



PROCLAIM & LIVE THE TRUTH IN JESUS' NAME

Seventy Years of Bethesda (Katong) Church

70

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1936 - 2006



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PREFACE



This 70th Anniversary Book of Bethesda Katong Church is more than just a collection of memorable events that involved the Church. It is intended as a platform for sharing ideas and lessons from various Ministries and members of the church over the years. Through recounting the facts and lessons, through sifting through illustrations and diagrams, the readers would become more intimate with the life of BKC.

This Anniversary book contains snapshots and snippets of church life in BKC which, it is hoped, will enlighten church members to our past, present and future, encourage healthy church development, and enable practical steps towards Christian maturity.

May all who read it be encouraged with the faith of people who have gone ahead of us, and the faithfulness of God whom we love and obey.

MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Mission is to be a worshipping church,
growing in faith, hope and love
by abiding in Jesus Christ,
empowered by the Holy Spirit
and impacting the world
for the glory of God.*

A Brief Explanation

God is looking for joyful and passionate worshippers. He desires us to be such people. At the same time, He desires more of such people. Glorifying God and enjoying Him forever is clearly man's chief end. Therefore we must seek to be a worshipping church. We must also seek to be an impacting church, one which is drawing others into our worship of God.

A Worshipping Church

We must above all else be passionate in our worship of God. He has chosen us for His glory (Eph 1:4-6). However, before we can gladly make Him known, we must be a people whose fervent theme is His supremacy in all of life.

How can we cultivate and practice worship? As believers loyal to the truths of the Bible, we can and must –

- a. gather regularly to express praise and worship to God when commemorating the Lord's Supper, singing songs of praise, reading the Bible and offering prayers in gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ for His work of redemption on

the cross. Preaching and hearing the Word of God from the pulpit completes this service.

- b. gather regularly for prayer, encouraging one another in activities such as Sunday School, young people's work and mission outreach.
- c. meet for group activities, such as Senior Citizens Fellowship, Care Groups, Visitation and Bible classes.

All such endeavours will cultivate in us a sense of personal discipline towards making ourselves instruments of 'living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God' which is our spiritual act of worship (Rom 12:1)

An Impacting Church

As an impacting church, we want to develop in three areas as:

- a. A praying church (1 Thess 5:17-18; Eph 6:18). Prayer is an integral part of knowing God and making Him known. We must pray continually, giving thanks in all circumstances for this is His will for us in Christ Jesus.
- b. A caring church (Heb 10:24, 25; 1 John 4:7-11). Visitations and help by individuals and teams (care groups) in our church will develop close contacts among ourselves. Needs and burdens then can be made known to the church for action.
- c. A sending church (Matt 9:37,38). Our church is kept informed of current outreach endeavours by mission organisations and individuals considered worthy of our support. The mission committee assists in this direction. Our own missionaries are constantly being monitored and prayer for. As the Lord leads, we must send out more missionaries. At the same time, we must do our part to draw others we know into our worship of God as 'the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few'.

Developing in the above three areas will lead us to becoming a growing church.

The Promised Rewards

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will be returning soon. When He comes, there will be rewards for faithfulness in the fulfillment of our mission (Rev 22:12). These are incorruptible and eternal. Some of the promised rewards are:

- the victor's crown (1 Cor 9:25-27)
- the soulwinner's crown (1 Thess 2:19)
- the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:2-4)
- the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)
- the crown of life (James 1:12)

We are also mindful of the following promises of God:

Mark 9:41

"For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Matthew 25:40

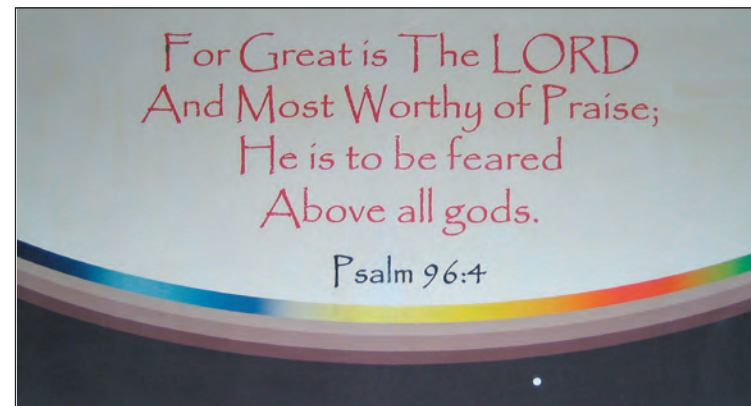
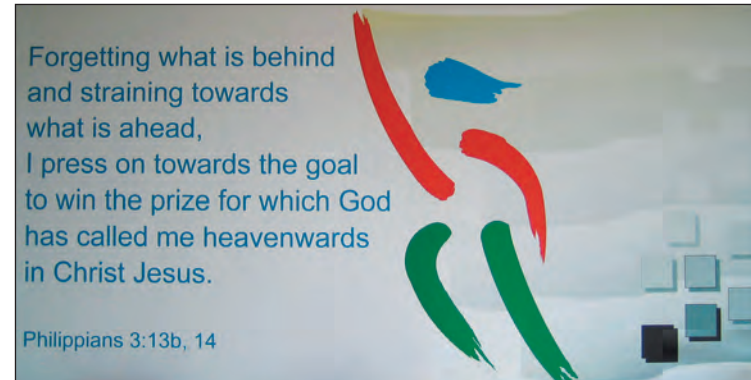
"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

Isaiah 58:10

If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday.

Proverbs 11:25

The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.



From top to bottom, theme banners from 2003 to 2005

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PRACTICES

The following is a Statement of Faith and Practices subscribed to by the Members of Bethesda (Katong) Church WHO BELIEVE THAT:

1. The original writings of the Old and New Testaments are infallible, and unique in their divine inspiration, authority and sufficiency.
2. There is one God, yet with three distinct Persons, namely, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are co-equal and to whom equal honour is due.
3.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the only begotten and eternal Son of God.
 - b. He truly became man, being begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
 - c. His death was a sacrifice to God and a propitiation for the remission of sins.
 - d. He was raised from the dead in His physical body
 - e. He ascended to the right-hand of God, and is now the all-sufficient High Priest of His People.
 - f. He will come again to receive His people unto Himself, and to set up His Kingdom.
4. In consequence of the Fall, sin came in, and man became "lost" and at "enmity against God" and "without strength" to do the will of God.

5. The Holy Spirit's work is essential in regeneration and sanctification.
6.
 - a. The justification of the sinner before God is by faith alone.
 - b. Every justified one is also born of God.
 - c. Such new birth results in and is made evident by holiness of life and good works.
7.
 - a. At death the spirit of man does not cease to exist or become unconscious.
 - b. The dead will be raised in their physical bodies either to life or to condemnation, and the blessedness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be alike eternal.
8. The Devil, also called Satan, who deceives the whole world, is a person.

AND WHO PRACTISE:

9.
 - a. The customary observance of the ordinance of Believers' Baptism by immersion on personal confession of faith.
 - b. The customary commemoration of the Lord's death in the Breaking of Bread on the first day of the week.

10. The reception at the Lord's Table of all believers unless they are proved to be unsound in faith or to come within the disqualifying grounds given in the Scriptures.
11. The conducting of meetings for:-
 - a. Worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit with opportunity for the exercise of all true gifts for edification, subject to the Lordship of Christ.
 - b. The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
12. The recognition and the appointment of Elders who are male members of the Church fitted by God for spiritual leadership and for episcopal and pastoral duties.
13. The election and the appointment of Deacons who are members of the Church, and who possess qualifications for the office of Deacon in accordance with the Scriptures and who are responsible for all matters relating to finance, property, transport, personnel and the general material welfare of the Church.

LOOKING BACK: *Circumstances*



REMINISCES FROM PAST & PRESENT CHURCH MEMBERS

The Place where I first encountered Christ

Peter Seow, Elder of Full Gospel Assembly, Singapore

I have been a Christian for as many years as I can remember and the measure of blessings that I have enjoyed has its roots in my early years at Bethesda Katong.

It was at Bethesda Katong where I first encountered Christ, and gave my life to Him. It was also where I learnt to accept that the Scriptures is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

There was great emphasis and encouragement from the elders for us to be dependent on the love of God, His Word; the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within us in our daily lives.

At Bethesda Katong, I grew up with the lifestyle of “God’s chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that declared His praises” expressed in practical terms.

The governance of the church was by elders, most of whom had come from the marketplace. There was no lay ministry or pastoral ministries. Everyone within the body served together as the body of Christ in the same priesthood.

I recalled vividly how the morning services were conducted. It was an environment led by the Holy Spirit. Those who had praises in their hearts, announced the psalm or hymn and led the congregation to join him in singing praises; those who had a word from the Lord, shared it; and those who had a teaching brought their teaching from the Word of God and those who were moved to pray just prayed on. There was a wonderful spirit of worship and of celebration in the “Feast of Remembrance” each Sunday as they broke bread together. Evening services were devoted to teachings and to the sharing of the gospel.

The teachings I received in the Sunday School and the encouragement to serve in the youth ministry, the Sunday school and later to be received as a very young deacon in my teens, had a great deal of impact in my spiritual life. In particular, I recall with gratefulness and great fondness the elders that showed me what it meant to be a servant leader. A five minute dialogue with either Dr. Benjamin Chew, or Dr. Khoo Peng Seng, or Elder T. C. Koh or Elder Gordon Scott or Elder T. W. G. Knowles on any subject, be it secular or otherwise will establish the realization that you are talking to men of God, who had walked with the Lord since the day they came into the Kingdom.

