

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

28 October 2018

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

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

E-mail: maranatha.bpc@pacific.net.sg

Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7.30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415); Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045)

GOD HAS A MISSION FOR YOU

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"
(Psalm 126:5, 6)

Is there a good reason to celebrate Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church 28th Anniversary? 28 years ago God planted a church in the eastern part of Singapore to be a beacon of light. 28 years later God's people continue to shine and reach out to the unreached in this part of Singapore and beyond. As long as the Lord tarries, it is the vision of the church to fulfil the Lord's bidding - to go and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every lost soul and to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Therefore, with this in mind, every Maranathan should not be found idle in the Lord's vineyard. If you are a member of the church, you have a role to play in the Kingdom of God. Have you ever asked God about it – "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) And will you respond, " Here am I; send me?" (Isaiah 6:8)

I would like to share with you about a shepherd boy who once lived, and in him God was to accomplish His plans for his life. His name was Joseph. As early as seventeen, he was actively involved with his brothers in shepherding his father's flocks. One day, he had a dream. In his dream, God revealed His plans to him. None of his family members believed his dream. His parents rebuked him and his brothers hated him so much that they sold him to Egypt to work as a slave (Genesis 37).

But God was with Joseph. Whatever he did, God prospered him. He became the Prime Minister of Egypt (Genesis 39; 41). A famine brought his brothers to Egypt to search for food (Genesis 42). After a period of time, Joseph could not refrain his strong emotions before his brothers, so he told them who he was. Needless to say, they were very afraid, fearing that he would take revenge of them for what they had done to him. Instead, Joseph pleaded with them to come near to him. What a picture of forgiveness and acceptance! Then he said to them,

“Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life” (Genesis 45:7, 8; 50:20; Romans 8:28).

God had a mission for Joseph. Likewise, He has a mission for us. What is that mission? How can we know it? On our part, we are to walk with Him in obedience to His Word, pray and wait on Him. On God’s part, He will direct our paths and reveal to us His next line of action in His appointed time. Obedience is the key to accomplishing His purpose for our lives (Acts 16:6-10).

However, because of our impatience, we tend to become anxious how God would lead us. The road ahead of us is full of uncertainties. We hesitate to move forward. We fear what we do not know. This is a result of lack of faith. We are told that without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Beloved brethren, let us remember that in accomplishing God’s mission, God does not need to show us everything. He decides what and when to show us. We need to trust Him wholly to lead us through moments of darkness in order to accomplish His purpose for our lives (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

Let me illustrate. God willing, a team of ten brethren will be going to Chennai, India on 22-28 November 2018 to teach the Word, conduct Children's Ministry and visit village schools to evangelize the children. We will do our best to prepare ourselves for the mission ahead of us. However, no matter how well our preparation may be, there will be things that come unexpectedly along our way. Perhaps, these will be surprises God sends to mold and shape us to be better servants of the Lord (2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:18).

What then should we do? The answer is to continue to walk with Him in the light of His Word. We must not be detached from Him. He is the Source of our strength (John 15:5). When we keep in communion with him, God will reveal His mind to us (1 Corinthians 2:16), and in His good time, He will bring His plans to pass for us.

How does God accomplish His mission for us? God has given us spiritual gifts, natural talents and abilities to prepare us for our mission on earth (1 Corinthians 12:11). These are to be used to accomplish His mission. God will entrust into our care little things and we are to do them with love, diligence and commitment because we are to give God a good account of what He has entrusted into our care. When we are able to do the little things, He will lead us to do bigger things (Luke 16:10; 19:17).

One of the problems many of us face is the job description. All of us want to do something big for the Lord. But that is not always the case. God knows our ability and capability. Whatever gift(s) He bestows on us is always fitting and it benefits the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7). We may not be the one to preach or lead a prayer session, but we may be responsible for distributing the Weekly to worshippers on the Lord’s Day or for doing something behind the scenes.

The point is that whatever role God assigns to us to do, we must not take it lightly because an account will be required of whatever we do here on earth (Matthew 25:14-30; Colossians 3:24). With that in mind, let us do God's bidding wholeheartedly as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23). Whatever small things God assigns to us is preparing us for something bigger. As the saying goes, "He who is true in a little, is true in much; he who is false in small things, is false in great."

