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FOREWORD

Do you agree that time is life? Sometimes, we think we may have run out of money but we still have time. But for those who are already in their evening years, they know that their time on earth will soon come to an end. Indeed, time is life and as far as God sustains us, we should live life to the fullest doing what He desires us to do before He takes us Home. This issue focuses on the elderly, and is entitled "*God's Word in Missions - Ministering to the Elderly.*"

All of us will grow old one day. Some of you may have already retired from the workforce and are enjoying your evening years. How, then, should we spend our remaining time before the Lord takes us Home? The Psalmist exhorts us with these words in Psalm 118:24, "*This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*" Precious time should be spent wisely. We must appreciate each day as a gift from God. Notice that the only day mentioned in this verse is "This is the day." He does not talk about yesterday or tomorrow, only "This is the day." Every minute that you have, every breath that you take on, this day, is a precious gift from God. Have you ever heard someone saying, "I wish I have more time like you!"? That is foolishness because we all have the same amount of time in a day. Many are thinking, "I don't have the time to do everything that I want to do. 24 hours is not enough. I need 48 hours instead." Well, is extending the day and hours really able to solve the problem? Personally, I do not think so. If God grants us our desire of 48 hours a day, very soon, we will complain that 48 hours is also not enough!

The all-wise God knew that 24 hours is sufficient for us. Think about what the Lord Jesus was able to accomplish in His short period of time on this earth. He was only 33 years old when He was crucified, but His earthly ministry was accomplished in three years! Do you think He had something to do but failed to do it due to lack of time? Of course not. All that He had to do was done. It was finished. Listen to His words found in John 17:4, saying to His Heavenly Father, "*I have glorified Thee on the earth. I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.*" Truly, our time is in God's hand. What God has given us to do, He will also give us the time to do it and complete it. We need to dedicate each day to the glory of God. The only day we have to enjoy is today. We hear people talking about saving time. Can we really save time? The fact is we cannot. We either spend our time foolishly or wisely, but we cannot save it. We cannot save it for tomorrow. Once time is gone, it is gone forever. That is why time is so precious especially when we have reached an advanced age. One day, our clock of life will stop. That is why we should not procrastinate in doing what we should do for God today. You cannot store time. You cannot stretch time.

Apostle Paul exhorts the believers in Ephesus to spend their time wisely for the Lord. He wrote in Ephesians 5:15-17, "*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*" The phrase "redeeming the time" is an accounting term. It means to cash in every moment you can to get the most out of your time. Start each day by asking God what He wants you to do. Do not give the excuse that you have no time for God: no time to read the Bible, no time to pray, no time to serve, etc. It will do us well to take heed of Matthew 6:33, which the Lord says to us, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.*" When you seek the Lord faithfully, you will be surprised how much time you have been given. For this, we rejoice because of God's goodness and faithfulness. No matter what happens, we can rejoice in the Lord. It does not matter whether we are 6 months old, 6 years old or 60 years old, God gives us enough time to spend wisely. Our time on earth is indeed short, so waste it no more. Let us spend it wisely to the glory of God. May we remember Psalm 118:24 in our heart.

Besides the articles that seek to encourage the elderly in the Lord, there are testimonies and book reviews included for your encouragement. Enjoy reading. May God help us. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Rev Dennis Kwok
Chairman
Truth Missions Society (TMS)

ARTICLE:

“THE WITNESS OF THE AGED BELIEVER” BY REV (DR) QUEK SUAN YEW

As children of God, our time on earth is in God's hand alone. Some of God's children are saved and soon after, they are taken home. Their time of witness for Christ on earth is short. For others who are saved, God allows them to remain on earth to be His witnesses, even into their nineties. Some of them may have been believers for more than five decades. This also includes the ones who come to know Christ late in life, i.e. in their sixties and seventies. The reason is that the hand of God is also in their lives except that they are not aware of it. Now that they are believers, they are able to see God's hand helping and protecting them, in the past as well as in the present. It is no accident that they come to know Christ at a later age and are still alive to share their lives. The lives of the aged believer can impact the lives of many in ways that only they can because of their long relationship with Christ and God on the earth. Their struggles in life are varied and their experiences of God's providence are comparable to God's faithful servant, King David. This makes their witness priceless and beneficial to many believers especially in these last days where evil abounds and morality declines.

Reason for Knowing Christ as an Elderly

Titus 2:1 *"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"*

The elderly believers have much to teach the younger Christians. The Apostle Paul charged Titus to keep on speaking and not stop, i.e. to teach out loud, all things that will result in "sound doctrines." Life can only be sound when the doctrines that enter their minds and hearts are sound. The word for "sound" is "incorruptible" or "healthy." Wrong teaching will result in wrong living. Many years ago, it was reported that a young American boy left behind a note to his parents after watching a cartoon movie that taught "reincarnation." The boy believed it. He took his own life and wrote to his parents that he wanted to be reincarnated into a better being, hence a better life. This is tragic. But our world is replete with all kinds of falsehood and evil teaching that are robbing young men and women and children of their precious lives because of the wrong teachings spawned by the god of this world, the Devil. He has blinded their eyes (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:4).

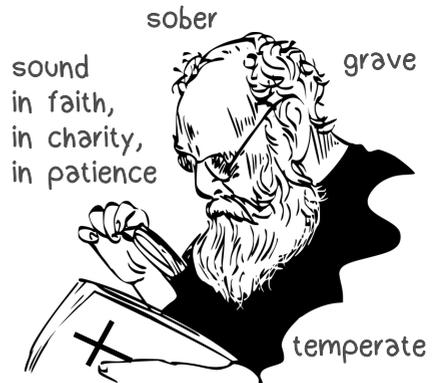
Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to open these blinded eyes so that all humanity can "see" again! They lost their sight when sin came into the world. They now can see again because their sins have been forgiven by God through Jesus Christ. All who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and

Saviour are given the mind of Christ to do what is right in the sight of God. In other words, God was not commanding Titus to do something that He had not already equipped all believers to do. Titus, as pastor, was to focus on this in all his teachings! He can be jovial and light-hearted with his members at fellowship times over a meal or while strolling along the streets of Crete (cf. 1:5); but his primary aim was always to ensure that what came out of his mouth would result in sound doctrines. This would help God's children to live lives that would glorify Christ. The instruction would be according to their ages. Titus began with the aged Christian men and women.

The Aged Christian Man's Witness

Titus 2:2 "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."

These are the criteria of the aged believer that Titus was charged by the Apostle Paul to focus on in their lives. Paul knew that when a believer grows old, he faces different challenges as his life on earth draws to a close. At the same time, the impact he has on the younger ones is more powerful than in other periods of his life. How he ends his life of witness with God shouts the loudest to everyone in the church. It can become the great blessing that God wants or the great stumbling that God does not want. The tense of the verb "to be" teaches us the continuous action with the purpose of becoming. The following are the spiritual criteria to guarantee the aged believer that he will be a great spiritual blessing.



- **Be Sober** - it means to be circumspect. It is used only 3 times in the whole New Testament (1 Timothy 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2). It describes a person who is vigilant. He guards his conduct carefully so that the image of Christ he bears will not be defiled by his words or life;

- **Be Grave** - it means to be honourable. He must stop behaving like a juvenile, cracking jokes all the time. He must act his age as an aged man. He has lived and does not have many more years left. It is foolish to "joke" the remaining years away in frivolity. This includes his dressing and the places he frequents. He must reflect the conduct of a godly mature believer;

- **Be Temperate** - it means to be sound in mind, i.e. good self-control whereby he is measured in his passion and counsel. His mind is clear and sharp. He thinks according to the Word of God. The advice he gives is Bible-based and has clarity and truth leading to righteousness and God being glorified. He is not impulsive. His age has mellowed him down to a measured and careful counsellor;
- **Be Sound in Faith** - it means to be healthy in faith. There is no dross in his faith. This is his subjective faith where the Bible is his guide in life. His decisions are made according to the Bible. Whatever the Bible says, he obeys cheerfully. He has lived with enough regrets so that he now wants to live only according to the Bible which he knows is the same as living for Christ;
- **Be in Charity** - it means to love with God's unconditional and sacrificial love. This motive will sustain the aged believer with all that he needs without allowing any disappointment in life to turn him into a "bitter gourd"! As he ages, he faces more challenges in life and when he looks back at his life there were failures and successes. These memories must always be tempered with agape love to ensure continuous joyfulness in service and witness to the very end. There have been too many examples in the Bible of believers who did not end well in life;
- **Be in Patience** - it means to persevere in the face of difficult circumstances in life. The aged believer has faced almost all the challenges of life which he sees the younger ones facing or will soon be facing. He has much to share with them in terms of both failures and success in overcoming some of these temptations.

The Aged Christian Woman's Witness

Titus 2:3-5 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

The word "likewise" means that their lives as aged women can bring much blessing like their aged Christian men counterpart. They have an influence that can impact the younger women better than the aged men could. The spiritual criteria that the aged Christian woman must have and exhibit in her life include the following:

- **Be in Behaviour as becometh Holiness** - it means that, above everything else, this is what every aged Christian woman must characterise her life by. Her conduct must be one of holy living everywhere she goes. Her dressing, her words, her actions, and everything else about her must project only holiness. The opposite of this is to project sin. This is the best credential for impacting others for Christ, especially the younger female believers;



- **Be Not False Accusers** - it means to "*let your yea be yea and your nay be nay*", for anything more than this is evil (cf. Matthew 5:37). This daily truthfulness in her life will ensure truthfulness in major critical moments in life. The tongue is a deadly organ that has burned many lives and destroyed many relationships. It is an uncontrollable evil in the lives of the unregenerate. But the aged Christian woman must be careful to stop lying and deceiving;

- **Be Not Given to Much Wine** - wine was used to purify the drinking water to make it safe for consumption. However, in the guise of purifying the water there were those who lingered and increased the proportion of the fermented grape juice into the mixture and drank till they were drunk. Since they stayed at home while their husbands were at work in the field, they became derelict in their duties as godly housewives. Prayer and self-control are needed to maintain this virtue;

- **Be Teachers of Good Things** - staying home as housewives is more than just taking care of the household chores and keeping the house neat and tidy; the spiritual responsibilities are just as important, if not more. She has to be a good student of God's Word in order to be a good teacher of good things. She does so by paying close attention to what her Christian husband learns from the local church. She will in turn teach her children and other ladies. As an aged Christian woman, she would have a deep well of God's truth in her to teach others;

The aged Christian women are tasked by God to teach the younger Christian women. Their lives of godliness must become prime examples for them to emulate. What the younger women see in them will in turn be their own goal when they become aged. The lessons to teach the younger women include:

- **Be Sober** - this is not the same as the phrase for the aged men. Here it means to make of sound mind. It has the same root as the word "temperate" in verse 2. Like all young people, younger women also have the tendency to let their minds drift and be easily affected by the

influences and fashions of the world. This will result in sinful behaviour, and if they are married, they will become bad mothers to their children. But, when they are of sound and clear mind, they will not only care for the physical well-being but also the spiritual well-being of their husbands and their children;

- **Love their Husbands** - loving their husbands as submissive wives is the biblical teaching. They submit as unto the Lord, which means they do so as if they are submitting to the Lord Himself. They are to be a helper suitable to their own husbands. They will help their husbands to be more spiritual. They will encourage them to be even more godly so that their home will be godly. This they do by loving their husbands according to the manner taught in Holy Scriptures;

- **Love their Children** - they are to love their children by bringing them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that they pray for them and with them daily. The Word of God is to be taught whether they are lying down or standing up or coming in or going out of the house in the formative years of the children's life. The Christian young women must shape and mould them towards holiness and godliness. This is not sentimental love where mothers pander to the whims of their children or cannot bear to use the rod of correction. It is tragic to see many young mothers nowadays asking their children what they would like to eat and whether they would sit down to eat as if their children are the parents! Young mothers today do not know how to love their children in a way that will do them good. These mothers have a school education but not an education on parenting! The aged women must teach them and the younger women must be humble to learn from them;

- **Be Discreet** - it means to be safe or sound in mind. They possess self-control. They are not addicted to anything. They know how to prioritize their time wisely so that their responsibilities in the home are all well-cared for. They know when to go out and when to stay home. Their conduct is measured because their mind is under the control of the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God;

- **Be Chaste** - it comes from the root word for "holiness." This means that innocence and purity are part of the meaning for "chaste." Young women must always be pure and clean in mind and in heart. It is sad to read in the papers of young women going to clubs and bars and find themselves in compromising situations whereby they wake up in a strange man's bed the next morning because of their state of drunkenness the night before. Such behaviour is most unbecoming of any young woman, especially a Christian one! Purity and chastity must be the hallmark of all Christian women of all ages;

- **Be Keepers at Home** - it literally means a stay-at-home. This is where the Christian women belong when their husbands are working hard. They are to be domestically inclined, i.e. a good housekeeper is how the lexicon puts it. What gives the husbands peace of mind when they are working hard is the knowledge that their wives are good housekeepers, i.e. ensuring that their home is physically and spiritually well cared for and the children are brought up in the fear of God. There is no chaos or carnality abounding in the home;

- **Be Good** - this is the best word to describe who God is and that He is a good God! What a wonderful way to describe a Christian young woman - that she is a good wife and a good Christian witness for Christ! This is what all young Christian women must aspire to be everywhere they go and in everything that they do. To be good is characterized by goodness because it originates from One who is good!

- **Be Obedient to Their Own Husbands** - the curse upon Eve and all wives at the Garden of Eden was that there will be tension in the home because the wives will desire to take control of the husband and the home but the husband will rule over her. In the case of the Christian wives, God now says that they have the ability, with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, to obey happily as if they are obeying the Lord. This is the wonderful relationship they now have with their own husbands. Their submission to their godly husbands and their home is a perfect example of the power of God's love in Christ for their children to see and experience.

