

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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Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851 Tel: (65) 6545 8627 Fax: (65) 6546 7422

E-mail: maranatha.bpc@pacific.net.sg Website: www.maranatha-bpc.com

Sunday School: 9.45 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

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

A Triumphant Homegoing of a Founding Father of the BPC

Introduction

1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13,

*'And we beseech you, brethren,
to know them which labour among you,
and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.
And be at peace among
yourselves.'*



The Rev Dr Quek Kiok Chiang (1916 - 2015) went home to be with the Lord in glory on 3 January 2015 at 1.14am at the age of 98. He was one of the founding fathers of the BP Movement in Singapore and beyond. He was also the founder and chairman of Ling Kwang Home for senior citizens, Chin Lien Bible Seminary and Executive Secretary of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) for many years among other

distinguished services over more than 7 decades for the glory of God.

The Man from Swatow

Born on 8 August 1916, Dr Quek came to Singapore from Swatow, Fukien, China in 1931. In 1935, he gave his life to the Lord during the John Sung revival services in the Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church which included the late Elder Heng Mui Kiah and the Tow brothers. He was spiritually revived during the John Sung revival ministry of 1935 where Rev Drs Timothy and Tow Siang Hwa were awakened by the Spirit of God among many others. He served as the first Sunday School Superintendent of Life Church (Prinsep Street) and later its choir conductor. He was a capable administrator and a developer of younger talent. One of his former Sunday School students was Rev Philip Heng, Pastor of Galilee BP Church.

It is not well known that Dr Quek was in the pioneer batch of the first Boys Brigade (BB) in Swatow, Fukien, China and he was one of the founding members of the BB in Singapore and Asia when he joined them in 1934. The president of the BB of Singapore and Asia, Dr Ho Yew Kee, came on the second night of the vigil service and gave the testimony of how Dr Quek was influential in the establishment of the BB in Singapore and beyond.

After serving many years as an elder amidst his exacting secular work, he was called of the Lord to serve Him as a minister of the gospel of Christ.

Dr Quek's ordination in Life Church (Prinsep Street) together with Mr Phoa Hock Seng and Mr Hsu Chiang Tai in 1956 was featured in the Straits Times on 13 August 1956 on page 5. (<http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/Digitised/Article/straitstimes19560813-1.2.53.aspx>)

An exemplary father who did not neglect his paternal duties while serving God, he was a faithful husband to Mui Keow for 75 years. Once I asked him what is the secret of his harmonious marriage he said in Cantonese, "when you quarrel at the front of the bed, make up

by the end of it“, reflecting and applying the spirit of Ephesians 4:26. He is survived by his wife, 4 sons, Quek Swee Hwa, Swee Peng, Swee Kiat and Swee Kiang and their spouses, 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Many of them are saved in the Lord and some are serving God. A prayerful and caring shepherd, able defender of the faith and an effective multilingual teacher and preacher of the Word, he can preach fluently in English, Chinese, Teochew, Hokkien, Cantonese and understand Bahasa Melayu.

Founder of the BP Movement in Singapore

As an elder of the church in Prinsep Street in 1950, he was sent to Geneva to ask Rev Timothy Tow to be the Pastor of the newly formed English congregation of Life Presbyterian Church at Prinsep Street. After his graduation from Faith Theological Seminary in 1950, Rev Timothy Tow, with Elder (then) Quek Kiok Chiang (both of Life Church Say Mia Tng) founded the Life Church English Service in October 1950. Rev Quek was together with Rev Timothy Tow who attended the Presbyterian Synod meeting in Muar when the ties with the Presbyterian synod were finally severed after much prayerful consideration. After the Muar Presbyterian Synod meeting, they took a stand for the Lord against ecumenism. In 1954, the Tows and the Queks and about 50 others officially left the Life Church English Service that was part of the Presbyterian Synod which is a member of the World Council of Churches. Against all odds, this duo obeyed the word of God in the true spirit and practice of biblical separation (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Samuel 15:22). This separation led to the birth of the BPC Movement and the growth of BP churches all over Asia, Australia, Canada and Africa.

By the providential will of God, the first B-P Church in Singapore was inaugurated in Life BP Church in 1955. Today the BP denomination has grown to almost 40 BPCs in Singapore and spans into a worldwide ministry of more than 150 BP churches and missions stations in more than 20 countries in Asia, US, Australia, Canada, Europe, Africa and Latin America. An able confidant and comrade with

Rev Timothy Tow (and later Dr Tow), together they were used of the Lord to found BPCs, and to stand up to the ecclesiastical compromises and spiritual concerns of the days (Dr Quek had spoken and written on the differences between Confucianism and Christianity) and spearheaded local and foreign missions and the founding of new mission stations in Malaysia, Indonesia and Asia and the establishment of many BPCs in Singapore and beyond over these 65 years.

