

Pastoral Letter is a weekly Bible reading material published by the Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church (Singapore). It is freely downloadable quarterly from www.calvaryjurong.com. If you have been blessed by this ministry, do let us know at info@calvaryjurong.com.

Church Weekly for 2 October 2005

My dear readers,

1. THE ETERNAL CITY'S BEAUTY UNSURPASSED

God did not set His affection on Jerusalem for nothing for it is the city of the King, and one day it shall be established as the eternal city under the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Before then *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces"* (Ps 122:6,7).

On Wednesday 21 September we motored down south from Galilee in the north to Jerusalem, to be greeted by its famous walls, spectacular and majestic, bathed in the golden glow of the setting sun, a sight we shall not forget. The city is 2,550 feet above sea level, and this makes the weather appreciably cooler than in Galilee which is below sea level.

These few days we have visited the usual historic sites of which I shall only highlight yesterday's (Friday 23) to the Western Wall. We cleared the Police check: Armed officers and a few Police vehicles were prominent. Security in the area has been stepped up since the year 2000 when Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount area sparked off Arab resentment and hostilities. For the same reason, we were not allowed up in the Temple Mount where the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsar Mosque are situated.

We spent some forty minutes observing the many groups, both local Jews and foreign tourists. As usual we saw men praying at the Wall, with bodies swaying back and forth, and heads nodding close to the Wall.

The Wall itself is impressive, made of massive limestone blocks, some of the giant ones said to be over 100 tons in weight. But the biggest is estimated weight = 600 tons! Today's construction workers simply marvel how those earlier engineers could transport such a colossal block from its quarry.

But our greater wonder is reserved for the New Jerusalem which God is preparing for the new heaven and new earth to come. John's account says, *"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him"* (Rev:21:1-3).

For that Grande Finale of history, let us be zealous.

2. WHEN TRAVELLING, "EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED"

Our group had just arrived back in our Shalom Hotel when one of our members from Perth, Australia, suffered a massive intestinal haemorrhage. Mr Ian Read collapsed in the hotel lobby. The alarm was raised. *"Call the doctor!"* I had barely stepped into my room when the phone rang. Off I dashed to the scene of excitement.

Pulse was weak but regular, 88 per minute. Mr Read was faint but conscious. His trousers were blood-soaked. The hotel rang for an ambulance which arrived within 5 minutes! The paramedics (with practiced competence to deal with such emergencies) got the patient on a stretcher-turned-trolley, connected an oxygen mask, and were off in a couple of minutes. Fortunately, the hospital was just two minutes' drive from the hotel. The hotel's Reservations Manager drove me in her car to the hospital to help with some formalities and insurance matters. That was Thursday 22 Sept. The next day Friday, an attempt at colonoscopy was unsuccessful. Today is the Jewish Shabat (Sabbath) so no work. Mr Read was comfortable in hospital, having received three units of blood soon after admission on Thursday.

"I feel like leaving the hospital and rejoining the group!" He was so well today (Saturday 24 Sept). We read Psalm 20, prayed, and fellowshiped. Our prayer is that God would stop the bleeding altogether, and the scope would reveal no lesion (disease) needing major surgery. Our trust is in the Lord. Meantime, we await the scope tomorrow, Lord's Day. (26 Sept 2005. Good news! Mr Read has no cancer, only diverticulosis. Flying to Singapore tomorrow DV. We are leaving for Masada now.)

3. WORSHIP AT BARAKA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lord's Day 25 September we drove to the Baraka B-P Church in Bethlehem for Lord's Day worship. Pastor George Awad came to know Rev Timothy Tow in the nineteen fifties, since which time our teams from Singapore (Life Church and Calvary B-P) have visited their church in Bethlehem many times. Their Arab congregation is about thirty-five. It was a blessed bilingual service. My message *"Noah Walked With God"* was interpreted by Pastor Awad into Arabic. Our group sang *"Each Step I Take."*

After Service, we were treated to an Arab lunch. After lunch we were taken to see their new outreach at the Shepherd's Field. On a 9,000 sq ft of land they have built a church complex (sanctuary, with kitchen, and rooms for various uses). Brethren, please pray for the Lord's work among the Arab Christians in Bethlehem.

4. "YAD VASHEM" HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Our afternoon ended at the new Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum just recently completed. Here is a graphic record of how one mad man Hitler during the Second World War systematically destroyed six million Jews in Europe, counting them as parasites and pests to be exterminated. The children destroyed numbered 1.6 million.

The scenes depicted on photographic reproductions and film recalled that sad and ruthless annihilation of Jews in Europe. And yet God preserved enough of His own to revive the nation in 1948. Since then the Jews in Israel have grown manifold, like the fig tree flourishing in summer.

Economically, Israel had made phenomenal progress to become the richest and strongest of its immediate neighbours. But the majority are atheists and socialists. They do not know God and their Messiah Jesus. One day God will open their eyes. *"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob"* (Rom 11:26).

*Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor
Tiberas, 26 September 2005*

Church Weekly for 9 October 2005

My dear readers,

1. BIBLE LANDS TRAVELLING SEMINAR CONCLUDES

Our final devotion on the night of 26 September 2005 at the banquetting hall of Hotel Movenpick Pyramids in Cairo brought to a close our 14-day pilgrimage to the lands visited by our Lord in His earthly sojourn.

In Egypt we were reminded that the Holy Family took refuge in this ancient land to flee from Herod's sword. Our last gathering of the group was especially blessed as we congratulated the eighteen who had climbed to the summit of Mt Sinai (7,400 ft) during the previous night, to follow in the steps of Moses who had once gone up to receive the Ten Commandments from the Lord.

My exhortation from God's Word was taken from 2 Pet 3:18: "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*" Our investment in time and money must give each member of the Travelling Seminar spiritual returns which will glorify the name of our Lord.

2. "BUT GROW IN GRACE"

Grace is God's gift through our Lord Jesus Christ for He alone brought from God the Father "*grace and truth*" (Jn 1:14). Grace makes us humble, not proud, for pride is of the adversary. Growth in grace is to be content with the lowest place and not to feel resentful or sorry for oneself when one is not first. It is to leave behind all ambition except for my Lord's honour and glory. If I am unwilling to do so, I have not grown in grace.

Growth in grace is to be least of all, to be a servant, and to exalt Christ the Lord only. It is not easy but God's grace enables. It is to grow more like the Lord Jesus, to know God more perfectly and always to seek to do His will.

Grace makes the business of soul winning my chief ambition. It is to subdue all selfish ambition, to say goodbye to the world and its goods. Grace gives me a new object in life: "*Only Jesus, always Jesus.*"

Grace makes me render my *best service* to God. And what is the best service? Winning souls? Planting churches? Conquering new territories for Him? **Answer:** All these are good, but conquering *self will* and totally *submitting to His will* is our best service.

Grace is to render unto the Lord *self forgetting* work, that which God only knows and sees. Our God who sees in secret will reward openly. We can never exhaust God's grace, neither can we reach the limit of spiritual growth. Therefore let us pray for more grace until one day the Lord Himself comes and transforms us to be like Him, *full of grace and truth*. May that day be soon.

3. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

The Lord be praised for complete peace and safety in all our going out and coming in. Mr Ian Read, thank God, was found to have *diverticulosis*, no cancer. Many new friendships were made during the trip, stronger bonds in the Lord were built up. Our committee did a magnificent job: Elder Jeffrey Cheong, Business Manager; Deacon Milton Ang, Asst. Business Manager; Brother Raymond Ang, General Assistant.

Near the end of the travels, I remarked that this would be my last time as organizer. Deacon Milton, who demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, is well able to organize and lead a future group. For readers' interest, he has written an account of his Mt Sinai climb.

4. SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS ON ASCENDING MOUNT SINAI

As I rested at the top of Mount Sinai after a difficult three-hour climb, I reflected upon Exodus 19:16-18. Two mountains were significant to Moses in his service to the Lord. One was Mount Horeb, where Moses received his first commission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. The other was Mount Sinai, where Moses was commissioned to receive the Law from the Lord. The question I posed to myself (and the rest of the climbers) was, after receiving so much spiritual blessing in the past two weeks in the Holy Land, what is God's commission for me now?

For me personally, I am commissioned to serve Him by leading a future group to Israel, after strong encouragement by Dr Tow. It is my hope that future pilgrims can be as spiritually recharged as I have been, through the use of the Bible as our guidebook to the Holy Land. I pray that my fellow pilgrims will likewise seek God's commission for them after this trip, to serve God even more fervently with the day of our Lord's return fast approaching. *Deacon Milton Ang*

5. GOD'S FLOCK IMPERILLED

Portions of Holy Scripture, often read but never experienced, have lately come into sharp focus with God's flock at Calvary exposed and imperilled. Our Lord's own account in John 10 speaks of wolves and hirelings (unfaithful shepherds). Jude 4 speaks of "*men crept in.*"

The threat is real and serious, but our Lord's promises are more than "*real and serious.*" He says to all Calvinians, "*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*" (Heb 13:5). So dear reader, you may confidently say, "*THE LORD IS MY HELPER, AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME*" (Heb 13:6).

As your Pastor these thirty years and more, let me assure you, our God is well able to deliver us. What He has done for us in the past, He will yet do in the future. Our trust is wholly in the Lord. I am weak but my Lord is strong. He will deliver me from threats of

legal action and jail (not that I am unwilling to go to prison for the sake of my Lord), He will surely save me from *hirelings* and *wolves*.

My word and plea to members is to borrow the words of Moses at the Red Sea: "*Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD...*" (Ex 14:13). Let all who fear the Lord, and love Calvary, stand with me, and see the salvation of the Lord. His salvation is swift and sure, for the flock is His. I am only a shepherd. Pray that we stand together and be faithful. Our Lord is well able to save us to the utmost. Pray, and pray as never before -- *without ceasing*. "*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availed much.*"

Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor
London, 29 September 2005

Church Weekly for 16 October 2005

My dear readers,

1. MORE SIGNS OF OUR LORD'S RETURN

Did Straits Times front page shock you on Monday 10 October? "*Over 30,000 killed in S Asia quake*" (Monday Oct 10, 2005). This was the worst in the region in 100 years. Two thousand years ago, our Lord said it, in response to the disciples' question, "*What shall be the sign of thy coming?*" Our Lord's reply: "*...there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places ... there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets ...*" (Matt 24:3,7,24).

2. DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN PAKISTAN, INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN

Pakistani Kashmir Communications Minister, Mr Tariq Farouq reported a death toll of more than 30,000 killed, with more than 42,000 injured. "*The massive quake measured 7.7 on the Richter scale and generated the energy of an explosion of at least 160 tonnes of TNT. It levelled buildings and homes across a stretch of over 400 km -- nearly the distance between Singapore and Ipoh.*"

3. PESTILENCES THREATEN THE WORLD

In the same issue of Straits Times, it is reported that America is making serious preparations to meet an anticipated outbreak of flu, e.g. "bird flu" in the near future. It is feared that as many as "*1.9 million Americans may die in a full-scale outbreak*". The American Government is seriously making contingency plans in case of a **pandemic outbreak** when all 50 states may be hit and hospitals will be in crisis.

A pandemic will unfold like a slow motion tsunami over a 12-18 month period. American health officials were in Southeast Asia with Health and Human Services Secretary Mr Mike Leavitt, visiting countries in the region which have been affected by bird flu recently. Washington is in the process of drawing up a "**Pandemic Preparedness Plan.**"

Meanwhile, it was reported that an outbreak of deadly bird flu is feared in Romania and Turkey.

4. FALSE CHRISTS AND FALSE PROPHETS

In this section 4, we report some of the false prophets, preachers and evangelists who are deceiving unsuspecting audiences around the world.

a) MAN DIES AT BENNY HINN HEALING CRUSADE

Friday Church News Notes, February 11, 2005

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

A 52-year-old man died of an apparent heart attack on January 22 while attending Benny Hinn's "healing" crusade in Bangalore, India (Deccan Herald, Jan 23). Bogus "faith healers" like Hinn bring reproach to the cause of Christ. (No one ever died when they were seeking healing from Jesus our Lord.) Benny Hinn claims to have received the anointing of the late female evangelist Kathryn Kuhlman, and that might well be true, as she also was bogus. In his book *Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle*, Dr William Nolen dedicates an entire chapter to his experiences investigating Kuhlman's healing crusades. Though sympathetic to Kuhlman as a person, Dr Nolen **was unable to document medically even one case of physical healing**. At the time of his investigation, Dr Nolen was chief of surgery at Meeker County Hospital in Litchfield, Minnesota.

b) BEWARE OF C.S. LEWIS

Friday Church News Notes, February 4, 2005 - David W Cloud
Fundamental Baptist Information Service

The late British author C.S. (Clive Staples) Lewis (1898-1963) is extremely popular with evangelicals today. Though Lewis died in 1963, sales of his books have risen to two million a year. In a *Christianity Today* reader's poll in 1998, Lewis was rated the most influential writer. In an article commemorating the 100th anniversary of Lewis's birth, J.I. Packer called him "our patron saint." Lewis claimed that followers of pagan religions can be saved without personal faith in Jesus Christ: "There are people in other religions who are being led by God's secret influence to concentrate on those parts of their religion which are in agreement with Christianity, and who thus belong to Christ without knowing it ... For example a Buddhist of good will may be led to concentrate more and more on the Buddhist teaching about mercy and to leave in the background (though he might still say he believed) the Buddhist teaching on certain points. Many of the good Pagans long before Christ's birth may have been in this position" (C.S.Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, pp 176-177).

c) HIDDEN SECRETS OF THE ALPHA COURSE

Calvary Contender July 2005

Hidden Secrets of The Alpha Course is the title of a new big book (329 8"x11" pages) by John D Christian. British author Colin Mercer writes: "*Alpha is a destructive, dangerous and devilish scheme which must not be promoted ...*" Many apostate and "seeker sensitive" churches use Alpha. Bill Hybels and Rick Warren run it. NOTE: We do not endorse the books' teachings, en toto, but Alpha is dangerous and is said to have become the most popular and widely used ecumenical evangelistic system in world history. (Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand)

d) NEW ECUMENICAL SPIRIT BETWEEN CATHOLICS, EVANGELICALS

Calvary Contender July 2005

Pope John Paul II's death brought an influx of praise and admiration for him, and in a big way, advanced the cause of ecumenism-especially from liberal and New Evangelical quarters. A "prognosticator" writing in the 6/27 *Christian News* says we can expect more

ecumenism, more dialogue, more degradation of the liturgy, more papal visits to the temples of other religions ... Timothy George, an "evangelical" on the left, says Roman Catholicism is not a cult, but doesn't seem to take seriously the false gospel teachings and Pope Benedict's stated goals: "unity of all Christians" and to mend fences with the apostate World Council of Churches.

Lovingly in the Lord

Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor

Church Weekly for 23 October 2005

My dear readers,

1. AMAZING ANSWER TO PRAYER

Last Lord's Day (16 October) early in the morning I developed acute pain in the lumbo-sacral area (low back) and the right shoulder. The pain was so severe that I could hardly walk or move my right arm. The previous day Elder Dr Cheng Wei Nien had diagnosed "tendinitis of the supraspinatus muscle" of the right shoulder, and prescribed a painkiller. I took the painkiller and kept praying. The acute pain continued unabated. At one stage the pain was so excruciating that I thought I could not go to Church.

