



# The Burning Bush

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# THE BURNING BUSH

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## Editorial

The Rev Dr Timothy Tow, founder of the Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore and Malaysia and of the Far Eastern Bible College, was promoted to glory on 20 April 2009 at 88 years of age. Not ever wanting to retire from God's service, he served the Lord till the very end. He pressed "*toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil 3:14) and was indeed "*faithful unto death*" (Rev 2:10). He knew what was truly valuable in life, for his life verse was Mark 8:36, "*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*"

Son of a mother's vow, he was born again in the Singapore Pentecost under the great Chinese evangelist Dr John Sung, and trained at Faith Theological Seminary in USA under the famed 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation leader Dr Carl McIntire. He was the founding pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, and pastored that church for 53 years. In 2003, he resigned from Life Bible-Presbyterian Church to found True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church so that he might continue to teach and defend the biblical doctrine of the verbal and plenary preservation of the Holy Scriptures (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:28, 24:35, John 10:35), that the Holy Scriptures are not only infallible and inerrant in the past but also infallible and inerrant today, and they are precisely the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus on which the Authorised or King James Version is based.

In memory of the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow, this issue of *The Burning Bush* contains selected eulogies of those who had come under his godly influence. Readers and biographers are hereby directed to many other testimonies published in the March-June 2009 issue of *Bible Witness*, and the forthcoming Sabbatical Jubilee magazine of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. This issue includes an essay by Mr Lim Seh Beng on the lessons he has learned from a study of the history of the Bible-Presbyterian Church, and a testimony by Rev Tow himself on how he was given to the Lord by his mother who prayed that he as eldest son would become a pastor.

May the Lord use this edition of *The Burning Bush* to call someone to consecrate his or her life to serve Him full-time in these last days before He returns. "*Then saith he unto his disciples, 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).



# **I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW**

## **(1920 – 2009)**

### **Cherished Impressions of My Father**

John Shanton Tow

I was with my father when he set out for theological training in China. A little lad then, I did not understand why we had only peanuts for dinner. His sacrificial living has made me a man who will never waste anything.

I was pretty much on my own the years he was away for theological training in America. That has made me a man who knows the importance of family, and of parental love and guidance.

I saw how hard he worked when he pastored Life Church Prinsep Street. He gave me the bike he got around on when he went visiting. All through my high school years, I rode it, rain or shine, and I understood.

I saw his zeal in serving the Lord, and till today, I have not seen his equal. No not here in America, or anywhere else. His was a labour of love. He gave of his all. Often all his money. He sacrificed even his family.

I was with him when people would thrust large envelopes of cash into his hand for his many building projects. He raised millions upon millions. I saw how honest he was in seeing to their proper disbursement.

I went with him to the building sites and realised how hard it was to work with the many dishonest contractors there. His untiring efforts to get the most for the Lord's money even wore me out.

I saw how giving he was when he would help those in money troubles with what little he made. He helped me too, not too long ago, and he gave me all his salary. I learn about a father's love from that.

There were those who did not appreciate him like I did. I remember as a kid, when I went with him to pick up the loan payment

due him. It was not there. I saw his disappointment. I knew how sad he was.

Through the years, I have seen many people let him down. Yet, he never complained much. His cross was his to bear. But still, I could tell how disappointed he was. Like two years ago, when I dropped in on him.

Here was a man, a modern Magellen, if I may, who with great foresight, ranged far afield in search of places to plant the Gospel seed, and gave the flower of his youth for His service; whose many Gospel outreaches in this part of Asia do boggle my mind!

Here is a man I have even thought in my musings to be so like God, our Father. Why, he was always there when I needed him. He never gave up on me.

He was always longsuffering and gentle, kind and understanding. He never took me to task for not having finished Bible school. He would simply remind me of my calling, and encourage me to “serve the Lord.”

He was always there with words of wisdom when I needed guidance. His words to me a long, long time ago when I was getting ready to fletch and fly was: “The Lord will be your sun and shield.”

I shall never forget that! I believe that because of his faithfulness, and his sacrifices, the Lord truly has been my sun and shield. All these many years of sojourn here in this waste-howling wilderness, and I am still the sane old John!

## **A Man of God**

Jonathan Tow

Many of you know my father well. Some have co-laboured with him, many pastored by him, perhaps a number saved through him, and some taught by him. Regardless, many would agree that he was truly a man of God.

As Rev Tow’s son, I have seen my father’s life, both in the church and in the family. He was godly and devout. To me, he was a most gentle, patient, forgiving, generous, honest, loving, selfless, compassionate, gracious, loyal and obedient Christian. He practised what he preached. And, he always put God first. As a family, we witnessed this daily.

I just want to briefly share with you how my father was a man of faith and prayer. When confronted with situations, he always looked to

the Lord for guidance and comfort. He recognised the sovereign will of God, and waited on His providence. Even in darkest moments and times of grave disappointment, he never blamed God, nor did he vilify those that treated him with evil intent. He was always calm and urged us to be like Jesus, like when Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father.

Even when my father was faced with physical infirmities in his old age, he never complained. He always said to trust his Saviour. There were times I questioned the Lord why certain things befell my father, a most faithful servant of God. Each time I tried to solicit some response from my father, he always pointed to the will of God. Such was his total faith in God, as he would say, “Trust the Lord, He has a plan in your life, commit to Him”.

During his ministry, it was not uncommon for my father to give his entire salary to further God’s work. It was natural as men of flesh to sometimes feel worried what tomorrow holds should my father be called home to the Lord early. We had some common fears, since my father, in worldly terms, owned nothing; no property and barely a nominal bank account. But he always responded spiritually, that we must have faith, trust the Lord and He will provide. The Lord is faithful, and the material, is immaterial.

In terms of prayer, my father always focused on seeking God’s will through earnest prayer. He never offered worldly advice, but always pointed to God’s will and seeking after His word. Also, when in doubt, he would tell you to pray. Pray, pray and pray. When we were young, we had our own family prayer meeting. In recent times, with his grandchildren, he would teach them to pray and bless them with his prayers.

When I look back, sometimes I wonder how it is possible to live like the great men of faith in the Bible. How to lead godly lives in all aspects. While he was certainly not perfect, I have seen my father to be a good example, and encouragement, that we can emulate, and achieve.

Finally, I want to share what I see to be a “thread” that binds these attributes of my father together. To me, it was his desire to show us that as a father, to love his family, was to demonstrate the love of God, our heavenly Father, to us all. It is not about wealth, or promises, it is about simple faith, and trust in the Lord. This also required us to love the Lord.

My father understood that as a father, he was but a temporary guardian. He showed us that our true Father is God eternal. When my

father departs, we do not remain fatherless. Like him, we have the same eternal Father. That to me, is a key essence he imparted to us.

I am privileged to share in his life. I thank God that I was able to return to Singapore last month (March 2009) for two weeks. My father was in good health and continued to have a clear and lucid mind. His eyesight remained perfect and he was still able to read in Chinese. He also read the newspapers and even asked me some international relations questions, as I was working in New York. But what struck me most was his profound humour. During the two weeks, he must have been a little irritated that I kept asking him the same question, “Dad, how are you?” He usually nodded silently. On the final night before I returned to New York, I asked the same question a couple of times. This time, he grinned, and asked the same question back, “Son, how are you?” I smiled. I was stumped. I saw what he meant. It was a profound response. We both understood.

I thank the Lord that my father returned to his heavenly Father peacefully in his sleep, and during a time when his health had significantly improved. It was to me, a remarkable and glorious return. The Lord, to me, did not forsake His faithful servant. The Lord, to me, returned as appropriate and just, to my father, a healthy physical and mental state, to honour him and to prove His power and love. And then, He bid my father welcome home.

## **Big Brother**

Tow Siew Yong

In the early fifties I stayed with Big Brother in his HDB flat at Kim Pong Road. As pastor of a young church he worked tirelessly day and night. He had also to chauffeur his children to and from school daily. His sitting room was turned into a church office, much to the dismay of Sister-in-law Nancy. This make-shift church office was crammed with office equipment. The older children, John and Lehia, were the main office assistants. Together with other young people they printed church weeklies, articles, tracts and pamphlets etc. It was a hive of activity.

Hardship and privation did not deter Big Brother. He was willing to suffer for the work of God’s Kingdom. He had great faith and trust in God for all his needs. In his book *Son of a Mother’s Vow* he quoted Psalm 34:10, “The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the

LORD shall not want any good thing.” This expressed his faith in God. In 1950 his mission for the Lord had just begun. For the next five decades he wholeheartedly served the Lord, ministering and preaching the Gospel, “Holding forth the word of life” (Phil 2:16).

Big Brother was ever ready to support missions and gospel outreaches. By his encouragement, my husband (the late Elder Lim Kim Hee) and I conducted a Sunday Gospel Meeting on St John’s Island from 1962 to 1964. By God’s grace, through this ministry many children and their families came to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Big Brother did not have worldly riches. His treasures are “... in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal” (Matt 6:20).

In recent years I noticed that his parsonage was sparsely furnished with furniture inherited from our parents. For him “... godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim 6:6).

Big Brother, like our godly Grandfather regarded worldly wealth as a “cold potato.” Both of them had great faith in God. As pilgrims they desired “... a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city” (Heb 11:16).

Big Brother was always happy to see me. His smiles reflected the joy in his heart. He always prayed for me and my family. In his last months he was weak and frail, so I prayed for him instead. The Lord was good to him in his evening years. He was loved and well cared for by his dear wife Ivy and loving daughter Jemima and by Marites, a kind and faithful maid.

Big Brother had fought a good fight of faith. God has given him rest from his labours.

## **Literally Gave His All**

Lily Tow

I am comforted to know that father went home to be with Jesus peacefully. He is now with all his loved ones gone before and the greats from the Bible. Comforting to know that father served his loving Master to the end. Father literally gave his ALL to God and Church. He is now praising Jesus in heaven.

## **Last Phone Call**

Lehia Tow

Thanks and praise be to God for my beloved father, Rev Dr Timothy Tow. I am grateful for his faith and love for the Lord. When we telephoned him on April 10, Good Friday morning, I asked him, “Are you going to the Easter Sunrise Service?” He answered, “I’ll try.” He did go to the Easter Sunrise Service and baptised six persons.

On April 14, soon after Easter, I telephoned my father. We talked about God’s blessings of Jesus’ resurrection. When I said that Jesus’ resurrection is the guarantee of our future resurrection, he said, “Praise the Lord!” I was blessed to have this short conversation with my father. I did not know that this was our last phone call.

Although we greatly miss our dearly beloved father, our hearts are comforted that we shall meet again and be reunited in eternity because our Lord Jesus Christ has conquered death for us. God’s Word says: “Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you” (2 Cor 4:14). To God be the glory.

## **Founder of the B-P Church Movement**

Edward Paauwe

On Monday, 20 April 2009, at 5.45 am, Rev Dr Timothy Tow Siang Hui, the founder of the Bible-Presbyterian Church movement in Singapore, went Home to be with the Lord. Here is a brief account of Rev Tow’s conversion, theological training, and the beginning of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church.

In 1935, the Chinese Methodist evangelist Dr John Sung went to Singapore for a series of gospel meetings. These meetings were well attended, and about 2,000 nominal Christians were soundly converted. Among those who received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour was a fourteen-year-old boy by the name of Tow Siang Hui (he was born 28 December 1920). Realising that as a new Christian he needed regular spiritual food, he bought a Bible and wrote in the front, “Born again on September 1, 1935. Praise the Lord!”

In 1946, Timothy Tow and his wife and children traveled from Singapore to China, where he studied at Spiritual Training Theological Seminary in Nanking. While in China, he heard about Faith Theological

Seminary, then in Wilmington, Delaware, USA. The Lord led Timothy Tow to go to the USA, and he commenced his theological studies at Faith Theological Seminary in January 1948.

It was while a student at Faith Theological Seminary that Timothy Tow met Dr Carl McIntire. Dr McIntire challenged the seminary students to take a stand against liberalism and modernism and “for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9). Timothy Tow writes, “As [Dr McIntire] presented his case for a Twentieth Century Reformation and a return to our fathers’ faith, and called young men like us to join the Cause, I felt my heart strangely warmed, to use Wesley’s words. I felt my heart knit to his heart, like Jonathan’s to David’s (1 Sam 18:1). ... I have been loyal to the Separatist Cause ... all through the years.” (*Son of a Mother’s Vow*, 125).

After completing his studies at Faith Theological Seminary in 1950, Timothy Tow returned to Singapore via Geneva, Switzerland, where he attended the Second World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches. Also, while in Geneva, Timothy Tow was ordained by members of the Philadelphia Presbytery of the Bible Presbyterian Church. The leaders of Life Church, Prinsep Street, Singapore, knew that Timothy Tow had completed his studies at Faith Theological Seminary and invited him to become the pastor of an English language church. The first worship service of the new church, Life Church, English Service, was held on 20 October 1950, and regular attendance was between forty and fifty people.

This simple beginning led to the present Bible-Presbyterian Church movement with churches and mission stations in many countries.

From the very beginning of Life Church, Rev Timothy Tow emphasised three points that became characteristics of the church. A few years later he realised the need for two additional points.

#### (1) Evangelism

The first characteristic was the church’s emphasis on evangelism. Several founding members of the church were either saved, or yielded their lives to the Lord, during the 1935 John Sung Crusade in Singapore. These church members remembered Dr John Sung’s ministry and desired to be involved in evangelism themselves. As a result, the church became very evangelistic, and today nearly fifty-nine years after its founding, it is

still a soul-winning church. Branch churches have also emphasised soul-winning.