Missionary Extraordinaire

A fervent missionary for the cause of saving souls with the gospel of Christ, he had travelled to more than 10 countries for this purpose. One of Faith BP Church members, Rebecca Lee of Zion BP Church who went with him on his numerous missions trips to West Kalimantan, Indonesia recalled that he was instrumental in the starting of Christian schools, several BP churches, missions stations, a Bible college and an orphanage, traveling often across the sea and rivers in a gospel boat, at the expense of his personal health, ministering to the Dayak people. She shared of his magnanimous spirit in sharing and giving to others who were in needs even though their budget was tight. Dr David Wong of Zion BP Church (Bishan) recounted the Lord's provision through his generous and timely loan of \$700,000 for the building of Mt Carmel BP Church when they had to pay the authorities in less than a day's time. He was almost critically ill in the later part of his life when he was still traveling for the gospel's sake up to his mid 90s. Only eternity can tell how many lives had been touched and transformed by this selfless pioneer in effectual gospel missions in Asia and beyond.

He left a distinguished career in the Government administrative service of Singapore in 1969, rising up to be the sectional head of Internal Security Department (ISD), the Assistant Commissioner of Work Permits, Assistant Registrar of Citizens and finally as acting Assistant Secretary with the Ministry of Health (Quek KC, My Thanksgiving Testimonies, Far Eastern Beacon, n.d, 418). He gave

his retirement benefits to start a Trust to support the work of God. He left the world and took up the cross and followed his master giving up his all for the Lord. It reminds us of Luke 9:23, *‘And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.’*

A Meek Parson of Manifold Talents and Conviction

Dr Quek was a meek, diligent and efficient Pastor and had worn many hats including being the Pastor of Faith BP Church for 54 years (which he founded). He also served on the Board of Directors of Far Eastern Bible College and was one of its lecturers (teaching Modern Religious Problems). He was also the chairman of the Board of Trustees for Chin Lien Bible Seminary, its building extension committee chairman and a lecturer for many years, teaching Bible Geography and Bible History. He served as Vice Chairman for the Singapore Christian Evangelistic League and was the Recording (since 1962), and the Executive Secretary of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) and Far Eastern Council of Christian Churches (FECCC) for many years, the Secretary / Treasurer and Chairman of Relief Commission of the Singapore Council of Christian Churches (SCCC), the President of International Christian Relief (ICR) and Director of the Singapore Malaysian Council of Christian Churches (SMCCC). A careful editor, he served as also the Editor of the SEA Christian Chinese Monitor monthly and the Far Eastern Beacon English monthly (Quek, Testimonies, 456-7).

The National Archives of Singapore has this record of Dr Quek,

“History of Bible-Presbyterian Welfare Services in Singapore. Provision of free medical service at Serangoon Garden since 1968. Differences between the Singapore National Council of Churches and the Singapore Council of Christian Churches. Description of the John Sung Revival Meetings from 1935 to 1939 in Malaya. How he juggled his time as a civil servant and a pastor. Issues of contention among members of the Bible

Presbyterian Synod. His view on the development of the Bible Presbyterian churches in Singapore.”

(See

http://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline/oral_history_interviews/record-details/8d8529f0-115e-11e3-83d5-0050568939ad)

Dr Roland Chia, Dean of Post Graduate Studies of Trinity Theological College wrote this of Dr Quek and the BP Movement,

“In Singapore, the BPC movement had its official beginning in 1955 when the English congregation of Life Church, under the leadership of the Rev Timothy Tow and Elder Quek Kiok Chiang severed ties with the Presbyterian Synod. The schism came about because the English congregation opposed the perceived liberalism of the Presbyterian Synod, based on the latter’s affiliations with the Ecumenical Movement and the World Council of Churches.” (See

<http://www.methodist.org.sg/index.php/home/public-square/1196-what-led-to-formation-of-bible-presbyterian-church>).

