVEMBER 2002)

Soon after we posed the question, "How will the work in Jordan develop?" two of the recently baptised sisters were killed in a road accident (26 September 2002) and six injured. In the wake of the tragic event, the Lord's comfort was evident in many meetings for prayer and petition as the Chinese workers were led to a closer walk with and a deeper knowledge of God by Preacher and Mrs Chee, and Rev Pang (who flew from Saipan). Great Spirit-filled meetings were held (some with over 200 attending) and over 40 conversions were sealed by baptism. An extension of the Gospel work has appeared in Karak, a city in the south where thousands more Chinese nationals were employed in the factories.

Rev Pang Kok Hiong's update of the ministry in Jordan follows:

Thank God for His bountiful love and grace upon the mainland Chinese (estimated about 7 to 8 thousand) who are working in Jordan as contract workers for two to three years. From the humble beginning of about 7 ex-Saipan members, the Chinese ministries have

mushroomed to three separate churches in the three new industrial estates in Jordan.

1. Chinese Christian Church of Jordan (Irbid)

The gospel outreach in Irbid city has grown from strength to strength since December 2001 when the Chinese Church was started using the Arab Irbid Baptist Church. Praise the Lord for sending the Chees to pastor this Church since January 2002.

Even though there was a tragic road accident on 25 September 2002 that claimed seven lives including two recently baptised Chinese sisters, the infant Church not only did not suffer but the Lord used this to send a mighty revival among the believers. Over 60 unbelievers (including some injured ones) came to trust the Lord as their personal Saviour. The Church has grown from the initial 20 believers to over 250 believers today in less than a year of which nearly a hundred have been baptised. May the wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ be praised!

2. Chinese Outreach in Sahab

This outreach is in the Al Tajamouat Industrial Estate, in Sahab near Amman, the capital of Jordan. The Chees have been ministering occasionally to a group of about 7 believers through the contact of an ex-Saipan member. It is estimated that there are about 2000 Chinese workers in the 5 factories with a lot of overtime work. This group has recently grown to nearly 20 since June 2002 and is in need of a full-time pastor to care for them.

3. Chinese Christian Church of Jordan (Karak)

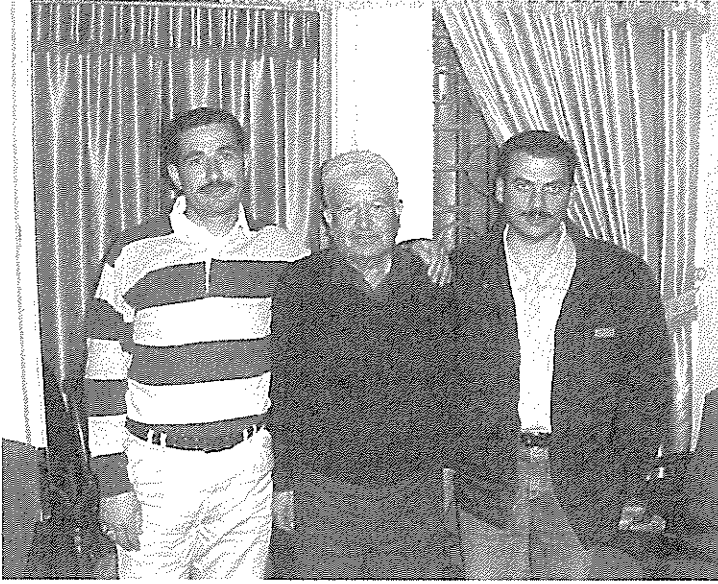
This is the latest exciting development in south Jordan in the land of the Moabites after

another ex-Saipan member called for help in establishing a new Chinese church. The Lord sent the Chees and Rev. Pang for a visit in early October 2002 to Karak after the ministry of comfort and care in the north. Little did we expect that in less than a week, the group has grown from a few believers to nearly 40. The leaders and members of the Arab Church of Nazarene were very happy and excited to permit the Chinese Church to use their premises. And the Lord doeth all things well in providing for the meeting place and also the transport needed to bring the people to hear the gospel of life! (End of Rev Pang Kok Hiong's update.)