Thanks to God, by 9.30 am I drove off to Pandan Gardens, and took the pulpit from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, two hours totally pain-free. Shortly after I came down from the pulpit, the pain returned. When we got home, the pain in both the back and shoulder were so severe, I took more medicine and had to rest in bed. Again I cried to the Lord as King David wrote in Psalm 18:6 - *"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears."*

Thank God, He enabled me to preach at the Sunset Gospel Bible Fellowship for forty minutes. And again, as soon as I got down from the pulpit, the acute pain returned. This morning I saw Elder Dr Cheng and he gave me an injection in the right shoulder. Now the pain has gone, and I am able to write comfortably. Readers may be wondering, What is the cause of the pain? **Answer:** *"Wear and tear"* due to the ravages of years. As the apostle Paul said, *"... our outward man perish..."* (2 Cor 4:16). Old age exacts its price. Only in Christ our *"... inward man is renewed day by day..."*

2. UPDATE ON JORDAN

Fire destroys garment factory

A garment factory at Al Hussein Industrial Estate in the southern town of Karak, was gutted by fire at dawn yesterday. Flames tore through 11,000 square metres of the factory's storerooms destroying garments ready for export. 32 fire engines fought the blaze from dawn until noon when it was finally extinguished.

We give thanks to God for the protection upon our believers and none was injured in the fire.

Many of the believers are down with all kinds of ailments such as back-ache, chest pain, gastric problem, kidney stone, urinary tract infection etc due to long-working hours. They have been working from 7am to 11pm daily without any off day for the last 3 months. Occasionally they will finish their work after 10pm. This is the time where we seize the opportunity to have a short meeting (10.15pm to 11pm) with them on Thursday night.

Do pray for these believers that the Lord will heal their physical illness. Also pray that they will finish their work early at 9pm so that we can hold a proper meeting for them.

Presently we conduct the meeting outside the boundary of their hostel. This is because the management has barred all outsider (especially male) to enter the hostel. Do pray that the Lord will provide us a place to have meeting for them, especially when winter is round the corner.

*Labouring together in Christ,
Khuen Wah n Siew Eng
16 October 2005*

3. AMERICANS AT WAR OVER ADAM AND EVE

Parents are suing education officials in the U.S. over a decision to include the notion that the natural world is the work of God rather than evolution in biology lessons. The case is the latest confrontation between Christian conservatives and scientists over the issue.

For decades, supporters of the "Adam and Eve" view of creation and proponents of Charles Darwin's 1859 theory of evolution have clashed over school curriculums. In the latest battle, 11 parents at a Pennsylvania high school are suing over a decision by education officials to include "intelligent design" -- an alternative to evolution that involves a God-like creator -- in biology classes for 16-year-olds.

The parents and the American Civil Liberties Union say the Dover Area School District's policy violates the constitutional separation of church and state, which forbids teaching religion in public schools. They also argue that intelligent design is unscientific and has no place in a science curriculum.

Intelligent design holds that nature is so complex it must have been the work of a God-like creator rather than the result of natural selection.

Dr John West of the Discovery Institute said, *"It's a disturbing prospect that the outcome of this lawsuit could be that the court will try to tell scientists what is legitimate scientific inquiry and what is not. That is a flagrant assault on free speech."*

The Supreme Court banned the teaching of creationism in public schools in a 1987 ruling. Intelligent design is ultimately a science support, said Dr Eugenie Scott of the National Council for Science Education, a pro-evolution group supporting the Dover parents. However, at least 31 states are taking steps to teach alternatives to evolution.

A CBS poll last November found 65 per cent of Americans favoured teaching creationism as well as evolution while 37 per cent wanted creationism taught instead of evolution. (*Daily Mail, London, 27 Sept 2005*)

4. WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS ABOUT EVOLUTIONISTS

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom 1:19-22).

*Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor*

Church Weekly for 30 October 2005

My dear readers,

GOD'S WORD ASSAILED BY THE FATHER OF LIES

1. THE FORMER ATTACK

God's Word is under attack, today as never before. The conflict allows no neutrality: God or Satan, you must take your stand.

God has one Plan for man's eternal redemption, revealed to us, complete and perfect, through one Bible, the King James Bible (KJB) or Authorized Version.

The King James Bible preserves God's Salvation Plan perfectly, to the exclusion of any corrupting doctrine or rival plan which detracts from, or, dishonours the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By the King James Bible, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ revived, great Church and Missionary movements flourished, the Kingdom of God and His Christ extended far and wide, to the pulling down of Satan's strongholds (2 Cor 10:4).

Satan hates the King James Bible. His diabolical genius conceived a dark scheme: the King James Bible must be replaced! False teachers will bring forth corrupted Modern English Versions harbouring another message, *"preaching another Jesus ... another spirit ... another gospel ..."* (2 Cor 11:4), *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light ... his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works"* (2 Cor 11:14-15). (from *"Beyond Versions, 1998, pages 21,22"*)

2. OUR STEADFAST DEFENCE

Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church has taken the necessary steps to safeguard our stand on the Word of God by writing it into our Constitution and in addition also declaring our exclusive use of the KJV.

a) Constitution 4.2.1 (... has been our foundational doctrine from the beginning.) It states: *"We believe in the divine, verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and, as the Word of God, the Supreme and final authority in faith and life."*

b) The KJV (Authorised Version Holy Bible) is the only Bible for us in Calvary at <BALL< b>meetings and worship services, being derived from the best **TEXTS**, translated by the most trustworthy **TRANSLATORS**, using the most accurate and faithful **TECHNIQUE**, *"verbal equivalence,"* meaning *"word for word,"* and the best

godly **THEOLOGY**, uncontaminated by modern thought, by liberalism, evolutionism and higher criticism.

3. A NEW ATTACK

The adversary's wiles knows no bounds. Lately he has contrived a new assault on the Word of God by attacking the source texts (manuscripts or MSS), that *"the MSS were not perfectly preserved. Therefore translations derived from them are flawed, including all Bible versions, and the KJV."*

Conclusion: the KJV has mistakes.

What do we say to this?

We refute Satan's accusation, that God did not preserve His Word in the MSS. Our reasons are these:

- * God is truth and cannot lie. All His Words are verity and judgment.
- * Therefore Constitution 4.2.1. affirms with absolute confidence that *"... the Scriptures in the original languages (posses) inerrancy and infallibility ..."*
- * We believe the only Bible translation which answer to the criteria of *"inerrancy and infallibility"* is the KJV, because God has preserved the source texts (MSS).

4. OUR STEADFAST DEFENCE - THE VPP

"VPP" simply means **"Verbal Plenary Preservation"** of the MSS from which our KJV was translated.

V stands for Verbal, meaning to say, *"all the words."*

P stands for Plenary, which simply means *"all, and complete."*

P stands for Preservation, meaning to say God the Author had providentially preserved His Word through the ages, keeping out all error or untruth, until today (while the original autographs have decayed with time.)

5. WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD OF VPP?

The answer is simple. Use an evangelistic approach: friendly, gentle, cordial, persuasive. Use no other method. The first rule in personal evangelism is: never pressurize, never argue, never confront.

If you believe VPP is a good thing, introduce it gently, explain it patiently, convincingly - like introducing the Gospel to a friend. If your listener is receptive, thank God. If not,

also thank God, and continue to pray. Do not be impatient or aggressive. That is the surest way of losing a friend or convert.

Let us press on with vigour. With or without VPP, we can continue with what we have been doing these past fifty years in our BP Church: preach the Word, save souls, defend the gospel, build up the faith of the believers, and earnestly contend for the faith once delivered (Jude 3).

