

# MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of

Private Circulation Only

**MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

30 October 2011

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

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Sunday School: 9.45 am

Sunday English Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 6.30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

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

## **Sombre Reflections from a Parson's Grateful Heart to God**

### **Introduction**

The psalmist says in Psalm 145:1, 2, *'I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.'*

Recently a Chinese preacher who returned from Xinjiang, China came up to us after the Chinese service to thank God for the word and the Chinese ministry. I asked him how he came to know about us and he replied that he had checked out the MBPC website (thanks to Eugene Ooi and Fong Li Heng our webmasters for reorganizing and maintaining it all these years for the spiritual edification of many netizens worldwide).

Some overseas BPCs used our articles for their weekly frequently. Many have read the Chinese weeklies (thanks to Pancy Siam, Yeo Choon Pio and Daniel Ong for their translation work) and come and worship with us. Rev. George Skariah shared of some who visited CBPCI when they saw our websites.

A sister told us when we were preaching in Australia that she listened to our messages and read our Maranatha Messengers on-line and was encouraged by the Lord. An elder of a certain church used our resources for his cell group and a youth leader for his YF meetings. We do not know how many have been blessed by the weeklies, tracts, pamphlets, books, MRM resources and recorded MP3 messages and videos and other messages from the Lord through the ministry of MBPC. We cannot thank God enough for the marvelous ways He used a small rural countryside church over the past 21 years though we are often so weak and feeble in our efforts to serve Him.

Every church anniversary is an opportune time to glorify God, exalt Christ and reflect and recollect God's compassion, faithfulness and sovereign goodness to His covenant people.

### **Sovereignty of God**

By the sovereign hand of God, MBPC was started on 28 October 1990 with about 20 members of Life BPC in St. George's Chapel, left behind by the British RAF in the 1970s. After Shalom BPC vacated the place in 1990 (pastored by Rev. Tan Choon Seng), by the gracious hand of God and with the approval of the life BP church session and the kindness of the Military Christian Fellowship (with the help of Rev. Dr. Patrick Tan and Elder George Tan), we started this work and have been using the building for the past 21 years. The small congregation has grown to what it is today and we are still growing by the hand of God (we are still in the process of finalising approval from the various government departments for the extension of the church as requested by SLA our landlord. Pray for our architect, brother Sety, Dn. Terence Tan and Elder Daniel Tau who are assisting us in this matter).

This church had weathered many storms by the grace of God. There were anxious moments in 2002 when the road widening was done along Loyang Ave and the authorities wanted to demolish the church for this purpose. We prayed to the Lord and decided to write a petition and sent it to the Defence Minister through MCF then (who is the elected President today). Two weeks later, we were told by the LTA engineer that the church was allowed to stay put. Praise the Lord for Proverbs 21:1 says, *'The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.'*

### **MBPC Missions Stations**

The Lord has been good to bless us with many opportunities or open doors for gospel outreaches and service for Him. We were enabled by the Lord to launch out and to minister to the Chinese working community here since September 2007 to the saving of many with about 60 attending every Sunday. We have distributed freely about 80 bibles to these Chinese construction workers and baptised about a dozen of them so far by the grace of God. We have distributed freely about 80 bibles to these Chinese construction workers and baptised about a dozen of them so far by the grace of God. For foreign missions, we were involved the setting up of Tangkak BPC in 1998 with Rev. Sim Peng Sin (and now Pr. Yap KC is the pastor supported by Sharon BPC), and in May 2005 to spearhead Covenant BPC in Bangalore, India together with Rev. and Mrs. George Skariah (a missions team of 11 will be going in December 2011) and minister to the young and old in New Covenant BPC pastored by Pastor Babu. In addition, in April 2006, God used us to found Evangel BPC in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia together with Elder Dr. Lim Yew Cheng according to the reformed tradition and which has grown to more than 40 worshippers today. We also supported the JB Sunset Gospel Hour regularly in preaching. We thank God that we ministered at Evangel BP Church recently and witnessed to some who are seeking the Lord and some will be baptized in December 2011.