The ultimate purpose is "**that the Word of God be not blasphemed.**" Whenever believers call themselves Christians, they carry the Name of Christ everywhere they go. They must reflect the holy image of Christ so that the Gospel they preach will not only be heard but seen in their lives. When they fail to do that as Christian aged men and women, and younger women, then the Word of God is blasphemed by them. The power that is in the Word of God is negated by their carnality and misrepresentation of Christ. The life of a Christian is a life of transforming power over a sinner bound by sin into a saint delivered from sin, into a life of righteousness, godliness and holiness. This is the power of the Gospel through the Word of God that is preached that must not be blasphemed. Amen.

ARTICLE:

“NO RETIREMENT IN GOD’S SERVICE!”

BY REV STEPHEN KHOO

“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto *this* generation, and thy power to every one *that* is to come.”
(Psalm 71:17-18)

David prayed that in his evening years, God would not forsake him. He was resolved to speak of the strength and power of God to people living in his generation and all who come after it. This was David's desire and he did serve the LORD his God until the day he breathed his last breath. David trusted the LORD in his younger days when he was strong and when he was older, he prayed that God would continue to use and enable him. We should have the same desire and determination as that of David. God can energize us so that we can carry on serving in His vineyard in our old age.

Those of us, who are in our evening years, from sixty and above, may feel and think that we are weak and unable to do many things in God's ministry. God knows that. He has declared that the span of our life is three-score and ten, and by reason of strength we may live for another ten years, which we would like, but departure from this world is inevitable. Yet the extended years will be “labour and sorrow” (cf. Psalm 90:10). By “labour and sorrow”, it means much of our time will be working to visit doctors, *sin-sehs*, clinics and making sure we eat the right food to keep ourselves healthy. Our good Lord knows all these labour and inconveniences. I believe that if we resolve to continue to serve Him in whatever capacity we can, He is able to enable us. We, as Christians, are different from other people. God has adopted us as His children and as our Heavenly Father, He wants to see that His children have the capability to continue doing His will in His vineyard to His praise and glory. God is able!

Another point we should consider is: how we would like to spend the remaining years of our life. Many of us hope to retire and rest, use our hard-earned savings for travel and sight-seeing in other countries, and spending precious moments with our grandchildren, fellowshiping with our aged buddy-friends over lunch, dinner or a cup of coffee or tea, and so on. While all these are legitimate concerns, if we do not give God the time to fellowship with Him and work in His vineyard, we are not wise and

our life will soon become listless and meaningless. God does not want our life to end that way and then return to Him. As the Lord Jesus Christ carries in His Second Coming, we should be active in God's vineyard in our later years and as long as we are able. We should not just be thinking of the last lap of our life here on this earth in retirement and rest, but we should be thinking of life eternal which God has given to us in Christ and how we can be of active service unto Him. The sure prospect of being in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in eternity should be our ultimate motivation to serve the Lord until the day He calls us home. That will end our existence in this sin-cursed world. It is wise to think through these issues and make a wise decision on how we should live out the remaining years of our earthly life.

Now, the imperative question is: If we will seek to serve the Lord in His vineyard in the evening years of our life, what things are open to us that we can do? The very first and important thing, which we can do, is to do **personal evangelism**. The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ



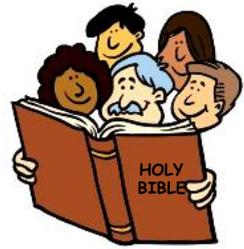
as their Saviour (cf. 2 Peter 3:9). God desires all to come to Jesus to have their sins washed away, and to receive God's gift of eternal life, just like when we become Christians. We confessed our sins, repented and believed in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. There was Eld Leong Yin Chu, a man in his evening years, and one Sunday, he was preaching in a worship service. After the service, he was introduced to another elderly man by the name of Chan Poh Low, who

was skeptical about Jesus Christ, and had many questions about Christ and the Christian faith. But Eld Leong shared with him the Gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus, and at the end of the one-on-one meeting, Mr Chan Poh Low believed in Christ. This was his testimony:

"With my objections silenced, I gradually began to accept that I am a sinner and I was afraid of going to hell. I now believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the Cross and has washed away my sins and my name is written in the Book of Life. He was resurrected on the third day and one day, I am going to join Him in heaven because Jesus has said so."

Every Christian, young and old, should be a channel that brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a non-believer, when the opportunity occurs. You never know how God can use you as His instrument to save others and bless them! A Christian should, therefore, never think of retirement for the rest of his earthly life, for life is very short indeed, and when we depart, we shall meet God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are also many other things that we can do. For example, we should spend the remaining time of our life **reading and studying the Bible**. Enroll in a Bible-study school or class, that is run by a church, to know more about God, the Lord Jesus Christ,



the Gospel of salvation and the many blessings which God has promised His children. Another thing that we can do in our old age is to **join church missions trips** to nearby countries, like Cambodia, Myanmar or the Philippines, and render any kind of help no matter how small. There is much more that we can do in our evening years for the Lord. Our life, when it is given to the Lord, will be exciting, fulfilling, meaningful and purposeful.

Rev Stephen Khoo serves the Lord as a lecturer at the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC), and he is presently assisting two churches in the work of the ministry.

“FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH: REMEMBERING THE REV (DR) TIMOTHY TOW”

BY REV (DR) JEFFREY KHOO

The Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow was the founding father of the Bible-Presbyterian movement in Singapore. He was the founding pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (1950-2003) and True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (2003-2009), and the founding principal of Far Eastern Bible College (1962-2009). He was born in 1920 and died in 2009. He was 88 years old when the Lord took him home. He truly lived out his ministry ethos, “There is no retirement in God’s service.” Even in his evening years of physical weakness and ill health, he said, “God wants us to live, not die.” He served the Lord till his last breath. He was true to his Lord’s command, “*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*” (cf. Revelation 2:10). There is much we can learn from his good example on how to serve the Lord faithfully.

His Example as a Pastor



The Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow was a faithful preacher of God’s Word. His sermons are always expository in nature. He made sure his congregation understood what the Bible precisely meant with illustrations and testimonies to make his messages relevant and lively. He did not forget to apply the Word to the lives of the people. His sermons were always Christ-centred. One common habit of his was to draw the cross at the top right corner of his sermon outline. This he did to remind himself that Christ must always be glorified in his preaching and that the Gospel ought to be preached whenever the occasion arises.

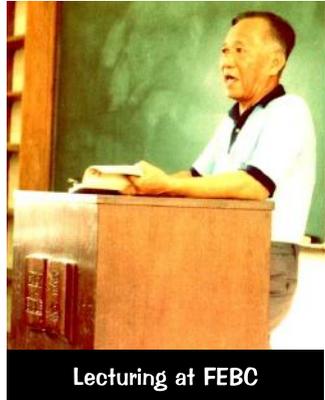
In the Bible College, the Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow taught homiletics—the principles and practice of preaching—among other courses. I have always enjoyed his homiletics classes, and he is always very encouraging. He would always have a kind word for the budding student-preacher (unlike one lecturer who took it upon himself to tear students apart after their preaching and leave them utterly demoralised). He would highlight the good points and gently point out shortcomings, giving hope to aspiring preachers of the Bible. He teaches and guides with a pastoral touch.

As a pastor, he made it a point to be available and accessible to anyone who wants to speak to him. In his church weekly, he would print his

phone number with the words "Ring pastor anytime." Those who want to see him for prayer or counselling need not call the church office to make an appointment; they could call him directly or see him at his parsonage any time.

His Example as a Teacher

The Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow was a good preacher, but he was a better teacher (in my opinion). He was a theological teacher par excellence. He could make hard and complex doctrines easy to understand. He was very adept in using anecdotes, illustrations, diagrams, and charts to clarify a doctrine or drive home a theological point. For instance, he would draw the snake in the shape of a question mark, and impress upon his students that Satan speaks with a forked tongue to question, cast doubt and deceive. In his Master of Theology thesis —*The Law of Moses and of Jesus* — presented to the faculty of Faith Theological Seminary, he used many diagrams and charts to explain the differences between Dispensationalism and Covenant Theology, and the similarities between the Law of Moses and the Law of Jesus. His excellent thesis was submitted by Faith Seminary to the State Board of Regents as proof of the quality of the Seminary and its students for accreditation. The Seminary got its accreditation.



His many witty sayings in his biblical and theological lectures have stayed with his students for a long time, and have been quoted and used. Here are some of his sayings, "Self help with God's help is the best help", "Perspiration without inspiration is exasperation", "Learning Hebrew with its intricate pointings makes you a precise man", "Religion is the key to science", "Not centralisation but decentralisation is the key to church growth", "Dispensational theology is like taking a lift up a seven-storey building stopping at every level. Covenant theology is like going up from ground to top floor at one stretch", "Calvinism is not static but dynamic inasmuch as predestination is not fatalism", "Calvinism is Paulinism systematised".

The Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow was a good teacher because he was a good student. He had great respect for those who taught him and often quoted his teachers Dr John Sung (the great Chinese revivalist of the Asian Awakening), Dr Chia Yu Ming (the first theologian of China), Dr Carl McIntire (the founder of Bible-Presbyterianism in USA and the 20th

Century Reformation movement), and Dr J Oliver Buswell (President of the National Bible Institute and Author of *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*) in his lectures and writings.

There was never a dull moment in his classes.

His Example as a Defender

The Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow was a disciple of Dr John Sung and Dr Carl McIntire — both earnest contenders for the faith (Jude 3). He together with K C Quek and C T Hsu were known as the "Three Musketeers" in the Separatist Movement in Singapore and Malaya in the 1950s and 60s. As the only theologian in the Bible-Presbyterian (B-P) Church in those days, he was undoubtedly the leading "Musketeer". He saw the deadliness of the liberal and modernistic theology that was introduced by the foreign expatriates who controlled the mainline denominations. He gave these liberals and modernists no face, exposing their denial of the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures and their destructive heresies and ecumenism.



Addressing the delegates at the International Council of Christian Churches. Dr Carl McIntire seated behind.

The Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow also fought against Neo-evangelicalism which denied the total inerrancy of the Scriptures and repudiated biblical separation. I personally saw him in action in the B-P Pastors' Conference in Cameron Highlands in 1987 where he warned against the Neo-evangelicalism that was creeping into the B-P denomination. He refuted those B-P pastors who took a compromising stance towards Charismaticism, modern Bible versions and ecumenism. There were B-P pastors who did not agree with the founding father's view of separation and non-cooperation with liberals and compromisers, who said that it was alright to speak privately in "meaningful ecstatic tongues", who wanted to replace the KJV with corrupt versions like the NIV, who denied that the Genesis Flood was global, and entertained the idea that the earth could be billions of years old contrary to biblical facts. Although he did his best to defend the faith and steer his denomination back to the old paths, the Neo-evangelical B-Ps could not be persuaded and the B-P Synod eventually split in 1988.

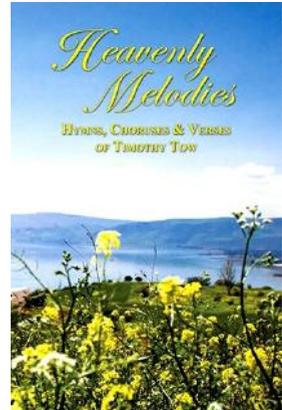
His greatest battle for the Bible was fought in his old age when he called for a 21st century Reformation to uphold the doctrine of the

verbal and plenary preservation of the Scriptures (Psalm 12:6-7, Matthew 5:18, 24:35) and defend the superiority of the *Greek Textus Receptus* underlying the KJV against the corrupt Westcott and Hort Text behind the modern versions. He was steadfast in his faith and his defence of the 100% perfection of Scriptures without any mistake despite fierce opposition from members of his own church Session. The incessant attacks in 2002 and 2003 against the perfect preservation and present perfection of Scripture and against his leadership and ministry by men whom he had faithfully taught and lovingly brought up for over five decades were truly heart-breaking for him but his loyalty was always first and foremost to God and His Word. In order to continue upholding the truth of God's forever infallible and inerrant words, he resigned from Life B-P Church after 53 years of service to start True Life B-P Church.

We thank God for the good spiritual and theological heritage the Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow had left us. He was truly a faithful pastor, teacher and defender of the faith. The good fight of faith continues on. Remember the words of the Lord, "*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*" (cf. Revelation 2:10).

As a pastor, teacher and defender of the faith, the Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow had also written many hymns to teach and to defend the truth of God. These hymns have been lovingly compiled into a book by True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, entitled "Heavenly Melodies: Hymns, Choruses & Verses of Timothy Tow", and is available for free download at: http://www.truelifebpc.org.sg/resources/heavenly_melodies.

Other resources on the life and teachings of the Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow can also be found at True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church website (<http://www.truelifebpc.org.sg/>, under "Resources").

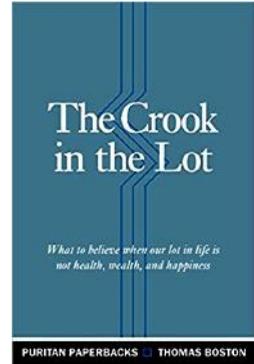


BOOK REVIEW:

**THOMAS BOSTON'S
"THE CROOK IN THE LOT"**

BY SERENE LEE

The Crook in the Lot. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth.
168pp. ISBN 978-1848717589.



"*The Crook in the Lot*" is not an easy book to read, mainly because of the English of the eighteenth-century usage. Nonetheless, the reader who is determined and resilient will be rewarded with many precious gems. These are lessons and exhortations from biblical principles related to facing afflictions in our life.

The author, Thomas Boston (1676-1732), was a Puritan. He was well-acquainted with pain and sufferings in his life. When he was a child, his father was imprisoned for being faithful to Puritan beliefs. He kept his father company in the prison. Later in life, he had to bury six of his ten children. He saw his wife suffering with paralyzing depression. He was also stricken with sickness himself and lived for years with what were probably kidney stones.