Therefore, no role is too small to accomplish for the Lord. If we fail to do well in that "little" role that God has assigned to us, then we should not expect God to assign to us bigger things. King Solomon reminds us that no matter how small our role is or how people look down upon our role, we must determine to do it with all our heart, mind and strength (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Beloved brethren, God has a mission for you. Do you know what mission He has assigned to you? May I encourage you to seek the Lord's mind for your role in the Kingdom of God in Maranatha and then make every effort to fulfill it till you see Jesus face to face. Amen.

CHRISTIAN, DO YOU LOVE ME?

Christian, do you love me,
Enough to give of your time and money
Enough to give your energy
To work for me continually?

Christian, do you love me,
More than what this world offers thee
More than money, friends or family
To live a life surrendered to me?
Christian, do you love me?
Then take up your cross and follow me
So that in you others will see
The love of God as was shown to thee.

Christian, do you love me
Enough to tell of Calvary
that while you live, where ere you be
You will be a missionary.

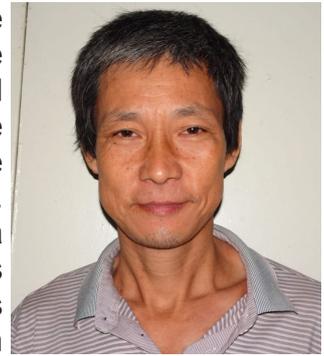
Christian do you love me,
Enough to go across the sea
Leave your friends and family
And make a difference for eternity.

Emily van Rijn
New Zealand

Pastor Colin Wong

Adult Baptism : *Yang Qing Li*

When I came to work in Singapore, my fellow countryman brought me to Maranatha BP Church to worship. It is here that I came to know the Lord. This is the best thing in my life. Before I accepted Christ, I had many bad habits – smoking and drinking; I often quarreled with my wife too. The sharing of God’s words by the Pastor moved my heart. My life underwent regeneration after I accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I confessed with my mouth and believed in my heart that He is a wonderful, true and living God; He is a great God who died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected three days later. His blood cleansed us from our sins and in Him I can have the hope of eternal life. Now, I am a changed man who has given up many bad habits. Thank God!



In the precious name of Christ, my Lord, Amen.

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Adult Baptism : *Lu Zheng Bing*



My name is Lu Zheng Bing. I have been working in Singapore for more than ten years. Long hours of work for years make me feel weak, confused and lost. After I came to worship at Maranatha BP Church a year ago, I began to realise that there is a Saviour and a Lord. I used to be hot – tempered at work and others found that hard to bear. However, I am no longer like that.

I know I am a sinner and it is the blood of Christ that has washed away my sins. 1 John 1:9 of the Bible says ‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’. Thank God for saving me, a sinner. I am willing to accept Jesus Christ as my personal saviour. May the Lord help me to be faithful as I worship and follow Him.

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Adult Baptism : *Seow Xin Yue, Joy*

I was born into a Christian family, unlike many who converted from a non-Christian family. Since young, I was exposed to the gospel and I attended church regularly but was not all that curious about salvation. However, on the Good Friday of 2014, my life was changed as I came to know the Lord.

One of the hymns we sang during worship on that Friday was “At the Cross”. We were singing this hymn and what led me to ask Jesus to enter into my heart were the following lyrics (which I believe everyone is familiar with):



“at the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled away. It was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day!”

What really touched my heart was the song stating that indeed it is “at the cross where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled away” telling me that only Christ Jesus can remove the burden of my heart; and because my spiritually blinded eyes are opened that I could be filled with the real joy that only God can grant to me. Knowing that, I silently prayed in my heart for Jesus to save me from my sins so that I will have everlasting joy, and indeed, that Friday was the most joyful Friday I had in my life.

Of course, all these would not have happened if it was not for the grace of God to save me from my sins and enable me to be in His family. To God be the glory!