We thank God for the extraordinary growth of the Chinese service by the will of God and with many prayers. These are mainly Chinese construction workers who came to Singapore for work and many of them came from a non Christian background of superstition and religious traditions and they heard the everlasting gospel of Christ shared in MBPC. An average of 60 attends the evening service every Sunday and 4 will be baptized today (read their testimonies). We thank God for Song Xi Hai, a brother from Fukien who has been serving with us and studying in Chin Lien Bible Seminary and supported by MBPC. Some new families and friends have joined our church this year. Many have returned to China after work and some are attending house churches and some are witnessing to their spouses and children about Christ too. (There are more than 100 million Christians in China according to OMF and growing).

We are to prayerfully commit ourselves to a Church which honours God and minister to souls by the preaching and propagation of the pure gospel of Christ and teaching from the inspired, infallible and inerrant, sufficient Word of God. We need to be vigilant and continue to be steadfast and to properly contend and defend the truth of God's Word against the liberals, new agers, the occultic elements and cults of our times (no Halloween for us as Christians). 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'* We are always to give of our best to the Lord in our time, talents and treasures in promoting His kingdom on earth and in the teaching and defence of the most holy faith in these last perilous days.

### **Pattern of the Early Church**

MBPC ministry followed or patterned after the early first century church in the book of Acts which grew steadily and was a healthy and vibrant church. We witnessed the following notable priorities or elements of the apostolic church with sound church, directions and concerns.

## Personal and Corporate Prayer for the Saints – Work of Intercession

The apostles were committed to fervent intercession for the flock. This is so important that nothing should displace it especially our corporate Wednesday night Prayer Meeting where the church meets to pray for one another. **A prayerless church is a powerless church and we remembered the grave need to go on our knees humbly to beseech the Lord to prosper the church.** We are exhorted to pray without ceasing and to pray with importunity. John 16:24 says, *'Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.'* Let us remember to seek the Lord on our knees as a church and implore His gracious enablement for the revival of souls in the fullness of time. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, *'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'*

## Preaching of the Word

There is an unashamed declaration of the inspired and inerrant word of God with exposition of the truths for practical application from our pulpit, fellowships, Neighbourhood Bible Classes (NBCs) and Christian Education Department (CED) Classes taught by various teachers for the young and old.

The purpose of the church is to proclaim the glorious message of everlasting life and to nurture the flock in the word of God from the pulpit. The word is unashamedly preached every Lord's Day from the church pulpit. **The clear declaration and exposition of the bible is central to the vitality and health of the church.** No matter how busy they were, the apostles gave top priority to the preparation and the faithful proclamation and expository teaching of the gospel and the word. The knowledge of the word was such an important matter to them that they would not be distracted from it. 1 Corinthians 1:21 says, *'For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.'* **Teaching sound doctrine is to be paramount and members are to be properly grounded and rooted and to know them well through the proper instruction from the pulpit.** 1 Thessalonians 2:13 says, *'For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.'*

## People's Concerns – Spiritual Care and Nurture of Souls

**The church is not a physical building nor a denomination but it is a gathering of the elect of God bought by the blood of Christ.** When the church grow too big, it is not easy to minister to every member of the flock effectively. In the first century church, some of the Greek speaking widows in the flock were neglected as the congregation grew (Act 6:1-4) and deacons were elected to take care of them. They are to remember and visit the sick, old people or widows and to minister to the various needs or conditions of the congregation. They were properly elected with sound spiritual qualifications. We thank God for our two elders and four deacons who have been serving faithfully with us all these years. We are not to neglect any segment of the congregation, whether they be the older members or the youths, singles young adults or the children, the Chinese speaking workers with their needs. We also thank God for the faithful and sacrificial teachers and members in our church servicing in the CED, VBS, camps, MRM, MYF, MYAF, MLF, evangelism, ladies fellowship, church choir, junior worship and nursery, or fellowship leaders and NBC leaders and the resource ministry, through our church camps and VBS, MLF and MYAF and MYF. We need more help to reach out to spiritual needs of the church members and their families in the coming Christmas Children Gathering and the church camp.

## Paper Work - The Proper Administration of the Church

There are always some administrative and practical matters in the church that needs to be done. Completing the church bulletin on time, updating of church records, physical upkeep of the building, the notice board, proper upkeep of finances and missions report, minutes of session and ACM meeting, transport for members, the preparation of food for the Chinese Worship, printing of pamphlets, tracts and weeklies, visitations to homes and in the hospital and nursing homes to the sick, and others. We need faithful and responsible stewardship and here is where the elders, deacons and the lay people and a good administrator can play a part as well to assist the pastor in the practical ministries of the church in effectual office and church administration which is important.