This book was, therefore, written by someone who knew afflictions and brokenness first-hand. The theories and principles were not plucked out merely from one's study and meditation on God's Word (these are important no doubt), but the lessons were learnt from deep experiences in life and became his very own. Having tasted and learnt God's dispensation and dealings in this important area and topic, he shares with us in this book how we too, should view and deal with the "crook in our lot" and with what attitude we should bear it.

At first glance, one might not understand the title of the book "The Crook in the Lot." Simply, it means "adversity, continued for a shorter or longer time" that God had allowed us to go through.

Sovereignty and Wisdom of God in the Afflictions of Men Displayed

First and foremost, the author expounds Ecclesiastes 7:13, "*Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?*"

In this chapter, he gives us three propositions (p. 3):

- (I) Whatsoever crook there is in one's lot, it is of God's making.
- (II) What God sees meet to mar, no one shall be able to mend in his lot.
- (III) The considering of the crook in the lot as the work of God, or of His making, is a proper means to bring us to a Christian deportment under it.

The sovereignty of God as we go through the sufferings of life is a wonderful and comforting doctrine. God does nothing in vain. If we are willing to consider and understand, we will "easily perceive the general design thereof to be, to wean us from this world, and move us to seek and take up our heart's rest in God."

There is a purpose for all the joys and woes that God appoints in our life which He allows us to go through. Although we may be sorely distressed and troubled, we can still trust and obey God, and find deep comfort and strength in His Word, be they doctrines, promises or examples.

Many are the uses of trials and difficulties in our life. God uses sufferings in the seven ways as follows:

1. **Trial of one's state**, if one is a sincere Christian or a hypocrite.
2. **Excitation to duty**, weaning one from this world, and prompting him to look after the happiness of the other world.
3. **Conviction of sin**, to convince one of some false step he has made, or course he has taken.
4. **Correction, or punishment for sin.**
5. **Preventing sin**, "Every one knows what is most pleasant to him; but God alone knows what is most profitable" (p. 27).
6. **Discovery of latent corruption**, whether in saints or sinners.
7. **Exercise of grace in God's children.** "The crook in the lot gives rise to many acts of faith, hope, love, self-denial, resignation, and other graces; to many heavenly breathings, pantings, and groanings, which otherwise would not be brought forth." (p. 29)

Sufferings and afflictions are part of the covenant God made with His children. The author explains, "... the crook in the lot of a believer, however painful it proves, is a part of the discipline of the covenant, the nurture secured to Christ's children, by the promise of the Father, 'If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments, then will I visit their transgressions with the rod' (Psalm 89:30, 32)" (p. 34).

God is faithful to try us in our faith and chastise us when we err. Let us therefore submit patiently to the cross we have to bear, because our Father sees it fit for us. Let us not murmur or complain, but humbly bear the yoke and burden, for Christ's sake and for our ultimate good.

The author also explains how blessings come to God's people through afflictions, when we are exercised by them profitably. I cannot summarise the gist of it better than in the author's own words below:

"Consider what a work of his [God] it is, how it is a convincing work, for bringing sin to remembrance; a correcting work, to chastise you for your follies; a preventing work, to hedge you up from courses of sin you would otherwise be apt to run into; a trying work, to discover your state, your graces, and corruption; a weaning work, to wean you from the world and fit you for heaven" (p. 63).

Exposition of Proverbs 16:19

There is an in-depth comparison and contrast between the lowly and the proud, and the consequences of these two groups of people and how they face afflictions differently. Humility in submission will bear many godly fruits, while pride is associated with discontent, impatience, murmuring, fretting, and the like.

The humble "think soberly and meanly of themselves; what they are (2 Corinthians 12:11); what they can do (2 Corinthians 3:5); what they are worth (Genesis 32:10); and what they deserve (Lamentations 3:22). Viewing themselves in the glass of the divine law and perfection, they see themselves as a mass of imperfection and sinfulness (Job 42:5, 6)" (p. 70).

Do we see ourselves like that? Or do we think we are entitled to the good things in life, that God and/or the world owes it to us to give us our rights? Sadly, this is how unbelievers and many professing believers think and behave. And it is in no small part due to the human rights movement that has gained accelerated momentum in the last few decades, and the "health-and-wealth" gospel preached by the Charismatic churches.

Exposition of 1 Peter 5:6

The author points out to the reader that humility is a duty of a Christian. We are to humble our spirits under the humbling circumstances that God has placed us in. It could be a particular trial we are put under, or because of our station in life, we are to submit to others (wife to husband, child to parent, citizen to government etc.), or both. We must view it as the mighty hand of God that puts us there and holds us down in it. We are to bow down under His hand, suiting our spirits to our lot, careful to perform our duty in our low sphere.

Those who would not humbly submit to God's mighty hand would find the crook harder to bear than it already is. Their proud unyielding spirit

makes the burden even heavier than it is by itself. As Newton's third law of dynamics says, 'For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.' Remarkably, this is true in the spiritual realm as well!

The author gives us eight helpful measures how we may humble ourselves: (p. 95)

1. Noticing God's mighty hand.
2. A sense of our own worthlessness and nothingness before him.
3. A sense of our guilt and filthiness.
4. A silent submission under the hand of God.
5. A magnifying of his mercies towards us in the midst of all his proceedings against us.
6. A holy and silent admiration of the ways and counsels of God, as to us unsearchable.
7. A forgetting and laying aside before the Lord all our dignity, whereby we excel others.
8. A submitting readily to the meanest offices requisite or agreeable to our circumstances.

The author gives both general and specific directions on how we may attain to this humility. This portion is very useful in terms of practice and applying what we have read in the previous sections.

Some examples of the general directions he gives: settle the matter of your eternal salvation in the first place by making God **your** God in Christ; purpose in your heart to gain some spiritual improvement in the affliction; and exercise your faith in God's promises when under your affliction.

Some examples of the particular directions: assure and remind yourself of God's promises such as 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Corinthians 12:9 and Philippians 4:13; keep dwelling on the infinite greatness of God, be awed by His holiness and majesty into deep humiliation of self (Isaiah 6:3-5); acknowledge that you are not able to comprehend God's works of providence towards you but you will nonetheless adore (Romans 11:33); often consider your own sinfulness, God has not dealt with us according to the multitude of our sins or who can stand before Him (Psalm 103:10)!

The author had also made certain observations and comments that had left a deep impression on me, and they are:

- "Had we a clearer view of the other world, we should not make so much of either the smiles or frowns of this" (p. 107).
- "Think on these directions, in order to put them in practice, remembering: if you know these things, happy are you if you do them. Remember humbling work is a work that will fill your hand, while you live here, and that you cannot come to the end of it till death; and humbling circumstances will attend you, while you are in this lower

world. A change of them you may get; but a freedom from them you cannot, till you come to heaven. So the humbling circumstances of our imperfections, relations, contradictions, afflictions, uncertainties, and sinfulness, will afford matter of exercise to us while here" (p. 110).

- "Humbling work is tedious work; the Israelites had forty years of it in the wilderness" (p. 113).

The author encourages the reader with the fact that God will uplift His people in afflictions. We should consider the nature of God in three things: Infinite power that can do all things; infinite goodness inclining to help; and infinite wisdom that will not needlessly afflict.

Furthermore, we are to consider and observe the providence of God. For example, in the revolutions of the whole course of nature, day after night, summer following winter, imperfect moon to the full moon, rise and fall of the tide... these are for our learning!

Christ's humiliation is our most valuable lesson and consideration. Providence first humbled Him, and then exalted Him and lifted Him up on high. He is THE pattern for us His believers and followers.

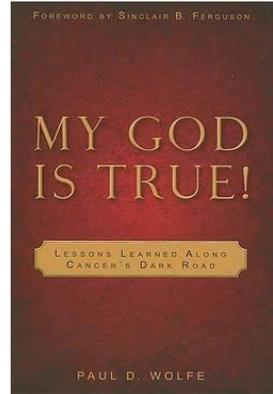
Let us then, take comfort, and be strong in the Lord, as we face the vicissitudes of life and the crooks in our lot, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and also of our afflictions and pressing onward to the end where we will reach our heavenly home and have a glorious rest from all afflictions!

BOOK REFLECTION:

**PAUL D. WOLFE'S
"MY GOD IS TRUE!"**

BY FLORENCE YEO

My God is True! (Lessons Learned Along Cancer's Dark Road). Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. 148pp. ISBN 978-1848710443.



Paul was a bright 28 year-old student at Westminster Theological Seminary. A year after graduating from seminary, he was diagnosed with cancer (Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma). Before cancer struck him, he was an active young man but in April 23, 1999, he could not even climb into the car and his father had to carry him into it.

In this book, Paul tells the story of God's providence in his life. He recounts God's faithfulness in employing the skills of surgeons and doctors to preserve his life.

One of the hallmarks of this book is the writer's deep sense of God's under-guiding sovereignty and grace. God's ways are higher, deeper and wiser than ours.

Learning that he had cancer and the process of being treated for it was in many ways a "dark road" for the author. An MRI and biopsy revealed a cancerous mass in the upper back of his spinal cord. His battle against Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma included surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and more chemotherapy. For Paul, the treatment process ended in less than a year. The Lord was pleased to preserve the writer. His healing was a gift that God was pleased to give. God was also pleased to bless him with three children even though his doctor had prepared him for the possibility that chemotherapy would kill his reproductive cells, and diminish his capacity to be a father.

Even along the dark road, there was light. The brilliant light of God's Word guided him and his family through the cancer pilgrimage. Through the writer's sufferings, he was given a unique opportunity to consider the reality of suffering in the light of the Gospel. He reminds the reader that our survival from day to day is not guaranteed. Human life is fragile and can vanish like the mist. It is the Lord who decides the course for our life.

The Bible sets before us many glorious Gospel promises. God has not promised long life, but what he has promised is that he will use the believers' "death" to bring them to Heaven. He tells the Christian reader to set your hope firmly in Heaven, where Christ is, where your citizenship is. He reminds those suffering from cancer to trust in the promises of God's Word. The future God has for the writer may not involve his survival of this illness but it certainly involves something far better, i.e. eternal life.

Romans 8:18 "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8:38 "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."

TESTIMONY:

“ELDERLY MINISTRIES OF BETHEL BPC (MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA)”

BY REV PAUL CHENG

God has blessed us with the wonderful privilege to serve Him in the Elderly Outreach Ministries in Monash Gardens, Oaklea Hall, Kew Gardens and Oak Towers. These are nursing homes for the elderly sick who cannot be adequately cared for at home. God providentially opened the Gospel doors to these nursing homes when the mother of one of our church members was admitted into the Monash Gardens. With the daughter's request for the church to minister to her mother, the Gospel door was marvellously opened, and subsequently, a formal worship service was initiated. Bethel B-P Church would minister to the residents on a regular basis by conducting monthly worship services, weekly one-to-one visitations, Bible reading classes as well as special services like Christmas, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.

Importance of the Elderly Outreach

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) statistics in 2014, Australia has about 3.4 million people (out of a population of about 24 million) who are 65 years old and above. Out of these 3.4 million, 456,600 of them have already reached the age of 85 years and above. Most certainly, the number and proportion of older Australians is growing steadily throughout the years. The ageing population presents an unprecedented need for churches to increase in their efforts to minister to the elderly. Nevertheless, before the church could embark on this vital ministry effectively, she has to first understand its importance.

An Opportunity for Evangelism

Our monthly worship services in the homes offer us excellent opportunities for evangelism as many of the residents are unbelievers. Most (if not all) of our messages would contain the Gospel message. There will also be regular follow-up sessions with one-to-one visitations



during which we would read verses and passages that proclaim the Gospel message clearly. Many of the residents would ask questions pertaining to salvation, and this gives us the opportunity to answer and to clarify their queries and doubts.

An Avenue to Comfort the Downcast

With the demands of work and home, many family members of the residents are not able to visit their loved ones in the nursing homes on a regular basis. As such, many of the residents would often feel neglected and dejected. There are also others who would be languishing on their death-bed in the hospice section. As we reflect on Jesus' compassion and the Apostles' teaching (cf. Matthew 9:36, James 1:27, Hebrews 13:16), it is truly a humbling experience when we visit the residents and lend a listening ear to their cries of despair and hopelessness. But ultimately, it is the blessed hope of the Gospel that we want to give to them as we comfort them.

It is my observation that the elderly residents truly love little children. As such, we would encourage our children to participate in this ministry by singing as a choir, or presenting their handicrafts to them. Even the simple act of distributing song sheets and helping the residents to turn to the right Bible verse would bring a smile to their face.



An Occasion to be Ministered

Whenever people consider the elderly ministry, they only think about ministering to the residents, but very often, the opposite is true as well, the fact that we are also being ministered. I remember fondly an elderly resident who could sing many of the hymns by memory and sometimes she would say, "I used to teach this hymn when I was a Sunday school teacher." Another resident who is 103 years old would look forward eagerly to our worship services and she would go around the nursing home in her "motorised" wheelchair to invite her friends to come along. It is such a loving sight to see elderly couples attending the worship service together, and the sight of the elderly husband pushing his wheelchair-bound wife into the hall would cause one to be reminded of the marriage covenant "till death us do part." There are also others who would boldly tell us they are longing excitedly to meet their Creator soon. After each visitation, it is not uncommon to see our young people

having their lives touched and impacted by the testimonies of these elderly residents. Indeed, *"the hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."* (Proverbs 16:31).

An Open Door to Minister to Others

Most residents do have family and friends who appreciate knowing that somebody cares enough to share the Gospel with their loved ones. Their unbelieving loved ones are often curious to see a group of "strangers" greeting their mums and dads by name and communicating with them lovingly. Not a few were prompted to attend our worship services together with their elderly loved ones. Not forgetting the nurses and staff who are also present in the nursing homes. As they chauffeur the residents in their wheelchair to the worship hall and as they go about doing their chores, it is inevitable that they will hear the singing of hymns and the preaching of God's Word. We can never fathom how God may use these to wrought His marvellous convicting work in their hearts.