Preacher Clarence Chee writes: "Indeed there is a great need in Jordan and we thank God for missions teams such as the Tengah team and the Pandan team who helped to bring over many items, like Bibles, tapes, Christian literature, VCDs etc for the believers here. But, the greatest need of all in Jordan NOW is to pray that God will send a couple or a family who is willing to be stationed here (not moving around outside of Jordan) to pioneer, shepherd and take care of the flocks both in Sahab and Karak.

Presently we are fully occupied in Irbid, but as for Sahab and Karak, it is beyond our limit, time and strength. We could only go down and conduct a meeting once a week. And this is not enough especially for the new believers. It is BEST to have a SHEPHERD to come over to shepherd the flocks in these 2 places. Matthew 9: 37 to 38 !!!"

REQUEST: Please join us in prayer for God to watch over His people in Jordan, and to send more labourers into this work.



*The Arab church leaders, our co-labourers in the Lord,
praying the Lord to send Chinese church workers*



*Chinese Christians in Jordan,
"hungering and thirsting for the Word of Life"*

Part III

MISSIONS

MILLENNIUM

Calvary Missionary Society (CMS) is dedicated to the work of missions. It was inaugurated on 13 April 02, and I believe, this is long overdue.

It would indeed have been well nigh impossible to oversee a string of far-flung outreaches, without a committed spiritual body, but for the grace of God. Every mission station is precious. There are vital issues of missions work, peculiar to each. Hitherto, to the praise of God, we have managed with the help of Senior Pastor Dr Tow and the Church Session. However, to continue to do so with the prospect of an ever-growing ministry calls for the dedicated service of a team of missions-minded workers.

23

CALVARY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

— refreshing our fervour for
missions

Lim Yew Cheng



MISSIONS — WHY?

The theology of missions is *Missio Dei*, that is “The mission of God.” The missionary (be it nature, angels or man) originates from God. The emphasis is Theo-centric, even though man is the object of our missions, “*For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen*” (Rom 11:36).

The vast numbers of perishing souls heading for a Christless eternity, the swelling ecumenical tide and the seemingly unstoppable charismania that sweep across the globe, make the reasons for missions even more compelling.

The supreme argument for foreign missions is Christ Himself, His example and His mandate. While He was on earth, our blessed Redeemer went about continually ministering both to the souls and bodies of fellowmen, healing those who were sick in body, soul and spirit. Having set that as the example, He also gave us the royal mandate, through the splendid and glorious commission, whose preamble is totally unprecedented. “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing*

them ... lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt 28:19-20) It behoves us to obey Him because "*He that winneth souls is wise*" (Prov 11:30) and "*they that turn many to righteousness (shall shine) as the stars for ever and ever*" (Dan 12:3).

MOTTO

While doctrines are vital to the Christian faith, pure theology without action is stifling. We risk priding ourselves with barren intellectual orthodoxy. There is a need to break out of the shackles of intellectual scholasticism. We need in the words of our Lord to "*launch out*" (Lk 5:4) to "*catch*" men (Lk 5:10).

For this simple reason, CMS has adopted the motto "*Launch Out.*" The original Greek word is "*epanago*" and it has the sense of "*to put out to sea or to go out.*" It is used in the present active imperative mood, to signify a command (not an option) to be heeded and it is relevant in the present as well. In Luke 5:3, the same root word is used and is translated "*thrust out*" in the aorist active infinitive. This is a compelling challenge for missions. In obedience to God's command, believers are to trust God and dare to launch out, implying also the need to take the initiative by faith. Hence, human responsibility is also called for in gospel outreaches.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of CMS are to:

1. initiate, encourage and support missionary interest and evangelistic

activities by members of Calvary B-P Church (Pandan)

2. inform Church members of missionary and evangelistic activities
3. inspire interest and support for missions work
4. initiate and co-ordinate short term missions trips
5. intercede for missionaries
6. interface with the Board of Elders regarding its programmes

PROSPECTS

Even though we have been blessed with a good number of outreaches, our work has scarcely begun. The world is our parish. There are untouched harvest fields waiting in many places. Notwithstanding difficulties and adversaries, "*a great door and effectual is opened*" (1 Cor 16:9). Shall we not arise and enter in? The Lord of the harvest is calling!