*“This understanding
of the body of Christ
was indelibly
implanted in my
psyche from my
youth”*

I thank the Lord for using Bethesda Katong to provide me with the foundations of my early walk with the Lord; I thank the Lord for the elders that spoke into my life and I thank the Lord for the fellowship of believers that helped to shape me into the body of Christ. When, in 1955, I went to Bedok Methodist Church for 27 years to be their Choir Director and later called to serve in para-church ministries and to plant churches; the blessings of my early days at Bethesda Katong made me understand that I never left the church and had all the time always been a part of the same body of Christ as from the day I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. This understanding of the body of Christ was indelibly implanted in my psyche from my youth. I thank the Lord for Bethesda Katong and wish to bless you for having been a part of my life. Allow me, in Paul's words to pray that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus".



External view of the church



Posing with Kelvin & Suzann, and Neivelle Tan after evangelistic outreach, Nov 2006

Fond Memories

Koh Seng Chor, Bethesda (Frankel Estate) Church

The thought of Bethesda Katong Church brings fond memories. I think of the Crusader's Club over at the residence of Dr. Benjamin Chew where I spent a major part of my youth and how it influenced my spiritual formation. Indeed my fourteen years with the church has made a deep impression in my overall spiritual formation.

It was in Katong that I was systematically taught scripture, got baptised, met and married my wife. I am thankful for people like Philip Tan, Francis Maniam, and Eric Ang who sacrificially gave up their Sunday afternoons to teach the Sunday School classes I attended. It was also Katong that gave me the opportunity to preach and hone my preaching skills. I remember the day when I was approached by T C Koh to speak at the Sunday evening services and the prayer meeting. Soon I found myself accompanying the Come Together singing team to West Malaysia and speaking after the team's presentation in a Malaysia school and the church.

How can I measure the impact of Katong's influence on my spiritual formation? I can vividly recall how, in 1972 when my parents specifically disallowed me to attend the Sunday School. One afternoon, I had a visit from Philip Tan and Danny Goh, which encouraged me. The visit was very short, no more than 10 minutes, but key in the concern was not that I was not attending church but that I was continuing in my personal devotion. I was touched by the fact that Dr. Benjamin Chew, in his busyness still found time to have a personal session with me regarding the possibility of me becoming a full time worker in the ministry.



Principal and teachers of Bethesda (Katong) Kindergarten

The Brethren tradition seeps deep within my bones. I cannot remember any time when the Brethren tradition was formally taught either over the pulpit or the Sunday School. Yet it seeps deep within me. I recall the six years when I was helping in a Presbyterian Church where the Minister had such an influence on the congregation especially with regard to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It made me sit up and ponder and look back at my Brethren tradition. It forced me to research into the history of the Brethren movement and the rationale of the major practices of the Brethren movement. I am now serving in Frankel and I hope I can be used by God to contribute to the Brethren movement in Singapore especially in helping Christians to renew their love for the Word and to treasure their relationship with God.



KSS children's song item during Family Night, Sept 2006

The Beginnings of my Christian Journey

Jeffrey Goh, Elder, Bethesda (Bedok-Tampines) Church

Beginnings

I thank God for Loh Choon Leng who taught me in Primary School. He told us that he was a Christian and I remembered him doing a sketch map on the location of Bethesda (Katong) Church. He invited us to Sunday School.

There was a stirring in my heart to find out what a Sunday School was and so that Sunday I walked all the way from Jalan Eunos, to Still Road, turned into Koon Seng Road and to Pennefather Road. I liked Sunday School so much that I soon brought my brothers and sisters with me.

Big Family

I had 10 brothers and sisters at that time! My father was not at all happy about this as he was a devout Taoist. He would find every opportunity to stop us from going to church. One objection he had was that too many of my brothers and sisters were walking and crossing so many road junctions. He said it was dangerous and threatened to stop us from attending Sunday School.

Poor Fund

When Paul Wee, brother of Dr. Peter Wee who was a Sunday School teacher heard about this, he volunteered to fetch us to church in his Ford car. Every Sunday, six of us would be crammed into his car. I wondered how many times he had to change his car suspension!

Because I was so poor with so many brothers and sisters I was grateful that Bethesda Katong had a Poor Fund to provide pocket money for people like

me. Every month Francis Maniam would have in his hands a stack of white envelopes with three dollars in it for each of the poor Sunday School students. At every last Sunday of the month, I would anxiously look for Francis Maniam to see if he was around because it was my "Pay Day"! Without the three dollars, I would go hungry during recess. Some days, I still go hungry when I had to "surrender" some of the money to the family.

Leadership and Spiritual Development

I remember Daniel Ee, my Sunday School teacher who made a difference in my life at BKC. He mentored me and gave me opportunity to develop my leadership, speaking and organizing skills. I discovered my gifts at BKC!

Philip Tan was instrumental in my spiritual development. He invested years into my life. Every Saturday afternoon I would be at his house in Jalan Eunos doing Bible Study together with Eric Lim and Lim Beng Huat! Eric Lim was so regular that he married Philip Tan's sister, Elsie Tan!

Physical Development

Taking part in BKC's Sports Day was also a memorable one! For a few years, we had a BKC Sports Day at Lorong J, Telok Kurau. I remember taking part in the 400m race, running against champions like Ong Koon Seng and others. Our Games Day at Crusaders' Club at Dr Benjamin Chew's residence was equally memorable.

Social Development

I met my wife Alice (who also attended BKC) at Tay Ban Guan Emporium one Sunday after Church. I was buying the game of "Scrabble" and she was buying stockings. I got her telephone number at the bus-stop, called her for four months, got rejected every time until she said yes when I invited her to be my partner at a Military Wedding of my friend. It was our first date. I was dressed in full military regalia, sword and all. She fell in love with her Prince Charming and we are now married for 28 years! Praise the Lord!

Bearing Fruits

I also taught Sunday School in BKC for a few years and today many of my students like Jerry Chee and Peh Chin Huat are serving the Lord in Churches and Para-Church Ministries.

Reflection

So on reflection, God has blessed my entire Goh clan through BKC. Everyone became a believer including my dad and mum in their later years. Mr T. C. Koh shared the gospel with my dad and when he received Christ, my mother did likewise.

BKC provided opportunities for spiritual, physical, emotional and social growth to people like me. May God continue to use BKC to impact even more lives in the coming years for His Glory! AMEN.

*"God has
blessed my
entire Goh
clan through
BKC"*

Blessings

Priscilla Sim, Bethesda (Frankel Estate) Church

Congratulations to my “mother church”, Bethesda Katong, on its 70th Anniversary. At which church I became a “born-again” Christian through its faithful gospel preaching. The “baby convert” was well brought up by the Elders of Bethesda Katong, with Mr Knowles baptising Priscilla and an appropriate Bible verse was given – Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”. On hindsight, this verse had indeed proven true in this oldie’s life (now 77 years of age) who is “standing tall” in the Lord despite many a major surgery!

Priscilla is grateful to the Lord for His wonderful grace and tender mercies all these years. Elder- the late Mr T C Koh – played the part of mentor in Priscilla’s “young days” in her spiritual growth.

Joe was a member of Kampong Kapor Methodist Church who went “astray” due to his keen interest in hunting and fishing over the weekends. When our friendship deepened into courtship, I told Joe that he needed to return to church as his wife-to-be was more of a “churchy” girl than one in sports! I thank the Lord for leading Joe to attend services at Bethesda Katong and in His time we got married at this church with the late Dr Benjamin Chew officiating the solemnization in October 1956.

Now in our sunset years, we are grateful to God for His merciful goodness in enabling us, in His strength over our weakness to daily cope with life in old age. Truly, we have been so blessed in not only being saved but also being kept in steadfast faith. I conclude by saying “Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me bless His holy name”.

May the Lord also continue to bless the “mother-church” with its “daughter-churches” as I continue in faith and service in Bethesda (Frankel Estate) Church.



‘Come Together’ music team



JSS song item during Family Night, Sept 2006

Nostalgic Joy

Evelyn Tan

Earlier this year, I made a visit to Katong. Having spent my spiritual “formative years” here, it seemed the most natural thing to do. “Why are you back, Evelyn?” Without a moment’s thought, I chirped, “Nostalgic”. It was even more heartwarming to know I was in time for Katong’s 70th anniversary and thanksgiving.

Being a few years older, my brother Edward joined Sunday School first. We were back then living across the street on Carpmael Road, immediate neighbours to Mr and Mrs Tan, Ashley and Amelia. I joined SSS in Senior 1. Some of my schoolmates

“Grounding in God’s word helped us to remain ‘steadfast, immoveable’, until the storm had blown over.”

were already part of SSS, among them, Pit Kee, Sharon Low (aka Mrs Richard Tio). The next few years were instrumental in my growth towards spiritual maturity. I guess we will never forget our faithful SSS teachers, Lucy, Jocelyn, Anne Chia, Rita, Oi Kwan, Robert Chua, Matthias Quake, who ingrained in us the habit of serious and regular study of the Word, modeled its application in their own lives, and challenged us to live for the Lord.

This rock-solid foundation in doctrine (thanks also to strong and uncompromising pulpit preaching and Bible exposition sessions at Friday prayer meetings by Dr Benjamin Chew and others) has seen me through rough patches, like when my husband’s church was undergoing a confusing period of “transition”. Grounding in God’s Word helped us to

remain “steadfast, immoveable”, until the storm had blown over. It also enabled us to teach the youths in his church, and later, to guide a Young Working Adults life group of the church we next moved on to. Right now, it is the same foundation that equips us to answer some of the most searching questions put forward by intellectuals we move amongst, whether at home or abroad.