A Reminder of the Brevity of Life

Everyone in the nursing home was once our age. Most of them, at one point in time, were as healthy, or perhaps in a better health than we are. However, they have now become sick and tired, and some may not even make it through another week. It is not an uncommon occurrence to visit someone in the nursing home, only to be told by the staff that he or she had just passed away. The reminder of the brevity of life and the reality of death would cause us to live our lives to the fullest for the Lord while we are still young, and to take heed of the importance of filling our hearts and minds with the Holy Scriptures while our minds are still sharp and able to retain information.



Worship Service at Kew Gardens Nursing Home

Challenges of the Elderly Outreach

Every ministry in the church has its difficulties, just as the ministry to the elderly also has its own challenges. No doubt, the ministry to the elderly is a ministry of immense need and it calls for different skills, but most importantly, it needs a heart of love, patience and compassion. An elderly resident resignedly remarks, "Our greatest struggle is that we find ourselves living in a culture which has little time for the elderly." It would be extremely tragic if his observation describes the local church. Time ought not be an obstruction to our participation in this ministry, but what about the other challenges?

Lack of Concentration and Interferences

As much as we welcome every resident to attend the worship services, it is not without challenges. Many of the unbelieving residents come with the mentality that it is just another social activity. Often, these are the ones who will interrupt and even scorn at the message. It is always good to have some assistants at bay, ready to stop such residents from interrupting the services and speak with them separately, and if necessary, to engage the staff to wheel them away to another room.

Most residents can only concentrate for a short period of time. It is enormously challenging to preach a message restricted by time. Thus, I would always try to prepare my message based on one, two, or at the most, three points so that the residents can remember the main theme easily. Another way to keep them attentive during the message is by engaging them through asking them questions. It is a wonderful way to share with them the Gospel while, at the same time, allowing me to determine their comprehension abilities.

Difficulties of the Young Teaching the Old

There is a Chinese saying that goes, "I eat salt more than you eat rice" which means, "how can you teach me when I am much more experienced than you due to my old age." In a different but similar fashion, it can be difficult for an Asian like myself to teach the old Westerners when many have this understanding that Christianity came from the West to the East. I have learnt that humility and faithfulness to God's Word are the only ways to deal with this challenge. Despite their old age, the residents are still able to ascertain whether they are truly spiritually fed. A haughty spirit would surely ensnare our ministry, but genuine humility and respect for the elderly would be much appreciated. As Leviticus 19:32

reminds us, "*Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God; I am the LORD.*"

Physical Sickness and Death

Aging brings with it many difficult issues such as physical decline, sickness and, ultimately, death. As we minister to the residents, naturally our emotions would be deeply affected as well, yet we must not be so overwhelmed by sadness that we forget our core ministry. We must never let the closed eyes or a breathing machine prevent us from proclaiming the Gospel. God can use these difficult times in the people's lives to draw them closer to Himself. Richard Baxter encouraged the pastors to visit the sick because "even the hardest sinners will hear us on their deathbed, though before they scorned us" (*The Reformed Pastor*, 81).

Shortage of Staff

In Melbourne, we are not allowed to physically handle the residents in any way. The only way for the wheelchair-bound residents to attend the worship services is with the assistance of the nurses and staff to chauffeur them to the hall. The shortage of staff in the nursing homes can, therefore, pose a big problem to our elderly ministry. Nevertheless, the co-ordinator of our church elderly ministry has been in constant communication with the nursing homes' managements to resolve this pertinent issue.

Administering the Lord's Supper in the Homes

Believers in the nursing homes have requested for the Lord's Supper to be administered to them. However, it is extremely difficult to stop unbelievers in their midst from partaking of the holy elements. While some are suffering from dementia, others just cannot understand why they have been singled out from partaking of the Lord's Supper. The possibility of one partaking of the holy elements unworthily is, therefore, great. The church finally decided to administer the Lord's Supper on a separate day for those residents whom we are certain that they have truly understood the significance of the sacrament.

Praise God for establishing and sustaining our elderly outreaches. As we minister and evangelise to the elderly residents in the nursing homes, we acknowledge that it is God alone who encourages and wins the lost souls into His Kingdom, sometimes through us, sometimes without us. But it is our earnest desire to be faithful instruments in the extension of His Kingdom. All glory be to God!

Our Oaklea Hall and Monash Garden Ministry

O Lord, our God, our King, our All.
You love, yet some You choose, You call.
One, so great no words can ere express,
Goodness and faithfulness upon us impress.

Bethel, You've built for the last thirty years,
Blessings we've enjoyed, testings endured with tears.
That our faith may be proved and strengthened,
For soon we would be found in Heaven.

The doors of Monash and Oaklea You open,
That we may continuously minister there often.
Your Gospel we share, Your hymns we sing,
That the residents there, to You may cling.

We pray that You will grant us this privilege,
That we may serve with wisdom and courage.
That Your work will continue to grow,
That honour and glory to You will show.

(A poem by Gek-Choo Nah,
a fellow Bethelite labouring in the elderly outreaches)

*Rev Paul Cheng is a pastor of Bethel Bible-Presbyterian Church in
Melbourne.*

TESTIMONY:

“NURSING HOME MINISTRIES OF BPCWA (PERTH, AUSTRALIA)”

BY CHIENG YEW JINN

The Nursing Home Ministry of Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (BPCWA) is an outreach of our church to the elderly. This is our commitment to fulfil the Great Commission which Christ gave to His Church. The first part of the Commission is to *“Go...and teach all nations, baptizing them...”*. This means we must go out, and go beyond the four walls of the church, to reach out to the lost. And the phrase “all nations” involves all nationalities, whether they are Asian or Australian, and regardless of their age, outward appearance or health condition etc.

In BPCWA, we reach out to four nursing homes every Lord's Day afternoon at 2pm and 3.30pm respectively. The brethren will gather in church at 2pm for prayer before departure. After which, they will be split into two teams. One team will visit Concord Nursing Home in South Perth, while the other team will go to Onslow Gardens Nursing Home in Subiaco. At about 3pm, both teams will then proceed to the Nursing Homes in Bull Creek and Berrington respectively for another two services at 3.30pm.



Worship Service at Berrington Nursing Home

This outreach is especially unique because it gives us access to those who are literally spending the last days of their lives. Having so many of them in one place at the same time is a precious opportunity for us to minister God's Word to them each week.

The Purpose

In the Great Commission, the Lord emphasises the importance of “teaching.” The word “teach” is used twice by the Lord. The word “teach” in v19 means to “make disciple.” This means that the work of evangelism is not simply about getting people saved, but also includes making them followers of Christ. Moreover, the word “teach” in v20 emphasises on instructing them to observe and to keep Christ's teachings. That means we are to continue to “teach” them the whole counsel of God so that

they may keep God's Word and grow in their faith after they are saved. We do not, therefore, conduct hymn-singing services or organize activities to entertain the residents as a community service. Our main focus of the Nursing Home Ministry is twofold. Firstly, it is to bring worship service to the residents because they cannot go to church. Secondly, it is to minister God's Word to the elderly and the unsaved. In order to achieve that, we conduct a short worship service every Sunday at each nursing home. The worship service includes the singing of hymns, followed by the preaching of the Word. The messages are Gospel-focused, and evangelistic in nature because we are not sure of the salvation of the majority of the residents. Considering the short attention span of the elderly, we will usually keep the preaching to about 10 to 15 minutes. After the service, we will spend some time with the residents to personally encourage the believers and to reinforce the Gospel message. This is the time when they would ask questions about the faith and we have the opportunity to answer them accordingly.



As the ministry involves "teaching", we encourage all who preach the Word to participate in Bible studies, fellowship groups and FEBC online courses. We also ensure that the worship service is conducted orderly and properly with reflection on God's holiness.



The Challenges

Dementia or mental deterioration is very common in the nursing homes. We often do not know whether these elderly are still able to grasp the Gospel messages. Therefore, our duty is to take the opportunity to preach the Word when this deadly disease has yet to fully develop in them. Even then, believing in God's election, we continue to share the Gospel with them. We never know how God would use the sharing to save some into His Kingdom.

Another challenge is the concept of "churchianity" among the local residents. This means that they grew up in an environment where church attendance is part of their culture. They know everything about church, and Sunday school stories, yet many of them are not truly born-again believers. Usually, these people do not really understand the Gospel.



Christmas Thanksgiving Lunch at Concorde Nursing Home

Hence, we must be patient to explain the Gospel as simply as we can to make sure that they truly understand what is true Christianity. In addition, we have to abide by the Nursing Home rules, for instance the timing,

leaving physical care to their nurses only, not forcing any to attend the worship services against their wishes. Prayer is needed so that the administration will continue to allow us to be present.

We thank the Lord that He not only opened the door of evangelism for us in these nursing homes, He also moved the hearts of young people and families in the church to participate regularly every Sunday. We pray that God, "who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (cf. 1 Timothy 2:3-4), will also lay the burden in your hearts to labour for Him if such opportunities arise.

Yew Jinn is a final year student at the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC), and he is currently working towards his Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree. His involvement in the Nursing Home Ministries is in the preaching of God's Word.

TESTIMONY:

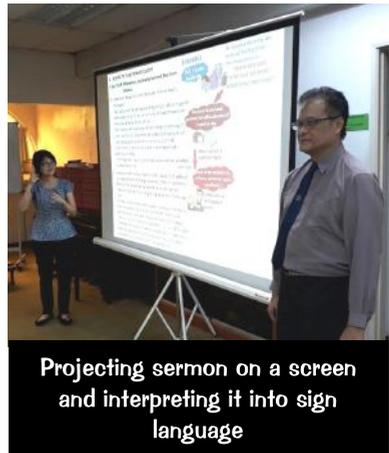
“GRACE DEAF MINISTRY OF CALVARY JAYA B-P FELLOWSHIP”

BY REV LEE KIM SHIONG

The Grace Deaf Ministry (GDM) of Calvary Jaya Bible-Presbyterian Fellowship was started in June 2008. Prior to this, it had never dawned on us to have this ministry because there was no deaf worshipper. We almost had such a ministry (a number of years before 2008) but because it was not God's timing, it was not established. It is important to wait upon God in doing His work. We cannot run ahead of God. When the time comes, nobody can stop God's will from being accomplished.

The first deaf person who joined the English worship service is Sis Jessica Chong. She is a Christian, and she came from another local church. After some time, about ten deaf believers joined her to worship with us. At first, we only observed them with no intention to start a ministry for them. We thought they were members of another flock and after some time, they may return to where they came from. In the meantime, a brother helped to teach them in Bible Study since he knew the sign language. After eight months, the Session decided to have a ministry for such needy brethren.

Eld Chan Wan Fook was appointed to lead in this ministry. The mode of teaching is to use a projector to project the sermon and order of worship on a screen. Then, a sister will interpret the sermon into sign language. This is a very challenging work. Due to the nature of the deaf and mute, it is very hard to get the complete message across. On one hand, we need to be faithful to the teachings of God's Word, on the other hand, such brethren have limited vocabulary. As such, they struggle in their understanding of the lessons taught. After each lesson, we will give them some time to ask questions. This will help them to crystallize their understanding. Only those who are involved in this ministry know the hardship.



We thank God for using Sis Jessica Chong and her team to conduct a

deaf sign language class for the hearing members. It takes much patience, discipline and commitment for the teachers and students alike in the class. We are thankful that a few of the hearing members are able to communicate well with them. Knowledge of sign language is a great asset in this ministry.



Deaf and Hearing Brethren of Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship

Apart from the regular Sunday service, we also have a pre-service prayer meeting and Bible Study. This will help them in their spiritual understanding and growth so that they may be conformed to the will of God. Like the hearing congregation, they are also subjected to temptations in life - the lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). The deaf and the mute are not spared from worldliness. They are tempted to earn more income at the expense of Sunday worship, go for physical pleasures and keep company with worldly friends. Not only that, they can be influenced by unbiblical teachings from other groups. False teachers are also going after them in order to influence them.



Ministering to the Deaf

We need to constantly teach them the Word of God, remind them of the doctrines learnt, be patient with them and rebuke them when there is a need. Without the grace and mercies of God, this ministry cannot continue thus far. Some have left because of personal misunderstandings, or because they could not endure the biblical teachings of the church. We are thankful that some have grown spiritually over the years, and have become more obedient to the will of God. This is the comfort for those who labour, and is a cause for thanksgiving.



Fellowship in the Lord

It is very important to continue to minister to these brethren. Without the Word of God, they will be following the big crowd to the way of destruction and they will end up wasting their life. With the little strength that we have by the grace of God, we hope to guide them in the way of the Lord. Hopefully they will grow in maturity in Christ and, in turn, bring others in their group to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev Lee Kim Shiong is a pastor of Calvary Jaya Bible-Presbyterian Fellowship (Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia). For more information on the Grace Deaf Ministry of Calvary Jaya B-P Fellowship, visit the church website (www.calvaryjaya.org).

TESTIMONY:

“ELDERLY MINISTRY OF TRUE GOSPEL BPC (KAMPOT, CAMBODIA)”

BY PR CHAN SOPHEAK

The Elderly Ministry of True Gospel Bible-Presbyterian Church ministers to elderlies who are members of the church. We also share the Gospel to other elderlies who want to know about the Lord Jesus Christ. This ministry provides the necessary support that can help the elderly to grow in the faith, and serve the Lord together. The most important part of this ministry is the teaching of God's Word at their homes as well as praying with them and for their family.

The objectives of True Gospel Elderly Ministry are: (1) to lead the elderly to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, and to have a close relationship with Him; (2) to lead the elderly to be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and also to witness for Him wherever they go; and lastly, (3) to lead the elderly to join the ministries of the church.

Through True Gospel Elderly Ministry, we want to help the elderly to better understand the salvation that they have received in the Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, we want to help them to grow in the knowledge of God's Word through our preaching and teaching ministry. Thirdly, we want to help them to apply God's Word in their daily lives, and to spend time in communion with God.

