

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jan 8 – 14, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 6</i> <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> ) (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study Korean Worship Service
	1.00 pm	

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jan 13, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "God's Omniscience" by Bro Dominino. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Jan 13, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Program: Studies on Church History by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

### General Offerings:

*Last Lord's Day* S\$7,049; USD1; RM17.90

*Watchnight Service* S\$7,970

### Designated Offerings:

**Rev Tow** \$500; **Rev Jeffrey Khoo** \$100; **Rev Ronny Khoo** \$1,000, \$200, \$200, \$100; **Rev Koshy** \$400; **Rev Tan Kian Sing** \$300, \$100; **Gethsemane BPC** \$900; **Gethsemane BPC's Missions** \$400; **Dn Paul Cheng (Gethsemane)** \$100; **Hien (Brisbane)** \$500, \$500, \$200, \$200, \$200; **Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)** \$200, \$200; **Car Fund for Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)** \$240; **Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)** \$200; **BCEA (Tanzania)** \$200, \$200; **Dennis Kabingue (FEBC)** \$100; **Lok Kwok Wah** \$200; **Sim Swee Ho & family** \$1,000; **Henry Tan** \$500; **Barnabas Yap & family** \$200, \$200; **Wendy Teng** \$200, \$100, \$100; **FEBC Bookroom** \$99; **FEBC Scholarship** \$500; **FEBC** \$1,000, \$1,000, \$200, \$100, \$50

### Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$27,708; USD1; RM17.90

**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$300, \$300, \$260

**Total:** \$546,794.60

Sunday School Offering: \$279.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. Prov. 14:18*

**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** commences today. *Time:* 9.15 am – 10.15 am. *Venue:* Room 601 (Level 6). Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Pray for Pastor Tow** that the Lord will restore him completely to good health and strength and **for Bro Henry Tan** to be physically strengthened for chemotherapy.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 15**

**7 January 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

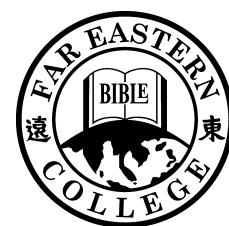
**10.30 am**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 47
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 107
Psalms	No. 230
Announcements	
Special Number	Clement & Samuel
Offering & Hymn	No. 137
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	John 17:14-21
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>Truth That Sets Us Free</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 308
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

William Goh Boon Kai (Singapore), (5) Jeong Hyeon Heni (Korea), (6) Kim Hyeon Woo (Korea), (7) Daud Latif (Indonesia), (8) Lee Ji Hyun (Korea), (9) Tranh Thi Kim Hoa (Vietnam), and (10) Samson Hutagalung (Indonesia) who earned his BTh in 1999 and MDiv in 2001 has returned for his ThM.

We thank the Lord for Bethel B-P Church (Melbourne) for releasing the Rev Stephen Khoo to teach Eschatology and Homiletics this semester. Rev Khoo earned his BTh from FEBC, MDiv from Grace Theological Seminary (USA), and MA from Pensacola Christian College (USA). He is also a member of the FEBC Board of Directors.

The Lord has used His faithful servant—Rev Dr Timothy Tow—to found the Far Eastern Bible College in 1962 with the Biblical purpose of training men and women to become faithful ministers of the Gospel of Christ and uncompromising defenders of God's forever infallible and inerrant Word. We are living in perilous days of apostasy and compromise, and the Lord has graciously used FEBC for such a time as this to hold forth the Word of Life (Phil 2:16) and to hold fast the Faithful Word (Tit 1:9) which is 100% inspired and 100% preserved, perfect to the last jot and tittle (Matt 5:18). Rev Tow told the college family that the Lord is on our side, and that He wants us to finish our course well and successfully.



**Far Eastern Bible College** reopened on

January 3, 2007 with a Day of Prayer and Registration. We were privileged to have Miss Kimiko Goto to share a word

of encouragement to the college family. She spoke from 1 Timothy 1:12-17 on the need to study theology devotionally. Miss Goto graduated from FEBC in 1984 with a BTh, and went on to earn her MDiv and ThM from Biblical Theological Seminary (USA). She is a missionary to Indonesia, having served for 7 years in Kalimantan, and then 9 years in East Java, lecturing at the Aletheia Theological Institute. She intends to conclude her ministry in Indonesia this August to begin a new ministry in Japan, her home country.

We welcome the following new students: (1) Jerry Forson Ackah (Ghana), (2) Yeob Biswas (Bangladesh), (3) Chun Hae Jung (Korea), (4)



*AF Caroling at Pastor Tow's Parsonage, Dec 25, 2006*

Dr S H Tow, senior pastor of Calvary Pandan B-P Church:

### **Dual Strategy of Gospel Vision**

*(From the Calvary Pandan BPC Weekly, December 24, 2006)*

When the seed of the B-P Church Movement was sown in 1950, the Founding Pastor Rev Timothy Tow promoted and nurtured the new work of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation for the first 10 years. Taking the narrow path of Biblical Separation, and obeying the God-given mandate to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3), the message, like good seed, fell on good soil, and bore fruit “a hundred-fold, sixty-fold, and thirty-fold” – much thanks and praise to the Lord of the harvest.

No sooner was the Gospel base firmly established than Rev Tow founded the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) in 1962. In spiritual warfare an “Officer Training Academy” was absolutely essential for the operation to grow and prosper, even as for Singapore to be strong and secure there needs to be a “SAFTI.” Over the years, FEBC has been our spiritual SAFTI, having trained some 500 Christian workers of all categories, from Pastors to Bible Teachers, who have been equipped with the Fundamental, Reformed, and Premillennial doctrines of the Christian Faith.

At Calvary’s 6<sup>th</sup> Borneo Missions Conference (December 13-16, 2006), the vision of this “Dual Strategy” was plainly visible. Among the 80 persons attending, there were 10 FEBC alumni and 6 undergraduates from 8 Bible-Presbyterian Churches.

*The “Dual Strategy” – poised to move on many fronts.* As the days of the Conference progressed, and delegates made their “Power Point” presentations, we beheld on screen the graphic and exciting reports of Gospel advance on mission fronts beyond the shore of Singapore. These will surely rejoice and encourage the hearts of God’s people around the world, concerned with the soul-saving enterprise.

(a) *Kuching.* Pastor Ling Soon Ing

reported: “Two of our Sibu B-P Church young people studying in Kuching UNIMAS University wrote: ‘We are unable to find Christian fellowship except with ecumenical groups. Pastor, can you do something for us?’” We met with Preacher Ling. His proposal was to make a weekly trip (Sibu-Kuching) to start a Bible Study Fellowship with his young people. Readers, pray as a new Gospel outreach takes shape. Who knows what this will lead to?

(b) *Medan.* Brother Febian and father Pastor Dohar Siregar (FEBC 1981) reported a thriving Sunday School of over 100, and a Sunday Service of 15-20 in their church. Much work needs to be done. “When I survey the magnitude of the work I am fearful. But as I look to the Lord in prayer, He gives me the grace to press on,” says Febian Siregar (FEBC 2006). Readers, pray for the work in Medan, the capital of Sumatra, and see the Lord bless the days ahead.

(c) *Calvary Batam GAPPI (Greja Alkitab Presbyterian Protestan Indonesian).* Rev Kiantoro Lie (FEBC 1992, 1998, 2005) who took up the challenge of the pastorate from Rev Pang Kok Hiong (FEBC 1992) when he left for Saipan in 1992, founded a Bible College in 1999 (built a 3-storey Annex beside the Church), with 2 FEBC graduates on the Faculty, and 11 full-time and 3 part-time students. The College is sustained by the Church as well as a “Tuition Centre Ministry” in 2 locations with total enrolment of 550 students. Rev Kiantoro says, “This tripartite collaborative effort is the key to a vigorous Gospel Outreach in Indonesia.”

(d) *Calvary Hanura Permai GAPP Pontianak.* Since our 5<sup>th</sup> Borneo Missions Conference of 2005, Preacher Peter Yoksan (FEBC 2005) and Brother Ajin Thu (FEBC 2004) have consolidated the Church and started a Bible College (now with 4 full-time and 7 part-time students). The College is presently conducted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of his own home (a temporary measure). We are studying a piece of land near the Church (Hanura Permai GAPPI). Pray that the Lord will show clearly if we should acquire the property for a Church Bible College – Kindergarten Complex. We need your prayers.

### **A Testimony of Adults’ Fellowship Christmas Day Caroling 2006**

*by Sis Jenny Kan*

The LORD has indeed blessed the Adults’ Fellowship with a wonderful Christmas. We have been praying to the Lord to open homes to us so that His word can be preached. Two weeks before Christmas, He blessed us with three homes namely Kwong Wai Shui Hospital and Nursing Home, my cousin’s home and sister Elizabeth’s home.

The Lord took care of the weather too, as Christmas morning came cool and dry and all of us met at Kwong Wai Shui Hospital. After a short prayer by Rev Ronny Khoo, we proceeded to Ward 5 where about thirty elderly sick were waiting for us. They seemed very glad to have visitors and enjoyed the carols we sang to them. They listened attentively to the message and many were willing to speak to us but the Lord had already prepared His harvest in some other ward.

We had planned to visit Kuan Tai’s father in another ward, so four of us, together with Rev Ronny Khoo, proceeded there. When we reached the ward, Kuan Tai’s father was sitting and chatting with a few elderly patients. He was most happy to see all of us and we sang a Cantonese carol. As we were singing more came in to listen. We had only fifteen minutes left to our stay, but the Lord led Rev Ronny Khoo to give the gospel which was interpreted into Cantonese. They listened, enraptured to this wonderful gospel of salvation and when asked who wanted to be saved, four hands shot up without hesitation. They said the sinner’s prayer and when asked where Jesus was and where they would be heading they pointed to their hearts and upward spontaneously. Praise the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for His work in their hearts. With grateful hearts we left the Hospital and headed for my cousin’s home.

We were received very warmly by the family and we began with the Cantonese song which talked about God’s unchanging love for us. The message was preached and interpreted into Hokkien at the request of my cousin. I noticed that my nephew, Derek, was listening very attentively and after the message, Rev Ronny

Khoo spoke to him and he said the salvation prayer. There was great rejoicing as it was my cousin’s wish that her sons would be born again. My cousin is a widow and she lost her husband most tragically about twenty-seven years ago. When I brought my nephew, Derek, to church she was most unhappy so I had to stop seeing my nephew. Three years ago she contracted cancer and during her most difficult time she met a friend who brought her to church and she was born again. She was sorry for stopping her son from going to church and prayed that he would come to the Lord. The Lord heard and answered her prayers and ours. Derek told me that he had been waiting for this day for such a long time and God is so good to my cousin because this Christmas might be her last. My other nephew, Henry, was also very receptive to the gospel and so were their wives. Before we left, my cousin sang us a Hokkien song praising God for His mercy and the joy He had given her.

Caroling at Elizabeth’s home was just as joyful. Her family members were very receptive to the gospel and her mother, who was resisting at the beginning, finally came to the Lord and uttered the sinner’s prayer.

Finally, we visited our beloved Pastor Tow and Mrs Tow. There we sang carols and were very encouraged when Pastor Tow gave a short exhortation. He reminded us of the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and that we were able to serve because of His enabling. It was not how much good works we had done but the good and finished work Jesus had done for us on Calvary’s cross.

All glory to God, who is in control of all things. We thank Him for His perfect timing for all things and the wonderful way He works out the salvation of so many whom He loves. We praise God because it is He who works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).

We thank and praise our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace to allow us, sinners saved by grace, to participate in His great work.

Praise God. Amen!



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Jan 15 – 21, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jan 20, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "God's Omnipresence" by Bro Dominino. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Pray for Pastor Tow** that the Lord will restore him completely to good health and strength and **for Bro Henry Tan** to be physically strengthened for chemotherapy.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$10,612; USD200  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$500, \$200; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$500; *BCEA (Tanzania)* \$4,000; *Missions* \$1,000; *FEBC* \$10,000, \$150  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
 S\$26,962; USD200  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000 **Total:** \$547,794.60

Sunday School Offering: \$250.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. Prov. 14:19*

**Brisbane BPC** will hold its inauguration service on the Lord's Day, March 18, 2007. True Lifers planning to go for the inauguration can write to preacher Hien ([hientrangng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hientrangng@optusnet.com.au)) for information. Officiating minister: Rev Stephen Khoo.

**Bible Seminar** will be held by Tabernacle BPC next Sat (Jan 20, 07). *Theme:* Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith and Heritage. *Time:* 5.00 pm – 9.00 pm. *Speaker:* Dr Jeffrey Khoo. *Cost:* \$5 (Adult) and \$2 (Child). *To register:* email to [bibleseminar@tabernaclebpc.com](mailto:bibleseminar@tabernaclebpc.com).

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying the book of I Peter, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** is held at Room 601 (Level 6), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 16

14 January 2007

### "BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 18
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 62
Hymn	No. 283
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 475
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Job 1:1-22
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>Faith under Trial</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 183 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

### God Wants Us to Live, Not Die

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church Watchnight Service, Dec 31, 06)

**Text:** John 10:10

Recently, our beloved pastor—Rev Dr Timothy Tow—shared with me how in his time of physical illness and sufferings he has learned one precious lesson from the Lord, and that is "the Lord wants us to live, not die." Indeed, life is what Jesus came to give us for He said in John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

How may we find life and not death? We will find true life if we do these three things:

#### Follow the Good Shepherd

We find life when we follow the Good Shepherd and not the hireling. In verse 11, Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Romans 5:6-10 tells us, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for

a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Jesus saved us by living a sinless life on earth, by dying for our sins on the cross, by being buried in the rock tomb, and by rising again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4). That was why Jesus was able to say in verses 17-18, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Jesus has the power over life and death. He has the power to lay down His life and be crucified for our sins, and He has the power to live again by His resurrection to gain eternal life for us.

Have we followed the Good Shepherd or have we followed a hireling? What is a hireling? Jesus describes him in verses 12 and 13, "But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep." A hireling is an opportunist. He is

*Church Choir and Family Bible Study Fellowship's Caroling at Ling Kwang Home, Dec 16, 2006*



someone who is only interested in himself; he is self-seeking and self-promoting. The hireling is interested in money, “More pay more preach, less pay less preach, no pay no preach.” A hireling preaches for popularity and power, “More prestige more preach, less prestige less preach, no prestige no preach.” The Apostle Paul who is a true shepherd of God’s flock warned the believers, “*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*” We thank God we are following the Good Shepherd, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and not any hireling.

We thank the Lord for a faithful pastor in the Rev Dr Timothy Tow who had suffered much in the work of the Lord. Why is there a True Life B-P Church today? It is because our pastor is not a hireling but a good pastor of God’s flock. Pastor Timothy Tow cares not for pay, power, popularity or prestige, but the glory of God to believe and defend the perfect Word of God, 100% inspired and 100% preserved, and its present infallibility and inerrancy without any compromise (Ps 12:6-7). To follow a man is not wrong only if and when he follows the Lord Jesus Christ. This was what Paul himself told the Corinthian Church, “*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*” (1 Cor 11:1). We follow our good and faithful pastor because he follows our Good Lord and obeys His Holy Word, that is all. Now that we are in True Life, have we not found life indeed? Surely, we have found true life and experienced God’s grace and peace, and we can truly worship the Lord in spirit and in truth out of a pure heart with a clear conscience, not doubting at all the Holy Scriptures which we have in our hands today.

### Enter in by the Door of the Sheep

We find life when we enter in by the door of the sheep. Jesus said in verses 8 and 9, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of*

*the sheep ... by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*” The door of Jesus is a narrow door, and leads to a narrow way. It is the narrow door and the narrow way that will lead to life. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said, “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*” Why is the gate a strait or narrow one? It is because there is but one living and true God, and not many, and there is but one living and true way to heaven and that is Jesus Christ. There is no other God but the God of the Christian Scriptures, and there is no other Saviour save the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (John 14:16). Jesus also said, “*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*” (John 11:25-26).

We will have abundant life only when we walk in the narrow way and shun the broad way. The broad way is described as the way of death, and many are walking in that way. It is the way of Satan, the way of world, the way of sin. The door of life and the way of life are narrow because they demand that we put away other gods, and live a separated life. The God of the Bible has commanded, “*Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God*” (Exod 20:3-5). We are also commanded not to befriend the world. To befriend the world is adultery, “*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*” (Jas 4:4). Are we prepared to let go of our

worldly friends, and stop all our worldly activities in order to follow the Lord? The world may call us narrow-minded, but that is precisely what Jesus has called us to be—to be narrow in our thinking, to be narrow in our ways. The world is very broad, but the cross is very narrow. If we want to live we must love the cross and not the world, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever*” (1 John 2:15-17).

### Hear the Voice of the Shepherd

We live when we hear the Voice of God and not the voices of men. The Good Shepherd speaks the truth, and His sheep recognise His voice of truth and follow Him. “*And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. ... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*” (John 10:4-5, 27).

True believers will be able to hear and know the Saviour’s voice because they have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. Jesus promised His Spirit to all who love Him, “*If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you*” (John 14:15-17). The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth and will guide us into all Truth (John 16:13, 1 John 5:6). The Apostle John assures all true believers of Christ, “*But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. ... But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not*

*that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him*” (1 John 2:20, 27). John went on to say, “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error*” (1 John 4:4-5).

How can we tell truth from error? In order to discern truth from error, there is a need to know God’s Word deeply, for His Word is Truth (John 17:17). If we want to know the voice of God, then we must know the Bible for the Bible “is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne, every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it is the direct utterance of the Most High. The Bible is none other than the Word of God, not some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike the utterance of Him that sitteth upon the throne, faultless, unerring, supreme” (Dean Burgon).

Take the Bible seriously. Make it a point to read the Bible in your daily devotions, come for Sunday School, participate in the fellowship meetings, attend the night classes at the FEBC even taking the exams. When we make every effort to know the Lord intimately and be grounded in His Word, we will find ourselves more and more in tune with the voice of the Good Shepherd, and will be able to discern the voice of our Saviour from the noise of strangers, the voice of life from the hisses of death.

The Lord wants us to live, not die, and He tells us how we might live. We live when we (1) follow the Good Shepherd and not the hireling, (2) walk in the narrow way and shun the broad way, and (3) obey the lively voice of our Saviour and not the deadly voice of strangers.

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## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Jan 22 – 28, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	11.20 am	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having an Outing at the Botanic Gardens this Sat (Jan 27, 07). Please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 11.20 am with appropriate attire for games. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jan 27, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Edmund Wong's home at Blk 82 Strathmore Avenue, #14-144 Singapore 141082. Tel: 64799671. Message: "Fill me with Thy Spirit" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

### Family Bible Study Fellowship Retreat:

Date: March 14 – 16, 2007

Theme: Who Buildeth Our Home? (Ps 127:1)

Speaker: Elder William Seah

Venue: Sofitel Palm Resort, JB

All are welcome, especially families. Please see notice board for details or contact Edward at 93887328.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,069

Designated Offerings: **Rev Tow** \$200; **Rev Ronny Khoo** \$200; **Hien's ministry** \$500 (YPF); **Hien (Brisbane)** \$150; **Wendy Teng** \$300, \$200, \$150; **FEBC** \$1,000, \$350, \$280, \$200

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$10,599

Church Building Fund \$200, \$110, \$100 Total: \$548,204.60

Sunday School Offering: \$330.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends. Prov. 14:20*

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Brisbane BPC** will hold its inauguration service on the Lord's Day, March 18, 2007. True Lifers planning to go for the inauguration can write to preacher Hien ([hienrangng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hienrangng@optusnet.com.au)) for information. Officiating minister: Rev Stephen Khoo.

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying the book of I Peter, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** is held at Room 601 (Level 6), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Jan 28, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**Pray for Pastor Tow** that the Lord will restore him completely to good health and strength and **for Bro Henry Tan** to be physically strengthened for chemotherapy.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 17

21 January 2007

### "BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 66
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 92
Hymn	No. 134
Announcements	
Special Number	Deborah & Judith
Offering & Hymn	No. 332
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Genesis 5:21-24
Sermon	<i>Walking with God</i> (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy)
Closing Hymn	No. 388
Benediction	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy

### Faith under Trial

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Jan 14, 07)

Text: Job 1:1-22

### Introduction

Tragedies, disasters, pain and suffering are part and parcel of life on earth. We are living in a sin-cursed world. The floods, typhoons, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, drought and famine, disease and death, war and murder, the stresses and pressures of work and life are all daily reminders that we are living in a fallen world which has broken the commandments of God, and is cursed by sin.

I think we have much to learn from Job. The book of Job deals with suffering, but it is important to note that the focus of the book is not on suffering, but on *faith*. The book of Job has to do primarily with Job's faith, not his suffering. That was why when the Apostle James spoke of Job, he spoke of his "patience"—*"the patience of Job"* and not the "pain/suffering of Job" (Jas 5:11). The suffering was incidental, the focus was on Job's faith in God.

As such, the book of Job is, first and foremost, a doctrinal book. It deals with a most important doctrine—the doctrine of faith. The book of Job is not trying to answer the question, "Why is there suffering in this world?" or "Why do bad things happen to good people?" but "What kind of faith do we have?" Is our faith true faith or false faith? What is genuine faith like?

In Job chapter 1, we learn one characteristic of genuine faith. From the experience of Job, we learn that genuine faith is unconditional. In other words, faith has no strings attached.

### Job's Wealth

Who was Job? What was Job? The first chapter tells us that Job was from the land of Uz. Uz is mentioned in Lamentations 4:21 as a place near Edom (region south of Dead Sea), and in Jeremiah 25:20 as a land of kings. It was a fertile piece of land in those days. It was an ideal place for animal husbandry or farming. Job lived in a land of plenty. By today's standards, he would be living in a developed, first world country. Job was a very wealthy man; in fact he was the wealthiest among the wealthy; he was the greatest of all the men of the east (v3).

Not only was Job a very rich and powerful man, we are glad to read that he was also a very spiritual man. In verse 1, we read that he was "*perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*" There are 4 descriptions here: (1) *Perfect*—he was morally without fault, full of integrity, and blameless; (2) *Upright*—he was

Children's Choir Presentation at Christmas Eve Carol Service, Dec 24, 2006



straight, honest, law abiding, not deviating from God's standards. (3) *God fearing*—he was a believer of the living and true God, and obeyed His commands; (4) *Eschews evil*—he hated and rejected sin and wickedness, and anything that went against God's Word.

Job had everything going for him: a beautiful wife, 7 sons and 3 daughters, health, wealth, fame, and power. In modern terms: a career, 2 houses, 3 cars, 4 country clubs, 5 figure salary. What more could a man want?

### **Satan's Accusation**

Satan said to God, "*Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face*" (Job 1:9-11). What a malicious insinuation and accusation! Satan was trying to assassinate Job's character. The diabolical charge was made that Job believed in God because of all the physical and material blessings he had received from God.

Satan is called an accuser of the brethren. Satan is an expert in character assassination. He questioned Job's faith—that his faith was based on ulterior motives. When Satan accused Job, he in effect also accused God: "Job believes in you because you have bribed him." "You preached to him a health and wealth gospel; believe in Christ and you will be healthy and wealthy, rich and famous." Today, we find many charismatic preachers and mega-churches peddling such a prosperity gospel which seeks to bribe people into believing in Christ. This is another gospel, a gospel that does not save. Did Job believe in a health and wealth gospel?

### **God's Permission**

God knew the heart of Job. Job believed in God out of a true and sincere heart of faith. God gave Satan permission to take away all of Job's possessions, but he must not touch Job's body or his life (v12). This shows that God is sovereign and all-powerful. He is in control. The battle between God and Satan is not a

battle between two equal powers, but between unequal powers. God is over Satan. Satan is absolutely powerless to afflict God's people unless God allows him to do so.

### **Job's Faith**

In a single day, Job lost everything: his sons and daughters, all his animals, his servants, his possessions, everything (vv13-19). He received wave after wave of tragic news. How would you feel if you lost everything suddenly? Imagine yourself in Job's shoes. How would you respond? Will we shout at God angrily, "Why me?" "What did I do to deserve this from you?" "Have I not served you faithfully in the church?" "Have I not given my tithes and offerings?" "Have I not kept my QT?" "Have I not been a good Christian at home and at work?" "God, why are you doing this to me? You are so unjust and unfair!" Will we curse and swear at God? Will we reject Christ as Lord and Saviour?

How did Job respond? He (1) *arose*: he was mentally alert, and not about to faint or in a state of shock; (2) *rent his mantle*: this was not a sign of anger but of grief and sorrow; (3) *shaved his head*: he did not tear his hair in a fit of anger, but shaved his hair deliberately as an act of personal humiliation; (4) *fell down to the ground*: he bowed down, prostrated himself, face down to the ground—a sign of submission to God's will in holy obeisance; (5) *worshipped*: he did not complain against, swear at, or accuse God, but rather glorified Him. From Job's actions, we see that the emotions that welled up from within him when he received all those tragic news were not those of anger and rebellion against God, but deep sorrow, and submission to God's will. "*In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly*" (vv20-22). Job indeed showed himself to be "*perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil.*"

Job knew his theology. Look at what he said in verse 21: "*Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.*" What Job said reflects good, solid theology. He saw

things not from man's limited and finite perspective, but from God's holy and sovereign perspective. God is the Creator, man is but a creature. God is the Potter, we are but clay in His hands. All that we have belong to Him. If God wants to give to us, it is His prerogative and His alone. If He wants to take away what we have, He has every right to do so. Nothing belongs to us, everything belongs to Him.

Dear friends, do you see your children and material possessions as yours or God's to use as He pleases? If the Lord were to call your brightest and most promising son to full-time Christian service, would you be ready to support him and to let him go? If the Lord were to say, "I want all your silver and gold," will you give all of your money to Him? Our God is our heavenly Father who loves us and provides for us. He asks only a tenth of what He has freely given to us. Do we give even our tenth to Him? Have we been faithful in our tithing and offerings? In any case, if God were to ask for your all, are you willing to part with everything you have for Christ? That is the test of true faith. If we were in Job's shoes, how would we respond towards God? What kind of faith do we have? Do we possess true faith or false faith? Job had genuine faith. True faith would never deny, reject, or rebel against God. True faith would always confess, submit, and worship God not only in good times but also in bad times.

### **Conclusion**

"Did Job fear God for nothing?" The answer is yes. True faith is not mercenary faith but unconditional faith. We must have the faith of Job. Nothing belongs to me, everything belongs to God. I will keep on trusting in Christ come what may. May the Lord grant us the kind of faith Job had.

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### **THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:**

#### **The Epistles of Life**

#### **I John 1:3-4**

#### **Life in Christian Fellowship**

In John 1:12, 13 the Apostle says "But as many as received him, to them gave he power

to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

It is those who are born again, who have received Christ as Saviour and become children of God that begin to live a new life. This new life, in its relationship with one another, between God and men, between Christian and Christian is called fellowship. This fellowship is unique to Christianity. It is above the comradeship that Communists and socialists talk about, the friendship that brings together people of the same mind on a worldly plane.

For Christian fellowship must relate to the Father and the Son, through the Son to the Father. There must first be that vertical relationship before there can be the horizontal relationship. It is a life, an organism, not an organisation, like a tree and not a wooden structure.

The Apostle is here revealing to new believers the treasures of Christian fellowship. "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (I Jn 1:4). He is telling us, "Isn't it wonderful that we are become sons and daughters of God, members of the same family of God, that we have close contact with God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ?" John further wants to assure any new Christian of the fellowship the Church would extend to them when they have truly believed.

Have you not experienced this new spiritual relationship that is deeper and sweeter than that on the natural plane? Spiritual brothers and sisters are closer with one another than brothers and sisters in the flesh .... "and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24).

Behold, how good and how pleasant,  
When brethren dwell in peace  
What heavenly sweetness and fragrance  
This Christian Unity.

How gracious is the Saviour's love  
That binds our hearts in one:

It rains like Hermon's dew above  
Upon the hills of Zion.

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jan 29 – Feb 4, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Feb 3, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "God's Holiness & Justice" by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Ladies Fellowship 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Commemoration** will be held on Feb 7, 07 (Wed) at 6.30 pm. Venue: Parsonage, 9A Gilstead Road. Guest Speaker: Rev Timothy Tow. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Retreat:**

*Date:* March 14 – 16, 2007

*Theme:* Who Buildeth Our Home? (Ps 127:1)

*Speaker:* Elder William Seah

*Venue:* Sofitel Palm Resort, JB

All are welcome, especially families. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$8,695; RM50

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$152; *BCEA (Kenya)* \$100; *BCEA (Tanzania)* \$100; *Hien's ministry (Brisbane)* \$300; *Children's ministry* \$500; *Family Bible Study Fellowship* \$500; *Dennis Kabingue (FEBC)* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$105, \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

S\$11,952; RM50

**Church Building Fund** \$3,265, \$1,000, \$200

**Total:** \$552,669.60

**Sunday School Offering:** \$336.00

**Verse for the Week:** *He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he. Prov. 14:21*

**Brisbane BPC** will hold its inauguration service on the Lord's Day, March 18, 2007. True Lifers planning to go for the inauguration can write to preacher Hien ([hientrangng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hientrangng@optusnet.com.au)) for information. Officiating minister: Rev Stephen Khoo.

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**Pray for Pastor Tow** that the Lord will restore him completely to good health and strength and **for Bro Henry Tan** to be physically strengthened for chemotherapy.



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**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 18**

**28 January 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 95
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 23
Hymn	No. 532
Announcements	
Special Number	Rev & Mrs Ronny Khoo
Offering & Hymn	No. 354
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	John 10:1-18
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>The Good Shepherd</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	<i>My Wonderful Shepherd</i>
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Walking with God

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Jan 21, 07)

**Text:** Genesis 5:21-24

Genesis 5:24 tells us that "Enoch walked with God." Many Christians today find it so difficult to walk consistently with God even for a single day. But Enoch walked with God for 300 years! A Biblical study of the term "walk" tells us that it is expressive of something more intimate than just taking a walk with God.

**Firstly, walking with God suggests that there is no enmity between God and Enoch.** Enemies do not walk together. Amos 3:3 asks, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" The scriptures in many places assert that the mind of the unconverted is carnal, sinful, and therefore at enmity with God. Romans 8:7 says, "the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Thus, walking with God implies that the converted man who walks with God is no longer an enemy of God,

but has been reconciled to God through the all-sufficient righteousness and atonement of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus Christ is our peace as well as our peacemaker. Romans 5:10 says, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Colossians 1:20 says, "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." If you have believed on Him, you are justified and you are reconciled to God; and consequently you can walk with God. Jesus Christ brings us to God and helps us to walk with Him.

**Secondly, walking with God implies an abiding communion or fellowship with God.** 1 John 1:6-7 says, "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." So walking with God in His light would mean having fellowship with God. Such a person would not allow anything to distract him from his communion with God. He keeps his life in tune with God all the time.

We all know that when friends walk together, they would engage in close and interesting conversation. They derive strength and encouragement from

## Filipina Bible Study Presentation at Christmas Eve Carol Service, Dec 24, 2006





their close communication. And this idea is clearly intended in the figure of speech, “walk with God.” Every child of God must keep on communing with God. A Christian must draw his pleasure and comforts not from his worldly friends but from His God. He must have constant fellowship with God.

The child of God must have fellowship with God in prayer. He must view the daily seasons of prayer as sweet and wonderful. So the man who walks with God speaks with God – telling Him all his doubts and fears, struggles and sufferings, all his desires and needs. The prayerful Christian will receive God’s kind exhortations and comforting answers in return.

I remember a story told by Charles Spurgeon about a sickly Christian in Scotland who was on his death bed, and visited by a friend who felt very distressed for him. This Christian told his friend, *“Could these curtains, or could these walls speak, they would tell you what sweet communion I have had with my God here.”* O prayer! Prayer! It brings and keeps God and man together. It raises man up to God, and brings God down to man. If you have been there, you would like to be there again. O believers, keep up your walk with God; pray, and pray without ceasing.

Believers must also maintain their walk with God by reading His Holy Word. *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”* (John 5:39). We meet our Saviour in this Holy Book, the Bible. There we hear His voice, gentle and sure, guiding and strengthening, comforting and emboldening us for each day’s task.

How can we maintain a Christian walk without having God to speak to us? So God preserved His inspired Word for His people. It shall not pass away for the sake of His people’s blessing. And the royal Psalmist tells us, *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Psalm 119:105). Walking in the light of God’s Word is to walk in His presence.

**Thirdly, walking with God is a description of the renewed life of a believer.** The word “walk” is descriptive of the manner in which God’s people ought to walk. Romans 6:4 says, *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism*

*into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* A man who is united with Christ should not walk like a worldly person. Anyone who desires to walk with God cannot walk with those who have no fellowship with God. Ephesians 2:2 tells us, *“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”* Ephesians 4:17 – *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.”*

Those who walk with Lord will be characterised by godliness. Consider what the Scripture says about the manner in which Christians ought to walk:

- (1) **Walk by faith:** 2 Corinthians 5:7, *“(For we walk by faith, not by sight).”*
- (2) **Walk according to the Holy Spirit and not according to carnal feelings:** Romans 8:1, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* Romans 8:4, *“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* Galatians 5:16 *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*
- (3) **Walk honestly, without hypocrisy:** Romans 13:13, *“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.”* 2 Corinthians 4:2, *“But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”* Ephesians 5:8, *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”*
- (4) **Walk in Christ’s love:** Ephesians 5:2, *“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an*

*offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”*

- (5) **Walk circumspectly:** In Ephesians 5:15, believers are exhorted to *“walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise.”* A believer who walks with God will be wise to always please Him. One ought to walk with God in the same direction and to the same destination. The man who walks with God must conform to God’s moral character and will. His feelings and aspirations ought to be in accordance with the holy law. He ought to love righteousness and hate iniquity.

The New Testament names Enoch as a man of faith, and comments on his life as one that pleased God. Hebrews 11:5 says, *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* Enoch was certainly a remarkable man of faith. When the time came for this extraordinary man of piety to leave the world, God took him suddenly and supernaturally. He was the first of two in the Old Testament who did not see death.

**Fourthly, walking with God implies that one is advancing or making progress in his spiritual life.** Walking, in the very first idea of the word, seems to suppose a progressive action or motion. A person who walks, moves and goes forward. So it is with those that walk with God. Those who walk with God will go on *“from strength to strength”* (Psalm 84:7); they are *“changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

In the epistle of Jude, we are told that Enoch prophesied about the last days: Jude 14, 15 – *“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”* What a blessing Enoch received from God to be given a glimpse of the glorious return of Christ with His saints in the end-times!

It certainly pays to walk with God. And only

those who walk with Him below will walk with Him above. The Lord took Enoch into His presence without letting him see death. That is a very great honour indeed!

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## THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

### The Epistles of Life

#### I John 1:5-7

#### Light in Christian Fellowship

As in John 1 where Jesus Christ was introduced as Light after He was declared the source of life, so the Apostle presents Him in the same order. The Word of Life is here advanced as “God is Light”.

As God is light, Christian fellowship whether on the vertical line or horizontal plane must be practised in the light. Christian fellowship cannot be practised in darkness because that is an impossibility. Shine a torch into a dark dungeon, and what happens? Darkness vanishes! If what is called Christian fellowship is practised in darkness, or shades of darkness, it is then no Christian fellowship at all. It is a lie. It is not the truth. What a lesson is given to the whole Church, from pastor to elder, to deacon, to every member.

As the Church is a visible organisation it is encumbered with many infirmities. Oftentimes gossip takes the place of Gospel. Smokescreens are spread as a result. Light is impeded by darkness, by mists and fogs.

But the Church need not flounder in such murky situations. If darkness begins to invade the Church, there is a way out of the maze if we take the steps of reconciliation laid down by our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17. Altogether there are four steps to get us out of darkness:

1. A private meeting between you and your brother alone.
2. If this fails bring one or two more as witnesses.
3. If this further fails bring it before the pastor and session.
4. If this still cannot work, then he becomes as an outsider. The fellowship is severed. The knot not being able to be untied must be cut.

If it works, in any of the first three steps, fellowship is restored in mutual forgiveness in Jesus Christ (v. 7). *TT*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 5 – 11, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	Calvin's Institutes I (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	6.30 pm	LF 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary
THU	7.30 pm	The Book of Genesis (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	AF 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class Worship (Lord's Supper) (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Ladies Fellowship 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Commemoration** will be held this Wed (Feb 7, 07) at 6.30 pm. Venue: Parsonage, 9A Gilstead Road. Guest Speaker: Rev Timothy Tow. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Feb 10, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "God's Goodness & Truth" by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Feb 10, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Church Fathers and Martyrs" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

example of what it means to earnestly contend for the Faith. He was no man-pleaser, no fence-sitter, no coward, not lukewarm, not a compromiser, but valiant in the battle for truth, and faithful to His Lord till the very end. Calvin offered to the Lord a heart on fire for Him, "*prompte et sincere in opere domini*," "promptly and sincerely in the work of the Lord."

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$8,558; RM5

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien's family* \$225; *Marilyn Nanta's Car Fund* \$4,500; *BCEA (Tanzania) – Construction of Principal's Residence* \$10,000; *FBF Retreat* \$700; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$500; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$1,000

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$25,783; RM5

Church Building Fund \$1,000, \$150, \$100 Total: \$553,919.60

Sunday School Offering: \$396.00

**Verse for the Week:** *Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good. Prov. 14:22*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Resort. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

**Brisbane BPC** will hold its inauguration service on the Lord's Day, March 18, 2007. True Lifers planning to go for the inauguration can write to preacher Hien ([hientrangng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hientrangng@optusnet.com.au)) for information. Officiating minister: Rev Stephen Khoo.

**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** is held at Room 601 (Level 6), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Retreat (March 14-16, 2007)** at Sofitel Palm Resort, JB. Theme: Who Buildeth Our Home? (Ps 127:1). Speaker: Elder William Seah. All are welcome, especially families. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**Pray for Pastor Tow** that the Lord will restore him completely to good health and strength and **for Bro Henry Tan** to be physically strengthened for chemotherapy. Pray also for **Dr Arthur Steele** who suffered a fall recently.

**Book Table: Calvin's Institutes** abridged by pastor at a special price of \$10. Today only!

The Rev Dr Timothy Tow testifies, "Through Calvin's inspirational teaching ... this writer has found a new, radiant confidence for living in perilous end-times like these. For, Calvin has taught, as no other theologian, that 'salvation is of the Lord' (Jonah 2:9)."

May the Lord raise up more Calvins today to the glory of His Name!



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 19

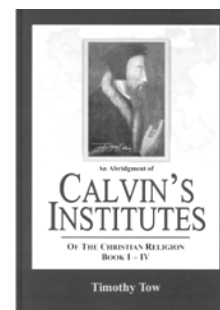
4 February 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 24
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 145
Hymn	No. 347
Announcements	
Special Number	Bro Tay Bee Heng
Offering & Hymn	No. 324
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Genesis 6:9-22
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>Another Global Flood?</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	<i>Maybe Today</i>
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

## Why Calvin Wrote His Institutes

By Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo



Why did Calvin write his Institutes? There were 2 reasons: (1) to teach the Biblical foundations of the Christian Faith to sincere believers, and (2) to defend the Christian Faith from the attacks of those who were opposed to it. Calvin wrote concerning his primary purpose, "My purpose was solely to transmit certain rudiments by which those who are touched with any zeal for religion might be shaped to true godliness ... very many of whom I knew to be hungering and thirsting for Christ: but I saw very few who had been duly imbued with even a slight knowledge of him. The book itself witnesses that this was my intention, adapted as it is to a simple and, you may say, elementary form of teaching."

Another reason why Calvin wrote his Institutes, and no doubt an equally important reason, was to defend the Christian Faith from the false accusations of certain madmen who wanted France to be purged of Calvin and all who believed in the doctrines of divine grace and faith. Calvin wrote, "But I perceived that the fury of certain wicked persons has prevailed so far in your realm that there is no place in it for sound doctrine. Consequently, it seemed to me that I should be doing something worthwhile if I both gave instruction to them and made confession before you with the same work. From this, you may learn the nature of the doctrine against which those madmen burn with rage who today disturb your realm with fire and sword. And indeed I shall not fear to confess that here is contained almost the sum of that very doctrine which they shout must be punished by prison, exile, proscription, and fire, and be exterminated on land and sea."

The enemies of Christ and His Gospel had leveled many false and malicious accusations against the reformers before the king. Calvin wrote, "Indeed, I know with what horrible reports they have filled your ears and mind, to render our cause as hateful as possible to you. ... [this doctrine] has in part been violently rejected by the partisanship and power of its opponents, and in part insidiously and fraudulently oppressed by their falsehoods, subtleties, and slanders. It is sheer violence that bloody sentences are meted out against this doctrine without

a hearing; it is fraud that it is undeservedly charged with treason and villainy. ... for dreadful reports are being spread abroad among the people. ... Who can now wonder that public hatred is aroused against it, when these most wicked accusations are believed? This is why all classes with one accord conspire to condemn us and our doctrine.”

It can be seen that Calvin faced no small opposition and persecution in his day. What lies were spread to stir up hatred against Calvin and the reformers! The lies were no doubt meant to silence the truth and cause the general populace to hate the truth even before hearing it.

### **False Charges Refuted**

The false charges of the antagonists against the Reformed doctrine were these: It is (1) a new doctrine, (2) a theory, (3) unsupported by miracles, (4) not taught by the Church Fathers, (5) not the custom of the majority, and (6) schismatic.

#### **(1) A New Doctrine**

Calvin argued that by calling the Reformed doctrine new, his opponents “do great wrong to God, whose Sacred Word does not deserve to be accused of novelty.” Calvin preached the same Jesus Christ whom the Apostle Paul preached, that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again for our justification according to the Scriptures (Rom 4:25, 1 Cor 15:3-4). Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone and in Christ alone. Calvin went on to argue that it was “new” to the detractors because they were blind to the truth and that the fault rested solely on their impiety. The light has always been shining and is not new, but the people were just too blind to see it.

#### **(2) A Theory**

Calvin’s detractors charged him for teaching something that was “doubtful and uncertain” (ie, a theory and not dogma). Calvin replied that they were ignorant, and repeated the complaint of the Lord through His prophet Isaiah, “*The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider*” (Isa 1:3). Why did those who professed Christ not hear His voice, nor believe in His words? Did not Jesus say this of those who rejected His Truth, “*But ye believe not,*

*because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*” (John 10:26-27). Calvin testified that believers of the Reformed Faith were very sure of whom and what they had believed, and were not at all afraid to suffer and die for their Faith.

#### **(3) Unsupported by Miracles**

Calvin denounced as dishonest those who demanded miracles in support of the Reformed Faith. Calvin explained, “For we are not forging some new gospel, but are retaining that very gospel whose truth all the miracles that Jesus Christ and his disciples ever wrought serve to confirm.” The ministry and message of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles have been authenticated by numerous miracles as recorded in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, but they would not believe (Mark 16:20, Acts 2:22, Heb 2:4, Rom 15:18-19).

Calvin went on to argue that true doctrine is not dependent on miracles. Truth is not ascertained by performance of miracles but by the infallible principle of the glory of God. Calvin wrote, “Yet, if one does not tend to seek men’s glory but God’s (John 7:18; 8:50), this is a mark of true doctrine, as Christ says.” Calvin went on to warn against counterfeit miracles, lying wonders and deceitful tricks that seek to mislead the simple-minded and the untaught. Did not Jesus say, “*A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign*” (Matt 16:4)?

#### **(4) Not Taught by the Church Fathers**

Calvin refuted this charge by arguing that great men of God in the past were nonetheless men and therefore fallible. The infallible Christ and His inerrant words should be the believers’ sole and supreme authority of faith and practice. Calvin wrote, “Now, these fathers have written many wise and excellent things. Still, what commonly happens to men has befallen them too, in some instances. For these so-called pious children of theirs, with all their sharpness of wit and judgment and spirit, worship only the faults and errors of the fathers. The good things that these fathers have written they either do not notice, or

misrepresent or pervert. You might say that their only care is to gather dung amid gold.”

Calvin said that those who quote human authorities “will have nothing certain in religion, inasmuch as these holy men were ignorant of many things, often disagreed among themselves, and sometimes even contradicted themselves.”

To those who used Proverbs 22:28 to prove their point, Calvin replied that the text dealt with the boundaries of fields, and not the obedience of faith. Calvin went on to show how his enemies had fallaciously interpreted and applied the Scriptures, “But if they love to allegorise so much, why do they not accept the apostles (rather than anyone else) as the ‘fathers’ who have set the landmarks that it is unlawful to remove (Prov 22:28)?”

If believers reject the sole and supreme authority of the infallible Christ and His inerrant words, and begin to depend on the ever-changing comments and opinions of fallible men, they will only end up having a most unstable and vulnerable faith, “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph 4:14).

#### **(5) Not the Custom of the Majority**

Calvin refuted this false charge by pointing out that the majority is no determiner of the truth for the majority are usually pleased with error than with truth. Calvin argued, “But, granting public error a place in the society of men, still in the Kingdom of God his eternal truth must alone be listened to and observed, a truth that cannot be dictated to by length of time, by longstanding custom, or by the conspiracy of men. ... Even though the whole world may conspire in the same wickedness, he has taught us by experience what is the end of those who sin with the multitude. This he did when he destroyed all mankind by the Flood, but kept Noah with his little family; and Noah by his faith, the faith of one man, condemned the whole world (Gen. 7:1; Heb. 11:7).”

Truth is truth no matter what the majority say. What is Truth? God’s Word is Truth (John 17:17). The truth will always prevail. “For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (2 Cor 13:8).

#### **(6) Schismatic**

Calvin’s enemies charged the Reformed doctrine for creating schisms and divisions in the church. These charges were unjust. Calvin said, “The blame for these evils is unjustly laid upon it, when this ought to have been imputed to Satan’s malice.”

Calvin observed that Satan becomes most destructive when God’s kingdom of light is gaining ground against his kingdom of darkness. Satan’s usual strategy to halt the advance of God’s kingdom is to raise up evil and wicked men to oppress the saints and suppress the truth. Calvin wrote, “With violent hands of men he tries to uproot that true seed, and seeks (as much as lies in his power) to choke it with his weeds, to prevent it from growing and bearing fruit. But all that is in vain, if we heed the Lord our monitor, who long since laid open Satan’s wiles before us, that he might not catch us unawares; and armed us with defenses firm enough against all his devices. Furthermore, how great is that malice that would ascribe to the very word of God itself the odium either of seditions, which wicked and rebellious men stir up against it, or of sects, which imposters excite, both of them in opposition to its teachings! Yet this is no new example. Elijah was asked if it was not he who was troubling Israel (1 Kings 18:17). To the Jews, Christ was seditious (Luke 23:5; John 19:7 ff.). The charge of stirring up the people was laid against the apostles (Acts 24:5 ff.). What else are they doing who blame us today for all the disturbances, tumults, and contentions that boil up against us? Elijah taught us what we ought to reply to such charges: it is not we who either spread errors abroad or incite tumults; but it is they who contend against God’s power (1 Kings 18:18).”

#### **Reformation Continues**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, believers and defenders of the truth of the immutable and impeccable Christ (Heb 13:8), and His verbally and plenary preserved words (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18) continue to face the same wicked strategies of Satan to attack and destroy the Faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Calvin has set for us a good



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 12 – 18, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 6</i> <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	No YPF Meeting
SUN	9.00 am	<b>Worship (Rev Stephen Khoo)</b>
	10.30 am	Korean Worship Service
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Lord's Day Service on CNY day will be held at 9.00 am.** There will be no Sunday School and Catechism classes on that day. Filipina & Indonesian Bible Study groups to join the worship service.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Retreat (March 14-16, 2007)** at Sofitel Palm Resort, JB. Theme: Who Buildeth Our Home? (Ps 127:1). Speaker: Elder William Seah. All are welcome, especially families. Contact Edward at 93887328.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength and for **Bro Henry Tan's** condition to improve through chemotherapy. Pray also for **Dr Arthur Steele** who suffered a fall recently.

of the times as revealed in the Scriptures, by reading the news, by observing the things happening around us, we can tell that God is going to act soon, and are prepared for Christ's return and for a better world to come. That was why Peter was able to encourage believers with these words, "*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore,*

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$10,947; USD10; RM30  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$150; *BCEA Kenya (Scholarship Fund)* \$400; *BCEA Tanzania* \$2,000; *Bible Witness Web Radio Ministry* \$600, \$100; *Hien & family* \$100; *Philip Lagat (FEBC)* \$50; *Needy FEBC Student* \$200; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$200; *Wendy Teng* \$200; *FEBC Scholarship* \$1,000, \$500; *FEBC* \$2,000, \$1,000, \$200, \$100  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:** S\$19,947; USD10; RM30  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$750, \$260 **Total:** \$555,929.60

Sunday School Offering: \$507.00

**Verse for the Week:** *In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury. Prov. 14:23*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

**Brisbane BPC** will hold its inauguration service on the Lord's Day, March 18, 2007. True Lifers planning to go for the inauguration can write to preacher Hien ([hientrangng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hientrangng@optusnet.com.au)) for information. Officiating minister: Rev Stephen Khoo.

**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** is held at Room 601 (Level 6), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

*beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless"* (2 Pet 3:11-14).

**Global warming is a warning!** The world will only get warmer and warmer, hotter and hotter. God is going to destroy it by fire one day. Be saved from the wrath of God to come! The Ark of salvation is ready to take you to safety. The Ark of salvation is none other than Jesus Christ who died on the cross, and rose again the third day to save us from our sins. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31). Jesus Christ is coming soon, and the end is imminent. This is the last call. Board the Ark now, and be saved from the fiery judgement to come!



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 20

11 February 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 213
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 73
Psalms	No. 149
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 395
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Luke 17:1-10
Sermon	<i>It's Our Duty!</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
Closing Hymn	No. 398 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

## Another Global Flood?

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Feb 4, 07)

**Text:** Genesis 6:9-22

The weather has been quite unusual of late. Southern Malaysia suffered its worst flooding in a hundred years. Last December, Singapore recorded the third highest rainfall in 75 years. Environmentalists have attributed the freakish weather pattern seen all over the world to global warming. Yesterday (February 3, 2007), on the front page of *The Straits Times*, it was reported that the effects of global warming are "unstoppable." The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted a bleak future for the planet. The 2,500 scientists from 130 countries say that the world could expect "Worsening killer heat waves and floods, devastating droughts, and stronger hurricanes and tropical storms, ... Global temperatures and sea levels will also continue to rise." Environmentalists warn that with the melting of the ice caps and ice sheets, the rise of sea level would trigger another ice age. Will we see another

ice age? Will there be another global flood?

In the first place, was there ever a global flood? Atheistic scientists and theistic evolutionists deny that there ever was one. Then how do they explain Genesis, Noah and the Ark? Many today question the historicity of the first eleven chapters of Genesis. They reject the Genesis Flood as a myth or if it did occur, it was only a local flood.

Was there ever a global flood and will there be another one?

## Once Upon a Time Yes

What does the Bible say when read and studied honestly? In no uncertain terms, the Bible tells us of a watery catastrophe of global proportions in Genesis 6-8 and 2 Peter 3:4.

In the book of Genesis, we read of the Flood and Noah's Ark. The Genesis Flood covered every inch of the earth, and drowned every living creature save Noah, his family, and all the animals that were in the ark. God had decreed the complete decimation of the wicked and violent pre-Flood generation: "*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ... And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air... And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die"* (Gen 6:5-7, 17).

What are the biblical evidences of the Genesis Flood being a global and not local one?

The Bible speaks of the Flood in universal terms. Firstly, Genesis 7:19–20 says, *“And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.”* Note the universal expressions, “all the high hills,” and “under the whole heaven.” Since water must seek its own level, the Flood must have been global for all the mountains under the whole heaven to be covered.

Secondly, Genesis 7:11 and 8:13–14 tell us that the Flood lasted for 371 days. The Genesis Flood attained its maximum mountain-covering depth in six weeks, and remained at that level for another 16 weeks (Gen 7:17–20, 24). Such a long rain-spell could only have been caused by a supernatural puncturing of the pre-Flood atmospheric canopy (Gen 1:6-7). Furthermore, local floods do not last this long.

Thirdly, Genesis 6:13-16 reveals the size of the Ark. And God said unto Noah, *“... Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.”* The measurements tell us that the Ark was no sampan. Consider how big it was. One cubit could either be 20.4 inches or 17.5 inches. Whitcomb and Morris in their book—*The Genesis Flood*—based their calculation of the

Ark’s dimension by using the shorter cubit. “According to this standard, the Ark was 437.5 feet long, 72.92 feet wide, and 43.75 feet high. Since it had three decks (Gen 6:16), it had a total deck area of approximately 95,700 square feet.” This would be equivalent to 80 five-room HDB flats! A whole point block! The Ark was thus not a small, family-sized boat for Noah and his family, but a large sea-worthy vessel. Surely the humongous size of the Ark which took over a century to build must point to a global deluge.

In Genesis 2:5-6, the Bible tells us that there was no rain upon the earth as a mist came forth out of the ground to water the plants. When Noah preached to his generation that a global flood would destroy the earth, he preached to a people who had never seen rain. It was Noah’s faith in God’s Word that caused him to build the Ark in preparation for the judgment to come. Hebrews 11:7 says, *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”*

### But Never Again

It is also significant to note that there was no rainbow before the Flood. God gave the rainbow only after the Flood as a sign that He would not destroy the world again by water. Genesis 9:12–15 says, *“And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be*

*seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.”*

So, will there be another global flood? No matter what environmentalists and meteorologists might say, the earth is no longer in danger of being totally submerged in water, not now, not ever. The rainbow is a constant reminder of God’s promise that He would no longer destroy the world by a watery cataclysm of worldwide proportions. God is true to His Word, and He always keeps His promises: “yea, let God be true, but every man a liar” (Rom 3:4).

Note that God did not promise that there would be no local floods; He only promised that there would no longer be a global flood. The rainbow undoubtedly points to a global flood. If the flood in Genesis was a local one, then God has broken His promise, for today we still see various parts of the world being hit by local floods especially after heavy rains. Whenever you see a rainbow, remember the global flood, and that God’s promise is true.

### A Fiery Apocalypse Next

No more global deluge does not mean no more global destruction. In 2 Peter 3:3–7, the Apostle Peter used the Genesis Flood to warn the people of a future universal destruction by fire: *“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”*

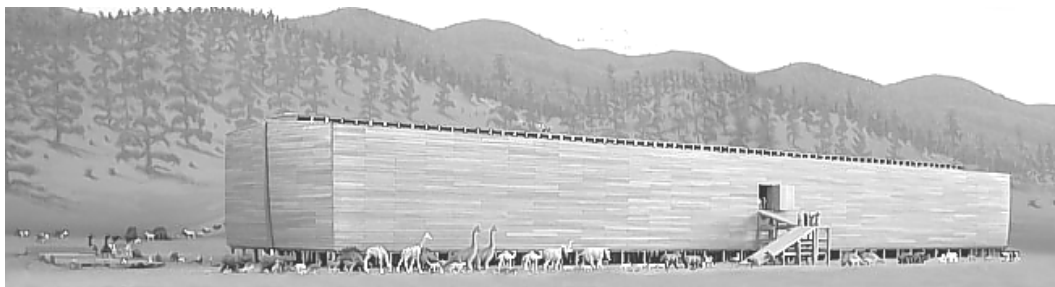
What is in store for mankind in future? God is going to judge this world again. This time He will use fire. The world is not getting any better morally. Just like in the days of Noah, the world today is becoming increasingly wicked. *“But*

*evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”* (2 Tim 3:13). Please do not think that since God has not judged this world since the time of the Genesis Flood, He will not judge the world again. The reason why God has not yet judged this world since He destroyed it 4500 years ago is because He is still waiting for men to repent and be saved. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

When Jesus finally comes, it will be sudden. It will take the world by surprise. 1 Peter 3:10 says, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”* A thief comes at a most unexpected time, and unannounced. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 says, *“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”* Isaiah 34:4 describes how *“all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll.”*

Many things in this world can catch us by surprise. We can lose our job (eg, out of the blue, your boss calls you into the office and tells you, you’re fired), lose our money or goods (eg, the antique shop which lost a couple of million dollars when it was broken into and looted despite an alarm system), lose our home (eg, the floods in Johor which resulted into a multi-million dollar destruction to property), lose our life (eg, the university professor who collapsed suddenly on his desk and died of a heart attack). As believers, such things should not catch us by surprise. We should always be prepared mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, knowing that God is in control, and He takes care of us.

Similarly, the world may be unprepared for the coming judgement and destruction, but we believers are well prepared because we have been warned beforehand. We observe the signs



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 19 – 25, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
THU	7.30 pm	The Book of Genesis (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting (Speaker: Dr Raymond Saxe) RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	2.30 pm	YPF 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Korean Worship Service** is held at Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Thu night class** is held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Young People's Fellowship 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary** will be held at the RELC, Level 6, Paterson Room (Room 602) this Sat (Feb 24, 07) at 2.30 pm. Message: "Living for Jesus" by Dr Raymond Saxe. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Feb 24, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Edward Wong's home at 45 Hindhede Walk, #06-04 (Lobby 1), Springdale Condominium, Singapore 587978. Tel: 64670645. Message: "Teach me Thy way, O Lord" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength and for **Bro Henry Tan's** condition to improve through chemotherapy. Pray also for **Dr Arthur Steele** who suffered a fall recently.

*I J Schereschewsky, 1831-1906* (Leiden: Brill, 1999), and for donating to the library of the Far Eastern Bible College Schereschewsky's Bible (St John's University, 2005 reprint) and the Wenli Delegates' Bible (Bible Society in Taiwan, 2006 reprint). These two Chinese versions were translated from the traditional, majority, and received texts. May God's people come to a holy awareness of the Biblical doctrine of the

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$8,320

Designated Offerings: **Rev Tow** \$200, \$130, \$100 (LF); **Rev Jeffrey Khoo** \$50; **Hien & family** \$200; **Bible Witness Ministry** \$500; **Henry Tan** \$300; **Wendy Teng** \$100, \$100, \$50; **FEBC** \$350, \$280

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$10,680

Church Building Fund \$1,000, \$1,000, \$110  
Total: \$558,039.60

Sunday School Offering: \$525.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly. Prov. 14:24*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

**Brisbane BPC** will hold its inauguration service on the Lord's Day, March 18, 2007. True Lifers planning to go for the inauguration can write to preacher Hien ([hienrangng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hienrangng@optusnet.com.au)) for information. Officiating minister: Rev Stephen Khoo.

**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** is held at Room 601 (Level 6), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Feb 25, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**Fundamental Christian Ministry** Combined Meeting will be held at Calvary Pandan BPC this Fri (Feb 23, 07). Time: 6.45 pm (Dinner), 7.30 pm (Message). Message: "Evangelism: The Biblical Separation Perspective" by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy. For enquires, please contact Joseph at 96611548.

Verbal and Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures, and may the Preserved Text underlying the King James Bible see a revival in the Chinese Church today. May the Lord continue to fulfil His promise to the Chinese, "*Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim (ie, China)*" (Isa 49:12, KJV). To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Have a blessed Chinese New Year!



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 21

18 February 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

9.00 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 490
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 34
Psalm	No. 66
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	<i>Lord, Here I Take My Cross</i>
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	2 Cor 3:1-3
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>We are the Epistles of Christ</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 461
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

## The Jew, the Bible, and China

By Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo



BISHOP SCHERESCHESKY IN 1895

"stern and sad."

Schereschewsky was of the scholarly mould. He had a thirst for knowledge. When he reached 16 years old, he enrolled in the Zhitomir Rabbinic School. Zhitomir was one of the best rabbinic schools in those days and situated in a most scenic area of Ukraine. In Zhitomir, the

Bible was taught in German using Mendelshohn's translation. Studying from a translated Bible impressed upon young Schereschewsky the importance of producing an accurate yet understandable translation of the Holy Scriptures from the original languages. Schereschewsky not only studied the Bible in German, he also studied the Hebrew language and excelled in both areas. In the library of Zhitomir was a copy of the Hebrew Bible (Old and New Testaments) published and distributed by the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews. Schereschewsky was converted to Christianity through this Bible in 1852.

After completing his education at Zhitomir, Schereschewsky travelled to Breslau, Germany. There he met Dr Henricus Christophilus Neumann. Neumann was a lecturer in Hebrew and rabbinic languages at the University of Breslau. He was a Christian and an evangelist of the London Society. Surely God's providential hand was guiding the life of the young Schereschewsky. He met the right person, at the right place, and at the right time. Neumann shaped Schereschewsky's spiritual and intellectual life. Neumann taught the Hebrew language by using the Hebrew Bible. He did not employ the rationalistic and destructive criticism of the Bible that was found in other



universities like Tübingen. God had placed Schereschewsky in a safe haven for his theological training. Neumann taught Schereschewsky the fundamentals of the Christian Faith, and encouraged him to be a missionary for Jesus Christ.

In the 1850s, Karl Gutzlaff was promoting China as a mission field. Gutzlaff was a fiery preacher, and he urged his listeners to establish an organisation to support missions in China. Neumann himself wrote a couple of articles promoting missions in China and the need to translate the Bible into Chinese. Schereschewsky's time in Breslau had brought him into direct contact with the doctrines and missionary zeal of evangelical Christianity. This no doubt played an important role in his future decision to become a missionary to China and his translation of the Bible into Chinese.

From Breslau, Schereschewsky migrated to America in 1854. He landed in New York and got in touch with the American Society, a Presbyterian missionary society. While most migrants to America sought work, Schereschewsky sought schooling. With the Christian influence he had in Breslau, he desired more theological studies in a seminary. Through the help of the American Society, he gained admittance into Western Theological Seminary (now Pittsburgh Theological Seminary). Western Seminary was known for its missionary ethos. Many of its graduates ended up as missionaries to distant countries like India, Africa, and Singapore. Schereschewsky studied at Western for a couple of years before transferring to General Theological Seminary (Episcopal). There he excelled in his Hebrew and Greek studies which were most necessary for his future work as a Bible translator.