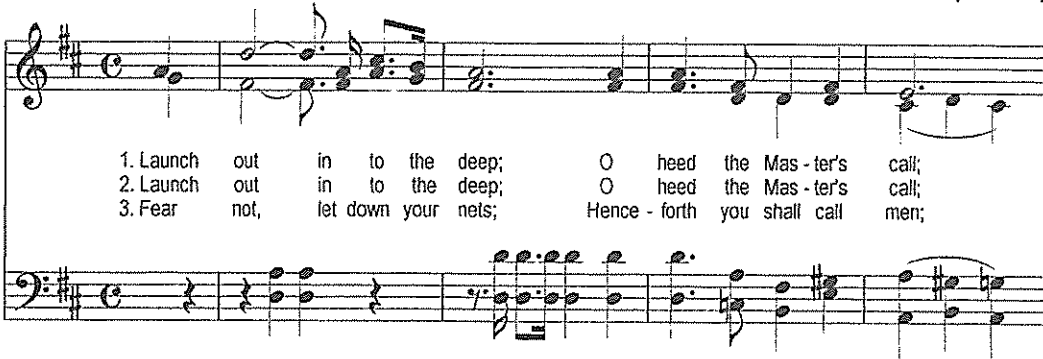
Satan will certainly actively oppose our missions but God will not suffer His cause to be thwarted. In the words of Adoniram Judson, the future is as bright as the promises of God and His promise to us is that against us, "*the gates of hell shall not prevail*" (Matt 16:18). With that note of assurance, let us venture into the stronghold of the enemy, storm their forts and set the captives free. CMS is committed to such a cause even though our numbers are few. "*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest, that he will send forth labourers into His Harvest*" (Matt 9:38).

LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP


Luke 5:4,10

SH Tow

Kelso Carter
Arr by McKinney



1. Launch out in to the deep; O heed the Mas-ter's call;
2. Launch out in to the deep; O heed the Mas-ter's call;
3. Fear not, let down your nets; Hence - forth you shall call men;



Launch out, launch out, Heed the Mas-ter's - call, give Him your best your all!
Let down O let down Your net for a draught, give Him your best your all!
Fear not, O fear not, Let down your - net, You will catch men as fish!

*"And he said unto them,
Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.
They cast therefore,
and now they were not able to draw it
for the multitude of fishes."
(Jn 21:6)*

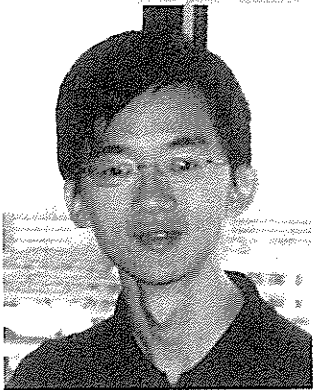
Looking at my fatherland, I realize that there are still many millions of souls who have not heard the Gospel, who are moving towards destruction and eternal suffering in hell! Who will go and rescue them? Many are hungering and thirsting for the Gospel of life. When I think of the millions out there waiting to hear the Gospel, my heart breaks. O! how much they need the Gospel of life! Every single soul has eternity at stake. Can we bear to see them perish and we do nothing?

24

A HEART MOVED

— Reflection on a recent
visit to China

Andrew Loke



Lost souls receiving Christ

In some parts of the country the churches are in the mountainous regions and flocks of Christians are waiting for pastors to shepherd them. I see the many sheep without a shepherd, many souls waiting to be fed.

How blessed are we in Singapore to have the Word preached to us every Sunday! And yet often we do not cherish this privilege.

In some places, congregations meet in tents under the hot sun, without air-conditioning. Yet they listen with their eyes wide open, looking with a gaze that reflects the deep spiritual hunger in their hearts.

Thinking of them, one would really like to go to every village to share the good news with every one of them! Then there are those who are persecuted for their Christian faith. I met a preacher who has been jailed four times,

but he still preaches the Gospel fervently and fearlessly. And there is a sister-in-Christ whose husband is in jail for sharing the Gospel, yet still holds on firmly to our Lord.