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Lovingly in the Lord

Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor

Church Weekly for 13 November 2005

My dear readers,

1. MISSIONS ADVANCE INTO PONTIANAK

Calvary BP Missions have been active in Sarawak and Brunei for the past 7 - 8 years. The Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ has been propagated by faithful men in Bandar (Brunei), Miri, Sibul, and Kuching (Sarawak). In the past few years the challenge of our Bible-faithful ministries has drawn a number of Indonesian nationals to our Missions Conferences in Miri and Sibul, as well as to FEBC for theological training. Two recent FEBC graduates are now serving in the Church (Calvary Permai) in Pontianak and one is studying in FEBC.

During our Missions Conference (Nov 30 - Dec 4) we shall be studying the situation in depth, with a view to the starting of a church-based ministry, requiring the purchase and construction of a church-complex for an assembly hall, Sunday School and Fellowship rooms, Kindergarten, Bible College, staff and students' living quarters, etc. Such an ambitious project calls for careful planning and prayer. When can it materialize?

Answer: While the desire is "ASAP," yet the prudent thing is to "make haste slowly." By much prayer and observation, and with Holy Spirit leading, during the Missions Conference. Brethren, pray for us.

2. LATEST UPDATE FROM DEACON LEK AIK WEE

Thank God for good response to the coming 5th Borneo Missions Conference.

This is the latest update for the registration. Kuching = 2 persons, Miri = 24 persons, Sibul = 7, KL = 1, Singapore = 40-45, Batam = 1 or 2, Medan = 1?, Pontianak = target 60- 100, Brunei=?

The highlight of this year's camp is the children evangelistic meetings to be held in the afternoons to which we are planning to invite 200-250 children. Speaker is Mrs Leah Paauwe.

Rev Peter Wong has suggested the theme song for the camp. "*Dengar suara Tuhan, selalu manise.*" The theme is 1 Cor 3:9 "*Labourers together with God.*"

There is a dedication service arranged on Friday afternoon 2.30pm-2.30pm for the renovations of Calvary Permai BP Church and opening of the Bible School where you are invited to do the laying the foundation timber for the work. (Indonesian timber is hard as stone.) Church registration has been approved. School commences from Jan 2006. Tender for the work has been called and these should be receiving the tenders soon, estimated cost S\$50000 + S\$10000 (furnitures). The new van has arrived in Pontianak, making arrangement with Kathy to send over the balance payment.

We have candidates for Baptism both from Pontianak (4-5) and Miri (3) so far.

Rev Peter Wong has called for a day of fasting. Have discussed with Elder Lim Yew Cheng, the plan is on 28 Nov 2005 from 6am-6pm for Pandan, Jaya and all Borneo BP Churches. The camp briefing for the S'pore contingent will be on 27 Nov 2005 at 1pm in Pandan.

We are in the midst of preparing for the Tri-lingual songbook, all the John Sung Choruses have been translated into Indonesian and we are in the process of putting together other songs. We are also printing Trilingual BBK notes.

The adversary has been working overtime these past months, sometimes too overwhelming. Rev Peter Wong's call for fasting and prayer is very timely.

Praying for the Lord's blessing, Aik Wee
6 Nov 2005

3. CALL FOR A DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR OUR 5TH BORNEO MISSION CAMP

Dear Brethren in the Borneo Ministry,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May He find us daily living in His presence and serving Him.

In a month's time we shall convene in Pontianak for our annual Missions Conference. I am sure we are all anticipating eagerly for the day we shall all gather once again in His Name. In several ways, this camp is unique because it is probably the first time for most of us to go across our national Border to Kalimantan, Indonesia, and the Lord has graciously opened the doors for us to start a biblical work there. In another way, this camp is also the culminating of all our previous four camps as we consider the theme: Laborers together with God (1 cor 3:9).

My challenge for us all is that we should prepare through a season of united prayer from now. One good way to prepare is to get together the whole church or some brethren to join in a day of fasting and prayer on a day you deem most appropriate. I was reminded that Ezra had to make a difficult journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. He proclaimed a day of fasting by the river of Ahava. (Ezra 8:21-23). The early church also fasted and prayed before they sent Apostles Paul and Barnabas for their first overseas missionary journey (Acts 13:1-3).

There are several items we should remember and I have listed here for you:

1. Pray for the final enlistment from every Church that God will provide the right ones, the seeking ones. Some may be Pastors and Christian workers from other churches to expose them to our Biblical stand.

2. Pray for Calvary Missionary Society and our host church: Calvary Hanura Permai Church that everything will work out smoothly.
3. Pray for God's protection from any epidemic like Bird Flu as well as political unrest that may affect our camp.
4. Pray for our speakers: Dr SH Tow, Rev Edward Paauwe and other national speakers.
5. Pray that the Church will be strengthened through the various ministries that will be carried out during the camp e.g. children and youth, medical, tracting etc
6. Pray that many of us will support the church by bringing gifts of money to build the church, items to be given to the church, Chinese and Malay Bibles, computers, even used clothing and shoes for them will be helpful.
7. Pray that God will revive all the churches in Borneo to labor for Him in these vast territories of Borneo. We are not alone. God is our Help. Psalm 46:1

*In Christ,
Pastor Peter wong*

4. DR PATRICK TAN WRITES FROM TORONTO

Dearly beloved,

Anne and I arrived at Toronto Pearson airport in the afternoon of Wed 28 Sep and Eld Daniel Chew was there to greet us. Daniel and Sylvia accommodated us in their home in Burlington and took care of all our needs.

Friday Bible Study 7 pm

Pastor Daniel takes us in the study of the Gospel of Luke. There was an introduction to the Bible and then of Luke, the author. We memorized Lk 1:37 "*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*" We benefited much from the study. Chan Ee Yuee from Zion BPC is a nurse from TTSH taking her Masters degree. She brought to the BS Junliang Xiang from China and Masako Tanaka from Japan, both doctoral students at McMasters U. Michael Lai lost a leg in an accident and comes with his wife Lorraine and baby Gabriella. Melissa Bone recently came to accept Christ and is a keen student of God's Word. Esther Chew our newly appointed evangelist takes her in personal Bible study. Attendance 10 - 15. We have a quick fellowship dinner before the study.

Sunday Worship Service 10.30 am

Who is a Christian? My assignment is to preach a series on 8 messages. I have delivered the following: "*A pilgrim Traveler through Earth*"; "*A Priest at God's Altar*"; "*A Stone in God's Building*" and "*A Debtor to the Gospel*". The messages helped young believers to

understand their position in God's kingdom and the body of Jesus Christ. They are also gospel messages to those seeking for salvation. Edward Baker attended two Sundays and called me that he wanted to be born again. He retired as a police officer and now drives the Greyhound bus. I took him through the ABC of salvation. He believed and he requested baptism. Attendance 30 - 37.

Sunday School for Adults 12 noon

My assignment is to teach 8 lessons on the "*Why series...?*" I supplied the notes and there were lively discussions. "*Why Calvinism & not Arminianism?*"; "*Why Sprinkling & not Immersion?*"; "*Why Burial & not Cremation?*"; "*Why Separation & not Cooperation?*" Members need to know about our BP distinctive and that what we believe is biblical and sound theologically. It is a great blessing to share with God's people the wealth of knowledge from the Bible for our daily living. We need the milk of God's Word to grow (1 Pet 2:2) and spiritual meat to discern good from evil (Heb 5:14).

Love in Jesus: Anne & Patrick

Brethren, pray for the revival of the Church in Mississauga (Toronto), Canada.

Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor

Church Weekly for 20 November 2005

My dear readers,

1. AN ELECTION UNPRECEDENTED IN 33 YEARS

In July, our Eleventh Triennial Election was announced, by action of the Board of Elders. Concurrent with the preparation and run-up to the polling date in November, the adversary had sown seeds of discord and oppression among the Congregation. God's people were called to pray for deliverance. Prayer increased as the problems grew more serious.

