

# MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of

**MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)*

Private Circulation Only

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Sunday School: 9.45 am Worship Service: 10.45 am Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Pastor: Rev (Dr) Jack Sin (HP: 9116 0948)

## **A TIME TO SOW AND A TIME TO REAP**

### **Covenant BPC India Christmas Season Gospel Outreach**

#### Introduction

Last Christmas season was a very special occasion for Covenant BPCI for many reasons. With the visit of the missions team of 14 members from our Mother Church, Maranatha BPC, we had a very fruitful time of ministering to the needs of the people, with the Word of God and with a loving heart. The team was here for a period of one week, from Dec 20-26. Through their ministry in our midst, many hearts were deeply touched, and some came forward to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. We give all glory and honor to our Almighty God for every opportunity He provides us to be a blessing to the needy people around. It is a very joyful thing to see that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. The following is a summary report of the activities taken place during the one week of missions team's visit.

#### Vacation Bible School

We had a three day Vacation Bible School organized for the children (Thu - Sat). There were as many as 50 children attended for the VBS. Some children even came from JP Nagar, ie, more than 10 kms away from our church. Thank the Lord for the provision of the church van that we could go all the way there and fetch them for the program. There was one boy, Sarthak, who was Abigail's classmate, came from almost 20 kms distance, from Electronic City, on Hosur Road. He was very receptive, and on the final day he asked for a personal Bible.

The VBS was conducted in two sections, namely, English and Kannada. The Kannada children came from very poor backgrounds (mainly children of the construction workers) and the team members were able to teach them some English lessons, along with the Word.

#### Seminar on Christian Discipleship

On Friday evening we had a seminar on Christian discipleship, conducted by Rev Dr Jack Sin. We thank the Lord for the many who came for the seminar and heard the Word. (Our hall, front porch, and staircase room were fully packed with people.) Pastor Jack's message was challenging. Many hearts were encouraged to step forward and follow Christ in His steps. The booklet on

discipleship, entitled, *Walking in the Steps of Jesus: A Christian Discipleship Manual*, produced by Covenant BPCI, was an added blessing to the people to take home and study further on the topic.

### Christmas Caroling

Saturday evening was set apart for Christmas caroling. This time we were able to visit seven houses, of which three were new, singing carols and preaching the Word. One of the new houses was Mr Kannadasan's house, a Geologist, working with the Geological Survey of India. Though a Hindu, he and his family members heard the Word with much eagerness. We praise God that the entire family came and heard the gospel message again on the next day at the Christmas special gospel rally.

### Christmas Special Gospel Rally

The Christmas Special Gospel Rally was an opportune time to share the gospel to the people around. It was a special Christmas evening with carol singing, sharing testimony, singing gospel songs, preaching the gospel and fellowshiping over a Christmas dinner. Our initial plan was to conduct the program in a rented multipurpose hall at the nearby CPWD Quarters. However, due to some unexpected turn of events, we had to change the original plan and conduct the program in our garage. We thank the Lord for the sixty over people who attended the program. Over all, the evening was very meaningful and blessed.

### Worship Services

During the week, we had two worship services, namely, the Sunday service and the Christmas service on Monday morning. For the Sunday worship service, we were all blessed by the wonderful testimony shared by Sis Kim, one of the team members. We thank the Lord for the power of God's Word that transformed her life from loving the world to loving the Word and fellowshiping with the saints of God. On Sunday we also witnessed the transfer of memberships of the missionary family and the staff worker from the Mother Church to Covenant BPCI. On Monday, we were all blessed by the clear preaching of God's Word by Dr Low and the testimony by Ruth Low.

### Ground Breaking Service

The finale of the one week activities was the ground breaking service on Monday evening, Dec 25. We were all very excited when we gathered together for the first time as a church along with people from our Mother Church at the site which the Almighty God in His wonderful providence blessed us with. The service began with the hymn "How Firm a Foundation". After the opening prayer Pastor George welcomed the guests and introduced the missions team to the gathering. He also explained how the Lord has providentially guided the church step by step to purchase the land for the church building. He highlighted the missions commitment of the Pastor of the Mother Church and the Session and members who have been earnest in supporting us and standing together with us for the extension of the Kingdom of God towards this part of the world. Followed by this, the missions team sung the missionary

hymn, "To India With God's Love", penned by our Pastor Dr Jack Sin. The words of this hymn was very appropriate and rightly expressed the heart and commitment of the Mother Church, led by the Pastor, to establish a Reformed gospel witness for the Lord in Bangalore. The last stanza of the hymn says,

To Bangalore in mission, We are all one in call,  
Now let us be God's vessels, To save man from the fall.  
The Saviour's Great Commission, Compels us from above,  
To pray and work together, That all may know God's love.