### (2) Biblical Separation

The second characteristic of the church was its stand for biblical separation. Biblical separation is what Rev Timothy Tow had learned at Faith Theological Seminary, in particular from Dr Carl McIntire. The stand for biblical separation caused major problems for the new church. Life Church English Service was part of the Synod of the Chinese Presbyterian Church, which was a member of the Malayan Christian Council, which was associated with the World Council of Churches.

The leaders of the new church brought a motion to their Synod to withdraw from the Malayan Christian Council, because of the liberalism in that organisation. They presented this motion several times, but every time it was lost, because of the opposition of the liberal Presbyterian leaders in Singapore and Malaya. Life Church English Service decided, on the basis of the principle of biblical separation, that they could not remain part of the Synod any longer and withdrew from it in January of 1955. They called the newly separated church “Life Bible-Presbyterian Church,” adding the word “Bible” to “Presbyterian” to indicate their firm belief in the Bible and to distinguish themselves from the liberal Presbyterian Church.

Throughout its history, Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and most of its branch churches have taken a strong stand on separation from the ecumenical movement as promoted by the World Council of Churches. The church also has taken a strong stand against neo-evangelicalism, as evidenced, for instance, in not supporting the Billy Graham Crusade that was held in Singapore in 1978.

### (3) The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

The third characteristic of the Bible-Presbyterian Churches in Singapore was a strong emphasis on the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. While most Presbyterian churches around the world are amillennial in their eschatology, the Bible-Presbyterian Churches in Singapore are premillennial. With a strong emphasis on the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ, church members were taught to live with eternity’s values in view. This resulted in many young people giving their lives for full-time Christian service. It also resulted in willingness among the church members to give generously to the Lord’s work. After all, one

cannot take his money with him to heaven, but he can send it ahead by giving to the Lord to advance His work.

#### (4) Theological Training

The fourth characteristic of the Bible-Presbyterian Church was its emphasis on theological training. The need for sound theological training for a new generation of church leaders became evident a few years after the church was established. Rev Timothy Tow writes, “We need to found a Bible College that will nurture future leaders of our Churches who will be able to stand in the gap in an evil day, and pursue the Word of the Lord by opening more and more preaching centres that the Kingdom of God might be extended to the uttermost part of Malaysia.” (*Son of a Mother’s Vow*, 176).

The name chosen for the Bible College was Far Eastern Bible College, and the first class was held on 17 September 1962, with three students. God’s hand was upon Far Eastern Bible College, and its graduates have planted a number of Bible-Presbyterian churches in Singapore, Malaysia, and other countries.

Due to the sound theological training received from dedicated, Bible-believing teachers, graduates of Far Eastern Bible College learned to stand for truth and righteousness, and against liberalism and neo-evangelicalism. Just as Rev Timothy Tow emphasised evangelism and took a strong stand on biblical separation, students at the college were taught personal soul-winning and biblical separation. Also, following their principal, graduates of the college have emphasised the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### (5) Decentralisation

The fifth characteristic of the Bible-Presbyterian Church, which developed after several years, was decentralisation. Rev Timothy Tow says, “Not centralisation, but decentralisation, is one genius of B-Pism.” (*Son of a Mother’s Vow*, 418). This principle of decentralisation led to the establishment of a number of new Bible-Presbyterian churches. Whenever there were a number of members of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church living in a certain area of Singapore, plans were made to start a church in that area. Because of the training provided by Far Eastern Bible College, full-time workers were readily available to pastor these new outreaches. Consequently, more than thirty Bible-Presbyterian Churches and mission stations were established throughout Singapore from 1950 to

2000. In addition a number of churches were established in other countries. To God be the glory.

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*Rev Edward Paauwe pastors Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church in Perth, Australia, and is married to Rev Tow's daughter Leah.*

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## **Practised What He Preached**

Pang Kok Hiong

I remember my Principal, the late Rev Timothy Tow.

Our beloved teacher, Principal of Far Eastern Bible College, Rev Timothy Tow, ascended into heavenly glory on 20 April 2009. That day ended his earthly labour and left behind fruits of his ministries. We are grieved by his departure on the one hand, but on the other, we give thanks to God for his life on earth with wonderful testimonies.

Personally, I studied under different lecturers from the beginning of 1986 to November 1989. The lecturer whom I learned most from, with lasting impact in my life and unquenchable fire in the ministry, was Rev Tow. His precious practical teachings are still vivid in my mind with immense application capacity on a daily basis. Below is my testimony on what I have learned from him and am still learning.

### **(1) Humble and Simple**

Most of the time, Rev Tow would be in a simple, dark-coloured shirt and black long pants with sandals (sometimes traditional Chinese wooden shoes). Once when I was a student, my father (now 79 years old) sent me to FEBC, and coincidentally, met Rev Tow. Rev Tow was not dressed in neatly-ironed high class suits and ties like professors in their luxurious offices, but he was working around the campus picking up dried palm leaves and disposing of them. My father asked me whether this man was the FEBC's gardener, at which I quickly replied, "No, he is my Principal." Rev Tow was not only a simple man, he was also a humble man especially in his dealings with people; and his preachings and teachings in class showed a life of humility. His humility came from his fear of God together with his imitation of the Lord Jesus. "Never say you know everything in the Bible! It is not shameful to admit you don't know. To say 'I don't know' is humility."

(2) Always Exalt the Lord Jesus

“We must always exalt the Lord Jesus Christ!” “When you read the four Gospels, never criticise Jesus Christ and what He did. He is blameless!” Rev Tow especially emphasised this in our homiletics classes, “Only Jesus. If you have nothing to preach, you preach Jesus and you will never go wrong.” Rev Tow often reminded his students to bring in the gospel in every message.

(3) A Grateful Heart

“Worship is the mother of all virtues” was posted prominently on the FEBC notice board next to the kitchen. “A worship service without gratitude is NOT a worship service.” In Rev Tow’s daily chapel services and classes, he urged his students to always have a grateful heart toward God, Jesus and people in our lives. His desire was to see the next generation of preachers incorporate gratitude to God in our worship.

(4) Gracious and Kind-Hearted

Rev Tow was ever so gracious in dealing with guests, especially people who were in distress and in need of help. For example, I remember during my time at FEBC, he let an old westerner (a retired army soldier stay in the small house behind the FEBC hall), took good care of a certain Sarawakian named Alex who broke his leg after an accident, and brother James from Shanghai, using the guest house and Beulah House. His hospitality had brought not a few to the Lord. “Do something good for Jesus every day” was his admonition to his congregation at Life B-P Church. “Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers” (Heb 13:1, 2). Rev Tow practised what he preached.

(5) Clean Heart and Hands with Money

Rev Tow was a man of God whose heart was ever longing for heaven as “for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” We were privileged to witness firsthand the amazing sacrificial giving when he led the congregation to raise six million Singapore dollars in six months to purchase Beulah House with “marriage value” on the opposite side of Gilstead Road from Life Church. I am particularly touched by his heart of contentment with respect to the possession of money and earthly materials. He led a simple life and was easily satisfied with any kind of food that was laid before him.

(6) A Heart for Missions

Rev Tow's love for missions, especially foreign missions, inspired my heart. He was personally involved in so many outreaches. The fruits can be seen today not only in ASEAN, but also in Australia and Africa. He was always very encouraging when he heard of our mission trips to China and later Saipan, Jordan and elsewhere. He would generously ask me to take any number of copies of his books to these mission fields.

(7) A Great Teacher of Biblical and Church history

I enjoyed studying Old Testament History under Rev Tow. He brought alive those intriguing stories of King David and his friends and enemies. During the study of the book of Psalms, we felt that Rev Tow loved David the most as he too aspired to be a man after God's own heart with detailed expositions on David's struggles and victories. We learnt many precious lessons about John Calvin and his Institutes, Dr John Sung and the great revival in the 1930s, as well as the many touching accounts of the life of missionaries like William C Burns, Jonathan Goforth, Ting Li Mei and Wang Ming Tao. Rev Tow loved the doctrine of the absolute sovereignty of God in people's lives including his.

I thank God for Rev Timothy Tow, my teacher and my mentor, even many years after I graduated from FEBC. His life and his words of wisdom will continue to inspire me to live the utmost for my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May the Lord be praised always for evermore.

**God's Faithful Servant**

Peter Eng

Rev Timothy Tow was the founding pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, and the Bible-Presbyterian denomination in Singapore and the region. He was also the founder of the Far Eastern Bible College.

Rev Tow is very dear to Lily and me. Lily and I were baptised by him and married by him. He has been our spiritual father in more ways than we can count.

Rev Tow has been instrumental in shaping much of my theology and Christian value system. Though time and circumstances have diminished our communication, his legacy of selfless sacrifice has moulded me in every possible way. I know that he loves Jesus supremely and no sacrifice

*I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW (1920 – 2009)*

was too great for him. God has blessed all of us in knowing Rev Tow, for I know of no better example in selfless service.

Rev Tow was my pastor and teacher. During an age of theological compromise, he sounded a clarion call to hold on to absolutes, to doctrinal integrity, and eternal values. I gladly responded to that call. At the same time, he planted in me the declaration of the Westminster Confession that my conscience cannot be bound by any person—not even his teachings. The passage of time and input from various sources have led me to develop my theology. But his core teachings remain true. The reality of absolutes stand against the flood of postmodern relativism. Doctrinal integrity is essential to true faith. Some values are eternal, and temporal gains can never justify the abrogation of an eternal good.

Today, the Bible-Presbyterian Synod no longer exists. This is regrettable. But this was also his greatest achievement. Rev Tow's greatest accomplishment was that he had the spiritual foresight to establish a denomination that would have God as the Lord of the conscience. The liberty he structured into this denomination has allowed freedom of the conscience for churches to disengage. The dissolution of the Synod has unfettered us for more dynamic service. The liberty to disengage results in true spiritual gain.

The Lord Jesus Christ has rewarded Rev Tow for his selfless sacrifice in many ways. He founded a church, and God blessed him with what must now be fifty churches that trace back to his ministry. He founded a denomination, and that denomination has come of age, left home, and increased. He reminded us ever so often, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit” (John 12:24). Notwithstanding ecclesiastical organisations, Rev Tow's life has brought forth fruit. The direct impact of his life touched tens of thousands in the scattered Bible-Presbyterian Churches; the indirect impact of his ministry affects hundreds of thousands. Not many have been so fruitful for the Lord.

Rev Tow had often said he longed to hear the words, “Well done thou good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matt 25:21). As he passes from death to life, from mortality to immortality, from dust to glory, he hears these words spoken to one who

has brought forth a hundred thousand fold. In his reward with God, we find comfort in our loss.

My deepest condolences to the family of Rev Tow. To us his spiritual children, we comfort each other with the thought that Rev Tow's labours are ended and his reward has come.

We share in your sadness over the home-going of Rev Dr Timothy Tow, man of God, Founder of churches, Prime-mover of a denomination, Spiritual father of B-P Churches in Singapore and beyond.

### **I Could Give Him a Haircut**

Hien Gia Nguyen

Remembering my founding Pastor and Principal, Rev Dr Timothy Tow, I really thank God for guiding me to meet him and to know the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) after I had decided to leave Trinity Theological College (TTC). Thank God for the four blessed years of sound training under Rev Tow and other godly FEBC lecturers. At TTC, I rarely saw the Principal, and did not have any opportunity to meet him or talk with him, so I could not remember his face. Even before I left TTC, I had to make an appointment to say goodbye to the Registrar. Although I came on time, I had to wait outside until she was available! Therefore, I did not think I was worthy to meet and say goodbye to the Principal!

On the other hand, Rev Tow was so modest, humble, friendly, considerate, helpful and kind that all the students could approach him any time for advice, counsel or just a chat. Rev Tow humbly ate lunch and dinner with the students, and he would say to those who came to his table, "Welcome, welcome!" Mrs Tow gave me an extra duty to appoint one student to eat with Rev Tow and accompany him when he did not have any guests or friends eating with him, but not many students were willing. So I was the one who had lunch and dinner with Rev Tow most often. As he was old and took time to eat his portion, I also ate slowly and waited for him and cleared his plate. That was the reason why most of the students reluctantly ate with him because they had many assignments or other things to do. Thank God that I found it a privilege to eat with him and have fellowship with him, a true servant of the Lord. One day I shared with Rev Tow while eating with him, "Rev Tow, I wish that some day you will ordain me," and he replied, "Well, you serve the Lord faithfully and after two years you can be ordained." Thank God for

*I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW (1920 – 2009)*

granting me the desire of my heart when Rev Tow ordained me in May 2007!



When Rev Tow knew that I could give him a haircut, he humbly asked me to cut his hair every month. I really counted it my pleasure and privilege to give him a free haircut, but he always insisted that I should receive some love gift from him. I know for sure that Rev Tow never took advantage of anyone. Then, Mrs Tow asked me to make juice for Rev Tow on weekdays, and I was very happy to do the job, knowing that it was good for his health. Thank God for helping me do it properly even on exam days, washing the carrot, bitter gourd, green gourd, green apple, green pepper, and celery carefully, cutting them and putting them in the juicer, pouring into a cup and bringing it to Rev Tow. Thank God that Rev Tow did not suffer from diarrhoea due to the juice.

During the long vacation, Rev Tow and Mrs Tow often kindly called me to have breakfast or lunch or dinner with them. Thank God for the blessed fellowship with them. I remember during the conflict between Life BPC and FEBC, Rev Tow was still trusting in the Lord and calmly enduring all things despite the harsh opposition and attack from his own “students” and “friends” in the Session. One morning, Rev Tow and Mrs Tow took an early flight to Perth. I went to the parsonage, hugged him with tears, saying, “Rev Tow, I love you.” I prayed for him everyday and thank God for using him to establish True Life BPC in October 2003. Praise the Lord for His grace and goodness!