Reaching Out to the Elderly and Needy with the Word of God

Both the elderly and the needy need the Word of God to help them in their walk with Christ. True Gospel BPC, therefore, seeks to reach out to them with God's Word by having Bible study classes with them at their home and praying with them. Our time of Bible study has always been a blessed one because we can see the joy that is in their hearts when they study God's Word. It brings me more joy when they ask me questions from the Word of God. Not only can I see that they understand God's Word more, they also have the desire to know God's Word better.



Bible study at Uncle Korn's home

So far, we have the opportunity to conduct Bible study with two elderly members at their homes. One is still working while the other has already retired. These elderly need a lot of encouragement. Therefore, we will sometimes visit them or have Bible study with them more than once a week. I believe this is needful for a church with a small congregation like True Gospel.

True Gospel Adult Sunday School also provides the elderly and needy the Christian education that they need. The Adult Sunday School starts half-an-hour before our Lord's Day worship service. This allows us to feed them with spiritual food and prepare them to worship the Lord.

Visiting the sick and the afflicted in hospital is also part of our ministry to the elderly and needy. We seek to encourage them from God's Word and to pray for them in their afflictions. We visit both believers and unbelievers. For the believers, we encourage them from God's Word and pray for them; for the unbelievers, we share the Gospel with them.



Reaching Out to the Elderly and Needy with the Gospel of Christ

True Gospel BPC evangelizes to the elderly and needy who are still outside Christ twice a month. We will go directly to their houses to share Christ with them. This is the first objective of True Gospel Elderly Ministry, which is to lead the elderly to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, and to have a close relationship with Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ has also saved us for this great purpose, and He wants us to carry out His Great Commission, "*All power is given unto 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.*" (Matthew 28:18-20). Without Christ, these unbelieving elderly and needy are hopeless. As a church, we must not forget the elderly and needy who are still outside God's Kingdom. We need to tell them about Christ. Evangelizing to them is our duty as believers of the Lord Jesus Christ.



A Testimony of Uncle Kut Korn

I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour more than six years ago. The Lord has been so good and so gracious to me. God has used Pr Sopheak and his family to help me to understand the Word of God better and to bring the Good News into my life. I came from a Buddhist background. But now I am born-again in Christ. My old life has passed away and I have a new life in Christ. I am 77



years old this year and my departure is at hand. I pray and hope that I would see our Lord very soon. I am ready to be with the Lord any time. I always ask Pr Sopheak about our church burial ground. He said that the Lord will provide. I am happy with that. For an old person like me, I always think about the time to leave this earth and to meet our Lord face to face. Thank God for choosing me to be His child. Amen.

A Testimony of Aunty Meurn



I have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for more than ten years. I received the Lord Jesus Christ when a local preacher shared the Gospel with me. I thank God for using him to bring the Good News to me many years ago. I also thank God for bringing me to True Gospel BPC. I can learn God's Word much more than before, especially through the Elderly Ministry of True Gospel BPC. Pr Sopheak and some members of the church often come to my house and we will learn God's Word together and then have some fellowship after that. I thank God for this ministry. I love this ministry so much. When I am down, God will send His children to encourage me. May God bless all of us! Amen.

TESTIMONY:

“ELDERLY MINISTRY OF TRUE FAITH BPC (KAMPOT, CAMBODIA)”

BY PR LIV ROTH

True Faith Bible-Presbyterian Church reaches out to the elderly and the needy that God has placed around us. First, we evangelize to them with the Gospel of Christ. Although the work of evangelism may take some time, thank God that in His timing, some of them have come to know the Lord.

After their conversion, it is important for the elderly and needy believers to grow spiritually and be strong in their faith. Teaching them God's Word is the only way to help them do so, and we try to have fellowship with them so that we can bring God's Word to them in a personal way.

Reaching out to the elderly has its challenges. This is because it is not easy to teach the older generation because of their mindset. They are rooted in Buddhist practices and beliefs. They also take pride in the experiences they had because of their age. However, teaching them God's Word gives us the opportunity to correct their wrong thinking and wrong practices.

Another challenge we face in ministering to the elderly is that most of them cannot read, and are slow to learn. This makes it even harder to teach them. To make the teaching of God's Word more effective, we try to make the lessons short. We also try to teach them slowly and patiently.

When ministering to the elderly and needy, I try to understand the difficulties that they go through in life. I will then prepare some verses to encourage them, and help them to have a clearer picture of God in their lives. Through this, the elderly and needy are reminded to always look to God for help, and draw comfort from Him through His Word and Spirit any time.

Although it is not easy ministering to this group of people because of their difficulties in understanding, their old beliefs and practices that they were rooted in, and their dimming eyes due to age, we can still carry on with God's help.

The Word of God is the light that can help them see, and guide them in

His way, as stated in Psalm 119:105 *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"*.

Many of the elderly and needy have spent most of their lives living in spiritual darkness. Not only do they need the light of God's Word to help them get on in the way of righteousness, they also need it to help them walk in it. Thus, teaching them God's Word is the most crucial thing to do in ministering to them. They can be enlightened and helped by the Word of God to see what God wants them to do with their lives.

The way we can minister to the elderly and the needy is to instruct them in the Word of God, and to do so slowly and patiently. We cannot get them to be spiritually strong within a short time frame. We must teach them and give them the time to grow. May God help us.

TESTIMONY:

“ELDERLY MINISTRY OF LIVELY HOPE BPC (SIHANOUKVILLE, CAMBODIA)”

BY PR JOHN SARAY

Lively Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church has, by God's grace, not only been ministering to the children, youths and young adults, but also to the elderly and needy, especially those who are members of our church. Our prayer and intention is to make the Word that we have been preaching to the saved and the unsaved known, so that they may know that the Gospel of Christ is the "...power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (cf. Romans 1:16), and that the Christian faith is a living faith proved by way of good works which "... [Christ] hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (cf. Ephesians 2:10). We commit ourselves to this work, as one who is saved unto good works. It is of utmost importance that every believer preach the Gospel not only by his word, but also by his life and deed. This is not to say that we give relief to every cause and need, but we strongly encourage true believers to make use of every God-given opportunity to "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (cf. Galatians 6:10). The missions work in Cambodia provides us the opportunities to practise the 'pure religion' that the Apostle James taught in James 1:27.

At Lively Hope BPC, we have the opportunity to minister to a few elderlies whose physical needs we cannot ignore, besides their spiritual needs. 84-year-old Uncle Matthew is one of the elderlies whom we have



With Uncle Matthew and his daughter

been supporting in prayers, and, occasionally, in the form of material help. He knew Jesus for many years and has proved, also, to have true faith in Him. However, he has very little support from his two grown-up children. There was once I had to accompany him to Singapore for medical treatment, with the prayers and support from Truth BPC (Singapore). The support of the brethren was an evidence of our Christian love in action

and a faith-strengthening opportunity for Uncle Matthew and his family members. This gentle elderly often testifies of God's goodness received

through our brethren here and in Singapore, and remembers "all His benefits" (Psalm 103:2).

Our church also extends help to people whom God has brought along our way, such as providing supplementary vitamins and basic medicine to the sick and needy. This, sometimes, takes place after our visitation and evangelism. This practice is patterned after what Jesus did during His earthly ministry (cf. Luke 4:40). Thank God for brethren who often supply us with good vitamins and medicine for our church first-aid kit for the cause of Christ and His love.



Ministering to the Elderly and Needy

I would like to praise God for enabling us to be a mirror of His love and mercy to both the saved and the unsaved. We pray that the Name of Jesus will continue to be magnified among the Cambodians. May all born-again believers take heart to His promise, "*And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*" (cf. Matthew 10:42). All glory be to the merciful Lord and Saviour!

MISSIONS TRIP REPORT:

“CAMBODIA, 19 TO 22 MAY 2017”

BY DN & MRS FRANCO WONG

A team of nine, led by Pstr Dennis, left Singapore on Friday (19 May) for Kampot, Cambodia, to rejoice with Pr Thaven and Sis Sokmey at their Holy Matrimony. The objective of this trip was for Pstr Dennis to officiate the wedding service on Saturday (20 May), as well as to preach God's Word and administer the Lord's Supper at both True Gospel and True Faith BPCs. The rest of the team (which comprised Uncle and Aunty Tan, Dn Franco and family) were to render any help needed.

At Phnom Penh, we were welcomed by Bun Kouy and Uncle Sothy. After loading our luggages, we left for Kampot while Bun Kuoy left to join his brother at Siem Reap.

The journey to Kampot took about 3 hours, and by the time we reached the guesthouse, the sun had set. After a quick check-in, we made our way to True Gospel BPC. The wedding tent in front of the church welcomed us, with warm greetings by Pr Sopheak and family, and some brethren. We were also introduced to one-month-old baby Joshua whom Pr Sopheak and Sis Thavy had recently adopted.

After a brief but warm catching-up, Pstr Dennis briefed the to-be married couple, together with Pr Rotha, the translator, on the wedding service and proceedings. En-Si was asked to play some of the hymns to complement Sis Thavy. A wedding rehearsal followed. Uncle Tan stood in for the bride's uncle who was to give her away. The rehearsal ended with prayer at 8pm before we went for our dinner. We ended the day with a short exhortation by Pstr Dennis on Psalm 126:3, which reminded us that the LORD has done great things for us both in saving us and in enabling us for His service. We must, therefore, be glad and be a blessing.

The next day at 6.30am, Dn Franco shared, during our morning devotion, from Psalm 99:1-3 on how God is great and holy, and yet is nigh to us. All must, therefore, praise His Name in holy fear. We proceeded to True Gospel BPC to attend the wedding service of Pr Thaven and Sis Sokmey. Pstr Dennis prayed with the couple and helpers before we went for a delicious porridge breakfast.

The wedding service started at 8.20am. Pstr Dennis chaired the service with Pr Rotha as the translator. Pr Thaven and Sis Sokmey exchanged their vows and rings before God and man. Pstr Dennis then gave the exhortation from Ephesians 5:21-33, reminding the couple that the union between the husband and the wife represents that of Christ and His

Church. The husband is to lead the wife, as how Christ leads the Church and died for her. The wife, on the other hand, is to submit to the husband, which is commanded by God. As they pattern their lives according to the Scriptures, they will show forth a good testimony to those around them.



Holy Matrimony of Pr Thaven and Sis Sokmey

We had a blessed time of fellowship over lunch with the brethren, including Pr John Saray and family who came from Sihanoukville. We then visited Uncle Korn who was hospitalized. We met with his wife and one of his sons and his family. Pstr Dennis shared a word of encouragement, with Pr Sopheak as the translator.

We explored Kampot Central Market and later visited Lydia's sister who owns a shop in the vicinity. She speaks good Mandarin. We then returned to the guesthouse to rest and refresh ourselves before the night's wedding reception.

Before the dinner reception, Pstr Dennis gathered all the preachers for a time of encouragement. We then had an interesting sit-down dinner with scrumptious Cambodian and fusion food. At the cake-cutting ceremony, Pr Thaven, with Sis Sokmey by his side, shared a short testimony, urging the guests to believe in Jesus. Praise God for helping them to declare their faith.

We left, shortly after, to have our night devotion, as well as to prepare ourselves for the Lord's Day tomorrow. Pstr Dennis shared from 1 Thessalonians 5:18, reminding us to give thanks, in good times and, especially, in bad times. Only Christians can give thanks with understanding at such times, knowing that God is good and in full control. May we live for Him and be a witness for Him in this dark world.

Dn Franco led us in our morning devotion the next day, with the passage taken from Psalm 99:4-5. God, who is also King, rules with power and

equity. As He is holy and hates sin, He will surely punish the wicked. We are to worship Him with total submission and humility.

True Faith BPC brought forward their worship service so that Pstr Dennis could preach and conduct the Lord's Supper at True Faith and then at True Gospel. Our team presented a praise item "Isn't He Wonderful?" both in English and Khmer. Pstr Dennis conducted the Lord's Supper and gave an exhortation from Philippians 1:20-26 entitled, "Christ be Magnified." Paul's earnest hope was to magnify God in his body (v20) and hence, to him, to live is Christ and to die is gain (v21). He was a watchman serving Christ. Despite his imprisonment, Paul was more joyous than those who were outside the prison but were bonded by their sins. Our joy depends not on the situation we are in, but whether we are doing God's will. We must keep on serving the Lord and magnifying Him. About 20 worshippers were present. After a group photo, we rushed off to True Gospel BPC.



At True Gospel, Pstr Dennis preached from Galatians 4:8-11 on "Don't Turn Back." He encouraged the members to remember how they have been saved, how they should live from henceforth, and not to return to the old life. The Jews were in danger of returning to Judaism, seeking salvation through works. But we have been saved by grace through faith in Christ who has

done everything for us. We should live for Christ alone, not to self or any other thing. Pstr Dennis warned that turning back may mean that we are not saved in the first place and called all to examine ourselves. About 40 people came for the service, including some guests from the wedding the night before.

In the evening, Pr Sopheak brought Pstr Dennis and Dn Franco to visit a member's son who suffered from burns. By the grace of God, this 22-year-old man (Kim Tinah) came to believe in the Lord when the Gospel



was presented to him. After this, all of us went to the hospital where Pstr Dennis conducted the Lord's Supper service with Uncle Korn. Uncle Korn was attentive and well enough to sit through the short service. Pstr



Dennis then shared a short message from Psalm 27:1 in the presence of other patients and their relatives, with Pr Sopheak as the translator. Pr Thaven and his wife also participated in this service.

We had a blessed time of fellowship with Pr Rotha and family over dinner. After a short walk at a nearby Bokor Market, we feasted on Kampot durians at Pr Rotha's home. Pr Sopheak and Sis Thavy joined us later that night. The children played happily with one another despite the language barrier. Thank God for such time of fellowship. The gathering ended with prayer and we returned to the guesthouse, filled physically and spiritually.

Pstr Dennis shared from Luke 17:5-10 at our night devotion, reminding us that we are but unprofitable servants. We came to Cambodia to be a blessing and we are not to be puffed up. All glory must be to God alone. He is our good Master who blesses us although we do not deserve it. Pstr Dennis then led in a time of thanksgiving.