After three and a half years of theological training in America, Schereschewsky set his sights on becoming a missionary to China. In 1859, he took a ship to China. In the five months at sea, he wasted no time to learn the

Chinese language. When he arrived in Shanghai, his first thoughts were to get on with his learning of the Chinese language. Schereschewsky felt no point preaching to the Chinese if he was unable to communicate with them intelligibly. He spared no effort to learn not only the local Shanghaiese dialect and Mandarin which was spoken by the intelligentsia, but also literary and classical Chinese. His relentless pursuit to learn the Chinese language at every level was with the intention of understanding the Chinese mind and spirit.

China needs the Bible. No Bible, no Christianity! As Schereschewsky's biographer—Irene Eber—rightly observes, “The task of translating was considered, ‘a cardinal principle of Protestant Christianity, one of its chief reasons for its existence at all.’ Translation of the Bible into Chinese was equivalent to Luther's German translation and the King James's English translation. To teach Christianity without a Bible ... was like an artisan trying to work without tools.” Schereschewsky no doubt understood the need for an accurately translated Chinese Bible if Christianity was to have any future in China. In 1864, the Peking Translation Committee was formed, and Schereschewsky was among the four translators; the others being Henry Blodget, John Burdon, and Joseph Edkins. Being a Jew and a Hebrew scholar, Schereschewsky was given the task of translating the whole Old Testament single-handedly. At that time, there was no better person to translate the Hebrew Old Testament into Chinese than he. The New Testament was published in 1872, and the Old Testament in 1874.

The Chinese Bible translated by the Peking Committee was highly commended for its faithfulness to the original text, and idiomatic Mandarin. It was translated from the traditional and preserved Hebrew Masoretic Text and Greek Textus Receptus. True to the divinely preserved texts,

Schereschewsky did not think there was any scribal error in 2 Chronicles 22:2 (cf 2 Kgs 8:26), and faithfully translated the age of Ahaziah as 42 years old in keeping to the Masoretic Text. In the New Testament, the precious Trinitarian verse of 1 John 5:7 was kept intact and translated according to the Textus Receptus.

In recognition of his accomplishments in China, the American Episcopal Church made Schereschewsky the Missionary Bishop of Shanghai in 1877. At first he declined to accept the appointment due to his many perceived inadequacies. The House of Bishops however considered him to be the best candidate for the position, and insisted that he should take it up. He finally accepted the bishopric with “many grave misgivings,” and prayed God “Who is the strength of the weak and the Guide of the perplexed be my Strength and my Guide in this very solemn matter.” He felt that Divine Providence was leading him to establish a Christian College in China, and the bishopric conferred upon him would aid in this new endeavour. Besides his appointment as Bishop, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Kenyon College, and the Doctor of Sacred Theology by Columbia University.

When Schereschewsky returned to Shanghai, he bought 13 acres of land at the countryside to build St John's College as it was named. St John's College was formally opened in September 1879 with 10 lecturers and 62 students. St John's College became one of the finest colleges in China, and is now St John's University in Tamsui, Taiwan.

In 1881, Schereschewsky was struck with paralysis after coming down with high fever. He almost died from the fever and was in a coma for several days. When he regained consciousness, he found himself unable to move and to speak. As the days went by, he did improve a little, but it became quite obvious that he would be physically handicapped for life.

In 1883, Schereschewsky resigned as Bishop and embarked on a revision of his Chinese translation of the Old Testament which was his first love. He felt that his 1875 translation of the Old Testament could be improved upon. His revision did not depart from the literal accuracy of the text, but sought to smoothen the grammar and update the expressions to make the translation more readable.

Although severely handicapped, Schereschewsky was not a quitter. Dr Irene Eber recounts how Schereschewsky with “superhuman patience” went about his revision work: “... he acquired a typewriter called ‘Caligraph’ and began to revise the OT text in transliteration, using the middle finger of his right hand or alternately holding a stick in his fist [tapping out one letter after another]. Seven long years passed while he typed the revised OT and began a new translation of the entire Bible into literary Chinese. ... By the end of 1894, some six years after he had completed his OT revisions, he had produced ... a new NT translation in literary Chinese.” In his revision, Schereschewsky was assisted by Lian Yinghuang, a Chinese scholar and graduate of the Christian Dengzhou College. Schereschewsky's revised Old Testament in literary Chinese was finally published by the American Bible Society in 1899, and formed the basis of the Chinese Union Version of 1919.

Having accomplished what God had called him to do, Schereschewsky was called home to be with the Lord in 1906. Dr Eber concluded her biography of Schereschewsky by saying that the Jewish Bishop of Shanghai had no equal as translator of the Hebrew Scriptures, not then, not now.

I am grateful to brother Cheow Teong Kean of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church for bringing to my attention Irene Eber's biography of Schereschewsky titled, *The Jewish Bishop and the Chinese Bible: S*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 26 – Mar 4, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	5.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Quek Suan Yew) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Eio Eng Hua this Fri (Mar 2, 07) at 8 pm. Address: No. 20 Irrawaddy Road, #08-02 Elegance View, Singapore 329550. Tel: 62514256.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined YF Meeting at Calvary Pandan BPC this Sat (Mar 3, 07). Time: 5.30 pm. Message: "Responsibility of a Christian Youth" by Rev Dr Jack Sin. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 448 Bukit Panjang Ring Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength and for **Bro Henry Tan's** condition to improve through chemotherapy. Thank God for **Dr Arthur Steele** who is recovering well after his hip operation.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$6,515

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$100; *Rev Stephen Khoo* \$100, \$100; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$100, \$100; *Dn Tan Beng Lee* \$200; *Gethsemane BPC's Africa & Philippines Missions* \$25,000; *BCEA Tanzania* \$25,000; *Bible Witness Web Radio Ministry* \$1,000, \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$200; *Missions* \$100; *Sopheak's medical expenses* \$100; *Lotha (FEBC)* \$100; *Philip Lagat (FEBC)* \$100; *FEBC Students* \$400; *Sim Swee Ho & family* \$500; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$80; *FEBC* \$200, \$100, \$50

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$60,745

**Church Building Fund** \$4,000, \$200 **Total:** \$562,239.60

**Verse for the Week:** *A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies. Prov. 14:25*

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

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**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** is held at Room 601 (Level 6), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.



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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 22**

**25 February 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 11
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 65
Hymn	No. 119
Announcements	
Special Number	Deborah & Judith
Offering & Hymn	No. 390
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Col 1:12-25
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>Rejoicing in Suffering</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	<i>Rejoice in the Lord</i>
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Not Forgetting Africa

(A report by Rev Lee Kim Shong, pastor of Calvary Jaya BPC, on his mission trip to Kenya & Tanzania, Nov 21-Dec 6, '06)



Since entering full-time ministry about 20 years ago, Africa has been in my mind as a potential mission field. However, I never made any serious effort to go. Since Calvary Jaya BPC supported African FEBC students, and I as pastor knew little about Africa, I was invited to visit Africa and the churches there a few years ago. I hesitated to accept the invitation but at the end of last year when I received another invitation to visit Africa in a missions conference, I felt then that it was the time to say yes.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November at about 3 am, Dr Jeffrey Khoo (True Life BPC), Eld Tan Nee Keng (Berean

BPC) and I flew with Qatar Airways to the city of Doha. This was the city which hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Games recently. Sportsmen at the Games compete for a perishable crown but we Christians press towards the mark of Christ for an imperishable crown. The whole journey took us about eight hours covering a distance of 6,215 km. Thank God for the smooth journey and a very pleasant service on board.

After three hours of waiting, we flew to the city of Nairobi in Kenya. The Airbus took us to a height of 36,000 ft above sea level, and it took us five hours to reach Nairobi, covering a distance of 3,407 km. After such a long journey, I felt quite tired.

Rev Dr Mark Kim Kyung Soo (Principal, BCEA, Kenya & Tanzania), Pr Eben Yoon (BCEA lecturer) and Pr Richard Tiu (BCEA lecturer) met us at the Nairobi airport. Rev and Mrs Mark Kim of Korea were called to serve at the Bible College of East Africa (BCEA) 17 years ago. Rev and Mrs Mark Kim have laboured hard in the vineyard. Now they see the fruits of their labour. There are about 90 students in the college now.

After we were comfortably settled into our rooms at BCEA, Dr Jeffrey Khoo began to teach that very night. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good" (Eccl 11:6). There were about 60 students who attended his lectures on 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

I was invited to preach at the



L-R: Eld Tan Nee Keng, Rev Lee Kim Shong, Miss Yoon Ho Kyung, Mrs Hannah Kim, Rev Dr Mark Kim, Rev Peter Elibariki

morning chapel the next day. After the morning service, Rev Mark Kim fetched Eld Tan and me to Arusha, Tanzania. Enroute to Arusha, we passed by a vast area of land inhabited by the Masai who are nomads. On the road to Arusha, we saw a few giraffes. The giraffe, which is the national animal of Tanzania, is known for its tameness. After clearing the hurdles of the muddy road, we managed to arrive safely in Arusha city after a 340-km journey. After checking into Hotel Saba Saba (which means 77), we went to visit BCEA Tanzania.

BCEA Tanzania is located in the small town of Usa River approximately 23 km away from Arusha city. The Bible College is built on eight acres of land located at Chem Chem Village (translated as “water springs”) and about one kilometre off the main road. Rev Elibariki Peter Nanyaro (Academic Dean) and the students were there to welcome us. We could see the majestic Mount Meru from the Bible College campus. Mount Meru is the second highest mountain in Africa.

When we returned to the hotel that night, there were no street lights. The pedestrians had to depend on the passing vehicles’ lights. In the hotel room, we were blessed with quietness. There was no television but we had the “African Insects’ Symphony.” Blackouts are frequent in the country due to the lack of power supply. How I appreciate the street lights in our homeland and the candles in the hotel room! The whole world is in spiritual darkness and in need of the gospel light desperately. As Christians, are we shining for the Lord in our respective corners?

Most of the students in the Bible College are preachers or pastors. The oldest student is over 60 years old. It is encouraging to see students who are much advanced in age. We should never stop learning as long as we live. Learning is an exciting process of gaining wisdom. I was given three hours each day to teach the book of Ecclesiastes to the students. There were 16 of them who attended the class. They were attentive and most of them did quite well in tests after the lectures.

The largest Christian denomination in Tanzania is the Evangelical Lutheran Church which has joined the World Council of Churches. It was started by German missionaries and later helped by the Lutheran Church of the United States. Rev Elibariki’s church is called Africa Missions and Evangelism Church (AMEC). It was separated from the Evangelical Lutheran Church many years ago. His church takes a stand against the unbiblical ecumenical movement which is prevalent in most countries today. The greatest need of his church is the sound preaching and teaching of the Bible.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, I was invited to speak at the Combined Youth Conference of AMEC. I spoke on the life of Samson. People came from different villages, some even travelled for as far as 50 km. There was a 50-year old mother who asked permission to join the youth conference. She was a youth at heart. The youth conference was attended by some 50 participants. The conference was held in a church which was situated near the burial ground of the first German Protestant missionary who had died for his faith.

In the evening of December 1<sup>st</sup>, we attended the end-of-term dinner of the Bible College. We had a good meal in one of the classrooms. Rev Elibariki, the academic dean, together with the students expressed appreciation for our teaching ministry and hoped for us to visit them again.

The next day, I was invited to preach in the Marikanda congregation. After the service, we lunched with the Bishop of AMEC, Rev Lucas Pallangyo. He is about 80 years old with a joyful spirit. We enjoyed fellowship with him. After that, we drove to visit Kilimanjaro International Airport. While we were there, we saw the unveiling of the snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro. At 19,340 ft above sea level, it is the highest mountain in Africa. The grandeur of the sight was awe-inspiring and humbling.

The following day saw us taking a minibus back to Nairobi. We stayed the last night in

Nairobi before we took the flight home via Doha and Singapore. Thank God for the safe and fruitful journey. Thank God for the help of friends in Kenya and Tanzania throughout the mission trip. In Christ, we are not limited by geographical boundaries, ethnicity and languages. We are one in the body of Christ.

After sixteen days of travel, it is so good to taste the spicy Malaysian curry again. God willing, we shall return to the Bible College to teach God’s Word. Can we forget Africa? Will you support the work of God there?

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## **THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:**

### **The Epistles of Life**

#### **I John 1:8-10**

#### **An Unrepentant Heart is a Dark Heart**

Under the searchlight of the God of Light, no matter how pure and holy a life we’ve lived, we can only say like Isaiah, “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” (Isaiah 6:5). How much more when we get involved with a brother in some altercation, no matter how trivial.

It will not do to crow over one’s righteousness. We should not always point the finger at others, at the brother with whom we are in dispute. This is what the Apostle means when he says, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

But the repentant heart is always acceptable before God: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Psalms 51:17). “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Therefore the brother who rejects reconciliation to the fourth “degree” because he thinks he is all pure is tantamount to saying, God is a liar! But His word is not in him. He has in fact repudiated God, not man! His

adamant heart being a closed heart is a dark heart.

Is our Christian fellowship sincere? The things we say of others behind their backs dare we say in front of them? A word from Solomon: “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” (Proverbs 27:6). Memorise!

Of the Twelve Apostles who was the one with a dark heart?

#### **I John 2**

#### **The Law of Fellowship**

As we have seen in the previous chapter, Christian fellowship can be spoilt by sin in just one of its members. To maintain this fellowship certain principles are laid down which we abbreviate under the word “law”.

1. Between members of the Church and the Head of the Church, there stands Jesus Christ, the Advocate, to plead our cause, who also becomes the propitiation for our sins.

2. Between members themselves they are to obey the commandments which are summarised under “love one another”.

3. As to the world we are to refrain from loving it or lusting after it. Loving the world and loving God are mutually exclusive.

4. As to antichrists masquerading as brethren in the Church, it is essential that these be removed from the fellowship.

5. In matters of judgement the fellowship has the anointing of the Spirit to help them discern between error and truth. This anointing illuminates us from going astray.

6. Abiding in Christ is the assurance of our salvation until Christ comes again.

Let us test ourselves if we are keeping these laws of fellowship, not that by keeping them we are saved, but rather being saved these can become our keeping. Ps. 119:97-99: “O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.” Memorise! *T T*



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Mar 5 – 11, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 6</i> <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> ) (Rev Ronny Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Mar 7, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Program: Bible Study on James by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Mar 10, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Knowledge (Prov 1:7-9)" by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Mar 10, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Monks and Popes" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$15,399

**Designated Offerings:** *Gethsemane BPC* \$600;  
*Rev Quek Suan Yew* \$200; *Hien's ministry* \$200;  
*Sunday School* \$1,000; *Dennis Kabingue* \$100;  
*Wendy Teng* \$200; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$500, \$200

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

\$19,399

**Church Building Fund** \$1,120, \$60 **Total:**  
\$563,419.60

Sunday School Offering: \$347.00

**Verse for the Week:** *In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. Prov. 14:26*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**We extend our deepest condolences to Elder Wee Chin Kam and family** on the home going of Mrs Lydia Wee-Choi Lin Fong on Mar 2. Funeral service will be officiated by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo this afternoon, 2 pm at 346 Balestier Road, Ritz Mansions, after which the cortege will leave for Chua Chu Kang Christian Cemetery.

**We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs Ruth Tan and family** on the home going of Mr Henry Tan Kiat Siong on Mar 2. Vigil services tonight by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo and tomorrow night by Rev Tan Kian Sing, 8 pm, Blk 351 Yishun Avenue 11. Funeral service will be conducted by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo on Tues, Mar 6, at 9.45 am, after which the cortege will leave for Chua Chu Kang Lawn Cemetery.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

**At the Book Table:** *Kept Pure in All Ages: Recapturing the Authorised Version and the Doctrine of Providential Preservation* by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. Special price: \$4.00 (final copies)!



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 23

4 March 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 88
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 31
Hymn	No. 311
Announcements	
Special Number	Bro Tay Bee Heng
Offering & Hymn	No. 334
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Psalms 137
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
Sermon	<i>Remember, O LORD!</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
Closing Hymn	No. 353
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

## Modern Denial of Preservation

Lawrence E Bray, DD, ThD

(Originally published in The Presbyterian Standard, October-December 2006)



The doctrine of preservation is a foundational teaching of the Protestant Church. Most conservative Christians are in agreement that the original manuscripts of Scripture are inspired. But as we do not possess these originals the

doctrine of the preservation of those originals is of utmost importance. What this doctrine states is that while the Bible was immediately inspired in the originals, it was also kept pure throughout the ages. The purity of preservation is no less than the purity of inspiration as it is the work of

God Himself. Yet sadly today the conservative Christian Church is teaching something quite different. They no longer believe in the doctrine of preservation, though some do claim a belief in it. There are pockets of Christianity that still hold to this doctrine, being unshaken by the postmodernism that has infected the Church at large. Some of the organizations that represent this remnant of historic Christian belief in preservation are the Trinitarian Bible Society, the James Begg Society, and the Dean Burgon Society.

To better see the distinction between historic Christianity and postmodern Christianity we will look at two confessions that deal with the preservation of Scripture – The Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy. The Westminster Confession of Faith (chapter 1, section 8) says this: "The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of religion the Church is finally to appeal unto them. But because these original tongues are not known to all



Gospel Van purchased by True Life BPC for Baraka BPC, Shepherd's Field, Bethlehem

the people of God who have right unto, and interest in, the Scriptures, and are commanded, in the fear of God, to read and search them, therefore they are to be translated into the language of every people unto which they come, that the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner, and, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, may have hope.”

We can see that the accepted doctrine of the Protestant Church was that God kept His Scripture pure in all ages. That is how preservation was defined. Now before we go much further, let’s look at what the word “pure” means. To be pure is to be complete, without fault, free of foreign elements (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*). This gives us an excellent idea of what the Westminster Divines were telling us in this passage of the Confession. They believed that the Scriptures in their original languages were *pure and perfect in the apographs (copies)*, not solely in the autographs.

Now let’s see what a *modern confession* has to say about the purity and preservation of Scripture. The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (article X) says this: “We affirm that inspiration, strictly speaking, applies only to the autographic text of Scripture, which in the providence of God can be ascertained from available manuscripts with great accuracy. We further affirm that copies and translations of Scripture are the Word of God to the extent that they faithfully represent the original. We deny that any essential element of the Christian faith is affected by the absence of the autographs. We further deny that this absence renders the assertion of Biblical inerrancy invalid or irrelevant.”

This clearly shows us that modern Christian teaching promulgates the idea that we can have Scripture with “great accuracy,” but *not pure*. How great is the accuracy? I’ve

heard scholars suggest numbers from 98% to over 99% (Bruce Metzger et al), *but never 100%*. The statement of faith also shows that they look on the apographs as being the Word of God only to the extent that they represent the original. This is an interesting statement, as the originals *do not exist*. Logically speaking, since we do not have the originals this statement of faith confirms a belief that they do not know to what extent the Scriptures that we have are the Word of God since it is impossible for them to see how closely they represent the original.

There is another interesting statement in the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy that seems to contradict modern textual criticism. Article XIV says: “We affirm the unity and internal consistency of Scripture. We deny that alleged errors and discrepancies that have not yet been resolved violate the truth claims of the Bible.” While they say that they believe in the internal consistency of Scripture, let’s see what their modern textual criticism teaches us. The basic criteria for internally assessing variant readings is as follows: (1) the more difficult the reading the better; (2) the shorter the reading the better, (3) the reading that is in verbal dissidence with other readings is better, (4) the less refined and more rough reading is to be preferred (Bruce M Metzger, *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*, p209). The modern textual critic believes that the reading in dissidence with other readings is better! That’s hardly a case for internal consistency.

We also see the doctrine of preservation vanishing among Bible translators and Greek Text editors. I will look at two popular evangelical translations as well as the critical Greek Text put out by the United Bible Society.

(1) 2 Chronicles 31:16 (NASB): “without regard to their genealogical enrollment, to the males from thirty years old and upward—everyone who entered the house of the

LORD for his daily obligations—for their work in their duties according to their divisions.” All ancient manuscripts contain “3 years old” and not the 30 that we see in the NASB. This shows that the translators feel a need to correct the Scriptures. This need to correct clearly goes against any honest teaching on preservation.

(2) 1 Samuel 13:1 (ESV): “Saul was ... years old when he began to reign, and he reigned ... and two years over Israel.” Here the ESV translators show that there is missing text in the Scriptures. Clearly you cannot show that there is missing text and still believe the text has been preserved. Remember that the definition of pure includes completeness. Besides, this would sound very strange if read in public.

The editors of the UBS critical Greek text also have a different idea of preservation. The UBS critical Greek text at Acts 16:12 uses “*protes*” - which is found in no manuscript. The reading should be “*prote*” without the “s.” The “s” makes the noun genitive, which changes the meaning. Instead of reading that Philippi is a foremost city of Macedonia, it reads that Philippi is a city of the first district of Macedonia. They do this because they do not think the text has been preserved, but rather it needs correcting.

**I strongly urge Christians to consider where a denial of the preservation of Scripture will lead the Church. Without preservation there is no purity. Without purity the text can be questioned. When the text can be questioned we have no final authority. The early Protestant Church understood the importance of this doctrine. We should seek to embrace it again as something that is dearly beloved to us.**

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## THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

### The Epistles of Life

#### I John 2:1-2

#### Advocate for sinning members

When members of the Church fall into sin,

they must come back to the Father. But only through the Advocate who alone can speak to the Father for us. An advocate, according to the Latin, is one who is called to plead for another. The Greek here which is **parakletos** is translated Comforter in Jn. 15:16, 26. Advocate is the preferred rendering here. Jesus Christ is as it were our Lawyer appearing on our behalf in the Court of God the Father-Judge to plead for us.

But the Advocate in our Saviour is far above human advocates. The latter may succeed or not succeed in the pleading. Our Lord has absolute success because He is also the propitiation, the appeasement, the atonement, the satisfaction offering by His own blood for our sins. He not only pleads with the Father to pardon us but also pays the penalty of our sins. What lawyer who goes to court will pay the fine or suffer punishment, even capital punishment, for his client?

It is interesting to observe this additional offer of propitiation for the sins of the whole world. Although the propitiation available for Christians is efficient for the elect, it is sufficient for the whole world. This offer of propitiation for the sins of the whole world bespeaks the desiderative will of God, who “is longsuffering to us—ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Pet 3:9). It is the John 3:16 of John’s Epistles.

Never say die even when you feel so hopelessly lost, so far astray from God. Satan who is jealous of us will try to lead you to suicide. But our Lord is always merciful. He says, “Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). “. . . and him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out” (Jn. 6:37).

Additional verse for Catholic readers: “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (I Tim. 2:5). *T T*



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Mar 12 – 18, 2007)

MON – FRI	FEBC Mid-Term Break
WED – FRI	FBF Retreat
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at Level 2, Orange Grove Room today.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship (FBF)** will be having their Retreat this week from Wed to Fri (Mar 14 – 16, 07) at Sofitel Palm Resort, JB. Theme: Who Buildeth Our Home? (Ps 127:1). Speaker: Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Mar 17, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "When Sinners Enticed Thee" (Prov 1:10-19) by Bro Dennis Kabingue. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Calvary Tengah BPC will be conducting a Musicians Retreat cum Workshop** this Sat (Mar 17, 07) at Calvary Tengah BPC premises. Programme: Hymn Playing Workshop by Janice Lai (11-1pm); Message by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy (2-4pm); and Vocal/Choral Workshop (4.30-6.30pm). Pianists are required to come prepared to play one hymn. The Hymn Playing Workshop is clinically inclined. For details, please contact Janice Lai at 91080301.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$12,540

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$300 (LF); *Church Choir* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$13,340

**Church Building Fund – Total:** \$563,419.60

Sunday School Offering: \$431.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. Prov. 14:27*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Please register early. Closing Date: Apr 29, 07.

**Brisbane BPC** will hold its inauguration service next Lord's Day, March 18, 2007. True Lifers planning to go for the inauguration can write to preacher Hien ([hientrangng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hientrangng@optusnet.com.au)) for information. Officiating minister: Rev Stephen Khoo.

**Elder Wee Chin Kam and children** would like to thank all True Lifers and FEBC staff and students for their kind assistance, attendance, condolences, prayers, wreaths and donations during their recent bereavement on the home-going of Mrs Lydia Wee.

**Mrs Ruth Tan and children** would like to thank all True Lifers for their love, care and concern during their time of bereavement on the home-going of Henry Tan. Thank you and may the Lord bless each one abundantly.

**We extend our deepest condolences** to Sis Hedy Ho on the home-going of her sister, Mdm Helen Ho Wee Siang, on Mar 6, 07.

**At the Book Table: Kept Pure in All Ages: Recapturing the Authorised Version and the Doctrine of Providential Preservation** by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. Special price: \$4.00 (final copies)!



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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Vol. IV No. 24

11 March 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 260
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 12
Hymn	No. 256
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 408
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	2 Tim 3:14-17
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Ronny Khoo
Sermon	<i>Return to the Bible Daily</i> (Rev Ronny Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 183 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Ronny Khoo

## FEBC Faculty United on Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP)



The original statement on the Holy Scriptures of the Bible-Presbyterian (BP) Church as stated in the constitution of many BP churches today reads, "We believe in the divine, verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and as the Word of God, the Supreme and final authority in faith and life" (Article 4.2.1).

Article 4.2.1 does not explicitly state or identify the Holy Scriptures in which we regard as the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God except that it is "the Scriptures in the original languages." This was because when the BP Church in Singapore was founded in 1950, the humble, God-fearing leaders of the Church generally understood the Reformed and Protestant doctrine of Holy Scripture, and there was no need to express more than that which is

contained in the wording of the Constitution. It ought also to be noted that the attack on Scripture in those days concerned the Scripture's inspiration and not preservation. However, in this modern age of confusion over the nature and identity of the Holy Scriptures, the FEBC found it necessary to state in no uncertain terms what it believes to be the Holy Scriptures, 100% inspired and 100% preserved to the jot and tittle (Matt 5:18).

On February 27, 2007, the lecturers of the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) reaffirmed unanimously their commitment to the Statement of Faith drafted and approved by the Board of Directors and the Academic Faculty in 2003. Articles 4.2.1, and 4.2.1.1/2/3 of the Statement of Faith as contained in the FEBC Constitution read:

**4.2.1 We believe in the divine, Verbal Plenary Inspiration (Autographs) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (Apographs) of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and as the perfect Word of God, the supreme and final authority in faith and life** (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:20-21, Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35).

**4.2.1.1 We believe the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament underlying the Authorised (King James) Version to be the very Word of God, infallible and inerrant.**

**4.2.1.2 We uphold the Authorised (King James) Version to be the Word of God—the best, most faithful, most accurate, most beautiful translation of the Bible in**



YPF 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary, Feb 24, 07



*the English language, and do employ it alone as our primary scriptural text in the public reading, preaching, and teaching of the English Bible.*

4.2.1.3 *The Board of Directors and Faculty shall affirm their allegiance to the Word of God by taking the Dean Burgon Oath at every annual convocation: “I swear in the Name of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit that I believe “the Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne. Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is direct utterance of the Most High. The Bible is none other than the Word of God, not some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike the utterance of Him that sitteth upon the throne, faultless, unerring, supreme.”*

Not only the FEBC, but the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) in 1998 and 2000, the Trinitarian Bible Society (TBS) in 2005, and the Dean Burgon Society (DBS) have all found it necessary to state clearly the nature and identity of the Holy Scriptures that we have in our hands today. FEBC stands with them in their affirmation of the present infallibility and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures, and the identification of the divinely preserved texts to be the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus.

**We hereby beseech all Bible-believing Christians to affirm and defend the Biblical doctrines of the Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures in the Traditional Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus on which the Reformation Bible, the King James Bible, is based.**

#### **FEBC Constitution Article 4: Statement of Faith**

4.1 The Statement of Faith of the College shall be in accordance with that system commonly called “the Reformed Faith” as expressed in the Confession of Faith as set forth by the historic Westminster Assembly together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

In abbreviated form, the chief tenets of the doctrine of the College, apart from the Doctrinal Position Statement of the College, shall be as follows:

4.2.1 We believe in the divine, Verbal Plenary Inspiration (Autographs) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (Apographs) of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and as the perfect Word of God, the supreme and final authority in faith and life (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:20-21, Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35).

4.2.1.1 We believe the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament underlying the Authorised (King James) Version to be the very Word of God, infallible and inerrant.

4.2.1.2 We uphold the Authorised (King James) Version to be the Word of God—the best, most faithful, most accurate, most beautiful translation of the Bible in the English language, and do employ it alone as our primary scriptural text in the public reading, preaching, and teaching of the English Bible.

4.2.1.3 The Board of Directors and Faculty shall affirm their allegiance to the Word of God by taking the Dean Burgon Oath at every annual convocation: “I swear in the Name of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit that I believe “the Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne. Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is direct utterance of the Most High. The Bible is none other than the Word of God, not some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike the utterance of Him that sitteth upon the throne, faultless, unerring, supreme.”

4.2.2 We believe in one God existing in three co-equal and co-eternal Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut 6:4, 1 John 5:7).

4.2.3 We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man in complete and direct fulfilment of Isaiah 7:14 (Matt 1:20-23, John 1:1, 14, Col 2:9).

4.2.4 We believe God created the whole universe *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) by the Word of His mouth, and all very good, in the space of six literal or natural days (Gen 1:1, Exod 20:11, Ps 148:5, John 1:3, Col 1:16, Heb 11:3).

4.2.5 We believe that man was created in the image of God, but sinned through the fall of Adam, thereby incurring not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and become sinners in thought, word and deed (Gen 1:26-27, Rom 3:19-20, 5:12, 6:23).

4.2.6 We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died a propitiatory and expiatory death as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who repent of their sins and believe in Him are justified before God on the grounds of His shed blood (Rom 5:8-11, 1 John 2:2, 1 Pet 1:18-19).

4.2.7 We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His exaltation at the right hand of God, where He intercedes for us as our High Priest and Advocate (1 Cor 15:1-4, 15-19, Phil 2:9-11, Heb 3:1, 4:14-16).

4.2.8 We believe in the personal, visible and premillennial return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to judge this world, restore His chosen nation Israel to greatness, and bring peace to the nations as King of kings and Lord of lords (Jer 3:17, Zech 14:9, Acts 1:6, Rom 11:26, Rev 20:1-7).

4.2.9 We believe that salvation is by grace through faith alone, not by works, and that all who repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour are born again by the Holy Spirit and

thereby become the children of God (Rom 5:1, 8:14-16, Eph 2:8-10, 1 Tim 2:5, Tit 3:5).

4.2.10 We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to convict and regenerate the sinner, and indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service (John 16:7-14, Rom 8:1-2).

4.2.11 We believe that Christ instituted the Sacrament of Baptism for believers and their children and the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, which sacraments shall be observed by His Church till He comes (Matt 28:19, 1 Cor 11:23-26).

4.2.12 We believe in the eternal security, bodily resurrection and eternal blessedness of the saved, and in the bodily resurrection and eternal conscious punishment of the lost (John 10:27-29, 1 Cor 15:51-53, 1 Thess 4:13-18, Rev 20:11-15).

4.2.13 We believe in the real, spiritual unity in Christ of all redeemed by His precious blood and the necessity of faithfully maintaining the purity of the Church in doctrine and life according to the Word of God, and the principle and practice of biblical separation from the apostasy of the day being spearheaded by the ecumenical movement, charismatic movement and other false movements that contradict the Holy Scriptures and the Historic Christian Faith (2 Cor 6:14-7:1, Jude 3, Rev 18:4).

See ICCC, TBS, and DBS statements as published in *The Burning Bush* (July 2006): 72-73, and *The Burning Bush* (January 2007): 36-39.

Signed:

Rev Dr Timothy Tow (True Life BPC)

Mrs Ivy Tow (True Life BPC)

Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo (True Life BPC)

Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy (Gethsemane BPC)

Rev Koa Keng Woo (Muar BPC)

Rev Stephen Khoo (Bethel BPC)

Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew (Calvary Pandan BPC)

Rev Tan Kian Sing (Berean BPC)

Mrs Jemima Khoo (True Life BPC)

Miss Carol Lee (Truth BPC)

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Mar 19 – 25, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 6</i> <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Koa Keng Woo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (March 24, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$19,989; USD2; PHP70  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$200; *BCEA (Tanzania)* \$2,000; *Baraka BPC* \$200; *Sarawak Mission* \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$50; *FBF Retreat* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$531; *FEBC Scholarship* \$500; *FEBC* \$350, \$200  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
 S\$24,520; USD2; PHP70  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$800, \$450, \$200,  
 \$155 **Total:** \$566,024.60

Sunday School Offering: \$465.00

**Verse for the Week:** *In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince. Prov. 14:28*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. *Theme:* "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Please register early. *Closing Date:* April 29, 07.

**Infant Baptism at Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 07.** Please register with Wendy Teng (Tel: 62541287/94754067).

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (March 25, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mem Yee at 96659109.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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**Vol. IV No. 25**

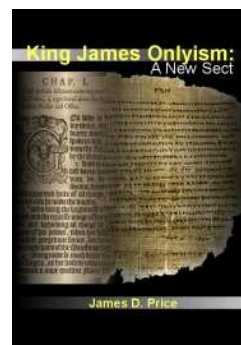
**18 March 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 411
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Phil 2:1-16
Hymn	No. 305
Announcements	
Special Number	African Students
Offering & Hymn	No. 395
Offertory Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	I John 3:1-3
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>Now are We the Sons of God</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 21
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Multiversions Onlyism

*A Book Review by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo*



*King James Onlyism*, a new book by James D Price of Temple Baptist Seminary, joins the ranks of fundamentalist books like *From the Mind of God to the Mind of Man* (1999), *One Bible Only?* (2001), and *God's Word in Our Hands* (2003), in attacking the Biblical

doctrine of the verbal and plenary preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures, and the faithful, logical identification of the divinely preserved texts to be the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus on which the King James Version (KJV) is based.

Price's Multiversions Onlyism book was printed with the help of Rev Yap Beng Shin, a Bible-Presbyterian (BP) minister, who earned his

MDiv from Temple Baptist Seminary under Price's tutelage. Rev Yap was one of the 11 signers of a statement against the VPP of the Holy Scriptures. Besides Rev Yap, the other signers were Rev Philip Heng, Rev Ong Hock Khee, Rev Tan Eng Boo, Rev Charles Seet, Rev Colin Wong, Rev Anthony Tan, Rev Tan Choon Seng, Rev Eric Kwan, Rev Eddy Lim, and Rev Yap Kim Sin. I would assume that Price's book is not only recommended by Rev Yap but also these other BP ministers who stand with him. For those looking for reasons why the KJV ought to be replaced with modern versions, Price's book is better than most.

Price's involvement in the VPP/TR/KJV debate in Singapore went as far back as 2002 when he wrote a critique of my paper, "A Plea for a Perfect Bible." His critique was circulated among BP churches and members, and grossly misrepresented my position on the VPP of Scriptures by making it a purely translational (English and KJV) issue when it was primarily a textual and doctrinal one (100% inspired and 100% preserved Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words underlying the faithful and accurate KJV on the basis of the twin doctrines of the VPI and VPP of the Holy Scriptures, Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35 etc). Price's critique heightened the confusion among BP members and churches concerning VPP. I wrote a response to Price's review of my paper and clarified what I meant by VPP. But Price does not seem to care about accurate and truthful reporting for

points, and so "it is wrong to suppose that only one translation is adequate for all purposes." I suppose he would spurn an NIV Only, or NASB Only, or NKJV Only position as well, but he does not say so explicitly, but one thing is obvious, he attacks the KJV more than any other version. According to Price's doctrine of imperfect preservation, every Bible (including the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures) contains mistakes. If there is such a thing as a Perfect Bible, it is only the autographs which no longer exist, or it is in the sea of multiple manuscripts and versions, every one of them different and not the same. As far as Price is concerned, no one should presume to know with absolute certainty where the 100% infallible and inerrant Scripture today is. It may be somewhere out there, but precisely where, no believer can tell; the only one who can even come close to telling would be the

textual critic, and even then, he cannot be dogmatic or absolutely sure. There is just no perfect standard to judge anything today. This logic of Price is the same kind of logic that turned once-upon-a-time fundamentalist, Bart Ehrman, into an agnostic. Where is the Bible? The Bible is nowhere, and so is God!

This Anti-KJV book of Price would be excellent for those seeking to (1) oppose the Reformed Faith, the Reformation Text, and the VPP of Scripture; (2) discourage the use of the faithful and accurate, time-tested and time-honoured KJV; and (3) push for modern versions to replace the KJV in the church. Any anti-VPP church which embraces the anti-KJV views of Price, and sees the use of the KJV as only a matter of preference and not principle, will ultimately give up the KJV to embrace the modern versions which are based on corrupted texts. May true and faithful Protestant, Reformation, and Fundamental believers and churches beware!

he continues to misrepresent and caricature pro-KJV or KJV-superiority advocates as Ruckmanites and Seventh-Day Adventists (SDA). He insinuates that Presbyterian and Harvard scholar Edward F Hills, and David Otis Fuller, a founding leader of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC), and D A Waite, President of the Dean Burgon Society believe in the inspiration of the English words of the KJV when they are actually talking about the inspiration and preservation of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words on which the KJV is based. Such slanders did not begin with Price, but with Doug Kutilek who is quoted and praised by Price in his book. If Hills, Fuller and Waite are Ruckmanites and SDAs for promoting the KJV as the best and only faithful English Bible today, then the Trinitarian Bible Society and the Bible League, which promote and defend the KJV and consider not only the modern versions but also the NKJV to be unreliable, should be implicated too. Price unjustly paints with a broad brush, and by so doing creates confusion and scepticism among the believers.

Anyone reading Price's anti-KJV book would likely lose confidence in the KJV and be filled with doubts over the faithfulness and accuracy of the KJV and its underlying Hebrew and Greek texts. If a Multiversions Only advocate wishes to discourage a KJV user from using the KJV, Price's book might just do the trick. Price spared no effort to show that the KJV is full of mistakes. A young or undiscerning reader might be stumbled and deceived, especially if he does not start with Scripture itself and believe in God's promise of special providence in preserving His inspired Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words on which the KJV is based, and how the KJV is a faithful and accurate translation of those providentially preserved Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words.

According to Price, the KJV is only one version among many good and even better versions. To him, the use of the KJV should be a matter of preference and not principle. Price would deem all who affirm the KJV as "the best, most faithful, most accurate, most beautiful translation of the Bible in the English

language, and employ it alone as [their] primary scriptural text in the public reading, preaching, and teaching of the English Bible" to be divisive or schismatic (some even say heretical!). Price ought to be reminded that Truth does divide (eg, John 10:19). For instance, the Biblical doctrine that a man can only be saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, based on Scripture alone, is surely schismatic and divisive. There are no two ways about it. Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword" (Matt 10:34). This "sword" is a sword of division or separation. Does Price believe this? Does Price who hails from a fundamentalist seminary not teach separation from modernism, ecumenism, charismatism, and neo-evangelicalism? Why is he singing an inclusive, pluralistic, and syncretistic tune by commending and recommending the use of ecumenical, liberal, neo-evangelical, and feminist versions of the Bible which will only compromise and confuse the clear testimony of the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ? It must be said that the KJV, being a Reformation Bible, is a separatist Bible. No wonder it is so disliked, even hated, by non- or anti-separatists!

Now, we do not discount the fact that the modern, neo-evangelical and ecumenical versions which are based on the corrupt texts and/or use the dynamic equivalence method may contain enough gospel to convict and convert the sinner (according to God's election), but this does not make them the "Word of God." They may contain the Word of God like tracts and commentaries do, but they can hardly be regarded as the very Word of God for they stem from the corrupt text of theological liberals, Westcott and Hort, who denied the historicity of the first three chapters of Genesis, the total inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures, and other fundamental doctrines of the Christian Faith.

Price wants Christians to be uncertain or agnostic about the precise location of God's Word. He says, "The Bible, like all other things in life, has a measure of uncertainty associated with the identity, the exposition, the interpretation, and the meaning of its text. Sound reason has shown that this uncertainty

provides no practical basis for doubting the authenticity or authority of Scripture; instead, reason provides the stepping stone for faith to move beyond uncertainty to full confidence in God's Word." In other words, faith must depend on reason ("the stepping stone for faith") to give it confidence in God's Word. Such a thinking is unbiblical to say the least. Faith does not rest on human reason at all, but on the Word of God alone (*Sola Scriptura*). Price has placed corrupt and imperfect human reason above the incorruptible and perfect Word of God. He is calling Christians to have faith in human reason and human methods (eg, textual criticism) for their faith to be sure, for he reasons that reason can give certainty to faith if only we have confidence in it. Price who adopts human reason as a superior, or an equal/additional authority to Scriptures proves the point that reason will only lead to uncertainty, even unbelief. It goes without saying that Price's epistemology is utterly wrongheaded.

Biblical fideism, on the other hand, gives rise to certainty not to be repented of. The Apostle Peter tells us that our faith and knowledge must be based on the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:68-69). The Apostle Paul likewise said, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:16). The Bible is not "like other things in life" as Price would have us believe. The Bible is unique and incomparable; there is nothing like it on earth and God forbid that we should belittle it by making it subservient to human reason and methods, and "other things in life." The Bible is perspicuous and not as "uncertain" as Price thinks. It is unbelief that makes the perspicuous Bible uncertain to man, and may we not be unbelieving (John 8:43-47, Mark 16:14, Luke 24:25, 27).

Price's book rings an uncertain and ungodly sound. It is a mixed bag of truth and error, facts and falsehoods. For example, he states truthfully when he says that Hills, Fuller, Waite and Cloud insist on the Textus Receptus

(TR) underlying the KJV as the "providentially preserved authoritative text of Scripture," or what he calls "the autographic text." But the next moment he states a falsehood by saying that those men believe "it is the English words that determine the words of the Hebrew and Greek texts, not the Hebrew and Greek words that determine the English." By so twisting the doctrine of VPP, he makes the above men look like they believe in an "inspired KJV," that the English is superior to the Hebrew and the Greek, a position none of them advocate. Having painted TR-only preservationists unfairly with such ugly colours, he then puts his finishing touches to his distorted picture by making them look like Ruckman. Such a below-the-belt tactic Price had well learned from Kutilek.

Price charges the KJV for giving an "uncertain sound" quoting 1 Corinthians 14:8-9, but does not realise that he is guilty of it himself when he insists that there can be no certainty whatsoever as regards the identification of the Perfect Word of God today. Where are God's infallible and inerrant words today? Well, they are somewhere out there, but nobody can tell for sure precisely where. Without knowing where God's infallible and inerrant words are, how can we live by His every word (Matt 4:4)?

Price is annoyed that preachers should have "to waste time explaining archaic words, phrases, and idioms." Singapore's first chief minister, David Marshall, who had for his English textbook the KJV, would have scorned at Price's puerile criticisms of the KJV. There are only about 200 archaic words in the KJV. These old words comprise only 0.1% of the KJV. The Oxford, Webster, Chambers dictionaries contain entries for most of these archaic words. *The Defined King James Bible* has the meanings of all the archaic words footnoted. They are not that difficult to look up and learn. Moreover, to be educated with the King's English is hardly a waste of time.

Price spurns a One Bible or KJV Only position and advocates a Modern Versions or Multiple Versions Only position. To Price, every version has its positive and negative



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Mar 26 – Apr 1, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Stephen Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship** will be visiting Pastor Tow at the Parsonage this Sat (Mar 31, 07) at 3.30 pm. Please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Mar 31, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Dn and Mrs Tan Beng Lee's home at Blk 103 Spottiswoode Park Road, #08-104, Singapore 080103. Tel: 63271346. Message: "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 211 Petir Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**At the Book Table:** The Defined King James Bible at special price of \$19.70, and George Skariah's doctoral dissertation on Biblical Preservation, \$10 only.

**FEBC Bookroom's Easter Sales** – Up to 50% discounts for selected books.

reception of His true Word, the promise of God holds true for He has supernaturally preserved His inspired Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament words on which the King James Bible—the Reformation Bible—is based, and has surely raised up in these last days a remnant of Biblicists

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$7,100.20; RM82  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$185; *Chinese Bibles for Ng Sang Chiew* \$150; *FEBC Students* \$100; *Thadeaus (FEBC)* \$50; *Jose (FEBC)* \$50; *Biak Lawm Thang (FEBC)* \$50; *Limhathung (FEBC)* \$50; *Albert (FEBC)* \$50; *Mung Hau Khup (FEBC)* \$50; *John Saray (FEBC)* \$50; *Samson (FEBC)* \$50; *Samuel Kwong (FEBC)* \$50; *FEBC* \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

S\$8,285.20; RM82

**Church Building Fund – Total:** \$566,024.60

Sunday School Offering: \$414.00

**Verse for the Week:** *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly. Prov. 14:29*

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. *Theme:* "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Please register early. *Closing Date:* April 29, 07.

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying the book of II Peter, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Catechism Class for Easter Baptism** is held at Room 601 (Level 6), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Infant Baptism at Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 07.** Please register with Wendy Teng (Tel: 62541287/94754067).

**Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 07** will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am. Bus leaves Newton at 6.30 am sharp. If you need transport, please sign up at the Notice Board outside the Auditorium. For enquiries, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

from all over the world who remain true to the spirit of the Reformation, who refuse to kowtow to the ecumenical idolatry and textual-critical scholarolatry of this postmodern and neo-deistic age. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal 6:7).



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

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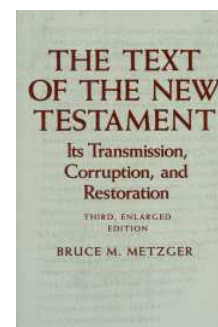
25 March 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 32
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps 119:89-112
Hymn	No. 255
Announcements	
Special Number	Youth Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 403
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Psalms 14
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Koa Keng Woo
Sermon	<i>The Greatest Fool</i> (Rev Koa Keng Woo)
Closing Hymn	No. 267
Benediction	Rev Koa Keng Woo

## Bruce Metzger and the Curse of Textual Criticism

Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo



Bruce Manning Metzger passed away on February 13, 2007 at the age of 93. He taught New Testament language and literature at Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS) since 1938. He is known particularly for his textual criticism of the New Testament. For his textual-critical work, many are now singing his praises, and extolling him in no uncertain terms as one of Princeton's "greatest intellectual ornaments," and an "absolutely preeminent New Testament scholar." Iain Torrance, President of PTS, called Metzger, "the greatest American New Testament critic and biblical translator of the twentieth century."

## Metzger's Influence

Metzger is adored by modern-day textual critics who hail him as a "legend." Here is one anecdote that shows how Metzger is practically worshipped, "Kathleen Maxwell told us in her presentation at the SBL in Edinburgh that she had phoned Bart Ehrman concerning a special feature in a manuscript (a red cross marking out the place where there was an illumination in the exemplar of the MS). Ehrman had told her to phone his Doktorvater Metzger to see if he had encountered this feature in MSS. Bart gave her the number and she got Metzger on the line. To us she remarked, 'I felt like I was calling God!'" If this is not blasphemy (cf Acts 12:20-23), it is surely idolatry! This is the curse of textual criticism—the glorification of the scholar and his mind, instead of Christ and His words.

Although Metzger has died, his books and his students live on. One of his students is bestselling author Bart Ehrman who under Metzger's tutelage ended up an agnostic. Metzger's mantle has fallen upon Ehrman, and the latter will no doubt continue the Bible-denying legacy of his master! Metzger's textbook on textual criticism—*The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*—has just been revised and published with Ehrman as co-author and is likely to remain as the standard for all aspiring textual-critical scholars. Dan Wallace of Dallas Theological Seminary, a Metzger fan and TR/KJV-basher, wrote, "Metzger-Ehrman's *Text of the New Testament*

remains the standard handbook on NT textual criticism. Even with its few flaws, this volume should be read, underlined, digested, and quoted by all students of the NT text. It rightfully deserves to be within arm's reach of all who study the sacred Greek Scriptures.” Wallace’s influence at Dallas will no doubt lead more Dallas students to close textual-critical encounters of the deadly Metzger-Ehrman kind.

At this juncture, let me offer a Biblical fundamentalist perspective of Metzger’s contributions to New Testament scholarship. Faithful and true Biblicists ought to be warned that Metzger’s scholarship is not one to be desired nor admired. Metzger could well be a gentle, courteous, and nice man as described in many a eulogy, but such adulations are no sure gauge of his biblical and theological orthodoxy. Let us beware lest we fall into the snare of unbelieving scholarship, and the seduction of worldly honour and glory. Every biblical scholar or theologian who is committed to the total infallibility and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures, and the authenticity and integrity of the Greek New Testament of the Protestant Reformation which is the Textus Receptus must know that the adoption of Metzger’s philosophy and methodology will only lead to chronic uncertainty and perpetual unbelief of the total inspiration and perfect preservation of the Holy Scriptures.

### **Metzger Rejected**

Let me share with you my experience. Metzger’s book on textual criticism—*The Text of the New Testament*—was introduced to me when I was a student at the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC, 1985-1989). It was required reading for a couple of New Testament courses that I had to take. Those lecturers of mine had earned their theological degrees from top seminaries and universities in the USA and UK. They used and quoted Metzger favourably. When I myself pursued further studies in the States, at Grace Theological Seminary in the years 1989-1991, I found a modernist like Metzger highly regarded in what was a conservative evangelical and

fundamentalist institution. (The Grace Seminary catalogue of 1989-1991 proudly advertised Bruce Metzger to attract prospective students. Page 63 of the catalogue contained a handsome photo of Metzger with this caption, “Dr. Bruce Metzger, one of the dozens of noted authors and theologians who have lectured to Grace Seminary students.”)

By the grace of God, the contents of Metzger’s book, in particular his textual methodology and interpretation of history, never sat well with me. For instance, one lecturer at FEBC during my student days, quoting Metzger, taught that the teachings of Jesus were not unique to Him, but merely an improvement on the existing traditions Jesus had access to in His day. What an attack on the integrity of our Lord and His Word! Also, I was taught the so-called “eclectic” method of textual criticism which favoured the critical theories of Anglican liberals, Westcott and Hort. It made me proud to think that I could judge or emend the Holy Scriptures based on human reasoning and man-made rules. For over a decade, I had used the modernistic United Bible Societies’ Greek New Testament edited by Metzger et al, but am thankful to the Lord for delivering me out of ignorance and error through the writings of J W Burgon, E F Hills and D A Waite. Dr Waite, who is President of the Dean Burgon Society, visited Singapore in 1992. He spoke at Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church and FEBC on the textual issue and defended the KJV and its underlying texts. The glory of God and the logic of faith then led the Rev Dr Timothy Tow, the principal of FEBC and his faculty, to see the wonderful truth of the verbal and plenary preservation of the Holy Scriptures (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35). FEBC now requires the use of only the Traditional Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus published by the Trinitarian Bible Society in its biblical language and literature classes. The KJV continues to be the only acceptable version for use in its English Bible courses.

### **Metzger’s Myth**

Many an evangelical textual critic are

impressed by the “awesome” footnotes of Metzger’s scholarly writings. Metzger’s texts and his annotated footnotes are said to be indispensable stuff in scholarly text-critical research. O, how we must be wary! Metzger’s “Bible” of textual criticism is filled with unbelief and deception. One example of deception is the myth Metzger concocted to question the authenticity of the Trinitarian verse called the “Johannine Comma” (1 John 5:7). Metzger in his textbook—*The Text of the New Testament*—pontificated, “Erasmus promised that he would insert the *Comma Johanneum*, as it is called, in future editions if a single Greek manuscript could be found that contained the passage. At length such a copy was found—or was made to order!” For decades, Metzger’s story has been parroted by anti-preservationists, TR/KJV opponents as if it was gospel truth. Erasmus expert, Henk J de Jonge of Leiden University, in his paper on “Erasmus and the *Comma Johanneum*” has convincingly proven that Metzger’s story on Erasmus is utterly baseless. This was no small embarrassment to Metzger and all his followers. Metzger, however, did not remove his misleading story about Erasmus in subsequent editions of his book, but placed a corrigendum in a footnote on a distant page (p291) in his third, enlarged edition confessing that what he had written on page 101 about Erasmus and 1 John 5:7 “needs to be corrected.” But the unsuspecting reader and those not in the habit of reading footnotes, or those referencing his book for information on 1 John 5:7 from page 101 would hardly come to know that his story about Erasmus and 1 John 5:7 was in fact spurious (There’s no footnote on p101 that would direct the reader to the correction made known on p291; neither is p291 indexed with 1 John 5:7 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> enlarged edition.) I can only opine that Metzger was trying to save face for he apparently took no special effort nor great care to make known the falsity of his allegation against the authenticity of the Johannine Comma, which is really a myth he had invented and popularised to undermine the providentially preserved Textus Receptus

underlying the KJV.

### **Metzger’s Ecumenism**

Let it be known that Metzger was a fervent promoter and leader of the ecumenical movement. The ecumenical New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of 1977–1990 was Metzger’s baby. Without Metzger there would be no NRSV. Metzger saw no better way to promote ecumenism than to produce a Bible that would unite both Protestant and Catholic elements. Metzger was actively involved in the translation of the Apocrypha and even expanded it to include 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Maccabees and Psalm 151. He did this to please the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church. In 1976, he personally presented the ecumenical edition of the RSV to Demetrios I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and titular head of the several Orthodox Churches. In 1993, Metzger presented a Catholic edition of the NRSV to Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. Why did he do all this? PTS President, Iain Torrance, tells us why, “Bruce Metzger understood and was passionate about the significance of biblical translation for ecumenical dialogue. ... It was important to him that Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Protestant Christians be able to have recourse to a common biblical text as an instrument of unity.”

Is such an ecumenical ethos shared by Biblical fundamentalists and separatists? If not, why are fundamentalist pastors and scholars from Bob Jones University, Central, Detroit, Temple and other fundamental Baptist Seminaries which believe and practise separation commending and recommending Metzger, his ecumenical RSV/NRSV and the many modern versions that stem from his corrupt Greek Text? Is this apostasy, hypocrisy, compromise, or what?

### **Metzger Defeated**

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (2 Cor 13:8). Despite the evangelical/fundamentalist compromise today, and the denial of God’s special providence in the days of the Great Protestant Reformation in the restoration of His true Church and

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Apr 2 – 8, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	Calvin's Institutes I (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
FRI	8.00 pm	Good Friday Service (Lord's Supper)
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	7.00 am	Easter Sunrise Service at Labrador Park (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
	10.30 am	Korean Worship Service
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Monday night class** is held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Apr 4, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Program: Bible Study on James by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Apr 7, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Reproof and Correction (Prov 1:30-33)" by Eld Tan Nee Keng. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Book Table:** Defined KJB @ \$19.70 only.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$11,188

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* S\$200; *Wendy Teng* S\$100; *FEBC* S\$280; *Brisbane BPC* AUD50

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

S\$11,768; AUD50

**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$200, \$100, \$77

**Total:** \$567,401.60

Sunday School Offering: \$396.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones. Prov. 14:30*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. *Theme:* "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Please register early. *Closing Date:* April 29, 07.

**Infant Baptism at Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 07.** Please register with Wendy Teng (Tel: 62541287/94754067).

**Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 07** will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am. Bus leaves Newton at 6.30 am sharp. If you need transport, please sign up at the Notice Board outside the Auditorium. For those driving, please park at Carpark B. Bring along your own sitting mats/chairs. For enquiries, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

*Vol. IV No. 27*

*1 April 2007*

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 198
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Zech 9:9-17
Hymn	No. 562
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 448
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Gal 2:19-21
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>The Life I Now Live</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	<i>Living for Jesus</i>
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

## A Bible-Presbyterian Church in Every Major Australian City

(Pastor Tow's Word to Brisbane BPC on Occasion of its Inauguration Service, March 18, 2007)

A Bible-Presbyterian Church (BPC) in every major Australian city was the burden and plan of Dr S H Tow and mine. The Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (BPCWA) was inaugurated in 1986 through Mr Robin Tan's leadership. Now, the church has its own building on the Canning Highway.

Bethel BPC in Melbourne was started in the home of Mr Loke Tat Luen who migrated to Melbourne in 1985. Regular services were held since April 1986. Bethel now occupies a beautiful sanctuary at 10 Downing Street, Oakleigh.

There is also a BPC in Adelaide called Hope started by Rev and Mrs Edward Paauwe. Our part in Hope BPC was in the acquisition of the Stone Mansion by way of counsel and encouragement, and love gifts from a sister who loved the Lord, and other BPCs.

Now, we have Brisbane BPC served by True Life's missionary preacher, Hien Gia Nguyen, a Master of Theology graduate of FEBC who believes the Bible to be 100% perfect, without any mistake.

*The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.*

Yours in Christ  
Rev Dr Timothy Tow  
Pastor

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## Our Lord Jesus Christ and God's Word

(Message delivered by Pr Hien Nguyen at the Lord's Day Service, Brisbane BPC, 2 pm, Mar 11, 2007)

**Text:** John 17:14-17

What is our attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ and God's Word?

## Jesus Christ Is Lord

There are many today who do not believe in the Lord Jesus. They even ignore Him, reject Him, despise Him, and blaspheme His Name. Many professing Christians may profess that Jesus is Lord with their lips but are not submissive to Him as their personal Lord, not wanting Him to have full control over their lives. Our Lord Jesus says, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of*



*Brisbane BPC's inauguration, 18 March 2007*



*my Father which is in heaven*” (Matt 7:21).

The Bible also confirms *“that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36). Furthermore, *“unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom... And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands”* (Heb 1:8, 10).

How about you and me? Do we exalt the Lord Jesus as our Lord and King from our hearts with full submission and dependence? Do we seek His will and approval in what we think, say, do, believe, worship, read, watch, eat or drink, and all to His glory? It is the Holy Spirit who can transform our lives, subdue our sinful nature, and help us submit ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 12:3). Shall we not wisely submit ourselves to our mighty and wise Saviour and Maker, who loves us so much that He humbled Himself and came to this world to die for our sins and rose again to be our loving and living Lord and Saviour? In the end, when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back, *“every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil 2:11).

### God’s Word Is Truth

Our Lord Jesus lives by His Father’s Word, saying, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4), and faithfully ministers God’s Word to His followers, praying to His Father, *“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them... I have given them thy word... Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”* (John 17:8, 14, 17).

In Jesus’ days on earth, there were no extant original manuscripts (autographs) of the Old Testament except copies (apographs) of them. Jesus, the all-knowing and perfect God, did not see any “discrepancies” in the copies of the Old Testament concerning the dates, the numbers, the names and so forth, nor

questioned, nor criticised, nor cast doubt on the Scripture like many modern “scholars” do nowadays. On the contrary, our Lord Jesus was assured of the verbal and plenary preservation (VPP) of His verbally and plenary inspired (VPI) Word, and strongly confirmed that *“the scripture cannot be broken”* (John 10:35), and that *“till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”* (Matt 5:17-18), and that *“heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matt 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). He challenged the Jewish leaders, *“For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings (only copies), how shall ye believe my words”* (John 5:46-47).

My friends, only God’s Word is Truth, which is able to transform our lives, regenerate and sanctify us (John 17:17; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23) and help us know the truth about God and man and His will concerning our beliefs and practices, our lives and our worship.

### Conclusion

Whether you and I believe it or not, Jesus Christ is still the Lord, and God’s Word is Truth. May God help us to submit ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, and God’s Word alone, all to His glory. Amen.

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### A Foretaste of Things to Come

*A Testimony by Dn Charles Kan*

Praise and glory be to our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—for the way He has established the Brisbane Bible-Presbyterian Church with True Life’s missionary preacher Hien Gia Nguyen as the under-shepherd of the small flock of twelve members, namely, Hien and his wife Trang, their children Hahn and Timothy; Tim and his wife Anne (FEBC alumna) and son Zechariah; Eric Too and his wife Linda and daughters Hannah and Emma; and Brother Michael.

I thank our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for the opportunity to go to Brisbane to rejoice

with our brethren on this most joyous occasion of the inauguration of Brisbane BPC. We praise Him for the way He has provided us with two free return tickets plus accommodations and airport transfers to Gold Coast through our younger son, Andrew, who won the tickets as a prize for his purchase of T-shirts worth about \$50.

Now, we can see how our Heavenly Father has prepared and led Preacher Hien to the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) to be trained in His forever infallible and inerrant words of life. After he graduated from FEBC, the Lord led him and his family to set up home in Brisbane where no BPC has yet been established.

When the date of the inauguration of the church was set on March 18, 2007, we were encouraged to know through the testimonies at our Friday prayer meetings that our Lord had placed a burden in the hearts of some brethren of True Life BPC to make the trip down under. True Lifers (Deborah Mae and Judith D’Silva, Jacelyn and Joycelyn Chng, Dr and Mrs Francis Lee and little Moses their son, Jenny and myself) were glad to be there. Deborah and Judith rendered songs of praise to the Lord and songs of encouragement to all who were at the service.

We also had representatives from churches in the other states of Australia: Rev Dr Okman

Ki (Hope BPC, Adelaide), Rev and Mrs Errol Stone (Faith Presbyterian Church, Perth), Eld Charles Choong (Bethel BPC, Melbourne), and Dn Anthony Ngan (Sydney BPC) were there to send greetings from their respective congregations.

We thank the Lord for Rev Paul Seiler of St John’s Presbyterian Church who graciously allowed the inauguration service to be held in the main sanctuary. At the service, Rev Stephen Khoo was the Lord’s messenger, and he reminded us of the Lord’s words to His people, *“Ye shall be Witnesses”* (Acts 2:38-47).

We also witnessed the Dean Burgon Oath being taken by every member of the Brisbane BPC. How we rejoice to know that we have brethren that are likeminded, who stand squarely on the 100% inspired, and forever infallible, inerrant, 100% preserved words of God.

Do continue to pray for this small flock, that they will remain faithful and steadfast in their service for the Lord, and that the Lord will grant them His increase. We praise and thank our Lord for journey mercies there and back to Singapore and the meals that were provided by the brethren there, who received us so warmly.

Last but not least, we thank the Lord for the Christian fellowship we had, which is a foretaste of things to come when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ returns.



*Brisbane BPC members taking the Dean Burgon Oath at their Inauguration Service, March 18, 2007*

which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in **fine** linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid [for it was Joseph's] *own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock*. There laid they Jesus therefore, **and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre** because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

And the women also, [namely] *Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary (the mother of Joses)*, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices

and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

**Saturday**  
**Guarding of the Tomb**  
Matthew 27:62-66

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

**Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 07** will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am. Bus leaves Newton at 6.30 am sharp. If you need transport, please sign up at the Notice Board outside the Auditorium. For those driving, please park at Carpark B. Bring along your own sitting mats/chairs. For enquiries, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.