Reader, pray for the souls still unsaved. Pray for those who are persecuted and suffering for Christ. O! may we remember their spiritual needs. Pray for them fervently! Pray for ourselves, too, that God will move our hearts into action, to enter every open missions door before the Lord returns!



*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel!
Lost souls are waiting to be won!*

It is a truism that what is important must be committed to writing and whatever is not committed to paper is soon forgotten and lost. "Publish or perish!" is the watchword for the wise. Therein is the importance of the printed page. It is far easier and cheaper to move books than men, and books can reach where men cannot.

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

"born 1975 ... died 1993"

So it was that when the ecumenical forces of the enemy came sweeping in like a flood that the Spirit of the Lord raised up a standard, the Bible-Presbyterian Banner, to stand against him.

The Bible-Presbyterian Banner became a major instrument of Reformation truth both in Singapore and beyond. Its contents, doctrinal, devotional, militantly Protestant and polemical, attracted the attention of the authorities. In the interests of "Religious Harmony" the Banner's licence was terminated, and the journal laid to rest, a victim of the ecumenical monster.

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PUBLISH OR PERISH!

*"And these things write we unto you,
that your joy may be full."
(1 Jn 1:4)*

SH Tow

RPG (READ, PRAY, GROW)

*Founded 1982 to aid spiritual growth
"Is there not a cause?" (1 Sam 17:29)*

When God's name is insulted, God's faithful cannot but rise up in righteous protest. David challenged the cowardly elder brother and the fearful crowd: *"Is there not a cause to enquire, to be aroused, and to rise up against those who oppose our Lord or insult His name?"*

In 1980 the Scripture Union "Daily Bread Notes" openly attacked the Word of God in their writers' comments (re: Chapter Ten for details).

The Scripture Union, which was founded in the nineteenth century for the promotion and propagation of the Word of God had been infiltrated by false teachers, wolves in sheep's clothing, who were denying and destroying the words (which they were supposed to defend), and betraying the trust of the originators of the Union.

As Scripture Union Council member and Secretary for Calvary B-P Church, I responded by discontinuing all Scripture Union materials. Is there not a cause? God's Word was being perverted, His Name insulted. It was a sad day to see the time-honoured instrument of God being corrupted and turned into a weapon of assault against the Lord Himself.

In place of SU Notes, the Lord raised up a replacement: RPG ("Read, Pray, Grow") Daily Bible Reading Guide Notes. Over the years it has grown from strength to strength. Today 15,500 copies are sent out to readers in forty-four countries around the world, to encourage and help God's people read God's words.

RPG notes are based exclusively on King James Bible and written by a panel of fifteen fundamental Bible-believing writers who are keenly alive to the issues of today: the rampant "*falling away*" of preachers and teachers of the Word, the ecumenical tidal wave which sweeps all Christendom towards Rome, and the epidemic proliferation of perverted and corrupted modern English versions of the Bible.

In the present conflict between the Church and the god of this world, Calvary is not a bystander and neutral observer. Calvary was raised of God "*for such a time as this*" (Esther 4:14), for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ, and to "*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" (Jude 3).

Calvary stands for the King James Bible, the only English translation of God's Word which

faithfully preserves every vital doctrine of the faith without compromise.

DEFINED KING JAMES BIBLE

In 1997 the writer initiated the publication of the KJB with difficult/archaic words defined. With the help of Dr DA Waite and his two sons (Mr DA Waite, Jr and Mr Daniel S. Waite), the Defined King James Bible was published in 1998.

Today the Defined King James Bible is treasured around the world, beloved by God's people who hold dear the Word of God — unadulterated, unpolluted, faithful, pure.

Calvary takes an uncompromising stand on God's inspired word as inerrant, infallible, and perfect. We believe that the only English translation with every vital doctrine of the Christian faith perfectly preserved and free from error is the Authorised Version or King James Bible.

We also believe that in the last century Satan, the father of lies, had brought forth a profusion of Modern English Versions of the Bible in which each and every vital doctrine of the Christian faith has been attacked or seriously compromised. For this reason we advocate the use of "King James only" and advise our members against the use of unsound versions such as the New International Version (NIV), Revised Standard Version (RVS), New English Bible (NEB), Today's English Version or Good News Bible (TEV or GNB), the Living Bible (TLB), New American Standard Bible (NASB), and related variants.