## Church Growth – God’s Way

Salvation is of the Lord as said in Jonah 2:9. Act 9:31 says, *‘Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.’* We were told that the church grew when the people were edified and walking in the fear of God and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost. These are 3 vital ingredients for church growth in MBPC, each is indispensable. **MBPC are committed to edifying the saints through the word and to preaching the pure gospel of Christ and the spiritual care and comfort of the believers in the Holy Spirit** in the fear of the Lord. We are living in the last days of great deception and the attacks by the evil one on the finished work of the Lord at Calvary. Today is also 494<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 16th Century Protestant Reformation and we need to remember our rich spiritual heritage. The BPs are protestants with reformed doctrinal convictions, traceable to the Bible, to French Reformer John Calvin and the English Puritans who gave us the Westminster Confession of Faith (1643-47). We are all justified by faith alone and through Christ alone and by grace alone and not by works and all of us come to God without any man centred mediator but solely through the finished work of Christ alone (1 Tim 2:5). We need to counsel and admonish our people to be faithful and to be kept pure in our doctrines and practices unto the Lord and hence be preserved from the deceptive doctrinal wiles of the evil one.

**There is a growing interest in the cult and the occult like yoga, astrology, necromancy, witchcraft, Fengshui, reiki and tarot cards recently** (note the furore when the Halloween theme was cancelled by the CEO of WRS for the Night Safari but the Universal Studio in Sentosa and other night spots carried the theme). There is the increase in moral and spiritual compromise and immorality and the falling away of the church in doctrinal compromises in these last days. A father from a certain BP church asked me during a meeting how he could counsel her 13 year old daughter who is obsessed with Harry Potter and another, whose son is addicted to occultic gaming. **We need to be vigilant and to be forewarned is to be forearmed to put on the full armour of God to withstand the wiles of the evil one (Eph 6:10-18).**

## Total Dedication to Christ in His Church

The cause of glorifying Christ in saving souls ought to be the chief focus of the Church. We encourage all members to be fully committed to Christ, as disciples, and witnesses for Him, testifying of His saving grace to others of His name. Paul said in Act 20:24, *‘But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.’* This year God has given us a good burden : to reach out to our unsaved loved ones as He wills and we witnessed the salvation of Elder Daniel Tau’s mother through the evangelistic efforts of Rev. Phillip Heng. We also witnessed to Fong Choon Chiak’s mother when we shared

the gospel with her in March 2011 (and follow-up by Chan Kim Siu and the Ladies Bible Studies), Sally Tan's grandmother who heard the gospel through Dn. Terence Tan and Rev. Philip Heng, Charles Ng's parents and maid were miraculously responsive to the gospel with follow up by Dn. George Tan and Uncle John and Hum Kee Hong's mother who heard the gospel in Cantonese. Since we started our Chinese outreach and service 4 years ago, we witnessed quite a number of Chinese workers coming to the saving knowledge of Christ. The latest were four of them and they attended the catechism class preparing for today's baptism. Let the zeal of the Lord challenge us with a responsible stewardship and service for the Lord in MBPC in the days ahead. Come for the Chinese Worship Service on Sunday night at 6.30 pm (with follow-up class) and the mid week prayer meeting and unite as a church to fervently intercede for one another (2 Chr 7:14 and James 5:14-19). Let us be concerned and care for the needs for the brethren and the church. Be involved and support the church and never miss Sabbath worship service, do join a NBC, Sunday School class, camp, VBS, prayer meeting, evangelistic outreaches or other church activities with greater zeal and fervour.

Act 1:8 says, *'But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.'* The members of the body of Christ are to be committed to Christ through the ministry of the local church. MBPC hopes to be a worshipping, witnessing, working, watching while waiting for Christ's second coming in the will of the Lord (Rom 12:9-18). When members in churches are fully engaged in fulfilling their work for Christ, souls are converted as the Lord wills and lives are changed for eternity. What greater endeavour is worthy of our lives than to witness for the Christ and to serve the Lord with greater fear, fervour and gladness in our local Churches not the least in Maranatha while there is yet breath in our nostrils as the Lord tarries.