*Golgotha, or Calvary, "the place of a skull" (Luke 23:33)*



**TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT RELC AUDITORIUM**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205  
Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>  
(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**6 April 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**  
**8.00 pm**

Call to Worship	Elder Han Soon Juan
Opening Hymn	No. 199
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 22
Hymn	No. 190
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 182
Offertory Prayer	Elder Han Soon Juan
Scripture Text	John 6:66-71
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>Dying Words of Eternal Life</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	<i>Were You There?</i> (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

**The Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus Christ**

(From The Gospels in Unison  
edited by Dr Jeffrey Khoo)

**Crucifixion**

**First Three Hours**

Matthew 27:35-44, Mark 15:24-32,  
**Luke 23:33-43**, John 19:18-27

*And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left, and Jesus in the midst. And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top

throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. And sitting down they watched him there; and set up over his head his accusation. And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was, **THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS**. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

**And the people stood beholding.** And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, and saying, *Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.* Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said *among themselves*, He saved



others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, **the Christ, the chosen of God**, let him now come down from the cross, *that we may see*, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. **And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, and saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.** The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth (*reviled him*).

**And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

### Second Three Hours

Mark 15:33-37, *Matthew 27:45-50*,

**Luke 23:44-46**, John 19:28-30

And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. **And the sun was darkened.** And at the ninth hour Jesus

cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi (*Eli, Eli*), lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed (*hyssop*), and put it to his mouth, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. And **when** Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, **[and] had** cried with a loud voice, **he** said, It is finished: **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus**, he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

### Immediately after His Death

Matthew 27:51-56, *Mark 15:38-41*,

**Luke 23:45, 47-49**

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain, **in the midst**, from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, *which stood over against him*, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. **[And] the centurion glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned. And all his acquaintance, and many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee unto**

*Jerusalem*, ministering unto him: among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James *the less* and Joses, and *Salome* the mother of Zebedee's children.

### Burial

John 19:31-42, *Matthew 27:57-61*,

**Mark 15:42-47**, Luke 23:50-56

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should

be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. And after this, **when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, there came a rich man, named Joseph, **an honourable counsellor**; and he was a good man, and a just: (the same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews; this man went **boldly unto** [and] besought (*begged*) Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and **Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.****

**And when he knew it of the centurion**, he gave him (**Joseph**) leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus,



*The Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem*  
“... not my will, but thine, be done.” (*Luke 22:42*)



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Apr 9 – 15, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes I</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 6</i> <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study 1.00 pm Korean Worship Service

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Apr 14, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "How Much Trust Do You Put in the Lord? (Prov 3:5-8)" by Rev Tan Kian Sing. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Apr 14, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83, #12-113. Message: "Apostasy of the Roman Church" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$10,708.05

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$200; *Orphanage ministry in Myanmar* \$1,000; *Joshua Khoo & family* \$200; *Linda (FEBC)* \$50; *Fransiska (FEBC)* \$50; *Ejigayehu (FEBC)* \$50; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$500; *FEBC Scholarship* \$500; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$100

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$14,658.05

Church Building Fund \$200, \$150 Total: \$567,751.60

Sunday School Offering: \$368.00

**Verse for the Week:** *He that oppreseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor. Prov. 14:31*

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Please register early. *Closing Date:* April 29, 07.

**Daily Vacation Bible College** course on "What is Bible-Presbyterianism?" will be held from Apr 30-May 5, 2007 at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT LABRADOR PARK

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 28

8 April 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

7 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 211
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Acts 2:22-39
Hymn	No. 205
Announcements	
Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith & Transfer of Membership	
Special Number	Church Choir Children's Choir FEBC Students Filipina Bible Study No. 286
Offering & Hymn	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Offertory Prayer	Acts 1:1-11
Scripture Text	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Pastoral Prayer	<i>He is Risen and is Coming Again</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Sermon	No. 228
Closing Hymn	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Benediction	

descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

### Visit of the Women

Luke 24:1-3, Mark 16:2-4, John 20:2

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, *at the rising of the sun*, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. *And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre: for it was very great.* And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. **Then she (Mary Magdalene) runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.**

### The Resurrection and Appearances of Jesus Christ

(From *The Gospels in Unison*  
edited by Dr Jeffrey Khoo)

#### Resurrection: Sunday Morning

Matthew 28:1-4, Mark 16:1, John 20:1

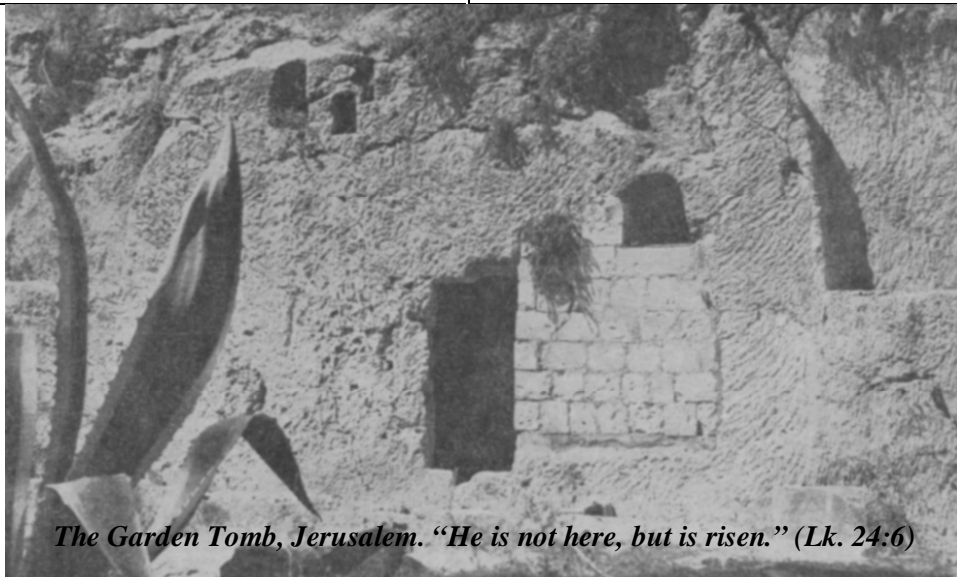
In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, **when it was yet dark**, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary *the mother of James, and Salome*, to see the sepulchre, [and] *had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.* And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord

#### Appearance of the Angels

Matthew 28:5-7, Mark 16:5-7,

Luke 24:4-8

**And it came to pass, as they [the women without Mary Magdalene] were entering into the sepulchre, [and] much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth,** the angel, *a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white*



*The Garden Tomb, Jerusalem. "He is not here, but is risen." (Lk. 24:6)*

garment, answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified. **Why seek ye the living among the dead?** He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay: **remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.** And [the angel said], Go quickly, and tell his disciples *and Peter* that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

**Appearances of the Resurrected Christ**

**First: To the Women on the Way Home from the Empty Tomb**

**Easter Sunday Morning**

Matthew 28:8-10, *Mark 16:8*, Luke 24:9-11

And they departed quickly, *and fled* from the sepulchre with fear and great joy, *for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid*; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

And [they] returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

**Visit of Peter and John**

John 20:3-10, *Luke 24:12*

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went

into the sepulchre, and *stooping down, he seeth* the linen clothes lie *by themselves*, and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home; [Peter] *wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.*

**Second: To Mary Magdalene at the Garden Tomb**

**Easter Sunday Morning**

John 20:11-18, *Mark 16:9-11*

*Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first [especially] to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.* But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples—*them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept*—that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. *And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.*

**Third: To the Emmaus Disciples  
Easter Sunday Afternoon**

Luke 24:13-32, *Mark 16:12*

*After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.*

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the

village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

**INFANT BAPTISM**

- 1. Valencia Kristy Hutagalung  
*d/o Mr and Mrs Samson Hutagalung*

**BAPTISM**

- 2. Anna Chung Min Yi *Student*
- 3. Jayaprakash Santosh Kumar *Admin Asst*
- 4. Kate Yeo Gek Peng *Student*
- 5. Nakajima Asei *Student*
- 6. Nakajima Yamato *Student*
- 7. Nakajima Yumi *Student*
- 8. Wee Geok Beng *Housewife*
- 9. Alicia Gastalla Homeres *Domestic Helper*
- 10. Carmelita Navarro Base *Domestic Helper*
- 11. Felisa de Vera Labarientos *Domestic Helper*

**REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

- 12. Brandon Choo Ming Wei *Student*
- 13. Gordon Choo Ming Sheng *Student*
- 14. Lorraine Choo Bao Ling *Student*
- 15. Joshua Chan Cheng Wai *Student*
- 16. Kezia Tay Hui En *Student*
- 17. Stephen Lee Fang Ci *Student*

**ADMITTANCE TO/TRANSFER  
OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 18. Andrew Koh Wee Yap *Teacher*
- 19. Andrew Tan Teng Wei *Student*
- 20. David Tay Hong En *Student*
- 21. Edith Lok Yuet Lin *Manager*
- 22. Er Lian Hwa *Nurse*
- 23. Jessica Lau Yan Ling *Student*
- 24. Foo Chee Yong *Bank Officer*
- 25. Lam Pin Juh *Financial Controller*
- 26. Jessie Wong Siew Ching *Personal Asst*
- 27. Vilma Aguilar Alamar *Domestic Helper*



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Apr 16 – 22, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
THU		FEBC Exams Begin
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Apr 21, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Honour Thy Lord (Prov 3:9-10)" by Rev Tan Kian Sing. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Please register early. Closing Date: April 29, 07.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Youth Conference 2007** will be held from June 21-23, 2007 at Calvary Pandan BPC. Theme: "Tongue-tied?: Don't be caught speechless when your faith is under fire." Speakers: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew & Pr Dennis Kabingue. Please register at <http://www.bpc.sg/youthconf/registration/>. Closing Date: May 13, 2007. For details, please contact Candice Tan at 96584810.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

### General Offerings:

Good Friday \$7,466; Easter Sunrise Service \$9,253  
**Designated Offerings:** Rev Tow \$200, \$200;  
 BCEA Kenya \$1,000; BCEA Kenya (Scholarship Fund) \$400; BCEA Tanzania \$1,000; Hien (Brisbane) \$300; Marilyn Nanta (Kuching) \$200; RPG \$100; Bible Witness \$100; FEBC \$5,000, \$300, \$300

### Total General and Designated Offerings:

\$25,819  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$572, \$100, \$50  
**Total:** \$569,473.60

**Verse for the Week:** *The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death. Prov 14:32*

**True Life BPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM)** will be held on April 29, 07 at 9.30 am. It is your duty as a member to attend.

**Daily Vacation Bible College** course on "What is Bible-Presbyterianism?" will be held from April 30-May 5, 2007 at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

*To Rev Tow and all the session members of True Life BP Church*

Thank God for the financial support from True Life BPC these few years. Also thank Sister Wendy for coming to Kuantan to help us in the children's ministry since last year. After much consideration, I am hereby requesting the church session to stop supporting us financially from March 2007 onwards. For those designated offerings to my name, I have decided to give them back to your church as a gift. Thanks for your church's love and kindness to us from the beginning.

*Thanks with regards,*

*Joshua Khoo Boo Huat, Kuantan  
6 February 2007*



*Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith & Transfer of Membership  
at Easter Sunrise Service, Labrador Park, April 8, 2007*



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 29

15 April 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 73
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 25
Hymn	Psalms 25
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 245
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Jeremiah 33:3
Sermon	Prayer: The Discovery Channel of Great and Mighty Things (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy)
Closing Hymn	No. 367
Benediction	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy

### Dying Words of Eternal Life

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church Good Friday Service, 8 pm, Apr 6, 07)

**Text:** John 6:66-71 cf Matt 27:35-50, Mark 15:24-37, Luke 23:33-46, John 19:18-30



The Lord Jesus Christ uttered His final words on the cross, and they were wonderful words of salvation. It is significant to note that on the cross Jesus opened

His mouth to speak seven times. Seven is the number of God and the number of perfection. These Cross-words of Christ were the words of God, and perfect words of everlasting life. Let us look at them one by one:

**1<sup>st</sup> Word: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."**

Jesus was crucified at the third hour (ie 9 am).

His very first words on the cross were words of love and not hatred. Jesus prayed the Father to forgive those who have put Him on the cross. For the Jews who shouted, "Crucify him, crucify him," and the Romans who tortured Him, He offered this prayer, "**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do**" (Luke 23:34). By so praying, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53:12, "*he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*" Amazing love!

Did the Father answer His Son's prayer? Yes, the Father granted the request of His beloved Son. The Father could have struck dead all those directly responsible for crucifying His Son, but He did not. He allowed them to live on. However, their children were not spared. God held them accountable when they said, "*His blood be on us, and on our children.*" God did not punish them until 40 years later. In AD 70, Jerusalem was reduced to rubble. The Jews were dispossessed of their land and scattered to all parts of the world. By the grace of God, the gospel of salvation was preached and offered freely to the Jews. Three thousand got saved at Pentecost (Acts 2:41). Five thousand more were converted a little later in Acts 4:4. In Acts 6:7 we are told, "*And the word of God increased, and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*" Calvin rightly said, "There is no doubt that the prayer was heard by the heavenly Father, whence it resulted that



many of the people who had spilled His blood came afterwards to drink it.” Amazing grace!

Satan had tempted Jesus in the wilderness, “*If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down*” (Matt 4:6). Now on the cross, Satan tempted Him again through the people, “*Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.*” If Jesus had come down from the cross, Satan would have won, and we would still be in our sins. Jesus endured the cross and the pain, and overcame all the temptations of the devil even at a time when He was physically most weak and vulnerable. Indeed, He “*was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin*” (Heb 4:15).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Word: “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”**

The Jewish cleric, and the soldiers, and the thieves beside Him, kept up with the jeering, “*He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, the Christ, the chosen of God, let him now come down from the cross that we may see, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.*” They wanted a sign from Jesus. “Do something spectacular by coming down from the cross, and we will believe.” Jesus did not dignify them with an answer, nor humour them with a miracle. He had already said, “*An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*” (Matt 12:39-40). Indeed in three days’ time, they shall see an earthshaking sign and miracle—the Resurrection!

By the grace of God, the Spirit worked in the heart of one of the criminals crucified beside Jesus. He had joined the others to revile Jesus, but was subsequently convicted of his sin and even scolded the other thief when he mocked at Jesus again. This repentant thief confessed his sin and guilt, and was convinced that Jesus was indeed who He was—the

righteous Son of God. This criminal with a contrite heart begged Jesus for salvation: “*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*” The word “remember” is a covenant word. God has promised eternal life to all who repent and believe on His Son. He remembers His children and forgets not His promises. Jesus spoke a 2<sup>nd</sup> time on the cross. He promised the repentant thief, “*To day shalt thou be with me in paradise*” (Luke 23:43). What a promise! On that very day, he would be in heaven with Jesus. This tells us that it is never too late to believe in Jesus. If a person, in his dying breath, confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, He shall be saved. This also teaches us that salvation is not by works at all, but purely by grace through faith. The thief had no good works to offer. He had done wicked things in his life. Nailed to the cross, he could do nothing to save himself. Even on the cross, he spoke evil against Jesus before realising his great error and sin. He indeed deserved to be crucified, and cast into hell for all his physical and spiritual crimes. But just a simple word of faith in Christ from a sincerely penitent heart can deliver a man from the depths of hellish pain and punishment to the heights of heavenly hope and happiness. As Paul says, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed*” (Rom 10:9-11). The work of salvation is altogether Christ’s work, and not man’s (Eph 2:8-9).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Word: “Woman, ... behold thy son! ... Behold thy mother!”**

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at the foot of the cross. In His 3<sup>rd</sup> statement from the cross, Jesus committed Mary to the care of John His beloved disciple: “*he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!*” (John 19:26-27). By so doing, He kept the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment of filial piety, “*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee*” (Exod 20:12);

another instance of His active obedience.

From 12 noon to 3 pm, there was a supernatural darkness that covered the land. The noonday sun shone no light. Why did God send this darkness? Darkness is a symbol of judgement (see Isa 5:30, 60:2, Joel 2:30-31, Amos 5:18-20, Zeph 1:14-18, Acts 2:20, 2 Pet 2:17, Rev 6:12-17). Hendriksen commented, “The darkness meant judgment, the judgment of God upon our sins, his wrath as it were burning itself out in the very heart of Jesus, so that he, as our Substitute, suffered most intense agony, indescribable woe, terrible isolation or forsakenness. Hell came to Calvary that day, and the Saviour descended into it and bore its horrors in our stead.” At this time, Jesus—the sinless Lamb of God—was “*made sin*” for us (2 Cor 5:21), made “*a curse*” (Gal 3:13), laden with “*the iniquity of us all*” (Isa 53:6).

**4<sup>th</sup> Word: “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”**

At the ninth hour (ie, 3pm), Jesus spoke His 4<sup>th</sup> word, a most agonising cry, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” (Mark 15:34). These words are taken from Psalm 22:1. When Jesus said those words, it not only indicated the fulfilment of that Messianic psalm, but also displayed the intense torment of the soul that He went through. Calvin rightly observed, “Those who reckon that Christ took on the office of Mediator on condition of bearing our guilt in soul as in body will not wonder at the struggle He had with the pangs of death; as though under the wrath of God, He were cast into the labyrinth of evil.” Christ was left totally on His own to bear the weight of the sin of the whole world. His Father could not help Him. He had to do it all alone, by Himself. Ben Price’s hymn, “Alone,” captures this thought well: “*Alone upon the cross He hung that others He might save. Forsaken then by God and man, alone, His life He gave. Alone, alone, He bore it all alone. He gave Himself to save His own. He suffered, bled and died alone, alone.*”

**5<sup>th</sup> Word: “I thirst.”**

Jesus’ 5<sup>th</sup> word from the cross was, “*I thirst*” (John 19:28). This fulfils Psalm 22:15, “*My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my*

*tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.*” His mouth and throat must have been so parched dry, that He could not speak properly, so that when He cried “*Eli, Eli*” (Hebrew for “*Eloi, Eloi*”), it sounded like “Elias,” and the people thought He was calling for Elijah. A sponge drenched with vinegar was put to His mouth for Him to drink. This fulfils Psalm 69:21, “*in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*” By thirsting, Jesus proved His humanity—He was not only fully God, He was also fully man. He was our Representative, our Substitute to save us from our sins.

**6<sup>th</sup> Word: “It is finished.”**

After Jesus took the vinegar, He gave His 6<sup>th</sup> word, “*It is finished*” (John 19:30). What was finished? It was His redemptive work on earth. In other words, “*It is finished*” means “Mission accomplished!” Jesus had successfully accomplished His mission to save us from our sins. Hendriksen rightly commented, “the entire work of redemption (both active and passive obedience, fulfilling the law and bearing its curse) had been brought to completion.”

**7<sup>th</sup> Word: “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”**

The 7<sup>th</sup> and final word of Jesus was, “*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit*” (Luke 23:46). Jesus breathed His last after He said those words. These very last words show the loving relationship that exists between God the Father and God the Son. The Son has accomplished to the jot and tittle what the Father had commissioned Him to do (John 17:4). The Son was indeed “*faithful unto death*” (Rev 2:10). When Jesus returned to heaven, His Father’s commendation must have been, “*Well done, my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*” (cf Matt 3:17, 17:5).

**Conclusion**

Jesus’ dying words of eternal life though uttered 2000 years ago are for you and for me today. Believe in the Holy Bible, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. If you will say, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God*” (John 6:68-69), you will live forever and never die.

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Apr 23 – 29, 2007)

MON – FRI	FEBC Exams
FRI 7.00 pm	FEBC End-of-Term Thanksgiving Service
SAT 4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN 9.30 am	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting</b>
10.30 am	Worship (Rev Quek Suan Yew) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**There will be no Prayer Meeting** this Friday. All members are invited to attend the **FEBC End-of-Term Thanksgiving Service** this Friday (Apr 27, 07) at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, 7 pm. Dinner will be served at 6 pm.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (Apr 28, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Apr 28, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Clement Tan's home at 5 Derbyshire Road, #08-07 Derby Court, Singapore 309461. Tel: 63389960. Message: "Keep me as the apple of the eye" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Apr 29, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,907

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$160; *BCEA (Tanzania)* \$2,000; *Rev Das Koshy's expenses for Ethiopia Mission Trip* \$900; *Samuel Kwong (FEBC)* \$100; *Sopheak's medical expenses* \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$10,000, \$1,000; *FEBC* \$10,000, \$1,000, \$350, \$200

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$33,717

**Church Building Fund** \$10,000, \$2,000, \$200, \$200, \$120, \$77 **Total:** \$582,070.60

Sunday School Offering: \$335.00

**Verse for the Week:** *Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding; but that which is in the midst of fools is made known. Prov 14:33*

**True Life BPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM)** will be held next Lord's Day (April 29, 07) at 9.30 am. It is your duty as a member to attend.

**Daily Vacation Bible College** course on "What is Bible-Presbyterianism?" will be held from April 30-May 5, 2007 at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**FEBC's 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Exercises** will be held at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, May 6, 2007, SGBF Hour, 6 pm. Speaker: Dr S H Tow.

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. *Theme:* "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Please register early. *Closing Date:* April 29, 07.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Youth Conference 2007** will be held from June 21-23, 2007 at Calvary Pandan BPC. *Theme:* "Tongue-tied?: Don't be caught speechless when your faith is under fire." *Speakers:* Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew & Pr Dennis Kablingue. Please register at <http://www.bpc.sg/youthconf/registration/>. *Closing Date:* May 13, 2007. For details, please contact Candice Tan at 96584810.

"Stories of Great Christians" series produced by Moody Bible Institute years ago. I see that John Sung preached in Singapore in the 1930's, and if I understand it correctly, many churches of Chinese Christians were established. Please pardon my ignorance (I am an American living in the state of North Carolina, USA), but I did not know that Singapore was a nation (I thought that it was a Malaysian city) nor did I know that there were many Chinese there.

*Yours in the power of Jesus Christ the King,*  
C.N.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 30

22 April 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 34
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 31
Hymn	No. 339
Announcements	
Special Number	Clement & Samuel
Offering & Hymn	No. 390
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Acts 26:8-19
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>The Call of God</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 383
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

**"Happy Day, Happy Day, When Jesus Washed My Sins Away!"**



I am 77 years old. Before I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord, I had a very peculiar experience. I attended a Christian wake and funeral of the mother of my god-daughter and I noticed that there was an inexplicable joy in the midst of tears. I heard of the joy and hope that Christians have because of Jesus. I knew in my heart that I desired the same joy and hope. My second son and daughter-in-law told me about Jesus and His salvation and brought me to church. I know that only Jesus Christ can give me true happiness and He can save me. I believed in Jesus and received Him into my heart. I felt great peace and joy when Jesus came into my

heart. My greatest happiness is that I belong to Jesus.

– Wee Geok Beng

\*\*\*\*\*

I was born into a Christian family and have been going to church since I was a child. However, most of the time, going to church was sort of a routine for me.

Last year, being my first year of Secondary School, it has been a tough and draining year for me. I was faced with many obstacles and often felt like giving up, but every time God reminds me of how blessed I am, my soul is filled with strength and fortitude to persevere. I know that He will help me overcome anything despite how impossible it may seem. I know that all I am doing is all part of God's plan for me, and I want to do the very best I can to glorify God.

Hence, I would like to proclaim my acceptance of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and begin a new life.

– Anna Chung Min Yi

\*\*\*\*\*

I have only recently come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and accepted Him as my personal Saviour. After a little study of the Bible, I find it urgent that I be baptised according to scripture, as soon as possible (ie, this Easter, God willing).

Indeed, my baptism would mark a new milestone in my journey with Christ, as I do my utmost to live my life according to the will of God. As the Westminster Confession says, my baptism would be a seal of the covenant

## Authorized Version Defended

Dear Sirs,

I have been reading, and very much enjoying your defending of the Authorized Version in the online "Burning Bush". Praise God that you are willing to go against the tide. It is certainly refreshing to see your vigor and zeal. Through Sermon Audio, I have heard some of the Singapore preachers of your fellowship before. I found myself going back to Sermon Audio to look up those preachers after listening to the story of John Sung in the

that God has with me, that he has forgiven my sins simply because I believe in Him and in His word. Amen.

– Jayaprakash Santosh Kumar  
\*\*\*\*\*

I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior in the year 1998 when my friend, Lorraine, witnessed to me in school. After accepting Christ, I started going to a church to attend the weekly services and cell group. I acknowledged that I am a sinner and that Christ has paid the price of my sins in order for me to be reconciled with God. Before I knew Christ, I had no religious beliefs despite of my parents’ Buddhist belief. I prayed to no one in specific when I am in tough trials and leaned mostly on myself for encouragement. I did not believe in the idea of sin and never thought I had any in my life. But after hearing the Gospel and the origin of Sin, things have appeared to be very different from then on.

Ever since I had accepted and believed in Christ, I learned to have faith. Faith was a new word to me then. I never used to have faith in the things I did, or the things I believed in. Now, I have faith in God’s plan and in God Himself. No longer do I trust in the material things in the world, but to trust upon His Word. I also start to analyze the purpose of God for me whenever I am in a new environment. For example, when I am in a new workplace, I often think of the purpose of God putting me there. Perhaps it is to witness to someone. But the most important would be being the new creation God has made me.

Although it is hard to put aside old things, habits and ways of thinking, being a Christian makes me yearn to be more like Christ each day, to follow after His example and also to portray the fruits of the Spirit.

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith and I believe it is the next step of obedience in my walk with God. As Christ was also baptised with water by John the Baptist, I want to obey God’s commandment here as well. I want to live my Christian walk by obeying God’s word and His commandments. God has been merciful to me and showing grace to my family. I hope that God can use

me as His vessel to witness to my unsaved family members and to the people around me.

– Kate Yeo Gek Peng  
\*\*\*\*\*

I come from a non-Christian family. My dad and mum are not believers of Christ. Since young, my aunt, Alice Han, brought me to church. I am thankful that my parents allow my brothers and I to attend church regularly. I am a sinner that needs God’s grace and I want to be part of His child. I said my sinner’s prayer when I was in Primary Four but I never got baptised. I thank the Lord once again for his mercy and grace upon me. All thanks and praise to His holy name! Amen.

– Nakajima Asei  
\*\*\*\*\*

I came to know Christ when I was young. My aunt brought me to the Life Church. At that time, I was having problems walking with God. So my aunt’s friend invited me to attend another church for 3 years. But that church uses NIV to study God’s Word. I know that is wrong. So I follow my siblings and aunt to True Life BP church. I wish to be baptised as I want to be closer to the Lord. I thank the Lord for forgiving my sins and showing me the right way. Amen.

– Nakajima Yamato  
\*\*\*\*\*

I come from a non-Christian family and my aunt brought me to church since young. Although my parents are non-Christians, they do allow me as well as my brothers to attend church.

I attended Fisherman of Christ Fellowship (Queenstown) before my aunt encouraged me to come to True Life BP Church. I decided to stay in True Life BP Church as I feel that this church is walking closely to the Lord. Many of the brothers and sisters encouraged me to stay in this church too.

God has made me realized that I am a sinner who needs his grace. I am really thankful that I am his child now. I would also like my parents to know the Lord soon. I hope that you will pray for their salvation, that they may accept Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour soon.

I thank the Lord once again for his grace that He has bestowed upon me. All thanks and praise to the name of our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ. Amen.  
– Nakajima Yumi  
\*\*\*\*\*

I am from the Philippines. I prayed to God before coming to Singapore to grant me a good boss. God answered my prayers and granted me the best godly boss in Elder Eric Mahadevan and his wife Ma’am Elizabeth. They were role models for me as Christians and they wanted me to emulate them and be godly. From there I took and read the Bible and prayed daily and came for catechism classes. I am grateful and thankful to my Lord for this opportunity to be baptised. I thank God also for my Sunday Filipina Bible Study teachers and all those who taught me about the true religion, Jesus Christ. Amen.

– Alicia Gastalla Homeres  
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First of all I would like to thank God for all the blessings He had given me and to my family. It’s my first time to work here in Singapore and it’s hard for me to adjust. Until I know one day that God moves in mysterious ways.

I grew up in a strong religious family. We are all Catholics and we really believed in Mary and all the saints. We do petitions and we always pray the rosary. My parents are very active in our church and that is why we children followed what they believed in. Now that I’m here in Singapore my beliefs really changed, before it’s really different from what I believed. I owe it to my employers because every Sunday they will attend church service and they will let me join the Filipina Bible Study. I had learned from our Bible Study that Jesus Christ died for our sins and I realized that it’s really true that once you read the Bible you will know Jesus Christ. He is the only God that can forgive our sins and I’m a sinner that is why I must seek Him and ask for forgiveness to be saved because if it is not through Him I cannot go to heaven. You and I cannot be saved.

I’m thankful and very blessed that I know the truth not like before, it’s like you are walking in a dark path and now there is Christ in me there is light and hope. I asked God for forgiveness and prayed the sinner’s prayer led by John Saray last October 2006 and asked the Lord Jesus Christ to come into my heart to be my Lord and personal Saviour. This is my favorite verse in Bible: “If

ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7). Praise be to God!

– Carmelita Navarro Base  
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I was born in a village called barangay in the Philippines. Like the majority of Filipinos, I come from a very strong Catholic background. I followed my parents to church every Sunday and listened to the sermons given by the priest attentively. We offered gifts to the statues and confessed our sins dutifully. All the religious festivals and traditions were faithfully kept by all of us from generation to generation without questioning their origin or the reason for performing the rituals.

Praise the Lord Jesus for all His words and promises in the Bible and for opening my eyes and my heart to receive Him. Now I know why I worked again here in Singapore. I was here because of God’s guidance. I will never regret my decision to follow Him and will strive to live a life befitting that of a child of the Living God. I pray that this faith I have now will continue to give me courage and wisdom, not only while in Singapore among members of my church, but wherever God may send me in the future. I also pray that He would give me strength and courage to lead those who are still in darkness to His eternal light.

There have been changes in my life. I feel more contented. I am not worried anymore about the future, for I know I will be guided by the Holy Spirit. It is my prayer that as days go by, I will become a faithful Christian not only in word but in works.

Praise the Lord for giving me a Christian and good employer, Mr and Mrs Maria Ong. I thank the Lord to use them as instruments to know more about the Lord. My employer bought me a very precious book, is a Holy Bible. I can understand the word of God, I’m very happy. They are so kind to me. I want to be baptized, I want to receive Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour. God has given to each one of us this verse from the Bible: “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt 11:28).

– Felisa de Vera Labarientos



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Apr 30 – May 6, 2007)

MON – SAT	Daily Vacation Bible College
WED 7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI 8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Rev Errol Stone)
	Korean Worship Service
	Filipina Bible Study
	Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
6.00 pm	<b>FEBC 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Exercises</b>

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (May 2, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Message: "The Virtue of Inner Beauty (I Sam 25:3)" by Rev Errol Stone. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Kho Peng Soon this Fri (May 4, 07) at 8 pm. Speaker: Pr Nyugen Gia Hien. Address: Blk 838 Yishun St. 81, #05-308 Singapore 760838. Tel: 68518067.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (May 5, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Keep Thy Heart (Prov 4:23)" by Pr Dennis Kabingue. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 213 Petir Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Youth Conference 2007** will be held from June 21-23, 2007 at Calvary Pandan BPC. Theme: "Tongue-tied?: Don't be caught speechless when your faith is under fire." Speakers: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew & Pr Dennis Kabingue. Please register at <http://www.bpc.sg/youthconf/registration/>. Closing Date: May 13, 2007. For details, contact Candice at 96584810.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$12,792

**Designated Offerings:** Rev Tow \$200; BCEA Tanzania \$1,000; Hien (Brisbane) \$100; Brisbane Ministry \$300; Gospel Van for Brisbane BPC \$2,000; Myanmar Orphanage Ministry \$1,000; Gethsemane BPC \$350; Bible Witness Ministry \$200; FEBC Bookroom \$33; Lok Kwok Wah \$100; Wendy Teng \$300; African FEBC Students \$200; Philip Lagat & family \$150, \$100, \$100; Limhathung (FEBC) \$150; Biak Lawm Thang (FEBC) \$150; Thadeaus (FEBC) \$50; Jose (FEBC) \$50; John Saray (FEBC) \$50; Samuel Kwong (FEBC) \$50; Rajan (FEBC) \$50; Albert (FEBC) \$50; Mung Hau Khup (FEBC) \$50; Dominino (FEBC) \$50; Ejigayehu (FEBC) \$50; Arnold (FEBC) \$50; Fransiska (FEBC) \$50; Phan Narit (FEBC) \$50; Hor Ponlok (FEBC) \$50; Linda (FEBC) \$50; Manling (FEBC) \$50; Judah (FEBC) \$50

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

\$20,025

**Church Building Fund \$100 Total: \$582,170.60**

Sunday School Offering: \$449.00

**Verse for the Week:** Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. Prov 14:34

**Daily Vacation Bible College** course on "What is Bible-Presbyterianism?" will be held this week, April 30-May 5, 2007, at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**FEBC's 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Exercises** will be held next Lord's Day (May 6, 2007) at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, SGBF Hour, 6 pm. Speaker: Dr S H Tow.

**Sunday School Teachers' Seminar** will be held on May 12, 2007 (Sat), 9 am – 2 pm, at RELC Room 602.

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times."

Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Closing

Date: Today.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 31

29 April 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 262
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	John 8:51-9:7
Hymn	No. 470
Announcements	
Special Number	Dn Charles Kan & family
Offering & Hymn	No. 402
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Psalms 90
Sermon	Teach Us to Number our Days!
	(Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
Closing Hymn	No. 332
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

## CLERK OF SESSION'S REPORT FOR 2006

(An annual report by Dn Tai Mern Yee on behalf of the Session to members of True Life BPC at its ACM, April 29, 2007)

**"...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Joshua 1:5**

Truly, the Lord has been faithful to True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, as we reflect upon His dealing toward us in the past year.

## GOVERNANCE

The Church is governed according to the Presbyterian system of rule by Elders, with a Session consisting of Pastor, Elders and Deacons. The Session of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church for Electoral Term 2005 to 2008 included: Rev Dr Timothy Tow Siang Hui as Pastor, Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo Eng Teck, Elder Eric Mahadevan and Elder Geoffrey Tan Hock Jin as Elders, and Mr Charles Kan Kai Pui, Mr

Tai Mern Yee, Mr Tan Beng Lee and Mr Wilson Tan Tai Tian as Deacons.

Elder Eric Mahadevan was promoted to glory 6 September 2006. We praise the Lord for His sterling service and leadership to the flock of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church.

## MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006, 12 adults were admitted to communicant membership of the church by water baptism, 7 by reaffirmation of faith. There were 2 infant baptisms (non-communicant membership). In addition, a total of 10 were admitted to membership, having been transferred from other churches.

The Church continues to call for its congregants and visitors to register to become Church members either by water baptism, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership.

## ATTENDANCE ON THE LORD'S DAY

The Church was blessed by the Lord with an increase in attendance in its worship service as well as prayer, teaching ministry and fellowship groups. Average attendance each Lord's Day for worship service was about 350, including children.

## MINISTRIES

### Worship Service

The Church holds its worship service every Lord's Day, 10.30am at



Special Item by Filipina Bible Study, Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 2007

the Regional Language Centre (RELC), 30 Orange Grove Road, Singapore 258352. The pulpit is jealously guarded, with only preachers of the same doctrinal persuasion, ie: of the reformed faith, taking a stand for biblical separation and standing squarely on the perfect inspiration and perfect preservation of scripture, are invited to preach the Word. Some of our guest preachers include: Rev Koa Keng Woo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew, Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy, Rev Tan Kian Sing, Rev Stephen Khoo, Dr Tow Siang Hwa, Rev Ronny Khoo, Rev Errol Stone, Dr Paul Lee Tan and Rev Dr Raymond Carlson.

### **Korean Worship Service**

The Korean worship service at True Life B-P Church was started on Reformation Sunday, 29 October 2006. Rev Park Seung Kyu and Preacher Kim Hak Soo, both FEBC alumni, are in charge. Our Korean brethren hold two services on the Lord's Day, at 10.30am and 1pm at the Chancery Room (#503), RELC.

### **Children's Ministry**

The children are ministered each Lord's Day through the Children's Ministry. The younger ones will attend the Children's Worship, and those of schooling age will attend the Children's Choir.

### **Prayer Meeting**

Prayer meetings are held every Friday evening at the RELC, and for the first Friday of each month, Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting is held at the homes of True Lifers.

In keeping with the format of John Sung revival meetings, the study of God's Word led by Pastor or Dr Jeffrey Khoo is followed by a season of thanksgiving and testimonies, whereby the faith of members are fortified by hearing how the Lord has been good to the brethren. Prayer meeting attendance has grown to about 90, with a good number of

children, who come to pray and seek the Lord as well.

### **Sunday School**

The Adults' Sunday School continues to be helmed by Dr Jeffrey Khoo, with also an increased regular attendance of about 80 students. The class studied 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1-3 John and also 1 Peter in 2006.

The Children's Sunday School is led by Sister Jemima Khoo, and ably assisted by a committed team of teachers and helpers.

### **Evangelism**

Door to door HDB flat's evangelism is held at Bukit Panjang every last Lord's Day of the month, with close to 20 coming each time to share the good news of salvation. In addition, the Church also supported the FEBC Gospel Rally by holding additional evangelism sessions to invite the residents to come and hear the good news of salvation preached.

### **Missions and Outreaches**

The Church supports missions in Brisbane (Preacher Nguyen Gia Hien and Brisbane B-P Church), Kemaman (Dr Wee Tiong Soon and Kemaman Life B-P Church), Kuantan (Preacher Joshua Khoo and Kuantan B-P Church), Kuching (Marilyn Nanta), Myanmar (Amos Go and Thang No), Palestine/Bethlehem (Rev Danny Awad) and the Bible College of East Africa (Kenya and Tanzania).

### **Choir Ministry**

The choir ministers to the congregation through music. The choir committee was led by Brother Tay Bee Heng.

### **Bible Study Groups**

The Filipina and Indonesian Bible Study groups continued to minister to the Filipina and Indonesians in the Church. The groups

were led by FEBC students as part of their ministry practicum.

### **Fellowship Groups**

#### *Adults' Fellowship*

The fellowship meets monthly at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo. The group studied the book of "Hebrews" led by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. It is now studying "Church History".

One highlight of the year was the Christmas Caroling where the group visited 3 homes and the Kwong Wai Shui Hospital & Nursing Home, where a total of 6 souls confessed Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

#### *Family Bible Study Fellowship*

The group seeks to build up godly families, a key pillar of the church.

It meets every month at the homes of various members, and its activities included book study on "Habakkuk" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo, and serial messages on "Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes and Pride of Life" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo and "Focus on the Family" by Elder William Seah respectively.

#### *Ladies' Fellowship*

The Ladies Fellowship meets monthly at the home of its members from January to April before moving to the RELC from May 2006.

The group studied the Book of Esther under Dr Jeffrey Khoo and is open to all True Lifers, and not just the ladies of the Church.

#### *Young Peoples' Fellowship*

The Young Peoples' Fellowship meets every Saturday at the home of Mr and Mrs Foo Chee Yong, as well as holding periodic Bible Study with brethren of Berean Bible-Presbyterian Church.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

The special services on the church

calendar included: the Good Friday Service, 14 April 2006; Easter Sunrise Baptismal Service at Labrador Park, 16 April 2006, 7am; Christmas Eve service, 24 December 2006, 8pm; Watchnight Service, 31 December 2006.

Some other special activities included:

3<sup>rd</sup> True Life Bible Camp, theme of "Accelerated Missions Hastens To Bring in Christ's Kingdom (Matthew 24:14)" by Rev Stephen Khoo & Rev Errol Stone at Colmar Tropicale with 160 attendees.

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving lunch, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006, 380 attendees.

Carolling sessions organized by the various fellowship groups to spread the Christmas message: the good news of salvation to mankind.

### **RELATIONSHIP WITH FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE**

The symbiotic relationship between the Church and the College lies in the sameness of spirit and doctrine.

The Church functions as training grounds for the students of the College, and it also supports a number of them through scholarships.

### **FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENTS**

True Life B-P Church shall continue to worship at the RELC Auditorium, and will rent more space as and when required. The Church Building Fund was borne out of a spontaneous desire by members for a permanent home, and it is our prayer that God would show the way according to His will.

The Church will also continue to redouble its efforts in evangelism, outreach and missions to hasten the coming of our Lord.

To God be the glory!

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 7 – 13, 2007)

MON – WED		FEBC Camp at Mersing
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	9.00 am	SS Teachers' Seminar
	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> ) (Rev Nguyen Gia Hien) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a Visitation to the home of Sis Jane this Sat (May 12, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 36, Jalan Rumah Tinggi #22-447, Singapore 150036. Speaker: Elder William Seah. For those requiring transport, please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 3 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (May 12, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "God's Sovereign Will and Man's Prayer" by Rev Ronny Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$9,471; RM6

Designated Offerings: **Rev Tow** \$200, \$100; **Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew** \$600; **Korean Worship Service** \$600; **Gethsemane BPC** \$700; **BCEA Tanzania** \$1,000, \$250; **Hien's ministry** \$600; **Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)** \$250; **Dennis Kabingue (FEBC)** \$100; **FEBC** \$50

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

S\$13,921; RM6

**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$460 **Total:** \$583,630.60

**Verse for the Week:** *The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame. Prov 14:35*

**FEBC's 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Exercises** will be held this evening at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, SGBF Hour, 6 pm. Speaker: Dr S H Tow. **True Life Missionary Hien** will be ordained tonight at the Graduation Service. All are welcome.

**Sunday School Teachers' Seminar** will be held this Sat (May 12, 2007), 9 am – 2 pm, at RELC Room 602.

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Youth Conference 2007** will be held from June 21-23, 2007 at Calvary Pandan BPC. Theme: "Tongue-tied?: Don't be caught speechless when your faith is under fire." Speakers: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew & Pr Dennis Kabingue. Please register at <http://www.bpc.sg/youthconf/registration/>. Closing Date: May 13, 2007. For details, please contact Candice Tan at 96584810.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 32

6 May 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 24
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 46
Hymn	No. 346
Announcements	
Special Number	Deborah & Judith
Offering & Hymn	No. 414
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	1 Kings 22:19-23
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Errol Stone
Sermon	<i>God is Still on the Throne</i> (Rev Errol Stone)
Closing Hymn	No. 43
Benediction	Rev Errol Stone

## FEBC's 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Service



At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Exercises of Far Eastern Bible College at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, 6pm this evening, 28 will be awarded their certificates and

degrees. Dr S H Tow, Senior Pastor of Calvary Pandan BPC is the Graduation speaker.

## Certificate of Religious Knowledge (CertRK)

Boi Yok Bin Robin  
Chia Chung Seng Andrew  
Han Whie Kwang  
Haw Shuen Siang  
Lam Chew Ying

Lim Wee Chian Eric  
Tan Mun Kuen Aileen  
Wong Song Ung

## Certificate of Biblical Studies (CertBS)

Chin Hoi Yin  
Kee Luan Keow Alice  
Phang Foong Kuan Margaret  
Sim Siang Kok  
Wong Kai Mann David

## Bachelor of Religious Education (BRE)

Anne Chiam  
Anyu Kera  
Byju Samuel  
Div Sokhom  
Limhathung Lotha  
Ng Boon Choo

## Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

Le Vu Bao An  
Shanmugam Dixson Vijayenthiran

## Master of Religious Education (MRE)

Philip Chittezhathu Cherian  
Philip Kipsaat Lagat  
Ton Soung Kao  
Wee Eng Moh

## Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Biak Lawm Thang  
Lek Aik Wee

## Master of Theology (ThM)

Nelson Noel Ng'uono Were

This evening's convocation will



Well for Philip Lagat & family (Africa) built with the help of love gifts from True Life BPC's brethren. Philip Lagat's wife is drawing water from the well for the cows to drink.



also see **the ordination of two of FEBC's faithful alumni, namely, Dennis Kwok (Truth B-P Church) and Nguyen Gia Hien (Brisbane B-P Church).** The latter is a missionary of True Life B-P Church to Brisbane. True Lifers are welcome to witness the graduation and ordination service, and to a buffet dinner thereafter.

### **Faithful and Uncompromising Teaching**

*Dns Liaw Sock Pheng  
(Tabernacle B-P Church)*

I thank God for the opportunity to study Calvin's Institutes at the Far Eastern Bible College this semester. Thank God for the uncompromising and faithful teaching of the FEBC which has benefited me and many believers. The study of God's Word redirects my focus back to God and away from the world. I spend ten to eleven hours at work each day. I spend much energy and effort in my work—teaching, marking, meeting, planning, disciplining children, etc. The demands of work are endless. Though as Christians we are to give our best in our work, it is also needful that we strike a balance and give due attention to other important aspects of life as well, such as taking care of our spiritual life.

Being immersed in a largely non-Christian environment for the better part of the day, I find that I can be easily influenced by the values and philosophies of the world, where there is much emphasis on achievement, results and success. The Bible warns, "*know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*" (Jas 4:4). So it is paramount that I spend time with God on a daily basis to hear what He has to say to me. This requires a

lot of discipline and I often find my own daily devotion very shallow and rushed. I am glad that attending the night classes has helped me to study the Bible better.

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### **Thanksgiving Letter from Australia**

April 24, 2007

Dear Rev Dr Timothy, Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, lecturers and students of FEBC

Greetings in the blessed name of our risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, our prayers have been with you from Australia, as you proceed through your exam period.

**GRADUATING STUDENTS:** May the Lord grant you wisdom and strength to endure the difficulties in ministry, as you "*press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil 3:14). Not as hirelings (John 10:12, 13) who will not protect the sheep from the wolves. Neither exercising compromise, by being in fellowship with those whom you think will offer you great financial support, nor "Professional Preachers," "*Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things*" (Phil 3:19).

**THANKSGIVING DINNER:** As you gather for the "Thanksgiving Dinner," on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, it is likewise a good time to reflect on God's goodness in the fact that He ordained it, that you attend a Bible-believing, fundamental and evangelical Bible College that stands squarely on the truth, declaring the whole counsel of His Word. Thanksgiving springs from a grateful heart, which is required of all believers, regardless of any initial attitude (1 Thess 5:18) and

Christians should be grateful to God for all things (Eph 5:20; Col 3:17; 1 Thess 5:18), especially for "Salvation" and "Sanctification," (Rom 7:25; Col 1:3–5; 1 Thess 1:2–7; 2:13). Often, the teaching of the "ten lepers" who were healed (Luke 17:11-19), with only one returning to give thanks is indicative of many believer's attitudes.

**ALL STUDENTS:** May you be ever thankful and prayerful for the faithfulness of FEBC, your *Alma Mater*, and *pray* for continued faithfulness of the Bible College and *not prey* for it to cease, for this is the work of the Adversary.

May the doctrines taught including Verbal Plenary Preservation (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:20-21, Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35) and Biblical Separation (2 Cor 6:14-71) not be despised, but earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Don't be afraid of standing for the truth alone for the Word of God says of those who seek popularity and ecumenical unity. Jesus Christ said, "*Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets*" (Luke 6:26).

May you continue to uphold the God-ordained Bible College, its Principal Rev Dr Timothy and Mrs Tow, Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo and family, lecturers (that they remain faithful), administration staff and all who support the College and fellow students. God willing, I will be attending the (DVBC), Graduation Ceremony and FEBC Retreat at Mersing.

In His Service  
Rev Errol D Stone  
FEBC (1994-97) and "In-Ministry Degree Programme" (2006-2007)  
Pastor: Faith Presbyterian Church—Perth (Jude 3)

### **Dr Arthur Steele Stands with FEBC**

April 30, 2007

Dear Dr Tow

Thank you for the foreword to the testimony of the Lord's leading in my life. Nothing is incidental in the Lord's work including Ivy's program at Mersing which concluded with songs of praise by Deborah and Judith. These ladies sat at our table during meal times. When Judith strongly suggested that I write some of the accounts of the Lord's leading, I agreed. She is a leader and a motivator, who loves the Lord. She kept me on schedule with her e-mails.

Thank you for the weekly from True Life. **I want to be counted with those who sign the FEBC doctrinal statement, because that is what I also believe and hold.**

As for my health, I will be 87 in June, recovering from a hip replacement on January 29. I am now walking with a cane, and still driving my car. I will speak at the Sunday Eve service at our BP synod in August. The assigned topic is "God's Covenant Faithfulness to All Generations." I am thoroughly enjoying searching the Scripture and studying theology on the covenants especially the Covenant of Grace.

I want you to know also that I have a Singapore prayer list which includes you, Ivy, Jeffrey, and Jemima, plus those close to Judith.

You are still a source of encouragement.

Art Steele

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## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 14 – 20, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Quek Suan Yew) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (May 19, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Dn Charles Kan's home at Blk 18, Joo Seng Road, #08-163, Singapore 360018. Message: "Do Not Be Lazy! (Prov 6:6-11)" by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy. For those requiring transport, please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 2.50 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Youth Conference 2007** will be held from June 21-23, 2007 at Calvary Pandan BPC. Theme: "Tongue-tied?: Don't be caught speechless when your faith is under fire." *Speakers:* Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew & Pr Dennis Kabingue. Please register at <http://www.bpc.sg/youthconf/registration/>. Closing Date: Today. For details, please contact Candice Tan at 96584810.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$8,377; USD20  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$200; *Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew* \$500; *Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy* \$500, \$300; *Rev Koshy's expenses for Ethiopia Mission* \$400; *Gethsemane BPC* \$600; *BCEA Tanzania* \$1,000; *Peter Elibariki* \$400; *Gospel Van for Brisbane BPC* \$100; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* \$200; *Sopheak's medical expenses* \$200; *Philip Lagat (FEBC)* \$200, \$100; *Sim Swee Ho & family* \$150; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$500; *FEBC* \$300

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
S\$14,327; USD20  
**Church Building Fund** \$2,000, \$200, \$110, \$100, \$100 **Total:** \$586,140.60

Sunday School Offering: \$453.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. Prov 15:1*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** on Philemon by Rev Ronny Khoo will commence next Sunday (May 20, 2007), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. Theme: "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 33

13 May 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 1
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps 119:89-112
Hymn	No. 255
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 319
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Ps 56:10-11
Sermon	<i>In God Will I Praise His Word</i> (Rev Nguyen Gia Hien)
Closing Hymn	No. 398 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

## By His Providence

*Rev Nguyen Gia Hien*  
*Pastor, Brisbane B-P Church, Australia*



I really give thanks to God for what God has done in my life. Truly, by His grace and mercy alone, God has done His good and gracious work in my life for my salvation and for my full-time training and ministry.

## My Salvation

By God's grace, I was born to a Christian family. My grandparents, my parents, and my siblings are Christians. I went to church regularly and I was baptized at the age of 14. Then in 1975, when I was 15 years old, the North of Vietnam defeated the South and then

the North and the South were united into one nation, the country of Vietnam. Vietnam is a communist country, so when I studied at high school, I had to study certain subjects such as socialism, communism, Marxism, Leninism, and Darwin's theory of evolution. Deep in my heart I never believed such theories, but I was partly influenced by those theories. Sometimes, there were some doubts arising in my thoughts. I wondered if God truly existed or where He was. I thought that if nobody in the world believed in the Lord any more, would I believe in Him and be willing to follow Him by myself?

One day I thought about this matter so hard that I had a terrible headache. In my depression and tiredness, I prayed to the Lord to have mercy on me and reveal Himself to me so that I would believe in Him and worship Him because I knew Him, and not because of my parents or other Christians. There were no miracles or wonders happening to my life at that time, but God mercifully listened to my prayers and made me thirsty for His Presence and His Word so much that I fervently prayed and read the Bible in Vietnamese and in English (KJV) any time that I could afford, in the morning, in the afternoon, or in the evening. Even when I studied at the Teacher's Training College, I always had the English Bible in my hand or in

**Ordination of Dennis Kwok (Truth BPC) & Nguyen Gia Hien (Brisbane BPC)  
at the FEBC's 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Service, May 6, 2007**



my schoolbag and made use of every free minute to read the Bible. My lecturers and classmates knew that I was a Christian because I usually shared the Gospel to them.

By God's grace, the more I read the Bible, the more I knew about God and about myself. My faith in Him grew up and I realized that I needed His forgiveness and salvation because I had sinned against Him. God guided me step by step to a deeper sense of sin and repentance. God made me see that although I had never committed any serious crimes such as murder, robbery, or adultery, I still sinned against Him when I did not honour Him, thank Him, glorify Him and when my heart and mind embraced anything unholy, unclean, unkind, untrue, insincere, selfish, arrogant, etc. God showed me not only my sins but also my sinful nature.

Like the apostle Paul, I cried out, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 7:24-25). Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour who is able to save me, transform my life, help me, guide me and keep me in this world of darkness, full of sins, snares, sorrows, and temptations. Even now, I still need the Lord and His Word and cannot live without Him and His Word. Only in Him can I overcome my sinful nature, worldly pleasures and temptations. Only in Him can I have a godly and holy life because of His holy life in me.

### **God's Calling**

Growing in God's Word and grace, I was constrained to dedicate my life to Him to live for Him and serve Him. I was very active at my local Evangelical church, serving as a deacon in 1981. Then seeing that the church did not follow the Bible closely, I left the church in 1986 and worshipped with several brethren at home. I usually spent my summer vacations

travelling to other parts of the country with a Christian brother to visit other Christians and preach the Gospel to their friends and relatives. I do thank God for His protection.

As my brother in Canada sponsored my parents and my siblings including me to migrate to Canada in 1985, I decided to withdraw my documents to stay in Vietnam in 1988, thinking that many missionaries were willing to endure hardships to come and preach the Gospel but they could not, how then could I run away? My decision made my parents and siblings so sad and disappointed, but I could not do otherwise.

Then in 1992 I was sent to teach at the National University of Economics in Hanoi with two other lecturers for four months. Constrained by God's love, I shared the Gospel with my students and my colleagues. I do thank God for His protection. When I went back to Ho Chi Minh City in 1993, one of my colleagues continued to attend our Bible study and worship and after 6 months she decided to receive the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. By God's grace, two years later, in 1995, this lady, Trang, became my wife, and we had our daughter, Hanh, in 1997. We both taught at universities and earned a lot of money, but my heart was always burdened for the salvation of my people.

Then I saw several new English versions and read a book on textual criticism, stating that the New Testament was compiled from about 5,000 Greek manuscripts, among which no two manuscripts are the same, and all these extant manuscripts are only copies. This book did shake my faith in God's Perfect Word. When I read the Scripture, I did no longer have such a strong conviction as I had before. Then in my heart, I desired that one day I might study Greek and God would help me discover more Greek manuscripts to make the Bible more complete. What a dangerous and wrong

concept! Anyway, I did not share this with other brethren, but just kept this to myself, knowing that this might shake their faith too. Then I realised that I needed to be trained at a Bible College and prayed to the Lord that He would open a door for me.

Then in 1999, one of my uncles introduced me to Trinity Theological College (TTC). I came to Singapore and joined TTC in July 1999. However, though I was thirsty for God and His Word, I was disappointed by their liberal and modernist teachings with human philosophies. After one month I decided to go home. Thank God that by His providence, before I left Singapore, I met one Vietnamese FEBC student. He was very surprised at my decision. After hearing my explanation, he told me that the Far Eastern Bible College only taught the Bible. Then he told me that if I wanted, he would introduce me to the principal of FEBC. I agreed right away. Then I came to see Rev Dr Timothy Tow in August 1999 before I left. I was very happy and thankful to God when Rev Tow said that he was a disciple of Dr John Sung because I respected Dr John Sung so much. There was a great revival in Vietnam under his ministry in 1938. Thank God that by His providence, He brought me to FEBC.

Then I went back to my country, and returned to Singapore to study at FEBC in July 2000. I completed my studies in 2004. Four years went by so fast! I do treasure every minute of studying God's Word and the Biblical languages at FEBC. I do thank God so much that through the sound teachings at FEBC, my faith in God's Perfect Word has been restored. Here at FEBC I have learnt sound and fundamental doctrines including the two doctrines that many believers do not want to take their stand: the Perfect Bible and Biblical Separation. But I thank God for helping me treasure these two doctrines. I say amen to the doctrine of perfect inspiration (VPI:

Verbal Plenary Inspiration) and perfect preservation (VPP: Verbal Plenary Preservation) of the Bible without apology or doubt because the Bible is my spiritual food and the foundation of my faith, my salvation and my ministry.

### **Missionary to Brisbane**

There is one more detail why God led me to Brisbane, Australia, although my heart was for my people in Vietnam. After my first year at FEBC, one of my uncles who was a medical doctor and a pastor (with his DMin) in Denver, Colorado, USA, emailed me and invited me to minister to his church after my graduation, as he was going to retire within a few years. I asked him for one year to pray for God's leading. During that time, my wife got a scholarship to the University of Queensland and insisted that I should accept the invitation. After one year, my heart was still for my people in Vietnam, so I refused his invitation in 2002.

Knowing my decision, my wife applied for her PR (Permanent Residence) in Australia and got it in 2003. I could not choose any other way. There is God's higher hand. After my graduation in 2004, I went to Brisbane in June 2004. By God's grace and strength, I started a Bible study. Thank God that True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church adopted me as her missionary preacher in September 2004. Step by step, we had our church registered as Brisbane Bible-Presbyterian Church in July 2006. We just had our inauguration service on 18 March 2007. All this is by God's grace and all thanks and praise and glory be to the Lord alone.

I have fervently prayed so hard for the advancement of the Lord's Church. Although I sometimes feel hopeless and helpless, I look to the Lord, trust in His sovereignty, His guidance, His help and good timing. Amen.



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 21 – 27, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (May 26, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (May 26, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Lam Pin Juh's home at 55 Hillview Avenue, Hillington Green, Singapore 669567. Please proceed directly to the Club House (directly above the gymnasium). Message: "Pass me not, O Gentle Saviour" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$7,101; USD174; AUD100  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Brisbane BPC* \$1,000; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* \$200; *Byju Samuel* \$200; *Mrs Kim Kah Teck* \$200; *Charlotte Yap* \$300; *Wendy Teng* \$300; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$350, \$200

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
S\$11,051; USD174; AUD100  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$100, \$100 **Total:**  
\$587,340.60

Sunday School Offering: \$204.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. Prov 15:2*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. *Theme:* "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** on Philemon by Rev Ronny Khoo commences today, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (May 27, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo** is away in Kenya and Tanzania, lecturing in BCEA, from May 15 to June 9, 2007.

**Deborah and Judith** will be at BCEA Kenya on May 26 to sing at the BMin Convocation. Praise the Lord!



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 34**

**20 May 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 203
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 63
Psalm	No. 118
Announcements	
Special Number	Bro Tay Bee Heng
Offering & Hymn	No. 408
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Matt 18:21-35
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
Sermon	<i>To Forgive is to Be Forgiven</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
Closing Hymn	No. 187
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

## Making Money by Attacking Christ

*Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo*

The Bible warns of false preachers who will use the name of Christ to make money out of people: *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you"* (2 Pet 2:1-3). Attacking God and the Bible is lucrative business. The movie-making and publishing industries are cashing in on the antichristian spirit of the age, raking in millions from heretical movies like "Jesus Christ Superstar,"

"The Last Temptation of Christ," and "The Passion of the Christ," and books like "The Da Vinci Code" and "Misquoting Jesus."

The profusion of modern Bible versions (NIV, TNIV, RSV, NRSV, ASV, NASV, TEV, CEV, ESV, NKJV and whatever more 'V's that will follow) only fuels the confusion of the postmodernistic world today where truth and morals are relative and subjective. Nothing is absolute, nothing is certain, the Sacred is ridiculed and the Bible is despised. Any movement back to the doctrinal and spiritual ethos of the Great 16<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Reformation, and the Bible of the Reformation (Traditional Hebrew Masoretic Text, Greek Textus Receptus, and the Authorised Version or King James Bible) is deemed retrogressive, schismatic, cultish and even heretical! Christians today are naively buying up any and every modern perversion of the Bible that rolls off the press, and smugly writing off any who dare to uphold and defend the good old Authorised Version as "eccentric old uncles" or "pseudo-scholars." It is no wonder that the Church today is confused, while publishers are laughing all the way to the bank. How applicable the words of the Prophet Hanani to King Jehoshaphat for the Christians of this

## O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

**The Dean Burgon Oath taken by the Faculty and Board of Directors of FEBC at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Service, May 6, 2007**



merry-making and men-pleasing age, *“Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD”* (2 Chron 19:2). Let us follow rather King David, a man after God’s own heart, who said, *“Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies”* (Ps 139:21-22).

One blasphemous denial of Christ comes from James Cameron, the director of the Oscar-winning movie—“Titanic”—who had just made a film to “prove” that Jesus was a fraud. Here is Rev Dennis Kwok’s refutation of Cameron’s “titanic” attack against Christ:

### **THE LOST TOMB OF JESUS?**

*(From the Desk of Dennis, Apr 1, 2007, [www.truthbpc.com](http://www.truthbpc.com))*

**THE CLAIM:** 10 small caskets (or ossuaries) discovered in 1980 in a Jerusalem suburb, may have held the bones of Jesus and His family. One of the caskets bears the title, “Judah, son of Jesus,” implying that Jesus had a son.

On 26 February 2007 at the New York press conference, the Academy Award-winning director James Cameron (of “Titanic” and “The Terminator”) publicly challenged the fundamental tenets of Christianity. He and his team contend that they can produce new evidence that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and fathered a son named Judah. And that their bodies were buried together.

The devil did it again! Today is Palm Sunday and we are nearing Good Friday and Easter; such a recent highlighting of the “discovery” seeks to undermine the historical faith and belief of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. If the bones of

Jesus have been discovered, it would be time for Christians to hang up their faith and give up Christianity altogether. Is this not what Satan wants? How would you answer such blatant lies about our living Saviour? 1 Corinthians 15:17 tells us, *“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”* In Greek, Paul literally wrote “vain or worthless your faith is,” placing the word “vain” first in the clause for emphasis! Do you believe that Christ has risen from the dead for you? If not, you are not saved at all!