I really thank God for the blessed fellowship with Rev Dr Timothy Tow. I have been deeply impressed by his modesty, humility, godliness, faithfulness and selfless service to the Lord since I first met him in August 1999. Thank God so much for taking His beloved servant home for a blessed rest with Him in heaven, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Rev 14:13).

Thank God so much that “by the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Cor 15:10). Truly, it is by God’s amazing grace alone that He has saved me, helped me grow in His grace and knowledge, called me to serve Him, directed me to be trained at the FEBC, and led me to Brisbane and helped our brethren and me to establish Brisbane BPC while the ministry was not easy at all, “O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever” (Ps 136:1).

I do not know what may happen to me or to my ministry tomorrow, but I shall continue trusting in my good and faithful Lord and His sovereignty, guidance, loving care and amazing grace just day by day, and always ready to be His witness wherever He leads. May the LORD my God graciously be with me and help me serve Him and follow Him and His Word faithfully unto death just as my beloved Pastor and Principal, Rev Dr Timothy Tow, had done, having fought a good fight, finished his course and kept the faith (2 Tim 4:7). Amen.

### **God’s Ready Ambassador**

Arthur Steele

The Lord used Rev Timothy Tow to speak to me at two key junctions at the beginning of my ministry.

On my first day at Faith Theological seminary, I met Timothy Tow. We were both 36. I asked myself almost constantly, “What in the world am I doing here?” and “Who do I think that I am trying to be a preacher?” My new friend Timothy was God’s ready ambassador. He quoted God’s Word. He spoke of God’s calling in his life and the prayers of his mother. I stayed and I graduated.

In 1960, I visited Rev Tow in Singapore. His burden for the unsaved was so real and so gigantic. The urgent need to train Christian workers for foreign missions seemed to dominate every comment and every reply from him. To me it was clear that he was directed primarily and powerfully by God’s Word. He was determined to start a Bible college.

I was changed. Surely we need a Christian college with a similar burden in the United States. The Lord had given me a burden too.



Dr Arthur Steele and Rev Timothy Tow at the FEBC Bible Conference,  
Genting Highlands, 1988

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*Dr Arthur Steele is the founder of Clearwater Christian College,  
Florida, USA.*

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### **God's Faithful Servant**

Kwang Jae Choi

The ICCC receives with great sorrow the news of Rev Dr Timothy Tow's going home to be with the Lord. We are joined in our grief by many who have known him as teacher, mentor, and fellow labourer for the cause of Christ. We have lost a faithful servant of the Lord.

It is with deep respect and praise that we reflect on his life and legacy. In this day of apostasy and compromise, he boldly and unswervingly stood for the primacy of God's Word, Biblical separation, and fundamentalism. His pioneering of the Bible Presbyterian movement by the founding of Life B-P Church and the Bible College movement through the Far Eastern Bible College continues to impact Singapore and other communities around the world. It was during Rev Dr Tow's time as

President of FECCC that ICCC was strongest and united in spirit. We praise God for his faithful life, made possible by his response to God's abundant grace.

Those who remain must not remove the landmark that he has set (Prov 22:28); they must not undermine the foundations that he carefully laid. He is no longer with us, but his conviction, spirit, and love for God's Word will be carried on by his many disciples in Asia, Africa, and in the far corners of the world.

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*Dr Choi Kwang Jae is the President of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC).*

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## **He Gave God First Place in His Life**

Quek Kiok Chiang

“Remember them who have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the Word of God: whose faith follows, considering the end of their conversation.” Let us remember Rev Dr Timothy Tow's faith and his conduct that are exemplary to us:

(1) His faith in giving up a would-be very promising legal career for full-time ministry of the Lord.

(2) His faith in initiating the present-day Reformation Movement in Singapore and Malaysia in the spirit and intent of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation Movement.

(3) His faith in pastoring the Life Church English Service in October 1950 by faith without the assurance of a monthly salary and he started with the first month pay of only \$112!

(4) For the Reformation Movement and the formation of the Life Church English Service which led to the starting of our Bible-Presbyterian Church Movement in Singapore and Malaysia. I thank God that I was with Rev Dr Timothy Tow right from the beginning.

Rev Dr Timothy Tow put God first before self and family. He gave God the first place in his heart and in his whole life.

Let all of us follow Rev Dr Tow's good examples. May God bless his family and continue to establish the work he had left behind, till Christ returns. Amen.

*Rev Dr Quek Kiok Chiang is the pastor of Faith Bible-Presbyterian Church, and was the General Secretary of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC).*

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## **On the Same Wavelength**

D A Waite

Dr Timothy Tow was indeed a champion for his Saviour and for the Words of God that he held higher and more precious than any words of men. We grieve that his former friends of the church he originally founded did him so much evil, simply because he believed in the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ to preserve His Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Words verbally and plenary down to this very minute.

Though late in life, he stepped out and founded a new church which now continues for the glory of our God. I remember him well when I was in a Bible conference in his church and that of his brother, Dr S H Tow, there in Singapore. After several of my sermons, he would greet me and say to this Bible-believing Baptist preacher, “WE’RE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH.” I will never forget meeting this kind and godly gentleman.

Though he was thousands of miles away from me, I will miss him and his godly courage for standing firm for principle despite traitorous associates who sought to destroy his leadership.

May God continue to raise up many others in your fellowship to take the place of this illustrious and fearless Christian leader. I will inform our church and will pray for all of those in Singapore and around the world who loved him.

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*Dr D A Waite is the President of the Dean Burgon Society, and the Pastor of Bible for Today Baptist Church, Collingswood, New Jersey, USA.*

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## **He Rescued Me from Being a Modernist Minister**

Peter Ng

After having run away from the fulltime calling and surrendering myself to fulfil my vow of consecration, I was awarded a full scholarship

to study at Yale University School of Divinity! But my godly mother sought counsel from Rev Dr Timothy Tow who recommended Faith Seminary instead! It was at Faith Seminary that I learnt about Biblical Separation! Always and for eternity, I shall be grateful and thankful to the Lord and Dr Timothy Tow for saving me from becoming a Paul Tillich, neo-orthodox, existential preacher of hell! Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

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*Dr Peter Ng is the founder of the Jesus Saves Mission (JSM) in Singapore, and brother-in-law of Rev Tow.*

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## **One of God's Mighty Warriors**

Karyn Kluttz

We have lost another of God's mighty warriors on this earth but know that his work here is finished, and Dr Timothy Tow is now in a better place, looking into the eyes of our great Lord.

My mother, Kristin, Luke and I feel it such a privilege to have met and talked to Dr Tow. And even though my father also wishes to have met him here on earth, he felt "one in Spirit" with Dr Tow through the many correspondences they had over the years.

We are constantly thinking of you and are praying for you and your ministry there in Singapore. May God bless you.

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*Karyn is the daughter of Dr Robert Kluttz. Dr Kluttz is a long-time missionary to Japan, and serves the Lord at the Hokkaido Bible Centre.*

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## **Noted Son of Calvin**

Jack Sin

The 500<sup>th</sup> year of Calvin was the year of the historic home-going of a noted son of Calvin, a veteran warrior of the Reformed faith in the Rev Dr Timothy Tow. A notable leader of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Reformation, he was providentially taken up to glory by the Almighty Jehovah on 20 April 2009. As Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew is to Singapore, Rev Dr Timothy Tow Siang Hui was to the Bible-Presbyterian movement in Singapore and the Far East.

*Rev Dr Jack Sin is the pastor of Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church. His lengthy testimony titled, "A Grateful Eulogy in Praise of Jehovah for His Indefatigable Servant, Rev Dr Timothy Tow," can be read from his church's website at <http://www.maranatha-bpc.com/MESSENGER/MM-09-04-26.doc>.*

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## **Life Lived to the Fullest**

William Seah

A tribute to my late pastor, Rev Dr Timothy Tow whom the Lord in His divine wisdom and according to His eternal purpose, has called Home to Himself on Monday, 20 April 2009.

**R**emembering my dear pastor, called home to glory,  
**E**ven way back in time to the mid-1950s;  
**V**ividly I recall his labour of love, a wonderful story.

**D**efending the faith, and God's Word upholding,  
**R**ejoicing amidst his trials, patiently enduring.

**T**riumphant in life, his God always honouring,  
**I**n His Majesty's Service, the world forsaking.  
**M**other's prayer answered, a servant of God he became,  
**O**bedient to the call, he bore his cross without shame.  
**T**ruely to his Master, and without a word of murmuring,  
**H**aving his hope in Christ, unchangeable and unchanging;  
**Y**ielding his life to His cause, with nothing regretting.

**T**hrough thick and thin, his faith always unwavering,  
**O**nly looking to his God, to the end never flinching;  
**W**ith his Maker in glory, rested from care and suffering.

With thanksgiving to God for a life lived to the fullest for the Lord in sacrificial love and service ... leaving an example for us to follow in his footsteps.

## **In the Forefront of Missions**

Koh Kim Hiang

We remember our very Senior Pastor, Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow.

We praise the Lord for raising up this mighty servant of His, whom the Lord appointed to be our spiritual father. He was in the forefront of missions in obedience to the Lord's Great Commission. He faithfully and fiercely contended for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. He saw the absolute necessity for training men and women to be true soldiers of the pure Gospel of his Lord and was accordingly used of his Master to raise up FEBC. He was lofty in intellect, deep in spiritual understanding but practical, as practical as to give his flock this simple but meaningful motto: "Do something good for Jesus everyday."

We are grateful to the Lord for the many precious spiritual lessons we can continue to learn from the writings this servant of His left behind. To those whom he ministered to in Life B-P Church and who are today scattered over the world he had always been "my Pastor."

## **Faithful to the Lord**

John Leong

I remember sharing with Rev Timothy Tow the vision of Life Bible Class (a young adults' group in Life B-P Church then) to branch out as a church in 1987. Rev Tow was so enthusiastic and encouraging for us to extend the Kingdom of God. He never worried that Life B-P Church would have lesser members but his heart was that God's work would grow and multiply.

Rev Tow not only prayed for us then but also helped us to find a place to worship in the bookshop warehouse in Tampines industrial park. We were hesitant and thought of trying out with our own worship service once a month. Rev Tow gave us the impetus to launch out in faith trusting our Lord to provide our needs and to lead us all the way.

The name of our church was also given by Rev Timothy Tow. He named it Tabernacle B-P Church and shared with us the letter "T" in Tabernacle reminds us of our origin "Tanglin Bible Class" and "Tabernacle", which means a tent, reminds us we are pilgrims and have no permanent home in this world. The Lord used Rev Tow in the founding of Tabernacle B-P Church. Whenever we had to see Rev Tow to

*I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW (1920 – 2009)*

consult him about church matters, he would pray for us and gently encouraged us to labour faithfully for the Lord.

The zeal and love for the Lord in the life of Rev Tow have greatly encouraged and challenged me to be faithful to the Lord.

**Dedicated Bible Teacher**

Sim Siang Kok

As we tried to recall, it was more than twenty years ago that Rina and I first took an evening course in Old Testament History taught by Rev Tow. In order to aid the students in remembering the names of kings of Israel and Judah and their deeds, Rev Tow brought as class notes various poems on the life of kings depicted in many stanzas. And as he taught the class, he would intersperse his lessons by singing the stanzas of the poems to certain tunes. This left in us a very deep impression of Rev Tow as a talented and dedicated Bible teacher and the wonderful gift of writing and teaching that God had endowed him.

The last class that I took under Rev Tow was the study of the Psalms offered in the Second Semester 2006/07. Although Rev Tow was physically weak and had to sit while teaching, I was very encouraged and touched by his dedication and desire to impart to us valuable spiritual lessons from the book of Psalms. It was his unwavering example that I believe inspires his students to pursue the study of Holy Scripture.

***Zho Tet***

Boaz Boon

Whenever I met Rev Timothy Tow he would ask me “*zho tet?*” And I would reply “*zho tet*”. He knew I am a hakka and in hakka “*zho tet*” means “can”. He always encouraged me that “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil 4:13).

When the Lord started the Bukit Panjang Gospel Outreach (BPGO) in 1988, we produced newsletters regularly to keep our contacts updated as regards the ministry of the BPGO. The recipients of the newsletters became our “prayer partners”. One of the recipients was Rev Tow. He would read the newsletters and encourage us to press on faithfully in the Lord’s service.

In early 1994, Rev Tow contacted me and encouraged me to consider taking up the afternoon slot at Shalom Chapel (at Tengah Airbase) to start a church. This was after the BPGO had existed for about six years. The rest is history. The Lord used the ministry of the BPGO to start the Calvary Tengah B-P Church.

I thank the Lord for Rev Tow who kept praying for us and encouraging us—though we were insignificant. Through his encouragement, we pressed on. Indeed, in Christ we “*zho tet*”.

### **“What Are You Doing to the Cat?”**

Joseph Tan Chin Aik

Timothy Tow’s first loud words to a small boy holding a mewling cat in the pond below his residence were, “What are you doing to the cat?”

It drew a response from me, “I’m helping the cat to overcome its fear of water.”

The next moment, he was right downstairs with me, but without shouting at me, he gestured to me with a gentle wave to bring the cat to him. His gentle and amusing gestures moved me to obey him indeed. Somehow, with a child’s instinct, without him exerting his authority, I could feel the presence of a man of GOD. Looking back, he must have had thought that any further question would have drawn an answer of “teaching the cat to overcome its fear of death with a salvation message”.