## Conclusion

Finally, it is with grateful hearts that we acknowledge and thank God for prospering and preserving this gospel highlighted in MBPC all these 21 years. There is still much to be done. **We pray for a fervent and committed spirit among all of us to desire to grow in the knowledge of the word in church, to preach and share the everlasting gospel and to edify one another in the fear of God.** Let us persevere in our gospel outreaches to the unsaved in the vicinity and beyond and let the love of God be seen in us as we seek to witness for Him in these last perilous days. Our church motto and purpose are found in Paul's inspired words in Colossians 1:28 which says, *'...present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.'*

Let every leader, member and friend here strive to be faithful and responsible stewards and ambassadors for Christ and be consecrated and sanctified in Christ. Let us be renewed in our personal consecration to Christ and to His church that we are worshipping with deeper devotion in the New Year. Let us rededicate ourselves to honour and serve Him faithfully till He comes again. *Maranatha Even Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Jack Sin*

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## Adult Baptism

I come from the province of Jiangsu, China. Back in my homeland, I did not attend church services as I was busy with work. As I have a Bible at home, I would read it occasionally through with little understanding. At a very young age, I was taught Atheism in School. As a result, it was ingrained in my mind and I did not believe in the existence of God. When I was in High School, I resolved to be self reliant. This determination was within me and it dominated me all through my younger days.



In 2006, I spent a large sum of money to work in Japan. When I was there, I came to know some friends who would go to church. A colleague who was a little younger than me shared the gospel with me. He had worked in Israel and while there, he visited the historical monuments and biblical sites which were recorded in the Bible. He shared with me the truth from the Bible and proved to me that the Bible is trustworthy and reliable. At that point in time, I did not accept fully what he told me.

Japan is a highly pressurized society. The work load there often caused one to feel stressed and tired. Just when I was suffering physical stress, something happened at home. My eldest son fell severely sick and my family was totally helpless and lost. As I was still working in Japan, I felt extremely anxious and helpless. I was concerned about our financial situation on one hand, and felt extremely apologetic and guilty towards my family for my absence on the other hand. In dire straits, I cried out to the Lord for help. Together with my friend, we travelled two hours to a church in Osaka. The moment I reached the Church, my heart was deeply moved. I felt a sense of warmth as if I had returned home. As I stepped into the Church, I could sense the nearness of God. There was an instant intimacy with Him. I prayed immediately, asking Him to heal my son who was at home in China. If He were to heal my son, I would be His disciple and would follow Him all the days of my life. I prayed fervently although I did not know exactly how to do it. I did, however, feel my burden being lifted and my anxieties vanished, after making my heartfelt desires known to God! God was merciful to my son. Soon after, my son's health improved gradually and eventually he recovered completely!

Praise the Lord, for He bestowed His grace to help me tide over this crisis. After experiencing God's amazing grace, I am convinced of the existence of this Almighty God. My self-centeredness and pride vanished. I thank God as subsequently, my wife encouraged me to go to church. Therefore, I made it a point to attend church services and travelled the long distance to Osaka to attend Worship services every Saturday and Sunday.

I returned to China in 2009 and came to Singapore in 2010. Upon coming to Singapore, I searched for a church within the proximity of my dormitory. Ever since knowing the Lord, I learned to cast all my cares upon Him. I could feel real peace and joy within, from God. Even when I am far away from my homeland, I am not worried, as I know the peace of God is with my loved ones at home. My wife sings in the church choir, giving her best to God and serves Him. I decided to be baptized and become a true child of God and to belong to Him forever. Dearly beloved brethren, the Lord Jesus Christ has cleansed us from all our sins with His precious blood. Only through Him can we be saved. We need to put our trust in Him, only then can we have eternal Life. Amen!

*Shen Wei*

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I come from the province of Hubei, China. Before my conversion, I went through an intense struggle with my beliefs. I lived in an atheistic country and was born into a traditionally pagan family. At age 50, I was still without a religion because in my younger days, I embraced science, history and evolution as the only absolute truth. Only after having lived through half my life did I come to realize that evolution is groundless and without solid evidence. It is mere human theory and reasoning. It is a false teaching.