There were nearly 1,000 ossuaries found in Jerusalem over the centuries. At least 22 of them have the name “Jesus” inscribed on them and two have “Jesus, son of Joseph.” The recent discovery of 10 ossuaries contained the names of Jesus, Mary, Judah, Joseph and Matthew. These are popular names of ancient times and even today. Mary was the most common female name in Jesus’ time, and there are at least six women by that name in the New Testament. Joseph was the second most common male name, Judah was the fourth and Matthew the ninth. Therefore, to find ossuaries that contain these names is not surprising or impressive at all.

Let not your simple, childlike faith in the resurrected Christ be shaken at all. Always remember: if Christ be not raised from the dead, your faith is vain and worthless; you are still in your sins! Be sure Jesus’ tomb will always be empty because He has risen from the dead. Amen.

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### **Testimony of Mother’s Salvation**

*Mrs Jessie Lam*

Praise the Lord! My mum accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. Rev Ronny Khoo presented the Gospel in Hokkien and led her in saying the sinner’s prayer. Rev Ronny explained to her that accepting Jesus as her

Saviour and Lord does not mean that all her physical sufferings will disappear. God willing, He will heal and deliver her. She can however pray for wisdom from God in taking care of her health and seeing a good doctor to help her with her conditions. The most important thing is her soul is saved eternally and her hope is in heaven where she will have eternal life without pain and sufferings.

I thank God for His mercy upon my mum and preserving her life for this day. Indeed, the Lord has been merciful to her and in His own timing, she is now saved. When I asked her a month ago if I could have someone visit her and share the Gospel to her, to my surprise she readily agreed. She told me that some years ago a stranger said to her that only Jesus can save her!

I want to thank all of you for your prayer support and share our joy and thanksgiving to God for her salvation. Please continue to pray for her, that she will not waver in her faith but be steadfast and not be affected by what her relatives and friends will say about her belief in Jesus Christ. I am now looking for a church nearby which conducts Hokkien service. Please also pray that I will be able to resolve the transport problem in fetching her to church.

Glory to His Name!

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### **God’s Word is Truth**

*(A testimony by Mr Philip Goh who took the course on “What is Bible-Presbyterianism?” at FEBC, Apr 30-May 5, 2007)*

I am very thankful to God for allowing me this opportunity to attend this course on “What is Bible-Presbyterianism?” What impresses me most was the sincerity and truthfulness of heart which comes from the lecturers in faithfully teaching the biblical

truth of the many important doctrines that come from the Holy Word of God. Scripture verses like Psalm 12:6-7 and Matthew 4:4 and many other important verses are precious and true to the very heart of true B-Pism. It brings joy to every child of God. “O how love I thy law!” says King David. The main emphasis in true B-P teachings and beliefs is the craving for the understanding of God’s Word. *“What saith the Scriptures ...,” “Search the Scriptures ...,” “Tremble at the Word of God,” “Thus saith the Lord ...”!*

Thank God for Rev Timothy Tow, for founding the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) which aims to preach and teach the whole counsel of God. He has taught the B-P Truth to faithful men in these last days. God’s truth is faithfully preached and taught in FEBC and we give Him all the glory and praise. The Lord has bestowed upon FEBC and its lecturers His Spirit of Truth. God will never leave His children comfortless. His wonderful gift that He has given us is the knowledge and revelation of His Truth. The Holy Spirit is indeed with us. Each day as I come for the classes, I see the joy and brotherly love evident everywhere among the brethren. The power of the Holy Spirit is evidently seen in the lecturers as they deliver their messages in truth.

This course has indeed enriched my understanding of the Truth. The joy and the warmth of the Holy Spirit have filled my heart. Only the things of God bring me joy. My love for His Word and my Lord will always take first place in my heart. No one can take it away from me. *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”* (Ps 119:11).

Praise and thank God for His Truth that is taught in this course. God is indeed pleased when He sees His children walking in the Truth. This course has indeed served its true purpose by upholding the Word of Life. God’s Word is Truth.

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 28 – Jun 3, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jun 2, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "The Things that God Hates (Prov 6:16-19)" by Pr Dennis Kabingue. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 217 Petir Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo** is away in Kenya and Tanzania, lecturing in BCEA, from May 15 to June 9, 2007.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$8,066

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$130; *Rev Quek Suan Yew* \$400; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$200; *Rev Koshy's expenses for Ethiopia mission* \$1,000; *Wendy Teng* \$200; *FEBC Bookroom* \$33

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$10,229

**Church Building Fund** \$100, \$50 **Total:** \$587,490.60

*Corrigendum:* The offerings of AUD100 and USD174 reported in last Sunday's Weekly were designated offerings for Rev Hien and Rev Philip Lagat respectively.

Sunday School Offering: \$432.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. Prov 15:3*

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. *Theme:* "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." *Speaker:* Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. **There will be a Camp Briefing** next Lord's Day, June 3, 2007 after the Worship Service. All Campers please attend.

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** will be taught by Dn Lek Aik Wee today and next Lord's Day. Rev Ronny Khoo had to have an emergency eye operation.

**At the Book Table:** *Second Dawn* at \$15. All proceeds will go to Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 35

27 May 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 33
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Rev 5:1-14
Hymn	No. 112
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 309
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Heb 12:1-7
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>Racing to Heaven</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 12
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## The Noble Bereans

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo to the Berean BPC at its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, March 11, 2007)

**Acts 17:10-12**

The noble Bereans were known for their high regard for the Holy Scriptures. *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed"* (Acts 17:11-12).

The phrase "more noble" comes from the Greek *eugenesteroi* (literally "of good birth or parentage"). Here it does not refer to their physical genealogy but their spirit and attitude—they were noble in their thinking and commitment to the Scriptures. The Berean nobility is described in these two ways: They (1) "received the word with all readiness of mind," and (2) "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

## Reception of the Word with Readiness of Mind

Sincere and noble believers are believers who

receive the Word of God. The Word of God is to be received, not criticised. This was taught to us by the Apostle James, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and *receive with meekness the engrafted word*, which is able to save your souls" (Jas 1:21). If we want to be blessed by God and His Word, we must receive Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures with meekness.

But it is sad as well as troubling that in the evangelical and fundamentalist world today, there are scholars and teachers in the colleges, universities and seminaries, who make it their habit to criticise the Scriptures, and teaching their students to do the same. They employ their own man-made rules of hermeneutics and rationalistic methods of higher criticism and lower or textual criticism to deny or cast doubt on the infallibility and inerrancy of the Word of God. Is it no wonder that in the churches today, there is such a low view of God's Word? God's Word is nowadays open to every man's subjective interpretation and judgement. It is no longer held up as the sole, supreme, and final authoritative standard of faith and practice. Anything goes! Nothing can be certain! What is truth? Where is truth? "We are agnostic!" "We don't know!" is what they say.

I am thankful to the Lord that Berean BPC, under the leadership of Pastor Tan Kian Sing, is a humble and faithful receiver of God's Word, standing foursquare on the perfect Word of God, 100% inspired and 100% preserved. It is not by coincidence but providence that the preserved Greek Text is called the

## FEBC's 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Service in Convocation at Calvary Pandan BPC, May 6, 2007





*Textus Receptus* or the *Received Text*. It is the Reformation Text that has been *received* by the faithful and discerning churches, and not the Modernistic Text of Westcott and Hort underlying the modern versions.

When you open God's Word to read and study it, you do not want to have any doubts in your mind about the Word of God, that it is reliable, dependable, trustworthy, infallible and inerrant, without any mistake. You will not be edified and built up in the faith if you approach God's Word with doubts and uncertainties. The noble Bereans did not approach the Scriptures with any kind of reluctance or reservation but with *readiness*. The noble Bereans received the word with "all readiness of mind." The Greek word for "readiness" is *prothumias* which comes from two words, "advance" or "forward," and "passion" or "strong desire." In other words, the word "readiness" speaks of a passion for or a strong desire towards something. The noble Bereans had this passionate desire and eagerness to receive the pure word of God. Do we have such passionate desire and eagerness for God's Word? It is quite sad and disturbing today that Christians are more eager to accept a corrupted Word than to receive the pure and preserved Word in the traditional Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus on which the good old faithful KJV is based. But you have believed and received by faith the 100% inspiration and 100% preservation of God's forever infallible and inerrant words, and have lived up to the good name of the noble Bereans.

### **Commitment to the Scriptures to Ascertain the Truth**

Although the noble Bereans were ready receivers of God's Word, they were not gullible for they "searched the Scriptures." The word for "search" here is significant; it is the Greek word *anakrino* (literally "to judge from above"). It was used in the law courts of judges who investigated and examined a case thoroughly and carefully before passing sentence. The noble Bereans did not suffer false preachers who came in the name of the Lord. They were careful to examine the words

of the preacher whether they agree with the infallible words of the Holy Scriptures or not, whether the things spoken were the truth or not.

Such a spirit is vital today for there are so many false preachers and teachers out there. Jesus had already warned not once but three times how in the last days false Christs and false prophets shall appear and shall deceive many (Matt 24:5, 11, 24). Today, the attacks against the inspired and preserved words of God do not only come from the modernists or postmodernists but those who call themselves evangelicals and fundamentalists. How we must beware and be discerning like the noble Bereans! Search the Scriptures, and the Scriptures from which the Bereans searched from were not the autographs which had long perished and are no more, but the apographs or the copies which they had in their hands and studied from, and regarded as their perfect standard to judge both faith and practice. That is why we today believe in the Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) or 100% preservation of God's inspired words as originally given (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35, 1 Pet 1:23-25). If the Bereans did not have a perfect Bible, and we today do not have a perfect Bible, how can we search the Scriptures and trust that the Scriptures are telling us the truth, without any mistake? We cannot. But we believe God's power and promise, "*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever*" (Ps 12:6-7). "*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled*" (Matt 5:18). I thank the Lord for your pastor's article, "Praise God, Berean B-P Church Has a Perfect Bible Today!," which is published in your well-designed church website together with many fine articles and statements of faith.

Note that the Bereans were diligent students of the Holy Scriptures, for they not only searched the Scriptures, they searched the Scriptures daily. They made the Bible an essential part of their daily occupation. As such, they were excellent examples of Paul's injunction, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Tim 2:15). How may we today

search the Scriptures daily? One good way is to use the *Read, Pray, Grow (RPG)* which is full of solid expositions on the Word of God. Tune in to the *Bible Witness Web Radio* to listen to biblical hymns and songs, and God-honouring and edifying sermons. Attend the FEBC night classes, and take the courses for credit so that you will do the assignments and sit for the exams, and be engaged in an intensive, systematic study of God's Word.

"*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*" (Rom 10:17). And so "*many of them believed*." But why many and not all? Even today, there are some who do not believe? Why? There could be several reasons: (1) Some do not bother to search the Scriptures. They want to remain ignorant. No faith or belief can result from an empty mind and heart. (2) There may be others who search, but they search in all the wrong places, listening to gossips and rumours, and trusting in the opinions and methods of men. (3) There are those who search, and know the truth, but refuse to believe the truth, and even go against the truth. They willfully and stubbornly choose to be blind and they harden their hearts to sound doctrine and instruction. More often than not, a failure to believe is due to the despising of the Word of God. It is idolatry. They do not believe because they regard their reasoning, their relationships, their popularity, their prestige, their position, their power to be more important than or superior to the Holy Scriptures. The Bereans, on the other hand, were so noble because they not only searched the Scriptures, they searched the Scriptures with the intention to believe and obey the Scriptures: "The Bible says it, that settles it, we believe it." May we be like the noble Bereans.

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### **Second Dawn**

*A review by Dr S H Tow*

When I took up my copy of "*Second Dawn*" I did not put it down until the last page. The story of Kevin Tye's grim contest with cancer so gripped me that I had to follow the unequal battle *blow by blow* until the bitter-sweet *grande finale*: for those of us who

watch, it is bitter and tearful; for Kevin, a *new dawn* ushered him to his "*Home Sweet Home*": He had fought the good fight, he had finished his course.

What would you have done if greeted with the news that you had the rarest and most malignant kind of growth which had taken over all the available space in the abdomen? The bombshell burst on Kevin five months before his wedding day. As he pondered and prayed, God gave him a message. Then he said, "*I know God has a purpose for my life, to help me surrender my all to Him, and to renew my first love to my Creator. I have opened my heart to God and let Him take control of my life. I am at peace with what I am going through because He has comforted me as I accept His will in my life. God has a reason for everything and my condition is a trial I have to go through ... I had backslide and wasn't putting God first in my life ... I have prayed and offered myself willingly to serve Him in whatever He desires.*"

### **Running the last lap**

Mr Tye Kim Khiat, Kevin's father writes in his book *Second Dawn*:

"*As parents, we have not finished the course; Kevin has. His spiritual sprint leaves us panting in his wake. The torch he has passed on is ours to bear. His path we will tread and we know he would dearly want us to hold aloft his torch to light our way – and for all those who want to believe – so that we, too, can cross the finishing line as he did.*

*Kevin weighted in at 4.3 kg (9.5 pounds) at 6.10 am Singapore time on December 4, 1976, and departed at 1.50 am Australian time on April 29, 2006. From dawn to dawn, from dust to dust, a painful chapter ends, a new one unfolds: his second dawn is for all eternity.*

*His body had quickly turned cold – and stiff. We bade him good-night for the last time. As we stepped out of the now all-too-familiar Boxhill Hospital into the cold autumn morning, we knew that our second dawn could be on the horizon some day if we stayed the course and kept to the straight and narrow path that our son had blazed for us – so that we could meet again.*

*Soon, Kevin's unswerving faith, like the red ball of the rising sun tinged with gold, would climb high into the sky to shine as our beacon."*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 4 – 10, 2007)

WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> ) (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
		Korean Worship Service
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Jun 6, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Speaker: Mrs Ivy Tow. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Jenny Kan at 62890682.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jun 9, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Excellency of Wisdom (Prov 8-9)" by Pr Dennis Kabingue. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo** is away in Kenya and Tanzania, lecturing in BCEA, from May 15 to June 9, 2007.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$32,636; RM0.20

Designated Offerings: **Rev Tow** \$250, \$200; **Rev Jeffrey Khoo** \$250; **Rev Quek Suan Yew** \$250; **Rev Ronny Khoo** \$1,000, \$200; **Mrs Kim Kah Teck** \$200; **Gethsemane BPC** \$50; **Mission** \$40,000; **FEBC** \$30,000, \$2,000, \$350, \$250

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

S\$107,636; RM0.20

**Church Building Fund** \$25,000, \$1,000, \$472, \$200 **Total:** \$614,162.60

Sunday School Offering: \$308.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. Prov 15:4*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. **Theme:** "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times." **Speaker:** Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. **There will be a Camp Briefing at 12.15 pm** after the Worship Service today. All Campers please stay for the briefing.

**At the Book Table:** (1) *Forty Years on the Road to Church Growth*, (2) *Born Again in the Singapore Pentecost* and (3) *The Story of My Bible-Presbyterian Faith* by Rev Dr Timothy Tow. Only \$10 for all three books.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**REL, Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

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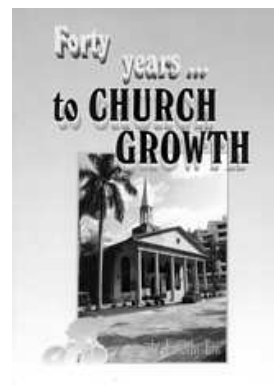
3 June 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 263
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Eph 2:1-22
Hymn	No. 260
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 454
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Heb 12:6-11
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>The Chastening of the Lord</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 475
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Bible-Presbyterianism and Church Growth

Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo



*me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"* (Matt 28:18-20).

## "The Power that is Forgotten"

The Rev Dr Timothy Tow, founder of the Bible-Presbyterian Church and Movement in Southeast Asia, has rightly noted that when the Great Commission is quoted today, it is often quoted without the power behind it. "All power is given unto me ..." is unwittingly forgotten. The Church ought to be reminded that the Great Commission does not begin with man but with God; it does not begin with "Go ye therefore ..." (v19), but with "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (v18). Evangelism would fail if not for the power of Christ.

This power of Christ and of His Spirit was clearly demonstrated in the days of revival under Dr John Sung. The Rev Dr Timothy Tow who was born again at the Singapore Pentecost of 1935 through the preaching of Dr John Sung testified,

Through the John Sung Campaign, a great revival came to many lethargic and sleepy churches in Singapore. That was church growth sent down from heaven by the outpoured power of the Holy Spirit. The results of the Singapore Pentecost were born of God. By contrast, the results of the Billy Graham and Luis Palau crusades were born chiefly of man. While Billy Graham and Luis Palau spent \$1



**FEBC'S ANNUAL RETREAT AT LAUTAN BIRU RESORT, MERSING  
MAY 7 – 9, 2007**

million and \$1.45 million respectively during one full-year's advance preparation to bring in the crowds, John Sung spent not one single dollar in any kind of advertisement. Like Elijah he came, and like Elijah he went.

The Bible-Presbyterian Church grew because it did not forget the power of Christ as manifested in the days of the John Sung revival and Spirit-empowered evangelism. Dr John Sung would organise evangelistic bands during his Gospel campaigns. The Rev Dr Timothy Tow recounts,

Half-way through the campaign, the preacher began to call for volunteers to his *Preaching Bands*. Now that we were saved, we were saved for a purpose—to witness Jesus Christ to those who had never heard. Dr Sung lamented the fact that Chinese pastors were consigned by an unconscionable congregation to every chore, big or small, in the church. The pastor was treated like an old amah, he said. Unless members would go out evangelizing, the prospect of church growth was dim. *With these admonitions he drew in batch after batch of volunteer preachers. Thus the Singapore Christian Evangelistic League was born.*

In the spirit of John Sung, students of the Far Eastern Bible College spread out to different parts of the island every Wednesday afternoon to distribute gospel tracts and preach the good news to those who would listen. Every semester, at least 10,000 tracts would be printed and given out. True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and other evangelistic Bible-Presbyterian churches organise evangelistic bands to go out to share the gospel either weekly or monthly, especially on Sunday afternoons led by the deacons following the example of

the first New Testament deacons, Stephen and Philip (Acts 6-8).

The Holy Spirit power that accompanies Biblical missions and evangelism will result in true and lasting conversions and fruits, and not the superficiality and temporariness of humanly engineered “conversions” that take no deep root nor bear real fruit. True evangelism will bring forth good and true spiritual fruit, “some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty” (Matt 13:23). The John Sung revival was such a phenomenon as observed by Dr Keith Hinton, author of *Growing Churches Singapore Style*,

Any discussion of the movement of people from China in the context of church growth must mention evangelist John Sung. ... No person has made a greater spiritual impact on the city than Sung in those brief, few-day visits. He not only won thousands to Christ but more significantly, he organized the converts into witness bands of three and sent them out into the streets, and he effectively challenged Christians to win the lost world to Christ. ... *[T]hroughout Singapore today one finds key Christian leaders and influential lay people who attribute not only their conversion but their model of devotion and commitment to service to the ministry of John Sung.*

One such key Christian leader must be the Rev Dr Timothy Tow, a John Sung convert who became the founding father of the Bible-Presbyterian Church and Movement by God's appointment and anointing.

May the Church and the Bible College hasten the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by means of accelerated missions and evangelism into all the world. *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto*

*all nations; and then shall the end come”* (Matt 24:14).

*(For further study, read Forty Years on the Road to Church Growth, and Born Again in the Singapore Pentecost written by our pastor, the Rev Dr Timothy Tow. Both books are on sale at the book table.)*

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### **A Truly Blessed Experience**

*(A testimony from Mrs Irene Lim after taking the DVBC course on “What is Bible-Presbyterianism” at FEBC, Apr 30-May 5, 2007)*

Although I have been spiritually born and brought up in an independent, non-denominational evangelical church for more than 40 years, my knowledge of many issues relating to Christianity (outside the Bible itself) was practically zero. I was completely ignorant of the relevance and implications of the Reformation and the ecumenical movements or of the differences between the KJV and the NIV which I had used for more than 20 years. Neither did I know about the Westminster Catechism, Covenantalism, Dispensationalism, Calvinism, Biblical Separation, and a host of other subjects. I was given the impression that the Bible-Presbyterian (B-P) churches in Singapore are very legalistic and judgemental, “condemning” most if not all para-church groups and churches.

Since worshipping in Calvary Pandan two to three years ago, some of these pre-conceived ideas have been challenged and I have sought to keep abreast with the subjects frequently discussed here. I saw the Daily Vacation Bible College (DVBC) course as an opportunity to learn in greater depth what B-Pism is all about. I must say the one week has been most informative, inspiring, enriching, and edifying. It was a truly blessed experience for me.

I was inspired by the life and work of

B-P's founding father, Rev Dr Timothy Tow. His very presence was most encouraging and challenging for though frail and weak he was still determined to testify and be associated with the work of God. I said a silent prayer to the Lord to enable me to have that same spirit. I was also awed to know how the Lord had so miraculously revived him spiritually and enabled him to achieve what he did in the last 50-60 years. His steadfastness and untiring determination to keep the faith was amazing and I enjoyed reading what he so carefully and passionately chronicled in *The Story of My Bible-Presbyterian Faith*. The rich heritage of the B-P Movement is indeed a great blessing from the Lord.

I was much enlightened by the lectures. It never occurred to me that Biblical separation, which I had frowned upon, is actually a catalyst for church growth. Truly I saw how, with the power of Christ and sustained by the life-line of the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC), the B-P Church had been used by God to evangelise and plant churches in the uttermost parts of the world. Praise His Name!

The other issue which I was rather apprehensive about when I joined Calvary Pandan was that of child baptism but thank God, the study of Calvinism and Covenant Theology enabled me to see things in a totally different light. I learnt that God's grace embraces our household, including the little ones. What a privilege!

The topics were carefully selected and very well-balanced. All in all, I have got an excellent overview of the hallmarks of B-Pism. I pray that this will whet my appetite and challenge me to delve deeper into God's Word. Thank God for a blessed, meaningful and enlightening week of soaking in the things of God.

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## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 11 – 17, 2007)

MON – FRI	<b>Bible Camp at Tanjung Pinang</b>
FRI 8.00 pm	<i>No Prayer Meeting</i>
SAT 3.30 pm	<i>No YPF Meeting</i>
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Rev Errol Stone)
	Korean Worship Service
	Filipina Bible Study
	Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Church Camp 2007 (June 11-15)** at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Tanjung Pinang. All Campers please assemble tomorrow morning at **FEBC, 9A Gilstead Road by 7.45 am** if you are taking the coach transfer. If you are going directly to the Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal, please be there **by 8.45 am**.

In view of Bible Camp, there will be **no Prayer Meeting and Young People's Fellowship Meeting** this week.

**We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs Yeo Hui Ching and family** on the home going of Mr Roland Yeo Kim Seng on June 6, 07. Vigil Service was conducted on June 8, 07 and Burial Service was conducted at the Chua Chu Kang Christian Cemetery on June 9, 07 by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$10,204

Designated Offerings: **BCEA Tanzania** \$4,000; **Rev Ronny Khoo** \$1,000, \$1,000, \$200; **Barnabas Yap & family** \$100; **Wendy Teng** \$200; **FEBC Scholarship** \$500

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
\$17,204

**Church Building Fund** \$110, \$100 **Total:**  
\$614,372.60

Sunday School Offering: \$276.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent. Prov 15:5*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying the book of 2 Peter, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. **True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

**At the Book Table:** *Charismatism Q&A* by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at \$5.10.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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**10 June 2007**

**“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 8
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 51
Psalms	No. 102
Announcements	
Special Number	Deborah & Judith
Offering & Hymn	No. 247
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Matt 7:13-23
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>Charismatism: True or False?</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 186 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

*neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's” (Exod 20:17). The Lord Jesus said it well in Matthew 5:27-28, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”*

The sin of adultery and covetousness is, “I see, I want, I take.” In 2 Samuel 11:2-4, we find King David falling into such a sin, “*And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her.*” The sin of adultery and covetousness is no respecter of persons. In fact, it is often the sin of the rich and powerful.

## The Lust of the Eyes

*Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo*

In this lust-filled world that we live in, we must be careful not to fall into the sin of the lust of the eyes. 1 John 2:15-17 tells us in no uncertain terms, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*”

The lust of the eyes is a violation of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment, “*Thou shalt not commit adultery*” (Exod 20:14), and the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment: “*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy*

How may we fall into the sin of the lust of the eyes? Pornography is a real problem today. In this cyberspace age, pornography is so easily accessible through the internet. Although the



**Church Van purchased with the love offerings from brethren of True Life B-P Church for Brisbane BPC pastored by Rev Hien Gia Nguyen**

worldwide web contains a whole lot of useful information and resources, it is filled with fornication and temptations. It poses a real danger to our young people who are internet savvy. Premarital sex, teenage pregnancies, date-rapes, and juvenile prostitution are all too common. Here is God's good command to young people, *"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart"* (2 Tim 2:22).

The lust of the eyes is no respecter of persons. It tempts both unbelievers as well as believers. Adultery has become fashionable today. Having multiple sex partners is like having different clothes to wear. "Variety is the spice of life," so let me have a Baskin Robbins' selection of women in my life. Having one-night stands and secret affairs are norms in today's permissive and promiscuous society. Have we fallen into such a heinous sin as fornication or adultery? If we have, we should be gripped by extreme guilt and grief, and be zealous to repent. If we have committed such a sin and feel no shame or remorse, it is a possible sign that we may not be truly regenerate in the first place. The Apostle Paul warned in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."*

In Singapore, juvenile delinquency and teenage pregnancy are on the rise, and among adults, divorce rates are climbing, catching up with the West. A recent Straits Times article tells us, "More saying 'I do' and 'I do ... away with you'." This is one sign of the end times. Matthew 24:12 says,

*"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."*

How to overcome the lust of the eyes? These verses from the Bible tell us how:

Psalms 101:2-3, *"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."*

Proverbs 4:25-27, *"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."*

Proverbs 6:20-26, *"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life."*

Matthew 18:9-10, *"And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."*

Be careful little eyes what you see!

## THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

### The Epistles of Life

#### I John 2:3-14

#### Fellowship = Obedience and Love

How do you know you are saved? And therefore enjoy the Christian fellowship? If you love Him and keep His commandments! This echoes what our Lord had spoken to the disciples in John 15, in the sermon on the True Vine.

In exhorting Christians to keep God's commandments as proof of knowledge of and fellowship with God, John mentions the importance of keeping His Word, the "old commandment," that which has come to us from Moses and the prophets. This is the Old Testament, God's Word from of old. Then why a new commandment? John recollects what our Lord had said in John 13:34. The new commandment is the practice of love, the other side of the Old Commandment. It is the law of God stated positively to complement the "Thou shalt nots" of the old commandments. The new commandment, which emphasises the out-working of love in Christian fellowship does not contradict the old, but puts it in a new light. To test whether one is walking in true fellowship, which is called light, John asks, "Do you love or hate your brother?" This is a very practical question, because it is so easy to see brothers in the same fellowship fall out. Now, what John is stressing here is for the whole church, from the youngest to the oldest, from the junior youth fellowship to the session and presbytery.

If our church is to become strong, we must practise holiness and love in our fellowship. And let us not be gossipers but rather Gossellers!

#### I John 2:15-17

#### Loving the world and loving God are mutually exclusive

In the practice of Christian fellowship is

the prerequisite of loving the Father against loving the world. When a Christian begins to love the world from which he has been saved, he begins to backslide. His love of the Father cools off correspondingly.

"Love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave" (Song of Solomon 8:6). When we stray to love another more than we should, that first love is turned into jealousy in the one we first loved, and soon into hatred. God and the world stand in opposition to each other, and we can love one or the other, but not both.

By "world" we mean the world system, materialism. The world is here analysed as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Was not Eve fallen into Satan's trap when he tempted her with these three things in the Forbidden Fruit? That it was good for food (lust of the flesh), that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes) and "a tree to be desired to make one wise" (pride of life). Gen. 3:6.

While that Tree no more exists in its primitive form, the temptation powers of the lust of the flesh, of the eyes and of the pride of life have drawn not a few Christians back into the world. Why is so and so no more in church? Because he is more busy making money on the Lord's Day. Because he has left his wife and run off with another. These are sad stories but true. So, flee every lust, no matter how small it appears to be. But love the Lord with all your heart and strength.

Take time to be holy,  
Speak oft with thy Lord;

Abide in Him always,  
And feed on His Word:

Make friends of God's children;  
Help those who are weak;

Forgetting in nothing,  
His blessing to seek.



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 18 – 24, 2007)

THU – SAT	Combined Youth Conference
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Youth Conference 2007** will be held this week from June 21-23, 2007 (Thu–Sat) at Calvary Pandan BPC. *Theme:* “Tongue-tied?: Don’t be caught speechless when your faith is under fire.” *Speakers:* Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew & Pr Dennis Kablingue. For details, please contact Candice Tan at 96584810.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (June 24, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

## LAST LORD’S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$8,047

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Brisbane BPC* \$300; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$300 (LF); *FEBC* \$300

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
\$9,147

**Church Building Fund** \$460 **Total:** \$614,832.60

Sunday School Offering: \$337.00

**Verse for the Week:** *In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble. Prov 15:6*

**Corrigendum:** In the article, “The Lust of the Eyes” (10 June 07 weekly), 1<sup>st</sup> line of 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, “6<sup>th</sup> commandment” should be “7<sup>th</sup> commandment.” The author apologises for the mistake.

**The Adults’ Sunday School Class** by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying the book of 2 Peter, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. **Mrs Yeo Hui Ching and family** of the late Mr Roland Yeo would like to thank True Lifers for their sincere support and comforting words, and Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew for conducting the vigil and funeral services.

**Pray for Pastor Tow’s** good health and strength.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 38

17 June 2007

**“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 540
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 121
Hymn	No. 353
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Camp Children Deborah & Judith
Offering & Hymn	No. 392
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Isaiah 55:11
Sermon	<i>Standing on the Promises of God</i> (Rev Errol Stone)
Closing Hymn	No. 253
Benediction	Rev Errol Stone

## Tumsifu Yesu Kristo

Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

*Tumsifu Yesu Kristo* in Swahili means “May Jesus Christ be praised.” I praise and thank the Lord for granting me another meaningful and fruitful trip—my 9<sup>th</sup>—to East Africa (May 15-June 9, 2007), this time with Jemima and our two daughters (Ann and Lynn), and True Lifers Deborah and Judith with their guitars and fervent heart to sing for the Lord. More travelers this time meant more luggage space. This was well used to bring in 15 boxes of Bibles and books, a projector, and a couple of laptops for the Bible College of East Africa (BCEA).

Since 2001, FEBC has been cooperating with BCEA to offer the Bachelor of Ministry (BMin) degree programme. Annually, lecturers from FEBC would visit BCEA to teach 4 intensive residential courses to senior students and graduates of BCEA who are working towards their BMin degree. This time, I taught 2 courses: Charismatism and Biblical Separation. At the 4<sup>th</sup> BMin convocation, 14 were

conferred the BMin degree. I spoke on “The History of Mankind from Creation to Judgement” to the students of BCEA Tanzania, and youth leaders of the African Missions and Evangelism Church (AMEC).

Rev Mark Kim, an FEBC alumnus who holds a Master’s degree from Pensacola Christian College (USA), is Principal of BCEA Kenya and Tanzania. He is currently working on a dissertation in the area of theological education to present to FEBC for his Doctor of Education (EdD) degree. The full-time faculty of BCEA comprises mainly FEBC graduates. At BCEA Kenya, we have Rev Stephen Masila (MDiv), Rev Eben Yoon (MDiv), Mr Richard Tiu (BTh), Rev Ibrahim Kiarie (BMin), Rev Bernard Akhwale (BMin), Rev Lazarus Ngige (BMin), and Mrs Violet Onyango (BRE). At BCEA Tanzania, there is Rev Peter Elibariki (MDiv) who is the academic dean. Judah Pallangyo, an MDiv student at FEBC, will complete his studies and return to Tanzania next year to strengthen the faculty there. Miss Bai Eun Young (MRE) seeks to serve in Kenya as a missionary by the end of the year. Pray for Eld Tan Nee Keng (Berean BPC) who has a year to go before he completes his MDiv and is preparing to be a missionary to Tanzania. Pray for a strong faculty of faithful servants to teach the forever infallible and inerrant Scriptures to faithful students at BCEA.

By the grace of God, True Life BPC has been the main contributor to the building of BCEA Tanzania. The 7-acre





piece of property was bought for US\$20,000, and US\$180,000 has thus far been spent to put up 6 buildings (Main office/classroom block, chapel, boys' dormitories, dining hall, guest house, and principal's quarters). The college opened for classes last year in September with 17 new students. More students will enrol when the new semester begins in July. As God provides, faculty/staff quarters, girls' dormitories, and library will have to be built and a well dug for the growing college.

Let us continue to pray and give to the Bible College movement so that more faithful men and women might be trained to preach the good news of Jesus Christ and teach the whole counsel of God in fulfilment of the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8) especially in these last days of apostasy and compromise (2 Tim 2:2, 3:14-17, 4:2-5). Let us pray, let us preach, let us give, let us go ....

### **Trip to Kenya (23 May–3 Jun 07)**

*By Judith & Deborah*

EK 719 touched down in Nairobi's international airport at about 2.15 pm on Wednesday 23 May 07, and soon we were breezing through Immigration and Customs with guitars slung over our shoulders and 50 kgs of Bibles and FEBC materials loaded on the pushcarts. Probably because African women rarely, if not never, play the guitar, we were always greeted with smiles of surprise and the question "Oh, you are in a band?" or "Oh, you play music?" And so it was with the female Customs officer who was interested more in the guitars than the five boxes and smilingly waved Deborah through with the exhortation "play away!" I followed quickly behind while the officer got distracted by some other passenger. Relieved and grateful to God for preparing such a smooth and pleasant welcome, we were happy to see Rev Eben Yoon with Rev Mark Kim waiting to take us to the Bible College of East Africa.

As soon as we arrived there, Mrs Kim asked Deborah to sing at the 5 pm evening service. Tired after a long journey and with less than an hour away from the service, we were nevertheless glad to render two praise items. God had been so good to us. And this

was only the beginning. We were to experience more of His grace and mercies in the days to come. On a trip to the Giraffe Centre the following day, Eben's car blew a flat tyre. The roads in Kenya are full of potholes and worn out bitumen, and are very punishing to both vehicles and passengers. This must have taken a toll on Eben's car that had taken him many times into Tanzania and back. Eben was so apologetic, but for us it was a Kodak moment. Not just to take a picture of two men trying to replace a tyre, but also to capture the wonder of God's amazing grace. We were just minutes away from the Centre, and not far from several petrol stations. Moreover, Brother Richard Tiu had come along in his pickup van, on a last minute request by Rev Kim earlier that morning. Surely this was the work of our all-knowing God. How else could we have proceeded to feed the giraffes, with May Ann and May Lynn gleefully tumbling into the back of the pickup, while the tyre was sent for repair at the nearest petrol station? Praise God. "The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore" (Ps 121:8).

I am also sure that God blessed the Africans with unique vocal chords and a special in-built rhythm box. There is hardly a need for musical accompaniment or mikes. Singing in small groups or as solos, in Swahili or English, their voices fill the sanctuary with unrestrained ease. At the evening service on Wednesday, we were struck by the intensity and simplicity of their worship in song. Especially moving was the plaintive strains of a young female student who sang about the *multitude of her sins, flowing like a river, washed away by the blood of Jesus whose grace was as high as the mountains*. She held up a small drawing pad in which she had sketched some illustrations to accompany her song. Her child-like faith touched our hearts. Indeed, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15).

He also said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). We thank God for the children we saw in the two kindergartens we visited on Friday, one run by

the college and located within the college grounds, and the other run by former FEBC students Francis and Violet and located in the slum area of Ngomongo. In both places, we saw children who seemed curious but excited about their visitors, who giggled and laughed, who sang and clapped along, who did not have much by way of material possessions and comforts, but who knew Jesus and who had the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart". This was one of the songs Deborah sang at the college kindergarten, where the kids with their stunning red socks and black shoes were seated in neat rows of chairs outdoors. Over at the Ngomongo kindergarten, where the children were more tightly squeezed in a classroom that was as bright as whatever daylight was able to enter through the windows, they listened quietly as Jemima told them the story of Jesus and shared the gospel of salvation, interpreted by Francis. They then enjoyed a singing session with Deborah who reminded them through song that "Jesus loves me, this I know", after which May Ann and May Lynn, assisted by Jemima, distributed soft toys and sweets to them. We came away so blessed by them.

At 11 am on Saturday, without much fanfare, Rev Kim led the procession of college academic staff and graduates into the sanctuary. We felt a tinge of pride to see our FEBC-trained students now serving as lecturers and taking their positions on the stage along with Rev Kim, Rev Jeffrey Khoo and other college academic leaders. Eben is now Academic Dean of the BCEA and Richard Tiu is there assisting in the teaching. Nelson Were, who made a trip to attend the graduation with wife Christine who was three months into the family way, delivered the Invocation prayer. What a gathering! Fourteen students graduated with the BMin degree and three were ordained as well. The BCEA choir led by Eben sang "In the New Jerusalem" and Deborah ministered to the students with "O Jesus I Have Promised" and "May The Lord Find Us Faithful". It was a short, simple and yet solemn service with a serious message preached by Rev Jeffrey Khoo on the importance of theology in missions.

Worship on Sunday morning saw the

sanctuary filled. We were favoured with two songs from the BCEA choir as well as the church choir who sang a very catchy song in Swahili. The Africans waste no time – as soon as they arise from the pews, they are already singing a tune as they move in rhythm to the front. Reading from Matt 13:1-9, 18-23, the familiar passage on the seed sown on stony, thorny and good ground, Rev Jeffrey Khoo preached on the three types of faith – no faith, false faith and true faith. Deborah ended the service reading from Ps 95:1-6 and singing "Saved Saved" and "How Great Thou Art". We knew at once that it was the Holy Spirit that prompted us to sing this hymn when Rev Kim opened the service with the same passage from Ps 95.

The refrain of this hymn echoed in our hearts over and over as we joined my sister the following week on a safari trip to Masai Mara and Lake Nakuru and saw the "wonders of it all"! When you take in the expanse of the savannah stretching out before you to meet the rolling hills in the distance, when you behold the great rift valley green with its lush, fertile plains, when you see all the different creatures up close and observe the intricate details of their behaviour, and when a rainbow appears in all its vibrant hues as you drive through the game reserve, you cannot but exclaim "How Great Thou Art". Indeed, God never let us out of His sight and care. Even as we were negotiating a very treacherous stretch of dirt track, God brought us through it safely without getting stuck in the mud (as some other vans did). We prayed hard each time our driver encountered a really tough, slippery and muddy patch, and as he skillfully and slowly steered the van through, we thanked God and heaved huge sighs of relief. He who "visitest the earth, and waterest it" kept the rain away until our safari ended and we were on our way back to Nairobi.

Truly, "the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker" (Ps 95:3-6).

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 25 – Jul 1, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	10.30 am	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a lunch cum games outing to the Botanic Gardens this Sat (June 30, 07). Please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 10.30 am. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (June 30, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Ng Choon Seng's home at 5 Mount Faber Road #07-12, The Pearl Singapore 099197. Tel: 63106618. Message: "Use me for Thy Glory" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Edward Wong on July 6, 2007 (Fri) at 8 pm. Address: 45 Hindhede Walk, #06-04 (Lobby 1), Springdale Condominium, Singapore 587978. Tel: 64670645.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,637

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$150; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$600; *Rev Peter Clements* \$1,000; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$100; *BCEA* \$50; *Combined Youth Conference* \$500; *Judah (FEBC)* \$60; *Albert (FEBC)* \$60; *Linda (FEBC)* \$60; *Fransiska (FEBC)* \$60; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$200

Total General and Designated Offerings:

\$10,777

Church Building Fund \$200, \$100 Total: \$615,132.60

Sunday School Offering: \$517.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so. Prov 15:7*

**The Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying the book of 2 Peter, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at [http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm).

**2007 Church Camp messages** in audio mp3 are available for free download at our website at <http://www.febc.edu.sg/churchcamp2007.htm>.

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 221 Pending Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 39

24 June 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 237
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	1 John 4:7-21
Hymn	No. 175
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 131
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	John 21:15-19
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>Lovest Thou Me More Than These?</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 392
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## TRUE LIFE BPC CAMP 2007

*Testimonies of True Lifers who went for the annual family camp held at Bintan Agro Beach Resort, Indonesia, June 11-15, 2007*

### A Wonderful Time of Learning

Ever since I attended my first church camp, I have found each camp to be a wonderful time of learning God's Word and fellowship. Hence, I was very excited to attend this year's church camp at Bintan Agro Beach Resort. I also viewed the camp as a precious break from the cares of life to draw near to God.

I was thankful for good weather as we made our way to the resort. Upon arrival at the resort, I was pleasantly surprised to see that the resort was quiet and small, boasting a nice scenic view of the open sea with islands in the background. I found this setting conducive to do my Quiet Time and study the Bible. It was also easy to meet with others for fellowship as the rooms were all located close to one another.

The theme for this year's camp was "Glorifying Christ in Perilous Times". This is an appropriate theme seeing that we are living in the last days. I was drawn to John Calvin's motto found on the cover of the camp booklet. "My heart I offer to you Lord, promptly and sincerely". I first came to know about this motto some four years ago and resolved to be like Calvin. However, I lost my focus along the way. I was reminded of the motto when I attended the FEBC night class on Calvin's Institutes this year. The appearance of the motto on this year's camp booklet served to renew my resolve to be like Calvin. This is surely not by chance. It is God's way of reminding me of my promise to Him.

The messages by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew were a reminder that we need to be a good ambassador for Christ in the last days. Three things stood out for me:

(1) We need to live out God's Word. Christians are not to be part of NATO (ie No Action, Talk Only). We are to be like the light on a hill that shines so that others have a guide when they travel in darkness (Matt 5:14). Can others see Christ in me?

(2) We need to eat God's Word. We can only live out God's Word if we study and digest every Word of God. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15). Do I spend time and effort to study His Word? On a side note, since man lives by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matt

## TRUE LIFE BPC'S CAMP AT BINTAN AGRO BEACH RESORT, TANJUNG PINANG, JUNE 11-15, 2007



4:4), how can anyone claim that some of His Words have been lost through the passages of time (no matter how insignificant they may seem to be)? This is surely a lie that comes from the devil.

(3) We need to be like a sword with one point and not like a broom ending with many straws. Just as Daniel had a singular purpose in his heart to glorify God in all that he does, so must we despite all the cares of the world. Have I been distracted by all the cares of this world? Can I say that Jesus is my best thought by day or by night?

In the morning devotion, Rev Errol Stone reminded us that we should give honour to those who are ministering to us (1 Thess 5:12-13; 1 Tim 5:17). We must do our best to encourage our pastor and elders. Have I done my part in supporting and encouraging my pastor, elders and my deacons?

Throughout the camp, it was heartening to see the children mingling and playing with the adults. Truly this is a testimony that the purported “Generation Gap” theory is a myth. When there is unity in the truth of God’s Word, there is no need for specially conceived programmes to generate warmth and care among brethren. It is natural to love one another. Let brotherly love continue in True Life BPC (Heb 13:1).

I have been blessed immensely by this year’s church camp. God willing, I will attend next year’s church camp. How about you?

*Chew Yiming Clement*

### **We Witnessed Abundant Life**

We want to thank God for True Life B-P church camp. We want to thank God for the faithful ministers that taught us the wonderful truth from the Word of God. We also want to thank God for our beloved pastor and wife, who encouraged us with their presence. In the last few days, we witnessed abundant life in this camp. Indeed, we were blessed with truth and life. Thank God for True Life B-P Church, a blessed heritage indeed.

Yes, we agree with the camp speaker that

we are living in perilous times. For our adversary knows that his end is near. Hence, our adversary is ever ready to accuse us before God. Examples of such fiery accusations were recorded in the book of Job for our learning.

The Bible wrote about spiritual wickedness in high places. We thank God for Ephesians 6:10-18 that gives us a graphic illustration of how to arm ourselves for this spiritual battle. Our family tried to memorise these few verses so that our hearts might be prepared for the spiritual battles. Spiritual battles have to be fought with the sword which the Holy Spirit uses, namely, the Word of God. For defence, we have the full armour of God and the shield provided by faith in God, so that our vital organs are fully protected, front and back, from the flaming accusations of our adversary. By God’s grace, we intend to be standing after the spiritual battles, for Christ is watching His very own.

In conclusion, this church camp has been good for our heart and soul. May God’s name be praised!

*Leong Kwok Whye*

### **I Will Remember**

Often in school, we are faced with many temptations, but I have learnt how to walk with the Lord Jesus closely through this camp. I thank God for my salvation and I have learnt that to be a faithful child of God, I have to deny self, take up my cross, and follow Him. I also thank God for the wonderful fellowship I enjoyed with all the youths during the camp. I have also learnt that charity is the greatest virtue to have. I pray that when I get back to school, I will remember these precious lessons that I have learnt and practise them in my daily life. With the help of my Lord Jesus, I will strive to glorify God in my studies and be a testimony among my friends in school. I pray that we will love one another with fervent charity and together we will glorify Christ in perilous times.

*Sarah Lee*

### **Enjoyed the Warm Fellowship**

The Church Camp this year was fruitful and I had gained much, especially through the

messages. We were challenged to examine ourselves, prove ourselves and check the results, to ensure that we are walking in the faith. We must put our trust in God, study His Word diligently and exercise our faith so that it can grow and mature. We are all living in the last days and should be prepared for the second coming of our Lord Jesus. Our priority is to live out God’s Word in our lives so that we can be a good testimony for Christ, in order for us to preach the Gospel to those who are still outside His Kingdom. I enjoyed the warm fellowship with the campers and through this camp we got to know one another better. Playing volleyball and captain’s ball were never so fun if not for the patience of those brethren who spent time teaching me. I certainly look forward, with eagerness, to the church camp next year.

*Kezia Tay Hui En*

### **One of the Best**

I want to give thanks for all that the Lord has given to me and my family. We were very much enriched by the messages. Thank God that our daughter confessed that she believed and accepted the Lord as her personal Saviour. Charlotte confessed the presence of the Lord Jesus in her heart and her adoption into the Heavenly Father’s family. Please pray for us to be good examples and for wisdom from above to show her from the Scriptures the wonderful things of God, and the Holy Spirit to show her even greater things of God as she grows. The Lord has blessed the camp much, one of the best.

*Barnabas & Ruth Yap*

### **From Our Children**

I like church camp because I can learn God’s Word and have fun. In this camp, I learned that dinosaurs became extinct because of Noah’s Flood. I also had a lot of fun, especially at the White Beach. On the way back from the White Beach, I took a boat ride which was like a roller coaster. I love church camp a lot.

*Naomi Wong*

I thank God for this church camp, for the teachers who have taught me about two things, Joshua and dinosaurs. I learned about Joshua

sending two spies into Jericho, Joshua crossing the Jordan River, Joshua trying to defeat Ai but did not because of Achan’s sin and the deceit of the Gibeonites. I learned about the dinosaurs, why they did not eat Noah and his family in the ark, why they could live before Noah built the ark, why they could not live after Noah let the animals out of the ark, and many other things that I did not know at first. I thank the Lord that I can play soccer also. Praise the Lord!

*Jerald Tan*

## **MISSIONS IN SARAWAK**

I am very grateful to the Lord for enabling me to join the church camp. I thank God very much for Pastor Tow, Mrs Tow and brethren of True Life BPC for their kindness in inviting me to the church camp and supporting me both spiritually (through prayers) and financially in the Lord’s work to minister to the Iban people in Kuching, especially in helping me to buy a good second-hand car (costing RM 25,000) in January 2007. With the new second-hand car, I can now serve the Lord in more places.



The Lord has opened three more Longhouses for me to evangelise after I bought the new second-hand car: Kampong Rayu (2 Longhouses) and Kampong Semawa (1 Longhouse). Pray for more people from all the Longhouses to know the Lord. Pray for the Lord to provide another place of worship as our current rented place of worship is too small and does not have enough space for all members to sit. We now have 180 members (including children) in our congregation.

*Marilyn Nanta (DipTh, FEBC, 1992)*



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 2 – 8, 2007)

WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> ) (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
		Korean Worship Service
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Jul 4, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Program: Bible Study on James by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Edward Wong this Fri (Jul 6, 07) at 8 pm. Address: 45 Hindhede Walk, #06-04 (Lobby 1), Springdale Condominium, Singapore 587978. Tel: 64670645.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jul 7, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Titus by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo** will be away from Jul 7–12, 2007 to preach at Bethel BPC Camp, Melbourne.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$7,678; RM40

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$50; *Rev Peter Clements* \$2,000; *BCEA Tanzania* \$10,000, \$100; *Brisbane Mission* \$1,000; *Kuching Mission* \$1,000; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$200, \$100; *FEBC Students* \$100; *FEBC Dining Club* \$1,000; *FEBC Scholarship* \$2,000; *FEBC* \$170

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** S\$25,598; RM40

**Church Building Fund** \$210, \$50 **Total:** \$615,392.60

Sunday School Offering: \$273.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. Prov 15:8*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** next Lord's Day, Jul 8, 07, will be taught by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Topic: "What is Dispensationalism?" Time: 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Catechism Class for Anniversary Baptism** will commence on Jul 15, 07. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class, and submit their Church Membership Application Form and salvation testimony.

**2007 Church Camp messages are available for sale** in DVD for Devotions (\$5), DVD for Theme Messages (\$5) and MP3 Audio CD for Devotions and Theme Messages (\$3). Please place your orders at the Notice Board outside the Auditorium. For enquiries, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**At the Book Table:** From our pastor's pen: *John Sung My Teacher* (\$5.60), *Asian Awakening* (\$6.40), and *John Sung Revival Sermons* (\$5.00).



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 40**

**1 July 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 73
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 43
Hymn	No. 14
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 333
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	2 Tim 4:1-8
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>An Asian Reawakening?</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 235
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

## Calvin's Lectures

(*Testimonies of students from Calvin's Institutes I, BTFE night classes at FEBC, Jan-Apr, 07*)

**I thank God** for Calvin's Institutes as his doctrine enables me to distinguish truth from error, and to know what is right worship and what is wrong worship. If I know from doctrine what is wrong, then I must be totally separated, and not compromise with the wrong and false. I will follow Calvin's doctrine in order to guide me to a right approach to worship God with clean hands and a pure heart, and to be made acceptable in God's sight through our Lord Jesus Christ. VW

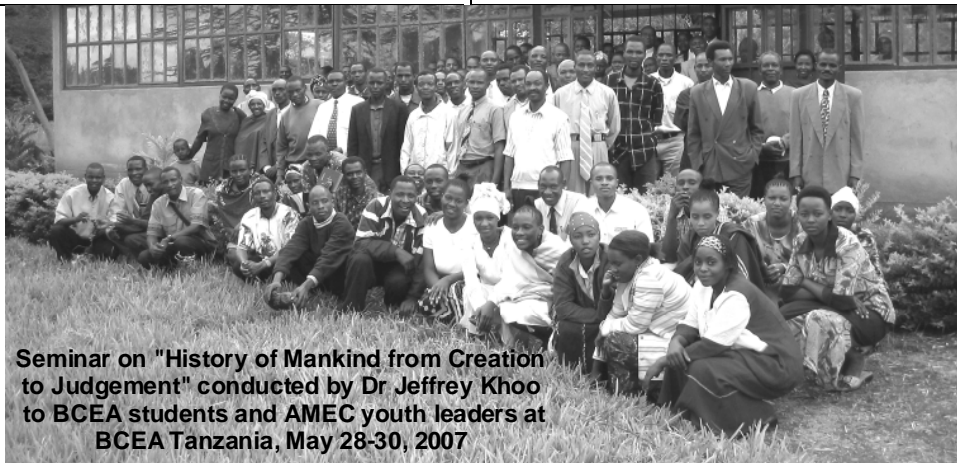
**The course has** enabled me to understand God's sovereignty over the affairs of the world. It is wonderful to see how God uses both Satan and wicked men alike to achieve His good and righteous plans for His children, to strengthen and to test their faith. I have also learned to distinguish God's common grace to all mankind and the special grace He bestows on His elect. VQ

**I have learned** that there is no end to the study of God as His knowledge is infinite, all wise, holy,

and true. Calvin has rightly said, "through our imperfections, we are made to realise His perfections." I acknowledge that the more I study who God is, the more I learn about the sinfulness and deceitfulness of man's heart and how depraved he is. I submit to God that He alone is perfect and we are nothing without Him. Christ is the standard of our righteousness. Only the Word of God can help us see clearly and precisely who God is. Calvin says that in order for us to enjoy the light of religion, we must become a disciple of Scripture. Every Christian is called to be a student of the Bible. Learning this has really challenged me to strive to study the Word of God more and to treasure it. I have also learned that true knowledge of God would make us want to love the Lord even more and serve Him. LYJ

**Thank God for** the teaching of the Holy Spirit, who is the Teacher of all truth. One of the things I learned is from Rev Timothy Tow's *A Glimpse of the Life and Works of John Calvin* which says, "Head knowledge without heart knowledge is a poisonous fruit." Indeed after a semester of learning doctrines, I have gained much head knowledge. But if I do not apply it in my life, it can become a poisonous fruit in my life. I thank God that through attending the night classes, I have made a conscious effort to be closer to God. LSH

**God has answered** my prayer after more than 25 years in the Christian wilderness of cults and ecumenism. When I got down on my knees to ask Him to lead me to a true servant of God



Seminar on "History of Mankind from Creation to Judgement" conducted by Dr Jeffrey Khoo to BCEA students and AMEC youth leaders at BCEA Tanzania, May 28-30, 2007

and the writings of His true servants, He led me to Rev Timothy Tow and the Bible-Presbyterian Faith. I have now found peace in His Word. The struggle for truth is over. This course has helped me to understand God's Word better and has drawn me closer to Him. PG

**I feel very** blessed to study God's Word with likeminded brethren. It is like a foretaste of heaven and I would not miss the opportunity to receive God's blessing. The first lesson already captured my attention and heart. The motto of John Calvin was displayed in his logo, "*Prompte et sincere in opere Domini*" which means "Promptly and sincerely in the work of the Lord." His motto really challenged my heart to be on fire for the Lord. TYL

**Initially I thought** that Calvin's Institutes is only for scholars as it is quite profound for a lowly educated teenager like me to understand. But I thank the Lord through the teaching of His Holy Spirit, I have learned to rely on God's promises and ability to complete this whole course. SG

**I sincerely thank** God there is a haven of rest every Monday evening where I can retreat and draw closer to God through His Holy Word. Personally, I love doctrines as they help me to understand more about the nature of God. With greater understanding concerning the sovereignty and holiness of God, I realised how wretched and undone we sinners are. Learning doctrines from Calvin was enjoyable and fruitful as his writings are very systematic and clear. It is no wonder our pastor and principal—Rev Dr Timothy Tow—affirms that "Calvinism is Paulinism systematised." HG

**Indeed I have** learned much from the first two books of Calvin's Institutes. Some of the doubts I had previously have been resolved and my understanding of God's Word enhanced and deepened. I have found Calvin's teaching on the human will, God's sovereignty, human responsibility, and the providence of God very clear and God-honouring. In Calvin's teaching, God is highly exalted and man rightly brought down to the position where he should be. Indeed, He must increase and I decrease. PAH

**I must confess** that I found it very difficult during the first two lessons on Calvin's Institutes and remembered telling my teacher the difficulty I was facing. He gently reminded me that Calvin's Institutes has to be studied with the heart and not with the mind. Well I did just that and how grateful I was. I learnt that all that I am and can do is because of what my Saviour has done for me, and as I studied more I saw how inadequate I was and whatever I was able to do was because of Jesus who strengthened me. LLS

**Some books are** read leisurely, others to be swallowed, but some to be chewed, masticated and digested slowly. The Scriptures surely belong to the last category. And in our busy schedules, I hardly have time to read the Bible, much less ponder on the depths of its richness. Calvin's Institutes provide this discipline and this time for me to spend quality moments in the Word. JL

**Calvin's Institutes** I has made me realise how little I know of my own religion and of the Bible. Through the study of Calvin's Institutes, I truly learn and discover more about God. Take for instance, should someone contend on the issue of how a holy God could send adversities into His own children's lives, I would have found it sufficient to state that our God is all-knowing and all-powerful, who has a sovereign will for all of us and whose ways we oftentimes are unable to comprehend, period. However, through this course I have gleaned the pertinent principles of both remote and immediate causes—that all occurrences are only by the permissive and decretive will of God, and that He cannot be anything but holy; the evil in this world is simply from the sinful hearts of men. NBL

**It was good** and refreshing to read through Calvin's Institutes as the basic Christian truths are very well taught and explained. Calvin explained the very deep truths in God's Word in a very logical and convincing manner. It is a blessing just to be reminded of God's grace and mercy, His greatness and love in my personal salvation, knowing that it is totally His doing and work. I pray that I would remember to live out the following: gratitude

in prosperity, patience in adversity, and a wonderful security respecting the future. LCY

**The authority of** the Bible has been questioned by many who do not believe in the preserved words of God. During the lectures, I was able to learn about the various proofs to use against attackers of God's Word and to show that the Bible has no contradictions. In fact the divine origin of the Scriptures could be easily observed from its orderliness, the heavenly nature of its doctrines, and the agreements of all the parts with one another. Studying Calvin's Institutes has equipped me to defend God's Word and to teach my people so that they might also have the correct understanding of God's Word. AK

**I thank God** for this wonderful opportunity to study the systematic writings of the great reformer and theologian, John Calvin. Having been in a Bible-Presbyterian Church all my Christian life which is strongly Calvinistic in doctrine, I have heard much about this great man and his teachings. However, prior to my studies at FEBC, all I had heard of Calvinism was the lessons in Sunday School about the famous acronym TULIP. After going through this course, I have realised that the doctrine of Calvin is so much more than that. The depth of each paragraph of the Institutes truly amazes me. Indeed, each sentence must be read slowly before its rich wisdom can be understood. Through this study, I learned not only from the Biblical doctrines taught, but also from the personal testimony of John Calvin himself. He was truly a godly man who walked close to God. KLK

**I was very** much encouraged when I studied the chapters on the Providence of God. I am comforted to know that God is sovereign and in control of everything. I am unable to describe it as beautifully as Calvin did, but I am just very thankful that God loves me and everything that befalls me is in His plan to do me good. I am taking the course on Genesis as well, and together, these two courses reinforced each other. I learn of God's Providence from Calvin's Institutes and I see it in Genesis in the lives of the patriarchs. What a blessing! How timely it is! I no longer know

the providence of God as an abstract doctrine but as concrete experience. HXW

**Calvin said, "Ignorance** of providence is the greatest of all miseries, but the knowledge of it is attended with the highest felicity." No matter what befalls a believer, he is comforted to know that God is still on the throne and God is still His loving Heavenly Father. He is under the shadow of the Almighty's special providence, which is security unbroken and impregnable. I am so happy that this God is my God.

**Calvin's Institutes** I has been a most profitable study for my spiritual nourishment. While the world may think that studying theology is less than practical or even useless, Christians must never fall into such an error of having the same mentality as them. In fact, taking up this course may well be one of the wisest things to do and I pray that God grants me more wisdom in this life by helping me to know Him more and thus myself more. EC

**Studying Calvin's systematic** treatment of the Christian Faith has helped me tremendously in ordering my own beliefs. Long have I heard of the five points of Calvinism, yet never with such a rich depth of meaning and significance as I have found from studying the writings of Calvin himself. My faith has been strengthened by this study, for though faith exists independently of reason, yet reasonable arguments grounded in faith on God's Word can help to anchor one's faith, so that it is not easily tossed aside when circumstances or other people attempt to sway it. SJ

**The main lesson** that I learned is that we need to know God in order to do His will. This is shown by John Calvin's life. We should always strive to please God and seek to promote and glorify God and not ourselves. Humility is the key to submission to God's will. Although this course has been a challenging one, I can testify that I have benefited a lot spiritually. I strongly recommend fellow Christian brethren to consider taking the second part of Calvin's Institutes for credit, rather than audit. TCH



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 9 – 15, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Tan Kian Sing) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (July 14, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "O Be Careful Little Mouth What You Speak (Prov 10)" by Pr Dennis Kabingue. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (July 14, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Reformation Forerunners" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo** is away in Melbourne, preaching at the Bethel BPC Camp, from July 7–13, 2007.

**At the Book Table:** From our pastor's pen: *John Sung My Teacher* (\$5.60), *Asian Awakening* (\$6.40), and *John Sung Revival Sermons* (\$5.00).

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,964

Designated Offerings: **Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo** \$300; **Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew** \$2,000; **Rev Mark Kim** \$200; **Rev Peter Elibariki** \$200; **BCEA (Kenya)** \$300; **BCEA (Tanzania)** \$300; **Wendy Teng** \$50; **FEBC** \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

\$11,414

**Church Building Fund – Total:** \$615,392.60

Sunday School Offering: S\$340; JPY10

**Verse for the Week:** *The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness. Prov 15:9*

**Catechism Class** for Church Anniversary Baptism, Reaffirmation and Transfer will commence next Lord's Day, July 15, 2007, 9.15 am. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Combined Adults' Sunday School and Catechism Class** next Lord's Day, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. Topic: "How to Write a Testimony" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome!

**Far Eastern Bible College** reopens on July 16, 2007, 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. **Basic Theology for Everyone (night classes)** brochures are available at reception table.