Anyway, that encounter with such a true servant of GOD in him with his gracious ways by a rough boy in me was GOD’s biggest blessing of a relationship between the founding father of the Bible-Presbyterian Movement and a boy adopted into a big and troubled family.

Through the years, he was indeed gracious in his ways with a nobody’s son and he treated me a lot gentler and more caring than he would his FEBC students or sweet-talking and eloquent youth leaders. Even when I fought with his grandchildren whose father was his son-in-law and a great missionary himself, he simply stared at me and asked whether I had wanted to open their eyes with pepper because “they have eyes but see not”.

In the many years I had of Rev Tow’s fellowship when he gave a room to a homeless boy found sleeping in the sanctuary, never once was the word, “it was I ...” ever heard from him in any issue or conversation or sermon. Not even in the many Christian literature he had authored or

co-authored. What stood out whenever the name “Timothy Tow” appeared was the clearly unadulterated and uncompromised integrity of the verses from the HOLY BIBLE to back up almost everything he put forth. A good example is seen in the book *Old Testament Law Classified as in Modern Legal Systems* by Roger Sherman Galer and Timothy Tow.

While there are many of his students who have already been washed away by the flood of postmodern relativism into the many different groups they have created or divided for themselves to be unable to turn up for the three evenings and four days to celebrate GOD’s vessel of truth loaned to us in Rev Tow; may we humbly carry on the torch with the Movement at the momentum that Rev Tow has rhymed in us: “To continue with GOD’s work and preserve GOD’s truth without reservation but only with fear of GOD and fear of stealing GOD’s glory with the many divided versions we want to create of HIM.”

### **My Mother’s Salvation**

Joe Chan

When my elder brother was hospitalised in the ICU at SGH in April 1994, my sister-in-law’s nephew Jonathan, who was an active YFer at New Life B-P church, came to visit his grandfather who was also hospitalised due to severe asthmatics and in critical condition. Jonathan was burdened for his grandfather’s salvation and quickly called up Rev Timothy Tow to witness to his grandfather in SGH. When he was on the phone with Rev Timothy Tow, he realised that Rev Tow had just reached home after his Holy Land trip, and after the flight he was physically tired and exhausted. Nonetheless being a faithful servant of God and a living testimony for many to follow, he consented to Jonathan’s request.

When Rev Tow arrived at SGH at the ward in which Jonathan’s grandfather was, he realised that the ward was quite crowded with Jonathan’s relatives, and he felt that the situation to witness was not very appropriate, so he suggested that he would come again another day. While Rev Tow was about to head home, Jonathan remembered that his aunt’s husband, my elder brother, was also in the ICU ward of SGH. He asked Rev Tow whether he could go to the ICU ward to witness to my mother who was there to take care of my elder brother.

When Rev Tow arrived, I introduced him to my mother and he started sharing the gospel with her in the teochew dialect. I remember

vividly that he first asked my mother if she had gone for a holiday before, and my mother's response was yes; she added that she had been to Hong Kong some years ago. Rev Tow then asked her further about what she needed to bring along when she went for a holiday. My mother answered, clothing, luggage, cash and of course her passport. Rev Tow then asked my mother to name the item she must have with her if she wanted to enter Hong Kong. My mother's reply was her passport. Rev Tow told her that it was absolutely correct. He then explained to her that in the spiritual sense if one desires to enter heaven, one must also have a passport, and that passport is none other than faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If she wanted to enter heaven, she must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and accept Him as her personal Saviour. He added that without this passport, one would not be able to enter heaven, but instead be burned in the lake of fire. Rev Tow also shared that he had already obtained this passport to heaven about 60 years ago. He challenged my mother to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ also and accept Him as her Saviour. Rev Tow asked if she wanted to pray the sinner's prayer with him. Praise the Lord, my mother said yes. Rev Tow also comforted my mother that once a Christian is taken home to be with the Lord, there is an assurance of being able to reunite with loved ones who are true Christians in heaven. About a week later, my elder brother who was at the ICU, was taken home to be with the Lord.

Ever since my mother became a Christian, the rest of my family members also started to attend church, and most of them eventually became converted. I want to take this opportunity to thank God for the late Rev Timothy Tow for his faithful labouring for lost souls. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Rev 14:13). Amen.

## **Wearing His Wooden Clogs**

Tsao San Starry

I met Reverend Timothy Tow in 1964; I was 15 years old. It was Dr Tow Siang Hwa, my mother's gynaecologist, who introduced my siblings and me to Life B-P Church, at that time a fundamental and God-honouring church.

*I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW (1920 – 2009)*



Rev Tow with Baby Daughter Jemima and His Trusty Volkswagon Behind, 1968

Rev Tow was a godly man. He feared God and kept His commandments. Caring, humble, patient and thrifty on himself, he only had smiles and words of encouragement for others. I have never seen him angry. Menial tasks were not below him; though head of a church and Bible college, he used to sweep away the fallen leaves in the church compound in the evenings, wearing his wooden clogs.

I tagged along on one of his frequent mission trips to Malaysia. I expected a pleasant holiday. But no, it was a tough and disciplined working trip! We traveled in Rev Tow's old non-airconditioned Volkswagen station-wagon. There was no North-South Highway then, only narrow, pot-holed, congested truck roads.

We visited a small church each in both Kulai and Kelapa Sawit, and Rev Tow preached in dialects to the great joy of the congregations; they gave us huge baskets of local fruits to thank Rev Tow.

We spent the night in Rev Tow's father's clinic in Batu Pahat, in spartan bedrooms. We were awoken at 6 am; with our breakfast of "pows" and coffee in hand, we were promptly packed into the car for the ride to Temerloh, a small town in Pahang. We only arrived at dusk, at Dr Tow Siang Yeow's house (the local church—he was the area's medical officer). Rev Tow conducted the Lord's Day service the next morning. I have not forgotten this testimony of faithfulness to the Lord's cause.

Rev Tow affirmed me in my faith, officiated at my wedding and baptised my wife and daughter. He also roped in my parents and aunt to serve in the Life Church Chinese service. A faithful servant indeed.

Truly, Rev Tow ran a splendid race and finished the course in fine fashion. May his example motivate many to such endurances and fervency. The Lord help us.

### **Man of God**

Anonymous

I remember my pastor Rev Dr Timothy Tow.

I came to know God's Word when I was in Polytechnic, a Christian brother followed me quietly for a long while and I was disturbed and asked him what he wanted. That brother, whom I never met again, gave me a New Testament and requested me to read and to know God. From reading the New Testament (NIV), I got reprimanded for my sins by God's Word and I believed that a righteous God lives forever and He is

*I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW (1920 – 2009)*

the Truth! Strange enough, more Christians approached me and I came to know brothers from Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. I began serving God in the Life BPC Evangelistic Band (E-Band). Rev Dr Timothy Tow was then the Pastor of Life BPC.

It has been already 20 years since I heard Rev Dr Timothy Tow's sermon, and I know he was truly a man of God. He spoke with the power of the Holy Spirit. I grew in the love of God's Word and the hymns, although I cannot sing. I thank God that He had led me to a true church which believes in 100% of His Word! There came a time when I found a certain discrepancy in God's Word and I thought that this was an extremely difficult question in my heart that only God knows the answer. It was surprising to me that Pastor Timothy Tow was always available in the church because he lived on the first floor (2<sup>nd</sup> storey) of Life Church. I managed to build up my courage and went up to meet Pastor Tow and asked him my question. To my surprise, he answered my question spontaneously with so much grace and truth and this had greatly helped secure my faith in God's Word like upon a rock! I started to read the King James Bible and study God's Word and rejected the NIV or other versions which have many discrepancies.

My English had been very poor and I could not communicate well. Soon I strayed away from the E-Band. However, God did not leave me. I remembered my Pastor Timothy Tow. I would drop by during Sunday services to hear the Word of God at Life BPC and leave immediately after service. I continued studying the KJV Bible and God blessed my English too. I got a grade D in the 1<sup>st</sup> year, grade C in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and grade B in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

Pastor Tow agreed to be our Officiating Pastor for our wedding. Furthermore I specially requested Pastor Timothy Tow to preach only in Mandarin without any interpreter because my parents-in-law did not understand English and I did not want interruptions during his sermon. I hoped my wedding would also be a chance for all my relatives and friends to believe in Christ. On my wedding day, I was very honoured that Pastor Rev Dr Timothy Tow preached very well in Mandarin without any interpreter. He was very wonderful in explaining marriage and God's love for mankind! My relatives and friends were being witnessed to. Thank God for Pastor Tow! Even my father-in-law, who was an extremely fussy, difficult man and staunch Buddhist who was called "master" by others, gave his testimony that Pastor Timothy Tow is highly

spiritual and a well-trained man of God! Pastor Rev Dr Timothy Tow has always been a gracious, truthful, loving, fatherly example for my family.

### ***Tow Bok Su***

Go Tek Hun

“*Tow Bok Su*” (“Rev Tow” in Hokkien) was the name I often heard mentioned by my late grandaunt Leona Wu and Aunt Ng Phek Loan when they came to Manila. The impression I got was that he was a very respected pastor in Singapore. I had read his book *Songs and Verses from the Holy Land* in my teens before I met him. By God’s grace I finally met “*Tow Bok Su*” in Eastshore Hospital on 22 October 1996 where my Aunt Ng was confined for pneumonia.

My first impression of him was his fatherly and humble character. Thank God he became my principal and teacher in FEBC in January 1998. He was God’s faithful servant to his very end. He imparted God’s Word to his students using simple English and illustrations that helped me to remember his lectures. He was also concerned about our diction. He wanted us to speak “Queen’s English” especially us foreign students. I have been blessed with his perseverance of defending the King James Bible and why I should use it.

Rev Tow practised what he taught “humility, humility, humility” and this is what God’s servant should be.

He was very gracious and generous and once to my surprise he asked me to have snacks with him after the homiletics class when green beans and sago soup was served. He told me that green beans go with sago and red beans go with glutinous rice. He not only nourished me with spiritual food but physical food as well.

Lastly I have been blessed with his prayers throughout my years in FEBC as he prayed for me that I could be with my Aunt Ng till her homegoing to the Lord on 30 July 2003.

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints” (Ps 116:15).

### **My Godly Example**

Esther Chew

Beloved Rev Tow, my godly example (“Do something good for Jesus every day”) had many scholastic skills, but remained humble,

gracious, and approachable. Most gifted, he taught the Epistle of Romans through song.

With poignant nostalgia, I recall my many FEBC years of learning from my teacher in the lecture hall (his famous “banana skin story”), at his stone table, walking with him round the campus; and on his pilgrimage to Israel (1996). Each interaction was uplifting. What I am today (“Self help with God’s help is the best help”) reflects his faithful tutelage. His great sense of humour turned my tears to laughter.

After my year’s Thai missions, in Kuala Lumpur, September 2005, enroute to Canada, Rev Tow prayed for me over the phone. In December 2007, October 2008, November 2008 and late January 2009, I visited him, reporting my works in China. He was very interested and pleased, especially my meeting Ting Li Mei’s descendants. His mind was so lucid. I commented that his memory was much better than mine! In late November 2008 I prayed for him at his hospital bedside and he responded, praying God to bless my Chinese ministry. Each encounter with him was fruitful.

My beloved Principal has left behind his footprints in the sands of time. Though dead, he speaks through his many writings too! He will live on in my heart! How wonderful to meet him again in the near future in heaven!

## **Dedication and Humble Service**

Audrey Liaw

I became a Christian in 1986 and came to Tabernacle B-P Church in 1990. The people in Tabernacle always spoke of Rev Tow with great respect. I heard quite a lot about him but it was not until the Good Friday of 1992 that I attended a service conducted by him. Ironically, I was seated on the second level and could not see him. I could only hear his voice. I was amazed that he was conducting the service in both English and Mandarin all by himself.

I grew up as a young Christian reading not a few of Rev Tow’s books like *John Sung My Teacher*, generously given to us. I enjoyed the interesting and readable style of his writings, and my faith was much strengthened. Later on I also had the opportunity to take courses in FEBC under Rev Tow. I studied OT Law, Acts, Asian Awakening, etc, and was blessed by his simple and clear teaching.

Lastly, I will always look back with fond memories and thank God for the opportunity to go on the Holy Land trip with Rev Tow in March 2006.

Praise and gratefulness to God well up within my heart as I remember the life of Rev Tow. His life of dedication and humble service to the Lord is what I want to emulate by God's grace.

“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace” (Ps 37:37).

### **Foremost Theologian**

Anne Chiam

As Timothy Tow honoured the great Southeast Asian Evangelist Lim Puay Hian when he was called to glory in 1975 with the eloquent words that it was a day of “the passing of a prince in Israel,” so the same honour and words should also be accorded to him. He too gave his life to the whole-hearted service of God, building and planting churches in many parts of the world, preaching and teaching faithfully the whole counsel of God and was “faithful unto death,” and had won “his crown of life.”

As a young believer in the 1980s, I looked to Timothy Tow as the foremost theologian of the B-P Movement and was thus privileged and blessed to be grounded in “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). Timothy Tow stood firmly on biblical separation, now a precious cornerstone of the B-P Movement, true to what God teaches in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. For me, his vivid story of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility in the “Banana Skin” story lives on, and the one on the error of hyper-Calvinism where a man opens his shop but with the sign “Only Buyers Can Enter”. Timothy Tow taught and inspired me to love Israel as he did and to watch for the Second Coming of the Lord for He is coming real soon. His work lives on through the many books he had written and the many Christian lives he had touched for God's service.