The Election process moved forward according to BOE's planned schedule. In parallel, the Satanic oppression grew more sinister. Threats of legal action took a turn for real, and legal exchanges began. Various communications counseled postponement of the Election. *"The timing is not right. Too much uncertainty and confusion. Postpone three months, six months."*

In prayer God's Word gave full assurance: to *"trust and obey: be not afraid; the Lord is with us."* All stages of the Election process went smoothly without hindrance. Suddenly, out of the blue, on 12 November - **polling day**, a barrage of emails arrived at my desk, demanding a *"calling off and postponement"* of the Election scheduled for 7.30 pm the same day, citing contravention of Constitution. All these happened between 10 am and 4 pm on Saturday, 12 November 2005.

More prayer brought complete peace and assurance. *"Be not afraid for I am with thee."* Trusting fully in the promises of God, all fears and threats were dismissed. By sundown, all was peace, even God's peace which passeth all understanding.

2. FERVENCY OF CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE UNPRECEDENTED

Never in my three decades with Calvary has there been such response of God's people to the dual process: an Election and a Satanic oppression aimed at the Pastor. Never before have I received so many letters, cards, telephone calls, and personal words of encouragement from our members. Groups and individuals were praying. Remember the Lord's Prayer? *"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."* For weeks God's people cried to Him: *"The righteous cry and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles"* (Ps 34:17).

"Postpone the Election?" Not at all! The assurance from the Lord was complete. Men's threats were dismissed. At 6.40 pm we drove off for church. Arriving at 7 pm, the church was already a hive of activity. The Election Crew were in place. Action stations were bustling with business: arriving members were identified, ballot papers given, and the Sanctuary began to fill.

Unlike former Elections (which were lethargic and slow moving), there was a different spirit, a spirit of urgency and purpose. *"The Lord's business demands fervency and zeal!"* At 7.20 pm, ten minutes before time I led the people to sing the Songs of Zion, and to lead them before God's throne of grace. At 7.30 pm, the scheduled starting time, Brother Chew Chong Kiat took his seat with me on stage. *"We have quorum."* Amazing! In most other Elections or Congregational Meetings quorum was seldom attained until 10-15 minutes after the time. Eventually, quorum was exceeded by over 100!

3. THE LORD GAVE US A SESSION OF UNITED PURPOSE

The outcome of the voting was evident token of God's answer to the people's prayer. The end of four months' Satanic oppression was in sight. With a United Session the problem in our midst will not continue much longer: its support in the previous Session has been taken away. **This is the hand of God; it is marvelous in our eyes!**

Much remains to be done, but our God is for us, who can be against us? In Christ our Lord we shall do valiantly. Session meets shortly to firm up the plan of action. The adversary shall be defeated shortly. Readers please pray without ceasing. The Lord will surely send deliverance and victory. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

4. FINALLY, GOD BLESS ALL WHO PRAYED AND CAME

November 12, 2005, goes down in history as God's *"Day of Deliverance."* It began with a flurry of Satanic attack; it ended with a chorus of *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."* As mentioned, God gave us a great victory. Some Senior Citizens came, who normally do not venture outdoors at night. But for **this** Election, they were full of the spirit of service. Some who had to travel delayed their departure until after the Election. Some who had gone overseas hurried back in time for the great appointment. One lady declined a wedding dinner, choosing to attend the Election. Altogether there was a spirit not seen before.

To all who attended, helped the Election in various ways, and prayed, the Pastors say a very warm and heartfelt *"Thank you. God bless you."* Together, by His grace, we shall win more victories for the Lord.

Much remains to be done. Please continue to seek God's blessing in fervent prayer and supplication. Soon we shall see the salvation of the Lord. Then all of us will say *"The Lord is good to us to answer our prayers."*

Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor

Church Weekly for 27 November 2005

My dear readers,

1. HISTORY TEACHES VITAL LESSONS

For 55 years, ever since the founding of the Bible-Presbyterian Church, I have grown with the Church, and observed (as well as played a part in) the unrelenting and mounting conflict over the use of Bible Versions.

From the day of its founding in 1950, the King James Bible (KJB) has been our Bible, the one Bible which we held to be the "*inerrant, infallible, inspired*" Word of God. To me, this was a crucial issue, to be able to substantiate our Doctrine (Constitution 4.2.1) that "*We believe in the divine, verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and, as the Word of God, the Supreme and final authority in faith and life,*" with a tangible BOOK.

By the 1970s, our Presbytery and Synod meetings had become the battleground of Bible Versions. We began to witness a rising chorus of voices from certain of the younger members, calling for the introduction of Modern English Versions. For the first time the KJB's unchallenged supremacy in our BP Church came under attack.

I witnessed the attempts to dislodge the KJB from year to year, gathering support in numbers and strength. By 1988, this and other contentious issues, came to "*breaking point.*" While not the only issue, the conflict over the KJB was an important factor leading to the disintegration of the BP Synod in 1988.

From that time, several BP Churches abandoned the KJB to adopt Modern English Versions. This was a crucial turning point, signaling their slide into the Ecumenical stream. Calvary held fast, unmoved and faithful to our first love for the beloved KJB.

2. "BEYOND VERSIONS" - WHY I WROTE IT

While I led our Calvary group of Churches, steadfastly holding to the KJB as the answer to our Constitution 4.2.1, the Lord laid on my heart to investigate the ground for our belief that it was only the KJB and no other translation of God's Word which could be held up as God's "*inerrant, infallible, inspired Word.*"

After years of study, prayer, and research, the Spirit led me to write "**BEYOND VERSIONS.**" At that time the attack on "Bible Preservation" had not erupted openly, so the thrust of my book was merely to demonstrate, beyond reasonable doubt, that only one version, the KJB fulfilled all the criteria of a BOOK that could be regarded as GOD'S WORD, "*inerrant, infallible, inspired*" and **without mistake.**

In the process I have demonstrated beyond doubt, that the KJB is what it is, because its source text, the OT Masoretic Text and the NT Textus Receptus, have been **divinely preserved** through the ages. (This is VPP implied).

Readers are urged to read "**BEYOND VERSIONS.**" Here I shall merely present some excerpts which are fully in support of the much discussed **VPP doctrine** and the **KJB** (both of which are under fierce attack at this time).

3. EXCERPTS FROM "BEYOND VERSIONS" (BV)

QUOTE: "This Gospel offer is revealed to us, **complete and perfect**, through one Bible, the King James Bible (KJB) or Authorized Version. (BV p21)

"The King James Bible is God's greatest gift, the Crowning Gem of the Sixteenth Century Reformation; the Light which shattered a thousand years of a dark system; the Bulwark of *'the faith which was once delivered unto the saints'* (Jude 3); the Rock of Defence against counterfeit Christianity; the mighty Sword of the Spirit which spells doom to the Father of lies. For over three centuries, this Book reigned supreme, the one faithful, authoritative, unique and accurate translation into English of the plenary and verbally inspired, inerrant, infallible Hebrew and Greek Words of God.

"Satan hates the King James Bible (BV p 22)

His diabolical genius conceived a dark scheme: the King James Bible must be replaced! False teachers will bring forth corrupted Modern English Versions harbouring another message, *"preaching another Jesus ... another spirit ... another gospel ..."* (2 Cor 11:4), *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light ... his ministers also be transformed into the ministers of righteousness"* (2 Cor 11:14-15).