Because Bethesda Youth brought in the Navigator’s DTC (Discipleship Training Course) abridged as BYDTC, some of us underwent the rigours of this 2-year programme, and these lifestyle Nav

discipleship materials still form the mainstay of any discipling work we do.

Katong was also the place where I made my first forays into missions. I remember it was Soo Fun who challenged me one day to re-think my attitude towards holidays and travel, by considering a “Holiday with a Difference” with Open Doors. Up to today, Joel and I still keep in touch with missionaries I have grown up watching and learning from, among them, Edward and Kamala, Jim and Selene, and Sebastian and Susan. I will also never forget that my first 2 mission trips were made with Katong members like Peck Choo, Adeline, Khirn Gee, Judy Ong, Alice Loon, as those trips were in so many ways, unforgettable, instructive and formative.

Then there were at different times, the opportunity to be involved in Missions Committee, Bethesda Youth Newsletter, Bethesda Bells, numerous evangelistic musicals and the accompanying counseling and follow up work, and most of all, teaching in SSS. I am grateful that just as I “graduated” from SSS, Doc Wee, in his final year of “superintendency”, challenged me to turn around and teach the incoming batch of Senior 1 Girls. (That was Sheralyn and company!). The privilege of teaching SSS continued for many years under Sum Loon’s leadership, until it was time to move on to serve in Joel’s church. I am also thankful for the way in which Katong welcomed Joel with open arms even though he hailed from another church.

That day when I visited Katong, I couldn’t help but cast a glance at Mr T. C. Koh’s office. In remembrance of those who have gone on ahead of us, and all our dear elders who have been faithful in shepherding the flock, and for all the good times and all that I am because of my years with BKC, let me salute all our beloved leaders and members with our Lord’s promise in Hebrews 6:10:

“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His Name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

God Bless BKC

Carine Toh

God blessed 70th Anniversary to Bethesda Katong Church! I have many fond memories of my time in BKC, it goes back many years ago. I was introduced to BKC by a friend, and during that time I was just a new believer, seeking to know more about Jesus Christ and to fellowship with His people.

Morning Worship, Bethesda Youth, Sunday School became a big part of my spiritual growth. Bible teaching and scripture memory were always the vital part of all the events. The spiritual leaders were always available to pray, guide, share and counsel.

My favourite Scripture is Psalm chapter 1 “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the council of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But delight is in the law of the Lord and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

Bethesda Youth at Crusaders’ Ground was wonderful. We had good speakers sharing God’s word with us, games, fun, food and fellowship. We were given opportunities to do door-to-door work, sharing God’s love with others. God worked wonders in many young people’s hearts at BKC – many were challenged to mission work and taking up leadership wherever they were placed. I was involved with mission work with Operation Mobilization for more than 2 years, traveling as far as the southern tip of Argentina in South America to bring the love and good news of Jesus Christ to the broken hearts and homes – distributing Bibles and leaflets proclaiming God’s love and salvation for them to every corner of the streets and cities.

I served as BKC’s office secretary for about 15 years, after returning from the mission work. During my time in the church office, the Lord taught me many precious lessons through different people and gave me wonderful friends – to support and love me.

There was one special moment: I remember visiting the late Dr Benjamin Chew at his home when he was not feeling well: He gently said “Carine, I think you are the only one person who read all my articles which I wrote for Bethesda Bells.” There was always encouragement, smile and love in his conversation!

I am very thankful to the Lord for the new chapter of my life in Illinois, USA. I married Stuart Brown in July 25, 1997. I am serving the Lord as Coldbrook Christian Church’s part-time church secretary, also doing voluntary work at Rescue Mission. I am so glad the experiences which I received from BKC have allowed me to continue serving God in this part of the world. May God continue to bless the work at BKC from generation to generation.



Fellowship amongst young people



Mandarin congregation members at Year-End dinner, 2005

I found my Personal Anchor

Tan Kian Kok, Pastor of Harvest Church in Sydney, Australia

My time at Bethesda Katong Church started in late 1959. I had just accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour at a School's chapel service. Christian friends urged me to attend Bethesda Katong Church. At first distance was an excuse, but opposition from my father, with the threat of being evicted from home, was another. Through persistence and persuasion from friends such as Gan Teck Chuan, I managed to sneak away on my bicycle to Sunday School each Sunday afternoon.

During my formative years as a Christian, I had only two Sunday School teachers, who are wonderful men of God. I still remember and thank the Lord for my first Sunday School Teacher, Dr. Tan Ban Cheng, a quiet, soft spoken person, who radiates love and faithfulness in the Lord. I then had the privilege of being taught by Jim Chew, who introduced me to a full-time training course with the Navigators that helped in my calling today.

One embarrassing event stood out during my time at BKC. Someone entered me in a Scripture Reading contest in Sunday School. On that day, I read a chapter from the book of James. I started well, but my mistake was to look up from my reading. Lo and behold, with all those eyes looking at me, I fell apart after that and babbled through the rest of the chapter with my knees literally knocking against each other. One of the Judges later told me I could have won if I had kept my pace at the beginning. Thank you very much for that information. It was such an embarrassment that it took a while to live it down.

“But through all the good times and bad times, I found my personal anchor in the rock of Jesus Christ.”

Paralleling the many wonderful times at Church, I went through very difficult times at home. My world at home disintegrated when my father left us. It was as if I existed in two different worlds – the one at home felt so surreal with all the pain and struggles and the one with the Church a comfort and a get-away. I found solace in Christian company and fellowship. I thank God for friends such as Eric Ang, Choo Chin Teck, Henry Tio, Tay Cheng Kee, Paul and Doreen Seow and others, some of whom did not know my predicament as I was unable to share with all of them. It was the camaraderie of such friends that helped to divert my painful experiences at home. But through all the good times and bad times, I found my personal anchor in the rock of Jesus Christ.

I left Bethesda Katong Church sometime in 1964/65 to help in the new church plant of Bethesda Frankel Estate Church.

In my journey of life, I am comforted by the Word of God in Job 2:10 “We take the good days from God – why not also the bad days?” (The Message Bible) and assured as in Job 42:2 “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.” Today, I am Pastor of Harvest Church in Sydney, Australia. I have found His purpose for my life. The times in BKC and the tumultuous years at home were foundation-laying.

Childhood Initiations

Mrs Ang Woon Chuan



Mrs Ang Woon Chuan with the Foreign Workers ministry

*"Oh, who can make the flowers?
I know I can't can you?
Oh, who can make the flowers?
No one but God can do."*

I must have sung this song about 10 times already (replacing the word flowers with butterflies, then elephants and anything else relevant to a baby). My granddaughter Danielle is now fast asleep. On good days, she sleeps with the butterflies, but sometimes, her father actually went through all the elements listed in the chemistry periodic table and she was still wide awake.

Is the glorious truth of creation wasted on a tiny baby? Not really. Childhood beginnings of biblical truths have a way of being embedded in a brain which has long since lost so many other bits of growing up. Somehow, deep in the recesses of a young mind, these truths have a way of being stored away for future use.

Bethesda Katong Sunday School was the cradle of many spiritual beginnings for me. Even now, I can 'hear' the loud 'ting ting!' of the table bell. It was the call to be completely silent because Sunday School session was about to start. Not that we

needed the reminder... as little 5 years olds, we were already trained to converse in whispers the moment we stepped into the church hall and sat on the pews (yes, the very same pews we're sitting on today). Mr Henry Philips (the Sunday School superintendent) with his no-nonsense decorum and dark complexion was a formidable figure to any young child. On one occasion, (at an annual Sunday School picnic) when he played 'Mr Wolf' and yelled "Dinner Time!" I remember running for my life because I really conceived him to be the real 'Mr Wolf!' On rare occasions, when he picked my twin sister and I to pass the collection bags down the aisles (a privilege reserved for model pupils) we did our best to justify his judgement.

The annual prize giving Sunday was always a grand occasion. I can still picture the happy faces of the seniors who received book prizes for perfect attendances and for bringing friends to Sunday School (the Ong Phee Lip and Florence Oldham memorial prize). The grandeur was not so much in the creativity of special interesting items (there was none) but in the quiet orderliness of the event – the serious message; the dignity of the prize winners and yes, the orderly photo-taking of the whole Sunday School (did you see the display of the photos in the 50s?) No one complained (not even the little ones) or dared to complain, even though we had to sit on the rough gravel ground under the scorching afternoon sun (Sunday School was 3 pm – 4 pm).

What is Sunday School without songs? My earliest memory of singing Sunday after Sunday is belting

out the song “My best friend is Jesus... love Him... serve Him”. The teachers were glad we sang so loudly and enthusiastically except that they didn’t know I was actually singing, “My fat friend is Jesus” for almost a whole year!

Another song:

*“Lay up treasures in heaven
Life will pass away
Lay up treasures in abundant measure
For the great accounting day.”*

It was a mouthful for any 5 year old... we sang it almost automatically whenever the offering bags were passed around, confessing as it were with our young mouths, the profound biblical truths that God would in years down the road make them real in our hearts and minds.

Teaching a group of “music illiterates” to sing as a choir was really no easy task. As young teenagers we were encouraged to join the choir and Mr Peter Seow came diligently every Sunday evening (for many years) as choir conductor. We sat in orderly rows – sopranos in front; altos behind and basses and tenors at the back, even though there were only about 15 of us. My introduction to what a “bass” sounded like was to hear the deep low voice of a young 13-year-old boy (now my husband) from the back row.