### **A Gift for You**

Eric Choong

It was a sunny winter's afternoon (July 1986), my wife Jo came running in with joyous news that a pastor is in the street and that I should meet him. Why all the excitement, Christianity is not for us Chinese. Hours later she returned with a book *John Sung My Teacher*. Her eyes

glistening as if it was gold in her hands. “It’s a gift from Rev Timothy Tow for you,” she declared.

One evening, I picked up the book because the reflection under the desk lamp and the thick dust was annoying. I flipped through the pages and by the time I put it down, it was daybreak (October 1986).

### **“Young Man, You Can Keep a Copy”**

Foo Tee Jiam

Back in 1986, I was a young Christian, newly baptised. I was keen to know more about the Bible-Presbyterian movement that I was now a part of. I knew Rev Tow to be the founding pastor. However, apart from hearing him preach at the Sunset Gospel Hour (SGH), I did not know much about him.

On 27 July 1986, Rev Tow preached at the SGH. During his sermon, we sang a hymn, “*Yerushalayim, Messiah is Come*”, taken from *Songs and Verses from the Holy Land* (a book written by him) which he had brought along. The hymn struck a chord in me. There were also other hymns and poems inside that caught my interest.

After the service, I saw Rev Tow standing at the doorway. I plucked up my courage and approached him to ask if I could borrow a copy of the book to photocopy. Without hesitation, he smiled and told me, “Young man, you can keep a copy.” I was elated. This simple, spontaneous act made my day and left me with a deep impression of the founding pastor of the B-P movement in Singapore.

Over the years, I have come to know Rev Tow better—through his writings and preaching. But most of all, it was his godly life and faithful service for the Lord that had spoken to me and blessed me. I thank God for Rev Tow’s ministry and testimony for the Lord.

### **To Glorify God**

Carol Lee

The Apostle Paul’s words in Philippians 1:21, “to live is Christ, and to die is gain”, came to my mind when I witnessed the burial of God’s servant, the Rev Timothy Tow, on 23 April 2009. My principal and my teacher, Rev Tow exemplified what living for his Saviour and Lord meant. Rev Tow showed me mercy and grace and humility. He showed me what perseverance in the service of the Lord meant. He showed me

what it means to quietly and undauntingly trust in our Lord and Saviour. He showed me what it means to serve God with one's whole life. And he showed me what it means to glorify God (and not self) in his ministry.

Rev Tow has completed his tasks on earth. But I am still learning the many lessons he has taught with his life. May my Lord grant me the grace to apply the lessons He has used Rev Tow to teach me so that our Lord may be glorified.

### **Humility, Humility, Humility**

Lim Chun Huat

Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow Siang Hui taught me one most precious lesson on the three *sine qua non* qualities to serve our God, Jesus Christ. The three qualities are: humility, humility, more humility.

“He that is down will fear no fall. He that is low no pride. He that is humble ever shall have God to be his guide” (John Bunyan).

God hates pride and arrogance (Prov 16:18). Therefore, let us serve God in a meek and humble spirit. Whatever we do and whatever we say, God must be pleased. God bless all of us as He has greatly blessed Rev Tow.

### **Not a Hireling but a Servant**

Lim Ee Na

My deepest memory of Rev Timothy Tow is that he baptised me in the 1980s. I spent my formative spiritual years in Life Bible-Presbyterian Church when Rev Tow was then pastor. To my then-teen mind, his stern demeanour was something to be wary of. However, he had always been soft-spoken and was hardly ruffled.

My few visits to the parsonage opened my eyes to how a pastor really lived. Rev Tow's home was modest; I had expected more creature comforts since he was, as it were, the boss of the church. I had the impression that he wasn't being paid enough. But now I realise he had been serving the LORD not as a hireling, but as His servant.

I am thankful that Rev Tow heeded God's direction to build the Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and to preach God's Word faithfully. It is his simple, Bible-based teaching—a rare thing in churches these days—that helped me grow and discern spiritual things.

## **Life Well-Lived**

Irene Lim

Coming from a non-B-P background, I have never met Rev Timothy Tow personally, although I knew that he was the founder of the B-P movement and pastor of Life B-P Church. In May 2007, however, I attended the DVBC course on “What Is Bible-Presbyterianism?” At the start of the course, he was there in person to address us. I was touched that though physically frail and weak, he was determined to testify and to be associated with the work of the Lord. I was much encouraged by this fervent servant of God.

Subsequently, through the various courses I took in FEBC, I had the opportunity to read many of his books. Through them, I saw his unflinching love for the Lord and his deep passion for His Word and for His Work.

Although much saddened by his home-going, I know that it is truly a promotion to glory for one who has devoted his whole life to the B-P movement and to the Far Eastern Bible College which continues to be steadfast and true to the Word of God in this age of rampant apostasy.

I thank God that even though I have never had the privilege to be taught by him, I can continue to learn from the rich spiritual legacy he has left behind, the many books in which he had painstakingly chronicled his life, his service for the Lord and his many years of research and study of the Word of God. Praise God for a life well-lived!

## **Vigilant Shepherd**

Charles Ling

As I cast my mind back some years ago to the FEBC evening class on 2 Thessalonians as taught by Dr Raymond Saxe during his visit to our mother church, I can still vividly see in my mind’s eye the late Pastor Timothy Tow sitting on a stool just outside our classroom participating in the lessons as attentively as anyone of us within. His sitting posture with hands resting gently on legs close together looks so lovingly humble and inviting to everyone who cared to speak to him or seek counsel of him. Though gentle and silent, he was indeed like a vigilant shepherd watching over his flock feasting on the pasture. With a simple and inviting posture one could not help being touched with a deep sense of peace, security, humility and assurance that simply could not be naturally

and readily given without pretence by any person other than the Lord's devoted, dedicated and faithful servant.

As a humble communicant member in the family of the B-P Movement founded by Pastor Timothy Tow, I wish to join many other like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ with the prayer that the Lord will not only sustain, preserve and strengthen each member in holding forth the pure Word of life as steadfastly and immoveably as Pastor Timothy Tow and in remaining faithful and unshakeable in our stand on the KJV Bible and our testimony of Jesus Christ, but also raise up many more faithful and valiant servants to carry on the battle triumphantly against our adversaries till the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by whose strength we all strive to live a holy and acceptable life, and in His faithfulness we trust and watch expectantly the fulfilment of our most blessed and glorious hope. Amen.

### **Gracious Pastor**

Ang Liang

Rev Timothy Tow was a gracious pastor. He did not talk much. He was calm and patient with his students. He treated his students leniently. He taught me to persevere in the ministry. He said that in the ministry, the most important thing is humility. He often said, "Do something good for Jesus everyday." When I recall those days I was in FEBC (1993-1997), I am very grateful to Rev Tow. He was the one who officiated my wedding, he was the one who travelled to my hometown in Tanjung Pinang (Riau Island), and baptised my father. Thanks for his precious teachings imparted to all his students. He is my godly and spiritual father.

The seed of the gospel has spread all over the world because of his faithful servant. I shall carry his teachings and example in my life and ministry.

### **Man of Resilience**

Karen Chan

Rev Timothy Tow was a man of resilience. Beyond his small frame laid an indomitable spirit. He started FEBC in 1962 with a few faculty members. He was also a man of resolution. Many outreaches have been launched as a result of his vision and his resolution. At the lowest points of my life, I have been ministered to by his sermons and his songs. Some

of them were “Let go and let God” and “Prayer changes us” and “I know the Lord will make a way for me.” He has left behind a spiritual legacy that will be cherished forever.

### **He Soldiered On**

Chiang Siew Eng

The year Rev Timothy Tow responded to the consecration call of Dr John Sung in 1947, was the year I was born.

Rev Tow has a great impact in our lives. His life’s work will live on in our minds. He faced countless adversities, yet he soldiered on. He strongly believed in the Word of God in the KJV Bible. He was deeply troubled with the present state of the spiritual life of God’s children—he understood and was deeply troubled. Because of his love for our Lord Jesus Christ, he lived for us. Tirelessly, day after day.

With the passing of our beloved pastor and founder of the B-P churches—now is the passing of the torch—his work and stand for the Word of God must go on. Rev Dr Timothy Tow’s life has greatly impacted our lives, his memory will forever live in our hearts.

### **High Principles and Integrity**

See Lay Yong

I have great respect for Rev Tow for his life of self-denial and service for the Lord, a man of high principles and integrity, who would rather suffer than to compromise or let the name of God be brought to public shame. I am very amazed by his courage and fighting spirit even at his old age, that instead of enjoying the fruits of his labour in retirement and gaining the popularity from Lifers by acting as a “puppet”, he had chosen to suffer much trial and great affliction to defend the Word of God.

### **Godliness with Contentment**

Sharon Sim

“When we forget about ourselves, we do things others will remember” aptly describes Rev Timothy Tow. In his lifetime, he has touched many lives from diverse backgrounds. His life is a canvas on which others can see Christ. His lifestyle was not exactly what most would crave to have in this world but then when all you have is God, you

have all you need in this world! Rev Tow has set an example of godliness with contentment for all to follow; he left this world with no substantial earthly goods nor treasures but surely with uncountable treasures in heaven. Rev Tow has definitely left behind a “legacy” that may not be repeated in generations to come.

### **“Do You Believe the Bible is Perfect?”**

Christopher Tan

When I first joined the night classes at FEBC in 2003, I was blessed to be taught theology by Rev Timothy Tow who taught us Calvin’s Institutes, Part One.

Rev Timothy Tow lived by what he taught. “Humility, Humility, Humility”, he would emphasise that over and over again, and also, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

Rev Timothy Tow lived by every Word of God, and fearlessly defended the twin doctrines of Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP). Once, I met him at a church camp. He looked at me in the eye and asked me, “Do you believe the Bible is perfect?” I nodded my head sheepishly and said, “Yes.” “Of Course!” he exclaimed, “God is the Author!”

May we learn to walk in the footsteps of our teacher, Rev Timothy Tow. Amen.

### **A Vision for Israel**

Vrambout Marc

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Ps 122:6).

As a Belgian married to a Malaysian, I was led to Far Eastern Bible College with my family in 2002. I was delighted to find a conservative college that had a vision for Israel. I came to understand that Rev Timothy Tow had organised several trips to Israel. He taught homiletics and I am still reaping the blessings. In Singapore, God confirmed my calling to the Jewish people and I am ever grateful to God for FEBC and its founder, Rev Tow, is a joy to my memory.

## **Kind Hospitality**

Chee Ah Chai

After more than 60 years of devoted and faithful service to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ it is truly home-going and rest for him. Since the first day I met him in the Prinsep Street church, Rev Timothy Tow had always demonstrated his love for the Lord as His servant and served as an example to us younger people.

While Rev Tow's role as a spiritual warrior for the cause of Jesus Christ cannot be questioned, I would also like to mention his true love in Christ for God's people. May I humbly present two examples.

Once in the early days when I was living in Jurong, I was sick and quarantined in my house. I did not have a mattress on my bed and Rev Tow personally carried one from the late Brother Chandra's place to my room in my house.

My Christian friends, Brian and Valerie Cole, who live here in Vancouver also send their condolences. Some years ago upon my recommendation they stayed at FEBC when they visited Singapore. Upon their return they spoke of the kind hospitality Rev Tow had shown them. I am sure there are also quite a few people who could testify of his putting them up lovingly at FEBC whenever there was a need.

## **Stand Firm**

Nelson and Christine Were

In recent years, there have been some heartaches for Rev Tow because of Life Church and how they persecuted FEBC and him, but the joy of the servants of God is to stand firm and stand fast for the Lord. Those whom he had established in the Word and who will stand fast and who will continue to do the work of the ministry faithfully are those who have inherited his great legacy. In this respect, let us continue steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord.

God willing we desire to start an FEBC alumni fellowship among those of us in Africa, first in Kenya and God willing extend it to Ethiopia and Tanzania. We hope that through it we may be able to stir each other up in the faith, warn each other, rebuke, exhort and encourage each other and keep each other updated concerning the contemporary issues facing Reformed Fundamental Christianity.

## **My Spiritual Father**

Archippus Yang

Just last night (19 April 2009), I took a detour to park the car at Beulah Land overlooking Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. A flood of memories came over me as I recalled the moments and experiences of my life growing up in this church under Pastor Tow for nine years. Fiona and I were baptised and married by him on 18 October 1981 and 30 June 1984 respectively. It was a joyous moment for me to be baptised that year because I was unsuccessful the previous year when I withdrew at the last minute. He must have been glad for me as he understood my struggles between obeying my parents and the Lord.

He is my spiritual father; “啊奴” he would affectionately call me whenever he saw me at FEBC. I thank God that he had received me into his care. I remember the two sermons I preached during my studies at the Bible college, one of them was on Philippians 1:12-26 and the other 3 John 1. Strangely, today’s *Our Daily Bread* highlighted this passage that I had preached at FEBC’s homiletics class when Rev Tow was my Principal. The Lord somehow caused me to remember all those years. Last night’s trip to Life Church together with Fiona and Natalia and this morning’s message spoke to me. It is like when Jesus looked into the eyes of Peter. Peter knew. The Holy Spirit speaks. Rev Tow, may you remain always “the beloved” Gaius whom John loved “in truth”. Thank you for your love for me.

## **A Rich Heritage**

Dohar Santoso Siregar

My wife, my children and I will miss Rev Timothy Tow. Now he has found rest with the Lord. I am personally indebted to him, for through him my father Rev Wesley Siregar and my mother came to be assured of their salvation. He has brought revival to the Siregar family in Medan. I am thankful to the Lord because my sons Febian and Jeremy, both of them, learnt theology under Rev Timothy Tow at the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC).