Recall our Lord's words: "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit*" (Matt 7:15-18).

Without exception, the Modern English Bibles are the “Evil Fruit” produced by an Evil Tree, whose roots contain the evil of Corrupt Texts, Corrupt Translators using a Corrupt Translation Technique. The result is an “Evil Fruit” of “100 Perversions” in which every vital doctrine is attacked (see p 152).

On the other hand, one translation stands apart from all the *hundred perversions*: The King James Bible which is the product of a Good Text, Good Translators using “Good Technique” in translation. “A Good Tree bringeth forth good fruit” (see p 153).

Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church is raised of God “*for such a time as this,*” to “*earnestly content for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 3). Calvary is not a casual observer or neutral by-stander but like David we exclaim, “*Is there not a cause?*” Our Lord and His holy word are being attacked by wolves and false prophets. Loyalty to our Saviour demands that we take a stand with Him and speak out for Him.

CALVARY CYBER PAGE

The advent of the Internet has opened up a whole vast avenue of IT (Information Transfer) of God’s Word and a whole host of related Gospel literatures. Sermons, bible

study notes, RPG, hymns and spiritual songs, devotional and polemical material are now reading available “at a click” anywhere and anytime on Planet earth.

Calvary’s three websites are at:

- www.calvarybp.com
- www.calvaryjurong.com
- www.mytengah.com.

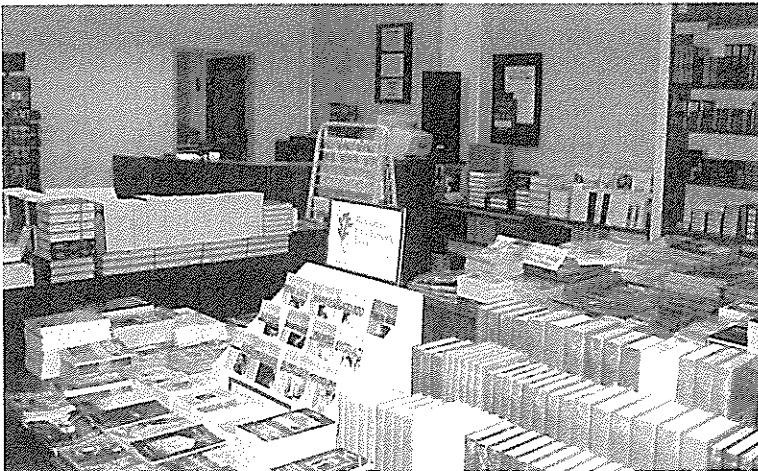
TABERNACLE BOOKS

To augment our literary thrust, Calvary’s Tabernacle Books keeps our members supplied with a steady flow of sound biblical books and related publications, journals, charts, tapes, CDs, videos, cards, etc.

Conveniently located at our Pandan Gardens premises, Tabernacle Books provides a rare and handy source of fundamental Christian materials not easily available in other Christian book outlets.

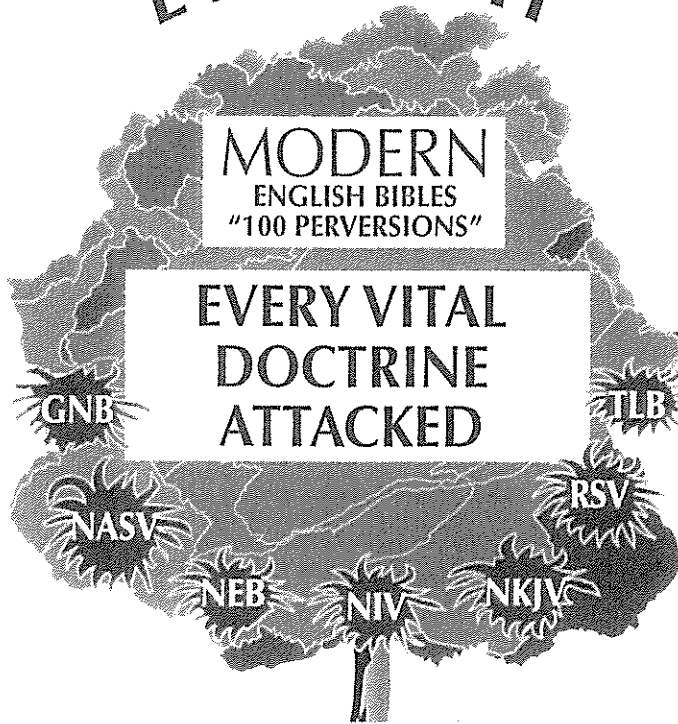
So we labour on, ready to spend and be spent for the Lord, and in the cause of the Gospel, in a day of universal decline of Christendom into the One World System.