Did I really enjoy all those early years in Sunday School? I really don’t know. Somehow, I recall the struggle to be dragged away from playing marbles with the neighbourhood children, to be cleaned and dressed properly for Sunday School.

The discipline of having to sit quietly through one whole hour was not any young child’s cup of tea – playing marbles was really “more - fun”.

Were all those years in Sunday School futile? ... Not really... It was to me, the initiation of **worship** (the proper way to approach the Almighty God); **obedience** (behaving and doing anything against the desires of the flesh); **appreciation** (for simple, humble people who obeyed the call of God to “feed my lambs”); and **service** (saying ‘yes’ to God’s call in spite of) which God is perfecting in my life.

Praise God for those early beginnings in Sunday School – yes, our God is faithful – just as He promised King David that there will always be someone sitting on His throne, we can trust God to continue to raise up men and women with willing hearts to obey the great commission to ‘teach and make disciples’.

We were reminded at our 70th Thanksgiving Anniversary Service that God’s work will carry on simply because it is His work. I thank God that my granddaughter and her generation and generations after her will have a spiritual cradle in BKC until Jesus comes.

It’s time to sing “Oh who can make...” again.



*Children and fathers enjoying time of craftwork during
Father's Day, 2005*

Seeking and Pleasing God

Jim Chew

I first attended Bethesda (Katong) Sunday School in 1947. I was 9 years of age. The Benjamin Chew family had moved to Branksome Road and Bethesda Katong became our home church. My first S.S. teacher was Mr Seet Poon Soo. Mr Seet got each pupil to memorize a “text” each Sunday. My first “text” had a picture of John Bunyan, who wrote Pilgrim’s Progress. It said, *“John Bunyan, prisoner and dreamer.”* On the reverse side was the text from Matthew 7:13,14: *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

This was a rather long passage to memorize! (All passages were in the King James Version, the only version we had at that time). But memorize I did – and word-perfectly. I must confess I did not understand what the word “strait” meant, and only later discovered it was not spelt “straight” and it meant “narrow”.

When I recited it to Mr Seet the following Sunday, he said, “Actually, I just wanted you to memorize the words below the picture – John Bunyan, prisoner and dreamer.” I wondered at my young age, “Why should I memorize something that was not Scripture!” I assumed Mr Seet wanted me to remember the story of John Bunyan! Anyway, I’ve never forgotten Matthew 7:13, 14 and have used it later to challenge many young people to follow Christ.

I treasured the “texts” which Mr Seet passed on to his pupils. I carefully mounted them in a book so I could remember them. Later on, I memorized texts Mr Seet gave each pupil on various numbers in the Bible. Some of the texts appeared very strange to me. One I remember was Genesis 18:31: “I will not destroy it for twenty’s sake.” This was a rather strange text with the word “twenty.” Later I discovered that Abraham, who had an intimate relationship with God, was interceding for the wicked city of Sodom and for Lot his nephew. God told Abraham He would not destroy a city with any of His people there.

I am thankful to Mr Seet for getting me started on the habit of memorizing Scripture, something all Sunday School teachers should do themselves and to have their pupils develop this essential habit. Little did I realize that later I would be involved with The Navigators and learn the importance of “Scripture Memory.”

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

My other Sunday School teachers were Mr Lauw Kim Guan, Mr Henry Phillips, Mr Gordon Scott, Mr Ralph Mitchell, Mr Chia Hong Hoe and Dr Benjamin Chew. I was in Dr Chew’s Bible Class for 2 years. My father taught us every book of the Bible. All these teachers were elders and most are in glory. Praise God for them!

For several years, I did not miss a single Sunday. For perfect attendance, we would receive the Ong Phee Lip prize. As Sunday School grew in numbers, the sessions were divided into “Junior” and “Senior” Sunday Schools in 1949. Mr Henry Phillips was the Superintendent of the Junior Division and Dr Khoo Peng Seng the Senior.

I later became a Sunday School teacher both at Katong and at Frankel Estate. Selene and I were some of the young teachers that were recruited to help begin a work at Frankel Estate. This was before we were married. We were teaching at Frankel in the morning and at Katong in the afternoon.

In 1961, I taught a “Training Class” at Katong. Eric Ang, then a student at Raffles Institution, was in this class. After Dr Khoo Peng Seng stepped aside, I became Sunday School Superintendent for a while. Through the influence of Youth for Christ, we held Bible quizzes. I introduced a new “Scripture

Memory Quiz” – when teams would memorize the Topical Memory System and compete. My prayer at that time was that the Word of God would keep our young people pure (Psalm 119:9, 11). “God’s Word will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from God’s Word.”

My Days at BKC

Quek Jin Jong

It was a glorious event when we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of our church on Sat, 4 March 2006. The participation of all the groups within our church made it very meaningful as we reflected on God's faithfulness in seeing us through the seven decades. It took me a while to recall and see which part of the church history I was involved in.

I started attending the Sunday School in 1959 when George Ang brought me over from the Presbyterian Church in Koon Seng Road. I can proudly say that I grew up in BKC. Due to the limitation of space, I asked myself what the three main areas of work were which I served in and grew up with over the three decades of 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It was not difficult for me to make a list but it was tough to decide which of those to leave out. I decided to cluster them so as to be as inclusive as possible.

Sunday School (SS) & Young People's Group (YPG)

The scopes of these two areas covered the secondary school and teenage years of my life. My peers and I were taught by many God-loving Christians like Dr Khoo Peng Seng, Dr Khoo Boo Chai, Mr Jimmy Chew and many others who sowed the seeds and then watered them. I believe God blessed their work and we see a generation of leaders who are still serving in our church and other Christian organizations.

There was the Crusaders' Club within the compound of Dr Benjamin Chew's house. We had regular games of captain's ball, netball, soccer and carom. As the courts and field were just outside Mr & Mrs T C Koh's house, some of us, on many occasions, stayed on to have dinner with them.

I firmly believe that I grew spiritually as well as socially in the church. The opportunities to learn from God's Word in the SS and lead in the YPG had certainly laid the foundation for much of my life-long skills which were a great help to me in my working life.

Choir and Come-Together Team

It is another area of service which I participated in regularly. Not being musically inclined, I remember our then Choir Director, Miss Irene Koh, patiently drilling us in our singing parts to ensure that we were adequately prepared for the broadcast services over the Radio Singapore and the choir performances in church.

The apex of my involvement in music was with the Come-Together Team. It was the team to be with then! There were about 50+ singers and musicians sharing the gospel and praising God. I was the narrator cum speaker, partly because Irene would not chance my singing solo. We performed at a number of our Brethren churches and at the DBS Auditorium. God had blessed that area of work and many came to Christ through the music ministry. 'Puji Tuhan' (as shared by Mr Charlie Chan) for faithful workers! I saw Janie Ng, who was in the Come-Together Team as well as the church choir, still serving the Lord in singing at our Anniversary Service. If she were in a secular organization, she would have been given the 'Long Service' Award for her 20+ years in the choir!



Senior Sunday School 2005

Diaconate

I had the honour to serve on the Deacons' Board. Besides looking after the physical needs of the church, we also had to oversee the other activities of the church. I represented our church on the Emmaus Bible School committee which was housed in Bethesda (Bras Basah) Church. Since I had done almost all of the Emmaus courses when I was in my teens, it was a natural progression to be involved in this area of Bible correspondence work. This also provided me with the opportunity to network beyond our church doors to know leaders in other Brethren churches. It laid the foundation for my involvement with other para-church organizations like the Scripture Union, Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF), Youth For Christ and other Christian Fellowships.

Our church started the Care-Group Ministry in the mid-1980s. We had about 25 groups covering a large part of Singapore with a majority from the East. My group had members all the way from Bukit Timah and River Valley to the Serangoon Gardens area. It was through this ministry that I really got to know them better.

Looking back, my spiritual and social growth would not have been that enriching and the friendships made that lasting had it not been the influence the church had on me during the formative years of my life. The lessons learned and experiences encountered have a strong bearing on my outlook in life as a Christian.

Praise God for His grace and mercy in helping each one of us to remain faithful to Him. 'Puji Tuhan lagi!'



Quek Jin Jong (back row right with sling bag) with young participants of camp

My Spiritual Grounding through BKC

Lionel Ong, Elder, Bethesda (Frankel Estate) Church

Though my parents were non-Christians, for convenience they sent me to a mission school near to our house. Through the faithful ministry of the school through the years by means of its chapel services, I accepted the Lord in mid 1955.

However, I was attracted to Bethesda Katong Church because it had a vibrant youth ministry through its Sunday School and Young People's Group (YPG). I was fortunate in that in those vital early years of my Christian life, I received my spiritual nourishment through its various ministries.

Firstly, it was through its Sunday School. We had our grounding in God's Word through teachers such as Dr Benjamin Chew. This grounding has stood us his students in good stead, even up to today. We were truly rooted in His Word. An example of this vital ministry is found in a young leader from a big denomination who specially signed up for our Sunday School. He was clear that he would return to his church as a pastor some time in the future. In the meantime he took the opportunity to build himself up, something which he did not find in his church at that time.

Secondly, it's YPG is a marvellous avenue for us to channel our young energy in constructive games and fellowship. It was held every Saturday and it gave us the opportunity to interact with one another. Of course we had our happy moments of carolling and taking the opportunity to witness at the homes we visited.