**Sarawak Mission Trip**, September 1-6, 2007. Register with Dr Jeffrey Khoo by July 22, 2007.

**We extend our deepest condolences** to Sis Jasmine Kwok Gek Ping & family on the homegoing of her father on July 5, 2007. Mr Kwok Kion Chew is a member of Life BPC, Chinese Service. Funeral this afternoon at 3 pm, at 19A Toh Tuck Road Carpark; after which the cortege will leave for Choa Chu Kang Christian Cemetery.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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**Vol. IV No. 41**

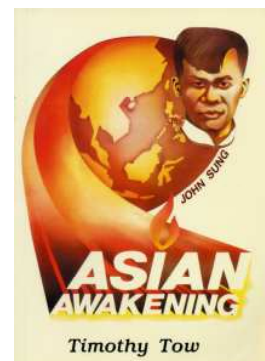
**8 July 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 34
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Isaiah 53
Hymn	No. 278
Announcements	
Special Number	Rev Ronny Khoo
Offering & Hymn	No. 290
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Ruth 1:1-22
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
Sermon	<i>What is Biblical Loyalty?</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
Closing Hymn	No. 291 ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> )
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

## An Asian Reawakening?

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Jul 1, 07)



Is another Asian Awakening in the horizon? According to Dr Philip Jenkins, Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University, there is an "explosive expansion" of Christianity in Asia, Africa, and Latin

America. In *A New Christendom*, Jenkins noted, "Over the past century, ... the center of gravity in the Christian world has shifted inexorably southward, to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. ... This trend will continue apace in coming years. ... Christianity should enjoy a worldwide boom in the

new century, but the vast majority of believers will be neither white nor European, nor Euro-American. ... The era of Western Christianity has passed within our lifetimes, and the day of Southern Christianity is dawning. ... Southern Christians are far more conservative in terms of both beliefs and moral teaching. .... Southern Christians retain a very strong supernatural orientation, and are by and large far more interested in personal salvation than in radical politics. ... The newer churches preach deep personal faith and communal orthodoxy, mysticism and Puritanism, all founded on clear scriptural authority."

Asian Christianity saw an "explosive expansion" in the 1930s, in the days of Dr John Sung, China's greatest revivalist. It was through John Sung that our beloved pastor, Rev Dr Timothy Tow, was born again. Our pastor has been interviewed by a number of scholars researching on John Sung and his life. His biography on John Sung entitled *John Sung My Teacher* published in 1985 was a major contribution to literature on Asian Church History. This led him to be invited to London a year later to lecture on John Sung at the famed Metropolitan Tabernacle of Spurgeon. The London lectures can be read in *Asian Awakening* published in 1988 and reprinted in 2005. Our pastor has also translated John Sung's sermons into English. His translation, *40 John Sung Revival Sermons*, was published by the Far Eastern Bible College Press and



Life BPC Missionary Chan Pui Meng (4<sup>th</sup> from left, in white) with Masai believers at the Kiluani church in Kenya. A sister from True Life had contributed much to the building of the Kiluani clinic where Pui Meng serves as a Registered Nurse.

The clinic is now supported by New Life BPC.



can be purchased from the FEBC Bookroom at 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063 ([www.febc.edu.sg/bookroom.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/bookroom.htm)).

Christians are beginning to take an interest in Church history. Through the knowledge of God's special, providential working in the Church and through His servants, will we see a revival of true or Biblical Christianity today not only among the remnant churches but also the denominational churches? What can we learn from the example of Dr John Sung and how the Lord had used him to do His mighty work of reviving the church in the days of the Asian Awakening? What can we do to reawaken Asia for the kingdom of God? I can think of three lessons from Dr John Sung:

### **Active Evangelism**

For an Asian reawakening, there needs to be active evangelism, not in the power of the flesh through worldly methods, but in the power of the Holy Spirit through the unadulterated preaching of the gospel to convict and convert sinners. Evangelism would fail if not for the power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Active and extensive evangelism was especially manifested in the days of the Asian Awakening through preaching bands organised by Dr John Sung. Rev Dr Timothy Tow recounts, "After we were delivered, we were challenged to join the Preaching Bands covenanting with God to go out at least once a week, most appropriately on the Lord's Day afternoon, to witness for Christ. The Preaching Bands truly became the hands and feet of the Church. Many souls were brought into the kingdom through a new wave of witnessing."

In the spirit of John Sung, students of the Far Eastern Bible College spread out to different parts of the city every Wednesday afternoon to distribute gospel tracts and preach the good news to those who would listen. Every semester, at least 10,000 tracts would be printed and given out. True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and other evangelistic Bible-Presbyterian churches organise preaching bands to go out to share the gospel

either weekly or monthly, especially on Sunday afternoons led by the deacons following the example of the first New Testament deacons, Stephen and Philip (Acts 6-8). We print gospel tracts and gospel bookmarks by the tens of thousands for personal use and distribution. Not a few have found the Lord and His truth through our tracts and bookmarks. One was delivered from a cult through our gospel bookmark on "God's Perfect Gift," and is now worshipping with us.

The Holy Spirit power that accompanies Biblical missions and evangelism will result in true and lasting conversions and fruits, not the superficiality and temporariness of humanly engineered "conversions" that take no deep root nor bear real fruit. Spirit-powered evangelism (not the charismatic sort) will produce good and true spiritual fruit, "some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty" (Matt 13:23).

### **Faithful Indoctrination**

Unlike modern-day hit-and-run evangelism and touristic missions, the days of the Asian Awakening under John Sung saw the preacher taking the time to teach the converts the Word of God. This was accomplished during the "spiritual nurture" meetings and month-long Bible institutes. Rev Tow recounts, "In Dr Sung's month-long Bible Institute, thousands would sit at his feet to search the Scriptures from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, two times a day, 3½ hours per session going through every one of the 1189 chapters." This amounts to 210 lecture hours or 14 semester credits.

John Sung kept the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) for he not only preached the gospel but also taught the Bible from cover to cover, from Genesis to Revelation. The teaching aspect of the Great Commission is, however, sorely lacking today. There is great ignorance of the contents of the Holy Scriptures and the doctrines of the Christian Faith in the Church today. FEBC had students who confessed they were born again not in church but in the Bible College. In these last

days, the churches at large are either sleeping or apostate, not knowing what the gospel is, preaching a half-baked gospel, or preaching another gospel altogether, denying the fundamentals of the Christian Faith.

If there is to be an Asian reawakening of the Church, I believe there must be a revival of the Bible College movement to teach faithful Christian men and women the whole counsel of God so that they might teach others also (2 Tim 2:2). I would urge and encourage all Sunday School teachers, Bible study leaders, fellowship group leaders, elders, deacons, and yes, every member of the church to study God's Word intensively and systematically through the FEBC night classes, take the courses for credit, and earn the Certificate of Religious Knowledge or Certificate of Biblical Studies! You will be amazed to see your life enriched through knowing God's Word deeply, and how the Lord can use you to help and counsel others in the things of the Lord when you are wise with His Word.

### **Biblical Separation**

Every genuine revival is accompanied not only with many conversions, and true repentance, but also zealous separation from apostasy and compromise, warning against sin and error. The John Sung revival saw a fervent contention against theological liberalism. In his book on Dr John Sung, the Rev Dr Timothy Tow wrote, "John Sung was for separation from those who denied the fundamentals of the Faith. He himself separated from Union Seminary in New York City, and pointed out the unbelief of its professors. ... This led Dr Sung to expose ... liberal theology for he said, 'If you starve you'll not die. If you take poison you will die.'"

The doctrine of biblical separation (2 Cor 6:14-7:1, 2 Thess 3:6-15) must be practised in the spirit of John Sung. It is well known that John Sung minced no words to denounce the sins of the people, and the unbelief and heresies of the liberal and modernist teachers. He had drunk the theological poison of Union Seminary which he called a "Cemetery,"

which had a Principal whose surname was "Coffin." When the Lord by divine intervention saved him through a vision, he wasted no time to confront Prof Fosdick, his favourite teacher but a rank liberal, and told him off, "You are of the devil. You made me lose my faith!"

One might wonder how such an unpopular doctrine and practice of separation and the prophetic ministry of warning can make any church to grow. Some might think that such a divisive and schismatic doctrine and practice would only lead to self-destruction and church-extinction. But the opposite is true: Biblical separation is God's way to ecclesiastical multiplication. The Rev Dean Kelley in his book—*Why Conservative Churches are Growing*—commented that, contrary to popular opinion, the fundamentalist churches are the churches that grow and not the liberal ones. In his research on American Christianity, Kelley, who is no fundamentalist, showed that the so-called "Wrong" churches, ie, those that are supposedly "unreasonable," "intolerant," "non-ecumenical," and "irrelevant," are the ones that are growing numerically. Writing on Singapore Churches, Dr Keith Hinton, former lecturer at Singapore Bible College, likewise observed that "churches which were clear in their beliefs, strict in their membership requirements, rather isolationist [ie, separatist] and actively evangelistic, grew much faster than those with a social message, ecumenical associations, and easy membership terms."

It goes without saying that the Bible-Presbyterian Church and all Bible-believing and Christ-naming churches not only need to evangelise the world and indoctrinate the church, they must also separate themselves from iniquity and falsehood, worldliness, and compromise in order to ward off spiritual decline or death. The day any church denounces or stops practising biblical separation is the day of its death. The denial of biblical separation is ecclesiastical suicide.

Are we not seeing signs of treachery and compromise today? May the Lord reawaken His Church in these last days!

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 16 – 22, 2007)

MON	8.30 am	FEBC Day of Prayer
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Stephen Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**FEBC's new academic term 2007-8** begins tomorrow (Jul 16, 07) at 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. **The Basic Theology for Everyone** courses will resume with *Calvin's Institutes II* by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo on Jul 23, 07 (Mon) and *The Book of Numbers* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Jul 19, 07 (Thu), 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

**Thu night class** is held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jul 21, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "The Liberal Soul Shall Be Made Fat (Prov 11)" by Sis Carol Lee. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$32,999

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$300, \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$300; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *Charlotte Yap* \$200; *FEBC Scholarship* \$400; *FEBC* \$400, \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$34,999

**Church Building Fund** \$700 **Total:** \$616,092.60

Sunday School Offering: S\$483.00; RM5

**Verse for the Week:** *Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way; and he that hateth reproof shall die. Prov 15:10*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Catechism Class** for all who are seeking baptism, reaffirmation of faith, transfer of membership. Class will meet in Room 601 from 9.15 am – 10.15 am, Jul 15–Sep 30, 07. Register with Dr Jeffrey Khoo by today.

**Adults' Sunday School Class** on 1 Samuel by Rev Stephen Khoo will commence next Lord's Day, *Jul 22, 2007*, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Sarawak Mission Trip**, September 1-6, 2007. Register with Dr Jeffrey Khoo by *Jul 22, 2007*.

**Elder Lim Kim Hee** was called home to be with the Lord on Jul 8, 2007. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Mrs Lim-Tow Siew Yong and children, Winston, Serena and Suzanne.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 42

15 July 2007

### "BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 44
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 42
Hymn	No. 38
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 104
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Phil 1:12-18
Sermon	<i>Advancing the Gospel Through Adversity</i> (Rev Tan Kian Sing)
Closing Hymn	No. 431
Benediction	Rev Tan Kian Sing

### DIVINE DISCRIMINATION!

Rev Denis Gibson

*"These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out."* (Prov 25:1 cf 1 Kgs 4:29-34).

There is a precious piece of biblical history in this new section of Proverbs, chapters 25-29. It also gives valuable insight into how God used copyists. Hezekiah brought peace and prosperity to Judah, but above all, he sought to effect a revival of true religion. It was to this end that he appointed his men to undertake this great work. They are also called the friends of Hezekiah, perhaps prophets like Isaiah and other such men who were then active. Though written some 300 years before by Solomon, these scribes gave to the world the Book of Proverbs as we now know it.

### The Illumination!

The Holy Ghost moved Solomon to record the inspired words (2 Pet 1:21)! William Arnot stated: "Inspiration obviously applies to the

selection of what should be recorded, as well as the utterance of that which is in itself true and Divine." Perhaps Arnot meant Illumination here, since Inspiration refers only to that which was originally God-breathed (2 Tim 3:16). The men of Hezekiah were in full sympathy with the king's desire for revival. These Proverbs are no jumble of meaningless words or outdated ideas, but divine words set as gems of eternal wisdom. Solomon wrote words inspired by God, and the men of Hezekiah, under the illumination of the Holy Ghost, chose and copied these proverbs, and joined them to the rest, and are honoured now for their work. They were trained scribes, not authors; they originated nothing themselves, but were guided in copying the Holy Ghost inspired words. Biblical evidence shows that these men received divine illumination for their task. It was immediately admitted into the Jewish Canon as the very Words of God. Paul quotes from this chapter as part of the inspired Canon.

### The Preservation!

It is likely that not all of Solomon's proverbs were written down, but all that were, given by inspiration, God preserved for posterity. Note that it is stated: "And he *spoke* three thousand proverbs," not that he *wrote* them (1 Kgs 4:32 cf John 20:30-31). These also, former proverbs, were copied out, being transcribed from another



Kiluani Masai Church, Bible-Presbyterian

book preserved in the royal library in Jerusalem! True, they were Hezekiah's men, but it was God who raised them up to preserve His Words. God's Providence is not only in the inspiration of the words, but also in their preservation, and not just the thoughts, but His very Words. Every one of Solomon's recorded Proverbs God has preserved for our learning! They, therefore, demand our utmost respect and diligent study. Now, if the words were lost, it would be little comfort or value to know that they were inspired. Charles Bridges reminds us that a greater than Solomon is here who often shines through, and speaks directly to us as The Wisdom. Who can overlook the personification of the pre-incarnate Christ in chapters 8 and 9?

### THE PRESERVATION OF GOD'S WORDS

Dr Carl McIntire

The late Founding President of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC)—Dr Carl McIntire—believed the Bible to be 100% perfect without any mistake, and that Psalm 12:6-7 teaches the Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures: "Now come verse 6, 'The words of the LORD are pure words,' not one of them is mistaken, 'as silver tried in the furnace of earth, purified seven times.' All the dregs are out. Here is a marvelous affirmation and vindication that God's Word is *perfect*. ... Now, 'The words of the LORD are pure words.' And then verse 7, how I love this: 'Thou shalt keep them O LORD,' that is, keep His words; 'thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.' No matter what happens, one generation comes and another passes away, God is going to *preserve His words* ... from one generation to another. *The words of God will be preserved* throughout all the generations." [From his sermon entitled—"Help, LORD!" (Psalm 12)—preached on January 11, 1992,

accessible from [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com)].

### NEW TRANSLATIONS AND THE AUTHORIZED VERSION

Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones

I suppose that the most popular of all the proposals at the present moment is to have a new translation of the Bible. ... The argument is that people are not reading the Bible any longer because they do not understand its language—particularly the archaic terms—what does your modern man ... know about justification, sanctification, and all these Biblical terms?

And so we are told the one thing that is necessary is to have a translation that Tim, Dick and Harry will understand, and I began to feel ... that we had almost reached the stage in which the Authorized Version was being dismissed, to be thrown into the limbo of things forgotten, no longer of any value. Need I apologize for saying a word in favour of the Authorized Version ...?

It is a basic proposition laid down by the Protestant Reformers, that we must have a Bible "understood of the people." That is common sense ... we must never be obscurantists. We must never approach the Bible in a mere antiquarian spirit ... but it does seem to me that there is a very grave danger incipient in so much of the argument that is being presented today for these new translations. There is a danger, I say, of our surrendering something that is vital and essential.

Take this argument that the modern man does not understand such terms as justification, sanctification and so on. I want to ask a question. When did the ordinary man ever understand those terms? ... Did the colliers to whom John Wesley and George Whitefield preached in the 18<sup>th</sup> century understand? They had not even been to a day school ... they could not read, they could not write. Yet these were the terms that were

used. This was the version that was used—the Authorized Version.

The common people have never understood these terms. ... We are concerned here with something that is spiritual; something which does not belong to this world at all; which, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, the princes of this world do not know. Human wisdom is of no value here—it is spiritual truth. This is truth about God primarily, and because of that it is a mystery. ...

Yet we are told—it must be put in such simple terms and language that anybody taking it up and reading it is going to understand all about it. My friends, this is sheer nonsense. What we must do is to educate the masses of the people up the Bible, not bring the Bible down to their level. One of the greatest troubles today is that everything is being brought down to the same level; everything is cheapened. The common man is made the standard of authority; he decides everything, and everything has to be brought down to him. ...

Are we to do that with the Word of God? I say NO! What has happened in the past has been this. Ignorant, illiterate people, in this country and in foreign countries, coming into salvation have been educated up to the Book and have begun to understand it, to glory in it, and to praise God for it, and I say that we need to do the same at this present time. What we need is therefore, not to replace the Authorized Version ... *we need rather to reach and train people up to the standard and the language, the dignity and the glory of the old Authorized Version.*

(*The Gospel Standard*)

### IN DEFENCE OF BIBLICAL PRESERVATION AND THE GOOD OLD VERSION

Dr D A Waite was invited by Pastor

Kenneth Rainey to speak at his Wayside Baptist Church in Greenville, SC, May 20-23, 2007. He defended the KJB and the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Words underlying it. The meeting was very successful in spite of great opposition from supporters of Bob Jones University (BJU). Many members of the church who supported BJU left the church. Please pray for Pastor Rainey, Wayside Baptist Church, and their financial needs as a result of their stand for the KJB and the Words that underlie it. Many DBS and BFT books were sold. In addition to those attending the meetings in person, there were viewers from people in 27 States in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, and Brazil by way of the Internet. Several new families began attending the church as a result of the meeting. Dr Waite's excellent presentations during the conference are available on DVD. All six messages can be viewed by clicking on [http://www.deanburgonsociety.org/idx\\_videos\\_wayside\\_bc.htm](http://www.deanburgonsociety.org/idx_videos_wayside_bc.htm).

### THANK GOD FOR FEBC SERMONS

(An email received on 25 May 2007)

Thank God for His Blessings in the ministry carried out by FEBC. I am a member of the BP church and have learnt many spiritual lessons from the audio sermons that are available at the website. The church has truly been blessed with faithful servants like Rev Quek and Rev Tow. Not every church has such good speakers weekly but I know and thank God for blessing the church in other ways. I was not able to attend service at RELC as it clashes with my choir and Sunday school ministry. There are problems that I have been facing and sermons like those by Rev Quek have really helped me learn and grow. Just a note to show my appreciation and I hope God will continue to help me gain a better understanding of His will.

Xiaojun



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 23 – 29, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (Jul 28, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Jul 28, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Tay Bee Heng's home at Blk 526, #02-110 Serangoon North Ave 4, Singapore 550526. Tel: 64833878. Program: Bible Study on Philippians by Rev Stephen Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$8,885

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$220, \$200; *BCEA Tanzania* \$150; *Brisbane BPC* \$100; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* \$500; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$120; *Jemima Khoo* \$200; *FEBC* \$500, \$370, \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

\$11,345

**Church Building Fund** \$500, \$110, \$100 **Total:** \$616,802.60

Sunday School Offering: \$441.00

**Verse for the Week:** *Hell and destruction are before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men? Prov 15:11*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at [http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm).

**Catechism Class** for all who are seeking baptism, reaffirmation of faith, transfer of membership. Class meets in Room 601 from 9.15 am – 10.15 am, Jul 15–Sep 30, 07.

**Sunday School Teachers' Lunch** will be held *today* after church at Sakura International Buffet Restaurant, Clementi Woods Park.

**Sarawak Mission Trip**, September 1-6, 2007. Register with Dr Jeffrey Khoo by *today*.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Jul 29, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

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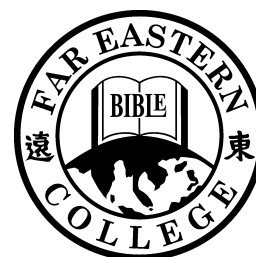
22 July 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 105
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 89
Hymn	No. 179
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 420
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Genesis 17:1-8
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>What Think Ye of God?</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 1
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

## FEBC Yesterday and Today

Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo



### FEBC Yesterday

Seeing that "The Trend is Towards the Trained," the Rev Dr Timothy Tow was moved by the Lord to found the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) in 1962. He made known his burden for a Bible College in the *Malaysia Christian* of September 6, 1959, "The strategy of Christian Missions in this day of social change is not so much in western missionaries (though we heartily welcome them) as in the sending forth of our own. But how can they be sent except they be called—and be trained?"

"Hitherto we have sent some of our young people to the West for theological training. But if the Lord will call another half-dozen, how can we afford to send all? The solution to training future ministers of the Gospel, I believe, is in the

founding of a Bible College in Singapore. Yes, a Bible College, a college that reverently teaches the Bible to be the infallible, inerrant Word of God, that seeks to obey all his commands, that will make no compromise whatsoever with the subtle forces of Satan that are so actively undermining theological institutions everywhere today.

"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 ...".

The words, "Without the Bible College, the Church would die," came from a friend of FEBC—the late Rev Dr Paul Contento—who was an OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) missionary to China, Vietnam and Singapore. The Rev Dr Contento was invited by the Rev Dr Timothy Tow to lay the foundation stone of FEBC on April 28, 1962, at 9A Gilstead Road, to train godly and faithful men for the Lord's service. Contento prayed for a Moody or a Wesley to arise from the halls of the College.

FEBC is a "spiritual SAFTI (Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute)" in the words of the founding principal—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow—to prepare men and women called of God to full-time Christian ministry to become faithful servants and good soldiers of Jesus Christ who will



**New FEBC Students from Seven Countries:**

**Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Korea, Singapore**

*“earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”* (Jude 3).

Dr S H Tow—a founding leader of the Bible-Presbyterian Movement and Senior Pastor of Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church—also noted the importance of the Bible College for Church growth and spiritual succession. Dr S H Tow wrote, “Church Growth of the Biblical pattern does not come by attending a course in ‘missiology’ in some high-powered ‘School of Missions.’ Church Growth is simply the work of the Holy Spirit through obedient men and women heeding our Lord’s command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. It is the founding of Bible-believing God-honouring churches, standing on the Word of God against the floodtide of the end time apostasy now sweeping around the world.”

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

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

“... Our prayers and perseverance in training have ensured a supply of younger leaders to whom we may pass the Gospel torch in time to come. The role of the Far Eastern Bible College in equipping workers for God’s vineyard is of inestimable value. Without FEBC the B-P Churches would fade away in a generation.”

There are many kinds of students or graduates, but which of them will succeed and be true servants of God’s holy and spiritual work?

The Rev Dr Timothy Tow says, “If a student is industrious and not lazy, and loves his God with all his heart and respects his teachers and can live peacefully with his roommates and performs his duties meticulously, though men say he has not earned a degree and is not learned, I will certainly say that he is. The secret to continuing church growth is the Bible College that trains men and women of character.”

### FEBC Today

Now, in its 45<sup>th</sup> year, FEBC has graduated over 600 students who have come from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, England, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, United States of America, and Vietnam. The majority of these graduates are now serving the Lord as pastors, teachers, missionaries, and church workers in different parts of the world.

FEBC remains steadfast and uncompromising in teaching and defending the 100% inspired and 100% preserved words of God in the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus on which the Authorised or King James Version is based. While most Bible Colleges and Seminaries today deny the present infallibility and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures in the apographs (copies), FEBC stands unequivocal in affirming that the Holy Bible which we have in our hands today is 100% perfect, without any mistake based on God’s promise of special providence that He alone shall keep His inspired Word pure and intact (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35, John 10:35, WCF 1:8).

According to Dr Philip Jenkins (Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University, and author of *The Next Christendom* published by Oxford University Press in 2002), *the life of Christianity is moving away from USA and Europe towards Latin America, Africa and Asia* (see [chronicle.com/free/v48/i29/29b00701.htm](http://chronicle.com/free/v48/i29/29b00701.htm)). If this be the case, then we can

expect a similar shift in the locus of fundamental and conservative theological education. In light of the changing face of Christendom, FEBC, in order to stay relevant and vibrant, must resist every neo-evangelical and postmodernistic wind of change, and steer a straight course along the narrow straits of Biblical Christianity according to the everlasting words of life as found in the forever infallible and inerrant Scriptures. This is the key to church life and growth in the new millennium.

What more can FEBC do? FEBC can speed up missions and church growth by way of the Bible College movement to assist in the establishment of new Bible Colleges, or to serve as consultants to or cooperate with younger and growing colleges in Asia and Africa. The faculty of these colleges can earn their Master’s and Doctor’s degree in a theologically conservative and multinational environment as found in FEBC.

FEBC aims to assist the Church in fulfilling the didactic aspect of the Great Commission, *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”* Such a teaching ministry is also in keeping with the infallible Pauline formula for theological education and church growth as found in 2 Timothy 2:2 requiring faithful doctrines and equally faithful teachers. While many colleges and seminaries are focusing on administration, psychology, and church marketing courses, FEBC will stick to its age-old curriculum that is heavy on Bible, Theology, the original languages, and supplemented by Church History and Pastoral Ministry for a full-orbed theological education. We also need faithful students who truly love the Lord and His Word, who will sincerely feed God’s children and not betray the Faith.

The most important asset of FEBC is its faculty. The College has a total of 10 spiritually and academically qualified lecturers in Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Church History, Pastoral Ministry, and Christian Education, and 5 tutors in English and music. FEBC lecturers are themselves graduates of the College. As such, they

understand well the vision and mission of the College, and can be trusted to serve as effective teachers and mentors to our students. Most of the lecturers are also pastors in their respective churches. Being skilled in practical ministry themselves, they are no “ivory tower” professors. The 10 lecturers are: Rev Dr Timothy Tow (Principal), Mrs Ivy Tow (Matron), Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo (Academic Dean), Rev Dr Das Koshy (Dean of Students), Rev Koa Keng Woo, Rev Stephen Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew, Rev Tan Kian Sing, Mrs Jemima Khoo and Miss Carol Lee. The 5 tutors are: Eld Han Soon Juan, Eld Geoffrey Tan, Mrs Koa Keng Woo, Mrs Janice Lai, and Mrs Anne Lim. The faculty is united in doctrine and spirit.

FEBC commenced its new academic year on July 16, 2007 with a blessed day of prayer. Rev Stephen Khoo was the Lord’s messenger, speaking from 2 Timothy 2:1-3. The students were exhorted to love the Lord Jesus Christ, be faithful to His inspired and preserved Word, and be prepared to face hardships and persecutions for the sake of the Lord and His Word.

We thank the Lord for giving us 13 new students this semester. They come from 7 countries, namely, Cambodia: Div Vanna; Ethiopia: Engida Tefera Zeleke and Molla Dessie; India: Kekhrieleto Kera; Indonesia: Daisy Susanty Tehupeitory and Evelyn Laiya Rebecca; Kenya: Titus Kilonzo Nzoka; Korea: Jeong Mi Yeong, Kim Pyung Sik, Ko Woong, and Roe Sun Young; Singapore: Eileen Chee Siew Juan, and Joshua Yong Boon Keong.

### FEBC Tomorrow?

This is FEBC yesterday and today by the grace of God. But what about FEBC tomorrow? Are there not rich and powerful ones who want nothing more than to silence, and if possible, destroy FEBC? A modern-day Inquisition is afoot! The Reformation Bible on trial! But let us *“in meekness instruct those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth”* (2 Tim 3:25). *“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth”* (2 Cor 13:8). May the Lord continue to preserve His words and His saints! Will you not keep FEBC in your prayers? God bless!

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 30 – Aug 5, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Stephen Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Sis Helen Eio this Wed (Aug 1, 07) at 7.45 pm. Address: No. 20 Irrawaddy Road, #08-02 Elegance View, Singapore 329550. Tel: 62514256. Program: Bible Study on James by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Elder and Mrs Koh Kim Song this Fri (Aug 3, 07) at 8 pm. Address: 57 Mimosa View, Singapore 805637. Tel: 94355582.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Aug 4, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Titus by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$9,692

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *BCEA Tanzania* \$100; *Brisbane BPC* \$100, \$100; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* \$2,000; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$200; *RPG* \$100; *Bible Witness* \$150; *FEBC* \$300, \$260, \$200, \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

\$13,502

**Church Building Fund** \$500, \$200 **Total:** \$617,502.60

Sunday School Offering: \$560.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise. Prov 15:12*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at <http://www.febe.edu.sg/SundaySchool.htm>.

**Catechism Class** for all who are seeking baptism, reaffirmation of faith, transfer of membership. Class meets in Room 601 from 9.15 am – 10.15 am, Jul 15–Sep 30, 07.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 230 Pending Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 96659109.

**A Singaporean FEBC student** (with his wife) is looking for an apartment or room to rent. If you can help this student (Jeremy Mark), please call him at 91000868. Thank you.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febe.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 44**

**29 July 2007**

**“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 263
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 46
Hymn	No. 346
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 421
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Genesis 22:1-18
Sermon	<i>Abraham's Supreme Test of Faith</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 414
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Which Bible?

Dr S H Tow

Which Bible do you use? Does it matter? It does! Today there are many English Bibles available, and you have to make a choice. That may not be easy. How do you choose? What is the difference between one Bible and another? The cover tells you little. They all display the same label: “Holy Bible” and the name of the version. What's in a name? Do you know the difference between King James Version (KJV), Revised Standard Version (RSV), and New International Version (NIV)?

You must know! There are serious differences which are not readily obvious. False teachings lie hidden in innocent sounding statements. You need to be discerning. Let's look into just two passages to prove the point. Take the book of Isaiah, the “Gospel Prophet” who prophesied the coming of God's Messiah and the restored Kingdom of God. That the Messiah from God would be born of a virgin is clearly stated in the Gospel records and in the KJV Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” But what does the RSV say in Isaiah 7:14?

Read: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

At Bible Study, the discussion centres on the “Virgin Birth.” Questions are asked: Was Mary a virgin? Was Jesus born by Mary out of wedlock? Is it necessary to believe in the “Virgin Birth?” The discussion goes round. Opinions differ; Bible Versions too. But the RSV says our Lord was born of a “young woman,” not “virgin!”

Then someone asks about our Lord's parentage. Did Jesus have a father like we do? Bible versions disagree. The KJV says the angel of the Lord told Joseph in a dream that Mary was with child “of the Holy Ghost,” and Joseph was not the father (Matt 1:18-20). But the NIV in Luke 2:33 calls Joseph “the child's father.” Which is right?

Someone says, “That's only a small point, let's not argue.” Not so. Is it a small point if someone insults your parentage? or says that your mother was pregnant out of wedlock?

Coming back to the NIV, the serious error I had drawn attention to is only the “tip of the iceberg.” Within the covers of the NIV are dozens of other false statements which are aimed to destroy the divine status of our Lord Jesus, His eternal pre-existence, His deity, Sonship of God, virgin birth, the redemption effected through His blood, His ascension and coming again. It is incredible that the NIV translators could pervert the Word of God and attack the person of the Lord Jesus.

A recent book (1999), *From the Mind of God to the Mind of Man*, by 19 contributors (all but two were declared “Baptist”)



**FEBC's Thursday night class on the Book of Numbers by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.**  
**Registration still open.**



associated with Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC, USA, contains: (1) a devastating attack on the KJV-Only position, (2) an ill-conceived approval of Modern English Versions (MEVs), (3) a misleading defence of Westcott and Hort—apostates and Rome sympathizers—calling them “godly men.”

Contributor J Drew Conley quoted the KJV translators in their Preface to the KJV (1611) as saying: (1) “... *that new translations are not an attack on old ones, but rather a continuation of the same good work*, (2) *that due reverence for any translation of the Scriptures as the Word of God is appropriate and right, however well or poorly done*; (3) *we affirm and avow that the very meanest (worst) translation of the Bible in English set forth by men of our profession ... containeth the word of God, nay, is the Word of God ...*” (The foregoing quotations are taken from pages 187 and 188).

Comment: J Drew Conley has taken the words of the KJV (1611) translators written 400 years ago, in a totally different social and spiritual setting, to justify the MEVs of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. MEVs were translated by men or teams of men and women of mixed theological persuasions, various doubtful spiritual backgrounds, using corrupt source texts by Westcott and Hort, and faulty techniques, in particular the unfaithful “Dynamic Equivalence” technique. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century translators, exposed to the whole spectrum of modern thought, have been influenced by godless evolutionism, rationalism, liberalism-modernism, higher criticism. Consequently, all the MEVs in common use are corrupted (eg, NIV, RSV, TEV, NEB). These are approved by Rome’s Imprimatur; but KJV is NOT.

The KJV as well as the other translations, being put out in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, were (1) by faithful men, untouched by the evils of modern thought (eg, evolutionism, rationalism, liberalism-modernism, higher criticism which came only in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries); (2) based on the best and most faithful source texts (the Hebrew Masoretic Text for the OT and the Textus Receptus for the NT); (3) translated by the faithful “word for word” or “formal equivalence” technique.

To quote out of context the KJV translators’ statements and apply them to a 20<sup>th</sup> Century situation is either plain ignorance or intellectual dishonesty and deception. The KJV translators and the other Bible translators referred to in their 1611 Preface were motivated only for love of the Word, to make it

available to God’s people, at great risk to personal safety.

The MEV translators have different motivations and rewards. Many of them worked for ecumenical bodies, followed an ecumenical agenda, serving the interests of the One World Church Movement. This book, *From the Mind of God to the Mind of Man*, has given broad approval to all the MEVs, some of which are extremely corrupt.

(Adapted from “*The Bible of Bible-Presbyterians*”)

## Note of Thanks and Testimony

Mrs Lim Siew Yong

With grateful hearts my family and I would like to thank you and all Church members and friends for your comfort and encouragement at the vigil service of my beloved husband, the late Elder Lim Kim Hee. Thank you also for the generous donations which have been channeled to the Far Eastern Bible College, the Boys’ Brigade 58<sup>th</sup> Company and New Life BP Church.

Elder Lim was a devoted father and grandfather, as well as a wonderful husband in his own unique way. He was faithful, hardworking, thrifty and full of wisdom and humour. In his healthy years he was full of life and vigour, always serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Every Sunday without fail, whether rain or shine, he would drive the whole family to Church to worship God. Apart from his other duties as Church Elder, his greatest joy was to teach the Word of God in the Sunday School. He spent many hours studying God’s Word and taking down notes to equip himself to teach effectively.

Our Heavenly Father knew all his early struggles and hardship. On his retirement, he became involved in the Boys’ Brigade 58<sup>th</sup> Company. I fully supported him and our aim was to win souls for the Lord Jesus Christ. He was very active in the Boys’ Brigade movement until end of 2003 when he was struck down with lung cancer. The doctors pronounced that he had only six months to live. I was too stunned for words as he appeared healthy and well. Trusting in the Lord, I requested for prayers that he could live on. When he went for his first chemotherapy at Johns Hopkins Hospital I trembled and held his hands tightly in mine as I prayed God for mercy that He would spare his life.

Thank God for extending his life for another

three and a half years. In spite of the drastic medical treatment he never once complained and he suffered silently and valiantly.

As a caregiver I asked for advice from relatives and friends and I bought and borrowed books on cancer to do research. I realized it had a lot to do with his poor eating habits. All my children rallied round and bought him excellent food and tonics to sustain him.

Often I encouraged my dear husband to live on, trusting in the Lord and that I would do everything to make him comfortable and happy. My daily routine was to pack him a nice picnic basket so that he could either cycle or drive to exercise and relax by the seaside and read God’s Word. In his car boot he kept many copies of the RPG books, the Holy Bible, news bulletin for BP churches, Christian Literature, the Bible Witness and old notes from his Sunday School lessons to read and meditate by the seaside.

Every evening he would bring me for walks in Pasir Ris Park. We shared many happy treasured moments together. We were never tired of admiring God’s marvelous creation around us. The seaside scenery changed with the weather and often fascinated us by its multi-coloured splendour just before sunset. Sometimes we sat on the beach and talked about Bible characters and loved ones who had gone before us. Several times I asked him whether he could appear as a star in heaven for me to see if he were to die first. He just smiled at me and held my hands.

Because of the endless rounds of chemotherapy as well as radiotherapy his immunity level became very low. To prevent infection I agreed to worship with him and our maid at home on the Lord’s Day. We have a wonderful collection of God’s messages on VCD’s which gave us much comfort and blessings.

On Friday 6/7/07 while I was having my afternoon nap he quietly drove off to Johns Hopkins Hospital to consult the oncologists as he felt breathless. I was shocked because he never complained to any of us about his condition. Next he drove home in the night and said he was well.

The next morning on Saturday 7/7/07 I accompanied him to hospital for Echo cardiogram. In the afternoon Prof Wong Poh Seng an eminent Thoracic Surgeon visited him and said his case was not so urgent but would visit him again on Sunday

8/7/07 in the morning.

Elder Lim’s last night in the hospital was a happy and blessed one. His last visitors were Dr & Mrs Francis Lee of True Life BP Church who cheered him exceedingly by their visit and loving gifts of fruit and tonic drinks. They spend more than half an hour of sweet fellowship after which Elder Lim encouraged them to read God’s Word and to keep close to God. Before they left he prayed for them.

At bedtime Elder Lim insisted on sitting up in an arm chair with his two legs crossed and rested on the edge of his hospital bed. Our daughter Suzanne phoned to comfort Daddy and to let him know that she prayed for him during family worship in her home. Before sleeping I also prayed for him and at the end of my prayer he said “Amen” clearly together with me. I slept near him and was comforted to know that the nurses came in every one and a half hours to check his pulse. At 5 am the nurses checked his pulse and found it normal. At 6.20 am I awoke and saw him sitting upright in his armchair fast asleep. I called him but he was silent so I touched his face and hands and found them cold like ice. I was in great shock and called for the nurses. My dearest husband had died peacefully in his sleep. Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd had led him through the valley of the shadow of death into his eternal home in God’s Celestial City early in the morning on the Lord’s Day 8/7/07.

After the funeral I returned home and found a copy of Psalm 127 placed on top of his recent reading materials in his car boot.

On his bedroom table where he read God’s Word before retiring at night were his recent notes written on Psalm 131 A Song of Degrees of David taken from the Treasury of David by C H Spurgeon. This Psalm is one of the shortest to read but one of the longest to learn. It speaks of a young child weaned and disciplined, but it contains the experience of a man in Christ. With meekness and humility he submits himself to God with a sanctified heart.

At last, my beloved husband found peace and joy and is now safe in the arms of Jesus.

“The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.” Lamentations 3:25 has been a great source of comfort and inspiration to me all these difficult years. Thanks Be To God.

(18 July 2007)

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Aug 6 – 12, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	Calvin's Institutes II (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL C, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class
	10.30 am	Worship (Lord's Supper) (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon night class** is held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Aug 11, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Parents' Appreciation Day. Speaker: Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Aug 11, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "The Reformation in the Fulness of Time" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

### From USA

Thanks for your helpful audio sermons. I especially appreciate the King James Bible studies. Do you have any other KJB studies that are not on your website at the present time? That is, could you put more KJB studies on your website?

I also wanted to say that I just started reading the KJB. I grew-up reading a modern translation. Since I am not used to some of the language of the KJB, could you suggest some helpful books, guides, etc that would help me? I'm also looking for a good edition of the KJB.

Thanks so much,  
Ron Diehl

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$10,379

**Designated Offerings:** BCEA Tanzania \$100; Brisbane BPC \$100; Rev Hien (Brisbane) \$500; Marilyn Nanta (Kuching) \$500, \$200; Gethsemane BPC \$350; Bible Witness \$350; FEBC Cambodian Students \$200; Wendy Teng \$300; FEBC Dining Club \$1,000; FEBC \$2,000, \$320, \$200

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
\$16,499

**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$500 **Total:**  
\$619,002.60

Sunday School Offering: \$690.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. Prov 15:13*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at <http://www.febe.edu.sg/SundaySchool.htm>.

**A Singaporean FEBC student** (with his wife) is looking for an apartment or room to rent. If you can help this student (Jeremy Mark), please call him at 91000868. Thank you.

**We extend our congratulations** to Mr and Mrs Ooi Aik Kean on the birth of their daughter, Priscilla Ooi on Aug 2, 07.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

**FEBC's Reply:** Thank you for your email and questions. *The Defined King James Bible* is an excellent edition of the KJV because it has all the old words footnoted with their meaning. So the Defined KJB functions like a dictionary as well. You may order it from Bible for Today at [http://www.biblefortoday.org/kj\\_bibles.asp](http://www.biblefortoday.org/kj_bibles.asp).

There are also many fine articles defending the KJV at [http://www.biblefortoday.org/idx\\_articles.htm](http://www.biblefortoday.org/idx_articles.htm). You will also find good articles on the KJV at [http://www.febe.edu.sg/Doctrine\\_of\\_Perfect\\_Preservation.htm](http://www.febe.edu.sg/Doctrine_of_Perfect_Preservation.htm). There are three books on the KJV which are freely downloadable from that page. We will try our best to put up more KJV studies onto our website. God bless!



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## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febe.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

5 August 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 25
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 33
Hymn	Singapura
Announcements	
Special Number	Men's Chorus
Offering & Hymn	No. 349
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Phil 4:1-9
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>So Stand Fast in the Lord</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 389
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

## CUPS OF COLD WATER

*"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."*  
(Prov 25:25)

### From Australia

Our beloved Principal, Matron, Academic Dean and the faculty and students, I greet you in the blessed Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Today is the Day of Prayer and Registration, I have prayed for you, and all the faculty and students. I really thank God for having sustained and blessed FEBC under the leadership of His faithful servant, Rev Dr Timothy Tow, since 1962 and praise the Lord for over 600 graduates including me, who enjoyed the sound and Biblical teaching

T. Tow      **Singapura**      Samuel A. Ward

1. O Fai-rest Isle of Southern Seas, Thy waters are so blue; Waft by a bal-my  
2. Our fathers came to this green shore, From many climes and lands; They found a ri-cher  
3. On thee we've built a new ci-ty - First great port of the world. Let Right pre-vail and  
4. To-day we sail as one na-tion, Our flag is fly-ing high; May our Cap-tain by

o-cean breeze, Thy land is decked with dew. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! Thou  
life in store Beneath just ru-ling hands. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! Thou  
E - qui - ty. Not by might nor by power. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! So  
wise ac-tion Steer us with Com-pass nigh. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! Light-

fa-voured Isle of ease. God bless thee yet with Thine increase, And peace from year to year.  
ha-ven of the free. God bless thee yet with Thine increase, And peace from year to year.  
may thy sons serve thee. God bless thee yet with Thine increase, And peace from year to year.  
ship of li - ber - ty. Sail on un-to pros - pe - ri - ty And peace a thousand years!

and training at FEBC in the days of compromise and apostasy.

May the Lord graciously strengthen you, sustain you and grant you and FEBC many more years of service and training to magnify His Word, defend His Truth and contend for the holy faith of the saints until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again, soon. May the Lord grant you and all the faculty and students a fruitful and successful semester, all for His glory. Amen.

I do miss you all and my blessed days at FEBC. You are in my prayers daily.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*Hien Nguyen*

Pastor, Brisbane B-P Church

### **From Nepal**

Dear Sir, Rev (Dr) Jeffrey Khoo,

Heartiest greetings in His Blessed Name.

I am extremely happy to receive your precious mail. Sincerely speaking, your few words encourage me a lot in the Lord's ministries. I am always grateful to my Alma Mater who taught me to stand for the truth till the last breath of my life.

Yes, I am teaching Elementary Greek in a Bible College here. Maybe Mrs Tow will laugh at me. I was one of the poor students. But when I am weak, my Saviour is always alongside to help me. He has not put me to shame though I am struggling so much. Some of my students are smarter than me. So I have to prepare very well before I go to class. You have taught me to prepare well by using many helpful books.

Also, our college is using the KJV as a standard Bible in class. All the teachings which I learnt at FEBC, the helpful sources, books, and arguments are exceedingly helpful for me in these days. There is no confusion and no one can resist when I use all the teachings of FEBC. Sometimes, I seek help from the Greek and Hebrew Bible. I fear the Lord that I will be punished if I teach wrongly.

But I am feeling that I need to study more. My books and library need to be upgraded. But in Nepal, sound and fundamental theological books are almost nil.

Sir, kindly remember me in your prayers

for the Lord's ministries. Yes, I felt sorry myself that my very last days at FEBC were not so smooth. My heart is still painful these days. May God forgive! I am extremely firm in my teachings in these days. No compromise! That is what I learnt from FEBC.

Sir, I have attached some pictures of my teaching ministries on various occasions. Sometimes, I teach the pastors in the hills, or in BEE (Biblical Education by Extension) with Dr Cho, or baptise believers in a fish-pond. This is how life is going on sir.

Kindly convey my sincere greetings to Dr and Mrs Timothy Tow as well. Also, please do not forget to send *The Burning Bush* to me.

In His Service,

*Khadga Magar*

### **From Nagaland**

Dear Dr Khoo,

Hope and pray you are all doing well. By the grace of God I am keeping fine and doing well. Starting next month I will be serving in one of the Bible Colleges in Dimapur. Do keep me in your prayers. Pray that I will be able to teach the Word of God faithfully, and will teach them the right doctrine. I really have a burden for the Naga people here in Nagaland. Many people have never heard that tongue-speaking, dreams, visions have ceased. They still believe in extra revelation.

By the way, how are Rev and Mrs Tow? Sometimes I wanted to contact them but it's tough to call them. Convey my greetings to them. I truly miss FEBC, the teachings, fellowship, etc. Will be praying for you all. God Bless!

With much love and prayers,

*Anya Kera*

### **From Thailand**

Dear brethren in Christ,

Thank God for His faithfulness in our lives and ministry. How time flies! We have been labouring in the mission field for 6 whole years already. Starting July, it would be our Sabbatical year but we will continue to labour on for the Lord, as Jesus says, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4, KJV). Thank God for sustaining us thus

far. May the Lord find us faithful till He comes; "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11).

To us, the spiritual health of all the souls under our care, both in the Home and in the Church, is our main concern. For 6 years, by God's enablement, we have not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). We are always thankful to God for the sound teachings that our Alma Mater, the Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore, has imparted to us, in preparing and equipping us for the gospel ministry.

His unworthy servants,

*Robert and Dara Peh*

Truth B-P Church & Christian Home of Love

### **From Canada**

Hi Rev Tow, Matron, Jeff, Mima,

Summer greetings in the Blessed Name of our Gracious Lord and Savior!

Trust you are all well and rejoicing in our Lord. Thank God for helping me not forget to pray for dear Rev Tow, beloved Matron, and FEBC. I continue to cherish lovely memories (sweat, tears, even kitchen duty, etc) of my Vienna in the Woods in Singapore, though I still do not like humidity.

Just a quick note to inform of God's blessings – my Chinese visa had been approved for 6 months and I am trying to complete my current Junior RPG assignment speedily, so that I can move on to the next in China. There is much to prepare. Very happy to meet up with the brethren again and to co-labor in the new ministry.

Will write again when I can. God bless!

*Esther Chew*

### **From Myanmar**

Dear Rev & Mrs Tow and Dr Jeffrey Khoo,

Firstly, I will like to praise the Lord and give thanks always to Him for His great mercies and graces upon us here and there always. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Matriculation Examination 2007 results were released yesterday, and by the grace of God, from our Orphanage, two passed the exam. Thank God, since 1999, six persons

from the orphanage have passed the Matriculation and right now two have graduated from the university, one stopped his university studies and went overseas to Malaysia, one is still in university (2<sup>nd</sup> year), and the two who had just passed their Matriculation will enter the university. So, please pray for them. Thank God they believe in and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who have graduated are serving now in our orphanage faithfully and working hard. Praise the Lord. How good our God is to all of us all the time!

We are constantly praying for you. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

*Brother Thang No*

New Life Orphan Center, Yangon

### **From Korea**

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

I pray that God be more glorified through your mission for KJV and Jesus Christ's gospel and your church and Far Eastern Bible College. I am a pastor in South Korea and we run a Bible school. We use KJV and I am preaching the gospel. I translated Dr E F Hills' book entitled *The King James Version Defended* into Korean. I also translated Mr David W Cloud's book *Rome and Bible* into Korean. I had met once Dr Waite and I have been supplying a lot of books defending KJV in my church and school. Also I have warned about the wrong doctrine of Ruckmanism.

A few days ago, by accident I found your website and looked over your wonderful books defending KJV: (1) *KJV Questions & Answers*, (2) *A Theology for Every Christian*, (3) *Kept Pure in All Ages*, etc. And I think that your books are very good for our Korean souls who love the KJV or who do not understand differences between KJV and other Bibles.

So I'd like to translate your books into Korean. I'd really appreciate it if you'd permit me to translate your books into Korean. Also please let me know about your Bible College. I pray that our Lord's grace be more with you and your mission.

*Pastor Seo Dal Seok*



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Aug 13 – 19, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class (Room 601)
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Aug 18, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Do You Despise the Word? (Prov 13:13)" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$14,628; USD1  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$100; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$100; *Rev Prabhudas Koshy* \$100; *Rev Quek Suan Yew* \$100; *Rev Tan Kian Sing* \$100; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$200; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Rev Peter Elibariki* \$100; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$100; *BCEA Tanzania* \$4,000, \$100, \$100; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$200; *FEBC Scholarship* \$400; *FEBC* \$370, \$280, \$100, \$100, \$55  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
 S\$21,533; USD1  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$500, \$50 **Total:** \$620,552.60

Sunday School Offering: S\$483.00; INR6

**Verse for the Week:** *The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge; but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. Prov 15:14*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at [http://www.febe.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febe.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm).

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febe.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 46**

**12 August 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 122
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Isaiah 53
Hymn	No. 278
Announcements	
Special Number	Children's Choir Youth Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 408
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	1 Tim 6:6-10
Sermon	<i>The Sin of Greed</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 265 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

problems (such as ecumenical evangelism) that divide Christians. In the days of our Lord upon earth, there were those who pretended obedience by inventing the slogan "*Corban*" (Mark 7:11), thus "*making the Word of God of none effect*" (Mark 7:13).

### Positive Only?

Today we find men who claim to be born-again Christians doing much the same kind of thing by inventing slogans and devices that nullify the clear commands of God's Word. We find many who say "We are too busy preaching the positive Gospel. We do not have time to be negative." Beware of the man who speaks only of the positive Gospel, for there is no such thing. It is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and of Him it is said, "*Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity*" (Heb 1:9).

The Gospel is both positive and negative. Many times a man's love of righteousness is determined by how strongly he hates evil. The true Gospel preacher is a "*savour of death unto death*" and "*of life unto life*" (2 Cor 2:16). The man who speaks of the "positive Gospel" is trying to avoid warning of the coming of the wolves. Even a dog will bark when his master is in danger. How can these men who refuse to warn concerning the rise of the great world church of the Antichrist be considered faithful undershepherds? It is just as foolish to speak of turning on the positive electricity. It is impossible to really say "Yes" to Truth, without saying "No" to error.

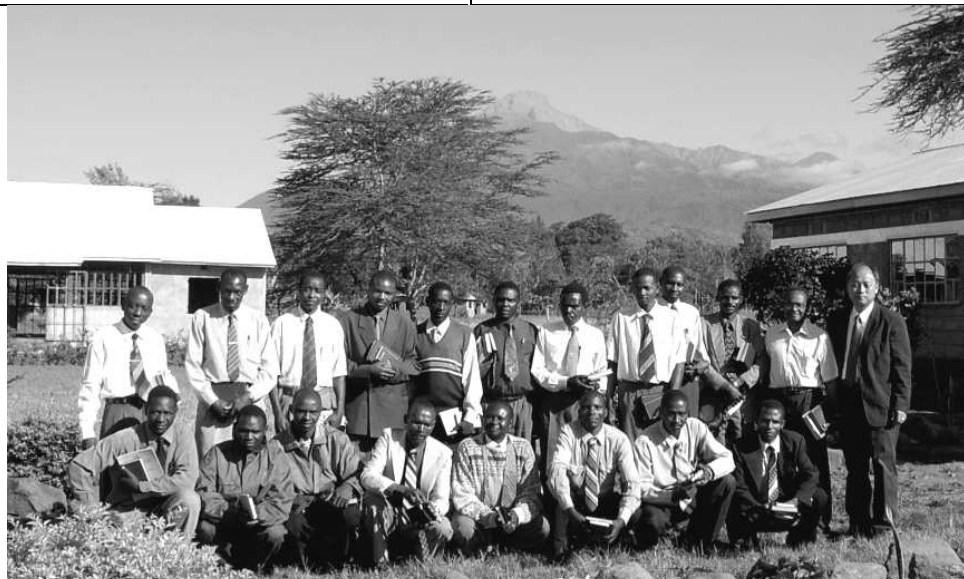
### The Sin of Neutrality

Timothy Pietsch

(The Rev Timothy Pietsch was a Baptist missionary to Japan. His timely article was published in the *Reformation Banner*, July-December 1992.)

[Meiderlin's slogan is often quoted by politicians and clergymen, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." It is also said, "The church must always remain focused on its primary goal of preaching Christ and not be caught up with endless and senseless arguing over theological issues." Such slogans sound quite pious and right but are often a subtle guise for an underlying sin—the sin of neutrality! What is the sin of neutrality? Let us hear from the late Rev Timothy Pietsch, founder of Tokyo Bible Church, and longest-serving missionary to Japan.]

It is always wrong to be neutral when the Word of God and Satan are in conflict. Many seek to be neutral so that they will not be faced with having to make decisions with regard to these excruciating



Pioneer students with the Principal, Rev Mark Kim (standing, extreme right) and Rev Peter Elibariki, the Academic Dean (standing, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) at the Bible College of East Africa (Arusha, Tanzania) with Mount Meru at the background.

The three Hebrew children not only claimed positively that Jehovah could save them from the burning fiery furnace, but that even if He did not, they would not bow down, nor worship the golden image that the king had made (Dan 2:18). Their negative action was mandatory to back up their positive claim, or it meant nothing. Many times it is the negative refusal to go along with the crowd that draws the attention of the world (1 Pet 4:4)!

### **Biblical Separation**

Another very common slogan that makes the clear command of God's Word of none effect is "We believe in separation, but not in second degree separation." Philip Foxwell, formerly of the Independent Board of Presbyterian Foreign Missions (IBPFM), stated to me most emphatically, "Pietsch, we repudiate your position for you not only separate from unbelievers but you separate from some believers." I replied that I thought he did so also. I asked him about a certain missionary that had run away from his wife to live with another woman and asked if he would allow him to speak at his seminary. Brother Foxwell replied that he thought the missionary I spoke of was a born-again Christian but living in adultery and until he repented he could not allow him to speak at the seminary. I asked, "What about these men who deliberately commit spiritual adultery by pretending that unbelievers are believers and who add numbers to the apostasy? Is not such spiritual adultery worse in God's sight than adulterating marriage?" He replied that he did not believe in "second degree separation" and that the Bible teaches us that we should separate from unbelievers but that it never teaches us what we should do about those believers who refuse to separate from unbelievers.

In seeking to defend his thesis that there is no Biblical principle against cooperation in the work of the Lord with men who work with modernistic unbelievers, Foxwell wrote an article entitled, "Principle or Prudence," which was published in the Spring-Summer 1965 issue of REAP magazine, edited by Kenny

Joseph. In this he states: "Yet cooperation with a professing conservative within the NCC or the Kyodan (United Church of Japan) is not the same category as "Thou shalt not steal." We cannot allow a professing Bible believer the freedom to add up the plus and minus of committing adultery. But we must reject the exegesis of those who would make an absolute of "second degree separation." We must practice charity and grant freedom to evangelicals who have a separation problem."

### **Principle or Prudence?**

According to this very common thesis, it is not a matter of principle but only of prudence and greater or lesser expedience, in working with those who pretend that unbelievers are believers. If the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and the plus is greater than the minus, then go ahead and cooperate in the work of the Lord with those who remain in an organization controlled by unbelief. Over the years we have pleaded with Philip Foxwell and Kenny Joseph to repudiate this article which so wrests God's Word and the command, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, ... and touch not the unclean thing," making it of no effect, but they have absolutely refused to repent.

These men represent a group of missionaries that have found it very profitable to claim to be Bible separatists but at the same time attack what they revile as "second degree separation." By this device they are able to get support and help from Bible-believing separatists and at the same time remain in good standing with the neo-evangelicals enjoying their financial support. They are very quick, however, to separate themselves from those they vilify as "second degree" separatists. These men walk with one foot on each side of the fence and have found it very profitable to do so, but now the fence is getting higher and their feet do not touch the ground on either side. The Bible knows nothing of this degree separation from apostasy. Beware of the man who speaks of "second degree separation" for he is inventing a straw man that he can knock down to try and

prove he is being faithful to the Lord, when actually he is only pretending obedience. "*Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully*" (Jer 48:10).

Another device by which men seek to avoid an issue is "Contend for the faith, but don't contend with the brethren." My own beloved father, Dr W E Pietsch, from whom I learned in my youth many great Biblical principles, used this device as a means to avoid having to withstand the compromising position of his very close friend, Dr Charles E Fuller. Sometimes in seeking to be faithful to our Lord we have the agonizing task of standing up against those closest to us. I had to point out to my father how untenable his slogan really was for it is like a man saying, "I am going to contend for the heavyweight championship of the world, but I refuse to fight anybody."

### **Have Positive Convictions**

Paul in contending for justification, had to withstand Peter to his face before them all, for he was to be blamed (Gal 2:11). Contending for the faith without withstanding Peter would have meant that Paul really was not very positive in his position. Often men are not negative because they are not really positive in their convictions.

"It's only a very loose organization and we agree to disagree" is the slogan used by some to excuse their association or identification in the work of the Lord with the agents of Satan, or with those who cooperate with them. A doctrinally loose organization is as dangerous as a morally loose woman and one should stay as far as possible from them. Agreeing to disagree with error is the sin of coexistence with unbelief and so contrary to that which is demanded in Ephesians 5:11.

Those who invent these slogans and devices that make the Word of God of no effect, and those who follow them are certainly under the indictment of God: "*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*" (Matt 15:8). "*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot*

*[but neutral], I will spue thee out of my mouth.*" (Rev 3:16).

With very disastrous and tragic results, many Christian pastors of Japan before and during World War II compromised with Shinto idolatry to avoid a frontal clash with their country and to keep from being considered traitors. When they bowed before a Shinto shrine or Shinto god-shelf or allowed their children to do so they used the excuse, "We are not worshipping in our hearts." By this device they made the clear command of God's Word of none effect. Many pastors and missionaries today use similar devices to avoid isolation, being considered irrelevant, misunderstood and ridiculed. But the same disastrous results that came from compromise with Shinto idolatry is sure to come upon them if they do not repent.

### **Don't Tolerate Unbelief**

Many years ago Henry Parsons Crowell pointed out that the battle for truth is lost in any group when the mainstream becomes tolerant of leaders who are tolerant of unbelief. This is the center of the battle, and brought up to date we ask, "Do you cooperate in a Billy Graham Crusade?" If so you are tolerant of unbelief (for leading modernists always have prominent positions on the committees). Do you cooperate with those who cooperate in a Billy Graham Crusade? If so you are tolerant of those who are tolerant of unbelief. If a compromising or backslidden Christian can be at ease in your presence then there is something wrong with *you*.

### **Luther's Warning**

Martin Luther, more than four hundred years ago, stated: "*If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, then I am not confessing Christ, however, boldly I may be professing Him. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is merely flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.*"



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Aug 20 – 26, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class (Room 601)
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Das Koshy) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (Aug 25, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Aug 25, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Edmund Wong's home at Blk 82 Strathmore Avenue, #14-144, Singapore 141082. Tel: 64799671. Program: Bible Study on Philippians by Rev Stephen Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$13,201; RM5.01  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* S\$200; *FEBC Scholarship* S\$100; *FEBC* S\$200, S\$200; *Rev Stephen Khoo* AUD50

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
S\$13,901; RM5.01; AUD50  
**Church Building Fund** \$800, \$200, \$100 **Total:**  
\$621,652.60

Sunday School Offering: \$593.00

**Verse for the Week:** *All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast. Prov 15:15*

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Aug 26, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch** held at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, Oct 7, 07, 12.30 pm. The subsidised rate for members and regular worshippers is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet (age 11 years and under). For non-members, it is \$22. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 47**

**19 August 2007**

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 538
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Isaiah 62
Hymn	No. 127
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 425
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Matt 24:35-44
Sermon	<i>Ready for His Coming</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	<i>Maybe Today</i>
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Missions Report: Brisbane BPC

Rev Hien Nguyen



Thank God for His grace and providence that I came to Brisbane in June 2004 after my theological studies at the Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore. Then by God's grace, we started our Bible study on Saturdays at the City Library with Bro Robert,

Sis Karen and Bro Walter in July 2004. Then we shifted our Bible study to our rented home in West End in September 2004. By the end of this month, thank God that I was adopted as a missionary preacher of True Life B-P Church in Singapore. We thank God for the prayers, encouragement, advice and kind support from True Life BPC since then.

Thank God for helping us start our Sunday worship at 10am at our home in February 2005

with Walter and Marline, and ministered to the Aboriginal people on Stradbroke Island (March-May 2005). Thank God for the opportunities to minister to a Vietnamese church during September-November 2005.

In April 2006, thank God that we rented the Hall of Annerley Community and District Centre, at 8 Waldheim St., Annerley, Qld 4103, and worshipped there on Sundays at 2pm with Bro Walter, Bro Tim, Sis Anne and Zac, and sometimes with visitors.

Thank God for His grace and mercy that Brisbane BPC was officially registered on 28 July 2006 with Bro Walter Wei the secretary, Sis Anne Low the treasurer, and Bro Hien Nguyen the preacher (as president). In August, we were encouraged to have David and Debbie (Walter's friends and Calvary Pandan members) join our Bible study and Sunday worship for two weeks.

In September, we thank God for the ministry of Rev Stephen Khoo in our midst. He conducted our Bible study on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and preached and conducted the Lord's Supper on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2006.

In October, we thank God for a better venue for our Sunday worship service at St. John's Presbyterian Church, at 33 King St., Annerley, Qld 4103. That month, we were happy and encouraged to be visited by Aik Kean and Su Yuan, True Lifers from Singapore. They joined our Bible study and Sunday worship for two weeks. Elder Boon Boaz and his family from





Singapore also visited us and joined our Bible study.

In November, we thank God for bringing Bro Eric and Sis Linda and Hannah and Emma to Brisbane to worship and serve the Lord together with us. We also had Bro Ivan Toms from New Zealand who came to visit us. In December, we celebrated Christmas with a Children's Programme. We thank God for one student, Rhiannon, joining the programme.

In February 2007, we thank God for Bro Michael Low who joined us. In that month, due to Walter's absence since last November, we had a meeting, and thank God that Bro Eric was elected to be our secretary. By the end of February, we thank God for providing a better place for us to stay in Coopers Plains. We thank God for providing Bros Tim, Robert, Michael, Eric and Hannah to help us move to our new home.