God help us all to take on “*the whole armour of God, that (we) may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*” (Eph 6:13).

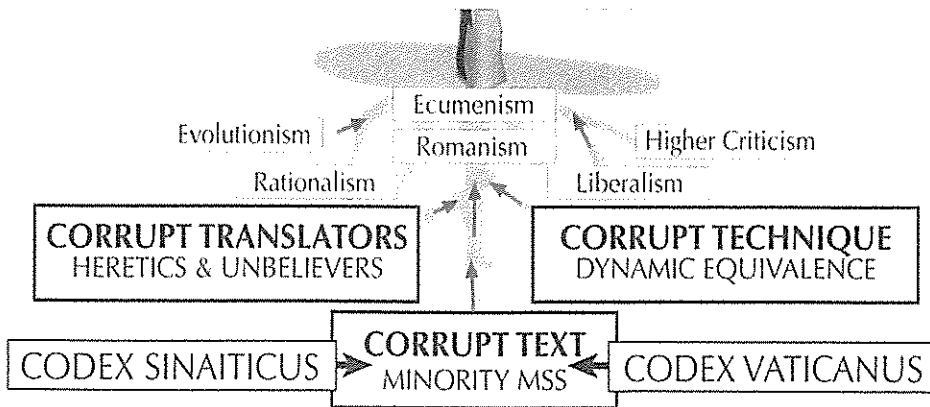


*Tabernacle Books
in Pandan Gardens*

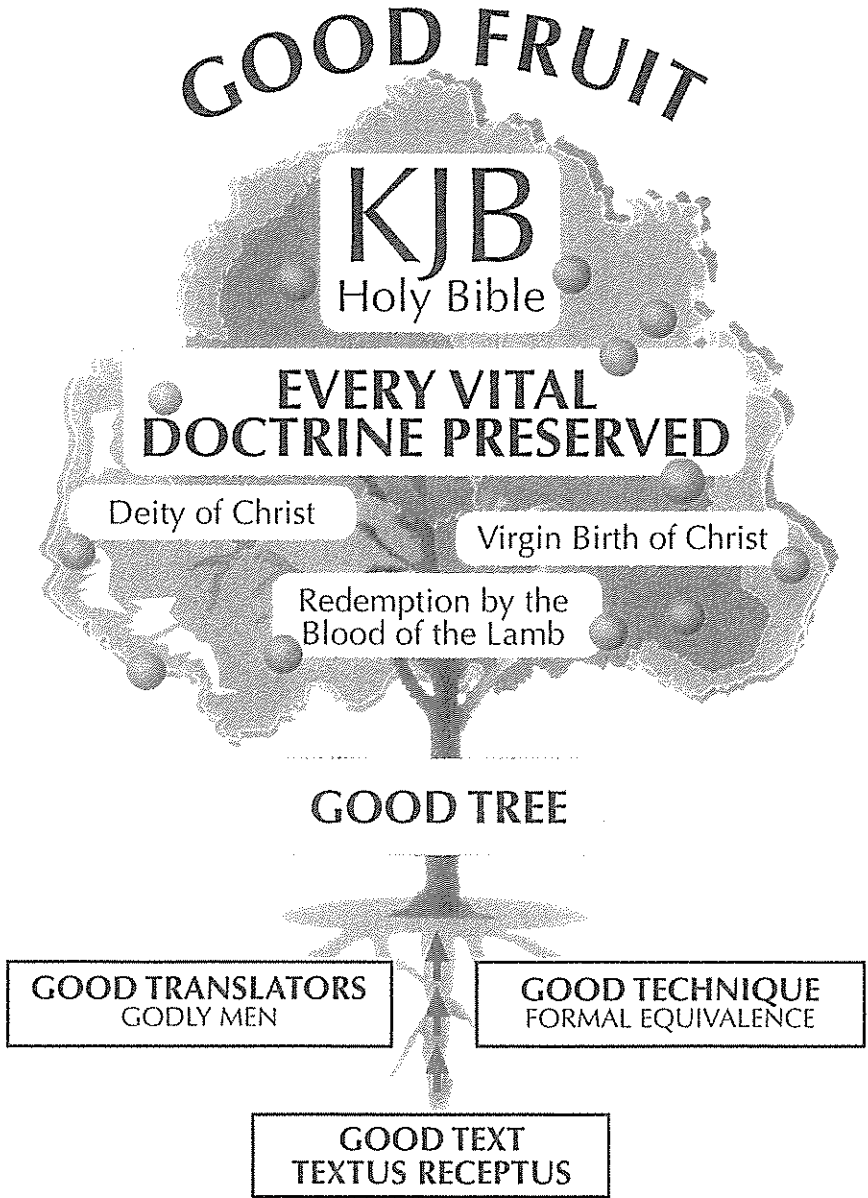
EVIL FRUIT



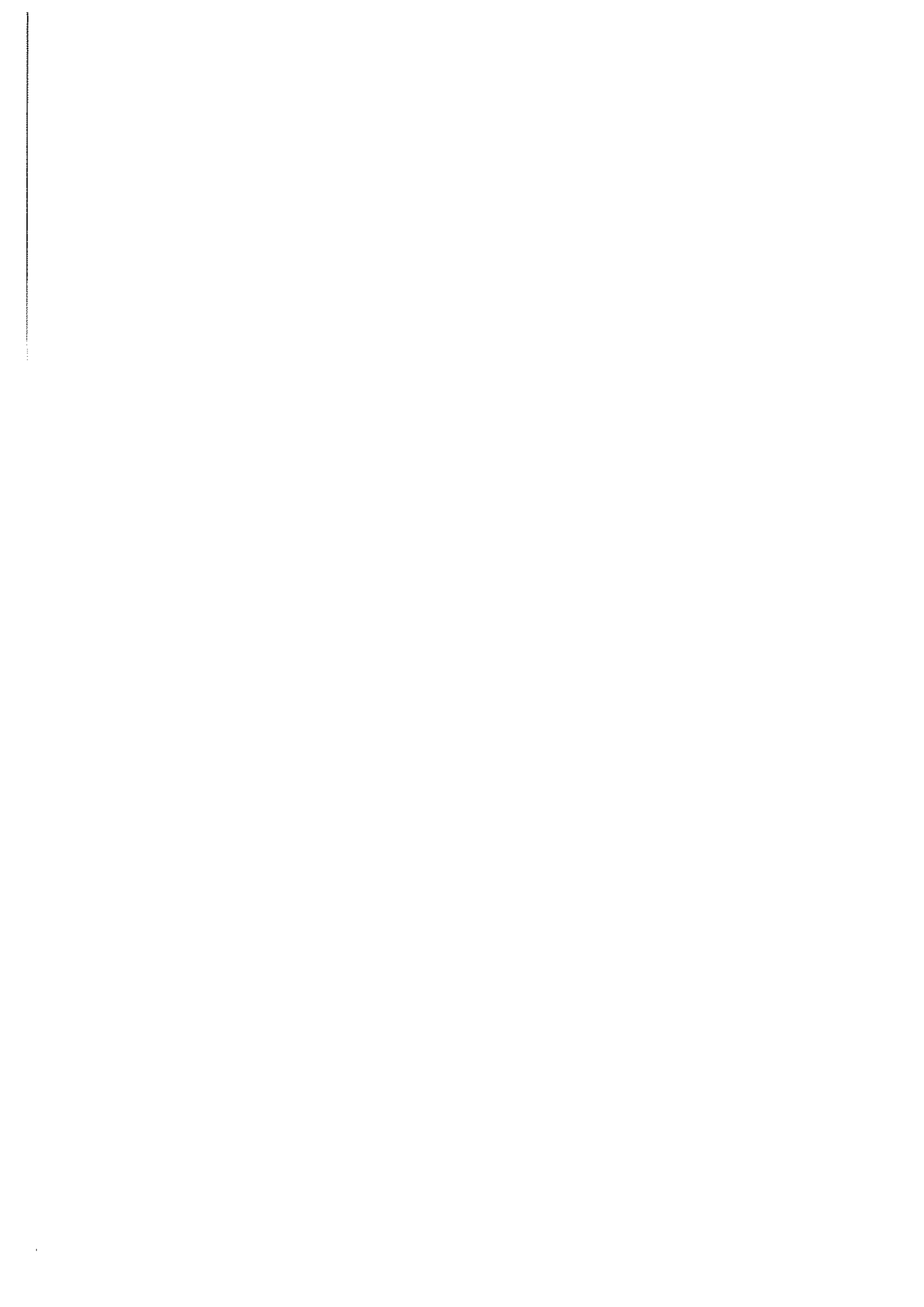
CORRUPT TREE



“... a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.”
 Matthew 7:17



“... every good tree bringeth forth good fruit.”
Matthew 7:17



We have come to the end of our story – the record of what the Lord has done because a few, by faith, had responded to the call for labourers, to venture into “... *fields ... white already to harvest*” (Jn 4:35).

The years have come and gone. Of those who left *Mother Church Life*, everyone is still actively serving the Lord, thirty years on.

*How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend
His love is as great as His pow'r,
And knows neither measure nor end!*

26

FAITH FUNDING

*“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”
(Heb 11:1)*

SH Tow

One question raised by curious observers is: “*Where did all the finance come from? Your church must have a great big endowment fund!*”

No, not really. But we have a great God.