Thirdly, it was at Bethesda Katong Church that we were given the opportunity, yea even encouraged, to serve our Lord in our young age as Christians. We led in singing, served in committees, we became Sunday School teachers ourselves, we learnt to speak, initially at small groups at the church prayer meetings, graduating later to speak at the ministry meetings. Indeed we were trained for future church leadership positions in a meaningful way.

Finally, it was my privilege to serve as a deacon till my transfer to BFEC. Today, a number in my cohort are still serving our Lord, thanks to the grounding we received from Bethesda Katong Church!



Rosalind Lee working amongst children in Cambodia

My Time at Bethesda Katong Church

Sebastian Chan, International Director, TransWorld Radio, Asia

“The world is still in darkness and is waiting to hear the Gospel of salvation.”

Susan and I consider this to be our joy in celebrating the momentous occasion of Bethesda Katong’s 70th anniversary with you.

In the early 70s my love for the sea and a sense for adventure brought me to Singapore from neighbouring Malaysia, to serve with the navy here. Through the invitation of Danny Goh, who was also with the navy then, I started attending BKC regularly. Danny was the chairman for Bethesda Youth and soon BKC became our home church. As for Susan, she served in the Church office along with elder Charlie Chan, whereas I had the pleasure of serving as a deacon with BKC for years.

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Bethesda Youth meeting’s back then were sometimes held in the open ground of the late Dr. Benjamin Chew’s home. Sunday’s would find me in BKC for the morning service and in Sunday school later on in the afternoon. Frequently, I would attend the evening Gospel service and by the time I returned to camp, it was usually late in the evening. By then I would have had a weekend full of worship, discipleship, Bible studies and good fellowship.

Several of the current elders in BKC were our Sunday school teachers before and we are most grateful to them. Their diligent teaching and clear explanation of the Bible, plus their encouragement helped us when we were younger, full of zeal and eager to learn. We believe that this format of teaching will continue into the future. We are grateful and indebted to BKC and we sincerely applaud BKC for grounding us well with strong spiritual principles, discipleship, God’s Word and prayer.

For us it has now been twenty-six years into full time ministry and every now and then, still there are pastors and church leaders overseas who ask which seminary we graduated from. Some of them were joyous in hearing that much of our training was through BKC and not through the standard route of a formal seminary training.

I still remember when I joined World Vision in 1980, to work alongside the “boat people” project (Vietnamese refugees); little did I realize that week after week, the Bible study session on board the mercy/relief ship “MV Seasweep,” was to



Larry & Lily Chung



Lily Chung

be conducted by me! The other members on board chose to acknowledge that this young lad was sufficiently geared to teach them the Bible and this was made possible, thru the systematic training and grounding that I received week in and week out at BKC for years.

Soon after the assignment with World Vision, Susan and I were married and we lived the first nine months of our marriage (in Malaysia), whilst waiting for God to lead us into the next area of service. In a way, this became Susan's overseas grounding experience and God often has His way in moulding and training us differently. And when the ripe time came, God paved the way for us to head up Open Doors ministry in Malaysia.

In celebrating with BKC today on the momentous occasion of her 70th anniversary, we are thankful and glad to have been and still are a part of BKC. It is both our prayer and desire to see God using BKC, in preparing many others for service, much like what He has done for us. The world is still in darkness and is waiting to hear the Gospel of salvation. Today, my family has the honour and privilege of sharing God's love with others through the ministry of Trans World Radio.

Thank you, Bethesda Katong Church, for guiding us when we were young and aspiring. You have blessed not only us but many others as well, through these seventy long and faithful years. Your good and faithful deeds shall be remembered by us. And may God bring a renewal to each worshipper at BKC, as you proclaim Him to a dying world today. God bless Bethesda Katong Church and may He bless everyone who worships there today.



Church evangelical concert with Lily & Larry Chung

A willing Instrument

Mr Eric Ang, Elder, Bethesda Katong Church

I started attending Bethesda Katong Sunday School from the age of 5 years old and have been involved since then all through the years. Time flies by, but we often hope that it will stand still. In my 60th year I was told that one of our old elders Gordon Scott (recently passed away in September 2006) referred to me recently as that “Ang boy”. My first Sunday School teacher is also still with us in our Peranakan Congregation. If we cannot remain young in age, we can always remain spiritually fresh in the Lord.

A Piano Accordion

As a teenager, I always saw our late elders Tan Tiang Choon and T. C. Koh busily arranging for “open air” evangelistic services that we used to hold initially once a month on a Sunday evening along the Marine Parade beach. Usually only the foldable pulpit and portable microphone went by car. As teenagers we walked from church to the beach after Sunday School. When we found an empty spot we would set up our very basic equipment and start to attract the people by some singing. In those days the beach was not very crowded and the number of people who stopped by to hear us was even less. But Mr. Koh would still dress up sometimes even in a suit, and preach the Gospel as loudly as he could above the sound of the waves and the push-cart hawkers.

I don’t remember how it happened, but I was roped in a couple of times to play my piano accordion to attract the crowd. I only could play a few hymns but the “open air” experience taught me not to be too hard on myself. I played terribly and felt very bad about it. In order to “comfort” me, Mr. Koh just told me that nobody could hear my mistakes anyway because of the constant noise around us. What was important was that I had attracted a crowd because of the louder noise I had made on my accordion. God-willing someone in the crowd would have

“I learned that God can take all that we give Him and turn it into something good.”

heard the message that was later preached. We will never know what those early “open air” meetings actually achieved, until we get to Heaven. But I learnt to be part of a team, willing to preach the Gospel to anybody who would hear.

A Guitar

For a couple of years, the few guitarists we had went to help in Bethesda Frankel and Geylang Gospel Hall, leaving only one three-chord guitarist in Katong. I realized to my horror that I had to provide all the musical items, if any, for the Sunday Evening Gospel service as well as other meetings. I roped in anybody who could sing to form various combinations of singing groups but we still had only one very reluctant three-chord guitarist. We somehow had very receptive and complimentary audiences who actually liked our singing items. I don’t think they heard the guitar. I learned that God can take all that we give Him and turn it into something good.

A Piano

My two older sisters learned how to play the piano and my turn came. Our piano teacher was Mrs. Rijk (pronounced as Mrs. Right). She was a senior member of our church at that time and later laid the foundation stone for Bethesda Frankel Church. At that time I thought that she was very old although she was younger than I am now. I was a very rebellious young boy of about 9 years old. I must have given her a very trying time. One day, out of the blue, she told me that I must never refuse to obey and serve the Lord like she did at one point in her life, otherwise I would regret it like she did. At that time I remember being frightened that she thought that teaching me the piano was God’s punishment for her. Maybe not, as I learnt later that Mrs. Rijk always felt that she could have done more for the Lord than she had already done. One effect she did have was that I have always remembered her injunction to serve the Lord as best as I can with His enabling. If she were around she will be very surprised that God used her to teach a very frightened boy a lesson more valuable than the piano.

Tutored to Spiritual Maturity

Interview of Johnathan Goh by Evelyn Yap

What began as an urgent clutch at academic help has turned out to be a journey of spiritual discovery for Johnathan Goh.

Now 26, Johnathan whose parents are Goh Choo Eng and Janet Siew, was an 11-year-old with “poor grades and looking around for tuition” when his mother chanced upon the free classes provided by Bethesda Katong Church in the early 1990s. He came to 17 Pennefather Road weekly on Sundays to be tutored in English and Maths for the next four years or so.

That ministry, outreach musicals and the “continual

“If we do not take the initiative to be involved or serve whole-heartedly, who will?”

persuasion” of those around him in the church led him to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to be baptised on 29 May 1994.

Things were not all hunky dory but God preserved him in his journey in Katong. “The early years were difficult, with my peers already in their own cliques. It was quite difficult for me to assimilate because I did not share many common interests, and was left out of the ‘inside’ jokes,” says Johnathan, whose brother, Daniel, also worships in the church.

“I found myself dragging my feet to church every Sunday”, he adds of a fledgling faith.

Two things helped him to “try to fit in, and in doing so to grow”. Firstly, the “encouragement of my

parents that BKC is the place that God had called me to”. There was the constant reminder through Sunday School classes that believers were to spur one another on towards love and good deeds (Heb 12:2).

Secondly, the process of being involved in church. “On hindsight, serving God’s people is one of the best ways to fit in,” says Johnathan who will complete his Masters course in material science at the Singapore MIT Alliance.

He began to play the piano for Senior Sunday School during his Victoria Junior College days, and got to know people better. “It was through this act of service that I also began to feel a sense of belonging to the church,” says the youth is now looked upon as *Kor-kor* Jonathan by many of the younger ones.

Aside from Sunday School, Nathanael Koh, was to be instrumental in encouraging him to “grow deeper in my walk”. Johnathan recalls: “Through his exhortation of God’s Word, asking tough questions, praying and accountability within the BS group, I grew deeper in my understanding of God’s Word and my love for God.”

How does accountability help? His take: “Through asking simple questions like ‘How has your week been?’, the Bible study group has encouraged and prayed for me when I felt down, or even when I’m joyful to remind me to praise God and not to forget Him.”

Throughout his spiritual journey in Bethesda Katong, Johnathan can see God’s hand in the “gradual transformation of individual lives by the powerful touch of His Holy Spirit”.

“Young people mature and develop self-control as they grow older, and proud people are humbled through various circumstances, backslided people turn around, all these are God’s work in the lives of His people,” he says. Also, God has provided brothers and sisters who are “willing to step out of... their comfort zone” to serve Him. For instance, in going on mission trips to neighbouring countries.