In March, we had our Bible study at our new home at 14 Baroda St., Coopers Plains, Qld 4108. We thank God for bringing Mrs Too, Bro Eric's mother into our midst. We thank God for helping us start a Vietnamese Bible study at Jade's home every Thursday since 15 March. We really thank God for His blessings upon our Inauguration Service on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2007. We were much encouraged and blessed to have Rev Stephen Khoo, Rev Paul Seiler of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rev Errol Stone and Sis Robyn from Faith Presbyterian Church in Perth, Rev Dr Okman Ki from Hope BPC in Adelaide, Elder Charles Choong from Bethel BPC in Melbourne, Dn Charles Kan and Jenny from True Life BPC in Singapore, Dn Anthony Ngan from Sydney BPC, and our brethren from Singapore: Francis and Stephanie and Moses, Deborah Mae and Judith, Joycelyn and Jacelyn. We had our Bible study conducted by Rev Errol Stone and our Inauguration Service officiated by Rev Stephen Khoo.

In May, we thank God for the preaching of Bros Tim and Eric while Bro Hien was in Singapore for his ordination. Since the end of May, we have been announcing our

Vietnamese church services (4pm) and publishing our articles in the Vietnamese newspaper. Thus far only our family members join the worship.

We give thanks, praise and glory to the Lord and we are thankful for the prayers, encouragement, and kind support from you as well as from True Life BP Church. May God bless you all!

*Rev Hien Nguyen*

*Pastor of Brisbane B-P Church  
Brisbane, 15 July 2007*

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### **The Influence of FEBC on My Ministry**

Carol Lee



July 1997 to May 2000 was the time when the Lord used the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) to intensively prepare me, both academically and spiritually, to serve Him full-time.

One of my conclusions at the end of that three-year training is: "I have never been worked so hard by my teachers!" In many programmes of study, the acquisition of knowledge and the training of the mind are paramount and the studies in FEBC is no different. My heart is grateful to the Lord for raising FEBC and for the FEBC principal and lecturers who faithfully serve in this training ministry. My three gruelling years in FEBC went by so quickly, and the more I learn, the more I realise that I do not know. Indeed there is no end to the study of the rich and precious Word of God. While FEBC has given me a solid foundation in God's Word, the study continues that I may know my God and His Word even more. As He has enabled me to learn much through FEBC, may He enable me to serve Him in whatever areas that He puts me in: in Truth BPC, in FEBC,

and in the missions field (both local and overseas), to share the good news with the lost, to build up the faith of the saved, and to prepare the called for full-time service.

In the course of academic learning in FEBC, the heart and the spirit were not left out. The academic learning process included attending lectures, reading, working on assignments, doing quizzes, sitting for exams, etc, all with their own deadlines for me to meet. These, by God's design, became the fertile ground for the maturation of the spirit. On many occasions (when a quiz was on the next day, a reading log to be submitted two days later, a research paper was soon due, etc), I had to admit "I cannot do it" and I had to surrender to the Lord. Surely, He who has called me to His work will also enable me to do His work! How sweet it was to go to Him daily on my knees, laying my daily burdens at His feet, committing the many assignments and deadlines into His Hand. And help He did, beyond measure! He gave what I did not deserve. Time and time again. And so I learnt the valuable lesson: I am weak, but my Lord is strong. Many things are beyond me, impossible for me, but everything is possible for my Lord if it is in accordance to His will.

2 Corinthians 12:9b-10: *"...Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*

Having experienced the grace of God, His kindness and goodness towards me throughout my three years in FEBC, my trust in my faithful and able Lord grew. The knowledge that everything I have I owe it all to Him sank its roots deeply into my heart. Learnt I truly did to depend on His all-sufficient grace and loving mercy even more. I came to the full realisation that without God, I can do nothing, and that God's work has to be done in God's way, in His own perfect timing. Wherein lies my confidence

now as I serve Him full-time? Not in self, but in my Lord! All glory and honour are due unto Him!

As evident in the lives of His many faithful, godly servants in days gone by and in days present, the path of full-time service is fraught with many difficulties, heartaches and sorrows. Though my service be insignificant by comparison, yet should I assume that I will be spared? I dare not assume that. May the Lord help me to constantly remember how He has so faithfully provided for me during my time of training in FEBC and that He will still provide. May He keep me ever looking to Him for all that I need today and in the days ahead till He returns, for *"the days are evil"* (Eph 5:16). *"Look to no man, care not what the world may plan. Only trust in the Lord, all the way to Beulah Land."*

"Carol, do you regret leaving MOE (Ministry of Education)?" This question was posed to me one day in December 2006 (almost ten years after I resigned from MOE to study in FEBC). Without hesitation, I replied, "No, no regret. There is nothing better than serving God full-time." Indeed, God's call to serve Him full-time is a great privilege. Being a debtor to no man, His call is accompanied by the sufficiency of His grace. There is nothing better than doing the work of my Master every day, be it a fair day or a stormy one. This too is a lesson I learnt from FEBC through the life example and testimony of the FEBC principal: there is no retirement for His servants. May the Lord grant me that resolutely faithful and persevering spirit that by His enabling He may find me serving Him still when He appears!

May we pray for FEBC in these perilous times that God will preserve her and provide for all her needs, that she will continue to stand unwaveringly on God's Truth, training men and women in the Word of God and in their devotion to their Lord to serve Him in the Lord's Vineyard.

All glory be unto our all loving, all merciful God!

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Aug 27 – Sep 2, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	Calvin's Institutes II (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	The Book of Numbers (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class (Room 601)
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Ronny Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Sep 1, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Titus by Dn Paul Cheng. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**FCM Combined Meeting** at Calvary Tengah BPC, on Sep 28, 07, 6.30 pm (dinner). Topic: "Only One Life, T'will Soon be Past, Only What is Done for Christ will Last." Speaker: Dennis Kabingue. Contact Herbert at 94377715 for details.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 203 Petir Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468. .

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$8,139; JPY115,000  
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$150;  
*Rev Ronny Khoo* \$300; *BCEA Tanzania* \$100;  
*Brisbane BPC* \$100; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$200; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$300; *Wendy Teng* \$200;  
*FEBC Scholarship* \$1,000; *FEBC* \$200, \$100  
Total General and Designated Offerings:  
S\$10,989; JPY115,000  
Church Building Fund \$2,432.67, \$500, \$311  
Total: \$624,896.27

Sunday School Offering: \$456.00

**Verse for the Week:** *Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. Prov 15:16*

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Sarawak Mission Trip** will be held from 1-6 September, 2007. Those going are to meet at FEBC at 12.30 pm this Sat (Sep 1, 07).

**There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch** held at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, Oct 7, 07, 12.30 pm. The subsidised rate for members and regular worshippers is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet (age 11 years and under). For non-members, it is \$22. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febe.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 48

26 August 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 104
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 91
Hymn	No. 347
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 320
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	2 Cor 4:1-18
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy
Sermon	<i>Daring Servants Amidst Dangers</i> (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy)
Closing Hymn	No. 227
Benediction	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy

## THE SIN OF GREED

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Aug 12, 07)

We are living in a world full of sin and greed. The economics of greed is "Buy on credit and owe as much as you can;" "Borrow from others and delay payment as long as you can." In other words, "Buy and don't pay;" "Borrow and don't pay back." Greed breeds ingratitude and treachery: "Bite the hand that feeds you." The motto of the wicked and the greedy is: "What is mine is mine, and what is yours is mine." "I see, I want, I take; by hook or by crook, I must have it." Do we have such a worldly philosophy of life or such lustful feelings in our heart? Beware of greed! When we are greedy and covetous, we not only destroy our own lives, we also destroy the lives of others.

The sin of greed is a most grievous and destructive sin. As the Apostle Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:9-10, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and

hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Greed is a sin and an evil that will lead us to break all the Ten Commandments (Exod 20:3-17). Let us look at how the sin of greed will lead to the breaking of each one of the Ten Commandments:

(I)

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The sin of greed breaks the first commandment for we make money our god. The religion of greed is materialism or moneytheism, and the dollar sign becomes the symbol of our worship and adoration. We displace God from our lives and replace Him with our own selfish ambitions and plans. The Apostle James describes such a man, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings [boasting of our intellectual or business prowess, and our abilities to make plans without the need of God]: all such rejoicing is evil" (Jas 4:13-16). Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else



Family Worship at the home of Elder & Mrs Koh Kim Song, Aug 3, 2007

he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt 6:24).

## ( II )

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.” When greed takes control of our hearts, the goods and things of this world become our idols. The rich, the wealthy, the successful and the powerful become our idols. Whatever gods in this world that can make me to become prosperous, I worship. The worship of possessions and material wealth is held in social functions and parties, where expensive clothes, and jewellery are flaunted and praised. The flashy and powerful ones are fawned upon, served hand and foot by lesser beings who hope to receive some crumbs of favour that might somehow improve their chances towards material glory.

## ( III )

“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” Greed can cause people to make use of the name of Christ to line their own pockets. They call themselves Christians and attend church but they do not see the church as a place of worship, but a marketplace to solicit clients and customers. They come to church not carrying their Bibles but their name cards, freely distributing their company tracts to advertise themselves and their products.

There are also these false preachers who use the name of Christ to get rich. 2 Peter 2:1-3 warns, “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise (Greek: *emporeuomai*) of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”

## ( IV )

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.” Greed causes us to forget God. It causes us to be near the world and far from God. Since the weekends are the best time to do business, we give up the worship of God and the fellowship of the saints on the Lord’s Day. There are of course occupations of humanity and necessity that require work on Sundays, like those done by doctors and nurses, policemen and firemen, and works that entail national security, but otherwise God’s people should cease from working on the Lord’s Day for their own spiritual good.

## ( V )

“Honour thy father and thy mother.” Greed makes people to see the elderly as liabilities. Greedy people blame the aged for draining away their resources, making them poor when their goal is to be rich. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for such practices, “And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition [or greed]. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition [or greed], which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye” (Mark 7:9-13).

## ( VI )

“Thou shalt not kill.” Greed brings about envy and strife. We become jealous of other people’s success and promotion, and hate them for it. Then we think of ways to undermine and sabotage their work so that we might get the upperhand. The Apostle James describes the atrocities and the vanities of the greedy and lustful heart well, “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to

have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (Jas 4:1-3). Beware: worldliness and lustfulness is great loss!

Greed can lead to murder. How many have killed for the sake of money? One example in the Bible is the wicked king, Ahab, and his most wicked queen, Jezebel, who killed Naboth in order to take his vineyard (1 Kgs 21).

## ( VII )

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Greed brings about ungodliness and discontentment. We want more and more, not only more money, but more women. Often a time, for the sake of money, for the sake of clinching a lucrative business deal, we compromise our morals and tempt our clients with wine, women and song, and we join in the fun in the name of business or survival. With so much traveling today and lengthy business trips overseas in pursuit of wealth, how many an already married man have married foreign women or are keeping mistresses in other parts of the world? The temptation is real and such adulterous affairs are not uncommon today.

## ( VIII )

“Thou shalt not steal.” Greed is the mother of theft. It has led many to steal and to rob. Many a lover of money have been corrupted by greed, and have committed CBT (Criminal Breach of Trust). The man who loves money will not be able to resist the temptation of stealing what does not belong to him.

In land-scarce Singapore, with property prices sky high, the temptation to acquire or enlarge our physical properties at the expense of others is great. Greed makes us to steal not only other people’s money, but also their homes. God is mindful to warn His people against the stealing of land and property. Many verses in the Bible warn against this. Deuteronomy 19:14 commands, “Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour’s landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.”

Proverbs 22:28 says, “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” Proverbs 23:10-11 reiterates, “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.” Deuteronomy 27:17 warns, “Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour’s landmark.” Ahab and Jezebel met with a cursed end for masterminding the murder of Naboth in order to steal his vineyard—the vineyard he would not sell to Ahab because it was the Lord’s inheritance (1 Kgs 21:3, 17-25).

## ( IX )

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.” Is it not true that we often resort to lying and cheating in order to get gain? Jezebel for instance desiring to take possession of Naboth’s vineyard, hired two scoundrels (“sons of Belial”) to accuse Naboth falsely of blaspheming God and the king so that he might be stoned to death (1 Kgs 21:10-16).

The sin of bearing false witness for selfish gain was also the sin of Ananias and Sapphira who falsely declared their offering to the Lord, and were struck dead, having lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-11). False declarations of income, doctoring of accounts, manipulation of figures for selfish gain are all transgressions of the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment.

## ( X )

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s.” Covetousness is the greedy desire to have what belongs to another. It is closely tied to the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment. One begets the other. Covetousness is the sin of intention, and stealing is the sin of action. The antidote for the sin of covetousness is godly contentment, “But godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim 6:6).

The sin of greed is terribly destructive. Let us uproot it from our hearts and replace it with a charitable heart of giving. John Wesley says, “Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” By so doing, we shall overcome the sin of greed.



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 3 – 9, 2007)

MON – FRI	FEBC Mid-Term Break
WED 7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU 8.00 pm	Memorial Service
FRI 8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
	Catechism Class (Room 601)
10.30 am	Worship ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> ) (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
	Korean Worship Service
	Filipina Bible Study
	Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Sep 5, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Message: "God's Sovereign Will and Man's Prayer" by Rev Ronny Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Bernard Tee this Fri (Sep 7, 07) at 8 pm. Address: 11 Greenwood Lane, Singapore 287001. Tel: 67609069.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Youth Fellowship meeting this Sat (Sep 8, 07). Time: 3.30 pm – 7 pm. Topic: "Overcoming the Snares of the World". Speaker: Dominino. Venue: Calvary Pandan 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Sanctuary. Please bring along games attire. Transport leaves FEBC at 3 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Sep 8, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" by Rev Ronny Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$13,452.20; RM33

Designated Offerings: *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$500; *Rev Stephen Khoo & Philip Goh (Transportation to Kemaman)* \$150; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* \$500; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$300 (LF); *BCEA Kenya & Tanzania* \$2,000, \$2,000; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$400; *Judah (FEBC)* \$50; *Molla (FEBC)* \$50; *Titus (FEBC)* \$50; *Linda Kurnia (FEBC)* \$50; *Fransiska (FEBC)* \$50; *Rebecca (FEBC)* \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$2,000, \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**

S\$21,802.20; RM33

**Church Building Fund \$500 Total:** \$625,396.27

Sunday School Offering: \$424.00

**Verse for the Week:** *Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. Prov 15:17*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Memorial Service** for late Elder Mahadevan will be held this Thu (Sep 6, 07) at 129 Hillcrest Road, 8 pm. Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew.

**There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch** held at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, Oct 7, 07, 12.30 pm. The subsidised rate for members and regular worshippers is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet (age 11 years and under). For non-members, it is \$22. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

**FCM Combined Meeting** at Calvary Tengah BPC, on Sep 28, 07, 6.30 pm (dinner). Topic: "Only One Life, T'will Soon be Past, Only What is Done for Christ will Last." Speaker: Dennis Kabingue. Contact Herbert at 94377715 for details.

**Sarawak Missions Trip (Sep 1-6, 07):** 21 True Lifers are in Kuching to assist FEBC alumna, Marilyn Nanta, in her gospel outreaches.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 49

2 September 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 57
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 32
Hymn	No. 321
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 405
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Heb 11:1-2
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Ronny Khoo
Sermon	<i>Faith</i> (Rev Ronny Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 122
Benediction	Rev Ronny Khoo

## Labouring Together in Unity and Humility

*Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo*

**Unity (Phil 1:27-30)**

As the Roman army conquered the world as a united force, so should the Christian church contend steadfastly for the faith with one spirit and one mind. The Scriptures command all Christians to unite in thought and action. It goes without saying that Christian unity must find its basis on the Truth of God's Word. Christians are to contend hand in hand for "the faith of the gospel" (Phil 1:27 cf Jude 3). This "faith" is the objective faith (ie the Christian Faith, the Body of Truth, the Word of God). Unity is strength. The Church would be much more effective in proclaiming the gospel and defending the faith if they did so as a united army of Christ grounded on His Truth.

Christians are not to be afraid of their enemies. Their foes are defeated foes. In Christ victory is already won. The holy courage displayed by

believers in the midst of suffering and persecution proves their truly regenerate state. Their enemies may kill the body, but they cannot kill the soul. God will one day resurrect the bodies of the saints. The enemies of Christ appear victorious, but their victory is indeed hollow. Their rebellion against Christ points to their ultimate destruction by His hands on the day of judgement. Knowing that the victory is already won, let us then press on to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Christians are called to fight a common enemy, not each other. The Bible warns against divisiveness. He enjoined the Philippians to be likeminded—to have the same mind that is produced by the same Lord and Spirit, worked out by a common love for Christ and one another. Dr Homer Kent rightly observed, "Paul's command for the Philippians to be likeminded was not a command for unity at the expense of truth. It assumes that 'the same thing' is also 'the right thing.'"

## Humility (Phil 2:1-11)

Paul rejoiced that the Philippians in Rome were preaching the gospel though some did so out of envy and strife (Phil 1:15-16). Against such a divisive attitude of contention, he wrote, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil 2:3-4).



In this age of self-esteem, Paul taught the opposite—other-esteem: “let each esteem other better than themselves.” The doctrine of self-esteem is unbiblical and dangerous. Self-esteem’s maxim is “You cannot love another person unless you love yourself.” Is this true? Where in the Bible does it teach that we must first love ourselves before we are able to love others? It was precisely because of vainglory or self-love that certain members of the Philippian church preached the gospel with a divisive spirit of envy and strife. Self-esteem tore the church apart. Paul’s antidote was other-esteem. Paul tells us to “consider others better than ourselves.” In other words, we must be selfless, not selfish, not self first but others first (Rom 12:10). Someone has observed that English grammar reflects the selfish attitude of the world. In English the 1<sup>st</sup> person is “I,” 2<sup>nd</sup> person is “you,” and 3<sup>rd</sup> person is “he.” But Christian grammar is totally reverse: 1<sup>st</sup> person is “He” (ie, God), 2<sup>nd</sup> person is “you” (ie, others), and 3<sup>rd</sup> person is “I” (self is last). In other words, first is Christ-esteem (Gal 2:20), then other-esteem (Phil 2:3), and last of all self-esteem (Matt 16:24).

The Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme example of humility and selflessness. Christ became man by taking on human flesh. He gave up His *shekinah* glory in order to be clothed with flesh and blood. The second person of the Holy Trinity voluntarily unseated Himself from His divine throne, and disrobed Himself of His divine glory to become a slave and a human being, thereby becoming the *Theanthropos*—the God-Man—to save His people from their sins by His work on the cross. The victory Christ achieved through His Cross-work saw Him being exalted to His original position of kingship and glory, and more.

God the Father and God the Son worked together in unity. God the Son served mankind with humility. Let us follow the divine pattern of Biblical unity and Christian humility in our labour for the Lord, knowing that our labour in the Lord and for the Lord will never be in vain (1 Cor 15:58).

## “Lovest Thou Me More Than These?”

*Janey Chua*

My son, Way, started learning the game of chess when he was 5 years old. Very soon, he became very good at the game. The trainers in his chess school started enrolling him in tournaments in which he performed very well for his age group. So, when he entered elementary school at 6+, he was accepted into his school’s chess club. Way won numerous trophies for his school and qualified for the National Junior Training Squad. Naturally, the school was very proud of him.

At the beginning of 2005, I felt convicted when I was doing my quiet time and God’s words spoke loudly and clearly to me. “Lovest thou me more than these?” My heart felt burdened and I knew instantly what it meant. “Do I love the fame and glory in every of Way’s tournament wins, or do I love the LORD more?”

Most of the chess tournaments here in Singapore (90%) falls on a Sunday. Although Way and myself were forbidden to attend church then (my husband being an unbeliever), we felt convicted each time Way plays a tournament on the Lord’s Day.

One day, I asked Way if he was willing to give up chess for God, quoting the Bible verse, “Lovest thou me more than these?” I told him that I do not feel right to let him play on Sunday even if we are not allowed to go to church. God has said in His 4<sup>th</sup> commandment, “Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.” I was pleasantly surprised when Way said, “Yes.” And shared that he, too, felt very uncomfortable each time he plays tournaments on Sunday.

Our decision triggered a chain reaction. The school had written out a check to sponsor Way for the ASEAN Age Group tournament in Pattaya that year. However, many of the training sessions were scheduled on Sunday, including the tournament in

Pattaya. We had to tell the school that Way will not be going for this tournament. Naturally, the teachers in charge were upset and disappointed. The next thing I did was to pull Way out from the school team’s tournament which falls on a Sunday the same year. The teacher was so upset that he withdrew the entire team from the tournament.

Last year, the teacher pleaded with me to let Way play in the tournament, citing that it was his responsibility being a member of the chess club. We had no choice but to agree. Although God was merciful, we felt guilt-stricken as for the past many years, the school teams’ tournament always falls on a Sunday. We also negotiated with the school that Way will only play 2 tournaments each year, namely, the National School’s Individual and National School’s Team, in which they gladly agreed.

This year, we prayed. On 30<sup>th</sup> July, these were my exact words, “Father, I seek Thy help and guidance once again. There will be a school teams’ tournament on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Sabbath Day. My heart is in turmoil. What should I do? Help me to make a decision in obedience to Thee, O LORD! Help me not to compromise but to trust in Thy deliverance. May Thy will be done and not mine.” (As I often have difficulty to find an opportunity to pray because my husband works from home, I have a habit of writing down my prayers.)

On 1<sup>st</sup> August, when I logged on the tournament website, I had no words except, “Thank You, Lord!” The tournament date had been changed to 7<sup>th</sup> September, Friday. O GOD, how great Thou art! The LORD has delivered us. Way is able to fulfill his CCA requirement and keep the Sabbath. God is good and His mercies endureth forever! All praise and glory to God Almighty!

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## True Life’s Fellowship with Bible For Today

How thrilled Mrs Waite and I were when

we received the good news about your most generous love gift to our Bible For Today ministry. Please thank each of the brethren whose heart was moved to do this great act. Though we are Baptist and you are Bible Presbyterians, we share the strong confidence in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Words underlying our King James Bible and in our King James Bible as well. We have a union in the things of our Saviour that denominational titles cannot spoil.

Please greet Dr Timothy Tow, Dr S H Tow, Dr Quek, and our other friends there in Singapore. Please convey our gratitude to all who made this love gift possible.

Yours for God’s Words,

*Pastor D.A. Waite*  
*Director, The Bible for Today*  
*President, The Dean Burgon Society*  
*August 8, 2007*

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## Greetings from Kenya

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Receive much greetings from me here in Kenya. I arrived safely and met my family well because God was their protector and provider. I praise the Lord for that open door to study at FEBC. It was the Lord’s doing and I thank Him for using True Life Church to pay for all my expenses while there. Your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I have been visiting our churches since then. Lord willing, next year I will begin teaching at my former Bible Institute in Nairobi (Gospel Furthering Fellowship). Will appreciate your prayers for it had been closed for some time for lack of teachers. Pray for God’s wisdom that He will enable me in this new task. Pray for new students and a teacher.

You are welcome some day to come and see what the Lord is doing. Thanks. God bless.

*Philip Kipsaat Lagat*  
*August 29, 2007*

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 10 – 16, 2007)		
MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 6</i> <i>Room 602, Paterson Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class (Room 601)
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Koa Keng Woo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service
<b>Mon and Thu night classes</b> are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road. <b>Young People's Fellowship Meeting</b> will be held this Sat (Sep 15, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Is His Way My Way (Prov 14:12)?" by Dn Tan Beng Lee. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715. <b>FCM Combined Meeting</b> at Calvary Tengah BPC, on <u>Sep 28, 07</u> , 6.30 pm (dinner). Topic: "Only One Life, T'will Soon be Past, Only What is Done for Christ will Last." Speaker: Dennis Kablingue. Contact Herbert at 94377715 for details.		

by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess 4:15-18). The Holy Spirit is the Comforter and He uses God's Word to comfort us and fill our hearts with hope in Christ. If such be the case, then would you and I praise God's Word or question God's Word?

### Conclusion

Our Lord Jesus says, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS	
<b>General Offerings:</b> \$9,933 <b>Designated Offerings:</b> <i>Rev Tow</i> \$400; <i>Rev Ronny Khoo</i> \$300; <i>Sopheak (FEBC)</i> \$200; <i>Wendy Teng</i> \$100; <i>FEBC Scholarship</i> \$400 <b>Total General and Designated Offerings:</b> \$11,333 <b>Church Building Fund \$160 Total:</b> \$625,556.27	
Sunday School Offering: \$291.00	
<b>Verse for the Week:</b> <i>A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. Prov 15:18</i>	
<b>Korean Worship Service</b> is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503). <b>Adults' Sunday School Class</b> by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. <b>Infant Baptism at Church Anniversary, Oct 7, 07.</b> Please register with Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. <b>There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch</b> held at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, <u>Oct 7, 07</u> , 12.30 pm. The subsidised rate for members and regular worshippers is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet (age 11 years and under). For non-members, it is \$22. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion. <b>Sis Chew Yiwei</b> would like to thank all True Lifers who attended the vigil service of her late mother during her recent bereavement. <b>Pray for Pastor Tow's</b> good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.	

man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (Matt 7:24-25). It is wise to hear and do God's Word. The more we hear and do God's Word, the firmer the foundation we will have. The psalmist highly values God's Word, "*The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver*" (Ps 119:72). Many people nowadays ignore God's Word. They rather seek wealth. They fail to see that it is not wise to gain the whole world only to lose their soul! God's Word is truth and able to make us free. God's Word can transform our lives, regenerate us and sanctify us. God's Word gives us life, faith, wisdom, victory, guidance, comfort and hope, then shall you and I praise God's Word or question God's Word? God has magnified His Word above all His name, and David praised God's Word. Amen.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. IV No. 50**

**9 September 2007**

### "BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 87
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	2 Tim 3
Hymn	No. 256
Announcements	
Special Number	Sarawak Missions Team
Offering & Hymn	No. 333
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Matt 5:17-19
Sermon	<i>Mistakes in the Bible?</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 398 ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> )
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

### In God Will I Praise His Word

(Message delivered by Rev Nguyen Gia Hien at True Life BPC on May 13, 2007)

"In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me" (Ps 56:10-11).

The Bible tells us that God has magnified His Word above all His name (Ps 138:2). And here David repeats three times that he praises God's Word (vv 4, 10). It is sad that nowadays, many so-called Christian leaders and members do not honour nor praise God's Word. Instead of praising God's Word, they arrogantly question, criticize, cast doubt on God's Word, which God has magnified and David praised! How about you and me? Do we magnify and praise God's Word?

Psalm 56 is the prayer and praise of David to the Lord after he ran away from King Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath (1 Sam 21:10). When the servants of Achish reminded him of the song that people sang one to another, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands,"

David knew that he was recognised, so he was so afraid that he changed his behaviour like a mad man. After this David escaped to the cave of Adullam. David cried unto the Lord for His mercy and His deliverance, praying, "*Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me. Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High*" (vv 1-2); "*Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul*" (vv 5-6). Despite the dangers and difficulties surrounding him, David could still praise God's Word and trust in Him, who gave him peace and assurance, "*What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee... I will not fear what flesh can do unto me... I will not be afraid what man can do unto me*" (vv 3-4, 11). David could praise God's Word and trust in Him, who gave him comfort, "*Thou tellest (notice/regard) my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?*" (v 8). David could praise God's Word and trust in Him, who gave him victory over his enemies, "*When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me*" (v 9). David could praise God's Word and trust in Him, who gave him deliverance and hope, "*For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?*" (v 13) David



praised the Lord for His protection, comfort, and deliverance, as he had promised or vowed to do, *“Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee”* (v 12).

David could praise God’s Word by God’s grace and strength. Three times he said, *“In God”* or *“in the Lord.”* Surely, without the Lord, we can do nothing, even to praise His Word, as the Lord says, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing”* (John 15:5).

Nowadays, thank God that we have the complete and perfect Word of God in our hands, shall we not say like David, *“In God will I praise His Word, in the Lord will I praise His Word”*? What are the blessings we can get from God’s Word?

### **God’s Word Is Truth**

God’s Word is truth (John 17:17), and the truth shall make us free, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:32). Through God’s Word we know the truth about God and man and God’s salvation for mankind. Through God’s Word, we know that God is our Creator and that we are created in his image and that He is Spirit (John 4:24) and that He expects us to worship Him in spirit and in truth, then we shall be free from worshipping idols, statues, images or pictures. Through God’s Word we know the truth that God is sovereign and that He is taking care of us and is able to make all things work together for good to those who love Him (Rom 8:28). Thus, we shall not fear any “bad luck” under the shadow of superstitions. Through God’s Word we know the truth of God’s love and His salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith alone, and we can rest in His Word and shall not rely on our good works or anything else to be saved, then we shall be free from condemnation in Hell. The more we know God’s Word, the more liberty in Christ we enjoy, then, would you and I praise God’s Word or question God’s Word?

### **God’s Word Regenerates and Sanctifies Believers**

We are regenerated by God’s Word, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth*

*and abideth for ever”* (1 Peter 1:23). We are also sanctified by God’s Word, *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”* (John 17:17). The Holy Spirit uses God’s Word to show us our sins, convict us of our sins, then help us cry for cleansing and deliverance from sins. The Holy Spirit also helps us to dedicate our lives to the Lord, separated unto the Lord for His use and glory. Shall we not humbly submit ourselves to God’s Word so that the Holy Spirit may freely perform His work of regeneration and sanctification in our lives? *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Tim 3:16-17). God’s Word can transform our lives and make us perfect, then would you and I praise God’s Word or question God’s Word?

### **God’s Word Gives Life and Faith**

Our Lord Jesus says, *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”* (John 6:63): God’s Word is our life. Our Lord Jesus Christ lives by God’s Word, saying, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4): God’s Word is our spiritual food. *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”* (1 Peter 2:2): we grow in God’s grace and knowledge by God’s Word. *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom 10:17): God’s Word is the foundation of our faith. Nowadays, many people like listening to interesting stories instead of God’s truth (2 Tim 4:4), and they say that they feel good, comfortable and touched. However, the Holy Spirit uses only God’s Word to transform sinners into saints in Christ. The more we read, meditate and keep God’s Word, the more we grow in His grace and knowledge and are sanctified, then would you and I praise God’s Word or question God’s Word?

### **God’s Word Gives Wisdom**

God’s Word is able to make us wise, *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy*

*scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (2 Tim 3:15); *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom”* (Col 3:16); *“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”* (Ps 19:7); *“Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies:”* (Ps 119:98); *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy”* (Jas 3:17). God’s Word is able to make us wise, then would you and I praise the Lord or question His Word?

### **God’s Word Gives Victory**

The apostle John wrote, *“I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one”* (1 John 2:14). We are to use the Sword of the Holy Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph 6:17) to resist the Devil. Our Lord Jesus defeated Satan by God’s Word; we have to do the same. When we face the attack of Satan against the inspired and preserved Word of God, we just quote God’s Word, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”* (2 Tim 3:16); *“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever”* (Ps 12:6-7); *“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”* (Matt 5:18); *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matt 24:35). When Satan tempts us to sin by ungodly friends, programs, videos, articles, websites, etc., we quote, *“Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”* (1 Peter 1:16). When Satan tempts us with the glory and pleasures of the world, we quote, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any*

*man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”* (1 John 2:15-17). When Satan discourages us to give up, we quote, *“be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”* (Rev 2:10), and so forth. It is God’s Word that gives us the victory, then would we praise God’s Word or question God’s Word?

### **God’s Word Gives Guidance**

*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Ps 119:105). Walking in this world of sin and darkness, we will not know where we are walking without the light of God’s Word, and surely we shall stumble and fall. *“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”* (Prov 3:6). The Holy Spirit uses God’s Word to guide us and help us know and do God’s will, then would you and I praise God’s Word or question God’s Word?

### **God’s Word Gives Comfort and Hope**

We are truly comforted by God’s Word, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”* (Rom 15:4), and *“This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me”* (Ps 119:50). We are surely comforted by Christ’s love in all situations. There was once when I was in distress and disappointed, but I was touched to tears by these words, *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom 8:35, 37-39). How can we comfort ourselves when we lose our loved one, or how can we comfort others when they lose their loved one? It is through God’s Word alone, *“For this we say unto you*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 17 – 23, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class (Room 601)
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Stephen Khoo) Korean Worship Service Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Worship Service

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (Sep 22, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**FCM Combined Meeting** at Calvary Tengah BPC, on Sep 28, 07, 6.30 pm (dinner). Topic: "Only One Life, T'will Soon be Past, Only What is Done for Christ will Last." Speaker: Dennis Kabingue. Contact Herbert at 94377715 for details.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$8,799; AUD200; RM10  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Prabhudas Koshy* \$100; *Bible Witness Ministry* \$150; *Gethsemane BPC workers* \$200; *Eileen Chee (FEBC)* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$1,000, \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$100  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
 S\$10,749; AUD200; RM10  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,700, \$500, \$200, \$80  
**Total:** \$628,036.27

Sunday School Offering: \$346.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain. Prov 15:19*

**Korean Worship Service** is held at the RELC, Level 5, Chancery Room (#503).

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Infant Baptism at Church Anniversary, Oct 7, 07.** Please register with Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo.

**There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch** held at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, Oct 7, 07, 12.30 pm. The subsidised rate for members and regular worshippers is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet (age 11 years and under). For non-members, it is \$22. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

*Vol. IV No. 51*

*16 September 2007*

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 62
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 118
Hymn	No. 340
Announcements	
Special Number	Mrs Koa
Offering & Hymn	No. 58
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Matt 8:23-27
Sermon	<i>What Would You Do When in Distress?</i> (Rev Koa Keng Woo)
Closing Hymn	No. 339
Benediction	Rev Koa Keng Woo

## True Lifers in Sarawak

*Ow Kuan Tai*

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007, God led 19 True Lifers and a sister from Calvary Pandan to Sarawak for a six-day mission trip. The purpose of the trip was to strengthen and encourage our evangelist Marilyn Nanta (an FEBC alumna), and the brethren in Kuching.

On the Lord's Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, the team worshipped at SIB Ebenezer, Demak Laut (Sidang Injil Borneo—Evangelical Church of Borneo). The church meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of a block of shop-houses in an industrial estate. This shop-house church is simple, and seats about 100–120 worshippers. The church consists of an evangelist, namely Marilyn herself, an elder, and members belonging to the Iban tribe.

Samy, the chairman, warmly introduced the team in both bahasa Iban and English. Brother Andrew Koh gave a testimony of his salvation; how he departed from idol worship and came to

the living and true God. Following this, the six-person choir sang a hymn of encouragement. They were later joined by the entire team with *Beri Tahu Yesus* (Tell it to Jesus). Evangelist Marilyn gave a short exhortation and prayer. Finally, the Elder of SIB Ebenezer too, shared his thanksgiving to God.

After the Service, there was an Agape Lunch. The members brought local, home-cooked food to share with the members and with us. Rice is their staple food eaten with dishes. The dishes were an Iban version of our Singapore food. For example, the curry was cooked with bean curd skin, chicken cut into small pieces, potato and coconut. We tasted their *Bak Ku Teh* too. The food was tasty and the fellowship warm.

After lunch was the Children's Sunday School. Sister Foong Mei together with sisters Cecilia and Kuan Tai, taught eight children three songs in English. As English was taught in school, the children were able to understand the songs and sang along. The Bible story of the paralytic man healed by Jesus in Luke 5:17-26 was taught in Malay and caught the attention of the children. They participated actively in answering all questions and memorizing the memory verse. During the art and craft time, which was prepared by sister Yee Fong, the children put in great effort to colour the pictures.



*Sarawak Mission Trip, Sep 1-6, 2007*

On Monday, the team visited the Sarawak Cultural Village located about an hour's drive from Kuching city. This Village is a 'live' portrayal of the rich cultural diversity in Sarawak. It is a 17½-acre sprawling expanse on the foothill of the legendary Mount Santubong fronting the South China Sea with seven authentic ethnic houses built around a man-made lake. The seven tribes are Bidayuh, Iban, Penan, Orang Ulu, Melanau, Malays and Chinese. The team went from one longhouse to another, 'experiencing' the living conditions of each individual tribe. We were 'treated' to a multi-cultural dance performance in their modern theatre. This visit helped us to better understand the different tribes found in Sarawak.

Dinner followed at a seafood restaurant close by. Dr Jeffrey Khoo, after ministering to the Kemaman and Calvary Jaya churches, joined the team at this time.

A special night meeting was held at SIB Ebenezer that night. Many of the church members rushed to church after work especially for this meeting. There was a testimony time by sister Foong Mei who praised God for calling her at a young age while studying in a Methodist school in Malaysia. The choir and the whole team presented song items. Dr Jeffrey Khoo taught the congregation what it meant to believe on Jesus Christ the Messiah, our Anointed Prophet, Priest and King. He encouraged everyone to continue following Jesus.

The most anticipated part of the trip came on Tuesday. We left the comfort of the hotel and embarked on an unknown journey to experience a one-night stay in the longhouse. It took the team about three hours by coach to get to Marau Kelasau Pantu. This is the hometown of Marilyn's mother. We met Marilyn's mother, relatives and the village headman. They were very hospitable towards us. They treated us with food before and after the worship. The worship was simple and short. We had a testimony time, song

presentation and exhortation on Romans 8:28. After this brief visit with Marilyn's relatives and friends in her kampong, we continued on our journey to the longhouse located at Kampong Semawa. We had a short crossing over the river by boat (sampan). The sampan could sit only four people at a time. After crossing the river, we had to walk for about 35-40 minutes before arriving at the longhouse. At this juncture, it started to rain. But by God's mercy we managed to 'brave' through the muddy, slippery road. Along the way, some of our shoes gave way; the sticky mud tore the soles of the shoes away. The fear of falling was in our minds.

When we arrived at the longhouse, fresh air, green plantation and hospitable people greeted us. According to evangelist Marilyn, most of the residents in this longhouse were Iban Christians. Worship services are held at the open verandah of the longhouse. This open verandah also served for community and domestic activities. There were about 12-14 'units' in this longhouse; one 'unit' housed one family, and they were inter-related. Two houses were 'given' to us for our overnight stay; one for the brothers and the other for the sisters. There was no electricity in the longhouse except for a generator, which operated from 6pm to 10pm nightly.

After settling down, the residents brought food and drinks to welcome us. We had a time of fellowship. It was a pity that the majority of us could not speak in Malay; otherwise we could learn more of their lives. After 'teatime', sister Foong Mei and some of the sisters led the children in a time of singing, Bible storytelling, and art and craft. Some brethren went to the nearby river for cleaning and washing.

We joined all the residents for dinner that night. Many had just returned from work and school. A night meeting was conducted at about 8pm. There was no need

for songbooks, song sheets or any visual aids; the villagers simply remembered the songs in their heart. A handful of the villagers owned Bibles. Most of them are illiterate. But they paid attention to the testimony by uncle Philip Goh, our song presentation and the sermon. Although the villagers always asked evangelist Marilyn to pray for their good health, when Dr Khoo asked whether they were afraid of death, most raised their hands to indicate that they were not afraid because they have Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Praise the Lord! A group of the villagers asked for prayer for various needs after the service was over. Medicine by courtesy of Dr Chan Kay Heem was then distributed.

Night time was kind of a challenge where we had to sleep on sleeping bags and endure the mosquitoes constantly buzzing in our ears, but we all survived!

When morning came, we trekked back towards the river. It was an easier walk as it was no longer raining. Friendly villagers greeted us as we were walking.

We arrived back at the hotel in the afternoon where we had a good bath and

rest. That night we went to a member's house for Home Fellowship. We had a wonderful time praising the Lord in song, in testimony by sister Alice Chng, and hearing the Word. There was an exchange of e-mail addresses between the Singapore brethren and members of the Kuching church.

The Lord was good to us. None of us fell sick, got injured or robbed or experienced any mishap. We saw God's providence, protection, preserving hand in Marilyn Nanta's ministry among the Iban Christians in the church and in the longhouse. Marilyn is also involved in a hospital ministry on Friday, visiting the blind school on Saturday, prayer meetings, fellowship meetings and home visitations, besides preaching in other longhouses. 'The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest' (Matt 9:37-38). If God is willing, the AF and the YPF would like to visit Sarawak next year. In closing please uphold evangelist Marilyn Nanta in prayer and for the salvation and growth of the Christians in this part of the world. Amen.



*Teaching children at the Iban Longhouse*



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 24 – 30, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School Catechism Class (Room 601)
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**FCM Combined Meeting** at Calvary Tengah BPC will be held this Fri (Sep 28, 07), 6.30 pm (dinner). Topic: "Only One Life, T'will Soon be Past, Only What is Done for Christ will Last." Speaker: Dennis Kabingue. Contact Herbert at 94377715 for details.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a Cottage Meeting at the home of Dn Charles Kan this Sat (Sep 29, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 18, Joo Seng Road, #08-163, Singapore 360018. Topic: "Useful Youthfulness" (1 Tim 4:12) by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For those requiring transport, please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 2.55 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Sep 29, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Bernard Tee's home at 11 Greenwood Lane, Singapore 287001. Tel: 67609069. Program: Bible Study on Philippians by Rev Stephen Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,048

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$500, \$200; *Brisbane BPC* \$200; *Gethsemane Care Ministry* \$200; *Dn Paul Cheng & family* \$100; *Transport for Kemaman mission* \$100; *Barnabas Yap* \$300; *Wendy Teng* \$300; *FEBC* \$2,000, \$370, \$280, \$200

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$11,798  
**Church Building Fund** \$500, \$460, \$250 **Total:** \$629,246.27

Sunday School Offering: \$492.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother. Prov 15:20*

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Infant Baptism at Church Anniversary, Oct 7, 07.** Please register with Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo.

**There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch** held at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, Oct 7, 07, 12.30 pm. The subsidised rate for members and regular worshippers is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet (age 11 years and under). For non-members, it is \$22. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

**Our deepest condolences** to Sis Mui Mui whose beloved mother passed away on Sep 16, 07.

**Sis Mui Mui** thanks Pastor & Mrs Tow, Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev & Mrs Ronny Khoo and True Lifers for their ministry to her beloved late mother during her life, and their visitation, words of comfort and gifts during her recent bereavement. "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" (Ps 27:13).

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 52

23 September 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 55
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Isaiah 43:1-21
Hymn	No. 354
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 119
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Psalms 23
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>The LORD is My Shepherd</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 344
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

## Our Sarawak Experience

*(Testimonies of Sarawak Mission Trip,*

*Sep 1-6, 07, by True Lifers)*

## Practical Faith

This short trip has helped me to understand the difficulties a missionary faces and the process of self-denial and self-sacrifice one has to go through to be a missionary. Indeed Psalm 127:1-2 reminds us of the need to work within the will of God. Unless one is truly called by God and sufficient grace is given, it will not be possible for one to endure hardships. We witnessed the testimony of our missionary, literally living out the Great Commission. She has shown us her faith by her works—practical faith. How I thank God for FEBC where students are grounded in sound doctrines and equipped to serve in the mission fields. Truly, this trip has reminded us that unless one is trained, one is not able to serve and minister efficiently. May the Lord teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. May we study God's Word diligently and serve Him with

humility and faithfulness till He comes.  
*Bee Heng*

## Simplicity of Life

What struck me was the simplicity of life. Though the Iban people in the villages and the longhouses are not endowed materially, they are joyful and contented. Their faith is simple and child-like, trusting fully in God's providence. Godliness with contentment is great gain. Though from different background and culture, the spirit of humility mingled with warm hospitality of the brethren there truly offers a foretaste of the fellowship in Heaven. We are challenged to re-evaluate our lives and shift our focus from temporal to eternal things, setting our affections on things above and not below. May God help us! *Yee Fong*

## Unforgettable

We visited the longhouse and the experience was an unforgettable one. The experience of crossing the river on a narrow sampan, trekking through rain on the muddy path for one hour, sitting on the floor for messages, meals and fellowship, sleeping with bugs and other insects buzzing at our ears, using kerosene oil lamps, and learning that the people bathe at the stagnant river, taught me to treasure what we have in Singapore. The people in the longhouse and the churches we went to were very sincere when they were singing and praying. In the longhouse, when Rev Jeffrey Khoo preached the message, they listened so intently that after the message, they still wanted him to pray for them. *Kezia Tay*



River crossing by sampan to Kg Semawa Longhouse

## Learning Experience

It was a learning experience for me. When we gave the children the presents, they were thankful and contented. Another thing was that when the children saw the Sunday School materials, they were so excited and they kept on saying “Sunday School, Sunday School.” They also enthusiastically answered the questions that were asked. We learnt about the culture of the Bidayuh people, the Iban people, the Penan people, the Orang Ulu people and the Melanau people. Auntie Marilyn is reaching out to the Iban people now. *Phoebe Tay*

## Foretaste of Heaven

It is wonderful to be able to worship with fellow brethren in Christ from another country. It is truly a foretaste of heaven! Thank God for the children there. We could see their eagerness to learn, and they put in much thought even when colouring! Thank God for the messages preached, and the testimonies shared. While fellowshiping with a sister there, I learnt that many years ago, her parents were jailed for 5 years, just because they wanted to convert to Christianity. This has made me appreciate and treasure the freedom of worship we have here in Singapore more. May we not take this for granted, but thank God and continue to pray for a good government. *Jacelyn Chng*

## Worshipping Together

Thank God for the work that sister Marilyn Nanta has done in establishing a church and evangelising to the people in the longhouses. I can really see in her, that it is only because of her love for the Lord that she is able to do all these. It was truly wonderful to be able to worship together with fellow brethren in Christ in a foreign country. Thank God for giving us salvation so rich and free, and for calling His children to do His work so that people in far-flung places can come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. *Joycelyn Chng*

## Christian Hospitality

It has been a wonderful experience and an eye-opener for me, especially the trip to the

longhouse in Kampong Semawa. I am especially encouraged by the Iban brethren and their families, for their warm fellowship, Christian love and hospitality. The children, in particular, were very receptive to the Gospel and participated earnestly in all the children's programme. Thank God for the bountiful blessings and joy, and a truly fruitful time with all the Christian brethren there. *Alice Chng*

## Humility

Thank God for the opportunity to understand, appreciate and experience firsthand the lesson on “humility, humility, humility” in the mission trip. I saw humility in how God's people had to walk for an hour in the rain through muddy ground to the longhouse without the comfort of modern transportation to spread the good news to the Iban people. I saw humility in the Iban people receiving God's words with childlike faith, seeing them acknowledging as they listen intently to the messages. What a joy to see the instant, without hesitation, resounding “No” to the question, “Are you afraid to die?” This is only because they have Christ in their hearts. Praise God for the Holy Spirit working in them, even the illiterate ones. How blessed are they in comparison to the highly educated people in our society who reject God, and a lesson to fellow Christians who say the Bible has mistakes. *Steve Chng*

## Hard Work

Thank God for the chance to witness Marilyn Nanta's ministries and her hard work in Sarawak! God has sustained the elderly, young ones and the rest of us during our journey through rough terrain. Truly, I can see our presence there greatly encouraged our fellow brethren. It was very sad to leave them but fret not! If God is willing, we plan to hold a VBS for the blind Christian orphans and the children at the longhouses next year end. If God moves your heart, be sure to join us! *Andrew Koh*

## Spiritually Refreshing

This mission trip to Sarawak is an eye-

opener and a spiritually refreshing time for me. I am touched by the way the people in the longhouse live, the hospitality of the natives, and the work wrought by God through His missionary, Marilyn Nanta. The messages by Dr Khoo were short and poignant, and a good reminder for myself. *Cecilia Lee*

## God is in Control

I thank God for the opportunity to serve in the choir and in this trip. Many things offered by the people there have brought me to shame. Though little they had, they sacrificed for the love of Christ. The journey wasn't smooth but God is still in control. Thank God for journey mercies, good health and strength, and for peaceful flight back. *Samuel Goh*

## Warm and True

The labour of love by Marilyn Nanta was indeed very heart-warming. Seeing Marilyn's trust in the Lord and her zeal in bringing God's Word to the Iban people through dangerous and lonely mountainous roads all alone, I am really ashamed of my non-active Christian life. The people we befriended are simple, united, friendly and trusting in God. Their smiles and welcome are warm and true. They are self-

sufficient and yearn only for the Word of God. *Rosaleen Cheong*

## Mutual Edification

“Comfort yourselves together, and edify one another” (1 Thess 5:11), and “let each esteem other better than themselves” (Phil 2:3). With these words in my heart, I went on my first mission trip not knowing what I can do or how I can help. However, I soon realised that despite the language obstacle, our brethren in Kuching were much encouraged simply by our presence, worshipping and praying with them, and having sweet fellowship in the Lord. The spiritual encouragement and edification was not one way but mutual. *Edward Wong*

## In My Heart Forever

I thank the Lord for granting me this blessed opportunity to be a part of this missionary trip to Kuching, Sarawak. The love and warmth showed to us by our beloved brethren will always remain in my heart forever. I will always remember them in spirit. I am looking forward to meeting them in heaven with our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Philip Goh*



*Marau Kelasau Pantu Church (SIB),  
the home church of Evangelist Marilyn Nanta (centre, wearing hat).*



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 1 – 7, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	Calvin's Institutes II (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	The Book of Numbers (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service (Rev Stephen Khoo)
		Korean Service (Room 503)
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Oct 3, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: Dr Chng Hiok Hee's home at 37 Hindhede Walk, #03-03, Southaven II, Singapore 587970. Program: Bible Study on James by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Tan Tong Hai this Fri (Oct 5, 07) at 8 pm. Address: 151 Duchess Avenue, Singapore 269172. Tel: 64646681.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Oct 6, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Philemon by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$6,945

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$152; *BCEA (Tanzania)* \$1,000; *Samuel Kwong (FEBC)* \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$1,000, \$100; *FEBC* \$200

Total General and Designated Offerings:  
\$9,697

Church Building Fund \$880, \$100 Total:  
\$630,226.27

Sunday School Offering: \$348.00

**Verse for the Week:** *Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly. Prov 15:21*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at [http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm)

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 204 Petir Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service** next Sunday (Oct 7, 10.30 am) followed by thanksgiving lunch at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, 12.30 pm. Let us praise the Lord on this happy occasion. New Systematic Theology textbook (B-P) to be released. Come, and make sure of your copy!

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. IV No. 53

30 September 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 134
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 31
Hymn	No. 340
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 118
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Heb 11:1-6
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	Without Faith— Impossible to Please God (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 335
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Mistakes in the Bible?

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church, Sep 9, 07)

A young believer once asked his pastor this question, "Pastor, are there any mistakes in the Bible?" The pastor assured the young believer with what he claims to be an "honest" answer, "There are no mistakes in the Bible that should cause you any worry." Such an answer is hardly honest but the hissing of the old serpent, "Yea, hath God said?" (Gen 3:1).

As faithful believers, we affirm without doubt the Bible to be totally infallible and inerrant, our sole and supreme authority of faith and practice. We affirm the Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures and identify VPI and VPP Texts to be the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received Texts on which the Reformation Bible—the King James Bible—is based. But "what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God

without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." (Rom 3:3-4).

Unbelief of VPI and/or VPP has caused some to fall short of believing that the Bible is 100% perfect, without any mistake. "Where are the mistakes?" you ask. Let us look at a few of the so-called "mistakes," and with the logic of faith, the Christian who loves the Lord and His Word will see that they are not at all mistakes.

## Forty-two or Twenty-two?

Those who deny VPP believe that some words of God have been lost and remain lost leading to a "scribal error" view of the OT Scriptures. For instance, W Edward Glenny denies that God has perfectly preserved His Word so that no words have been lost. He says, "The evidence from the OT text suggests that such is not the case. *We might have lost a few words ...*" (One Bible Only?, p121). Based on his "lost words" view of the Bible, he was quick to point out "obvious discrepancies" in the OT like 2 Chronicles 22:2, and pontificates, "These obvious discrepancies in the KJV and the Hebrew manuscripts on which it is based show that none of them perfectly preserved the inspired autograph." (One Bible Only?, p115).

Now, know that 2 Chronicles 22:2 reads "forty-two" in the KJV. A number of the modern versions like the NASV, NIV, and ESV read "twenty-two" instead. So which is the original,



**Biblical Missions: FEBC book missiles shipped to theological students of other Bible colleges and seminaries (Matt 28:20a, "Teaching them to observe all things ...")**



inspired reading: “forty-two” (in KJV), or “twenty-two” (in NASV, NIV, and ESV)? In making such a textual decision, we must have a perfect standard, and that infallible and inerrant standard is the inspired and preserved Hebrew Scripture, and not any translation ancient or modern.

It is significant to note that every single Hebrew manuscript reads “forty-two” (*arebba'im wushetha'im*) in 2 Chronicles 22:2. There is no evidence of lost words—every word to the letter is preserved, and reads precisely as “forty-two” as accurately translated in the KJV. If every Hebrew manuscript reads “forty-two” in 2 Chronicles 22:2, then on what basis do the NASV, NIV, and ESV change it to “twenty-two”? They change “forty-two” to “twenty-two” on the basis of the Septuagint (LXX) which is a Greek version of the Hebrew Scripture just like the NIV is an English version of it. In other words, they use a version or translation to correct the original Hebrew text! This is “Ruckmanism” no less!

A godly approach is one that presupposes the present infallibility and inerrancy of God’s Word not only when it speaks on salvation, but also when it speaks on history, geography or science. “*Let God be true, but every man a liar*” (Rom 3:4). Such a godly approach to difficult passages seeks to compare (not correct) Scripture with Scripture. There are two possible solutions to the so-called “problem” or “error” in 2 Chronicles 22:2. “Forty-two” could be either (1) Ahaziah’s years counted from the beginning of the dynasty founded by Omri, or (2) the year in which Ahaziah was actually seated as king though anointed as one at “twenty-two” (2 Kgs 8:26). Whatever the answer may be, the truth and fact is: the inspired and preserved Hebrew reading in 2 Chronicles 22:2 is “forty-two” and not “twenty-two,” and no man has the right to change or correct God’s Word by “conjectural emendation,” taking heed to the serious warning not to add to or subtract from the Holy Scriptures (Rev 22:18-19).

### One Year or 30/40/... Years?

Now, let us look at the next text which is 1 Samuel 13:1 which the KJV translates as, “Saul

reigned one year.” But the other versions read quite differently. The NASV has, “Saul was *forty* years old when he began to reign;” the NIV has, “Saul was *thirty* years old when he became king;” and the RSV and ESV has, “Saul was ... years old when he began to reign.” Which of the above is correct? The only way whereby we can ascertain the correct reading is to go to the Hebrew Bible. The Hebrew Bible since day one reads *Ben-shanah Shaoul*, literally, “A son of a year (was) Saul,” or idiomatically, “Saul was a year old.”

Now, the difficulty is: How could Saul be only a year old when he began to reign? Scholars and translators who do not believe in the jot-and-tittle preservation of Scripture say that this is an actual discrepancy in the Hebrew Text which they attribute to a “scribal error.” This is why Michael Harding wrote, “[I]n 1 Samuel 13:1-2 the Masoretic Text states that Saul was one year of age (*ben-shanah*—literally “son of a year”) ... Some ancient Greek manuscripts [ie, translations or versions]... read “thirty years” instead of “one year,” ... I believe the original Hebrew text also reads “thirty,” even though *we do not currently possess a Hebrew manuscript with that reading.*” (*God’s Word in Our Hands*, pp360-361).

Harding and those like him who deny that God has preserved every jot and tittle of His inspired words (Matt 5:18) conclude that a word is lost and 1 Samuel 13:1 contains a “scribal error” even when there is no such error to begin with. Instead of attributing error to the translation (NASV, NIV, RSV, ESV), they rather fault the inspired and preserved Hebrew Text and treat it as an actual discrepancy even when there is absolutely none. This has caused many Bible believers to doubt God’s Word: Do we really have God’s infallible and inerrant Word in our hands? Many are indeed stumbled by such allegations of error in the Bible, and are questioning whether they can really trust the Scriptures at all if there is no such thing as a complete and perfect Word of God today.

It must be categorically stated that there is no error at all in the Hebrew Text and no mistake also in the KJV which translated 1

Samuel 13:1 accurately. So how do we explain 1 Samuel 13:1? A faithful explanation is offered by Matthew Poole who wrote, “[Saul] had now reigned one year, from his first election at Mizpeh, in which time these things were done, which are recorded in chap. xi., xii., to wit, peaceably, or righteously. Compare 2 Sam. ii.10.”

In other words, the year of Saul was calculated not from the time of his birth but from his *appointment as king*; “Saul was a year old *into his reign.*” This meaning is supported by the Geneva Bible which reads, “*Saul now had beene King one yeere.*” Rest assured, there is no mistake in the Hebrew Text and in the KJV here. God has indeed inspired and preserved His OT words perfectly so that we might have an infallible, inerrant OT Bible in our hands today.

### Nebuchadnezzar or Nebuchadrezzar?

These two names—Nebuchadnezzar and Nebuchadrezzar—are found in Jeremiah 29 verse 3 and verse 21 respectively to refer to the same king. Bible and Truth deniers who do not believe in VPI and/or VPP are quick to conclude that the Bible here is in error; they call it a spelling or a scribal error.

But we who believe in the present perfection and absolute authority of the Scriptures have always believed and defended the total inerrancy of Scripture, its VPI and VPP, based on the logic of faith. So, how do we explain the two spellings, one with an “n” and the other with an “r.” It is really a simple solution requiring childlike faith on God’s pure and perfect words (Matt 4:4, Rom 3:4, Heb 11:3, 6). The Bible being historically true and accurate would have us know that there were two ways of spelling the name of the Babylonian king. He could either be called Nebuchadnezzar or Nebuchadrezzar. It is significant to note that the switch from “r” to “n” is “not uncommon” in Semitic languages (eg, Benhadad and Barhadad). “Nebuchadnezzar” then, would be the Hebrew spelling, and “Nebuchadrezzar” the Aramaic spelling (re: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, sv, “Nebuchadnezzar,

Nebuchadrezzar”). A modern-day example would be Singapore (English) and Singapura (Malay)—both are correct spellings (not scribal errors) and refer to the same country.

### Big Fish or Whale?

There are those who fault KJV for calling the “fish” that swallowed Jonah a “whale” for a whale they say is no fish but mammal. Were the translators mistaken and not intelligent enough to know that a fish is no mammal?

We do not believe there is any translation mistake here. The technical or specific word for “fish” in the Greek is *ichthus*. But here in Matthew 12:40, the Greek word is not *ichthus* but *ketos* (the equivalent to the Hebrew *haddag*) which can mean either “a large fish” or “a huge sea creature.” A whale though a mammal and not technically a “fish” (*ichthus*) is nevertheless a sea creature and falls within the generic usage of *ketos*. Spiros Zodhiates commented, “Jon 1:17 tells us that God prepared a great fish. He, who can do anything, could have made the fish capable of swallowing Jonah, preserving him in its belly and then casting him out again alive. God does not need to be assisted by natural possibilities to perform a miracle. This term was in that day, as it is today, common parlance for *any kind of aquatic creature. Its non-technical usage would allow for a mammal such as a whale and would therefore contain no error.*” (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, sv “ketos.”). So, it is a misconception to think that the word *ketos* cannot refer to a sea mammal like the whale. It is important to know that the word *ketos* is a *general* word for *any kind of creature that lives in the sea*, whether fish, shark, dolphin, or whale. The context determines how the word is to be used, and the translation of *ketos* as “whale” in the KJV is entirely valid and accurate. Hence, no error in the Greek, and no error in the English translation, no error in God’s miraculous work, and no error in God’s infallible Word.

**We at True Life and FEBC affirm God’s forever infallible and inerrant, 100% inspired and 100% preserved words. There are no mistakes in the Bible!**

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 8 – 14, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	Calvin's Institutes II (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	The Book of Numbers (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Lord's Supper) (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a Visitation to the home of Mr and Mrs Eio Eng Hua this Sat (Oct 13, 07). Time: 3.30 pm. Address: No. 20 Irrawaddy Road, #08-02 Elegance View, Singapore 329550. For those requiring transport, please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 2.50 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Oct 13, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Calvin the Reformation Theologian" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$13,409; RM20

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$300, \$200; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$200; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$500, \$300, \$100, \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$300; *FEBC* \$1,000

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
S\$16,709; RM20

**Church Building Fund** \$500, \$100, \$100, \$50  
**Total:** \$630,976.27

Sunday School Offering: \$481.00

**Verse for the Week:** *Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established. Prov 15:22*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Anniversary Thanksgiving Lunch:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Lunch will be held at the Tang Court Cantonese Restaurant, RELC, after Worship Service today at 12.30 pm.

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

**Hot Off the Press!** Every member/visitor is entitled to a free copy of *Theology for Every Christian*. Additional copies may be purchased from the FEBC Bookroom, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063. [febcbkrm@febc.edu.sg](mailto:febcbkrm@febc.edu.sg).

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 1

7 October 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

**Fourth Anniversary Thanksgiving Service**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 21
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Matt 16:13-28
Hymn	No. 428

Baptism/Transfer of  
Membership  
Announcements  
Special Number

Children's Choir  
Young People's Fellowship  
FEBC Students  
Youth Choir  
Church Choir

Offering & Hymn	No. 286
Scripture Text	Psalms 100
Sermon	Magnify the LORD (Rev Stephen Khoo)

Closing Hymn	No. 398
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

Premillennial system of theology. Timothy Tow, the father of the Bible-Presbyterian Church and movement in Singapore and Southeast Asia, studied Buswell's *Theology* under Buswell himself at Faith Theological Seminary (1948-50), and Jeffrey Khoo in turn learned it from Tow at the Far Eastern Bible College (1985-9).

Besides Calvin and his *Institutes*, Buswell—our teacher and grand-teacher—has been our guide in the Reformed tradition, and we hereby acknowledge his contribution herein. But let it be known that the Holy Scriptures are the rock foundation of our studies, and the sole and supreme authority of our faith and practice.

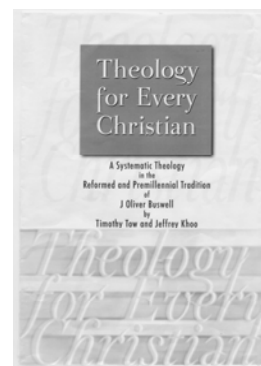
Satan hates God's Word, and from the beginning has tried to undermine it. This he did by demoralising our first parents, "Yea, hath God said?," and they succumbed. The theologians before us have done well in declaring the Bible to be verbally and plenary inspired, infallible and inerrant. This has confirmed our faith in the Scriptures.