On Monday (22 May), before we left, we had the opportunity to go for a walk beside the scenic and iconic Kampot river. How pleasant it was to have Pr Thaven as well as Pr Rotha and family join us there. Pr Rotha sent us off by committing the team to the Lord in prayer.

May God bless this work in Cambodia.

MISSIONS TRIP REPORT:

“BATAM, 18 TO 20 JUNE 2017”

BY KHOO MAY LYNN

Praise the Lord for the open door and opportunity to serve Him in Batam, Indonesia. The purpose of this missions trip was to assist Getsemani BPC (Batam) to conduct a two-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) to minister to the children from their different outreaches. The theme of this year's VBS centered on the call to the children to "Be Saved!" and the lessons considered God's desire for every single individual to be saved, how it is only God's Word (and not miracles) that saves, the need to hear God's Word rightly to be saved, as well as the Good News that saves. A music seminar was also planned to help the teachers from Ora Et Labora (a Christian school ministry of Getsemani BPC) see the dangers of Carnal Christian Music (CCM).

The VBS team comprised three Singaporeans (David Chew, Karen Lee and myself) and five Indonesian FEBC students (Shobastian, Murniwati, Megawati, Maritus and Crisno). We were each assigned a class to teach, and we worked together with the preacher (Pr Budi) and his ministerial staff at Getsemani BPC, as well as teachers from the Christian School to minister to the children. Those who taught in English had an accompanying translator to translate the lessons into Bahasa Indonesia. There were in total seven different classes, with children (seven to twelve years old) grouped according to their ages for their Bible lessons and activities.



VBS Team (L-R: David, Shobastian, Murniwati, Megawati, May Lynn, Karen,

The Singapore team arrived safely in Batam on Sunday evening (18 June) at 8.30pm. We were promptly picked up by Bro Tobing, a leader of Getsemani BPC, who drove us to our motel where we stayed for the next two nights. Upon arriving at our motel, the three of us gathered for a short time of exhortation and prayer. David shared from 1 Chronicles 28:20-21, reminding us how we ought not to be fearful when we serve God as He is always present with us and is mighty to provide for our every need. Following this, we prepared the crafts and materials needed for the following day's activities.

Early Monday morning (19 June), we arrived at the church at around 6.30am to prepare ourselves and to settle some logistical matters. The programme began at about 7.30am with the children assembled in the church sanctuary for a time of Opening Address and Singspiration. The children learnt the theme song of the VBS, "One Way," in Bahasa Indonesia and in English before they were split into their various classes. The children learnt about the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Each lesson was accompanied by a simple Bible craft or activity to reinforce the lessons learnt. The teachers from the School also led the children to memorize key Bible verses in Bahasa Indonesia after each lesson was taught. Everyone was treated to a simple yet hearty meal before the first day of VBS came to a close at 2pm with a time of Singspiration and prayer. Approximately 170 children attended the VBS on Monday.



Learning VBS Theme Song in English

Opening Address and Singspiration. The children learnt the theme song of the VBS, "One Way," in Bahasa Indonesia and in English before they were split into their various classes. The children learnt about the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Each lesson was accompanied by a simple Bible craft or activity to reinforce the lessons learnt. The teachers from the School also led the children to memorize key Bible verses in Bahasa Indonesia after each lesson was taught. Everyone was treated to a simple yet hearty meal before the first day of VBS came to a close at 2pm with a time of Singspiration and prayer. Approximately 170 children attended the VBS on Monday.



Lunch Time

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The "Lost Sheep" Bible Craft and "Only Jesus Saves" Bookmark



Verse Memorization

The teachers from Ora Et Labora and Getsemani BPC stayed behind for a debrief of the day's activities, facilitated and led by David. Following the debrief, David conducted a short one-hour workshop on the dangers of CCM and the need to worship God in spirit and in truth. He drew biblical principles from the Bible that shed light on the worldliness of CCM and gave practical examples to expose the errors of the words, music and association that are connected with CCM.



VBS Team with Teachers from Ora Et Labora and Getsemani BPC

Two hospitable members of the church, Bro Tobing and Sis Elia, hosted us for dinner at a nearby eatery where we enjoyed good Christian fellowship with one another. David, Karen and I ended the day with a short time of exhortation and prayer. I shared from Ephesians 1:11-14 to encourage and remind ourselves that salvation is of the Lord and the Holy Spirit is our constant Counselor and Teacher. David led us through a time of prayer.



Post-Gospel Message Activity

the Parable of the Lost Sheep. The day ended with Closing and Testimony. A group of children from Getsemani BPC presented a skit on the Parable of the Lost Sheep followed by two

The activities for the second day of VBS on Tuesday (20 June) were similar. The children were taught the Parable of the Sower and were given a Gospel message to conclude the series of Bible lessons that they had been learning. There was also an outdoor game planned and led by a teacher from the School to remind the children of



The "Parable of the Lost Sheep" Skit

song items, which were enjoyed by all. Four children (from the P4-P6 classes) were chosen by their teachers to testify of the blessings they had received from the VBS. The whole VBS concluded on a good note with closing prayer and group photo-taking. There was an increase of twenty children on Tuesday.



Getsemani BPC VBS 2017 — "Be Saved!"

Before heading back to Singapore, David led the teachers and staff in a final debrief of the day's activities. We shared on areas of improvement for future VBS, as well as, encouraged one another in the Lord. We arrived safely back in Singapore at 7.30pm.

All in all, it was a most blessed and refreshing time of spiritual service with like-minded brethren, in fulfillment of the Great Commission given to every believer (i.e. to go into the entire world to preach the Gospel). Personally, I enjoyed serving alongside my FEBC classmates and seniors as I got to learn how to serve God better and teach His Word. I was particularly encouraged by the way Karen labored hard to prepare all the crafts and materials for the VBS, as well as facilitate the running of the programme. Through this overseas missions trip, I also got to appreciate my current studies in FEBC as I see how the wholesome training I am receiving in FEBC is helpful and very essential in serving the Lord in the full-time ministry.

May Lynn is a member of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore, and a 2nd year student at the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Theology (BTh) degree in preparation for full-time ministry.

MISSIONS TRIP REPORT:

“CAMBODIA, 2 TO 10 SEPTEMBER 2017”

BY TOH YIH WEI

Thank God for enabling Lively Hope BPC, True Gospel BPC and True Faith BPC to conduct their VBSes this year and for granting the Singapore team the opportunity to serve with our Cambodian brethren. Our team consisted of Sis Boon Choo, Sis Karen Lee, Bro Van Hieu, Bro Justin Wan, my parents (Mr & Mrs Eric Toh), my sister Yih Chern and myself. Thank God for smooth travel and safe arrival in Kampot on 2 September (my family and I arrived the following day). The team members who arrived earlier met with True Gospel and True Faith's leaders and VBS helpers on Saturday and Sunday respectively for a time of Pre-VBS briefing. As for my family and I, on arrival in Kampot, we settled in quickly and started on our daily evening group devotions from the life of Paul, taken from the book of Acts, led by Bro Van Hieu and Sis Boon Choo.

True Gospel's VBS began on 4 September, with the theme "Jesus is the Way to Heaven" (John 14:6). Thank God for the 62 children who came on the first day and 45 on the second, with 9 helpers who were present on both days.

Bro Van Hieu, my dad and Sis Karen spoke to the children on messages entitled "Jesus is the Way" and "Jesus is the Truth" respectively. Bro Justin and Yih Chern also led in Singspiration where they taught the children the song "One Way" in English. After the second message, Sis Boon Choo and my mum led in the craft session which consisted of children colouring and writing on an infinity cube pre-prepared by brethren in Singapore. The focus was on John 14:6 (the VBS theme verse). May the children remember that Jesus is the only way to heaven.



On the second day of the VBS (5 September), Bro Justin and Yih Chern revised with the children the song "One Way" that they had taught the day before during Singspiration. Thank God for the eager and responsive children. Sis Boon Choo spoke on the message "You must come to Jesus today." Thank God for Pr Thaven, who planned and led in the games for True Gospel and True Faith (which ran smoothly). The game required the competing teams to walk along an elastic band attached to two chairs on opposite ends. While they walked, they had to hold a flag (with the

words "Jesus is the Way") in one hand. Along the way, they had to use their other hand to pick a seed up and drop it into a container. This game represented our journey to heaven, with the picking up of seeds as distractions that we face along our Christian journey. To win, one must reach the end of the elastic band without falling off it. This required focus and perseverance, which must also be applied to our Christian walk.



VBS game held at the three churches

The VBS ended by 11.40am. After lunch and evaluation, we had some free time to tidy up the library of True Gospel Bible School. This involved cleaning, sorting and shelving the books according to their call numbers. Although we could not do much, we hope that our efforts would encourage our Cambodian brethren to use and maintain their own library. After that, we visited baby Joshua (Pr Sopheak's adopted son) who was admitted into a government hospital on Sunday due to breathing difficulties. After the visitation, we went to True Faith BPC for VBS preparation, followed by a relaxing dinner with Pr Rotha, his family and Pr Thaven by the river. Thank God for the good time of fellowship. Thank God also for the quick restoration of electricity after a short power outage during our meal.



True Gospel VBS 2017 — "Jesus is the Way to Heaven"

The following day (6 September) marked the start of the True Faith VBS. The programme was similar to that of True Gospel, with the same theme, "Jesus is the Way" (John 14:6). Thank God for the 33 children and 4 helpers who came. May God work in their hearts to convict them of their need for a Saviour.

Earlier in the day, we were informed that Sis Sokmey was warded and would have to undergo an operation to remove her appendix that afternoon. Pr Thaven had to stay with his wife at the hospital and thus, was unable to help out on the first day of the VBS. After clean-up and evaluation, our team visited Sis Sokmey (who was still unconscious) at a private clinic. Pr Thaven prayed in Khmer for his wife and also for the salvation of Sis Sokmey's mother, as she was also at the ward to visit her daughter. After visiting Sis Sokmey, we dropped by the government hospital with Pr Rotha to visit baby Joshua who was still warded. We also visited a Vietnamese man who was terminally ill. His wife is the only Christian in the family and she has visited True Faith BPC a few times. Pr Rotha had previously shared the Gospel with this man. Thank God this time when Bro Van Hieu shared the Gospel with him, he believed.

Thank God that on the second day of the True Faith VBS (7 September), Pr Thaven was able to speak to the children and help out with the VBS games. After a short evaluation with the helpers at the end of True Faith VBS, we left for Sihanoukville, stopping by a private hospital to visit baby Joshua who was transferred there after developing serious complications at the government hospital. After the short visit, we continued our two-hour journey and arrived at Lively Hope BPC in the late afternoon. After meeting up with the helpers and leaders for a briefing, we had dinner before checking into the guesthouse. Thank God for journey mercies and for sustaining all our health and spirits.



True Faith VBS 2017 — "Jesus is the Way to Heaven"

A total of 70 children came for the Lively Hope VBS. It had a different theme: "Knowing Jesus Christ." Its program was also 3 hours longer than the other two VBSes. With the additional time, the children had skits. They also had more time for Singspiration, which allowed Justin,



Leading in Singspiration

Yih Chern and Sis Boon Choo to teach the children more English songs from the "Sing Unto the LORD!" songbook.

Our team led in the craft session on the first day of the VBS (8 September). We made the same craft, just like in the earlier two VBSes. As Pr Thaven stayed on in Kampot to care for his wife after her emergency operation, Pr Liv Rotha helped by taking over the running of the games which was on the second day of the VBS (9 September). Thank God that despite the last minute changes, the program ran smoothly.



Lively Hope VBS 2017 — "Knowing Jesus"

On the Lord's Day morning (10 September), we checked out of the guesthouse, loaded our belongings into the van and left for worship at Lively Hope BPC. After a quick lunch with the church members, we left Sihanoukville. Thank God for journey mercies and good weather. We reached Phnom Penh International Airport by late afternoon and boarded our flight on time. After a 2-hour flight, we touched down at Changi Airport. Some church members were at the airport to fetch us home. Thank God for their cheerful service.

Personally, I have been deeply blessed by this trip as I see others around me serving faithfully. This has encouraged me to serve faithfully and cheerfully, witnessing for him wherever I am. May God send more into the missions field, and may we, as lights, shine for Jesus wherever God places us.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).



Craft Session @ True Faith



Pr Rotha teaching the younger children



Helpers with their "Jesus is the Only Way" Caps



Pr Thaven at True Gospel



Craft Session @ Lively Hope



Pr John teaching the younger children

MISSIONS NEWS

Overseas Missions

Cambodia

The Lord has provided new premises for True Gospel BPC, which is just two buildings down the street. The church was asked to vacate the previous premises as the landlord had decided to sell the place. True Gospel moved into the new premises on 1 July 2017 (Sat), and held her first service there on 2 July 2017 (Sun).



Classroom outside the church building

The new church building consists of a single storey. A classroom was set up outside the main building for the Bible School and English class' use on weekdays, and Sunday School on the Lord's Day. Basic Bible Knowledge class and worship services are held in the



Church Hall

church hall, which is big enough to contain the current number of worshippers (which is about 21 adults). The existing garage (situated next to the classroom) has been transformed into a church office-cum-library.



Office-cum-library; newly installed storeroom; outside toilet near classroom

Thank God that the new premises is able to meet the basic needs of the church and Bible School ministry. This helps to keep the church's expenditure on the relocation minimal. Apart from installing several new wall fans in the worship hall (and one in the office) as it can be very hot, the church only needs to purchase an additional bookshelf to accommodate the increasing number of books, as well as to set up a

storeroom beside the classroom to keep bulky items. A new church signage has also been made to replace the old one. Thank God for helping them to settle down quickly in the new place, such that the Lord's work would not be hindered. Praise God who doeth all things well.