"The Texts

These were the best manuscripts - the Masoretic Hebrew Old Testament Text and the Received Greek New Testament Text (Textus Receptus). These were accurate and **Preserved copies** of the inspired, inerrant, infallible Scriptures handed down by the Jews of the Old Testament and by the Apostles of the New Testament. They were carefully copied by their custodians. These **accurate copies (apographs)** were in the possession of the faithful church up to the time of the Reformation and accepted by Protestant scholars as the **most accurate and closest to the originals (autographs)**. (BV p 46)

What need we say more? God's greatest gift of the Sixteenth Century Reformation has lost none of its light and truth. Preserving perfectly each and every doctrine of salvation, it stands unrivalled - the greatest translation of all time. (BV p 47)

God's people may find complete safety and security in the KJB, God's Preserved Prescription - inerrant, infallible, authoritative. (BV p 130)

4. "BEYOND VERSIONS" SUPPORTS "VPP"

Both "BEYOND VERSIONS" and the "VPP doctrine" tell one story: that God has perfectly preserved all the words in the MSS (apographs) from which comes the KJB, the only English translation that reflects the perfectly preserved Word of God, "inerrant, infallible, without mistake."

Mark these words: The present attack on the VPP will lead ultimately to a denying and betrayal of the KJB. This is a prediction worth watching. God bless all readers with spiritual discernment.

Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor

Church Weekly for 4 December 2005

My dear readers,

1. HOLDING THE FORT IN THE AUSTRALIAN "OUTBACK"

Faithful to God's call, Rev Peter Clements "*holds the Gospel fort*" in that remote country town of Cootamundra, New South Wales. It is a lonely outpost for God.

Pastor Peter Clements, by God's wonderful grace stays at his post despite the "*outward man*" having only two good heart valves and two which are "*shaking by their hinges.*" Doctors in Melbourne gave him two months to live in August 2003. Our Lord extended the life span tenfold, because there is work for him yet. So he soldiers on, a shining example for us who have good health.

Pastor Clements' latest letter is reprinted for readers' encouragement. Thank God for those who pray and give. God bless you!

2. SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS NOTWITHSTANDING

It is several weeks since I last made contact with most of you, and that is due to the amount of activity going on around the place. I am limited to about five hours per day before legs became unbearable, and I head for the relative comfort of my bed. There are a lot of tasks not being attended to, but we have managed to tackle several jobs in recent days. E.g. last week my 85 years old mother drove down from the coast (325km one way) in order to help me attend to the bees - of which we only have a few hives left. Because they had been neglected for an extended time, they did not take too well to the idea of being interfered with, and came out all stingers blazing. James put in some Olympic qualifying times running around the house (3 times) but they had their man/boy, and persisted even when he went inside. My mother headed for the relative safety of the garage where I was perched nearby as an observer. She was quite badly stung around the ankles, but like Jehoshaphat going into battle against Ramoth Glead with Ahab, they somehow decided I was the guilty party, and transferred their angst onto me! With no protective armour, they landed a few stings, including one above the left eye which caused plenty of pain, and even more swelling. We managed to extract about 50 kg of honey from the two hives, and there is promise of more to come in the next few weeks. The only thing that is sweeter is God's Word - amen!

Health wise, I have been travelling better over the past couple of weeks. Last Monday I had specialist appt in Wagga, followed by Sandostatin jab, then today I was back for fluid drain from the abdomen at another facility. It yielded 3.6 litres of acculated fluid. I can now get in and out of the car with relative ease, and even touch my toes. The broken skin on my right lower leg, and left ankle seems to be healing. Any abrasion or broken skin now yields blood instead of water - first time in six months, so there are hopeful signs. I have a volunteer massage woman come twice a week, and I suspect that is what is making the difference. The blood noses which have seen me in hospital as often as every

ten days, have now eased. I have not had a "top up" since early August. This is a record since the big op at the Alfred in Melbourne in 2003. Cancer reading was also down on last report too, so there is some good news among the endless physical problems. We are immortal until the Lord says "enough." Sometimes that day can not come quick enough, at other times, it seems I could go on for months or even years.

Once again, my apologies for taking so long to write to you all. Silence should not be taken as lack of interest, but sometimes means serious health problems, and the little energy I have is directed towards writing the news sheet, conducting Bible study, prayer meeting and the like. Somehow, I am still able to preach each Lord's day. Anne is still not sleeping well, she has a lot on her mind, and needs to cast all her care upon the One who cares for her. Please continue to pray for us here.

Praise the Lord for all his blessings towards us. Until we meet again in cyber space, I pray God's lasting peace may be your portion.

Peter Clements

3. ELDER DANIEL CHEW'S TESTIMONY TO A PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1). My faith in a Creator God has never ever been a problem in my early teenage years. Rather my confusion was "Who is this God?" Like the Athenians, I sought the "UNKNOWN GOD" (Acts 17:21-23). Being raised in a family of animistic worshippers but wholly disbelieving in them, I uttered a prayer of faith that the Unknown God would reveal Himself to me. Nightly and as oft as I could remember, I cried in earnestness that the True God would lead me to Him.

It was not until fifteen years later that I met my Saviour and received Him into my life. Our God never fails those who seek Him in faith as Matthew 7:7-8 confirms that.

My journey to God led me from Malaysia to Singapore, from the comforts of home to the barracks of the army. Here, over a couple of months of persistency by a barrack-mate, very much like the importunate widow before the weary judge in Luke 18: 1-5, I relented and went with him to Calvary Jurong and attended Bible Study under the then Pastor, Rev Philip Heng. I learned from him simple, clear and practical verses exposition. Without any more persuasion, I attended Bible Study and Prayer Meeting regularly.

Like a blind man restored his sights, like the scales that fell from Saul's eyes (Acts 9:18), like Balaam in Numbers 22:31, the Lord opened my eyes. Truth dawned on me and I prayed for the Lord to come into my life and be my Saviour and God. All my doubts and questions faded away. My fears vanished. I experienced the joy of life, the peace of mind, and the tranquility of heart. Praise the Lord as Jeremiah 33:3 promised, He heard, answered and saved me on May 23, 1974. I was later baptized on December 22, 1974. *(To be continued ...)* God bless all readers.

Church Weekly for 11 December 2005

My dear readers,

1. BORNEO MISSIONS CONFERENCE MOST BLESSED

Ever since the Lord opened a Gospel Door to Borneo in 1998, He has enabled us to make steady progress. Beginning with Pastor Peter Wong in Brunei, the work advanced to Miri and Sibiu. (Kuching already had a Gospel outpost founded by Life BP Church many years ago).

This year 2005, the Lord opened the Gospel Door to Pontianak, Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). In Indonesia there is freedom to share the Gospel with the Indonesian people, which opens up a vast mission field.

A report on the Borneo BP Missions Conference by Dn Lek Aik Wee is carried in an insert in our Weekly.

2. SURVEY OF SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN PONTIANAK

We surveyed two prospective sites for future development.

i. At **Hanura Permai**: Old one-storey plank and concrete house with 80-person capacity and small “backroom, on total land about 10,000 sq ft. Adjoining is large expanse of flat “rice field.” Approach road off main highway is a narrow one-lane road with pot-holes, 500m long lined with dwelling houses. This locality is about 7 km from city centre.

ii. Near Siantan, bordering a highway, opposite an orchid farm is a stretch of flat land, for sale.

“City Power” is available, not water.

Price: S\$200,000 for one hectare approximately S\$1 for one sq ft (2.5 acres)

To ascertain: Approval for construction of Church Complex; also any sewerage connection?

3. “PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK” IN CANADA

It is to the glory of God that I have published the story of God’s marvelous salvation grace to Daniel Chew. After conversion and baptism in 1974, he gave over his life to be used of the Lord. Burdened with the need to repay his Gospel debt, he wrote a paper, “*Gospel Outreach to Petaling Jaya*” (his hometown in Malaysia) to his Church Session (Calvary Pandan BPC). This led to the founding of Calvary Jaya BP Church in 1984. Ten years later, God used Daniel and Sylvia to start Calvary BP Church in Toronto, Canada.

Daniel's visits to Vancouver in later years led to the founding of Vancouver BP Church in 1997.