We feel sad over the homegoing of Rev Timothy Tow, the father of the Bible-Presbyterian Church Movement in the Far East, the founder of FEBC and Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, and in his late evening years he founded True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church.

## *I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW (1920 – 2009)*

The truth that we have learnt in FEBC especially from Rev Timothy Tow we will hold fast and pass it on to the people of Medan. We will continue faithfully to burn the torch of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation, in spite of the fact that we face pressure from the majority who teach error and are unbiblical. We are in the minority, and we are lonely. We are like the Church of Smyrna, “I know thy works, and tribulation and poverty, but thou art rich...” (Rev 2:9). Yes, we have received a very rich heritage from Rev Timothy Tow and FEBC therefore we rejoice in it.

### **He Loved Me Best**

Haposan Siregar

Rev Dr Timothy Tow loved God and His work without reservation. As Principal, many golden words he gave to FEBCCers, two of them, he gave to me directly: “Serve God unconditionally” and “Self help with God’s help is the best help”. He was good to all, but I wonder why he loved me best?

Rev Dr Timothy Tow was a good soldier of Jesus Christ. He did his best; he fought a good fight of faith. He finished his course. He pressed toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. He kept the faith (Phil 3:14, 2 Tim 4:7-8). Amen.

### **He Was a Prophet**

Philip Cherian

I rejoice in the Lord for his exemplary life and ministry. He was a prophet who preached the Word and practised it. His life was an open book for everyone to see. From that book his disciples from different parts of the world learned written and unwritten lessons for life and ministry. The words of the Apostle Paul is very true in my Principal’s life “I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7).

### **I Cannot Forget**

Marilyn Nanta

I cannot forget what he had taught me at FEBC: “humility, humility, humility.” When I came in June 2008 to join the True Life church camp, beloved Rev Tow still remembered me. He encouraged me with many sweet words just like a three-point sermon: (1) “You serve the Lord, you

will be blessed”; (2) “You are like a real donkey”; (3) “You are a faithful servant of the Lord.” To God be the glory.

## **We Will Not Forget**

David Koo

I remember Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow who had a zeal for Cambodian missions.

When I was born again, I really wanted to be a missionary wherever God would lead me and I wanted to go and preach the gospel to the lost. I had been praying for this. God led me from Korea to Singapore, to Far Eastern Bible College to study and to see the vision of missions in Southeast Asia.

In 1997, Rev Tow challenged me that Cambodia really needed missionaries, especially the southern part of Cambodia where there were no missionaries. He and the church supported me and my family. We were sent to Cambodia as missionaries, to the Cambodians who suffered in the killing fields.

He visited our mission fields many times and encouraged me and supported the work. He had a big impact on Cambodian missions. Through his and the church’s support, we established a Bible school and many B-P churches in Cambodia so that many Cambodians accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Our Cambodia B-P Churches will not forget his grace and lovingkindness to Cambodia.

## **The Good Fight of Faith**

Robert and Chadarat Peh

Thank God for the good fight of faith that our beloved Principal Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow had fought for the Lord while on earth. Both Chadarat and I are always very thankful to God for raising up Rev Timothy Tow to start the Bible-Presbyterian movement and the Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore. It was through Rev Tow that I (Robert) was given a place to study in the Far Eastern Bible College, my Alma Mater. God had indeed used Rev Tow mightily in so many ways, especially in building up the lives of so many servants of God, including both of us. Without Rev Tow, I know very well that I would not be trained theologically to serve God as

## *I REMEMBER TIMOTHY TOW (1920 – 2009)*

no Bible College would accept one who had no academic qualifications like me. Thank God for Rev Tow.

Rev Tow was indeed a man of God who had given his life for the cause of God. Chadarat and I are greatly challenged by his life and teaching and we are telling everyone here in the Church and in the Home to follow after his godly example. We will remember the instructions we have received from Rev Tow and our Alma Mater, to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

Words cannot express our grief over the news of Rev Tow’s home-going to be with the Lord. Surely, Rev Tow will be missed by all of us. Nevertheless, thank God that Rev Tow can now rest peacefully and eternally in the arms of Jesus. Indeed, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Rev 14:13).

### **Loved the Lord Dearly**

Poh Ee Huat

Rev Tow loved the Lord dearly. He had devoted his whole life in serving his Lord and Saviour. He had also cared for his students wholeheartedly. I have benefitted a lot from him. He had taught me how to apply Scripture in a very practical way. He had also taught me how to understand God’s Word. He was always so kind and fatherly. I am going to miss him a lot. But I know, I will see him again in heaven when I see the Lord face to face.

### **Holding My Hand**

Esther Shuh Chaang

Rev Timothy Tow is a great man of God. So many thousands of us have been brought to the Lord directly or indirectly through the churches he built. But what I remember most of him was his holding my hand (when I was in Secondary four) leading me up to the parsonage to discuss the speaking arrangement for Youth Fellowship. He probably saw my nervousness when I approached him and he put me at ease and made me feel comfortable. I shall always remember his tenderness and fatherliness towards us his spiritual children in the Lord. I thank God for this great servant of His and all his family members who supported him in his ministry.

## **On His Bicycle**

Edward and Jiak Hoon

I have fond memories of him as a young pastor coming on his bicycle to visit my home in the early days of Life Church. I was then still riding my tricycle as a young child. He would come to see that we were well and would pray for us a blessing before he left. Indeed he has been used of God to grow the work in Life Church and FEBC over the last 59 years.

## **To Our Rescue**

Peter Cheong

I first met Rev Timothy Tow in 1989 when I was working in Dunearn Gardens, Dunearn Road. My employers parked their vehicles in the premises of Life B-P Church in the very early morning and when they returned late in the evening to collect their vehicles, they found the gate locked. The lady warden refused to let us in to collect our vehicles despite much pleading from us. Then a gentleman came to our rescue. He unlocked the gate to allow us in. I got to know that the gentleman was Rev Dr Timothy Tow. I thank God for Rev Tow's good testimony before my unbelieving employers.

## **He Touched the Lives of Thousands**

Theng Kiat and Veronica, Cheryl, Christine

My family and I cherish the years he was our pastor and teacher. Indeed, he was much used and was responsible for the sprouting of many churches and out-stations and indeed the B-P movement. Consequently he touched the lives of thousands in Southeast Asia, rest of Asia and elsewhere.

He was also a noted scholar, responsible for nurturing hundreds of pastors, missionaries and teachers.

## **Much Encouraged**

Hong Kian and Tze Wee

We have been very much encouraged by Rev Tow's writings, preaching and the legacy he left behind.

## **Defender of the Faith**

James Fugeline

Thank God for raising up a faithful Defender of the Faith, who valiantly fought till being called home to eternal glory.

## **Gentle Strength**

Georgina and Harold Watkins

Our hearts are full as we remember God's Goodness to us in providing so many opportunities to sit under Rev Tow's teaching, to share in fellowship with you both and to be encouraged by the gentle strength and steadfast loyalty to the battle for Truth and the preservation of God's Holy Word exhibited daily in the life of the Lord's beloved servant.

## **His Smiling Face**

Setsuko Takashima

I remember that Rev Tow was kind to us in FEBC. I remember his smiling face for us. I pray and wait to meet Rev Timothy Tow in heaven again.

## **Standing Up for the Truth**

Samuel and Irene Tham

We thank God for raising Rev Tow to bear the standard in a time of apostasy and compromise. He has taught us much about standing up for the truth and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to bless many through the legacy and life's work of Rev Tow.

## **Kind and Understanding**

Jean Lee

As a part-time student, I knew Rev Timothy Tow to be a very kind and understanding lecturer. He kept his lectures interesting with many hilarious illustrations.

## **Servant-Leader**

Tan Choon Seng

I thank and praise God for the life and ministry of Rev Tow—his unwavering devotion to the Lord, his faith and trust in the Lord, his

servant-leader quality and humility in service, and his mission-mindedness for lost souls.

### **Steadfast in the Faith**

George and May Chew

The Rev Timothy Tow was steadfast in the faith, a teacher, a preacher, a mentor to both young and old, and a faithful servant of the Lord. A crown of glory awaits him (1 Pet 5:4).

### **A Movement Not a Monument**

Anne Clements

We recognise Rev Timothy Tow's homegoing is cause for celebration of his life and destiny, and grief because he is no longer present with us, in the flesh. Even though unwell, his leadership continued as a banner over the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Reformation Movement. But he never wanted a movement to become a monument. So may we all take courage and continue to stand for the Word of God and the Testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ until He comes or calls.

### **A Dear Spiritual Father**

Linda Kwee-Harlim

Rev Timothy Tow has been the inspiration behind the attainment of my spiritual training during my studies at FEBC (BTh, 1975). This heritage has become the core of my life till present day.

His passion for the foreign students made us feel at home. Last year when I visited him, he said that the most important thing in life is salvation in Jesus Christ. He is a dear spiritual father to me. Praise and thanks to God for this great and humble soldier of Christ Jesus. We all miss him.

### **Fought a Good Fight**

Lau Yeong Shoon

I believe Rev Timothy Tow has indeed fought a good fight and deserves his rest. May the Lord comfort you all with the knowledge that he has served the Lord faithfully even to the very end, and is now safe in the arms of the Lord.

## **Extremely Encouraged**

Lim Yan Zheng

I have not been taught by Rev Timothy Tow, because I am only 10 years old. The first time I saw him was also the last time I saw him, in the coffin.

When I heard Rev Quek's message on Tuesday night, I was extremely encouraged by Rev Timothy Tow's life example.

In my heart, I decided to be humble. I want to fight a good fight for the Lord by defending His Word.

## **I Aspire**

Miriam Wong Siew Leng

Dear Rev Tow,

My sole purpose of taking all the trouble to graduate in May 2009 was to shake your hand. But you didn't wait for me. I'm sure you do not remember asking me to serve God full-time as you probably have asked scores of others also. But I remember. After many years, I only have 25 credits and I know you would say it doesn't matter. It is serving God from the heart that counts, correct? Many B-P heroes have fallen before my eyes and I am really not too sure I have the stamina and grace like you have to hang on. Will I still have the B-P spirit at age 88 like yours? I only can say, "God, please help me!" Thank you for standing firm for the Lord till your last breath. I aspire!

## **The Lord Will Provide**

James Tan Boon Jam

When a pastor is taken home to glory, his flock cannot be attended by him anymore. All that is of his faith, conviction, walk, service, doctrinal stand is left to the next successor of his ministry. It is left to someone whom God might raise to take the oversight of the church or even churches. There is no permanent pastorate here on this earth. Time goes on when mortals meet their end, the righteous and the wicked alike. Hence, "the righteous perisheth" (Isa 57:1).

On the first evening of the Home-Going Service of Rev Timothy Tow, I went up to Dr Tow Siang Hwa and asked him, "Dr Tow, if your generation of the godly are going away (home to glory), what shall we do

(i.e. What is going to happen?)?” Sitting down, he looked up with his wet eyes, he answered instantly: “The Lord will provide.”

When God has providentially promoted godly elders to glory, will the faithful church remain faithful? Will God’s people remain strong? Will God’s people like their predecessors, stand out in the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us? Will they serve God, like or even better than their predecessor in the days of evil and in the evil to come?

Serve the Lord faithfully and God bless you all.

### **The Legacy of Rev Timothy Tow**

Peter Foong

There lived a man with a heart for God,  
For all his life in humility he walks.  
As humble a soul answerable to the Lord,  
As meek a mind, he follows as ought.

As wise a man in his youth,  
He sets up a school to ensure growth.  
Behind the church from John Sung’s time,  
Fifty in Singapore from him thus sprung.

Even in Malaysia his help attends,  
As feeble his legs, he set forth then.  
With a salary of a thousand bucks,  
He chose to live his life as such.

Like as a doctor to troubled souls,  
Day and night his help bestow.  
A legacy of faith, hope and love,  
The truth in His word, he thirsts.

The cruel course of time thus sells,  
In sickness, he longs heavenly dwell,  
At eighty eight in a cold night’s blest,  
The Lord took him home to his final rest.

# **PERSONAL LESSONS FROM BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY**

Lim Seh Beng

What have I learned from a study of the history of the Bible-Presbyterian (B-P) Church? My impressions are as follows: (1) The work of God is in need of courageous men who will stand for the truth. (2) God will empower men to defend the truth for His glory's sake. (3) The will and sentimentality of men for unity cannot supersede God's will. (4) The ministry of the truth is inclusive of warning against falsehood. (5) Accolades, friendship, earthly accomplishments mean nothing when stacked against the truth.

## **The Work of God Is in Need of Courageous Men Who Will Stand for the Truth**

In the last hundred years of the history of the Presbyterian Church we saw men like Machen, McIntire, Buswell and those of like mind take a stand against the Auburn Affirmation which denied the five fundamentals of the Christian faith, namely, the inerrancy of Scripture, the virgin birth of Christ, the miracles of Christ, the substitutionary atonement of Christ and the resurrection of Christ. The biography of Machen, for instance, shows us how God had raised and prepared him (and others) for such a task in those times. If we follow the theological conflict into Southeast Asia, we see the same pattern in the Life Church congregation led by Rev Timothy Tow leaving the Presbyterian Church in 1955 on the basis of separation from Malayan Christian Council and its ecumenical leanings.