I was born in a remote village but soon after, I left the rural area to pursue my education in the City of Wuhan. There, I was taught God did not exist, that was why I could not accept theism. However, the concept of atheism is deceitful for God definitely exists and it is an undeniable fact. I came from a very traditional family where ancestral worship is observed. Even the practice of ancestral worship somehow demonstrates the existence of God. In my fifties, I was still wallowing in imaginations, thinking that evolution is absolutely right. I had this struggle for a long time until I came to Singapore 2 years ago. Although I was still a long way then, from knowing God, I was a step nearer. For soon after I started working in Singapore, some of my friends brought me to church. Many of them came to know the Lord Jesus Christ in Singapore. Initially, I was unable to bring myself to believe in God and clung on tightly to my traditional beliefs. However, a notion soon started stirring within me urging me to seek this God who created Heaven and Earth. I told myself that I need to understand and to consider carefully before accepting Him.

When I returned to my homeland last year, I thought deeply about what I heard in Singapore which challenged my life and contradicted my belief of evolution and atheism. I thought too, about my children who are without any religious belief. Those without religious beliefs are in a very sorry and pathetic state. As they lead their lives without purpose and objectives, they do not know where they are heading. I pray that I can lead them to a true religion. It was then I received Jesus as my personal saviour, the only One who could lead me to His Heavenly Kingdom one day. Now I believe that the Lord Jesus is the only true God, for He is the only One who can forgive all my sins and bring me to Heaven one day. He can give me strength and wisdom to bring people of faith in Him alone. Before long, I came back to Singapore and continued worshipping in a church. The moment I received the Lord Jesus into my life, I felt the heavy burden of sin and guilt lifted off me. The so-called atheism and evolution were emptied from my mind, for God in His might demolish all strong holds.

Only by believing in God can our sins be forgiven, problems be resolved and our burdens and stress be lifted. I used to have insatiable desires but after my conversion, I take things easy. I learned to commit myself, family, career and all life's issues which bothered me unto the Lord Jesus who loves us. With God's guidance, all will be well. It is my desire now to share God's love with those around me. I am also willing to help those in need. May the Lord help me and grant me the strength to do so. While in Singapore, I attend worship services regularly. I will not let a Sunday goes by without worshipping God. When our dormitory moved to Kaki Bukit, I followed the Chinese brethren who joined the Maranatha Bible Presbyterian Church Chinese Worship service, when I saw the Church van picking them up from the dormitory. In MBPC, I felt the love and warm fellowship from the brethren. The courses and bible studies I attended here helped me to know the Lord Jesus better. I resolved to be baptized, thus bringing glory to the Lord and to testify for Him. I will be returning to my homeland in a month's time. May the Lord be gracious to my family and help me to bring the gospel to my loved ones at home.

*Wu Zhi*

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All thanks be unto the Lord. I want to believe in the Lord Jesus for then can my sins be pardoned and have the hope of everlasting life. If only I ask by faith from God, He will answer my prayers. If I doubt and will not believe, the Lord will not heed my prayers and answer them. These are my personal thoughts. Upon believing in Jesus, I will strive to stay away from sin and with His strength, I will try not to commit any misdeed, for God is a Holy God and He hates sin. After I accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour, I will do what is required of me and what is acceptable in the eyes of God. I will not do what He detests. This is what I have been reminding myself of after my conversion.

All thanks be unto the Lord. Actually I started to believe in Him two years ago. Although I had yet to fully understand what salvation was about at that point in time, my heart was moved to believe Him. I recalled this event when I returned to China last year - my wife and children wanted me to join them as they went to pray at a temple. I went along reluctantly. Upon reaching it, I witnessed them kneeling before the idols and burning incense to them. I did not participate in the rituals for deep within me, I did not believe those were gods. Instead, I thought of the true and living God as revealed in the Bible. I have worked in Singapore for five years, how time flies and I shall waste it no more. I have decided to be baptized, to return to God and come into His sheepfold. I trust that the Lord will grant peace to my family. I will share this good news of the Gospel of salvation with my family! Praise the Lord!