Pr Sopheak continues to preach and teach at the Lord's Day services, youth and prayer meetings. He also conducts small-group Bible studies, and home visitations. His wife (Thavy) assists him in the Sunday School ministry, both in the church and twice a month in their new outreach at Andong Khmer. They are currently trying to reach out to parents of the youths in True Gospel. We praise God that Ranny's parents have opened their hearts to receive the Gospel.

At present, there are about 8 youths attending the Youth Fellowship and the Church Prayer Meetings every Saturday evening. They have embarked on a topical study of preaching Christ for the quarter. The number of youths attending the Youth Fellowship and prayer meetings have decreased as some have started working after completing their studies. Continue to pray for Pr Sopheak as he ministers to the youths.

Pr Sopheak and Sis Thavy continue to share God's Word with the English class students with every opportunity they have. Thank God that some have recently come to a saving knowledge of Christ. Pray for more to believe.

True Gospel Bible School begins her new semester on 17 July 2017 with a total of 3 returning students: Peit Sok & Yuth Linah (both in their 6th semester), Meas Bolen (1st semester), and **4 new students:** Hen Sokmey (Pr Thaven's wife), Kol Rith, Yem Vanna & Phu Kok Orng. Apart from Sokmey and Bolen who are from True Faith BPC, the rest worship in a Presbyterian church in Kampot.

We regret to inform that Chheium Yut (who was in his final semester, and a member of True Gospel BPC) had his studies terminated due to misconduct.

The courses offered this semester are Old Testament History I, Bible Geography I, Homiletics, and English Part of Speech by Pr Chan Sopheak; **Systematic Theology (III)**, and **Westminster Standards** by Pr Liv Rotha; **The Book of Colossians**, and **New Testament Survey** by Pr John Saray; **The Book of Hosea and Joel**, **The Book of Ephesians**, and **Preparing Bible Memory Verses** by Pr Kiet Thaven. There will be a final examination and a Bible Verse Memorization Quiz at the end of the semester. Apart from their classroom learning, the Bible School students also go out for evangelism every Monday afternoon.

We congratulate Pr Thaven and Sis Sokmey as they united in holy matrimony on **20 May 2017**. We also thank God for a blessed time of fellowship with them during our church camp in Batu Pahat, Malaysia, this year (12 to 17 June). **God-willing, we will be having Pr Rotha and family** with us at our church camp next year. Let us prepare ourselves to fellowship with them and to encourage them in the work of the ministry.

Our deepest condolences to Pr Sopheak and family on the homegoing of 4-month-old baby Joshua on 13 September 2017 (Wed). The Lord had led Pr Sopheak and Sis Thavy to adopt the baby whose mother had abandoned as she fled from the police for drug-related offences. The baby had been falling sick frequently, and was admitted to the hospital again on 3 September (Sun) when the VBS missions team was in True Gospel BPC. He was later transferred to a private hospital when his condition turned dire, and subsequently rushed to a hospital in Phnom Penh in an ambulance on 10 September (Sun). According to the doctor's diagnosis, baby Joshua had been suffering from pneumonia. Pstr Dennis conducted the vigil and funeral services on 14 and 15 September respectively in True Gospel. May the Lord comfort the bereaved family.

A new outreach has been started in Phnom Penh to minister to the youths from True Faith who are currently studying in the universities. Thank God for providing Pr Thaven to assist Pr Rotha in this important work since August 2017. Pray for safety in travel as they take turns



Vathara & Seang Yi (from the right) with Pr Rotha after the outreach meeting

to go to Phnom Penh to minister to the youths after their worship service in True Faith. Apart from Vathara and Seang Yi, the Lord also brought Sim Dara (who recently returned from Thailand) and a couple living in Phnom Penh (Sokcher and his wife) to join the outreach meetings. May the Lord keep the youths close to Him, and use them to bring others to Christ.

We continue to pray for Pr Rotha as he preaches and teaches at the Lord's Day services, and leads in Bible studies and prayer meetings. Pr Rotha also teaches at two children's outreaches on Sunday (afternoon and evening) and is involved in the work of evangelism and visitation. We also pray for his wife (Saron) as she ministers to the children in the Junior Sunday School and in the English class. There are currently about 12 adult worshippers in the church, and 26 children attending Sunday School. Thank God for Sis They Chann who helps to maintain discipline during Sunday School, and assists in logistics.

At the advice of the TMS, Pr Thaven is now serving in True Faith BPC, under the leadership of Pr Rotha. Pray for Pr Thaven as he assists Pr Rotha in the preaching and teaching ministries.

The VBS missions team visited Sis Sokmey when she was admitted to hospital for an emergency operation (appendicitis) on 6 September 2017. Pr Thaven thanked the Lord for the love-gift of S\$400 from Truth BPC (and the love-gift from the team) to help with the medical expenses.

Pr John Saray continues to preach and teach at worship services and prayer meetings, while his wife (Lydia) teaches at the children Sunday School with the assistance of Sis Yi Leang, Mey Hiek and Sinat. The number of adults attending the Lord's Day service, and children at the Junior Sunday School remains the same at about 20 and 50 respectively.

Pr John thanked God for the opportunity to share the Gospel with some Vietnamese who are working in Sihanoukville. Praise God that some of their children are currently attending Sunday School in Lively Hope.

English classes (for youths and children) are held every weekday evenings. Pray for Pr John, Sis Lydia, Sis Yi Leang and Bro Leak as they reach out to them with the Gospel. May God be merciful to save.

A reading corner has been set up near the entrance of the church hall for children to peruse books easily. Thank God that the library is well-loved by the children. Pray for provision of good Christian books.

Our condolences to Uncle Matthew on the passing of his wife on 11 June 2017. Pr John thanked God for the opportunity to minister to Uncle Matthew from God's Word during his bereavement, and for the prayers and condolences from brethren in Truth BPC.

Continue to pray for the work in Sihanoukville as evangelism becomes increasingly difficult. Casinos are also being set up, one after another, in Sihanoukville at a rapid rate. Pray that the Lord will protect His people from temptation and sin, and that His Word may have free course.

Pr John, Pr Rotha, and Pr Thaven have signed up for the FEBC online courses for the July-November semester: Pr John & Pr Rotha (Soteriology), Pr Thaven (Charismatism Q-&-A). May the Lord bless their studies, and use it to help them in the work of the ministry.

Missions Needs

◆ **True Gospel BPC (Kampot, Cambodia)**
Since 2007, Truth BPC has been supporting True Gospel BPC fully in the rental of church premises, utilities (electricity, water and internet

facilities) and other miscellaneous expenses related to the church ministry such as the tuk-tuk and other transport costs. We continue to pray for the Lord's provisions in these areas, especially for the **maintenance of the tuk-tuk**. In view of its high maintenance and repair cost, True Gospel BPC is also praying for the provision of a **second-hand church van** to replace the tuk-tuk.

♦ **True Gospel Bible School (Kampot, Cambodia)**

A Student Welfare Fund has been set up in 2015 to support the students in their tuition fees and food. The students also receive a monthly allowance to cover some of their miscellaneous expenses. The TMS decided in 2016 to contribute to this Fund on a half-yearly basis. God's people are also welcome to give towards this Fund to help with the **student scholarship**.

Presently, there are three computers for the students to use to do their written assignments and research papers. There is also a resource library to provide the students with more reading materials to widen their knowledge. The Bible School welcomes Biblically sound **Christian books** in good condition (for children, adults and Bible School students), as well as **used laptops** (in good working condition) for the students' use.

♦ **True Faith BPC (Kampot, Cambodia)**

Pr Rotha is also building up their church resource library to encourage church members to read Christian literature for their edification. Biblically sound **Christian books** in good condition (for children, youths, and adults) are welcome.

♦ **Lively Hope BPC (Sihanoukville, Cambodia)**

Like the two churches in Kampot, Truth BPC also supports Lively Hope BPC fully in the rental of the church premises, utilities (electricity, water and internet facilities) and other miscellaneous expenses related to the church ministry. We pray for the Lord's continued provisions, and for the provision of a **second-hand church van** for Lively Hope BPC to ferry the children from various locations. Good **Christian books** are also needed for the church resource library.

Others

Thank God that the missions outreach to Pokot has been taken up by the Africa Gospel Unity Church (AGUC) and they are committed to do their part to sustain this ministry. The AGUC is also presently assisting Moses Sopich in his secondary school studies in Bomet. Daniel is in his final year of primary school studies, and will join a secondary school, God-willing, next year. Due to health reasons, he has moved out of

the orphanage, and is currently staying with Mrs Evaline Tanui whose house is near a hospital. During their school holidays, the boys will return to Pokot, and one of the AGUC pastors or a small team will visit them for evangelistic outreach.

Rev Anthony Koech had made a visit to Pokot in April 2017 together with Daniel. Although it was a brief visit (21-23 April), they managed to meet a few people in Popich and held a service there.

Continue to pray for Rev Michael Koech and the rest of the AGUC leaders as they seek the Lord's leading and wisdom on how best to reach the Pokot people. Pray also for the three Pokot girls who used to be with Mrs Tanui, but has not returned to Bomet after they left to visit their families in December 2016. Mrs Tanui has not been able to contact them. Pray that God will protect these girls and enable them to go back to Bomet to continue their schooling.

Rev Jonathan Langat, Rev Nelson Were and Rev Michael Koech have successfully enrolled in the online in-ministry programme offered by the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). Pray for them as they work towards their Doctor of Religious Education (DRE) degree, and as they serve in their respective churches, and in the Bible College ministry.

Thank God that Kapkwen AGUC (which Rev Michael pastors) **had started a Sunday School in a distant village in May 2017**. There are presently about 20 children and adults. A college student from another church assists them in this new outreach. Pray that God will bless this work and that it will grow into a church in the near future.

Thank God for the proclamation of God's Word through the radio ministry. Rev Nelson Were had recently completed a series on *Biblical Separation* in April 2017, and is currently going through the *Epistle of James*. Continue to pray for God's Word to have free course. **The ministry to the university students** has stopped for a long time. Pray that God may open the door to minister to them again.

Pray also for the planting of the church at Rongo (west of Eldoret). Thank God that a plot of land has been given to start a work in that area. Pray for God's grace and help as Pr George Orwa (with whom Rev Nelson was to work with in this new ministry) has been transferred to a new station in Nairobi since May 2017. Rev Nelson is currently overseeing two HTCA churches in Eldoret alone.

*For more information on overseas missions needs and how you can support God's work, pl refer to the **Missions Noticeboard** for details.*

Local Missions

E-Band meets every 3rd Sunday of the month to reach out to the Clementi neighbourhood with the Gospel of Christ. Thank God for both adults and children who come for our monthly tracting, and for the work that had been done. If you would like to join us to bring the Gospel to unbelievers, pl contact Dn Franco Wong or the church office.



E-band Tracting at Clementi

Church Evangelism Workshop was held on **26 June 2017** to encourage, and to equip church members for evangelism. A total of 67 adults and 7 children attended the workshop this year. Pr Joshua spoke on the topic "*Not Ashamed of the Gospel*" (Romans 1:16). There was a practice session within the groups after the message to help us to evangelise to others effectively before we went for our actual tracting session at the nearby Pandan Gardens neighbourhood. The children have their separate children program before they joined the adults for tracting.



Church Evangelism Workshop 2017

Thank God for bringing 6 visitors from a Pentecostal church to join us for the evangelism workshop. They have testified, at the meeting, that they have learnt much from the message, and were particularly impressed by the emphasis of God's Word in the preaching which must also be found in their evangelistic efforts. Thank God that some of them had their questions about evangelism addressed during the practice session. Pstr Dennis went through the Gospel with them while the rest of us went for our tracting session. May the Lord help them to understand His truth well, and use them to bring His truth to others.

Church Gospel Night was held on **29 July 2017** and Pr Joshua Yong spoke on the topic, "*Who is God?*" (1 Timothy 3:16). A total of 65 adults and 17 children attended the meeting, of which 19 adults and 4 children were invited guests. The invited guests comprised mainly family members, friends and colleagues of our church members and friends. We thank God for all who have been actively reaching out to others with the Gospel of Christ. We continue to pray for the salvation of the unsaved, and for more opportunities to reach out to our unsaved loved ones.

Thank God for the outing that the Vietnamese Fisherman Ministry (VFM) had at Labrador Park on 9 August 2017 (Wed).

The VFM seeks to bring the Gospel of Christ to Vietnamese fishermen when their ships dock at Jurong Shipyards. These fishermen would usually stay in Singapore for one or two months. Besides the fishermen, the VFM also reaches out to Vietnamese workers who work and stay at the shipyards. Together with a driver, Bro Van Hieu would go tracting (every Wednesday evening) at the shipyards while waiting for Vietnamese fishermen to bring to church for a time of Bible Study. Thank God for drivers serving in this ministry, who had also co-labored with Bro Van Hieu in reaching out to the lost. May the Lord continue to open doors for His Word to be preached, and may the seed sown in the hearts of the hearers bring forth good fruit in time to come.



Outing at Labrador Park

Truth Missions Society (TMS) continues to do her part to increase missions awareness among Truth members. We thank God for –

(i) **Publication of April 2017 Shine Forth Missions Journal** (Vol. 11, No. 1) on *"God's Word in Missions – Equipping Adults to Lead"* which has been distributed not only to our church members and friends, but also in limited copies to like-minded B-P churches and Bible colleges in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Kenya and Tanzania. Apart from increasing missions awareness, the bi-annual missions journals also seek to encourage and to equip those who are serving the Lord in the Gospel ministry. We thank God for all who have contributed to this important work, and we pray that the Lord will continue to help His people to shine forth His Gospel Light. **April 2018 issue** (Vol. 12, No. 1) will be the first of a two-part series on *"Biblical Worship."*

(ii) **Missions Noticeboard and Webpage** which update members and friends on missions-related news. The Missions Noticeboard features pictures of God's work (both local and overseas) and will seek to do so thematically with its quarterly update. Coming up on the Noticeboard (from October to December 2017) will be pictures of God's work taken at the recent VBS in Cambodia. Do keep a lookout for them!