Now going into his 12th year, Daniel continues to lead the flock of Calvary BPC, Mississauga, ONT, Canada. Readers, please pray for this faithful servant of God as he perseveres and "*press toward the mark.*"

4. EQUIPPING FOR FULL-TIME SERVICE

(Elder Daniel Chew's report continued from 4 Dec 05)

On introspection, I realized twenty-eight years of my life were wasted in godless living and thus prayed that the Lord would spare me at least another twenty-eight years of service for Him on the right side of the bridge of salvation. I now belong to the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:20). As my Redeemer and Lord of my life, I am totally His to use as He pleases. Serving Him full-time was thus never a hesitation or in doubt!

Consequently, in faith, I submitted my letter of resignation from the Singapore Armed Forces on February 4, 1975. I had applied and was accepted to work full-time on the Christian ship, M.V. Logos. However my application was rejected as I had only served three years out of a ten-year contract with them.

Obviously it was not the Lord's will for me then to serve Him full-time. Undeterred, I kept myself active for the Lord. I participated in the Military Christian Fellowship at work place, serving in the Church Junior Fellowship, attending Youth Fellowship meetings, tutoring Tuition classes and joining Bible Study classes, Prayer Meetings and Worship Services. Later on, I served as a Deacon and a Clerk-of-Session, Advisor to the Youth Fellowship and the Young Adults Fellowship and thence Eldership. The Lord wonderfully provided a dynamic helpmeet in Sylvia Choy to encourage and co-labour with me in His Royal Service. He added two more precious souls to the family in Samuel and Anna. Providentially, He led me to submit a proposed paper, "*Gospel Outreach to Petaling Jaya,*" on March 1, 1984 to Calvary Pandan Session which was approved and subsequently led to the starting of Calvary Jaya. Those were joyous years of grateful service as the family served the Lord together.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33). Known only to our Lord, our ministry in Singapore was soon to come to an end. At the insistence and persistence of my mum, we submitted our application to immigrate to Canada. No significant efforts were made but the Lord opened this window of opportunity and on February 3, 1989, we were on our way to our new country of residence.

Being ever conscious and willing to serve the Lord in whatever ministry He has for us, and remembering my prayer to the Lord to grant me at least 28 years of service unto Him, we had the basic paraphernalia to start a Church Service brought along, though our foreseeable plan was not to start one. Hence we worshipped at Calvary Baptist Church

for five years. But denominational distinctives disqualified us from serving in the Church and we became mere Sunday Christians.

This led to plans to start a church whereby we could serve the Lord actively. The Lord opened the door and brought in the people. On January 9, 1994, Calvary Canada was inaugurated. Six months later Rev (Dr) S.H.Tow was informed and invited to be our Supervisory Pastor. In his first visit to us on October 20, 1994, Dr Tow challenged me to full-time service for the Lord. I penned my thoughts on this calling under the title, "Not by the Design of Man but the Determinate Counsel of God." It was not until another two months later on January 4, 1995, that I commenced fulltime ministry in the Lord's service. I have not looked back since then.

The Lord has enabled me, together with my family and the founding members of Calvary Canada and existing members and friends to plant, water, fertilize and nurture this Gospel witness for Him in Mississauga for the last eleven years. We are undeterred though small in number. The Lord has blessed us with a number of salvations of unbelievers. We have blessed many with our faithful stand for our Lord.

The Lord rewarded us with the privilege of initiating the birth of Calvary Vancouver, now known as Vancouver Bible Presbyterian Church.

This year is my thirty-first year of serving the Lord on the right side of the Bridge of Salvation. I praise God and thank Him for answering my prayers for my and my family's salvation and for at least twenty-eight years of service. He has given more than I asked. Praise be to His Holy Name. May He be pleased to use me for as long as He tarries. Amen.

Daniel Chew
November 18, 2005

God bless all readers.

Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor

5TH BORNEO MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Thank God for His guiding hand in the 5th Borneo BP Missions Conference.

We went with one purpose to proclaim the glorious gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that only Jesus Saves!

Only Jesus, Always Jesus
My heart will praise, my song I'll raise.

*Saved and healed me, sanctified me.
Glorious Lord, Soon Coming King.*

Thank God for a team of 43 from Singapore mainly from Calvary Pandan and Jurong. 45 from Brunei, Miri, Sibuluan and Kuching.

Rev Lee Kim Shong from KL, Rev Kiantoro Lie from Batam, Rev Dohar and Hapusan Siregar from Medan.

Elder Koh Kim Hiang from Sydney and Rev and Mrs Paauwe from Perth.

There were 30-40 attending from Pontianak making a total attendance of 130 for each meeting.

FEBC students Febian Siregar and Linda Yohana Kurnia were amongst the team from Singapore.

The highlights of the conference are:-

(1) Camp Theme messages were taken by Dr SH Tow from 1 Cor 3:9 “Labourers together with God” and the gospel meeting by Rev Edward Paauwe. Thank God for bringing His servants to Pontianak to share His Word, preached with much power to the encouragement and conviction of the campers to a closer walk with God.

(2) Children’s evangelistic meeting held on 1st – 3rd Dec 2005. Mrs Leah Paauwe was the speaker. It was organized by the team led by Mr Goh Thiam Hock together with his wife Chai Huan and Mrs Lenny Chia. We had average attendance of 105-120 children for each meeting. The children were taught gospel songs, memory verse, art and craft, games with a gospel message preached by Mrs Leah Paauwe.

(3) Dedication of the Calvary Hanura Permai BP (GAPPI) Church on 2nd Dec 2005, with ground breaking service conducted by Dr SH Tow.

(4) Baptism for 8 from Pontianak and Lord’s Supper conducted by Rev Edward Paauwe on 4th Dec 2005 of worship service with attendance of 150.

(5) Miss Carol Lee was the speaker for the Youth Program conducted from 1st – 3rd Dec 2005 with average attendance of 15 youths.

(6) Borneo Revival Hymns and Choruses is a tri-lingual songbook in English, Mandarin and Bahasa Indonesia based on the John Sung Choruses and Revival Hymns and Choruses by Dr SH Tow. We thank God for the team of helpers Ko Ling Kang and Ko Ling Ting, Febian Natanael Siregar and Linda Yohana Kurnia with the graphic support of Dn Eric Lim. 250 copies were distributed to Calvary Hanura Permai BP (GAPPI) Church and the rest of the churches in Borneo.

(7) The tri-lingual Basic Bible Knowledge notes has been compiled into a booklet with the help of Mr Goh Thiam Hock and his wife Chai Huan. A total of 700 copies have been printed and distributed among the churches in Borneo and Indonesia. This book will be the doctrinal basis for the teaching of baptism candidates and existing members among the BP churches in Borneo.

(8) Meeting for the elderly was conducted by Dn Lek Aik Wee on 1st Dec 2005 and Mr Ng Yew Chong of Calvary Jurong spoke in Hakka on 3rd Dec 2005. An average of 20 attended the meetings.

(9) A medical clinic was conducted by Dr Wong Song Ung on 2nd Dec 2005 for a group of 30.

(10) The local team consisting of Preacher Peter Yoksan, Ajin Thu, Rev Daud, Salino were working overtime catering to the needs of the conference.

(11) On 2nd Dec 2005, an all Indonesian night was organized with presentations from Pontianak and Medan. Rev Haposan shared how the wonderful guiding hand of God opened the way for the approval from the authorities to issue an umbrella license for all BP churches in Indonesia.