Our resource is of the Lord. He only is our endowment. We left *Mother Life* empty-handed, with no resources or any material backing. In the Lord we were “... *as having nothing, and yet possessing all things*” (2 Cor 6:10). But we left with a rich heritage: faith in the sure promises of our all resourceful God, *the Lord who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the gold in every mine.*

Like Abraham, when called of God, *by faith* we obeyed, “... *and went out, not knowing whither (we) went*” (Heb 11:8). We did not know what lay ahead, except that our Lord had called, and He who called *knew the end from the beginning* (Isa 46:10).

So *by faith* we obeyed, and *by faith* we gave, believing God’s words: “*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work*” (2 Cor 9:7-8).

Following the example of the Apostle Paul, we were ever ready and glad to "... *spend and be spent ...*" (2 Cor 12:15) – if it was for the Lord. Others seeing our "*good works*" were moved to do likewise, and so over the years, members and friends gave liberally and cheerfully. Some donors, choosing to remain anonymous, have given considerable sums

to our global projects, simply because they also love our God. *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

To all who gave, may our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ repay and recompense you in ways beyond measure. Amen.

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,
that there may be meat in mine house,
and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts,
if I will not open you the windows of heaven,
and pour you out a blessing,
that there shall not be room enough to receive it."
(Mal 3:10)*

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EPILOGUE

"... a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation ..."
(Dan 12:1)

SH Tow

We stand at the threshold of the last millennium, the final days of a world in unprecedented turmoil and unrest; for God's people it is *"a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time ..."*

The years have flown by: each year brings us one year nearer the **momentous event**. That day, the day of His glorious appearing is *"any time now."* All the signs say so. Global convulsions will shortly shatter all human confidence and security, with *"men's hearts failing them for fear ..."* (Lk 21:26).

What then must we do? Be wise! Turn again to Daniel's prophecy and be instructed thereby: *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever"* (Dan 12:3). There is no better thing for believers to do than to join the valiant band of men to *"turn many to righteousness."*

Much remains to be done. Three decades of missions only impress on us the magnitude of the *"white harvest fields,"* and the unfinished commission. Be busy for the Lord, to turn men and women to righteousness. Delay no longer for the Gospel door will soon be shut.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Rev 22:12-13).