Thank God for the encouraging responses from the participants of the Photo Trivia (July–Sept 2017). Answers for the Photo Trivia can be found on pp. 64-66.

Truth Children Fellowship (TCF) had her Missions Special Program on 12 August 2017 to educate and to encourage children to do their

part in missions work. This year, the topic was on "Reaching the Unreached!" (Acts 1:8) Sis Boon Choo exhorted the children from God's Word, and Sis Carol gave a presentation of the Pokot missions, and the work Mrs Evaline Tanui is doing for the Lord. The children gave cheerfully to the Lord, and also wrote words of encouragement for Mrs Tanui during their craft activity, led by Sis Hadassah and Sis Audrey. The offerings collected during the Special Missions Program (S\$246.20) was channeled as a love-gift to Mrs Evaline Tanui. May the Lord continue to provide for the work in Pokot, and for all who are serving Him in the ministry.



Pokot Missions Presentation



Encouraging Mrs Tanui in God's work

TMS was established in May 2006 to encourage and to provoke our members in Truth B-P Church to be more proactive in the advancement of the Great Commission, in obedience to Jesus' command (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).

The **TMS Committee in 2017** comprises:
 Pstr Dennis Kwok (Chairman, Cambodian Missions i/c), Eld Winston Chew (Vice-Chairman), Dn Franco Wong (Secretary, E-Band i/c), Dn Emerson Ang (Treasurer), and Karen Lee (Publicity i/c)

Our **objectives** are:

- a) To inform church members of local and overseas missions activities
- b) To encourage, support and pray for local and overseas missions
- c) To inspire interest and missions awareness among church members
- d) To initiate and co-ordinate missions trips

If you would like to know how you can play a part in Missions work, feel free to approach the TMS members for assistance.

Answers to Photo Trivia (Missions Noticeboard July–Sept 2017)



1a) Name the person in the picture.

Ans: Boon Choo

b) Where was she, and why was she there?

Ans: Kampot, Cambodia; To help the Cambodian preachers with their children's Gospel Rally.

[SF July 2009 Vol. 3 No. 2]



[SF March 2011 Vol. 5 No. 1]

2a) Name all the people in the picture.

Ans: Zheqian, Emerson, Yi Leang

b) Who led in the Singspiration?

Ans: Zheqian

c) When did this take place?

Ans: 30 January 2011

(At Sunday School before the inaugural service of Lively Hope BPC)

3a) Name the person in the picture.

Ans: Chin Cheong

What was he doing? Ans: Helping a boy

b) What was on the boy's hand, and what was its purpose?

Ans: Gospel Glove; To tell the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ using the colors of the Wordless Book.



[SF March 2011 Vol. 5 No. 1]



[SF March 2011 Vol. 5 No. 1]

4a) Name the child that was baptized.

Ans: Melissa (daughter of Pr John Saray)

How old was she? Ans: 2 years old

b) When did this take place, and what was so special about this day?

Ans: 30 January 2011; Lively Hope BPC had their inaugural service on this day.

5a) Name at least two people in the picture.

Ans: Pr Sopheak, Mrs Loo

b) What church activity does this picture describe, and where was it held? (Give as much detail as possible)

Ans: True Gospel BPC 1st Bible Camp; Sihanoukville (Kamsab Beach Hotel)



[SF March 2011 Vol. 5 No. 1]



[SF July 2010 Vol. 4 No. 2]

6a) What is this picture about, and where was it taken?

Ans: Bible School ministry; True Gospel Bible School (Kampot, Cambodia)

b) Name the teacher, and at least one student.

Ans: Teacher: Pr Sopheak; Student(s): Saron (Pr Rotha's wife), Sim Dara



7a) When was this picture taken, and what was the occasion?

Ans: 18 March 2012, True Faith Inaugural Service

b) Name the members from the Singapore Team.

Ans: Pstr Dennis, Martin, Anthony, Benjamin, Susan Cheong, May Ling (Truth BPC) and Aik Kean (True-Life BPC)

[SF Oct 2012 Vol. 6 No. 2]



8a) Who is the preacher at the pulpit, and which church is he serving at?

Ans: Pr Liv Rotha; True Faith BPC (Kampot, Cambodia)

b) How many children does he have? Name all of them.

Ans: 3; Susanah, Joanna, and Sulena

*** Entries with all correct answers will receive an encouragement gift. ***
Eligible participants will be notified in person.

KIDS' CORNER:

"A CROWN OF GLORY!"

BY EILEEN CHEE

There is a Chinese proverb that goes, "The senior at home is a treasure you have" (家有一老，如有一宝). For centuries, the Chinese have respected and valued the older folks at home, mainly because of the greater amount of "salt" they have ingested compared to the amount of "rice" the young have consumed (i.e. they have more life experiences). That is true! An eighty-year-old grandmother certainly knows more about life than an eighteen-year-old girl. This is something which no school or tuition centre can give to a youth.

Yet the Bible goes beyond treating the elderly as treasure. Proverbs 16:31 says,

**"The hoary head is a crown of glory,
if it be found in the way of righteousness."**

Ever heard or seen hoar frost? In cold countries, water vapour freezes on surfaces such as grass and window panes, making the entire landscape a lovely white. Old people are naturally blessed with this hue in their hair no matter where they come from! Definitely not pointing to youngsters of today who fashionably bleach or dye their hair into ash-grey.



Hoar Frost Making the Landscape a Lovely White

The author of Proverbs 16:31 draws our attention to the elderly by highlighting their most prominent feature. Then he sees their hoary head as a crown of glory. Typically, who are the ones who are crowned on this earth? Of course, royalty! Crowns are a big thing in history. Not only do they signify power and authority, they are also extremely expensive art pieces. They are so precious that no king or queen can personally own them in their dressing rooms. In fact, they are heavily protected in museums by the best guards in the country. The most famous crown in the world sits in the Tower of London. It boasts of 5 rubies, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, 273 pearls and about 2,868 diamonds!



Despite the exorbitant monetary value of crowns, they cannot last for eternity. Are thieves not plotting to steal them? Will they not rust? Most of all, can they withstand the fire that will one day destroy the whole earth? On the other hand, the crown of



glory which the righteous elderly 'wear' will be with them forever. That is why the latter phrase "if they be found in the way of righteousness" is of utmost importance. Without this 'way of righteousness', their old age means nothing to God.

How does the elderly then get on to this path? By first confessing that all their works of righteousness are as filthy rags and, thereafter, believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord. Sadly, the old people we know or have met in door-to-door evangelism are always stubbornly holding onto

their way of worship and thinking. They do not even want to listen to the Good News! Those of us who have non-Christian parents and grandparents may also find it difficult to reach out to them but we must keep trying and praying that they (and the non-believing elderly we meet) would come to walk in this way of righteousness one day!

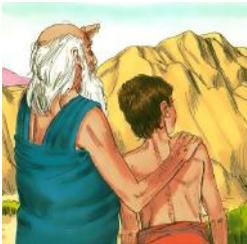
However, thank God that there are still testimonies of parents and grandparents giving up their idols to worship the only Living and True God. God has also shepherded and preserved many Christians from their younger days to their present evening years. These are the ones who are in the way of righteousness. This 'way of righteousness' does not only describe a life that is saved and covered by the righteousness of Christ, but more so a life that pleases and obeys God. The Christian seniors may not be serving in many areas in church due to their bodily weakness or other physical inconvenience but God does not mark them down for their so-called little activity! Instead, God sees that the elderly folks still try to walk with Him in their various capacity.



One example would be their faithfulness to worship the Lord in His house. Their determination to worship the Lord every Lord's Day will shame and embarrass many able-bodied youngsters today. Whether rain or shine, they make sure they leave their house early to get to church on time. Their acts of devotion and works of righteousness add up to the gems in their crown of glory.

There are many examples of the godly aged in the Bible as well. We can think of faithful Abraham, meek Moses, wise Solomon, fiery Elijah, praying Daniel, pressing-on Paul, beloved John and

others. They started off well when saved and called by the Lord in their younger days.



Faithful Abraham

Image: www.sweetpublishing.com

Even though they may have faltered and failed the Lord along the way, yet towards the end of their lives, they still came back to the Lord and consecrated their final



Wise Solomon

Image: www.sweetpublishing.com

days to Him. Their contributions to the kingdom of God continue to impact us today.

We also have godly seniors in our present generation! Many of you may not know who Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow is but he is a fine example of one who loved and followed Christ till his last breath on earth. He was the one who said there is no retirement in the Lord's service. Despite being kicked out by the leaders of the church he founded and pastored for decades, he was not discouraged and went on to start a new church, at the age of 84!

Thank God I also have many blessed opportunities to interact and serve alongside with not a few grey-haired Christians. I have learnt a great deal of spiritual and life lessons from them. Although they may be more forgetful and take a longer time to understand something, it does not mean they are inferior and have nothing to teach us. I learn from their simple trust in God and how they have dealt wisely in various situations and with different people. I learn from their servanthood as they give their best to God in the work of the ministry.

Thus, it is important that we constantly encourage the elderly in the church. Tell them they have been a blessing to you and you are glad to have them around. Some of them may be feeling they are a burden to the people around them and are useless in the church. They are definitely not a burden and we

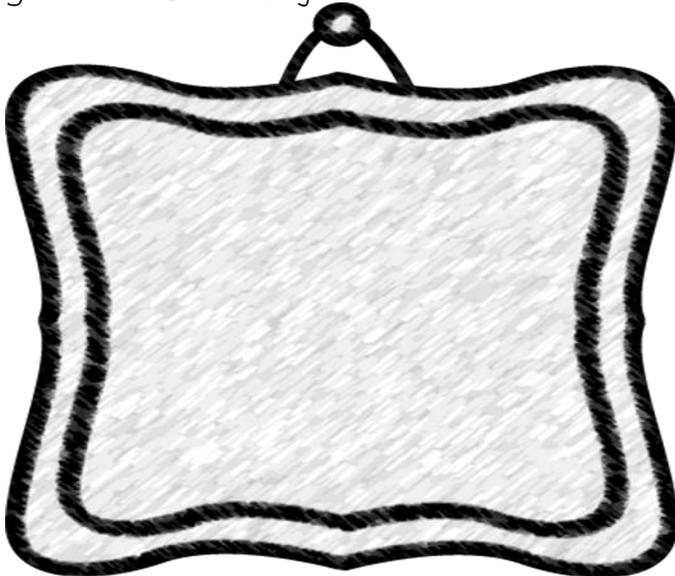
should never make them feel this way. You can also sit down with them and talk to them or listen to them, like what grandchildren do when sitting with their grandparents. Enjoy fellowshiping with them instead of always sticking around your peers and running around in church. If you can, ask your parents to let you join Team Barnabas too!



Now for some activity...

1) List down, as many as you can, the names of the senior Christians in your church.

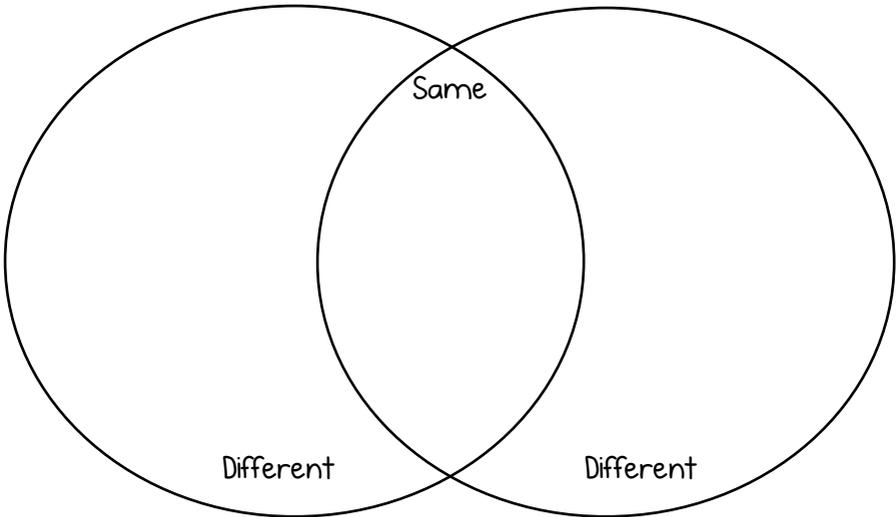
2) Choose an elderly from your namelist and sketch your most vivid impression of him/her in the picture frame below. Your elderly could be reading a Bible, singing a hymn, walking slowly to church or anything you see him/her doing!



3) Present your sketch to the elderly and talk to him/her. Write down what you have in common between the both of you (or even what differences you may have) in the diagram below.

Here are some questions to help you along in the conversation:

Brought up in a Christian home?
Age you accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour? Number of siblings?
Plays a musical instrument? Favourite sports?
Favourite subject in school?
Favourite Bible character? Favourite Christian hymn(s)?



4) Ask the elderly for their prayer requests, write them down and remember to pray for them!

Missions Needs

Missions Needs in Summary (as of September 2017)

- **Student Scholarship** (True Gospel Bible School, Cambodia)
- **Laptops** (True Gospel Bible School, Cambodia; Bomet Bible Institute, Kenya)
- **King James Bibles and teaching materials** (Bomet Bible Institute, Kenya)
- Biblically sound **Christian books** in good condition (for children, adults, and Bible school students)
(True Gospel, True Faith and Lively Hope BPCs, Cambodia; Kisumu Bible School/
Pastoral Resource Centre, Bomet Bible Institute & Bomet Church Library, Kenya)
- **Tuk-tuk maintenance/second-hand van** to replace tuk-tuk (True Gospel BPC, Cambodia)
- **Funds for church building** (Ongata Rongai AGUC, Kenya; Holy Trinity Church of Africa (Eldoret), Kenya)
- **Funds for extension of plot & school van** (Kipyosit-Lebekwet Christian School, Kenya)
- **Funds to build new latrines** and to **renovate previous sanctuary** for Sunday School use (Tenwek AGUC, Kenya)

May the Lord move us to pray and to give to God's work!

"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**" (Acts 20:35)