(12) Thank God for the tireless effort of our camp committee consisting Dn Ko Swee Chay, our assistant Camp Master & treasurer, Mr Ko Linggang, secretary, Mr Tan Choon Keng, PA and Photography, Mr and Mrs Koh Thiam Hock & Mrs Lenny Chia for the Children's Program, Ko Lingting & Serena Ng our camp pianists, Dr Wong Song Ung our camp doctor and Margaret Phang our architect in the survey of the land and upgrading of the facilities. We thank God that the committee was up and about taking care of every need of the camp. We are especially appreciative of Mr Tan Choon Keng who provided water promptly to our speakers after each message and providing a recordings of all the messages in CD so that the returning team can each bring back recording of the messages. We thank God for Dn Ko Swee Chay who took over as camp master when I returned a day earlier together with Dr SH Tow, Elder Koh, Mr David Fong and Miss Sally Lum.

The conference may be summed up in Psalm 100 - *"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."*

*Submitted by Dn Lek Aik Wee
5th Dec 2005*

18 Dec 2005

Be of the same Mind

Dearly beloved,

Serving the Lord is not an easy task. It has many problems and obstacles along the way. Satan is sure to discourage us. He will try to destroy our efforts to serve the Lord. He works in two ways: within and without the church.

In the book of Acts, we see Satan attacking the church from without and within.

1. Satan began to attack the church when it grew to about 5,000 (Acts 4:4). Peter and John were threatened. They were prohibited to preach the gospel (Acts 4:16-20). Satan attacked the church from without but the church was united. The believers were of one mind and prayed for boldness to speak the Word of God (Acts 4:31-33).
2. When Satan failed to attack from without, he never gave up. He attacked the church from within. We know the case of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-5. Satan filled their hearts to lie to the Apostles (Acts 5:3).
3. When the church was being blessed by God and more people came to Christ, Satan started to attack the church from without (Acts 5:14). The Apostles were arrested and put into prison (Acts 5:18).

This has been the pattern throughout church history. It happened to the church at Philippi (Phil 1:15-17). It is happening in our church today.

In Philippians 1:27-29, Paul tells us that we should be of the same mind, "*striving together for the faith of the gospel*" (1:27b). United we win, divided we lose. Paul tells us that if we are to grow spiritually and serve the Lord, we must have three things:

1. A Good Defence

"Ye stand fast in one spirit" (Phil 1:27). Team work is very important in any work that requires more than a person to do. Remember, together we stand, divided we fall. This is true in many areas. For example, in a football game, if the opponents are advancing, the whole team must unite and try to stop them from scoring a goal. It is not the job of one or two persons. The whole team must work together to stop the opponents and defend the post. So, Paul encouraged the Christians at Philippi to work together, to "*stand fast in one spirit*" (1:27). May I encourage you to do the same in the Lord's ministry.

2. A Good Offence

Paul says, "*Striving together for the faith of the gospel*" (Phil 1:27). The word "striving" comes from the Greek word used of an athletic contest to win the game. We are not only to take a strong defensive stance ("*stand fast*", 1:27b) but also to exert an offensive effort ("*striving together for the faith of the gospel*", 1:27c). So, the ministry of the church is not just building the believers' faith but also to preach the gospel and to win souls. This requires team work. We must all be involved in advancing the cause of Christ.

3. A Positive Attitude

Paul was a good coach. He knew that a successful strategy against Satan's forces include more than skills and determination. It involves an attitude of confidence and trust, not by man's efforts but the Lord's. Philippians 4:13 says, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*". Here, Paul exhorted the Philippian Christians not to be afraid of their opponents. He says, "*in nothing terrified by your adversaries*" (Phil 1:28a). In other words, "Don't be afraid, you will win". So, in doing God's work, we must press on, and we will win, in the strength of the Lord.

Dearly beloved, we do not know how many are leaving the church. However, be assured, the Lord knows all our problems and difficulties. Do not be discouraged but let us press on with one heart, soul and mind. The Lord is in control and He will give us the victory.

God is still on the throne,
And He will remember His own;
Though trials may press us
And burdens distress us,
He never will leave us alone;
God is still on the throne,
He never forsaketh His own;
His promise is true,
He will not forget you,
God is still on the throne.

*Yours lovingly in Christ,
Rev James Chan, pastor*

25 Dec 2005

Dearly beloved,

Reflecting on the year 2005, which is soon concluding, I am grateful to our Saviour for His faithfulness. Although it has been a challenging, eventful and rather traumatic year for me, the Lord never failed to provide that extra measure of grace and strength that I needed to overcome victoriously.

God's Unfailing Love

In early January, God saw me through a successful gallstone removal surgery, though with some complications. And then in early August, by God's mercy, I was spared from serious injury when a Mercedes bashed into my car from the left side. Although my car was badly damaged, I escaped unscathed — without even a bruise or a scratch. Indeed our Heavenly Father has been gracious in protecting my wife and me on several occasions. He has always kept us safe under His everlasting arms. Truly we can proclaim these words:

Another year with Jesus

We thank the Lord today,

For Thy unfailing presence,

Along life's rugged way.

Dear friends, how has the year been for you? Whether smooth-sailing or strewn with difficulties, I pray that God has worked in your life and brought you much joy in Him. Praise Him for all His blessings, whether big or small.

Even Calvary B-P Church was not spared from trouble in 2005. Never before has our church encountered a crisis of such magnitude. With tears in our eyes and hope in our hearts, we have prayed earnestly for God's intervention and mercy. Despite mounting pressures and fierce oppositions, we have continued to pray, trusting the Lord to see us through. This experience reminds me of the church at Philippi (book of Acts), where there was no let-up in Satan's attempts to break it up. He attacked the church from without and within, sowing seeds of discord and confusion. Sadly, we see that happening in our church today.

Be of the same mind

In Philippians 1:27-29, Paul tells us that we should be of the same mind, *"striving together for the faith of the gospel"* (1:27b). We must work together in unity towards a common goal. As highlighted in the soccer game analogy last week, if the opponents are advancing, the whole team must unite and try to stop them from scoring a goal. It is not the job of one or two persons. The whole team must work together to stop the opponents and defend the

post. Just as how Paul encouraged the Christians at Philippi to work together, to *“stand fast in one spirit”* (1:27), may I urge you to do the same in the Lord’s ministry at our church.

Serve God and glorify Him

As 2005 draws to an end, we will soon close a sad chapter in our church’s history. But let us not be dismayed for there is much to be done! For those who are already serving Him, praise the Lord! The ministry of the church is not just about building believers’ faith; it is also about preaching the gospel and winning souls for Christ. Whatever talents God has given you — whether in teaching, ushering, kitchen duties or the music ministry — use them to advance the cause of Christ! Give of your best to the Master.

Recently, I was very encouraged to know that two of our young members — Anthea Piong and Florence Loh — will continue to serve in the Awana Club next year. What is so encouraging is that both of them grew up attending the Awana Club. They have experienced God’s grace and goodness. And now, they are going to serve Him. This is what we should be teaching our young ones.

How about you, dear friends? The Lord has endowed us with various gifts and talents. Did you use your talents for His glory when there were opportunities to do so? The best time to serve the Lord is now — right now, not tomorrow or next time.

Sharing the Good News

Today, we celebrate our Lord Jesus’ First Advent on earth. As believers, we rejoice in the glorious truth of the incarnation of His Son, as revealed in 1 Timothy 3:16 *“...God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”*. How wonderful it is that this priceless Gift is available to all who believe in Christ as their Saviour.

Let us use this festive season of peace and goodwill to broadcast this good news to our unsaved loved ones and friends! Before the year ends, let us reflect on what we have done for the Lord. Let us resolve to have a close walk with God. Let us live a more fruitful and victorious Christian life in the new year! Come to the Year-End Service on 31 December 2005 (8:15pm) and resolve to make 2006 count for Christ.

And finally, dear Calvarians and friends, thank you for supporting and sharing in our Lord’s work here at Calvary B-P Church this past year. Whether you have been serving in front or behind the scenes, I greatly appreciate your devotion and labour of love. Our Lord is the Rewarder of all who serve Him faithfully out of a pure heart.

My wife and I wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

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---The End---