After the challenge that came through this hymn, Pastor Jack Sin shared God's Word from 1 Cor 3:9-12 on the theme "Co-laborers Together for God's Building" to encourage the congregation that we are co-laborers together for the gospel sake and challenged us to work together to establish a solid testimony for the Lord. While challenging the congregation, he visualized what is going to come up at the site within next ten months. He then led us in breaking the ground. Others who broke the ground after him were Pastor George, Dr Low, Mr Jaya Paul, and Mr Justin Paul. In closing, we sung the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord", and Pastor Jack Sin pronounced the benediction. We all departed from the site hoping and praying in our hearts that our next Christmas service will be held in the new building.

#### Meetings with the Contractors and the Architect

While the missions team was here, Pastor Jack Sin and Dr Low, along with Pastor George, were able to meet up with two potential contractors to interview them. The meetings were very fruitful as we were able to clarify many things with them. We then also sat with Mr Davis, our architect, and finalized the drawing plan and decided on the basic required items for construction so that his team can prepare the Bill of Quantity to call for the tenders. Mr Davis also gave us approximate cost estimation for the first phase of construction, i.e., ground level and the first floor. According to him, the first phase will cost 11.5 million Rupees (S\$ 380,000.00). We have to raise this much money within next 8-10 months. We do not know from where this much money will come, but we trust in the Almighty God, who has gloriously led us this far.

#### Conclusion

The missions team's visit and the activities taken place during the Christmas season were a great encouragement to all of us. Our hearts have been greatly revived, so also the team members'. In the new year, there are many challenges waiting for us, especially with the construction of the church building is taking place. One of the challenges is when we are so engaged with the physical construction of the church, the ministry to the souls of men (ie, the spiritual construction of the church) should not be neglected, after all, that is our main calling and focus. Secondly, we have to spend much time in prayer to be close to the Lord and discern His holy will for our lives and the ministry the Lord has entrusted with us. And thirdly, the needed fund for the construction of the church building is to be raised. Please continue to pray for us and for our Mother Church as we look unto the Lord who is *able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh*

*in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).*

*Dr George Skariah*

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## **Maranatha BPC Family Worship**

Maranatha BPC has been having session / pastoral visitation cum family worship normally on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. (other nights can be arranged) over the past years. This year we will continue to minister to the different families in the church.

The reasons for encouraging covenant homes to have family worship are as follows:

- **To encourage members to show our gratitude to the Lord in family worship and prayer.**

*Jn 16:24 "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."*

- **To give God the glory and honour as a family in studying His Word.**

*2 Tim 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"*

- **To thank and testify of God's goodness and faithfulness together as a family.**

*Psa 105:1 "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon His Name: make known His deeds among the people"*

- **To encourage fellow-believers and family members to seek the Lord first.**

*Matt 6:21, 33 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

- **To deepen our fellowship within the Body of Christ.**

*Heb 10:24, 25 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

- **To practise hospitality among the brethren as they join us.**

*1 Pet 4:9 "Use hospitality one to another without grudging"*

- **To invite non-Christian family members, relatives and neighbours to hear the gospel during Family Worship. This is a means of Evangelism / outreach to our loved ones and friends.**

*Mark 5:19 "Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee."*

- **To bring up our children in the fear and nurture of God through regular family devotion.**

*Psa 127:1 "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it"*

These occasions by many families have been found to be encouraging and edifying. The last homes we (and Sally) have visited was Hui Ping, our regular Chinese visitor and her family and we shared the gospel with her husband and met her son as well on

29 December 2006; we also had family worship in Michael and Ann Chew's home with Eld Thomas, Poh Hong, Dn George Tan and Angie on 4 January 2007; and, Mrs Wong on 11 January 2007 and reached out to her children as well.