A later battle in 1988 was fought by Rev Tow with liberal pastors in the B-P Church over the issues of "tongues speaking" and ecumenical gospel cooperation which resulted in the dissolution of the Synod. What have we today? The battle for the preservation of the perfect, inerrant Word of God has fallen upon the younger generation of pastors and teachers with the passing of Rev Tow. It is well that the Apostle Paul has

warned that the time will come when many “will not endure sound doctrine” (2 Tim 4:3). As responsible members of the congregation, we ought to pray for leadership who will stand against falsehood and doctrines derived from the wisdom of man. When the dust has settled from the battle for the Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures, who can tell what battle lies ahead? We can only pray that God will preserve the remnant with courageous men who will take a stand for the truth.

### **God Will Empower Men to Defend the Truth for His Glory’s Sake**

There are several ways one can look at events in the B-P Church, just as there are as many reasons why God empowers men for the defence of the truth. One can say it is to preserve the Word of God for His people, or for the preservation of the remnant of God’s people. While these are valid reasons of the separation battles in the past, one can also say that the common thread which links these divisive events is the defence of God’s honour and glory. God has said “mine glory will I not give to another” (Isa 42:8). When the deity of Christ, the inerrancy of God’s Word and the fundamentals of the Christian faith are challenged, it is an affront to God’s glory and honour. It is taking human scholarship and waving it heavenward and saying, “this is greater than God’s truth.” When extra-biblical revelations and charismatic tongues-speaking are lauded, it is human experience overshadowing the glory of God. Likewise, when one challenges the inerrancy of the Bible, it is an affront to the honour of the Almighty God who has vowed to preserve His inspired words. My impression is, that God will ultimately act against any move to diminish or take away His glory. We see this occurring in Bible accounts, and we see it occurring before our eyes.

### **The Will and Sentiments of Men for Ecclesiastical Unity Cannot Supcede God’s Will and Command**

The organisation of churches by man’s effort alone is inadequate to maintain permanent unity amongst churches. Perhaps the Lord’s plan for His people is exactly so, in order that He may be able to sift the errant leaders from those that are obedient to His Word. In 2 Thessalonians 3:14 Paul teaches the Thessalonian church leaders that if any man “obey not our word by this epistle, note that man and have no company with him.”

Unity is commanded when truth prevails, and separation is commanded when flagrant disobedience is exhibited.

We see this in the history of the B-P movement as well. Prior to 1988, the B-P churches had a Synod, a system of governance and discipline, yet despite that, the Synod had to be dissolved when dissenting parties within the B-P leadership chose to ignore the clear teaching of the Bible against neo-evangelicalism and charismaticism. Dr Bobby Sng described it as “a sad day” in the history of the B-P Church. It is sad indeed to see such a great church denomination break up, but God’s command to separate cannot be superseded by man’s will and sentimentality. One may even conjecture that had some form of compromise been sought to keep the B-P churches together in 1988, the whole movement might end up as one big united B-P organisation but without any zeal to defend the faith. It would have been a sad day indeed. Now at least there are seven or eight B-P churches in Singapore still standing against the tide of liberalism and neo-evangelicalism.

### **The Ministry of the Truth Is Inclusive of Warning against Falsehood**

Machen says “there is no such thing as presenting the truth without attacking error.” It is inevitable that when you teach the truth, you will have to warn against falsehood (see Jude 3). In my younger days I had often thought about the B-P church leaders (or the few I knew then) and why they had to be so vocal about many “issues” in the ecclesiastical world. Is it not sufficient to preach the Gospel and leave the contentious issues aside since it does nothing but engender strife? As I matured in age, and now a father of three teenagers, I realise more and more why this has to be so. Machen was absolutely right. If you teach the flock what is true, it is also imperative that one teaches the flock to pick out the falsehood that is disguised as truth. It would take a very negligent parent who would just tell a child what is good for him and leave him to figure out what is harmful and bad.

### **Accolades, Friendship, Family Relations and Earthly Accomplishments Mean Nothing When Stacked against the Truth**

I see this exemplary behaviour in the person of Rev Tow in the history of the B-P Church. This is a good testimony for a man who was

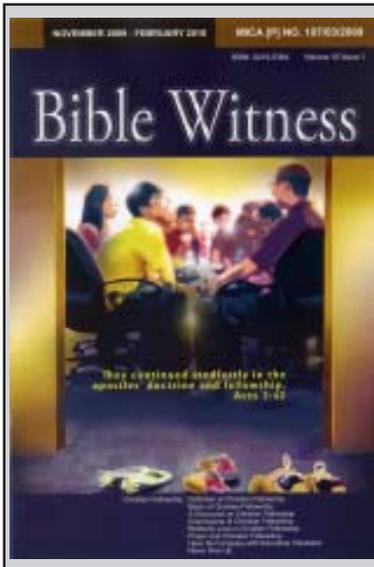
obedient only to his Lord and Saviour and His precious words, to the point that all the accolades, earthly accomplishments were but “dung” in comparison to preserving the truth amongst the remnant in the B-P Church. In the epistles of the Apostle Paul we see some of his co-workers deserting him, some to return to the world, and others committing acts of malice against him. We can only pray and hope that God will raise faithful church leaders who will forsake the things of the world for the sake of God’s truth.

These are just some of my impressions after having taken this course. May God use these courses to raise faithful men and women to serve and stand for Him.

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*An essay by Ben Lim Seh Beng of Calvary Jaya Bible-Presbyterian Church submitted as part of the requirements for FEBC’s online course on “Knowing Bible-Presbyterianism.”*

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**Bible Witness** is a magazine for the nurture of individual spiritual life, a magazine for every Christian home, and a magazine for Bible study groups. Visit the Bible Witness website for discussion questions based on the articles in the magazine. You may print out the questions and use them to facilitate discussion in family worship, Bible study groups, etc. You may also use them for individual study.

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## SON OF A MOTHER'S VOW

Timothy Tow

**Text: 2 Timothy 1:5-9; 3:14, 15; 4:2-5**

We have been hearing a series of messages on the Call of Christ. I am sure some young man or woman in this audience tonight has been touched by the testimonies given. If the Lord is calling you, He will keep on speaking in your heart. He will not give you peace until you say, "Yes, Lord, here am I, send me."

Tonight we want to learn from the call of young Timothy, Paul's "dearly beloved son" in the faith, Paul's successor. It was on Paul's second missionary journey that he took Timothy, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. This young man was "well-reported" by the Christian brethren of his city and beyond (Acts 16:2). Paul was strongly attracted to this young man, and enlisted him into the Lord's army. From that time forward until Paul's imprisonment in Rome, Timothy was Paul's closest associate. He was one disciple most filial and loyal to his master and spiritual father from beginning to end.

Perhaps Timothy was 35 years old and when he was left in charge of the church at Ephesus (1 Tim 4:12). Tradition says he became the first bishop of Ephesus, and was martyred in the reign of Emperor Domitian. Today we are also looking for young Timothys, who are loyal and steadfast in God's service. We are recruiting a second echelon in our Bible-Presbyterian Church movement.

### I

In Paul's letters to Timothy, a portion of which we have just read, there is revealed to us as regards Timothy's involvement in the Lord's service a more profound and higher call than meets our eyes which is hidden in God's plan "before the world began" (2 Tim 1:9). If you feel called tonight, this is no quick impulse from God or sudden reaction from



Rev Dr Timothy Tow, Founding Principal, Far Eastern Bible College  
Photo Taken at 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FEBC, 2002

## SON OF A MOTHER'S VOW

yourself, but rather the effectual outworking of a divine decree made in eternity! How mysterious, how awesome is our appointment from God! How reassuring the realization that our God is working out His salvation plan from age to age, through weak vessels like me and you. Although great revivalists like John Sung are gone from us, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8). Is He calling you tonight?

Therefore, notice also that when you respond to Christ's call, it is not due to your wisdom or merit, "not according to our works," but entirely "according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus" (v9). God chose us to become His servants today not because He saw any good in us, but because He loved us despite our sinfulness and unworthiness. Praise God, there is nothing for us to boast or crow about. Our call is entirely of His mercy and grace. We are but unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10).

## II

The next thing we learn from Timothy's call is this. There is no call to fulltime service until there has happened in us the call to receive Christ as Saviour; the call to repentance from a life of sin and depravity. Commentators think Timothy was saved when Paul visited his town on the first missionary journey. Timothy had come to the Lord in repentance when Paul held a revival campaign then at Lystra. Timothy came to the Lord in dedication and consecration, when Paul visited Lystra a second time. Yet the apostle did not claim credit from this. He acknowledged rather the godly upbringing Timothy had received under his grandmother and mother. Paul says, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned (sincere) faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (2 Tim 1:5). Paul surely spoke from his own experience, for without the Bible knowledge he had been taught all the years before Damascus Road, he would not have responded so readily to the Lord either.

In giving my testimony to the call of Christ, although it is recorded by Leslie Lyall in his book *John Sung, Flame for God* that I was one of his converts at the Singapore Campaign 1935, and truly I was one who went through that Pentecost, I must witness to the years of godly upbringing received through my mother and grandfather.

During our childhood, our parents lived in Johore. To go to school, we had to board with Grandfather in Singapore. Grandpa was pastor of

the English Presbyterian Mission Church in Upper Serangoon, now the Bethel Presbyterian Church. Through primary and secondary schools, I grew up under the tutelage of Grandpa. He was a man of faith and prayer. He gathered us grandchildren every night at eight in family devotion. The sermons on faith and salvation, heaven and hell and Christ's coming that he preached made a deep impression in our hearts. He taught us to pray for more faith, solid faith. He taught us to be thrifty but generous to the poor and needy. These virtues became our spiritual heritage. How we felt God's blessing as he put his hands on us grandchildren, praying for our salvation.

Mother brought us up with equal attention. From a young age, when we began to go to school, she would urge us children to study our best, or else face a hard future. She had high ambitions, like Mrs Zebedee for James and John. She hoped my elder sister would become a doctor (which has come true), my younger brothers would be lawyer and engineer (both are better off as doctors, and one of the two doctors more than a doctor). As for me, her eldest boy, she offered me to the Lord.

She told me time and again, "You are to be a pastor." She also said Grandpa had offered the prayer of dedication to the Lord at my birth. As I loved my mother very much, I kept her words in my heart, often wondering.

In 1929 the world's economy crashed! We had a slump, not as they try to hide now under a euphemism called "recession". Grandpa's stipend which he received from the English Presbyterian Mission was \$30 a month. A young clerk in the Government service started with a salary of \$45 a month. At a time when our family was bordering on starvation, when we did not know from where the next meal would come, I felt it would be more sensible to open a *kedai*, the Chinese provision shop so common in those days. How my mouth watered when I passed by the Cold Storage and had a whiff of the smoked ham hanging near the doorway. But it was no better than eating in a dream. When I told Mum how small Grandpa's salary was, that to be a pastor was not an easy life to lead, she said not a word. I am sure she prayed in her heart that God would see me through. She must have rededicated me to the Lord that I should not retract from her solemn vow.

Yes, it was her vow, her prayers, her tears, her love, her devotion to God in bringing us up that we are what we are today. (It is said that the

### *SON OF A MOTHER'S VOW*

children of a praying mother cannot be lost.) Thus, when I was born again at the John Sung Revival one September morning, 1935, I understood clearly all that mother had said about serving the Lord as a pastor. Before Dr Sung appealed for young people to dedicate their lives to fulltime service, I had already made up my mind to serve Him all my life. And the strength of my ministry all these years has always stemmed from the knowledge that I am son of my mother's vow, and the Lord had heard it. Why are there so few sons and daughters of Christian families in the Lord's service today? Is it because our fathers and mothers have not dedicated their children nor prayed for their salvation?

### **III**

When a servant of the Lord is called, God has also appointed elders of the Church to ordain him to his ministry. So Timothy was set apart for the Lord's work by the laying of hands of the presbytery (1 Tim 4:14), the apostle Paul himself moderating (2 Tim 1:6). What was Timothy's ministry? As successor to Paul, he had both a pastoral and a teaching ministry to carry on (1 Tim 2:2).

After I graduated from Seminary in 1950, I was ordained by the Philadelphia Presbytery of the Bible Presbyterian Church (USA) in Geneva, while attending the Second Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches. Dr J O Buswell the moderator asked what was the call I had received from the Lord. I replied, "To pastor and to teach. I cannot say which precedes which." As the Lord had put this conviction in my heart, so as the projection of one's inward thoughts lengthens, I have now come to the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of my pastorate and 21<sup>st</sup> year of principalship of the Far Eastern Bible College. Let me tell young people now preparing for the ministry this one thing. Find out what God wants you to do, and stick to it. How sad it is to see pastors and theological professors change their vocations after a brief term of service. Not all are called to be ministers, but if God has called you to be ministers, then neglect not the gift which Paul has emphasised to Timothy, and which this Timothy emphasises to you.

One particular aspect of Timothy's ministry is that of contending for the faith. Paul reminds Timothy to 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 upon themselves teachers, having "itching ears" (2 Tim 4:2, 3). Timothy's

ministry is likened to warfare. In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul urged him, “Fight the good fight of faith”.

Today, we are in a Bible-Presbyterian Church movement, and our Church is in a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation, known as the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC). We are a fellowship of separatist churches come out of the Ecumenical movement, organised as the World Council of Churches (WCC). The WCC is uniting Protestants and Catholics, liberals and evangelicals, charismatics and non-charismatics into a super-world church. Its final outcome will be union with human religions to form a United Nations of religions. Our taking a separatist stand, whereby God has bountifully prospered us, stems indeed from another call I had received from the Lord through Dr Carl McIntire, president of the ICCC and president of Faith Seminary where I studied. It was a wintry morning in January 1948 that I heard the message of separation, and of the need of a return to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation that I gave my life to the Cause of Jesus Christ. For the last 32 years, I have done my bit for the Lord in this respect, not without setbacks and heartaches. Nevertheless, “the foundation of God standeth sure” (2 Tim 2:19). The good work that He had begun in us He will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:6). Today, God is raising up younger leaders in our midst to stand in the gap of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation movement. This separatist movement is by no means negative, for by it we have seen how missionary outreaches have been multiplied through the years, and the increasing number of churches built.