Being able to see the hand of the Lord at work is important to the young man, who will soon enough do his National Service and enter the work force, where many are sidetracked by the prosperity of careers or the cares of settling down.

“We are living in an age where Pharoah demands bricks without straw, where the world is trying to squeeze Christ out of our lives by increasing our workload more and more. While we must give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s, we must trust God our provider (Genesis 22:14) that He will provide all these things (grades, relationships, time, health) if we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.”

Johnathan’s parting shot: “BKC is our church, the fellowship of God’s believers where God has called each and every one of us to belong. If we do not take the initiative to be involved or serve whole-heartedly, who will?”

‘All the way my Saviour’s led me’...

Victor Chandra’s frank sharing

God’s faithfulness is what has kept elder Victor Chandra looking ever onwards and upwards in his spiritual walk in Bethesda Katong church. This is how God led him from reluctant believer (early 1950s) to church treasurer (1960s) to kindergarten supervisor and church administrator (1970s) and to chairman of the seniors’ ministry currently.

Looking back

Mr Chandra, going on 78, became a believer at 21 – and that only after much persuasion. “My family members were all Hindus and my friends, whom I used to hang out with to chit-chat about world affairs at that coffee shop near Ean Kiam Place, were all non-Christians,” recalls Mr Chandra at his Marine Crescent flat.

A Baptist minister, who had converted a school in that area to a church, kept inviting him to attend a Sunday service. That was back in early 1949. It would take two years before he gave his heart to the Lord Jesus. But once he did, the Lord was to move him to invest in His kingdom.

Soon after his baptism at the East Coast Beach (near the Chinese Swimming Club), the Scottish pastor wanted to return home. Mr Chandra was asked where he would like to transfer his membership to; he chose Katong, just “three minutes from my home in Carpmael Road”.

During his years in Katong, God’s faithfulness proved true in many trials. Two, in particular, stand out. The first was when he was asked to be the supervisor of then Bethesda Katong’s kindergarten in Frankel in 1972. The ‘office’ was a room near the children’s toilet! “I lived with some very strong smells for five years!” says Mr Chandra with half a

smile, adding that a proper office was built only when the kindergarten expanded from one to three sessions, including a playground.

As that work took just half the day initially, the church board also asked him to be BKC’s administrator. “There were no records for me to start with,” recalls Mr Chandra who had left his job as a statistician with the British Forces where all records were kept in order. “All members’ records were kept by either Mr Tan or TC in bits and pieces

in their homes!” he adds. He managed to salvage the disparate bits and with then secretaries Susan and later, Gay Eng, built up the membership base “bit by bit”, and even introduced a filing system organised by subject content.

“I was the office boy, clerk, and everything in between. I wasn’t grumbling, but I said to the Lord, ‘You give me the strength to do it’,” says Mr Chandra who, with the Elders’ united blessing, was sure he had not left secular work in vain.



Senior Citizens performing at year-end fellowship dinner, 2005

Pressing forward

It is this God-led endurance that has kept him going in the Senior Citizens' Ministry in which he is currently involved. Mr Chandra chairs the group which meets every first and third Thursdays for everything from Bible study and outreach Christmas events to outings to the zoo. His vision which the "Lord laid upon heart to do" is that the over 55s would spend their later years still fruitful in their spiritual walk and work: "Not just sleep at home and watch TV."

There were "internal discouragements" — for instance, that 'old people are hard to handle' and the lack of funds initially. But Mr Chandra pressed on. The first meeting in church on July 16, 1998, with 16 members — coincidentally his home address is #16-16, Blk 44A — was, he felt, a "sign from the Lord that we were moving in the right direction". So it is he hopes, the Lord willing, that he will continue until his 80th birthday — two years away — when he will "relinquish" the baton of the seniors' ministry to a younger, faithful helper.

For someone who started as a reluctant believer, the spiritual walk could not have been richer. God's faithfulness sustained him, too, through two heart attacks (1961 and 1978) and a bypass (1983). And his "ling" — short for 'darling' — is a constant helpmate that the Lord has granted him through thick and thin, he adds, tears in his eyes.

Summing up, Mr Chandra says: "We are humans, we feel discouraged. But the ultimate source of strength is the Lord. Also, we cannot isolate ourselves from the fellowship of believers — the thought of someone praying for my leg problem or family problem — that is very good encouragement."



Members of "Daniel" Care Group meeting at Mrs Parmila Christie's home

Growing up at Bethesda (Katong) Church

Selene Chew

In 1945, my parents permitted a neighbour to take my sister and me to Bethesda (Katong) Sunday School. As infants, my sister and I had been “baptised” in our parents’ church, but because of the Japanese occupation of Singapore and loss of our family home, we had not attended S.S.

How I thank the LORD for that kind neighbour! I was only 7 years old then, and the LORD used B(K) S.S. teachers to help me understand and receive His gift of salvation.

Later on, the LORD used the Young People’s Group (YPG) members and church choir members to be good peer group friends during my teenage years, Scripture Union Bible reading notes and a visiting Chinese evangelist, Dr. Leland Wang’s motto, “No Bible, no breakfast” to motivate me in establishing a daily Quiet Time, China Inland Missionaries, expelled out of Communist China, and becoming Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) Bible teachers at B(K) meetings to give me the beginnings of GOD’s vision for the world, Youth for Christ and the Navigators to give me assurance of salvation and growth in Bible study and application.

As a teenager at B(K) then, I did not realise that our church elders were unique in Singapore for the way they welcomed and sponsored interdenominational and missionary Bible teachers. But this truly enriched and matured all B(K) church members and young people of my generation!

At that time in S’pore, there were no parenting books/seminars, & not even mature Christian

“I thank the LORD also for our church elders & deacons who took a personal interest in our welfare”

parents knew how to prepare their children for marriage. So the YPG meeting the elders organised for Dr. & Mrs. Ford Canfield (from OMF) to teach us on “marriage from GOD’s viewpoint” was very special. Over the years I have continued to use Mrs. Canfield’s Biblical principles & applications in my teaching & counselling.

Then when Jim & I were in the US headquarters of the Navigators in 1963 for part of our missionary training, the other trainees, all of whom were from different parts of the US & Europe, were astonished that we, the only Asians there in that training programme, knew the authors of 2 of our study textbooks---Dr. J.O. Sanders & Miss Mabel Williamson personally in our “home church”, B(K)! Thank GOD for that B(K) privilege & blessing!

I thank the LORD also for our church elders & deacons who took a personal interest in our welfare as B(K) young people! My parents had given permission for me to be re-baptised at B(K), but I was still a very immature Christian. Therefore, I specially appreciated Mr. Tan Tiang Choon’s & Mr. Gordon Scott’s unfailing encouragement in my growth & well-being. It was also a privilege to be part of the teaching staff under some other elders in beginning the Bethesda(F.E.) SS & later the church there.

When the LORD called me out of teaching into “fulltime” missionary work, the elders were wholehearted in their support.

Being a married missionary woman, my priority responsibilities were meeting Jim’s needs, cooking & housework, mothering the trainees who lived with us, evangelising & discipling university students, neighbours, & working women, & mentoring church members.

As the LORD opened the doors, the elders freed Jim & me to minister together in Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia & New Zealand. Jim & I continue to thank GOD for the prayer & financial support we receive from our home church leaders & members. We know we cannot achieve anything of eternal value without the gracious help of the LORD.

At present, with Jim’s cross-cultural missions assignment & our aging limitations, we do not have trainees living with us, but I continue cooking all our daily meals, cleaning the house, & evangelising/discipling NZ & international women here in Wellington, NZ as the LORD gives His grace for each day---praise HIM!

The B(K) leaders of my youth were not perfect, but they submitted to the LORD JESUS as the Head of the church, & to the Bible as our final & all-sufficient Authority. Today, I deeply appreciate the fact that the present B(K) leaders are seeking to do the same. Let us all support them with our love & prayer.

LOOKING FORWARD: *Challenges*



CALLING ON GOD

Jer 33:3 – “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know”

As we look back in 2005, many significant events have taken place in the world, in our nation and, I'm sure, in our own personal lives as well. The terror bombings in London and Bali, hurricane Katrina in America, the earthquake in Pakistan and, nearer home, the NKF saga and dengue outbreak. Then there is the fear of a pandemic bird flu confronting the entire world, not just Asia. In our own individual lives, there were moments of joy and moments of sadness. In the midst of all these, we have been reminded through the Morning Ministry messages, to keep our bearing and sights on things above.

How are we to 'keep our minds on things above', while we are on earth, in the midst of all the calamities and turmoil and the pressures of time and life? The secret lies in our relationship with the Lord and in his enablement. It can be found in Jer 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know". This is the theme verse for 2006 and it deals with our relationship "call to me" and God's enablement and outworking in our lives "I will tell you great and unsearchable things".

This verse is located in the section of the book (chapters 30-33), where God reveals his plan to revive and restore his people. In the near term,

Judah was going to be brought into captivity by the Babylonians because of their sin and rebellion. But God's eternal plan was to bring them back to Himself. God punishes his people, but He never abandons them altogether. Jeremiah was asked to declare this message to the people as well. The people were skeptical that anything good would come out of Jeremiah's mouth. Jeremiah himself may have had doubts. So God said had to reassure him "call to me" - try me out and see if I am not going to do something wonderful for my people. This evening, we will take a closer look at this verse in 3 parts.