Do inform pastor, Pr David or Elder Thomas or church office if you want to have family worship together or home fellowship with some of the church members and friends. (Eric and Man Ee have opened their home for home fellowship and thanksgiving on 19 February 2007 (Chinese New Year visitation), for all to thank God for His covenant grace and mercies to their children.)

Let us remember Malachi 3:16 which says, *"Then they that feared the LORD spoke often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."*

*Jack Sin*

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## **A THANKSGIVING TESTIMONY**

In the midst of the busy schedule just before the school term ended for the year end holidays, my five colleagues and friends booked a 10 Day SIA Cost Saver Europe holiday (4-13 December 2006) just so to get away. All of us needed such a break!

This trip was indeed a VERY BLESSED one for me! Right from the beginning, I had doubts about my health condition and the pain in my upper right arm. (I am feeling much better now.) But, praise the Lord for His faithfulness to us depraved sinners! God has always been and is with me all the while!

During the trip, my close friend (a young Christian saved by Grace) and I went down on our knees early every morning to pray before we rushed out into the day. On the first morning, she told me she liked the prayer led by me. I replied, "I prayed for God's Holy Spirit to lead and guide me to worship Him in our morning devotion." Thank God for this opportunity to witness and fellowship with her. God has His ways of doing things and His timing is perfect.

God's lovingkindness and faithfulness were manifested and experienced especially while we were on the highways. The wind was very strong although there was only a slight drizzle when we were travelling from Frankfurt to Amsterdam. Thank God for sending Aldo, our skilled Italian coach captain, behind the wheel. Actually, most of us who sat in front were aware of the situation. We could literally see the coach swaying from side to side! Aldo did his best to get the coach to the far right lane where there were many big trucks plying along and it was much safer to be by the side. My friends and I prayed silently at our seats for journeying mercies and safety on the roads. God did answer our prayers and granted us safety to reach Amsterdam.

Eight years ago, I toured Switzerland and France in December too. But, the weather then was rainy and foggy. This time round, I was so blessed by God with such great and conducive weather to behold the magnificent view of the Swiss Alps so clearly! The view of God's beautiful and wonderful creation was really simply beyond words. It will be vividly etched and stored in my mind for a long time to come. Despite the extreme coldness up in Mount Titlis, we were able to play with snow outdoors! I was and still am very touched by God's faithfulness in keeping us all safe and sound. It

was accident free all the way, in view of the weather condition!

As I reflected upon the daily mercies and goodness showered on the group and myself especially, I was reminded of God's Word from Isaiah 26:3-4 (*"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength"*) and the lyrics from the Hymn 'All The Way My Saviour Leads Me'.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you, brothers and sisters in Christ, for remembering me in your prayers. All praise and glory be unto God Almighty!

*Kin Kheng*

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### **Testimony of Tran Thi Kim Hoa (New FEBC Student from Vietnam)**



#### **I. Salvation**

I was born and grew up in the feudal Chinese family. My parents were very strong in Buddhism, worshipping ancestors and idols. Therefore, from my childhood, I followed and worshipped ancestors and Buddhist gods that my parents honoured.

The time when I entered into secondary school, that time my family was very poor. Beside studied, and I also helped my mother to earn money by selling the foods. At that time every night I saw my mother worshipped idols. Thereby my mind had many questions such as "why my mother had to worships all these stone idols? What is a benefit to worship the idols for my life?" Moreover, all these questions appeared into my mind, but I could not answer it for myself. Day by day, I grew up, with knowledge through that I had learnt in school, I believed that my parents' religion which my mother worshipped cannot be true gods, like blind worship. It also cannot bring my life into peace, and everlasting life. Then I did not trust her beliefs, and I would like to find the true way which led me to come to the truth of God to deliver me the darkness of this world.