But in order to spoil us again, Satan tries to erode the foundation of our faith by subtle new tactics. This he does by questioning the verbal and plenary preservation of the Holy Scriptures, casting doubt on the text of Holy Scripture through Westcott and Hort. He cunningly contrives rules for interpreting, yea, rather misinterpreting, Scripture which he hides under a big word "hermeneutics," and "historical criticism," and "textual criticism." Last but not least, he twists the meaning of

## THEOLOGY FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

### From the Preface

There are many textbooks on Christian theology but J Oliver Buswell's *Systematic Theology* published in 1962 by Zondervan is, as far as we know, the only one that expresses a Reformed and yet Pro-Israel Premillennial system of theology.



The Bible Presbyterian Church as founded by Carl McIntire in 1937 is the ecclesiastical representative of the Reformed and Pro-Israel



True Life BPC Catechism Class

Scripture, right and left, by a new method of translation called “dynamic equivalence.” In order to unmask Satan’s masquerading, this book is not only didactic but also polemic, in obedience to the apostolic injunction, “that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

Reformed Theology is known for its emphasis on the sovereignty and faithfulness of God. On this account, this book does not shun to teach the special providence of God in preserving (1) the inspired words of the Holy Scriptures in the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus on which the Reformation Bible—the Authorised/King James Version—is based, (2) the Church universal comprising all the elect who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, and (3) the chosen nation of Israel which will see greatness when Christ returns to rule on this earth for a millennium.

Appreciation is hereby expressed to the Evangelical Theological Society for permission to reproduce herein Jeffrey Khoo’s paper—“Dispensational Premillennialism in Reformed Theology: The Contribution of J O Buswell to the Millennial Debate”—originally published in the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44 (2001): 697-717.

Our sincere thanks to the Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy—the editor of *Bible Witness*, and the staff of Bible Witness Media Ministry, for their kind assistance in getting this book ready for publication. If this book will accomplish the Pauline exhortation—“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim 2:2)—its publication will not have been made in vain.

*Timothy Tow and Jeffrey Khoo*  
*Singapore, 2007*

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**God’s Covenant Faithfulness**

*Dr Arthur Steele*

*(Abstract of the Message Delivered to the Bible  
Presbyterian Synod on August 5, 2007,  
Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA)*

David who praised God for His covenant faithfulness said in Psalm 105:8, “He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which

he commanded to a thousand generations.” In Psalm 100:5 David said, “*For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*” David here and in other quotations praises the faithfulness of God’s Word. Psalm 93:5, “*Thy testimonies are very sure.*” The Old Testament prophets received the Word of God as God’s words given not only to their generation but to all generations including our own today. Psalm 12:6, “*The words of the LORD are pure words;*” verse 7, “*Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*”

As a little boy, I well remember my father emphasizing to me “God means what He says.” My mother said that dad received the Lord as his Savior during a Billy Sunday Crusade in 1925, when I was 5 years old. As the first child of Swedish immigrants my father tended to be very European. His statements were not to be questioned. He would quote a Bible verse and then state with emphasis that “God means what He says.” So I learned very early to believe that GOD MEANS WHAT HE SAYS. I still do.

Later in life facing decisions and reactions, I tried to figure out why individuals do what they do and say what they say. God in His faithfulness to me caused me to be aware that in any circumstance that “God knows,” and that He knows every detail, every objective, and every thought about everything, including what anyone else is thinking. Our Covenant God is perfectly faithful, and He knows.

When God says everlasting life he means just that and all that it implies. For us there is no death. Acts 7:59-60. Remember the last words of Stephen as he was being stoned to death, “*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep,*” and was transported royally to heaven to be with the faithful Mediator of the everlasting Covenant of Grace.

God’s Covenant faithfulness is assured for every moment of our lives. David said in

Psalm 90:4, “*For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.*” And in verse 9, he adds these words, “*we spend our years as a tale that is told.*” James raises the question in James 4:14, “*For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*”

Prophets of old who served God well are each alive as we speak. God was faithful in reminding them that they would “be gathered together” with the company of the redeemed. As God said to Moses in Deuteronomy 32:50, “*And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people.*” God was faithful in assuring Abraham that in death he would “*go to thy fathers in peace*” (Gen 15:15). What a company of faithful ministers await our arrival. 1 Corinthians 2:9, 10 “*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*”

**A Heavenly Gift**

*Mike Tan Tze Chang*

Sharon and I were baptised 12 years ago on 22 October 1995 at Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (Chinese Service) by Pastor Qiu Feng Yuan. On 1 January 1997, Sharon and I were married in Life Church, solemnised by Pastor—Rev Dr Timothy Tow.

We worshipped and were blessed in the Chinese Service until a time when we thought Rev Dr Timothy Tow had retired, and someone else took over. We felt that the services somehow became very dry and not spiritual anymore. So we chose to worship the Lord in Calvary Pandan B-P Church at the evening services, although we did not transfer our membership.

**INFANT BAPTISM**

- 1. Tan Juhan  
s/o Mr and Mrs Tan Tze Chang

**BAPTISM**

- |                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2. Chng Yeow-Kong Jennifer | Homemaker     |
| 3. Tan Ming Wei            | Student       |
| 4. Tan Yoke Lin Tina       | Web Developer |
| 5. Wong Wei Jin Samuel     | Student       |
| 6. Xu Huiling Bernice      | Student       |

**TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 7. Jeyakaran T. Joseph    | Engineering Manager  |
| 8. Patricia Joseph        | Teacher              |
| 9. Tan Boon Kian Billy    | Manager              |
| 10. Loh Shufen Catherine  | Company Secretary    |
| 11. Tan Teng Yung Timothy | IT Consultant        |
| 12. Goh Lilian            | Financial Adviser    |
| 13. Tan Tze Chang Mike    | Project Officer      |
| 14. Zhu Siwen Sharon      | Wafer Fab Specialist |
| 15. Tan Weng Suan         | IT Manager           |
| 16. Tan Irene             | Homemaker            |
| 17. Tay Poh Wah Roland    | Manager              |
| 18. Chong Siew Yin Ruth   | Accounts Officer     |
| 19. Tay Hui Yi Esther     | Student              |

In the year 2004, my wife (who is Shanghainese) and I left to work overseas in China. We returned to Singapore in 2006 and attended the Calvary Pandan services again.

At the end of 2006, we came to know from Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew that Pastor Timothy Tow had started True Life B-P Church in his old age. We were moved to support the services held at RELC too. We thank God that He has preserved and blessed Rev Timothy Tow and all other faithful pastors who fully honour the Holy Word and our All-Powerful and Almighty God. I thank God that He continues to preserve the King James Bible at Calvary Pandan and True Life B-P Church even in these end-times.

On 22 July 2007, God has given my wife and me a heavenly gift after 10 years of marriage, our baby boy—Juhan—was born. Eight days later, it came to our mind that Juhan has to be baptised

This is our testimony and we wish for Juhan to be baptised on 7 October 2007, and at the same time, my wife and I could also transfer our membership from Life BPC to True Life BPC.



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 15 – 21, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>Calvin's Institutes II</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>The Book of Numbers</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Oct 20, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Am I a Backslider?" (Prov 14:14) by Rev Tan Kian Sing. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Combined True Life & Calvary Pandan YF Camp**, December 17-21, 2007 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Dr Jeffrey Khoo will speak on the theme "Are you on the Lord's Side?" Camp Fee: S\$140. Registration details will be announced soon. For enquiries, please contact Andrew Kan at 91598914.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$19,341; RM100  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$300; *Transport for Kemaman Mission* \$100; *Judah (FEBC)* \$50; *Molla (FEBC)* \$50; *Titus (FEBC)* \$50; *Rebecca (FEBC)* \$50; *Linda (FEBC)* \$50; *Fransiska (FEBC)* \$50; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$1,000; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$200

### Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$22,541; RM100  
**Church Building Fund** \$5,000, \$3,000, \$3,000, \$1,661, \$100, \$100, \$100, \$100 **Total:** \$644,037.27

Sunday School Offering: \$433.00

**Verse for the Week:** *A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it! Prov 15:23*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

**We extend our congratulations** to Mr and Mrs Wayne Koh on the birth of their daughter, Faith Koh on Oct 4, 07.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 2

14 October 2007

### "BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

Call to Worship	Rev Stephen Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 34
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 24
Hymn	No. 227
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 405
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Scripture Text	Romans 15:1-6
Sermon	<i>Pleasing One Another</i> (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy)
Closing Hymn	No. 398 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

## BAPTISMAL TESTIMONIES

### I Can Put My Trust in Him

As a small child, I had the opportunity to learn about Jesus as I attended a church kindergarten. Sometimes, I attended Sunday School with my mother's friend who was a Christian and the daughter was a close playmate of mine.

As I was growing up, I followed my mother's belief and her rituals of ancestor and idol worship. It was only when I was pregnant that I started reading the Bible. I had a very difficult pregnancy. One of my colleagues encouraged me to read the Bible and pray. My sister also encouraged me to pray and gave me the KJV Bible to read. Reading the Scriptures brought me peace and I found that I could cope with the changes brought about by the pregnancy much better.

When my daughter grew older and through my sister's encouragement, I began to attend church service but not regularly. Later, when True Life started at RELC, I started attending regularly. I read the Scriptures and pray. With the acceptance

of Christ, I find peace and confidence and I am able to accept the daily trials of life because I know God is there for me no matter what happens. He has His plan for my family and me. I can put my trust in Him. I also hope that my daughter will learn and grow in her faith and that she will always look to God for guidance.

I feel ready to be baptised and truly become God's disciple. Christ endured agony for people like me. He endured mental and physical torment so that those who trust in His sacrifice for sins might have health of mind and emotional freedom. He suffered for us on the cross so that those who trust in Him would never be separated from the love of God.

Jennifer Chng

### I Now Understand Many Things

Although I was born into a Christian family, I really could not deny the fact that I was not spiritually converted as I was unable to understand the Bible. I was often jealous of my younger brothers and was in constant conflict with them. I took many things for granted and was never a joyful person.

However as I grew older I tried to learn from the Bible. Things became much more different from the previous times when "church" in my heart was just a place to socialise and sing songs. Owing to the charismatic church I was going to, I thought that church was more of a place for play than for worship.

Christ has helped me a lot in my stay in Hong Kong. As I attended a Christian



**Catechumens and new members publicly declaring their faith at True Life's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 7, 07.**

Alliance Church in Hong Kong, which was also a small village church, I felt that I was really growing and realised the central importance of religion. In Hong Kong, we sang traditional songs, many of which were meaningful and encouraging for they were based on the theme of praise and faith. I began to join the adults' service and it was really an eye opener for me. I was able to find peace.

After four years staying and studying in Hong Kong, I came back to Singapore so as to regain my sense of identity as a Singaporean. I was determined to find a church that I felt would be suitable for me, not the charismatic church.

I came to know of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church through my aunt's friend, Auntie Jenny Kan. I joined the YPF (Young People's Fellowship) first and slowly joined the Sunday service and found it to be equally suitable for me. I am really glad that the Lord by His everlasting grace has led me into another level of maturity and I feel the need to get baptised, not only for the ceremony but especially for my faith.

After conversion, I now understand many things like how to look at things in the way God would want me to, and to grow in character. I believe that the catechism class would strengthen me in spirit and in truth. May my testimony glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Samuel Wong Wei Jin*

### **He Had Chosen Me**

Coming from a non-Christian family and having a keen interest in science, I have for the greater part of my life been fascinated by the discoveries of science and rejected God and religion. I believed that I could do anything I wanted and sinned as I wished. Science could not be wrong, I thought, but I was wrong. As I studied the Bible and learned from Sunday School and sermons, I have come to know that science is a human invention to measure what we make of the world. On the other hand, the Bible being the Word of God tells us the world as it is and more importantly about the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time when I was still struggling with my uncertainties and unbelief, several friends of mine invited me to their churches. Some of them used versions other than the KJV, some played pop/rock music and some were charismatic churches. I could not explain why I rejected those practices then, but now I know and I thank God that He brought me to True Life B-P Church. His plans unfolded and from the first time I attended the church, sister Jenny witnessed to me and eventually led me in my sinner's prayer when I had come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and accepted Him as my personal Saviour: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom 10:9). God has been most merciful and I am amazed and thankful that He had chosen me.

As I live the rest of my life as a child of God, I pray that my faith and my desire to walk on God's decreed path will never waver, to obey His words and commandments and to witness to family and friends. "I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness"—as long as the Lord abides with me. Amen.

*Tan Ming Wei*

### **My Life Has Changed**

I first heard about Jesus Christ and the Gospel story when I was a young child as my mother's friend brought my sister and me to church. However, I was too young to understand it and did not open my heart to the callings of our Lord. As I grew up, I was exposed to the teaching of Buddhism that man is born without sin. I began to reject the Christian belief that all men are born with sin. I did not feel that I needed a Saviour.

In 2003, a friend brought me to a charismatic church where members prayed "in tongues." On one occasion, the pastor invited non-believers to step forward to receive his blessings and become a Christian. My friend urged me to do so, and I became a "Christian" just like that. After a couple more visits, I still

could not pray properly "in tongues" and felt depressed. Thinking that I was not good enough to become a Christian I stopped attending the church. However, I continued reading the Bible that my friend gave me. I wanted to learn more about Christianity and knew that I needed a church. I started to attend the church near my home—Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church. Thank God for leading me to a Bible-believing church! Initially, I had doubts about my salvation and was not sure if I was a Christian yet. Thus, I approached a deacon of the church. He told me that "for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph 2:8), and that once saved, the believer is always saved. He led me through the salvation prayer. I felt an immense joy and relief.

Since then I knew that my life has changed. I have a trustable and loving God whom I can lean on at all times. I am thankful for everything that Jesus Christ has done for me. This year, I brought my friends to True Life B-P Church as it is closer to their homes. I am thankful that my friends decided to stay in this church and I have decided to stay too. I thank God for the opportunity to be baptised and to declare my Christian faith publicly. I pray that God would use me to witness to my family and friends, and in His time, they will come to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour too. Amen.

*Bernice Xu Huiling*

### **I Should Let Him Take Charge**

I came to know about Christ when I was young. My mother would bring me to Novena Church occasionally. Back then, Christ (to me) was perceived as someone who can protect me and would answer my prayers like any of the other "gods." I would pray with the rosary without really understanding what I was chanting.

Then in my teens, my sister brought me to Life B-P Church. That was the first time that I have listened to a sermon which made many references to the Bible. However, understanding the KJV was an uphill task. Being young, I was also fearful of attending

the Sunday School in an unfamiliar place. Eventually, I became disinterested and stopped attending church services.

Somehow, God has His way of speaking to me through my circles of Christian friends. They would invite me to their charismatic churches and share accounts of their walk with God. I attended the services. Every sermon was so moving. As a result, I "accepted" Christ umpteen times. But it never really went far after acceptance. I was uncomfortable because they spoke gibberish which they claimed to be tongues, and the Bible used was the NIV. That conflicted with what I have learned in Life B-P Church. So, I stopped my attendance.

As I entered the working force, life was hectic. I was working late hours. My walk with God took a back seat as a result. After working for more than seven years, I felt lost, frustrated and did not enjoy my work. I felt I had no purpose in life. That was when I started praying for His guidance and finally decided that I should let Him take charge of the situation.

I began attending Sunday Service at True Life B-P Church, and even took a theology class at FEBC, "The Book of Genesis," by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew, so that I could learn the "basics." The class was really enjoyable and explanations were clear and concise.

There was one sermon that has made a great impact on me. It was mentioned that we have to be patient for God's answers. Although God may not show us everything (our purpose) in one go, He will be there to guide us. Step by step, He will show us our purpose in this life as long as we are willing and obedient.

Over time, I felt the peace that I needed and was assured of my future. That was when I truly accepted Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord.

Since the proof of faith is obedience, I believe that baptism is the next step of obedience in my walk with God.

*Tina Tan Yoke Lin*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 22 – 28, 2007)

MON	7.30 pm	Calvin's Institutes II (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	The Book of Numbers (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Mon and Thu night classes** are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (Oct 27, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Oct 27, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Dr and Mrs Francis Lee's home at 35 Moonbeam Terrace, Singapore 277308. Tel: 64652272. Program: Bible Study on Philippians by Rev Stephen Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$11,373

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$200; *Rev. Koshy* \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$200; *FEBC* \$280, \$400, \$100; *FEBC Scholarships* \$100

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$12,903  
**Church Building Fund** \$150 **Total:** \$644,187.27

Sunday School Offering: \$346

**Verse for the Week:** *The way of life is above to the wise that he may depart from hell beneath. Prov 15:24*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Combined True Life & Calvary Pandan YF Camp**, December 17-21, 2007 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Dr Jeffrey Khoo will speak on the theme "Are you on the Lord's Side?" Camp Fee: \$140. For registration and enquiries, contact Andrew Kan at 91598914.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Oct 28, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). Order from Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

**At the Book Table:** Rev Dan Ebert's *Will Our Sons Defend the Faith?* Price: \$4.80.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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Vol. V No. 3

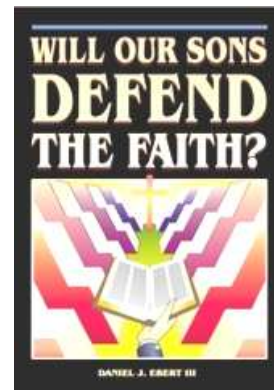
21 October 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 538
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Rev 22:1-21
Hymn	No. 221
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 541
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Scripture Text	Matthew 24:35-42
Sermon	<i>Days of Noah Coming</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 220
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

## Will Our B-P Sons Defend the Faith?

Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo



*Will Our Sons Defend the Faith?* was the title of a good book the Rev Dan Ebert III wrote and published by the Far Eastern Bible College in 1999. There is a real need today for Protestant sons to know the Historic Christian Faith, not just doctrinally but also

polemically, in the spirit of Jude 3, "*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*"

How we thank God for the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Reformation! How we thank God for the

brave and godly servants like Luther and Calvin whom the Lord had raised up to defend the Faith. Without the Light of the Reformation, we today would still be in Roman Catholic darkness and bondage.

Reformation is unending and ever continuing. We remember the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation Movement under Dr Carl McIntire. The Bible-Presbyterian (B-P) Church and all faithful fundamentalists fought hard and well against modernism, ecumenism, and neo-evangelicalism. It was a battle for the Bible, and the battle was fought and won. The doctrine of Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) has become the orthodox expression of our belief in a totally inerrant and infallible Scripture.

The battle for the Bible continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Now the battle concerns not just the doctrine of VPI, but also Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures. So-called "evangelicals" and "fundamentalists" today are denying that the Church has in her possession a perfect Bible. They claim that the Bible was only infallible and inerrant in the past when it was first given, but no longer infallible and inerrant today. God has inspired His words perfectly, but did not preserve His words likewise. They teach that Christians do not have all of God's words today, and even if they do, they cannot be absolutely sure where the inspired words are. There is no tangible Word of God that is infallible and inerrant in every way today. Every Hebrew text is impure, every Greek text



4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 2007



is impure, every translation is impure. There is simply no such thing as a perfect Bible, no such thing as a perfect Written Standard today. If that be the case, how can we be sure that Christianity is true? If the Bible today contains mistakes, how can we know for certain that our faith is sure? *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”* (Rom 10:17). But they insist that the Word of God is impure and imperfect today because God did not preserve His words infallibly by special providence. If we do not have an infallible and inerrant Scripture today, then is not our faith vain? Are we still not in our sins? Christians are a most miserable lot for sure (Ps 11:3)!

But our Protestant Confessions of Faith since the days of the Reformation affirm that our Scriptures have been “kept pure in all ages” (*Westminster Confession*, I:VIII). We have a perfect Bible today, and on the basis of the doctrine of the *special* providential preservation of God’s words in the original languages, Christians by the *logic of faith* can know for sure where the inspired words today are found or located, available and accessible (Heb 11:3, 6).

Despite the sure teaching of Scripture (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35), and the clear testimony of the Protestant and Reformed Confessions concerning the jot-and-tittle preservation of the Holy Scriptures, many who call themselves “Protestant” and “Reformed” say that the VPP of the Holy Scriptures is a “new doctrine.” They say that God did not promise He will preserve His words infallibly to the last letter and syllable. Those who teach the 100% perfection of the Bible today are branded as “heretics.” They accuse those who teach that the Bible is 100% perfect and without any mistakes as being “ungodly” and “unscholarly.” The godly and scholarly man today is the one who agrees with the so-called “facts” and “evidences” that the Bible today is only 85% or 90% or 99.9% for it contains some “insignificant mistakes,” and has “built-in redundancies.” If asked about whether the Bible today has mistakes or not, the best that Christians can say today is, “There are no mistakes in the Bible that should cause us any

worry.” According to deniers of the VPP of the Holy Scriptures, claiming “the Bible today has no mistakes whatsoever” is extreme and untenable.

*“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do”* (Ps 11:3)? Our foundations are not destroyed and can never be. May we—as Bible-Presbyterians—remember our Roots, our Book, our Lord, our Work, our Hope:

- (1) **Our Roots: The B-P Faith is rooted in the Protestant Reformation and in Biblical Fundamentalism.** Our roots tell us that we need to keep on *“earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”* (Jude 3). Calvin in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and McIntire in the 20<sup>th</sup> century had their own spiritual and doctrinal battles to fight, and we have ours. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is for the perfect preservation of the Holy Scriptures. The 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Reformation cry of *Sola Scriptura* (Scriptures Alone) must ring true even today as we seek to defend ...
- (2) **Our Book: The B-P Faith is anchored solely on the divinely inspired and supernaturally preserved Word of God.** The Bible in our hands today is not only 100% inspired but also 100% preserved (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 2 Tim 3:16, 1 Pet 1:23-25). The Bible today is in the 100% inspired and 100% preserved Hebrew and Greek Scriptures on which the Authorised KJV is based, and not in the corrupt Westcott and Hort text underlying the inferior modern English versions. There is only one Bible today (the inspired and preserved original language Bible), because we have only one Lord.
- (3) **Our Lord: The B-P Faith believes in a Saviour who is 100% God and 100% Man in one Person—Jesus Christ—the only living and true God and Saviour of the world.** Our Lord and Saviour who is all-powerful and all-knowing surely could not have allowed any of His inspired words (not just the doctrines) to

- be lost for He had promised to preserve them to the last iota (Matt 5:18). Our Lord can only tell the truth; He cannot lie (Rom 3:4). His promises are true and He has kept His words. If this be the case, then what is our duty?
- (4) **Our Work: The B-P Faith is a militant faith which separates from all forms of unbelief and apostasy.** It is the duty of every Christian to believe the Bible and defend the Bible wholeheartedly and courageously against the insidious attacks on the Scriptures by neo-evangelicalism which says the Bible is *imperfectly inspired* (no perfect Bible in the past), and the neo-deism which says the Bible is *imperfectly preserved* (no perfect Bible in the present). Confusion arises when no clear stand is taken, when lines are blurred. There is a vital need to take a separatist stand and a declared position *“for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Rev 1:9 cf 2 Cor 6:14-7:1, 2 Thess 3:16-14). We seek God’s approval, not man’s. The compromiser is the one who seeks the popular vote. But one with God is majority! It is no surprise that neo-fundamentalists today are prepared to abandon the good name of “Biblical fundamentalism” in favour of “paleo-evangelicalism” which is actually the old “neo-evangelicalism.”
  - (5) **Our Hope: The B-P Faith believes in the glorious promise that once a Christian is saved, he is always saved.** The God of the Christian Bible who has promised to preserve every one of His inspired Hebrew and Greek words has also promised to preserve every one of His saints who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ (John 10:27-29, Rom 8:28-39). We reject the mistaken Arminian view that a Christian can fall into and out of grace—saved at one moment, and unsaved the next. The Lord will never disown His children even when they are sometimes disobedient, *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth*

*every son whom he receiveth”* (Heb 12:6). Every Christian will surely get to heaven. The Holy Spirit who indwells every believer guarantees it (Eph 1:13-14).

We are confident that the foundations of our faith are sure and secure. Our foundations are none other than (1) the Living Word—our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is *“the same yesterday, today and for ever,”* and (2) the Written Word—the 100% inspired and 100% preserved Hebrew and Greek words of the Reformation Text that are incorruptible, unchangeable, and forever infallible and inerrant, that form the basis of all faithful translations of the Protestant Reformation.

As Bible-Presbyterians, we are **BIBLE first**, then Presbyterians. But certain pastors and presbyters today override the Bible and criticise the Bible they hold in their hands. The question and challenge of the hour remains: Will history repeat itself? Will our sons deny the faith, or will they defend the Faith? O Lord, save us from the apostasy to come!  
.....

***“As You Serve Him”***  
Dear Rev Timothy Tow and Dr Jeffrey Khoo,  
I thank God for the way He has used and enable you to bless us with a book (*Theology for Every Christian*) that is so useful, readable and most importantly, true to what God wants us to know regarding Him and His Holy Word. Our good Lord will surely multiply your labour of love and use it to enrich and edify many who seek to know Him. Praise the Lord!

I’m saddened to learn of the latest move against FEBC. Will continue to uphold you and faculty members in prayer. Be assured that God, who is sovereign and in complete control, will continue to sustain the College He has founded. Be strong in Him and in the Truth you are teaching. May His Name be glorified each step of the way.  
Lovingly and prayerfully in Him, *IL*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 29 – Nov 4, 2007)

THU		FEBC Exams Begin (No Mon & Thur night classes)
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
		Korean Service (Room 503)
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at [http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm)

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held at the home of Dr and Mrs Francis Lee this Fri (Nov 2, 07) at 8 pm. Address: 35 Moonbeam Terrace (off Holland Road), Singapore 277308. Tel: 64652272.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Nov 3, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Anger Management" by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$8,540  
**Designated Offerings:** Rev Tow \$200; Wendy Teng \$100; FEBC \$200, Brisbane BP Church \$200  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$9,180  
**Church Building Fund** \$100, \$200, \$200  
**Total:** \$644,687.27

Sunday School Offering: \$315

**Verse for the Week:** *The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow. Prov 15:25*

**Combined True Life & Calvary Pandan YF Camp**, December 17-21, 2007 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Dr Jeffrey Khoo will speak on the theme "Are you on the Lord's Side?" Camp Fee: \$140. Closing date of registration: Nov. 4, 2007 Contact Andrew Kan at 91598914 for enquiries.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship's** meeting for the month of November will be held on November 10, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. (instead of the last Saturday of November) at the home of Dn and Mrs Tan Beng Lee.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 206 Petir Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength, and for his teaching of Psalms at FEBC.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 4

28 October 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 46
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Heb 11:1-40
Hymn	No. 432
Announcements	
Special Item	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 339
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Acts 6:7
Sermon	No Bible, No Reformation (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 256
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

## The Story of the English Bible

Jeffrey Khoo

*"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom 10:17). No Bible, no Reformation! The Reformation fire was lit by the Light of God's Word. The Word of God which had been kept away from the people in the dark ages had to be put back into the hands of the people. The Lord used His servants like John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and finally the King James translators to put the Bible into the hands of the people so that they might know the truth. It was the truth that set the people free from the idolatry and superstition of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC).

## The Wycliffe Bible

John Wycliffe (1330-1384) was the most famous Oxford theologian of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. He was called "The morning star of the Reformation." He was the first to expose the heresies of the RCC. Wycliffe spoke against the RCC for teaching that salvation was by works, and for selling indulgences

("forgiveness tickets"). He believed the Scriptures to be the perfect Word of God and superior to the sayings of the Pope or the Church. He was told to stop teaching his personal convictions as truth. All who taught or defended Wycliffe's views were threatened with excommunication and execution. This threat did not deter Wycliffe from defending the faith. Gifted with a sharp pen, he continued to write in defence of the faith.

The RCC had kept the people in spiritual darkness and bondage. No one was allowed to read or even own the Bible. Only the priest could read and interpret the Bible for the people. One can imagine that the interpretations of Scripture would be twisted to fit the corrupt doctrines and practices of the Roman Church.

Wycliffe realised that the best way of freeing the people from the shackles of Rome was to let the people read the Bible for themselves. Wycliffe was the first to translate the whole Bible into English. The translation was done not from the Hebrew and Greek since Wycliffe knew no Hebrew nor Greek, but from the Latin Bible—the Vulgate. Although the translation was not as accurate as could be since it was not from the original languages, it was accurate enough for God's purpose to be fulfilled. At long last, the people could finally read for themselves the truth of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

It has to be noted that it was not easy

*Pastor Timothy Tow baptizing baby Juhan, son of Mr and Mrs Tan Tze Chang*



to mass produce the Bible in Wycliffe's day because the printing press was not invented yet. It would take about 10 months and cost 5000 chickens to produce just one copy of the Bible. How much would it cost to buy that many chickens today? Since it was so costly, the Bible was sold in parts or in pages. Some could only pay a few cents just to have the New Testament to read for just a day.

To spread the gospel truth, a group of pastors known as the Lollards used Wycliffe's translation to read and preach the Word to the common folk. For reading the Bible and preaching the gospel to the people, many of these Lollards were burned to death. Many copies of Wycliffe's Bible were also burned. Nevertheless, the production of Wycliffe's Bible could not be stopped, and the world today still has 200 copies of it. Faith is the victory, and the Bible is indestructible.

Wycliffe's Bible spearheaded the Reformation movement which led many to reject the falsehoods of the RCC. It goes without saying that the RCC hated Wycliffe intensely. Their hatred for him was so great that they did all they could to dishonour him at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his demise. Seeking to wipe out all memory of Wycliffe, the RCC dug up his bones, burned them, and cast his ashes into the River Swift. God would see to it that such a disgraceful act of wicked men would serve only to hasten the Reformation instead of deterring it. The more the Truth is opposed, the more it will flourish. The Truth cannot be snuffed out. As Luther later wrote, "*The body they may kill, his truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.*"

### The Tyndale Bible

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was a scholar of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures having studied at Oxford and Cambridge. Seeing how the priests were so ignorant of the Scriptures, and how the people were so lost without God's Word, he decided to translate the Scriptures into English from the original languages. He completed translating the NT in 1525. 15,000 copies were printed and distributed in England.

The Church of England then under the RCC refused to allow the people to read the English NT. The RCC burned every copy of Tyndale's Bible they could find. For translating the Scriptures, the RCC branded Tyndale a criminal. He was arrested and put in prison.

When in prison, Tyndale wrote this letter to the Marquis of Bergen which revealed how greatly he loved the Bible and how much he suffered for Christ: "*I believe, right worshipful, that you are not unaware of what may have been determined concerning me. Wherefore I beg your lordship, and that by the Lord Jesus, that if I am to remain here through the winter, you will request the commissary to have the kindness to send me, from the goods of mine which he has, a warmer cap; for I suffer greatly from cold in the head, am afflicted by a perpetual catarrh, which is much increased in this cell; a warmer coat also, for this which I have is very thin; a piece of cloth too to patch my leggings. My overcoat is worn out; my shirts are also worn out. He has a woollen shirt, if he will be good enough to send it. I have also with him leggings of thicker cloth to put on above; he has also warmer night caps. And I ask to be allowed to have a lamp in the evening; it is indeed wearisome sitting alone in the dark. But most of all I beg and beseech your clemency to be urgent with the commissary that he will kindly permit me to have the Hebrew bible, Hebrew grammar, and Hebrew dictionary, that I may pass the time in that study. In return may you obtain what you most desire, provided that it be consistent with the salvation of your soul. But if any other decision has been taken concerning me, to be carried out before winter, I will be patient, abiding by the will of God, to the glory of the grace of my Lord Jesus Christ, whose spirit (I pray) may ever direct your heart. Amen.*"

Tyndale was finally condemned to death. He was strangled and burned at the stake. Tyndale was ready to die for His Lord and His Truth: "*That light o'er all thy darkness, Rome, in triumph might arise; an exile freely I become, freely a sacrifice.*" His dying words were:

"*Lord, open the King of England's eyes.*"

### The King James Bible

The Lord heard Tyndale's prayer and opened the eyes of the King of England. King James I commissioned a new translation of the Bible which became known as the Authorised Version or the King James Version (KJV).

The KJV was built upon Tyndale's translation. It is an excellent translation of the Holy Scriptures because of good and godly translators who used the pure and preserved texts and not the corrupted texts, and they employed the formal equivalence (word for word) and not the dynamic equivalence (thought for thought) method of translation. There were a total of 57 translators. They were not only men of great learning but also of great piety. They were skilled in the biblical languages, and lived in a period when the English language was at its glorious height. It was a most providentially opportune time to produce the best translation of the Scriptures in the English tongue. They began their work in 1604 and completed it in 1611—a total of seven years.

The KJV was a fruit of God's extraordinary providence. Alexander McClure, in his biography of the KJ translators, wrote, "*As to the capability of those men, we may say again, that by the good Providence of God, their work was undertaken in a fortunate time. Not only had the English language, that singular compound, then ripened to its full perfection, but the study of Greek, and of the oriental tongues, ... had then be carried to a greater extent in England than ever before or since. ... it is confidently expected that the reader of these pages will yield to the conviction, that all the colleges of Great Britain and America, even in this proud day of boastings, could not bring together the same number of divines equally qualified by learning and piety for the great undertaking. Few indeed are the living names worthy to be enrolled with those mighty men. It would be impossible to convene out of any one Christian denomination, or out of all, a body of translators, on whom the whole*

*Christian community would bestow such confidence as is reposed upon that illustrious company, or who would prove themselves as deserving of such confidence*" (Translators Revived, 63-4).

How do the modern versions and their translators compare to the KJV and its translators? According to McClure, "*As to the Bible in its English form, it is safe to assume the impossibility of gathering a more competent body of translators, than those who did the work so well under King James's commission. ... And what has not been done by the most able and best qualified divines, is not likely to be done by obscure pedagogues, broken-down parsons, and sectaries of a single idea, and that a wrong one,—who, from different quarters, are talking big and loud of their 'amended,' 'improved,' and 'only correct' and reliable re-translations, and getting up 'American and Foreign Bible Unions' to print their sophomorical performances. How do such shallow adventurers appear along side of those venerable men ... The newly-risen versionists, with all their ambitious and pretentious vaunts are not worthy to 'carry satchels' after those masters of learning. Imagine our greenish contemporaries shut up with an Andrews, a Reynolds, a Ward, and a Bois, comparing notes on the meaning of the original Scriptures! It would soon be found, that all the aid of our moderns could render would be in snuffing the candles, ... Let tinkers stick to the baser metals; and heaven forefend that they should clout the vessels of the sanctuary with their clumsy patches*" (Translators Revived, 233-4).

The Bible scholars, theologians, and linguists of today fail to come even close to the calibre of scholarship and spirituality that we find in the King James translators. I sincerely doubt that the KJV will ever be surpassed by a superior translation. Let us therefore stick to the Reformation Bible, which is the good old, time-tested, and time-honoured Bible—the King James Bible.



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 5 – 11, 2007)

MON – FRI	FEBC Exams
WED 7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
FRI 7.00 pm	FEBC End-of-Term Thanksgiving Service
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship ( <i>Lord's Supper</i> ) (Rev Stephen Khoo)
	Korean Service (Room 503)
	Filipina Bible Study
	Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Nov 7, 07) at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Message: "Anna: A Thankful Witness" by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**There will be no Prayer Meeting** this Friday. All members are invited to attend the **FEBC End-of-Term Thanksgiving Service** this Friday (Nov 9, 07) at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, 7 pm. Dinner will be served at 6 pm.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Nov 10, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Our Place of Refuge (Prov 14:26)" by Dennis Kabingue. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Nov 10, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Biblical Separation" by Rev Tan Kian Sing. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$13,637

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$200; *Korean Worship Service* \$1,000, \$300; *Brisbane BPC* \$100; *BCEA Tanzania* \$10,000, \$4,000, \$300; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$100; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$300; *Albert (FEBC)* \$50; *Dominino (FEBC)* \$100; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$50; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *Usage of aircond for choir rehearsal* \$40; *FEBC Scholarship* \$2,000, \$400, \$100; *FEBC* \$400

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$33,377  
**Church Building Fund** \$2,000, \$500, \$500, \$160, \$50 **Total:** \$647,897.27

Sunday School Offering: \$333.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words. Prov 15:26*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**Combined True Life & Calvary Pandan YF Camp**, December 17-21, 2007 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Dr Jeffrey Khoo will speak on the theme "Are you on the Lord's Side?" Camp Fee: \$140. Closing date of registration: Today. Contact Andrew Kan at 91598914 for enquiries.

**Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Nov 10, 07) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Dn and Mrs Tan Beng Lee's home at Blk 103 Spottiswoode Park Road #08-104, Singapore 080103. Tel: 63271346. Message: "Glorify God for ye are bought with a price" by Eld William Seah. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo & family** will be leaving for the USA this Thu, Nov 8, 07 to visit family & friends: Dr Arthur Steele, Carl & Lily Dauber, Dr & Mrs DA Waite (Dean Burgon Society), Jonathan Tow, and Rev & Mrs James Sun. He will be back on Nov 22. Please pray for journey mercies.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 5

4 November 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 29
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 50
Hymn	No. 98
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 426
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Micah 6:1-8
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>The Divine Lawsuit</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 323
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

## No Bible, No Reformation

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at True Life BPC on Reformation Sunday, Oct 28, 07)

No Bible, no Reformation is my restatement of Acts 6:7, "*And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*"

Christianity is a religion of the Book—the Holy Bible—which tells us of the only way to heaven—the Lord Jesus Christ—who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one can get into heaven but by Him (John 14:6). Faith in Christ gets us to heaven, and this "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom 10:17).

There was a time when the Apostles of Jesus Christ were distracted from their spiritual duty because of the increasing responsibilities to meet the physical needs of the members in the church. It was not possible with their human limitations to do both tasks well. The Lord granted the Apostles the wisdom to see that this cannot go on, for "It is not

reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables" (v 2). For the church to prosper physically and spiritually, it was vital for the Apostles to give themselves "continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word" (v 4). Deacons ("servants") were then appointed to ensure that the physical needs of the people were taken care of so that the Apostles could concentrate on meeting their spiritual needs. When this was put in place, the Lord blessed the Church, for when there was an intensive, systematic teaching and learning of God's Word, the Church grew numerically and in maturity, and many of the priests who had once opposed the faith, now became disciples of Jesus Christ, having been convicted and corrected of their theological errors by the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word. We see then that when the Bible is promoted, the Church prospers.

Satan knows this very well—that without the Bible—the people would be blind and lost. Without the light of God's Word, people can only grope in darkness and lead a superstitious life that will bring only misery and ruin. That was the condition of the world and of the church before the Reformation. The people living in the dark ages, in Pre-Reformation days, were living in idolatrous superstition because the Bible was kept away from them. The Pope and the priests told the people that the Bible belonged only to them, and only they were permitted to read and interpret the Bible. The people were not allowed to read, study, or search the Scriptures for

*The FEBC Choir at True Life BPC's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 7, 07*



themselves. The Bible was a closed book, and not an open book. And the interpretations or misinterpretations of the Scriptures by the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) only sought to bind and blind the people in their superstitions and line the pockets of the clergy “whose god is their belly” (Phil 3:19), and “whose religion is their kitchen” (Calvin). Someone has rightly observed “The church, before the Reformation, was a church without the Bible. And a church without a Bible is as useless as a lighthouse without light, a candlestick without a candle, or a motorcar without an engine.” How true!

Praise the Lord for the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Reformation, without which we would still be in Roman Catholic bondage and idolatry, without which we would not have the Bible in our very own hands today. The Bible was a crucial and vital factor for the success of the Protestant Reformation. In the fullness of time, God put the Bible back into the hands of His people which led to the Reformation of His Church. The Word of God must be promoted for the Church to revive and reform.

### Preaching the Word

The Lord in the 12<sup>th</sup> century raised up the Waldenses to distribute Bibles and Gospel tracts to the common folk. The Waldenses were named after Peter Waldo, a rich businessman, who employed a priest to translate the Bible from Latin to French so that he could read it for himself. He got saved, and became very zealous to share with others the good news of salvation which is by grace through faith in Christ alone. Waldo organized a society called the “Poor Men of Lyons” (aka “Waldenses”). Waldo, following the example of Jesus, sent his evangelists out two by two. They worked as peddlers or hawkers selling knick knacks, but at the same time gave away Bible portions and gospel leaflets. Many found salvation. The RCC would have none of this, and in the Council of Valencia (1229) placed the Bible among the “Forbidden Books.” No one was allowed to read the Bible except the priests. The Waldenses were hunted down and many of them tortured and executed for their faith.

Besides the Waldenses, God also used a group of pastors known as the Lollards to spread the gospel truth in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Lollards used Wycliffe’s translation to read and preach the Word to the common folk. For reading the Bible and preaching the gospel to the people, many of these Lollards were burned to death by the RCC.

Although the RCC tried to exterminate the Waldenses and the Lollards, and burn the Bible, they did not succeed to destroy the pure and true Christian Faith as founded on God’s forever infallible and inerrant words, for the Lord had promised that His Church which is founded upon Himself and the Holy Scriptures cannot be destroyed (Matt 16:18). The existence of True Life BPC and many other Bible-believing churches all over the world testify to this truth.

### Translating the Word

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Lord raised up John Wycliffe to translate the Word. Wycliffe realised that the best way to free the people from the shackles of Rome was to let the people read the Bible for themselves. Wycliffe was the first to translate the whole Bible into English. The translation was done not from the Hebrew and Greek (Wycliffe knew no Hebrew nor Greek) but from the Latin Bible—the Vulgate. Although the translation was not as accurate as could be since it was not from the original languages, yet it was accurate enough for God’s purpose to be fulfilled. At long last, the people could read the Bible for themselves and find the way of salvation which is in Christ alone.

Wycliffe’s Bible spearheaded the Reformation movement which led many to reject the falsehoods of the RCC. It goes without saying that the RCC hated Wycliffe immensely. Their hatred for him was so great that they did all they could to dishonour him at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his demise. Seeking to wipe out all memory of Wycliffe, the RCC dug up his bones, burned them, and cast the ashes into the River Swift. God would see to it that such a disgraceful act of wicked men would serve only to hasten the Reformation

instead of deterring it. The more the Truth is opposed and oppressed, the more it will flourish and progress. The Truth cannot be snuffed out. As Luther later wrote, “The body they may kill, His truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.”

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was a scholar of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures having studied at Oxford and Cambridge. Seeing how the priests were so ignorant of the Scriptures, and how the people were so lost without God’s Word, he decided to translate the Scriptures into English from the original languages. He completed translating the NT in 1525. 15,000 copies were printed and distributed in England. The Church of England then under the RCC refused to allow the people to read the English NT. The Church burned every copy of Tyndale’s Bible they could find. For translating the Scriptures, the Church branded Tyndale a criminal. He was arrested and put in prison.

Tyndale was finally condemned to death. He was strangled and burned at the stake. Tyndale was ready to die for His Lord and His Truth: “That light o’er all thy darkness, Rome, in triumph might arise; an exile freely I become, freely a sacrifice.” His dying words were: “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.” The Lord heard Tyndale’s prayer. The eyes of the king were finally opened a decade later when England broke away from Rome. This led to the translation of the greatest English Bible ever produced—the Authorised Version or King James Bible of 1611 which has stood the test of time and blessed many millions all over the world for nearly 400 years, and is still well-loved and well-used today by Bible-believing Christians who are faithful to the good old paths of the Protestant Reformation, and reject the new and worldly paths of the modern versions which are based on corrupt and heretical texts.

### Printing the Word

By the providence of God, the printing press was invented in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The printing press was a catalyst for the Protestant Reformation, and the age of Biblical

enlightenment. Johann Gutenberg in 1440 invented the movable-type printing press. This meant that multiple copies of the Bible and gospel tracts could be printed easily and quickly, and put into the hands of the common folk. It is no surprise then that the first book to be published had to be the most important Book in the world—the Holy Bible. The Gutenberg Bible (in Latin) was the first book ever printed in Europe. 180 copies were printed and 50 have survived to this day.

Before the printing press, the Bible could only be reproduced painstakingly by handwriting, word by word, line by line, paragraph by paragraph, page by page. It was a most time consuming, labour intensive and financially expensive affair to produce a copy of the Bible manually. It would take about 10 months to produce just a copy. One copy would cost about 5000 chickens. Since it was so costly, the Bible was sold in parts or in pages. Some could only pay a few cents just to have the New Testament to read for just a day. But it was the Lord’s good will and purpose to have the Bible produced plentifully and cheaply so that not just the rich, but also the poor might possess and own a copy of it to read and to find salvation in Christ Jesus, the only Saviour of the world.

To date, over six billion copies of the Bible, and many more gospel tracts and pamphlets containing the words of God, have since been printed and distributed. And Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt 24:14).

There is no question that the Bible in the hands of the people was one important cause of the Reformation. The true light of God by the illumination of the Spirit shone into the hearts of His elect and saints, and they saw and understood the truth and the truth has made them free from the bondage of superstitious darkness and abominable idolatry of the RCC (John 8:32). **The Church was reborn and reformed. No information, no reformation! No Bible, no revival!**

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 12 – 18, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Quek Suan Yew) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at [http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm).

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Nov 17, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "A Heart For The Poor" by Rev Wee Eng Moh. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**The Burning Bush** (January 2008), a special edition containing the memoirs of Dr Arthur Steele ready for your collection at the book table.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$8,416

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew* \$2,000; *Truth BPC Cambodian Missions* \$1,500; *Albert (FEBC)* \$100; *John Saray (FEBC)* \$500, \$100; *Ponlok (FEBC)* \$100, \$50; *Rotha (FEBC)* \$500, \$100; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$500, \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$150, \$150; *FEBC* \$5,000, \$400

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$19,866

**Church Building Fund** \$2,000, \$460 **Total:** \$650,357.27

Sunday School Offering: \$301

**Verse for the Week:** *He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live. Prov 15:27*

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo & family** are now in the USA visiting family & friends: Today with Dr Arthur Steele at Suncoast BPC in Florida (Pastor: Dr McDonald). Next stop Ohio (Carl & Lily Dauber) and then Collingswood (Dr D A Waite & DBS) and NY (Jonathan Tow & Rev James Sun). Please pray for journey mercies.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 6

11 November 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 95
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 42 & 43
Hymn	No. 14
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 414
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Heb 11:32-40
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>Rewards – Now or Hereafter</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 189 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Stephen Khoo

## The Divine Lawsuit

(Message delivered by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at True Life Church on Nov 4, 07)

**Text:** Micah 6:1-8

*"Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD's controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel."* (Mic 6:2).

Lawsuits seem to be commonplace today, not just in the world but also in the church. You read of a Christian suing another Christian in 1 Corinthians 6 which earned a stern rebuke from the Apostle Paul, *"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law even before the unjust, and not before the saints? ... I speak to your shame"* (1 Cor 6:1, 5). We know of church members who have no respect nor regard for authority, and will even go to the extent of taking their pastor to court for daring to rebuke or discipline them for sin or error (cf. 1 Cor 5:2-6).

We hear of man suing man, but have you heard

of man suing God? Well, this happened not too long ago, on September 18, 2007 in the United States. Let me read an Associated Press report of this incredible thing: "State Sen. Ernie Chambers sued God last week ... Chambers says in his lawsuit that God has made terroristic threats against the senator and his constituents, inspired fear and caused 'widespread death, destruction and terrorization of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants. ... The Omaha senator ... often criticizes Christians, ... He's seeking a permanent injunction against the almighty."

We are truly living in the last days aren't we, when man has no fear for God whatsoever, just like in the days before the Flood when *"God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"* (Gen 6:5). God in His justice had to punish that world by a global deluge. Is not the time ripe for God to judge this world by a global blaze (2 Pet 3:7)?

In Micah 6:1-8, we find a God who is not only holy and just, but also patient and kind. In His righteousness, He issues a lawsuit against the people, but at the same time, offers to them salvation if they will repent of their sins, and be reconciled to Him.

## God's Complaint (6:1-2)

Apostasy and compromise were rampant in Israel in the days of the Prophet Micah (8<sup>th</sup> century BC). The people worshipped Jehovah by means of

## The Children's Choir at True Life BPC's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 7, 07





idols and foreign gods. The hearts of the people were dulled and hardened by sin, and they refused to hear the preaching of the prophets and considered themselves right in their own eyes.

Jehovah is the Righteous Judge. He issues a divine lawsuit which is called “the Lord’s controversy” (v 2). He summons His people to His law court. He has a complaint against Israel for the people have violated His laws and rebelled against Him.

The Lord calls upon the mountains and the hills to be His witnesses. God is not only a Judge here, He is also the Prosecutor. He calls the mountains and the hills to be His witnesses. The mountains and hills which have stood for generations have witnessed the many crimes of Israel against their God. Israel cannot run away from her sins. The mountains and hills do not forget and can bear witness to the fact that Israel has sinned against God. By using the mountains and hills to be witnesses God is indicting Israel for her iniquity and folly. God had repeatedly spoken to them by His servants the prophets, proving and reproving their sins, and calling them to repent, but they would not listen, even denied that they had sinned. By calling the inanimate mountains and hills to be His witnesses, God is in effect telling the Israelites: “The mountains and the rocks which do not have eyes and ears have more knowledge and understanding than you who are so utterly blinded and hardened by your own sinfulness and stupidity.”

God’s covenantal relationship with Israel is the reason for the lawsuit. The lawsuit here is not vengeful but loyal in nature. It is not meant to abrogate the covenant but to convict Israel of her waywardness.

God says, “*There is none righteous, no, not one: ... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” (Rom 3:10, 23). All of us stand guilty before God who is our Prosecutor and Judge. Unless we confess and repent of our sins, He will sentence us to the eternal damnation in the lake of fire. Although the God of the Bible is a God of holiness and justice, yet He is also patient and kind, and “is

*longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Pet 3:9). Unless there is true repentance, we cannot be saved from the fiery judgement to come. Of course, God takes no delight in doing this, and He pleads with sinners right now to be reconciled to Him and make peace with Him. “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9).

### **God’s Faithfulness (6:3-5)**

Having proved the people’s sinfulness, the Lord now reminds them of His faithfulness. He now speaks to them not as a Judge or Prosecutor but as a Father or Husband who loves His own. For instance, the term “my people” (vv 3, 5) is an endearing term indicating an intimate and familial relationship that God has with His people. He is their Covenant God and has always been faithful to His covenant promises.

When the Lord addresses the Israelites as “my people,” He is drawing the people back to the time of the Exodus. In Exodus 6:7, the Lord promised the Israelites, “*And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.*” The Lord not only delivered them out of bondage by a powerful hand against the might of Egypt, He also gave them His Word through Moses, Aaron and Miriam. He provided them with good and true prophets and priests, and protected them from wicked kings like Balak and false prophets like Balaam, from Shittim to Gilgal (i.e. before they entered and after they entered the promised land).

On account of His faithfulness and longsuffering towards His people, He now enquires of them what wrong He had done to deserve their treacherous attitude towards Him. He now offers them the opportunity to make public their allegations against Him. Of course, there was none, they had no excuse and no reason whatsoever to treat the Lord the way they did. The Lord Himself had done

no wrong whatsoever and was utterly blameless in all His ways with them. God was very good to them, but they returned His goodness with evil and wickedness.

The Israelites stood utterly guilty before God. Their treachery towards God was exposed through and through. Now that the Israelites have been proven guilty, is there any hope of forgiveness for them? There is hope and forgiveness only if they will repent of their sins.

### **God’s Salvation (6:6-8)**

Although God as Judge and Prosecutor has every right to condemn and destroy Israel, He chooses to offer a way out for her, so that she might be saved from her sins. The way out is not through rituals, ceremonies and sacrifices. God is not at all impressed with an outward show or display of religion or religiosity, but inward sincerity and sanctity of true faith and repentance. In 1 Samuel 15:22, God says, “*Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*”

Israel as a whole, and the people individually are now called upon to do that which is good. And the good involves performing these three duties: (1) to do justly, (2) to love mercy, and (3) to walk humbly before God. In other words, they were to believe and obey the Law and the Prophets, i.e. the Holy Scriptures. Jesus commands, “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets*” (Matt 22:37-40).

It is vital that we examine ourselves, our lives, to make sure that we are truly born again, that we have true faith. Many today go about like the Israelites, thinking they are saved just because they are born into a Christian family, or were baptised as infants. Know that water baptism simply does not save whether adult or infant, sprinkling or immersion; *only faith saves*. Although there is a profession of faith from such, there is no evidence of a possession of faith.

They may participate in all the activities of the church (attending the services and tithing their possessions, etc.), but there is no genuine conversion of the heart, and there is no godliness or Christlikeness in conduct and attitude. “*Faith without works is dead*” as James says (Jas 2:20). True faith begets true repentance; they are two sides of the same coin.

In order to be saved from God’s wrath and judgement to come, we need to repent of our sins. What is true repentance? Micah 6:1-8 teaches us that true repentance begins with an awareness of sin for we all stand guilty before God in His law court, and the whole creation is witness to our sin and rebellion against Him (vv 1-2). True repentance requires us to respond to the love of God in Christ Jesus, to believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and rose from the dead according to the Holy Scriptures (vv 3-5). Finally, true repentance demands a loving obedience to God’s Word leading to a changed life that is not just outward or superficial, but inward and spiritual (vv 6-8). “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel*” (Mark 1:15).

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### ***On Ministry of FEBC Graduate***

*(Email from Dr P Hoole, Sri Lanka)*

Yesterday, Sunday 28 Oct 07 was a blessed day. In both services VJ [Vijayenthiran, BTh 07] preached with power and clarity. We must be thankful to God He has raised men like him to serve the Lord.

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### ***Reformation Outreach in Brisbane***

*(Email from Rev Hien)*

Thank God for blessing our gathering tonight. We watched the video on Martin Luther (a gift from bro Herbert) as tomorrow is Reformation Sunday. Thank God that Jade and her husband Michael (a Roman Catholic) could come. We had an opportunity to talk with Jade’s husband, and he had a desire to know about the Reformation. He borrowed the DVD and a book on the Reformation.

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 19 – 25, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	4.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Mark Kim) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. The Sunday School Lessons are taped and available for free download at our website at [http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm).

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a combined Bible Study with Berean BPC this Sat (Nov 24, 07). Time: 4 pm. Venue: Berean BPC, 48A Foch Road, Singapore 209272. For those requiring transport, please meet at Lavender MRT at 3.15 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$6,083; USD20  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *YPF* \$100; *FCM* \$100; *Barnabas Yap* \$150; *Samuel Kwong (FEBC)* \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$337, \$350; *FEBC* \$400, \$330

**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
S\$8,100; USD20

**Church Building Fund** \$2,000, \$200, \$102, \$100, \$40, \$10 **Total:** \$652,809.27

**Sunday School Offering:** \$366

**Verse for the Week:** *The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. Prov 15:28*

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Nov 25, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo & family** are now in the USA visiting family & friends: This morning, he preaches at Bethany Christian Church, Old Westbury, NY (Pastor: Rev James Sun). Dr Khoo will be back on Thursday, Nov 22. Please pray for journey mercies.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 7

18 November 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Stephen Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 237
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 73
Hymn	No. 369
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 383
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Scripture Text	Psalm 66:1-20
Sermon	<i>Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven!</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
Closing Hymn	No. 37
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

## CESSATION OF THE SIGN GIFTS

*Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo*

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 is a most explicit passage on the cessation of the sign-gifts. Words of cessation, namely, "fail," "cease," "vanish away" are used. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

### Prophecies and Knowledge

Prophecies, tongues, and knowledge have ceased to exist. Before we deal with the cessation of tongues, let us deal with the cessation of prophecies and knowledge. Paul said that prophecies "shall fail," and knowledge "shall vanish away." The words "fail," and "vanish away" are the same word in Greek namely, *katargeo*, which is a very strong word for cessation. It basically means "to destroy" (cf. 1 Cor 15:24, 26). The word *katargeo* ("to destroy") is written in the

Greek passive. The passive voice indicates that something from the outside will cause prophecies and knowledge to cease. What is this external element? Verses 9-10 give us the answer: it is *to teleion*—"the perfect thing." What is this "perfect thing?" It is the completion of the Canon (i.e. the 66 books of the Holy Scriptures). When Paul wrote his epistle to the Corinthians, the New Testament was in the process of being written. Once the New Testament is completed—the last book written—the gift of prophecy, and of knowledge will cease. All the truths that God wants man to know concerning Him are found in the Bible. It is sufficient and authoritative. It is God's complete and final revelation to man (2 Tim 3:16-17, Rev 22:18-19).

### Tongues

Now, how about tongues? Paul wrote that tongues "shall cease." The word "cease" here is the Greek *pauo* which means "to stop." Unlike the gifts of prophecy, and knowledge, which require an external element to cause their cessation, the gift of tongues will cease by itself (Greek middle voice). It will automatically fade away in the course of time when it has served its purpose. G F Rendal, formerly a charismatic, commented, "This purpose was fully achieved when it was fully admitted that the nations, as well as 'this people' (the Jews), benefited from Jehovah's salvation. When this fact was universally believed, accepted and no longer contested by anyone, this gift was no longer needed. ... Stars, as everyone



**The Youth Choir at True Life BPC's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 7, 07**

knows, are visible and useful during the darkness of an unbelieving Israel who opposed the nations' salvation. The gift faded out very simply when the Gentiles' calling came to light. This is what finished off the last of my resistance." The gift of tongues will be withdrawn when it has fulfilled its purpose as a sign to unbelieving Jews (1 Cor 14:22). Is there today a need for God to convince Jews that the gospel is also given to Gentiles? There is no need. No longer are Jews preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, but Gentiles to Jews!

Does history confirm the early cessation of tongues? The famous church father—Augustine—wrote in the fourth century, "In the earliest time the Holy Ghost fell upon them that believed: and they spake with tongues, which they had not learned, 'as the Spirit gave them utterance.' These were signs adapted to the time. For there behooved to be that betokening of the Holy Spirit in all tongues, and to shew that the Gospel of God was to run through all tongues over the whole earth. That thing was done for a betokening and it passed away." The great 16<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Reformation and Revival, was not characterised by tongues-speaking, but powerful preaching. Luther, Calvin, and Knox did not speak in tongues.

### What is "Perfect"?

Now, what does the word "perfect" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 mean? The word "perfect" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 does not mean Christ or heaven. How do we know this? We know this by determining how the word is used in its context. Usage determines meaning!

1 Corinthians 13:10 says, "But when *that which is perfect* is come, then *that which is in part* shall be done away." It is very clear from this verse that there is a relationship between "that which is perfect" and "that which is in part." The "perfect" will cause the "part" to cease. The question we need to ask first is: What is "that which is in part"? The answer lies in verses 8-9. Verses 8-9 tell us that the things partial are "prophecies," "tongues," and "knowledge." All three sign-gifts are revelatory. They are supernatural gifts which

communicate the Word and Will of God. Paul says that these revelatory gifts will eventually "fail," "cease," and "vanish away." They will one day cease to exist, or be withdrawn from use.

The next question we want to ask is: When will this happen? This will happen when "the perfect" comes. Paul says that prophecies "shall fail," and knowledge "shall vanish away." The words, "fail," and "vanish away," are written in the Greek passive. By so writing, Paul is telling his readers that something from the outside will cause the gifts of prophecy and knowledge to fail and vanish away. What is this external element? The answer is found in verses 9 and 10, "For we know (i.e. the gift of knowledge) in part, and we prophesy (i.e. the gift of prophecy) in part. But when *that which is perfect* is come, then that which is in part (i.e. the gifts of knowledge and prophecy) shall be done away." There is a cause-and-effect relationship between "that which is perfect" and "that which is in part." It is clear from the context that the gifts of knowledge and prophecy are only temporary gifts, and not permanent. They will be removed once the perfect comes.

Now, what is this which is "perfect" that will cause the gifts of knowledge and prophecy to cease? The word "perfect" here is the Greek *to teleion* which literally means "the perfect thing." This perfect thing is inseparably linked to the revelatory gifts of prophecy and knowledge. The cause-and-effect relationship between the perfect and the partial (i.e. prophecies and knowledge) points us to what the perfect is. The revelatory nature of prophecies and knowledge tells us that this perfect thing must of necessity be revelatory as well. It has to do with God's revelation. The Greek word—*teleion*—being adjectival functions to describe. Here it describes God's revelation. The revelatory gifts of prophecy and knowledge are partial, but this coming Revelation is perfect. The "perfect" is thus God's Perfect Revelation. When God's Perfect or Complete Revelation

comes, the partial will be taken away. God has been revealing Himself to His people part by part through the prophets (cf. Heb 1:1-2), but there will come a time when He will completely reveal what He wants to reveal. When that happens, there will no longer be any need for prophecies and knowledge. When Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, the New Testament was in the process of being written. Prophecies and knowledge will cease when the New Testament is completed. When did this happen?

This happened when the last book of the Bible was written and completed, namely, the book of Revelation. God confirmed its completion by issuing a very severe warning in the last chapter of Revelation, verses 18 and 19: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." This effectively sealed and finalised God's Perfect Revelation—the 66 books of Holy Scripture.

Now, we know that the word "perfect" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 does not mean the return of Christ because if Paul had that in mind, he would probably have used the clear and unambiguous "until he comes" which he did in 1 Corinthians 11:26, or "then the end will come" in 1 Corinthians 15:24. What is truly significant is the fact that the word "perfect" is used 18 times in the New Testament (Matt 5:48, 19:21; Rom 12:2; 1 Cor 2:6, 13:10, 14:20; Eph 4:13; Phil 3:15; Col 1:28, 4:12; Heb 5:14, 9:11; Jas 1:4, 17, 25, 3:2; 1 John 4:18), and not once does it refer to the second coming or to heaven. The word "perfect" is mostly used to describe spiritually mature Christians who live in accordance to God's Word. At other times, it is used specifically to describe (1) the will of God, (2) the wisdom of God, (3) the Law of God, (4) the love of God, and (5) the humanity of Christ.

### "Perfect" is the Bible!

Therefore, the "perfect" refers to a book, and not to a person (Christ), an event (His return), or a place (heaven). The Holy Bible is the perfect Word or Revelation of God. It is absolutely authoritative, and totally sufficient for Christian doctrine and practice (2 Tim 3:16-17). Revelation has ceased. Consequently, all temporary means of revelation, like the gifts of prophecy and knowledge, have been withdrawn. It is unbiblical to seek a word of prophecy or a word of knowledge today. We are to go straight to the Word of God to seek His will and wisdom.