The dissolution of the BP Synod in October 1988 was arguably one of the most difficult and painful moments for Dr Quek. He was the moderator of the BP synod then and it was his desire to preserve the unity of the brethren. But the inevitable happened as attempts to reconcile the two parties failed due to the doctrinal differences. (For a detailed account of this incident, read T. Tow, the Singapore BP Story, 215-220; Son of A Mother’s Vow. 368-373.) Today, there are almost 40 BPCs which are registered with Registrar of Societies (ROS) separately and 4 BPCs formed a presbytery in October 2011 and some are having fraternal relations with other likeminded BPCs. Dr Roland Chia concludes, "The continued presence of the BPC, however, will serve as a reminder to the churches in Singapore of our collective responsibility to faithfully hand down the Faith that we have received from the Apostles, and to courageously guard it against dilutions and distortions."

Head of the Charitable Arm of the BP Movement

A visionary of compassion and love, Dr Quek officially constituted the BP Welfare Services (BPWS) Singapore in 1973. The Ling Kwang Home for senior citizens that now houses 350 residents was founded by Dr Quek. It is one of the notable nursing homes in Singapore in the 1980s after 12 years of working hard on it (Quek, 407). Incepted on 31 December 1983, it provides premier holistic nursing care of the elderly with a distinctive Christian emphasis and it continues to make a significant contribution to its community today. Note the description of the logo of the home given below and its explanation that gives us a glimpse of the heart and soul of its founder. The basic shape of the Ling Kwang Home logo is formed by the triangle and the initials "LKH". The triangle speaks of the caring of the whole person: physical, mental and spiritual (1 Thessalonians 5:23). It also speaks of the three Christian spiritual gifts – Faith, Hope and Love (1 Corinthians 13:13). The Cross within the heart speaks of the showing of genuine Christian love in the name of Jesus Christ who died on the Cross to save us from our sins ” (see <http://www.lkhsc.org.sg/about>).

He was also instrumental in starting the Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled in 1998 under the auspices of the BP Welfare Services and was involved in the leadership in Ju Eng Home among others.

While the BP Movement is normally known for its strong stand on biblical separation and the defence of the faith, **Dr Quek has dovetailed it with the softer side of genuine care and practical concerns for the needy community with the establishment of tangible institutions to sustain such works of mercy till today.** These two biblical objectives are not mutually exclusive and he had proven it to be so. There is a visible exhibition of the love of Christ who also ministered to the sick and the needy and he preached the pure gospel. This proves that the vigilant defence of the faith need not be divorced from practical works of charity and mercy.

An Interview with Dr Quek

On 13 June 2010, we (and the Paauwes) met up with Dr and Mrs Quek at Ling Kwang Home and I interviewed him. Below is an excerpt of what was burning in the heart of this godly sage (MBPC 20th Anniversary magazine, 108).

“What would you consider to be the greatest challenge that you have faced in the BP movement all these years? (Almost 6 decades of ministry)

To be alert and keep on our original stand. Our original stand was to stand with the Reformation movement of today

that is initiated by the International Council of Christian Churches under Dr. Carl McIntire. That will keep us away from ecumenical movement spearheaded by the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholics. Up till today, we have not been very united in our BP churches and I hope the challenge and prayer is that all our BP groups will be affiliated with the overseas BP Churches and will keep close to our original stand.



What is the one thing that you would have done differently if you have a chance to do it all over again either in your church, community, ministry, mission or in your personal life?

My prayer is that all our BP churches will not forget where and how we started and will strive together in one spirit and stand together for the faith of the Lord according to Philippians 1:27, *‘Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.’*

You have been a pastor for about 5 decades from 1957. What would be your advice for a young aspiring pastor in the ministry of gospel?

Only one advice, to stand firm, be faithful till the end according to Revelation 2:10, '*be thou faithful unto death.*' That is the motto of our church too – Faith BP Church (忠心堂).

What is the secret to long life? (95 years old that year)

I never take a pessimistic view of life. I overcome by prayer. I led my church every Wednesday for 40 years on the weekly prayer meeting. We always meet on small and big matters. I commit everything to the Lord every night before going to bed. **When I have problems, I make sure to pray through.** I never grumble (learn not to grumble) against the Lord. **The Bible tells us not to complain because God is good to me at all times!**

What is the secret to a happy marriage?

There is a Cantonese proverb which says, '*A couple fights at the front of the bed and reconciles at the end of it.*' There will be differences but always forgive and try to show agape love. **God blesses me with a good wife and we need to be thankful and appreciate each other for a happy home in the Lord.**

Personal Encounter with Dr Quek



My wife and I had the privilege of meeting him a few times and the last time was at the Chin Lien Bible Seminary graduation dinner in May 2014. After the graduation service of Chin Lien Bible Seminary, he gave the benediction at the end of the service and Rev Teo See Eng, the Principal gave an inspiring testimony of his faithfulness in supporting the school all these years.