Yes, when we answer God’s call, we must be prepared to take up the cross. We must be prepared to lose our lives for His sake and the gospel’s. But it is also true that those who have forsaken all to follow Him will have brothers and sisters, houses and lands a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life (Matt 19:29). These are my personal discoveries in having answered His call which first began in my grandfather, and the more intensely in my beloved mother, and I am more than ever persuaded in me, by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

May God help us to renew our faith in Him tonight, and to transmit it faithfully to our children through much prayer and teaching of the Word and by holy example that we might have more Timothys called in these last days to serve Him till He comes. Amen.

SON OF A MOTHER'S VOW

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*The late Rev Dr Timothy Tow was the founding pastor of the Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore, and founding principal of the Far Eastern Bible College. The above was a message he delivered on the theme, "The Call of Christ", at the Sunset Gospel Hour, Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church, 16 August 1982, originally published in the Bible-Presbyterian Banner (March-April 1983): 10, 14, 15.*

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Rev Dr Timothy Tow Addressing the 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC), Cape May, New Jersey, 1983

## College News

The Far Eastern Bible College had a blessed **Day of Prayer on 4 January 2010** at the Shalom Chapel of Calvary Tengah Bible-Presbyterian Church. The Principal spoke on the topic, “When God Works Satan Also Works” (Acts 5:12-42). He exhorted the students to be prepared to face opposition and hardships when they want to obey God’s will according to God’s Word and do God’s work in God’s way. He encouraged the students to study the life of the Rev Dr Timothy Tow, FEBC’s founding principal, and the history of FEBC to see how Satan has not ceased to attack the College time and time again, and how the Lord has protected and preserved His School of Prophets for His good purpose. So, we are not disheartened by the trials the College is currently facing.

**Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (LBPC) had sued to evict FEBC from her birthplace and home** due to FEBC’s firm and uncompromising belief of a 100% perfect Bible today without any mistake (the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation). The case was heard in the High Court of Singapore from 25 to 29 January 2010. There are those who wish to silence or prevent FEBC from teaching the perfect preservation of God’s inspired, infallible and inerrant words without any mistake (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35). But we reply like the Apostles of old, “*We ought to obey God rather than men*” (Acts 5:29). “*For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth*” (2 Cor 13:8). May the Lord honour our testimony for Him and preserve our birthplace and home at Gilstead Road, “*Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless: For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee*” (Prov 23:10-11).

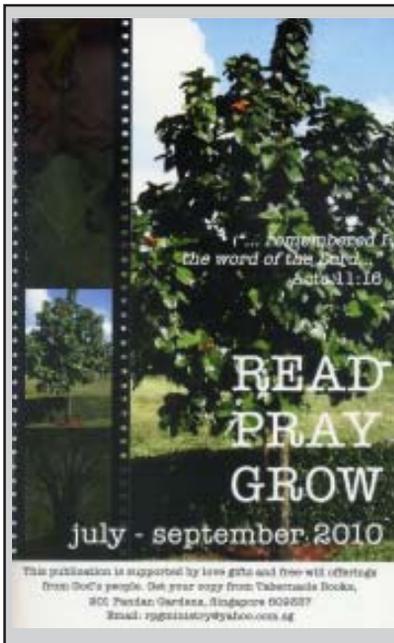
In the January-April semester, the College had a **total enrolment of 391 students** comprising 115 day-time students (56 full-time, 59 part-time) from 18 countries (Australia, Cambodia, China, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Philippines, Singapore, Tanzania, Thailand, and Vietnam), and 276 lay students in the “Basic Theology for Everyone” classes on Monday (1 Kings by Dr Quek Suan Yew) and Thursday (1 Corinthians by

Dr Jeffrey Khoo) nights, with an increasing number of local and overseas students taking the online distance learning courses.

We thank the Lord for **13 new students** in the January-April 2010 semester. They are Michael Accadio (Ghana), Desnawati Ambarita (Indonesia), Chan Choy Leng (Malaysia), Clement Chew (Singapore), Donald M dela Cruz (Philippines), Samuel Eio (Singapore), Rudi Jeams (Indonesia), Kim Jung Lan (Korea), Kim Min Shick (Korea), Kong Sing Soon (Malaysia), Lee Do Yeoul (Korea), Nguyen Van Hieu (Vietnam), and Jonathan Poh (Singapore) from Calvary Tengah who has enrolled to study full-time for a semester to earn his Certificate of Religious Knowledge before starting his university studies.

**We congratulate Mrs Janice Lai** for being conferred the degree of Master of Sacred Music by Foundations Bible College (USA) in December last year. Mrs Lai is tutor in Church Music at FEBC.

**We welcome Mrs Irene Lim** to the faculty of FEBC as English tutor to the Intermediate English class. Mrs Lim is a qualified school teacher and holds a Diploma in English Studies from the University of Cambridge and a BA in English Language and Geography from the National University of Singapore.



**RPG (Read, Pray & Grow)** Daily Bible Reading Guide is published quarterly by the Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore. Since 1982, the RPG has been helping Christians around the world to read God's Word regularly and meaningfully. Its writers are conservative Bible-believing pastor-teachers of fundamentalist persuasion, with a "high view" of Holy Scripture. The RPG uses the King James Version of the Holy Bible, the Bible of the Reformation, most loved and trustworthy, and a bulwark in the path of unbiblical ecumenical union.

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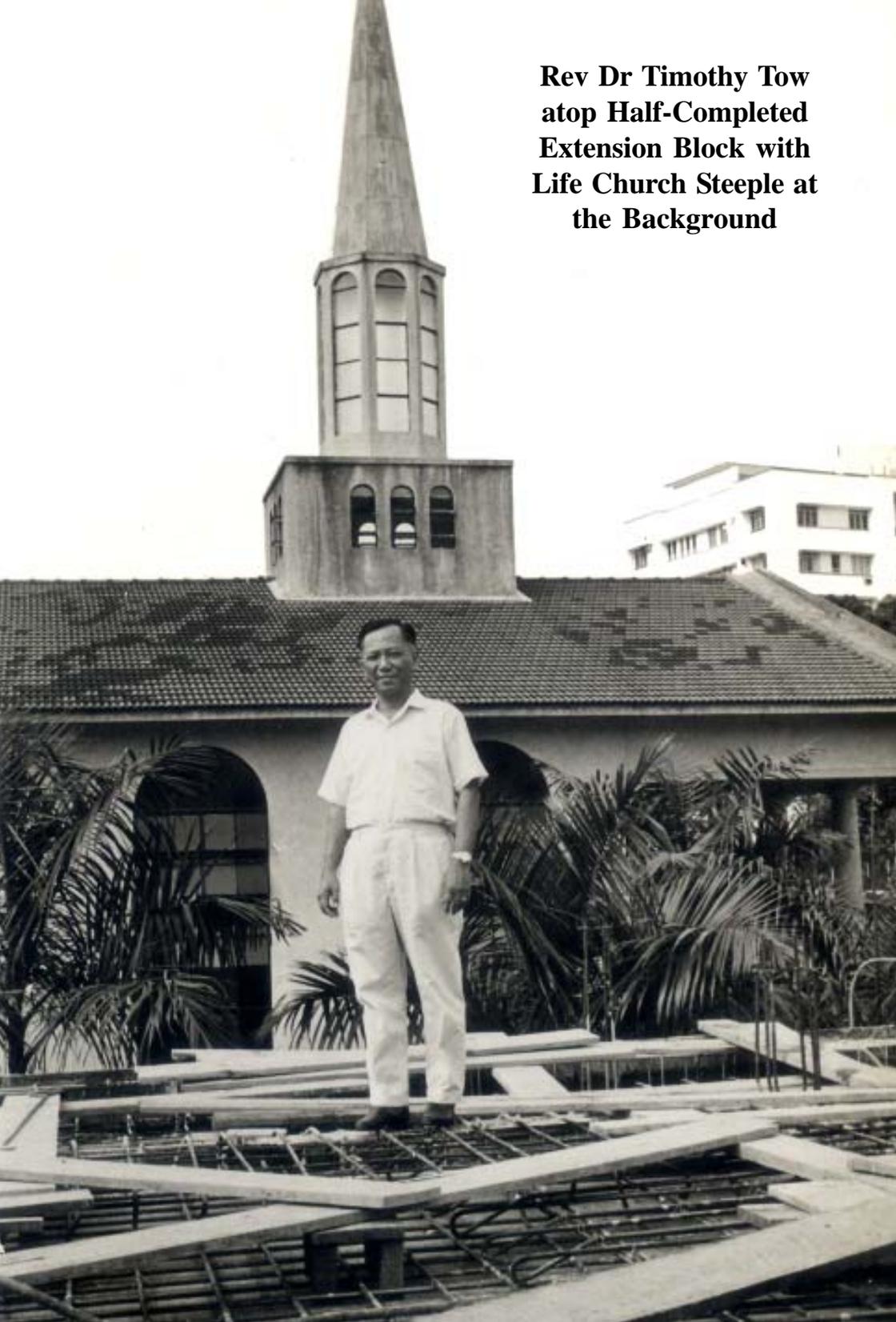
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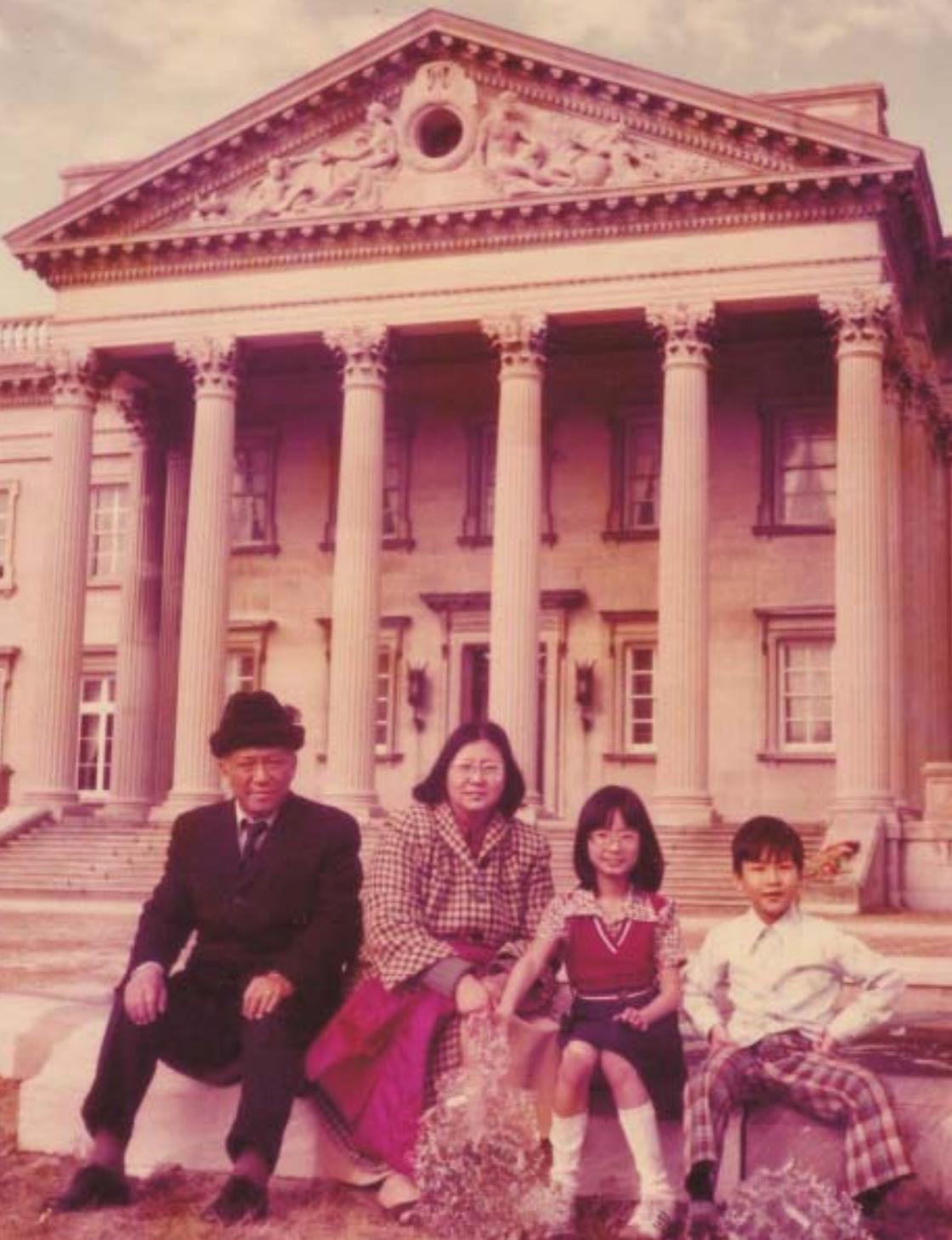
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**Rev Dr Timothy Tow atop Half-Completed Extension Block Overlooking FEBC Annex**



**Rev Dr Timothy Tow  
atop Half-Completed  
Extension Block with  
Life Church Steeple at  
the Background**





**Rev Dr Timothy Tow and Family at Faith Theological Seminary  
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, USA, December 1978**