One must also not neglect Paul's careful argumentation on why love is supreme in 1 Corinthians 13. Paul chides the Corinthians for placing the supernatural sign-gifts at a level that is above the virtues of faith, hope and love. They got their priorities all mixed up. The gifts of prophecy, knowledge, and tongues are not as important as the virtues of faith, hope, and love. The sign-gifts are meant only for the apostolic age. They are temporary gifts, and will be phased out. What will remain and last throughout the church age are the Christian graces of faith, hope, and love. These virtues should be found in every Christian. The Corinthians should pay more attention to cultivating these virtues in their lives instead of fighting over who has the superior gift (1 Cor 12:1-21, 14:1-5). Of the three virtues, love is the greatest or most important because love will never cease. While faith and hope will both be realised or fulfilled at the time of Christ's return, love being a divine virtue will last forever. "Charity never faileth" (1 Cor 13:8). Love is eternal, and that is why it is "the greatest" (1 Cor 13:13). Paul is exhorting the Church to pay most attention to love because we are going to need it for eternity (cf. Matt 22:36-40).

The word "perfect" therefore must mean the Holy Bible—the 66 books and all the inspired words of the Canonical Scriptures, incorruptible, indestructible, immutable, and eternal.



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 26 – Dec 2, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Hien Nguyen) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Dec 1, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "The Joy of the Lord" by Rev Wee Eng Moh. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults Fellowship Meeting** will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Dec 1, 07) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Christ Is All, and In All" by Rev Hien Nguyen. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 220 Petir Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$7.989  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200, \$164; *RPG* \$10; *Charlotte Yap* \$250; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$100; *FEBC* \$510, \$200  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$9,523  
**Church Building Fund** \$2,000, \$1,540, \$1,000, \$200 **Total:** \$657,549.27  
**Sunday School Offering:** \$252

**Verse for the Week:** *The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. Prov 15:29*

**We welcome Rev Mark Kim Kyung Soo** to our pulpit this morning. Rev Kim is the principal of the Bible College of East Africa (BCEA). Rev & Mrs Kim, together with Pastor & Mrs Tow, and Dr Jeffrey Khoo will be attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gethsemane Missionary Conference in Cebu, Philippines, Nov 26-Dec 1, 07. Pray for pastor's good health and strength, journey mercies, and a successful conference for God's kingdom.

**Adults' Sunday School Class** by Rev Stephen Khoo is now studying the book of 1 Samuel, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

**True Life B-P Church's sermons are taped and available for sale** in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 8

25 November 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 93
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 107
Hymn	No. 331
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 457
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Acts 3:1-10
Sermon	<i>The People God Uses</i> (Rev Mark Kim)
Closing Hymn	No. 454
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

## Serving the Lord in Kenya and Tanzania

*(Missionary Letter of Rev Mark Kim Kyung Soo, distributed by the IBPFM, USA, October 2007)*

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord. We hope that this letter finds you well in Him. We continue in our ministry, by God's grace and by your prayers and love. We share with you some of the things He has done here since our last letter.

## Bible College of East Africa—Kenya



It is currently one of the most scenic seasons of the year. The campus is filled with flowers that have bloomed for the flowering season. The students are busy with their studies and engaged in ministries. Please pray for our student Felix (from Rwanda), who visited his home during vacation but has not been able to return due to passport problems. We are praying that God will remove any obstacles to his resuming his training here.

This term, I am teaching the book of Exodus and Homiletics. As always, I need God's wisdom and grace in this task. May all of BCEA's faculty be used as instruments in encouraging students to become mighty in God's Word and to fulfil their calling with effectiveness.

Mrs Yoon (wife of Rev Eben Yoon) is busily engaged in her ministry at the two kindergartens: one at the BCEA campus (58 children) and another in Ngomongo (72 children). Please pray for the teachers and for the little ones, that they will be soundly instructed during these important developmental years.

Brother Richard Tiu, who has been faithfully teaching and serving at the College for nearly two years, will return to the Philippines at the end of October. Please pray for him, that God will open the doors for him to return to BCEA with his family, should this be God's will. We also pray that he will find much needed rest and refreshment after a long period of being separated from his family who stayed behind in the Philippines.



God willing, sister Eunyoung Bae (a graduate of Far Eastern Bible College and missionary in Cambodia for two years) will come to BCEA in December for a short term. She will be lecturing at the College and helping with the children's ministry and administrative tasks. She hopes to confirm her calling during her time here. Please pray that He will graciously guide her to a path that pleases Him.

Please pray for 25-26 students who are due to graduate next year on February 5. Please pray for their remaining studies and particularly for God's guidance in their future ministries.

### **Bible College of East Africa—Tanzania**



The administrative and teaching responsibilities are borne by Pastor Peter Elibariki and Pastor David. Members of the faculty at BCEA (Kenya) have also been on rotation, teaching 2-week intensive courses. God willing, brother Judah Pallangyo, a BCEA graduate who is currently studying in Singapore and brother Joseph Amos, who is in his last term at BCEA, will be joining the faculty next year.

The kindergarten that was founded on campus is now attended by 30 children. Because it is the first such facility in the neighbourhood, the people of the villages are showing much interest. Please pray that God will use this ministry to reach the children and families in the surrounding community. May it be used as a channel of truth and the Gospel to the surrounding community of the college.

Please be in prayer for the artesian well that is to be dug for the water supply. We need wisdom in the selection of a contractor.

### **East Africa Christian Alliance**

The youth of EACA and female leaders of member churches were in attendance at a seminar held on the BCEA (Kenya) campus, with the theme: "Arise and Shine" (August 20-23). Over 400 from across the country

were able to fellowship together in the Word and in prayer. Guest speaker brother Hyun Choi (son of Dr Kwang Jae Choi, ICCC president) and EACA leaders were busy with preparation and lectures. We are thankful to Glory B-P Church (Korea) for providing the expenses of the meeting, and pray that He will supply according to their needs.

### **Other Things to Be Thankful For**

The Ngomongo Dispensary reopened in September, as God has provided a very faithful and diligent servant to serve at the clinic. He is a long-time member and deacon at the Bible College campus church. Thank you for praying for that ministry.

We are also very thankful for the Maasai chief who, with his many wives, had attended the Lenkijape Church at our Maasai station for many years. The transformative work of the Gospel in his life has surprised many in his neighbourhood. Recently he sharply refused an invitation to drink with his friends, and we do praise God for the work that God is doing there. May He give grace and strength to leaders of that community to be effective witnesses of the Gospel. The kindergarten and primary school now comprises 400 students. We pray that peoples of all ages will be

emboldened to disengage from unbiblical cultural practices. Please be in prayer for the BCEA graduates who are serving at the Maasai station.

Rev Timothy Tow (my teacher) and his co-labourer Dr Jeffrey Khoo of Far Eastern Bible College have co-authored a Systematic Theology book, recently released on October 7. We just received news they shipped 494 volumes for the ministries here. We praise and glorify God, and pray that the book will be used to widen access to sound theology for local ministers.

Rev Eben Yoon has been serving the Lord with great diligence and faithfulness. We pray that the service of him and his wife will be fruitful and glorifying to God, resulting in the meeting of the Lord by many of the lost. We are grateful to be their co-labourers.

It is by His grace and by your prayers that we are able to press onward. We pray for those of you who have participated in this ministry sacrificially despite difficult circumstances. We trust that He "shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19). May He continue to guide you and use you for His Kingdom.





## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 3 – 9, 2007)

WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	11.00 am	Wedding of Samuel Eio & Chew Yiwei (at Calvary Pandan BPC)
	3.30 pm	No YPF Meeting
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Lord's Supper) (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed (Dec 5, 07) at RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601), 7.45pm. Message: "Christmas" by Rev Ronny Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

**Combined True Life & Calvary Pandan YF Camp**, December 17-21, 2007 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. **There will be a Camp Briefing** next Lord's Day, Dec 9, 2007 after the Worship Service. All Campers please attend. For enquiries, please contact Andrew Kan at 91598914.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$14,075; USD5  
**Designated Offerings:** Wendy Teng \$250  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:** S\$14,325; USD5  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$1,000, \$210  
**Total:** \$659,759.27

Sunday School Offering: \$374.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat. Prov 15:30*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** is now studying 1 Samuel under Eld Joseph, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. Lessons are downloadable from [www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm).

**Far Eastern Bible College** will reopen on Wed (Jan 2, 08) at 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. **The Basic Theology for Everyone** courses will resume with *The Book of Job* by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy on Jan 7, 08 (Mon) and *Biblical Hermeneutics* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Jan 3, 08 (Thu), 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

**Catechism Class for 2008 Easter Baptism** will commence on Jan 6, 08. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Next Quarter RPG, Jan – Mar 08** available at the Book Table. Help yourself to a copy.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. V No. 9

2 December 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 318
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalms 62
Hymn	No. 319
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 320
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Acts 23:1
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Nguyen Gia Hien
Sermon	<i>Good Conscience before God</i> (Rev Nguyen Gia Hien)
Closing Hymn	No. 247
Benediction	Rev Nguyen Gia Hien

## Postmodernism and the Emergent Church

(A message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo on Nov 29, 07 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gethsemane Missionary Conference, in Cebu, the Philippines)

### Poison

The Bible tells us, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt 24:14). The signs of the times tell us that we are living in the last days, and that Jesus Christ is coming back very soon. Satan knows his time is about up, and so he spares no effort to destroy the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The gospel today is attacked like never before. As believers, we should not be surprised at this. The Lord had already warned us, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, ... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: ... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth; ... these also resist the

truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ... But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim 3:1-13). The more Satan attacks the gospel, the more we must defend it. One way of defending the gospel is to expose error. One such error that must be exposed today is postmodernism.

### Postmodernism

Postmodernism is a philosophy or worldview that is difficult to define. Postmodernism grew out of modernism or rationalism (human intelligence and science is God). But modernism did not work; it did not make the world a morally better place. The modern world is certainly a more sophisticated world—a *space-age world but plagued with the same natural disasters and human cruelty*. Some have described postmodernism as an attitude—an attitude of *pessimism*. Self-confidence has been replaced by self-doubt. Such pessimism can be a good point of contact for Christians to reach out to the postmodern man. The Scriptures speak of man's total depravity and hopelessness, and the only way for man to rise up to the spiritual standard God has set for him is to believe in the Divine Intelligence/Reason which is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (John 1:1) who died for our sins, and rose from the dead according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4).

Without Christ and His Word, the postmodernist will become a relativist. Where is Truth? What is Truth? Jesus Christ tells us His Word is Truth (John



YPF Cottage Meeting in the home of Dn & Mrs Charles Kan, September 29, 2007



17:17). But the postmodernist in his pessimism will conclude that truth is relative and subjective. There is no such thing as absolute or objective Truth. Truth can be anything and anywhere. Whatever claims to be true or truth is met with scepticism. Pragmatism takes over. Whatever works must be right and good. The end justifies the means even though the means to getting there is morally wrong.

### The Emergent Church

Postmodernism has crept into Christianity through the Emergent Church. The methodology of the Emergent Church feeds on the philosophy of Postmodernism. They feed on each other. The Emergent Church methodology is perhaps best expressed in Brian McLaren's book called *A Generous Orthodoxy: Why I Am a Missional, Evangelical, Post/Protestant, Liberal/Conservative, Mystical/Poetic, Biblical, Charismatic/Contemplative, Fundamentalist/Calvinist, Anabaptist/Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, Green, Incarnational, Depressed-yet-Hopeful, Emergent, Unfinished CHRISTIAN*. Clearly, McLaren's "Generous Orthodoxy" is a mixed-up and messed up orthodoxy which is no orthodoxy at all. It sidelines God and His Truth, and uplifts the man and his feelings. It is "the more we get together, the merrier we'll be" kind of a thinking and practice.

Jason Carlson, Vice President of Christian Ministries International, in his testimony—"My Journey In and Out of the Emergent Church"—reveals that the Emergent Church is (1) ambiguous in doctrinal definitions, (2) inclusive and ecumenical, (3) tolerant of sin and error, (4) open to pagan forms of religious worship, (5) critical of biblical or conservative fundamentalism, and (6) low on evangelism but high on social action or interaction. Postmodernism is thus a part of the New Age, ecumenical, pluralistic worldview of contemporary society which has infiltrated the Church and cause her to lose her biblical and Christlike identity and remake her into something that will fit the One-World system of the Antichrist.

Biblical Theological Seminary (Hatfield, PA) is now an emergent seminary seeking to

produce emergent pastors who will plant Emergent churches. In 2003, Biblical Seminary decided to embark on a new course to become an emergent seminary for the emergent church with a new statement of vision, "To be the ongoing choice for training missional leaders for the emerging church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to be a catalyst for engaging evangelical Christians in dialog with postmodern culture" (*A New Reality*, p5).

The buzzword of Biblical Seminary and the Emergent Church is "missional." There is nothing wrong with the word "missional." In fact it is a good word for the Church for the Church is commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to evangelise the lost, to baptise those who believe, and to indoctrinate them with the whole counsel of God (Matt 28:18-20). But it is not enough today to know what an institution says; there is a crucial need to know what it means by what it says. More often than not, an institution is particularly vague and ambiguous on what it really is and what it truly believes. But there are tell-tale signs if one were to read their writings carefully and discerningly. As I see it, the whole Emergent Church philosophy and methodology is all about "accommodation" or "compromise." It is precisely what Emergent Church guru, Brian McLaren, himself describes it—a "generous orthodoxy." In other words, "If you can't beat them, join them." "Be user-friendly." "Be seeker-sensitive." "Be broad and accepting." "Don't criticise but syncretise." "Don't separate but cooperate." "Love unites, doctrine divides." In other words, the Church needs an extreme makeover. The ugly, narrow, out-of-date biblical fundamentalism must be replaced by the new, hip and in-fashion postmodern worldliness.

### Ecumenism

The up and coming Emergent Church is actually the old Ecumenical Movement and the Neo-evangelical spirit but in a different guise or name. The Emergent Church, Neo-evangelicalism and Ecumenism despise these two things: (1) The Perfect Word of God, its present infallibility and inerrancy, and hence the sole, supreme, and final authority on all

faith and life, and (2) the biblical doctrine and practice of separation which rejects the world and its ungodliness, and exposes all forms of apostasy and compromise in the church today. To the emergent churchman, the biblical doctrine of separation is a "sour doctrine." The mission of the church according to the Emergent Church is thus not the original mission of Christ which is to get sinners to be reconciled to the thrice holy God through the Gospel, but to help people to get along with each other and enjoy one another's company in the context of a "generous orthodoxy"—truth is subjective, uncertain, broad, and varied.

Many local churches are wittingly or unwittingly pursuing the emergent way with "let's get warm and cosy" programmes. The church is transformed into a club with "members-only" privileges. Sermons rebuking sin and error are deemed "unedifying." An edifying sermon is one that makes the church feel nice and comfy. Without a Perfect Bible, "I feel good!" is the new standard of ascertaining truth from error, right from wrong. Emergent churches seek pastors of the "please-all, nice guy" type or the effeminate "soft and mushy" type that fit the postmodern congregation. The Emergent church has no place for the "fire and brimstone" ministry of the prophets as found in the Scriptures. The Apostle Paul had already warned, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears*" (2 Tim 4:3).

### Antidote

In light of this new danger, what must we do? We must go back to the basics—return to the fundamentals of the Christian Faith! The Apostle Paul commands, "*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine (ie, the fundamentals of the Christian Faith); continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee*" (1 Tim 4:16). That is why the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) spares no effort to teach "the doctrine" not only to its students training for full-time ministry, but also the lay people taking its "Basic Theology for Everyone" (BTFE) night

classes. The more than 200 believers from different churches who attend the FEBC night classes, many of whom are working towards their Certificate of Religious Knowledge or Certificate of Biblical Studies, have no doubt benefited spiritually from knowing deeply and surely God and His Word. Good and sound theology is the only antidote against postmodernism, and every Christian must be a theologian if he wants to keep himself faithful and true to the Lord Jesus Christ. But Satan wants Christians to be weak in doctrine and worthless in service. Pray for FEBC's BTFE night classes which are making inroads into Satan's world by strengthening the faith of the saints through an intensive, systematic study of God's Perfect Word without any mistake, impacting many lives to the glory of God. One lay student who studied Calvin's Institutes last semester testified, "The antidote against erroneous beliefs and practices that are prevalent these days is a proper teaching and understanding of the Word of God. This is so rare in churches and Bible seminaries today. May God help us to be faithful to His Word." Do sign up for the BTFE night classes next semester—the Book of Job on Monday by Dr Das Koshy, and Biblical Hermeneutics on Thursday by Dr Quek Suan Yew.

Christians must also strive to walk in the strait and narrow way and practise separation if they want to combat postmodernism. Hear the words of our Lord, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Matt 7:13-14). "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? ... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty*" (2 Cor 6:14-18).

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 10 – 16, 2007)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Tan Kian Sing) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)
	2.30 pm	Evangelism

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Dec 15, 07) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Before Honour is Humility" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Combined True Life & Calvary Pandan YF Camp**, December 17-21, 2007 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. *There will be a Camp Briefing in the Auditorium immediately after Worship Service today. All Campers please stay for the briefing.*

**Christmas Gospel Meeting** will be held on Dec 22, 07 (Sat), 4.30 pm, RELC Room 502. Rev Ronny Khoo speaks on "The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ". *Bring a friend!*

**Sunday School Christmas Party** will be held on Dec 22, 07 (Sat), 4.30 pm, RELC Room 507, concurrently with the Christmas Gospel Meeting in Room 502. Open to ages 3 to 12 years. All are welcome.

**Complimentary copies** of Pastor's *Chronicles of Conquest* are available at the reception table. Please help yourself to a copy.

the land-marks were set by the hand of man, yet he was a thief and a robber by the law of God that removed them. Let every man be content with his own lot, and just to his neighbours, and then we shall have no land-marks removed. (2.) It forbids the sowing of discord among neighbours, and doing any thing to occasion strife and law-suits, which is done (and it is very ill done) by confounding those things which should determine disputes and decide controversies. And, (3.) It forbids breaking in upon the settled order and

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$11,318  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* S\$200, S\$200;  
*Rev Ronny Khoo* S\$300; *BCEA* S\$300; *Van for Gethsemane BPC's Cebu Mission* S\$150; *Korean Worship Service* S\$300; *FEBC Scholarship* S\$400, S\$100; *Sopheak (FEBC)* S\$150; *Wendy Teng* S\$100; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* S\$150, AUD140, AUD45  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:**  
 S\$13,668; AUD185  
**Church Building Fund** \$1,000, \$1,000, \$100  
**Total:** \$661,859.27

Sunday School Offering: \$266.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. Prov 15:31*

**Adults' Sunday School Class** is now studying 1 Samuel under Elder Joseph, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome. Lessons are downloadable from [www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday\\_School.htm](http://www.febc.edu.sg/Sunday_School.htm).

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** next Sunday afternoon (Dec 16, 07) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**Far Eastern Bible College** will reopen on Wed (Jan 2, 08) at 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. **The Basic Theology for Everyone courses** will resume with *The Book of Job* by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy on Jan 7, 08 (Mon) and *Biblical Hermeneutics* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Jan 3, 08 (Thu), 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

**Congratulations to Samuel Eio & Chew Yiwei** who were joined in holy matrimony yesterday. May the Lord bless them mightily as they build a Christian home together (Prov 18:22).

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

constitution of civil government, and the altering of ancient usages without just cause. This law supports the honour of prescriptions. *Consuetudo facit jus—Custom is to be held as law.*"

It is very clear from the outset that the purchase of Beulah Land/House was to accommodate the expanding needs of not just Life BPC but also FEBC. The fact that many gave willingly to Beulah Land/House for the sake of FEBC is obvious. Leaders are accountable to God not to remove their neighbour's landmarks. To do so is to invite a curse from God (Deut 27:17).



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

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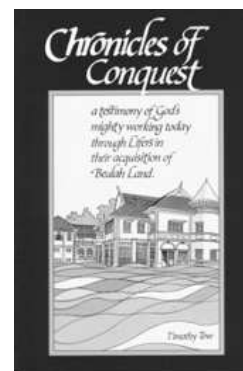
9 December 2007

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"**

Call to Worship	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 164
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Phil 2:1-11
Hymn	No. 165
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 408
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Lev 27:30
Sermon	<i>Giving to God</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Special Number	Deborah & Judith
Closing Hymn	No. 183 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

## THY NEIGHBOUR'S LANDMARK

(A Review of Pastor's *Chronicles of Conquest* by the Rev Errol D Stone)



*Chronicles of Conquest* (Singapore: Christian Life Publishers, 1990. 155pp) by the Rev Dr Timothy Tow is about the acquisition of Beulah Land/House at 10 Gilstead Road, situated opposite Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and Far Eastern Bible College, 9/9A Gilstead Road, Singapore.

*Chronicles of Conquest* is a diary of the intentions, purposes and purchase of Beulah Land, and records the cheerful giving of God's people in a speedy time.

A necessary part of stewardship is believing in the gospel and applying its principles correctly by sacrificing personal rewards (1 Cor 9:17) and

supporting the church financially (Acts 4:32-37). It is the Holy Spirit that prompts Christians to give (2 Cor 9:5-7; Neh 1:4-11). It must always be remembered that manipulation or violation of the sacred trust of stewardship will bring consequences (Gal 6:7; cf Rom 2:5, 6), and the love of money is the root of all evil and those who covet after money will pierce themselves with many sorrows (1 Tim 6:10).

## Acquisition

In preparation for the purchase of Beulah Land/House, the Founding Pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and Principal of Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC)—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow (henceforth "Pastor Tow")—alluded to the waters of the Jordan River, being banked up as the children of Israel crossed on dry ground into the Promised Land, like the Red Sea which dried up as they passed through. Joshua was instructed to set up 12 stones in memorial of that great event of crossing the Jordan (Josh 4:20-24). Pastor Tow used this illustration to encourage the people to gather \$7.2 million to cross the Jordan. This great achievement which began on October 8, 1989 was attained in May 1990. *Chronicles of Conquest* is a record of God's goodness, and of cheerful givers (2 Cor 9:7).

The Beulah Land/House (former Eye Clinic) project (Extension Building Fund) came about because of the need to extend the church-college grounds due

to congestion. Pastor Tow reminded the people that faith without works is dead (Jas 2:20, 26) and launched the building fund for the faithful ones to bring in all the tithes into the storehouse (Mal 3:10). By the grace of God, the offerings came in from sister churches in the form of interest-free loans totalling around \$2 million, with another \$4 million required. Pastor Tow used the illustration of the spirit of Joshua and Caleb, and that God loves a cheerful giver. Among those that gave as recorded in the offering columns each week for the building fund were many FEBC students.

Pastor Tow wrote that the acquisition of the property across the street would not only relieve congestion, but give the Sunday School and the Fellowships rooms and grounds for recreation, and also immediate accommodation to the packed Chinese service. The upper storey of the inpatients block allows for more resident FEBC students to be taken in. He said, "Do not think the College is a burden to the Church. ... For such time as this, the FEBC Treasurer rallies with a goodly sum. The whole FEBC family, faculty and students, have risen also to the occasion, even our Korean students." There were many letters received in support of FEBC with one saying, "Please accept this gift as a token of my wholehearted support for FEBC. It encourages my heart to see the school of prophets, doing God's work in these last days before our Lord's return. May you and your staff and students stand firm in that holy faith once and for all delivered unto the saints."

Many letters of encouragement were received, and many messages followed, including, "How David and His People Prepared for God's House" (1 Chron 29:1-9). The name "Beulah" comes from the Hebrew word "married," as the land across the road has marriage value to the church complex. People were amazed at how \$6.95 million could be raised in four months and three weeks. The project at Woodlands was continually mentioned for encouragement. Pastor Tow reminded that brethren of the Rechabites (Jer 35) kept the word of their ancestor and were

commended, and that his grandfather said "never pay interest." Some gave their 13<sup>th</sup> month bonus to extend God's House.

Pastor Tow (05/11/89) commented that the buildings at Beulah Land were in good repair, and that "Economy is the mother of prosperity." On 12/11/89 Pastor Tow said, "There will be living quarters for the church staff, upstairs dorms for FEBC students ... let us use this present property for a decade, after which the need might arise to have a multi-storey complex put in its place. ... We are grateful to FEBC and the Korean Church for their help." "New Frontiers of Evangelism" (19/11/98) was about FEBC students going into ministry, in Pontianak, Sarawak, Kuching etc. FEBC was mentioned as one of the fraternal associations helping with the building fund (26/11/89).

It is interesting to observe that Pastor Tow said (10/12/89) that he had given up the idea of acquiring property, until late September, when he got wind that the owner was to sell, but had given up because the price of the land kept on rising. When Eld Dr Lim Teck Chye took a bold stand to acquire what is now called our Beulah Land (it has marriage value), Pastor Tow said, "I sensed this was from the Lord. So I cast in my lot with him." Kim Kah Teck, upon returning from Kuching, said to his principal, "Our small congregation has a sum for the FEBC extension fund. We remember our Alma Mater." On 17/12/89 an FEBC student came with a \$1,200 from the Youth Group.

On 28/01/90 at the Sunset Gospel Hour, Pastor Tow said, "Far Eastern Bible College, which is expanding as never before, will find great relief by being housed in the new premises. Staff workers, housed in the same building, can minister directly to the needs of the congregation. ... The acquisition of the Beulah Land is definitely in the spirit of the Lord's business of growth and expansion." On 18/02/90 a letter said, "Has it really happened, that you've got the eye clinic across the street? ... Congratulations ... and just sending like the widow's 'farthing' my gift to the Alma Mater for excellent help."

On 25/02/90, a thanksgiving said, "I am following through with the tele-conversation we had concerning an interest free loan of \$100,000 to Life BP Church for the extension project of FEBC. We are praying that the Lord will continue to bless the work of the Bible College in preparing more preachers and pastors for the ministry. To this end, we are happy to render our humble support. Do pray for us too, as we also trust the Lord to lead us in our search for a permanent place of worship."

On 11/03/90, Pastor Tow said the buildings were in a healthy state. "Dormitories to married students of FEBC whose presence should enhance security and contribute to good maintenance of the campus." It was also Pastor Tow's concern that missions and other evangelistic outreaches do not suffer as a result of the zeal to meet the target. On 18/03/90, Pastor Tow said, "God's work is often likened to warfare," how correct he was. The target of the extension building fund for Beulah Land, was not reached by "walkathons" or "singathons," but by the Holy Spirit's moving in tithes, offerings and interest-free loans.

In the article 13/05/90, it was mentioned that a Beulah Management Committee had been established, and a general rule, that Pastor Tow proposed for the use of the existing building, was for the upstairs rooms to be used for residential purposes, including dorms for the expanding FEBC, and the downstairs premises for meetings, and allotments such as to the Chinese service and fellowships. *[Ed. A signboard with the College logo designating Beulah House as "FEBC Hostel" had stood at the front of the building since the beginning.]*

### Landmark

In the Old Testament, the boundaries of different fields were designated by heaps of small stones about a rod or measuring stick apart (cf Ezek 40:3; Rev 11:1). Consequently, it was not difficult for a dishonest man to shift the stones by small increments each year and gradually encroach onto his neighbour's land. But this practice was equivalent to stealing and was alluded to in Job 24:2, being also

forbidden in Proverbs 22:28; 23:10. Instead of being content, sometimes people who are rich and powerful are motivated by greed and covetousness. The dishonest person who does so, is in for a rude awakening as the Word of God says there is a curse upon those who remove a landmark, *"Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen."* (Deut 27:17; cf Prov 23:11, 12). Nelson's KJV Commentary says, "In this verse (Deut 27:17) Moses deals with the crime of removing the landmarks. Since the land was an inheritance from God, anyone who tried to steal land by moving the boundary markers was actually committing a crime against God. Landmarks were important to God because a man's property consisted of his life and his inheritance for the future."

The Word of God warns against the crime of moving or removing a boundary, *"The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water,"* (Hos 5:10). The Word of God says, *"Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it"* (Deut 19:14).

Matthew Henry said of Deuteronomy 19:14, "It is the will of God that every one should know his own, and that all good means should be used to prevent encroachments and the doing and suffering of wrong. When right is settled, care must be taken that it be not afterwards unsettled, and that, if possible, no occasion of dispute may arise. An express law to posterity not to remove those land-marks which were thus fixed at first, by which a man secretly got that to himself which was his neighbour's. This, without doubt, is a moral precept, and still binding, and to us it forbids, (1.) The invading of any man's right, and taking to ourselves that which is not our own, by any fraudulent acts or practices, as by forging, concealing, destroying, or altering deeds and writings (which are our land-marks, to which appeals are made), or by shifting hedges, meer-stones, and boundaries. Though



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 17 – 23, 2007)

MON-FRI	YF Camp
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT 3.30 pm	No YPF Meeting
4.30 pm	Christmas Gospel Meeting
	Sunday School Christmas Party
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Rev Quek Suan Yew) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Combined True Life & Calvary Pandan YF Camp** will be held this week from Mon – Fri, Dec 17-21, 07, at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing.

**Christmas Gospel Meeting** will be held this Sat (Dec 22, 07), 4.30 pm, RELC Room 502. Rev Ronny Khoo speaks on “The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ”. *Bring a friend!*

**Sunday School Christmas Party** will be held this Sat (Dec 22, 07), 4.30 pm, RELC Room 507, concurrently with the Christmas Gospel Meeting in Room 502. Open to ages 3 to 12 years. All are welcome.

**Christmas Eve Service** will be held at the RELC Auditorium on Dec 24, 07 at 8 pm.

**The Eio and Chew families** would like to thank the ‘Wedding Committee’ of True Life BPC and others who had assisted in one way or another to make the wedding of Samuel and Yiwei on Dec 8, 07 a great success. Mention must also be made of the church choir that sang beautifully. The Lord’s name be praised.

## LAST LORD’S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** S\$10,516; RM50; USD0.53  
**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo* \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$500; *Rev Hien (Brisbane)* \$500; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$100 (LF); *BCEA Kenya* \$1,000; *BCEA Tanzania* \$1,000; *FEBC Students* \$1,000; *Jose (FEBC)* \$50; *Thadeaus (FEBC)* \$50; *Jemima Khoo* \$200; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$400; *Gethsemane BPC (Bohol)* PHP4,000  
**Total General and Designated Offerings:** S\$16,716; PHP4,000; RM50; USD0.53  
**Church Building Fund** \$500, \$100 **Total:** \$662,459.27

Sunday School Offering: \$218.00

**Verse for the Week:** *He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. Prov 15:32*

**Adults’ Sunday School Class** is now studying 1 Samuel under Eld Joseph, 9.15 am – 10.15 am.

**There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session** this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 227 Pending Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Charles Kan at 98310468.

**Far Eastern Bible College** will reopen on Wed (Jan 2, 08) at 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. **The Basic Theology for Everyone courses** will resume with *The Book of Job* by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy on Jan 7, 08 (Mon) and *Biblical Hermeneutics* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Jan 3, 08 (Thu), 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

**Catechism Class for 2008 Easter Baptism** will commence on Jan 6, 08. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Pray for Pastor Tow’s** good health and strength.

Canon and there are exactly 27 NT books in our Protestant Bible without any change for sure? If the Rev Seet’s argument is accepted, then should we not similarly question the decision of the bishops of the Council of Carthage who identified for us all the inspired books of the NT in the year 397? With the recent discovery of new and older books like the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Philip, and other Gospels and Epistles which bear the names of the Apostles, should we not revise our existing Canon according to *The Da Vinci Code*? Why should we be so dogmatic and insistent that our NT Canon be just 27 books? Let it be stated that the very basis on which non-VPPists believe in a fixed NT Canon of just 27 inspired NT books is the very same reason why VPPists believe in all the inspired

NT words of the Greek Textus Receptus on which the AV/KJV is based.

It goes without saying that in this postmodern age of uncertainty and confusion when anything goes, we need a fixed and firm foundation for our faith, existing and tangible, available and accessible. This immutable and immovable foundation can only be our Lord Jesus Christ and His forever infallible and inerrant Word to the jot and tittle (Matt 5:18), and nothing else. We continue to pray that the leadership of Life BPC will uphold the AV/KJV not just by preference, but by affirming VPP and believing that the original language texts or words of the Holy Scriptures underlying the AV/KJV are without mistakes. “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Ps 11:3). May God help us!



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

**Vol. V No. 11**

**16 December 2007**

**“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 157
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Isaiah 9:1-7
Hymn	No. 141
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 139
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Mark 1:16-20
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Tan Kian Sing
Sermon	<i>Reflections on Following Christ</i> (Rev Tan Kian Sing)
Closing Hymn	No. 429
Benediction	Rev Tan Kian Sing

## Biblical Authority

*Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo*

The twin doctrines of Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures to the jot and tittle (Matt 5:18) are most vital and indispensable doctrines of the Christian Faith. That is why the Board and Faculty of the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) at the behest of its founding principal—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow—take the Dean Burgon Oath which concerns the total infallibility and inerrancy of the Bible which we have in our hands today to the last letter and syllable. As the Lord had raised up Martin Luther and John Calvin and others to defend the faith in the days of the Protestant Reformation, so did the Lord raise up Dean Burgon of Oxford and Chichester to defend the Traditional and Reformation Text and the Authorised Version (AV) or King James Version (KJV) against the Corrupt and Critical Text of Westcott and Hort which underlies many modern versions and perversions of the Bible today.

## Accusation

On October 28, 2007, the Revs Charles Seet and Colin Wong—pastors of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church—preached against the Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures (sermons were published in [www.lifebpc.com](http://www.lifebpc.com)). The Rev Seet claims that VPP is “only a subjective opinion that has no biblical authority. ... nowhere in the entire Bible, Old Testament or New Testament is there any verse which says that God is going to restore the 100% purity of the Greek and Hebrew text of His Word to make that exactly like the original autographs.” The Rev Seet went on to accuse FEBC of taking away the authority of the Scriptures from God’s people by upholding VPP. The Rev Wong declares that the Bible is perfect, infallible and inerrant only in the autographs (original or first manuscripts) and **not** the apographs (copies of the original manuscripts) claiming that his position (i.e., infallible and inerrant autographs, not apographs) is the Reformed position. We regret to say that the Revs Seet and Wong are mistaken on all counts, not considering their misrepresentation and caricature of VPP.

The Rev Wong made a very serious accusation which must be dealt with before we go on. He accused us of a “blatant lie” for saying that he does not believe the Bible is perfect. Now, he replies by asking, “Which Bible?” That is a good question. It must be categorically stated that we have **never at any time** accused the Rev Wong of denying that the Bible was perfect in the

autographs, but the truth is he does not believe the Bible to be perfect **today** whether in the original languages or in any version or translation, and as such could not take the Dean Burgon Oath. Ask the Rev Wong: “Which Bible **today** do you consider to be infallible and inerrant?” I am sure he cannot tell you which for he does not know it nor have it; his perfect Bible is unknowable and non-existent!

What are truly lies are the spurious and malicious accusations hurled at FEBC and its faculty, that we believe in an “inspired KJV,” and that “anyone who does not use the KJV is condemned to hell.” We are called heretics, cultists, and schismatics; and threatened with relocation from our birthplace and home at Gilstead Road. Our only, humble plea is for a presently infallible and inerrant Bible, and for justice and equity.

### Refutation

The charge that VPP is an unbiblical doctrine needs to be refuted (2 Tim 4:2). If VPP is not based on the Holy Scriptures—our sole and supreme authority of our beliefs and practices—then it is a useless doctrine indeed. However, contrary to the thinking and reasoning of the Revs Seet and Wong, VPP is indeed a biblical doctrine as clearly taught in Psalm 12:6-7, Matthew 5:18, 24:35, John 10:35, 1 Peter 1:23-25 and many other passages.

Furthermore, the belief that God is able to restore and preserve His inspired words is not without biblical precedents. There are at least two instances in the Old Testament when God did restore His words to 100% perfection after they had been destroyed by man. The first is found in Exodus 19:16-21:26, 31:18-32:28, 34:1-4 (cf Deut 5:1-20) when Moses in righteous anger smashed to pieces the two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments which God had authored. Are the Ten Commandments thus destroyed and lost, or have they been restored and preserved?

Let me quote our founding pastor and teacher—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow—who in an article on “God’s Special Providential Care of the Text of Scripture” published in the

October-December 2002 issue of the *Bible Witness* wrote, “To re-establish the giving of the Law, God commanded Moses to hew another two tablets of stone and bring them with him back to the mountain top. ‘And he wrote on the tables according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me. And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the LORD commanded me’ (Deut 10:4-5). The Ark of the Covenant is the only holy furniture kept inside the Holy of Holies. God’s sacred commandments, intact and written on both sides of the two tablets so nothing can be added and nothing can be subtracted and were kept secure from any human intrusion. ‘For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven’ (Ps 119:89). The restoration of the two tables is to show that heaven and earth shall pass away, but His words shall not pass away. Not one letter or even the cross of a ‘t,’ and the dot of an ‘i.’ ‘For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law’ [Matt 5:18]. Jesus says, ‘The scripture cannot be broken’ (John 10:35).”

The second instance is recorded in Jeremiah 36. Here we find the wicked king Jehoiakim cutting up the inspired scroll and throwing it into the fire (vv21-23). Can man destroy the inspired words of God? God would have us know that His words are indestructible and eternal for He will preserve and even restore them by His omnipotence and omniscience. In verses 27, 28, and 32 we read, “Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying, Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned. ... Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.” Our omnipotent and

omniscient God is not only able to preserve His inspired words so that none be lost, He is also able to restore them to perfection so that we today might know His exact words and live by His every word (Matt 4:4).

### *Sola Scriptura*

The Rev Seet’s concern that the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures should be restored to God’s people is admirable, and that is what VPP does. VPP promotes and defends the absolute authority of the Scriptures, that the Scriptures alone should be the supreme and final authority of every Christian’s faith and practice (as stated in Life BPC’s Constitution, Article 4.2.1), and not any human being or textual critic. Let it also be known that, contrary to what the Rev Wong thinks, the Reformed position on the infallibility and authority of the Holy Scriptures concerns the extant **apographs** and not the non-existent autographs (see Turretin, Owen, Muller, Letis).

How was the authority of the Scriptures taken away from God’s people and the common folk in the dark ages? It was taken away when the RCC forbade the people from reading the Scriptures for themselves, permitting only the clergy to read and interpret the Scriptures, and prosecuting and executing anyone who dared to translate the Bible, preach the Bible, and distribute the Bible to the people. It is clear that VPP does none of these. VPP encourages people to study the Bible for themselves, and is especially concerned that they study it from the authentic and correct text, and not the heretical and corrupt one. In the light of the logic of faith which is based on God’s promises of VPP as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and God’s special providential work in history and in the church, we identify the authentic Scriptures to be the Traditional, Byzantine, Majority, and finally Received Text of the Church Fathers, the Reformers, and the Reformation saints, and not the heretical and corrupted Alexandrian, Minority, and Revised texts of liberals Westcott and Hort, and ecumenical textual critics. With an infallibly preserved original text and a very accurate translation of the Bible as found in the AV/KJV, we tell the people they need not depend on so-called human authorities (textual and higher

critical scholars) and their theories and speculative methods, but can take God’s Word as is, the infallible and inerrant Word which is absolutely authoritative—“Thus saith the LORD,” “It is written”—in ascertaining truth from error. VPP encourages the accurate and faithful translation of the Bible into different languages that is based on the authentic and preserved text. Clearly, VPP is directing God’s people to return to the sole and supreme authority of a presently infallible and inerrant Scripture for all their beliefs and practices.

It is not the VPP but the non-VPP position which has undermined the absolute authority of the Scriptures, for to the non-VPPist, the perfect Bible is **only** the intangible, unavailable, and inaccessible autographs which all “scholars” admit are non-existent today. We, on the other hand, believe in the infallible original manuscripts (apographs) that God has supernaturally preserved. But as far as the Rev Colin Wong is concerned, he says, “I do not believe any single manuscript as being better than other [sic] within the same family. The reason is that there are no two manuscripts that are identical.” So, the Rev Wong, with such imperfect manuscripts or copies, must rely on fallible human scholars and their man-made methods of textual criticism to decide or determine for him which is God’s word and which is not. That is the reason why the Trinitarian Bible Society, the Dean Burgon Society, and FEBC are steering clear of textual criticism. That is why FEBC contends that the non-VPP position is **not** *Sola Scriptura* and is in fact **against** *Sola Scriptura* because the textual critical scholar is now made the final authority or an additional authority to the Scriptures.

### Biblical Basis

The Rev Seet went on to argue that, “nowhere in the Bible can we find even a single verse that says or implies God will do this [i.e. restoring His exact words] through the translators of the King James Version and that He will do it in the year 1611.” Such an argument is fallacious, for if we accept this argument, then we must also reject the 27 books of the NT Canon, for where in the Bible do we find any verse telling us that there will be a NT



## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 24 – 30, 2007)

MON	8.00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 6 Room 602, Paterson Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Das Koshy) Korean Service (Room 503) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Christmas Eve Service** will be held tomorrow night at the RELC Auditorium at 8 pm.

**Watchnight Service** will be held at the RELC Auditorium on Dec 31, 07 at 10.45 pm. Speaker: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. The Lord's Supper will be served.

**Young People's Fellowship** will be having a Visitation to the home of Bro Samuel Eio and Sis Yiwei this Sat (Dec 29, 07). Time: 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 101 Commonwealth Crescent, #06-124, Singapore 140101. Speaker: Rev Wee Eng Moh. For those requiring transport, please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 2.50 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

**Adults' Sunday School Class** is now studying 1 Samuel under Eld Joseph, 9.15 am – 10.15 am.

**We extend our deepest condolences** to Bro Tan Ming Wei on the demise of his grandmother on Dec 14, 07.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** \$8,930

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$1,000, \$500, \$480, \$200; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$500, \$200; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$200; *Brisbane BPC* \$100; *Gethsemane BPC Cebu Mission* \$150; *Mrs Tow* \$500; *Jose (FEBC)* \$50; *Rajan (FEBC)* \$50; *Dennis Kabingue (FEBC)* \$50; *Barnabas Yap* \$1,000; *Wendy Teng* \$1,000, \$100; *FEBC* \$2,000, \$500, \$400, \$340, \$200

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** \$18,450  
**Church Building Fund** \$8,000, \$3,000, \$1,250, \$1,250, \$200, \$102, \$100, \$100 **Total:** \$676,461.27

Sunday School Offering: \$254.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility. Prov 15:33*

**Far Eastern Bible College** reopens with a Day of Prayer and Registration on Wed, Jan 2, 08, at 9 am, Shalom Chapel, Calvary Tengah BPC, 345 Choa Chu Kang Road. Transport leaves FEBC at 8.30 am sharp. **The Basic Theology for Everyone** courses will resume with *The Book of Job* by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy on Jan 7, 08 (Mon) and *Biblical Hermeneutics* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Jan 3, 08 (Thu), 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm, at FEBC, 9A Gilstead Road.

**Catechism Class for 2008 Easter Baptism** will commence on Jan 6, 08. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am**

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Vol. V No. 12

23 December 2007

**“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”**

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	<i>Down From His Glory</i>
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Luke 2:1-20
Hymn	No. 158
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 142
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Matthew 7:21-27
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
Sermon	<i>Not Every One Shall Enter</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
Closing Hymn	No. 288
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

## Giving to God

(Message delivered by the Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo at True Life Church on Dec 9, 07)

Christmas is a time when we remember God's precious gift to mankind—God's gift of His beloved and uniquely begotten Son—the Lord Jesus Christ—who came to save us from our sins (John 3:16). As we remember God's infinite Gift to us, how can we forget to return thanks to Him for all the wonderful things we have received from Him? We owe to our God a debt that can never be repaid. Nonetheless the Lord requires of us to worship Him with our tithes and our offerings, not just during the Christmas season but throughout the year even till the end of our days.

What is a tithe? A tithe is a tenth of what we owe to God for all that He has given to us. The tithe is first mentioned in Genesis 14:20 when Abraham gave tithes to the Most High God for granting him victory over his enemies. God later required the Israelites to give a tenth of all their earnings in worship of Him their Provider (Lev

27:30-32; Num 18:24-28; Deut 14:22).

Besides the tithe, there is also the offering. The offerings are voluntary gifts or freewill offerings (Exod 25:2-3; 35:5, 21-29; Lev 7:16; 23:38; Num 7:2-88) in thanksgiving to God for answered prayers, or for special purposes like the building of God's house (Exod 35:21; 36:3; Lev 7:12; 22:29).

## A Command

So why should we tithe? We tithe to God because (1) He commanded us to do so, and (2) the tenth is holy and belongs to Him. Leviticus 27:30, “*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.*”

Jesus told the people, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's” (Matt 22:17). The things that belong to Caesar, the money that he requires in the form of taxes, give to him. Likewise, we ought to render unto God the tithe that is His. When a man does not tithe, he is said to have robbed God. God is angry at those who steal from Him: “*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation*” (Mal 3:8-9). Each time we get our paycheque, let us not forget to put one-tenth of it into the offering bag.

## Obedience

Although God has commanded His people to tithe and offer to Him their



2<sup>nd</sup> Gethsemane Missionary Conference in Cebu, Philippines, Nov 27-Dec 1, 07



material goods, yet nothing delights Him more than obedience. Samuel said, *“Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams”* (1 Sam 15:22). How then should we offer our tithes and offerings? The offering of anything to the Lord must be preceded by a godly and sanctified life, or else our gifts would mean nothing to Him at all.

### Love and Gratitude

We tithe and offer to God our possessions not only because it is commanded of us to do so, but also because we love Him and are grateful to Him for all that He has given to us. Everything we have and own comes from the Lord. *“A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven”* (John 3:27). In Him *“we live, and move, and have our being”* (Acts 17:28). If God does not provide for us a job, give us good health and strength to work, grant us good opportunities and success, we will not be able to earn and get gain. Therefore, we ought to show how thankful and grateful we are to the Lord by our heartfelt offerings. David expresses such a spirit well when he prayed, *“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee”* (1 Chron 29:14).

### Sincerity and Truth

When we give to the Lord, it must be done out of a sincere and truthful heart. The Apostle Paul said, *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (2 Cor 9:7). We must not be like Ananias and Sapphira who gave out of an insincere and deceitful heart. Peter rebuked Ananias, *“Ananias, why hast Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God”* (Acts 5:4). When we give to the Lord, it must be done with a pure heart of love for the Lord, thinking only of Him and not

of self. This is wonderfully demonstrated by the poor widow who only had two mites, but gave them all to the Lord which earned the Lord’s commendation, *“Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”* (Mark 12:43-44).

### Worship

When we present our tithes and offerings to God, we must do so worshipfully *“Give unto the LORD the glory due to his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness”* (1 Chron 16:29). When entering into the presence of the Lord, we are told not to appear before Him empty (Exod 23:15; 34:20). We are to honour the Lord with our substance and with the first receipts of our profits (Prov 3:9).

### Privilege

It is a privilege to give our tithes and offering to the Lord. We give to the Lord not because He needs our money or goods, but because He desires our worship of Him sincerely expressed in tangible ways. The Lord is a debtor to no man. When we give to Him, He gives back to us even more, not just materially, but even more so, spiritually. *“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of host, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it”* (Mal 3:10). Above all, know this: *“God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work”* (2 Cor 9:8).

Consider the following testimonies of how God keeps His promises to those who obey His command to tithe and to give:

### Quaker Oats

Henry P Crowell was a sickly man. He contracted tuberculosis when a boy and could not go to school. So being poor in health and uneducated, he did not think he could be a preacher. But after hearing a sermon by

Dwight L Moody, the young Crowell prayed, *“I can’t be a preacher, but I can be a good businessman. God, if You will let me make money, I will use it in Your service.”*

Under the doctor’s advice, Crowell worked outdoors for seven years and regained his health. He then bought the little run-down Quaker Mill at Ravanna, Ohio. Within 10 years Quaker Oats was a household word to millions. Crowell also operated the huge Perfection Stove Company. For over 40 years Crowell faithfully gave 60-70% of his income to God’s causes, having advanced from an initial 10%. He became affectionately known as *“The autocrat of the breakfast table.”*

### Colgate

At 16 years of age William Colgate left home to seek his fortune. All his possessions consisted of only a tiny bundle, tied in a napkin and carried in his hand. He met an old canal-boat captain, and told him his father was too poor to keep him and the only trade he knew was soap and candle making.

The old captain then knelt and prayed earnestly for the boy and advised, *“Someone will soon be the leading soap-maker in New York. It can be you as well as someone else. Be a good man, give your heart to Christ, pay the Lord all that belongs to Him, make an honest soap; give a full pound, and I’m certain you’ll be a prosperous and rich man.”*

Into the city, he remembered the captain’s words, and though poor and lonesome, he united with a church. The first dollar earned, he gave 1/10 to God. Ten cents of every dollar were sacred to the Lord. Having regular employment, he soon became a partner and later sole owner of the business. He made an honest soap, gave a full pound and instructed his bookkeeper to open an account with the Lord of 1/10 of all income. The business grew, so he gave 2/10, 3/10, 4/10, 5/10 and finally he gave all his income. By the time the Lord took him home, William Colgate had given millions to the Lord’s work.

### Laidlaw

Robert A Laidlaw, the New Zealand businessman who wrote the famous booklet

*The Reason Why* started tithing his \$3 weekly salary at age 18. Two years later, he covenanted with God to give 10% of his salary—up to a predetermined amount. Above that amount and up to a larger amount—15%. Above this amount and up to a still larger amount—20%. All above a still larger amount—25%.

At the age of 25, Laidlaw decided to change the above graduated scale and give God 50% of all his earnings. Forty-five years later, he testified: *“In spiritual communion and in material things. God has blessed me 100-fold, and has graciously entrusted to me a stewardship far beyond my expectations when, as a lad of 18, I started to give God a definite portion of my wages.”*

### Tithing Surprises

The Christian who tithe will be surprised:

- (1) At the amount of money he has for the Lord’s work.
- (2) At the deepening of his spiritual life in paying the tithe.
- (3) At the ease in meeting his own obligation with the nine-tenths.
- (4) At the ease in going from one-tenth to a larger percentage.
- (5) At the preparation this gives to be a faithful and wise steward over the nine-tenths remaining.
- (6) At himself for not adopting the plan sooner!

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### Christmas Greetings from Japan

*To True Life B-P Church:*

Thank you for your weekly. They are so precious to me. By your prayers I could hand out tracts this year also. I had the freedom to hand out tracts in many schools. God bless you richly next year also.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May His abiding love fill your heart with peace and joy always.

*In the Lord,  
Setsuko Takashima  
Kobe, Japan  
Dec 6, 2007*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 31, 2007 – Jan 6, 2008)

MON	10.45 pm	Watchnight Service
	11.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)
WED	9.00 am	FEBC Day of Prayer
	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	Biblical Hermeneutics (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
		Catechism Class (Room 810)
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Stephen Khoo)
		Korean Service (Room 503)
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study
	1.00 pm	Korean Service (Room 503)

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Wed, Jan 2, 08, at 7.45 pm. Venue: RELC, Level 6, Newton Room (Room 601). Program: Bible Study on James by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome. Contact Judith at 96729973 for details.

**Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting** will be held this Fri, Jan 4, 08, at 8 pm in the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng, 58 Watten Drive. Tel: 64671360.

**Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat, Jan 5, 08, at 3.30 pm in the home of Mr and Mrs Foo at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on John 15 by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. Contact Herbert at 94377715 for details.

**Catechism Class for 2008 Easter Baptism** will commence next Lord's Day, Jan 6, 08, at 9.15 am in Room 810. Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class.

**Pray for Pastor Tow's** good health and strength.

## LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

**General Offerings:** *Last Lord's Day* S\$15,535; *Christmas Eve Service* S\$21,012; THB530; KRW260

**Designated Offerings:** *Rev Tow* \$500, \$350, \$200, \$200, \$200, \$150, \$120; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$500, \$350, \$200; *Rev Quek Suan Yew* \$500; *Rev Prabhudas Koshy* \$500; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$450; *Rev Peter Clements* \$500; *Gethsemane BPC* \$50; *Gethsemane BPC Care Ministry* \$1,000; *Gethsemane BPC Ethiopia Mission* \$1,000; *Bible Witness Media Ministry* \$400, \$100; *Sarawak Mission* \$500; *Marilyn Nanta (Kuching)* \$100; *FEBC Students* \$1,000; *Jose (FEBC)* \$50; *Judah (FEBC)* \$50, \$50; *Lorna Were (FEBC)* \$50; *Molla (FEBC)* \$50; *Rajan (FEBC)* \$50, \$50; *Samuel Kwong (FEBC)* \$50; *Thadeaus (FEBC)* \$50; *Titus (FEBC)* \$50; *Barnabas Yap* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100, \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$200; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$400, \$300, \$200

**Total General and Designated Offerings:** S\$48,317; THB530; KRW260

**Church Building Fund** \$5,000, \$2,700, \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, \$1,000, \$1,000, \$800, \$600, \$400, \$300, \$160, \$100; USD500 **Total:** S\$693,021.27; USD 500

Sunday School Offering: \$373.00

**Verse for the Week:** *The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD. Prov 16:1*

**Watchnight Service** will be held tomorrow night at the RELC Auditorium at 10.45 pm. Speaker: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. The Lord's Supper will be served.

**Far Eastern Bible College** reopens with a Day of Prayer and Registration on Wed, Jan 2, 08, at 9 am, Shalom Chapel, Calvary Tengah BPC, 345 Choa Chu Kang Road. Transport leaves FEBC at 8.30 am sharp.

**The Basic Theology for Everyone** courses will resume with *The Book of Job* by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy on Jan 7, 08 (Mon) and *Biblical Hermeneutics* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Jan 3, 08 (Thu), 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm, at FEBC, 9A Gilstead Road.



## TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**REL Auditorium, 10.30 am**

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: [febc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:febc@pacific.net.sg); Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

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### "BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 162
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 73
Hymn	No. 149
Announcements	
Special Number	Men's Chorus
Offering & Hymn	No. 137
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Matt 7:24-27
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy
Sermon	<i>Two Builders</i> (Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy)
Closing Hymn	No. 328
Benediction	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy

### ARE YOU ON THE LORD'S SIDE?

*(Testimonies from the Young People Who Attended the True Life YPF-Calvary Pandan YF Camp at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, Dec 17-22, 07)*

### Providential Hand of God

The Combined True Life YPF and Calvary Pandan YF Camp 2007 was held on 17 December to 22 December 2007 at Resort Lautan Biru in Mersing. The Camp Theme was "Are You on the Lord's Side?" where everyone was challenged not to be fence sitters but to make a determined effort to follow Christ and obey His Word. At night, we had a study on the epistle of 3 John conducted by Brother Ling Kang, an FEBC student, where we learnt about true Christian joy, love and service. We were also blessed by the morning devotions by Brother Judah and Brother Rajan who are also FEBC students.

Even before the start of the camp, we can see the providential hand of God leading the two youth fellowships to combine their efforts to organise this

camp. There were also torrential rains and flooding before the camp that blocked the routes to Mersing. However, the Lord cleared them the day before the camp. On our way back, we also received reports from Singapore predicting floods that will prevent our return. But God gave us sunny weather all the way back home. Men may predict the weather, but it is God who controls His world. As long as everything is done in God's will, nothing can go against it.

Resort Lautan Biru was founded upon the vision that God gave our pastor Rev Timothy Tow to have a resort for young people to enjoy their Christian spiritual retreat. It was the Lord who directed Rev Tow to the purchase of the site. It was the Lord who oversaw the completion of the resort. The Resort is a source of spiritual blessing from the Lord, and no one should seek to close it down. We are all accountable not to remove our neighbour's landmark (Prov 22:28).

We have been truly blessed during the camp this year and have learnt many lessons from the forever inspired and preserved Words of everlasting life. Special thanks go to Mr and Mrs Raymond Tan, the caretakers of the resort, for their tender love and care towards us. God willing, we will have another youth camp at Resort Lautan Biru in obedience to the vision the LORD gave our pastor. At the same time, the YPF will continue to stand firm on the presently and forever infallible and inerrant Words of God.

**True Life YPF-Calvary Pandan YF Camp at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, Dec 17-22, 07**



We are on the Lord's side. His providential hand is upon us. *Chew Yiming Clement*

### **Spiritually Revitalising**

All praise and glory to our God Almighty, for He has so graciously blessed and provided for everything during the Combined True Life and Calvary Pandan Youth Camp. Surely, it was nothing we deserved, and more than we could ever ask for. At the end of it, we can all say, truly, we were all very blessed by the messages and the fellowship, new bonds between the two churches were fostered, and existing ones were made even stronger by God's Grace.

As many have heard, there have been reports of flooding in Malaysia, and that many roads and highways were inaccessible because of the effect of heavy rain. Thank the Lord, for the weather conditions on the way up to Mersing on Monday was just wonderful, with almost no sign of flooding throughout the journey. Such undeserved mercy the Lord has shown us, has shown me that it was God's will that we reach Mersing, to kick off what was to be the start of a truly blessed and spiritually revitalising youth camp.

The theme of the camp was "Are You on the Lord's Side?" Dr Khoo was our main speaker and Brother Ling Kang spoke on 3 John in the evenings. The messages were such wonderful reminders and encouragement to be on the Lord's side, of His truth based on His Word, making that choice being convicted of the truth, not halting between two opinions, but persevering in faith in trials and testings by His Grace for His Glory. Oh may the Lord grant the grace and the strength, and the faith and courage that He may find us faithful, delighting in His Word and standing on His side in such perilous times!

I must also say the Lord has truly blessed the organising committee with very smooth running of the camp. The Lord took care of every single detail, that the campers and ourselves had nothing to worry about, and could focus on learning His Word and having sweet fellowship with one another. It is

nothing less than amazing, and we can do nothing but thank and praise God for His goodness for the success of this camp. May the Lord bless us all with a closer walk with Him as we stand on the Lord's Side, and be a shining testimony for Him as we return to our normal routine in Singapore. May the Lord also sustain the work in Malaysia at Resort Lautan Biru, that many more Christian Youths may be blessed there.

*Andrew Kan, Camp Committee 2IC*

### **Unity among Brethren**

"Are You on the Lord's Side?" The theme of the camp has impressed upon my heart greatly. Through the messages, I have been reminded of the need to stand up for the Lord in these days of apostasy. There can be no sitting on the fence for a believer and we need to follow God and not men. During the discussions, it caused me to reflect on the birth of our church, True Life BPC. There was a need for the separation and we did not come out of Life BPC blindly following our pastor, Rev Tow, but we left because we wanted to take the side of the Lord, so we followed Rev Tow as he followed God. I pray that the Lord will continue to preserve Rev Tow, True Life BPC and FEBC. I pray that the Lord will help me to always stand up for God in every aspect of my life.

It is truly a blessing working with like-minded brethren. At camp, the unity among brethren is evident. Everyone had a blessed time of fellowship. I pray that the Lord might strengthen the bond between the two youth groups so that we might continue to build each other up in the faith even after the camp. This camp has exemplified Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!", and all this is possible because of the truth of God's Word that binds the two churches together. Thank God for everything!

*Candice Tan, Camp Committee Member*

### **Very Enjoyable Experience**

I would like to thank God for giving me the opportunity to be able to go for the YPF camp.

It was a very enjoyable experience for me. I want to thank God for giving us a nice resort and the facilities which we are able to use. Thank God for the preachers. The camp theme and the messages by Dr Jeffrey Khoo really opened my heart to always depend on the Lord as well as to assure me that we are on the Lord's side. The food too was sumptuous. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to God and the people for making the YPF camp a huge success.

*David Tay*

### **Christ in Me**

I want to thank God for two things. Firstly, I want to thank God for giving me good N-level results just before I came to camp. I am so happy that I can be promoted to Secondary 5. Secondly, I want to thank Him for Wednesday's night message by Brother Ling Kang concerning the good example of Demetrius in 3 John. I pray that I will keep a good testimony and conduct in front of my friends just like Demetrius so that they may see Christ in me. All thanks and glory be to God.

*Yamato*

### **Sweet Fellowship**

Thank God that I am able to come again to another year of YPF camp where I can enjoy sweet fellowship with like-minded Christians and learn more of God's Word. I learnt from the theme messages that we have to be truly born again to be on the Lord's side. Definitely, strait is the gate and narrow is the way of Christ. Similarly, it is not just a joy ride when we decide to follow Him. A fine example would be the Levites who took the Lord's side against those who worshipped the molten calf. To follow the Truth, we have to fight for and defend the faith.

Thank God too for the many hands that prepared the better-than-army meals each day. Lastly, thank God for the success of the camp that we may take home whatever knowledge we have gained to be applied to our lives. To God be the glory.

*Jonathan Lee*

### **No Neutrality**

I am thankful that I attended this combined youth camp. Initially, I was somewhat hesitant as I had a lot of work to do over the Christmas Holidays. I thank God for the message shared by Brother Ling Kang the first night of the camp. As

Christians, we find our true joy in growing in the knowledge of God and His Word. This is a pursuit worth sacrificing for. I found the camp theme most timely, and the messages by Dr Khoo very relevant, especially in these last days of apostasy and falling away. In this conflict, there can be no neutrality—those that are not on the LORD's side are against Him. I am also especially grateful for the testimonies shared by my fellow campers on how God has worked in their lives and turned around seemingly terrible situations to His own glory. The camp has truly been a most blessed time of fellowship and spiritual feeding.

*Samuel Joseph*

### **Immersed in God's Words**

Thank God for the many blessings showered upon us during the camp. We were nourished spiritually from all the messages faithfully preached, as well as the sweet fellowship we had with one another. Thank God also for preserving the beautiful Resort Lautan Biru, where we were able to enjoy the environment and facilities, shut out the world around us and immerse fully in the learning of God's words.

The theme for the camp was "Are you on the Lord's side?" Even though it may seem an easy choice to choose between God and Satan, Good and Evil, we as believers are still bent on sinning due to our innate sinful nature. We need to recognise that God is to be fully in control of our lives, and the only way to know God's will for us is through His words. Rev Khoo emphasised that the Bible is our sole and supreme authority of our faith and practice and we thank God for inspiring and preserving the inerrant and infallible Bible even till today.

*Bernice Xu*

### **Spiritual Discipline**

The youth camp serves as an avenue for Christians to be trained in spiritual discipline so that we might be refined to become more and more like Christ. I thank God that FEBC has produced faithful speakers to teach us from the absolute and unchanging truth in God's Word.

*Samuel Goh*