Although our paths did not cross often, I remembered that he called me personally at least thrice. Once, he called to ask for the support of the relief work in Philippines during the typhoon of 2009. Secondly, it was to request me (and Maranatha Bible Presbyterian Church) to join the Singapore Council of Christian Churches (SCCC) in 2007 and finally, he also invited me to join him in Seoul, Korea for the ICCC conference in 2005. I sensed a gracious and humble man over the side of the phone and he was earnest and sincere and has a true burden for the Lord and his gospel work. For his sterling work in the ICCC, he was conferred the Doctor of Divinity on 23 May 1983 by the ICCC President, the late Dr Carl McIntire of Faith Theological Seminary (Quek, 413). He was also conferred the PBM award by the President of the State of Singapore for his extraordinary community welfare efforts in 1985.

It was said that Rev Quek was always good natured, smiling and gracious and he had not been seen to lose his temper publicly nor speak disparagingly of anyone and he loved his wife dearly. (They just celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary last year). **He was the epitome of humility and magnanimity and his genuine care for the physical and spiritual well being of the residents in Ling Kwang Home was attested by Mr Dennis Tan, CEO of Ling Kwang Home** (many of whom are much younger than him). He was a true lover and promoter of peace and one of his favourite Psalms was Psalm 133 among others.

Conclusion

Hebrews 13:7 says, *'Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.'* **There is a generation of spiritual pioneers that is hard to replicate and there is a scarcity of such men these days. They are fearless warriors for Christ and were providentially raised up for such a time as then. Their indomitable spirit in preaching Christ and defending the faith, blazed a trail for the next generation of BPC leaders and**

members to follow in their footsteps. Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:15 says, *'Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.'*

The life and ministry of Rev Dr Quek is synonymous with the inception and growth of the BP Movement and the social community work in Singapore to some extent with a distinctive Christian flavour. It belongs to us to not only cherish fond memories of this godly saint but to be more vigilant and fervent for the cause of Christ in an increasingly hostile and compromising ecclesiastical environment in these post-modern perilous days. The inspired words of John in Revelation 14:13 aptly describes and concludes his earthly life as he receives his heavenly commendation and begins eternity with his God in the next world,

*'And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,
Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:
Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours;
and their works do follow them.'*

Jack Sin
January 2015

3 vigil services were held in Zion BP Church (Serangoon) that was attended by more than 2,000 people.



Note the well-marked and studied Chinese Bible of Dr Quek.

MLF meeting
with a video on
Israel led by
Dn Peter Ong.



The MYF meeting
was attended by about
16 people led by
Dn Shaun Ng and
Fong Jing Heng.



The Chinese catechism
class for those preparing
for Easter baptism.



Dn Hong Che Hwee
teaching the Junior
Class with his laptop
videos.



Welcoming our
new friends to the
church by Elder
Daniel Tau.





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ERBL LECTURES (January - May 2015)

Day	Time	Course	Lecturer
Mon	7.30 - 9.30 pm	The OT Historical Books	Rev Charles Seet
Tue	10.00 - 12.00 pm	The Doctrine of the Church	Rev Isaac Ong
Wed	10.00 - 12.00 pm	Daniel	Rev Ho Chee Lai
Thu	10.00 - 12.00 pm	Colossians	Rev Colin Wong
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Equipping Lay Leaders	Rev Dr Jack Sin
Fri	10.00 - 12.00 pm	Westminster Standards	Rev Isaac Ong

Lectures begin on 12 January 2015. The registration forms are in the front of the church for those interested and send it to Life BP Church (10A Gilstead Rd Spore 309064). All are welcome

Thanksgiving to God from UK

Thank you for your article on *Creeds and Confessions* in the January 2015 *Evangelical Times*. Many years back I was challenged by an Elder to memorise the *Shorter Catechism*. It was a struggle, but has proved to be one of the best things I ever did. It continues to bless and help.

With warmest good wishes to you and every blessing on your ministry.

Dr Timothy Cross

Cardiff, Wales, UK

(NB. Dr Timothy Cross is an author of many books and a Pastor in the UK.)

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Theme for the Quarter :

***Biblical Strategies in
Spiritual Battles
(Studies on the Book of Joshua)***

Rev Dr Jack Sin speaks on

Insights from 2 Spies (Joshua 2)

[End of MM]