- + invitation to call
- + how should we call
- + blessings of the call

Invitation to call

God is the one who took the initiative and extended the invitation for Jeremiah to call Him. We see here God's heart of love and concern for Jeremiah and for his people. He invites them to call to Him, and He does so constantly, unceasingly.

When we think of the God of the Bible, it is really important for us, as believers, to really understand who He is and how differently the world perceives God to be. The idea of a personal, intimate and loving relationship with the gods that the world

worships do not exist. Instead, their relationship is one of fear, not of reverent fear, but of the fear of retribution, of being punished. The world is therefore careful to ensure that their gods are constantly appeased, so that no harm will befall upon them. These acts of appeasement, often, have nothing to do with morality or living rightly or wrongly, but by doing or offering things, like food or flowers or oil or animal sacrifices, that will make the gods happy.

But the God of the Bible is totally different. He is divine from the beginning. In fact, He is the beginning. There is nothing before Him. Our God is holy and majestic and mighty. He is the creator of the universe and all that is in it, including man. He is all-powerful, all-knowing and present everywhere. He also has a vital and intimate interest in man, His creation. Unlike the so-called gods of the world, He loves His creation. He wants to bless them and to draw near to them and fellowship with them; and He wants His creation to love Him and have a personal relationship with Him. Because of this, He calls out to them and invites them to call on Him. What a contrast! What a privilege!

The Psalmist in Psalm 8 is both puzzled and lost in wonderment. We are such a small, insignificant part of his creation. Why would God take any notice of us at all? And more amazing, why would He be interested in our well being. Whether we live or die or whether we are happy or not, it should not bother him one bit. But the wonderful, glorious truth is

that puny as we are, we are the most important part of God's creation.

Even when His people sinned against Him, God continues to invite his children to call on Him. God still wants sinful people to turn back to Him, so that He can bless them. This is how loving and merciful God is. God is not concerned about retribution, as He is in repentance and restoration of the sinner. Yes, there will be retribution (punishment) because of His holiness, and when they persist in their sin, but it is not retribution for retribution sake. It is intended to bring them back to Him.

Too often we get so used to God, that we don't take much notice of His invitation. This should not be so. Instead, we should cherish this privilege and like the Psalmist of old declare in Psalm 27:8(KJV) - "when you (God) saith, seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek". What a wonderful, spontaneous response to the invitation of God to call on Him.

How should we call?

Calling upon God is not just a matter of uttering a prayer. It is much more than that. It involves seeking Him with our hearts, with our minds, with our strength, with our whole being. It involves laying ourselves at His feet, in total abandonment and trust, and being completely at ease in His presence. *It involves calling on Him with a passion.*

Psalm 63:1 says "O God, you are my God, earnestly I

seek you (KJV – early will I seek thee); my soul thirst for you, my body longs for you (my whole being desires for you – GNB), in a dry and weary land where there is no water".

Psalm 61:1-4 – "hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you. I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings".

Seeking, earnestly, thirsting, longing, desiring, whole being, crying. These are powerful, emotive words the psalmist used to describe how he calls on the Lord. Likewise, we should be passionate in our call to God. Not only when we have problems and are in despair. It is natural to be passionate, when we are in those situations. But also, in times of joy and gladness and when we intercede for others. Psalm 33:1 – "Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous, it is fitting for the upright to praise Him" (GNB – shout for joy for what the Lord has done). Psalm 47:1 – "clap your hands, all your nations, shout to God with cries of joy". Shouting and singing and cries of joy, not just cries of sorrow.

Jeremiah reminds us of another "man of sorrows", the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord wept over Jerusalem in Luke 19:41 – "as He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it". *Such was their passion when they interceded for others. So must*

we. When we think of those who are unsaved, does it touch our hearts? Do we cry to God for their salvation and weep for them? Let's ask the Lord to give us His eyes, so that we can see as He sees. His heart, so that we can feel as He feels.

We should call Him at all times and under all situations. Whether we are facing difficulties, it should be the first thing we do, before we attempt to work out a solution to the problem. It shows our dependence on Him as the primary source of our strength and resource in dealing with the problem. The Lord delights in us doing this because believers have His assurance - 1 Peter 5:7 states that "He cares for you"; and Psalm 55:22 reminds believers to "cast all your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall".

Here are other verses to remind us to call to God. Psalm 105:1 – "give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done". Psalm 5:3 – "in the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation". Psalm 63:6 – "on my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night" (KJV - when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches). Psalm 55:16-17 – "I call to God and the Lord saved me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice". Daniel prayed 3 times a day and 1 Thess 5:17 reminds us to "pray without ceasing" (GNB – pray at all times).

Blessings of the call

When God ask us to do something, there is usually a promise behind it. If we obey, it will be a promise of blessing. And this is the same with Jer 33:3. He wants us to call Him. When we do so passionately and perseveringly, He promises to “show us great and unsearchable things we do not know”. God is able and willing to do a wonderful work beyond our human understanding and expectation and imagination. The New Testament parallel to this part of verse 3 is found in Eph 3:20, where Paul said “now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (KJV - exceeding abundantly above all that ask or think), according to his power that is at work within us”.

Jeremiah had been prophesying the imminent destruction of Judah and Jerusalem. At the same time, Jeremiah also prophesied of God’s grace and mercy and love for His people, that God would eventually restore Judah and bring His people back to the land of their possession. He told them the bad news, they arrested him for it. He told them the good news, they disbelieved him. That is why Jeremiah was so frustrated and discouraged.

So God told Jeremiah – just call on me. Look to me, rely on me, cast all your cares upon me, and I will fulfill all the prophecies that I have instructed you to prophecy to the people. I, the Sovereign Lord, will accomplish every single detail of what I told will happen. You will not be able to understand it. It will be beyond your expectations. I can do it, “for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways” (Isaiah 55: 8 -9).

What are those ‘great and unsearchable things?’ For Jeremiah, God was going to fulfill, in His

good time, all that He told Jeremiah to prophecy. Jeremiah prophesied that Jerusalem would fall to the Babylonians, and in 586 BC, 40 years after, it happened. Jeremiah also prophesied regarding the restoration of the nation of Israel. He had also made several references to Christ in his prophecies, which he could not have known would be fulfilled (for example, ‘spring of living water’ – 2:13; the good ‘shepherd’ – 23:4, 31:10; the ‘righteous branch’ – 23:5; ‘the Lord our Righteousness’ – 23:6; ‘the agent of the new covenant’ – 31:31-34; the ‘Redeemer’ – 50:34). The restoration will be completely fulfilled with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ firstly, to establish the new covenant and, secondly, when He comes again to reign forever. For each one of us, what is it that ‘great and unsearchable thing’ that you want the Lord to do in

and with your life? He wants us to call and entrust it to Him. God may not necessarily do the thing you ask for, because oftentimes, we ask selfishly. But when we ask in His name, He will do it. In His time, accordance to His will and purpose. It will be exceeding abundantly and it will be for our best interest. Rom 8:20 – “and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”.

Challenge

As we go into the new year, let us resolve in our hearts to always call on the Lord. We may have friends and family and even the church elders to consult when we have issues and problems. *But the most important lesson we need to learn is to call and trust on the Lord.*

- Lim Kim Wah



Campers at Church Camp 2006 at Sofitel Resort, Johor Bahru

FROM THIS GENERATION TO THE NEXT

Seventy years of Bethesda (Katong) Church is a good period for reflection and for posing a challenge to the next generation. The members of our church are a dynamic group, with diverse backgrounds, potential and needs. The various ministries cater to the needs and development of all ages, from very young children to the elderly. Here is my take on the importance of connecting to people and serving them in church. I have been helped from young in BKC and as I grow deeper in the faith, I still need to be connected to and serve the people here.

Absorbing Christian lessons

Church-going was part of my Sunday activity from a young age. I was brought by my sister to the kindergarten at Bethesda Katong Church. I listened to Bible stories and diligently coloured pictures of Bible characters.

During my primary school days, I did not attend regularly Sunday School as the timing was not conducive, and there were parental objections. But my sister continued to tell me stories from the Bible and this kept my interest in Christian things. The school I attended also had weekly chapel sessions where my friends and I would listen to a teacher telling us some Christian principles to inculcate character, and sing hymns and songs. I remember one song, "It only takes a spark to get the fire going". During one of my years in Primary School, I heard the claims of the gospel and accepted Christ into my life.

I was more involved in Senior Sunday School where I learnt under teachers like Danny Goh, Francis Lim, and John Lee. Sunday School was complemented with Saturday Crusaders Meetings where we had outdoor games in the former home of Dr Benjamin Chew in St Patrick's Road. Again my sister was

the one who brought me to the first Crusader's meeting and got me interested in outdoor activities. There were soccer sessions, "Telematch" games, barbecues and 'camp-fire' type meetings, with a good dose of exhortation from the Bible. One evening when the camp-fire was lit, Dr Chew spoke about Christians being in the world – we need to come together to warm up each other, and also to go out to be lights of the gospel to many others who still do not know Christ.

The Crusaders meetings were later renamed Bethesda Youth (BY) meetings, and many of the young people became involved in the various BY sub-committees to plan and publicise events for the youths. I worked with people like Danny and Maurice Ng, Linda Goh, Emily Chan, Peter Loh, Mandy Ng and many others spending memorable hours planning for BY's events and editing the BY newsletter.