*Chen Jia Jun*

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I come from the province of Jiangsu, China. My parents are Christians and I was raised in a Christian family. Against this background, it would seem that knowing the Lord who loves us would be natural. However, the fact was, I never made an effort to get to know Him then. Before I became a Christian, my eyes were set on the things of the world and I did not bother to seek the truth. Five years ago, by the higher hand of God, I had the opportunity of working in Japan. While I was there, I came to know a Christian named Ma Yao Hui. He shared the gospel and bible truth with me. I worshipped in a church there and came to know a pastor named Gao Tian. He taught me much about the one and only true and living God. After I became a Christian, my life was renewed and transformed. I used to be a person who was petty with people. I was easily provoked and I could not accept others' correction or verbal attacks on me. Whenever there was a dispute, I would strive to get even with others. After my conversion, I learned how to be tolerant of others. I learned, too, that I can overcome sin by the strength of God. Even as a new believer, I experienced the grace of God, and I know that He causes my cup to run over.

In order to work in Singapore, I had to sit for a re-certification exam. I was very worried that I might fail. However, praise the Lord, I passed the exam! While working in Singapore, I attended other churches. I had desired to be baptized earlier but due to changes in the work location, my baptism was delayed. By God's leading, I started attending the evening service of Maranatha Bible Presbyterian Church. In MBPC, bible truth is taught and bible studies and courses are available to help me grow spiritually. Now I know I am standing on the Rock – Jesus Christ. After I accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour, I felt peace and find life more meaningful.

Dearly beloved brethren, there is only one God and He is the Lord Jesus Christ. Only He can give us eternal life because He is the only true and living God, therefore, I will follow Him all the days of my life. My hometown Jiangsu is a place where there are many Christians who gather to worship God. My mother serves in a house church. I resolve to learn more of the word to be fully equipped so that when the time comes for me to return to my homeland, I can witness to my kinsmen effectively.

Zhu Yun

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## Transfer of Membership

### The 2 Different Journeys in My Life



We all are just like Pilgrims as we sojourn here on earth. We get on board a vehicle hastily and alight at our destination just as hastily. Time flies without leaving a trace, just like our lives on earth. People toiled hard under the sun to feed the family, striving to be successful in life and to bring honor to their family. In the midst of their prime in life, unexpected mishaps strike, frequent deaths occur and many are plunged into very tragic situations. Will you ask why such things happen? Have you ever thought about the meaning of life? You might be safe and sound living through decades of life, but one day you will wilt like the flowers and your life will end like dusk fall. Eventually you will come to your last moment of life.

Retracing the past mediocre life, you will be filled with regrets. If we live in a worldly manner, life will be worthless and has no eternal value. If we were to ask ourselves if we really know what and who we are living for, the answer would be a no. Until the Creator of Heaven and Earth reveal to us the true meaning of life, then shall we live a meaningful and abundant life. The Lord said, *'The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly'* (Jn 10:10).

I came to Singapore in early 2008 with much expectancy as I started on a new job. I regard this as a turning point in my life. As the plane took off from China, I thought to myself: money can't fulfill everything but without money is unfulfilling. I resolved to put all my effort to earn money, for making money life in Singapore was my driving force. I am sure you will concur with me, because just like me, you are here to make a living too. Is it wrong to earn a living? No. Is it wrong to work hard? No. According to Genesis 1:26, *'And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.'* God created man and expect him to work hard, have dominion over everything upon the earth. This proved that God has given man a special privilege and a highly honourable status; we have an inborn commission from God too.

Shortly after I started working in Singapore, I discovered the pace of life and work here to be extremely pressurizing and beyond my imagination, it is nevertheless a form of Singapore's way of survival. Eventually I began to integrate and adapt into this society and job. Everything seemed normal and my life became more organized. However, there was a sense of unrest and insecurity deep within me. I just felt something lacking in my life.

One day, my cousin suddenly invited me to church. I jumped at the new experience readily. My dear friends, are you also invited to church by someone? Please do not decline the invitation but accept it bravely because the Church is a place where you must go. There is truth and love there. As 1 Timothy 3:15b said, *'that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.'*

In early 2009, I accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour and was baptized; I became a member of the Household of God. John 1:12 said, *'But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.'* I am a sinner; I have sinned against God and have offended Him, as Romans 3:23 said, *'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;'* Romans 6:23 said, *'For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'*

After I became a Christian, my life changed tremendously not only in Singapore. My entire life will never be the same again because the life I now live, I live for God. *'But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life'* (Rom 6:22).