In 1992, when my sister (Tran Thi Minh Dieu) believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, through my sister, and my mends, then slowly I knew more about so-called Christianity. One year after, by God's grace and mercy, I was converted and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. And six months later I had study catechism class which was led by the pastor, then I baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Actually at that time I just believed, but my faith is not strong, and also faithful to trust in God. But I believed that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly 100% God-Man who came on the earth to save me, and those who believe in Him. John 3:16 says *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* I believed this is the eternal promised of God for His children. So every week I began to come to the church with my sister, but it is just my habit. The Word of God never went into my heart and I also did not have a quiet time to pray to God. One day, my mother fell sick, I also have trouble in my study. At that time I was sad, and without hope in my life. No body can help my mother and me except God.

Therefore, I started to pray with God, I knelt and bowed down to ask God to forgive me,

and teach me so that I was able to draw near to Him. Then I turned back to read His Word and faithfully trust in Him. Moreover, I have opportunities to attend the Youth Fellowship, Bible studied group, and also pray meeting in the church. Step by step I walk close to God, I saw God is powerful and merciful, and He always answered my prayer according to His perfect will. Since that my family established a quiet time to prayer God every night. After these things I joined the Church Choir, and helped in the Youth Evangelism, and Young Adults Fellowship.

## II. God's Calling

After I finished my High School in 2003, then God gave me the opportunity to work a part time assistant in Think Phat Tel-Communication Company in Ho Chi Minh City. Besides working, I also entered into the Industry & Administration College CTIM to equip myself in English. In this College I trained for one and half year for the English Language Certificates. During one and half year I successfully passed three parts of Certificates; levels A, B, and advanced C last December 2005. By that time I didn't have any idea about God's calling or any think to be full time Bible student.

But thank God that one thing happened in my life and when I looked back, I believe that it is God's plan and His will for my life.

One day I lost my job. At this time I am without direction, I asked God about all these things that happened to my life. But when I look back these things I saw that God always blessed, and love me. And so, God reminded me in Matt 11:28 says, *"Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* When I read this verse and prayer to God, then the Holy Spirit convicted my heart. Once again I prayed and asked God to forgive my sins.

Moreover, I came back to the church and worship Him with the brothers and sisters in Christ who encouraged me, and also helped me to build up my spiritual life in the Word of God. Since that I promised with God that I would serve Him whenever He led me. By God's love I have opportunities to serve Him as a teacher in Children Sunday school, assistant in Youth's Evangelism, and also Young Adults Fellowship. This is a privilege that God has given to me. In Luke 16:10 says *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much"* The more I serve God, the more I love Him. And so, in my heart have a burden to share this Love to unbelievers those who are living around me. Since my brother-in-law and sister (Thien An and Minh Dieu) offered their lives to be full-time servants of God, through their lives which influenced my heart and my life.

Finally, with all my heart I would like to serve God more and more. I started to pray that God open the way for me to have an opportunity to learn His Word. Especially, I prayed that God give me His high calling to be His full-time servant In this case, the Holy Spirit reminded me His Word in Isaiah 6:8 *"Whom shall I send? And Who will go for us?" and I reply as Isaiah, "Here am I. Send me!"* Through my brother-in-law and sister, I believe that Far Eastern Bible College held a sound fundamental doctrine, and Bible standard, which is very important and good for me to choose this College. So now I believe that God called me come to the Far Eastern Bible College to equip myself with His Word in order to serve Him full-time in the future ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Tran Thi Kim Hoa

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**Email from Rev Stephen Masila, Dean, BCEA,  
Kenya, East Africa**

Thank you very much for your faithful e-mailing of the Maranatha Messengers. The messages contained contemporary issues discussed that are extremely important and pertinent in this day and age. My son, Clement, and daughter, Shalom, enjoy reading them. May the Lord richly bless and continuously strengthen your hands not only in your preaching and teaching but also in writing this year.

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**Email from Peter Yoksan, pastor of BP Church  
in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia**

Thank God for the MBPC ministry in this end times. Just downloaded several mp3 sermons from the website. The speed is fast. TOA: talent of application learnt from your preaching. May the Lord continue to bless MBPC. I typed this in the internet cafe early morning when the users are few and the speed is maximum. Thanks again.

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**At the Pulpit**  
*Theme for the Quarter:*  
**Biblical Basis for What & Why We Are in The LORD**  
Rev Ronny Khoo  
**“Why We Believe in the Bible as God’s Word”**  
(Psa 19:7-14)

[End of MM]