Maturing with other disciples

As I grew older in the Christian faith, I was in a Discipleship Training Class (DTC) under Philip Tan. I was the youngest in the group, and some of the members were Terence Tan, Johnny Chua, Michelle Tan, Vivien Loo, Grace Ang, and Evelyn Chan. We learnt principles of discipleship with the Navigator's 2:7 series, taken from Colossian 2:7. It was a six-year course, and through it all, we honed our discipline and skills in studying the Bible, keeping God's word in our hearts, being accountable to each other in evangelism and prayer, and having good Christian fellowship.

What I learnt in those years of DTC were used to guide me during my NS and University days. After three years at the local university, I spent another three years overseas to further my studies in architecture and work in England.

Upon my return from England, the people I had spent time with in BKC were involved in other ministries or churches. There was a new beginning at Bethesda Bedok-Tampines Church and various leaders and church members decided to move there to pioneer the work. There appeared to be different emphases and slowing down of active members to participate in the various programmes. But this was God's way of bringing in those in the fringe to commit to serve more in the church with whatever resources we had. By His grace and mercies, BKC continued to teach, train and preach the gospel, and slowly others came to fill the church and be involved.

Giving what I had received

I was approached to help teach in the Senior Sunday School, and after prayer and deliberation, I agreed to help. Teaching youths helped me prepare and check what I had learnt from my early formative years. Being one of the judges of scripture memory quizzes brought back fond memories of the time when I participated also. At the end of each year when there was a prize-giving day, it was a time of reflection and commitment that by God's grace, the youths I had taught and imparted some Biblical truths, will in turn live out their lives with godly principles. Many of them are still worshipping in BKC or other churches. I can only commit them to God, and recommit myself to a new year of teaching.

Being trained in, and sensitive to, architecture and design issues, I have had opportunities to use my training to help improve the church physical facilities. Some of my memorable times were to create designs for the year's theme verse and have them printed by a half-way house for ex-offenders. It brought joy in knowing that such designs helped provide jobs and income to people, and also remind church members of God's ways and will.



Preparing for Neighbourhood visit

Learning to minister to people

Being in BKC over the years, I have seen and experienced Christian life in action. It is not just amongst fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, but also welcoming and interacting with newcomers, visiting neighbours, and meeting outside church.

Since 2000, I was called to participate and be involved as a Deacon. This put me into another circle of people and helped me understand and work with them for the goal of building up the church. The regular disciplines of Bible Study, prayer and fellowship were still there in the Deacons' Board, which I appreciated much. I remember spending times of prayer on Saturday mornings at the home of Nathanael Koh. We were keeping pulse with the work of the church as well as being accountable to each other. Before Nat and his family migrated to Perth, I was invited to understudy him and later take over as chief Deacon. This was indeed a heavy responsibility and I had to pray over the decision. During the time that I led the Deacons' Board, I tried to bring the Deacons to share of their spiritual journeys, and asked them to pray together. We had good times of fellowship and bonding at Deacons' Retreats.

Being in the Council, there are ideas and concerns raised, projects and personnel to be allocated, and accounting of past events. Each Council member gets to serve according to his various capacities and gifts. There may be differences in opinions, but we all decide with our conscience and accept the majority decision, and run with this decision. There are needs which can only be felt and known when I go to the people, am approachable, and sensitive to hear them. I am reminded that church is a collection of people who are saved by God's grace, and according to the measure of faith God

has given to each, we are to think soberly (Rom. 12:3), look out for the others' interests (Phil 2:4), and consider one another to stimulate love and good deeds (Heb 10:24).

Besides the regular church programmes on Fridays and Sundays, I had opportunities to meet church members at other times, through visitations, training sessions, conducting wake services, etc. The characteristics of Christ and fruit of the Spirit had to be exercised in me when I met with people and hear their problems. It can take much effort and time. I recognise even now that I am still developing and do not have 'all the answers'. I need to continually depend on God when meeting with people, to hear God's voice and give people some comfort in serving them as a Council member.

Another area of service was planning for Sunday Morning topics. Looking at God's dealings with His people, and reading daily from His word, has helped me to be sensitive to plan (together with a few Council and church members) these topics for Sunday Morning pulpit ministry for the subsequent year. This was indeed a great responsibility - to handle God's word and allocate portions of scripture for church members' understanding and application. I also need to appreciate and respond to what others understand about the Bible. As God's Spirit reveals the Word to other believers, I need to rise to the challenge of keeping true to His Word, to live my life in congruence to what it says.

Preparation for family responsibility

In recent years, with more church members having young and teen children, the church formed Family Life Ministry (FLM). This was a good place and time to learn about building Christian convictions within the family. In groups, we discussed the practice and problems of raising a family. I thank the older members here who give of themselves fortnightly to help the younger families. Topics of current interests were studied such as 'Growing Kids God's Way', how to minister to teens, boy-girl relationships from a parents' perspective.

With the responsibility of caring for my family, I have had less opportunities to meet with the earlier groups of people mentioned. I still try to meet with some people of similar age and responsibilities.



Children "selling" their artworks during Children's Day Fair, 2005

Years to polish a stone

The scripture verses committed to memory during my primary and secondary school days have evolved to verses I remember for my daily strength, to keep me passionate for God, and help me in my spiritual journey. There are still rough edges in my personal life, and much to understand from the Bible. I have to cling on to the Lord Jesus as a branch to the Vine. I am God's workmanship, created for good works which God prepared before that I should conduct my life to these good works (Eph.2:10).

Amazing thought! God is working on me as His good creation, polishing me as a precious stone, so that my whole life is conformed to the image of His Son, by demonstrating good works for the building up of the whole Body. So there should be no wasting time musing and regretting what could have been. Like the apostle Paul, I press on to the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14). Each day that God gives me is to be lived in appreciation of His love, to know and serve Him with all my faculties.

There are still many challenges to face as the church moves on. While I may serve in BKC to meet many needs, there is also the need to reach out of the church premises to proclaim Christ. The pace of globalisation is taking place at a tremendous pace, with Singapore 'importing' values of all forms from different parts of the world. Against this background, God calls His people to love Him wholeheartedly. We need to be faithful in making disciples of all nations. Where there are multi-dimensional and rapid pace of news, views and contacts made, the church leadership and members require to be ever watchful, and ready to make a stand for our Christian faith.

BKC goes one more year in service of God and His people. Seventy years is a long time to live. I really thank God for the many faithful people who have gone ahead of me. Their unstinting service and love for God and His people has brought BKC to today.

The vision and motivation of the church leadership and members need to be fleshed and practiced, to demonstrate more of Christ's character and less of our selves. There needs to be depth and breadth of the Christian, through grounding in God's Word, practicing in obedience, and persevering prayer to God.

I pray for the many who are now serving in the church - from the young teachers in Kindergarten, to the teenagers of Senior Sunday School and young adults from the Young Adults Group, to the working parents in FLM and Choir, to the elderly serving in the Senior Citizens Committee - that they too will continue to faithfully love and serve God and His people, to the end that future generations of faithful people will continue to do likewise. All glory be to God!

- Richard Tio



KSS Children

LOOKING UPWARD: *Commitment*



A PRAYER OF THANKS AND COMMITMENT TO GOD

Our Heavenly Father, we give thanks for this time of remembrance of Your goodness to us as a church. There have been good times and there have been difficult times but as we look back, we can truly see your controlling hand in all things and it has only been Your grace and mercy that has taken us through.

As we look into the future, we are often apprehensive of what it will bring. Help us to grow in our personal walk with You and build up our faith to trust You more and more each day. Help us to trust in you and not depend on our own limited understanding. Open our eyes to be able to see Your blessing.

Even as we give thanks for the examples of all the people from this church who have gone before us, we pray that we ourselves will rededicate our lives to You. We have witnessed the rededication of the eight couples today in marriage. You have told us in Your Word that marriage is an example of the relationship of You as the Bridegroom, and the church as Your Bride. Help us always as a church to remember this special relationship with You.

Help us always to be bold in speaking Your Word, fearless in spiritual battle, because we know that You are with us all the time.

We ask for Your blessing now on this church that we will always be a shining witness for You. Protect us from the evil one and all the temptations and distractions of this world. May we always take full advantage of the privilege you have given to us to boldly approach your presence in prayer.

We thank you for taking this church through 70 years. We know that we can safely trust and commit the care of this church into Your good hands for the future years, until You come.

In the Lord Jesus' Name, Amen.

The above was taken from the closing prayer by Mr Eric Ang during BKC 70th Anniversary Meeting on 4th March 2006



Council members of 2005-2006

Back Row (L-R): Douglas Chan Su Gin, Bernard Lum Wing Kong, Jonathan Choo Tze Liang, Raymond Loh Kai Hoo, Michael Khoo Hong Chin, Vincent Chua Seng Yeon (stepped down at AGM on July 2006), Khaw Pe Soo, Dr Edward Menon, Ben Teoh Soon Beng, Lim Huey Sheng, John Lau Tai Chong, Billy Foo Tai Sing, Roy Lee Gek Hong, Pierre Fong Zhen Hsiung, Enoch Seow Eng Ngark

Front Row (seated, L-R): David Lee Kim Hwee, Loon Sum Loon, Richard Tio Kheh Aun, Choo Chin Teck, Eugene Seow Yin Kheam, Eric Ang Chong Lim, Chan Wah Liap, Francis Maniam, Robert Chua Teck Chew, Paul Chan Kwai Wah, Chia Eng Chuan

Not in picture: David Tan Seng Khoon, Gan Teck Chuan, Gavin Chay Choon Kiat, Kenneth Chang Tou En, Low Keng Ann, Lim Kim Wah, Roy Chang Ming Hon, Victor Chandra