When my employment contract ended in early 2011. I returned to my homeland. Although I did not make much money, it is a non-issue. The most important thing which has happened to me is that now I am a believer of God and have become a Christian. On my way home, beautiful scenes and memories of Singapore flashed across my mind. The chest of memory opened to many unforgettable scenes of church life, and that is my sweet home, a place where I belong.

The Lord Jesus said in John 13:34, *'A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.'* The power of love can melt a river of glacier and also change the desert into an oasis. The most precious thing in human nature is love. It is also the hardest thing to acquire and possess. The Lord Jesus taught us that we have to live a life of love, and so I brought home the love of Jesus with me which is more precious as it surpassed money. On 27 July 2011, I bid my loved ones goodbye and once again embarked on my second journey to Singapore – the country my heart longed for. This time round, the journey is no longer intended to acquire wealth in Singapore. It is all because of the call of God and His marvelous Grace. In Matthew 4:19 the Lord Jesus called His disciples Simon and Andrew, *'And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'* Initially they were fishermen, but they forsook all their tools used for livelihood and follow the Lord, no longer gazing at this temporal and material world, they knew and chose what was the best – The Eternal things which Christ intended for them. Today, I have chosen the path of the fishermen to follow the Lord, because it is a path to the Promises of God, full of Grace, miracles and joy. It is 'the Journey to God's Grace'.

Dearly beloved friends, brothers and sisters in the Lord, I hope that you will follow the Lord Jesus Christ too, trust and love Him to the end. If you have not believed the Lord, seize the opportunity right now. The door of Salvation is opened to all, repent of your sins for now is the accepted time. You can miss out a movie, a big discount at the Shopping Centre or an appointment, but you should not miss out on God's Salvation.

*Song Xi Hai*

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## Greetings from Covenant BPC, Bangalore

Dear Pastor, the Session, Members and Friends of Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church,

With much joy, we join you in praising and thanking God for the ministry of Maranatha BPC for the last 21 years. We thank the Lord for the growth of the church, both inward and outward, all these years and by which becoming a beacon of light in Singapore and different parts of the world. We, at this juncture, with grateful hearts, acknowledge all that the Lord has been doing through Maranatha for the extension of God's Kingdom in this part of the world. We assure our continuous prayers for the further growth of the church in the days and years to come.

Let us be reminded and be encouraged by the words the Apostle Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:7-12, *God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

*Rev. Dr. George Skariah*  
Covenant BPC, Bangalore, India

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Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the Blessed Name of our Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This coming November, we will pay a visit to the Orange Valley Nursing Home, Changi. And, this time round, we intend to visit the two wings of the Nursing Home. One is the usual Ladies Wing which we have all along visited them. The other is the Men's Wing which is adjacent to the same building. This is the first time that we will pay the Men's Wing a visit and it is suggested that we go as like a visitor and converse with the male residence over there. It is something of a friendly call and do approach the residence with a cheerful spirit to encourage them to open up. Naturally, we should share with them on the Good News of the Saving Grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and that is our primary intention. As for the Ladies Wing, there is the usual programme covering group singing of a gospel hymn as well as a short gospel sharing with mandarin interpretation and some refreshment.

The date of the visit is Sunday, 6 November 2011 and we will need to gather at the Church Sanctuary at 1:15pm for a time of prayer and preparation before we set off for the visit.

Do make every effort to join us and more importantly, we covet your prayers that the Lord will work a Mighty Work in the hearts of the residence to open their hearts and to receive the gospel with joy and understanding.

May all praise and glory be unto God, Amen!

*Dn. George Tan / MLF*

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Pray for the salvation of the new Chinese workers who came for the Chinese Worship Service.

Praise the Lord for the edifying ministry of the Church Choir.



Willing hands that cleaned up God's house joyfully.

Theme for the Quarter :

**“Biblical Directions for Worship, Warfare, Work and Wealth for A Christian”**

Rev. Dr. Jack Sin

**Towards A Maturing Congregation (Eph 4:1-16)**  
21st Thanksgiving Anniversary cum Baptismal Service

[End of MM]