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Adult Baptism : *Chua Ang Fatt Ron*

My parents were Taoists. I was brought up as a child following the Lao Zi and Confucius teachings.

When I was in my early teens, the first church I attend Sunday School happens to be a Presbyterian Church - I walk out of the class because I did not like what was preached - very forceful.

During my time in secondary school, I was invited to attend the Youth for Christ session.

As I am also interested in the teachings of other faiths, to understand more what they do, I visited all sorts of temple, Islam house of worship and even a synagogue to understand their teachings and I found out most of the teachings were man trying to meet god or God by their own effort.



Ron Chua and Puay Hong

When I was sent to England to further my studies, I stayed at the Methodist International Hostel for almost 3 years. There I learned the value of the Christ Jesus and the Church.

I sent my children to Calvary Pandan Presbyterian Kindergarten. Attended the Sunday service at the Calvary Pandan BP Church also. It was there I found where I belonged at one of the Sunday service.

Back then, I did not continue to worship the Lord as often because I felt I could pray anywhere and not necessary in the Temple of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Until I was invited to attend Maranatha BP Church Service 2 years back. I found the teachings very different and transparent. I decided to attend the Catechism Class - and here I am today.

Adult Baptism : *Tan Puay Hong*

My earliest memories are of playing in a church compound with other children and listening to Bible stories. Pastor from the church made house calls frequently, visiting my mother and her group of friends at home. Pastor also taught God's Word to them in their dialect. I used to sit next to the group, just listening, not understanding. My mother became Buddhist later, she stopped bringing me to church, she did not bring me to any Buddhist temple either.

I started going to church on my own in my early teens. I joined membership in both Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA). My mother was not happy when she found out I went to church, I stopped going after that but I continued to participate in activities organised by YMCA and YWCA.

In my previous work place, majority of the staff and almost all bosses I worked with are of Christian faith. Each time I changed job, I invariably ended up working amongst people of Christian faith.

My parents were very happy when Ron and I got married because they thought I married into a Buddhist family, not knowing that Ron's maternal aunt, Ron's brother, sisters and cousins are Catholics.

It is God's Grace that I was not abandoned because Lord Jesus remembers the little girl who attended Sunday school and playing in His House, brought there by her mother, many years ago. (Romans 8:30)

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Transfer of Membership : *Seow Zhi Fa and Chen Li Fang*

How I Came to Serve in MBPC (Lamentations 3: 22-26)



Greetings in the Name of our Blessed Lord!

it is already 28th Anniversary of the Sunday Morning Combined Service in Oct. It gave us an opportunity to reflect on God's faithfulness and goodness and to pray for us on membership here in Maranatha BP Church.

As we were married to in July 2002 in a church wedding. Our first child Joy was born in June 2003. She is indeed a joy to our families. My husband and I thank God for the privilege to serve God together in a Chinese Church along Yio Chu Kang Road. We served as translators in the Mandarin Ministry. She translated from Cantonese to Mandarin and I from English to Mandarin.

Our second child Melody was born in 2005. We dedicated Joy and Melody to God. Our prayer was that they would grow up to serve the Lord. It was tough then for us to travel to church

because the children were still very young. However, we persevered. We often travelled to attend Christian seminars conducted by Rev (Dr) Stephen Tong. We would participate his Gospel Rally to serve as ushers and even joined the choir in 2010 and 2015. We would invite Chinese migrant workers to attend the Gospel Rally and many of them would come to worship with us.

In 2011, due to unforeseen circumstances, Li Fang decided to look for a church which is nearby our place. By the higher hand of God, we found Maranatha BP Church and since then, my family has been worshipping here.

We began to invite young factory workers to have Bible study on Saturday evening. Subsequently, construction workers were also invited by our factory Christian brethren to join the Bible study in their worker's dormitory. The average attendance increased from 10 to about 20. One of the faithful brothers invited was Barnabas Song who later became a preacher of the Word.

As the number began to grow, the leadership of the church decided to start an evening service on Sunday to cater to the needs of the migrant workers. By God's grace, Lifang and I have been in this ministry since its inception seven years ago. For Zhi Fa continued to serve as a driver bringing workers from different dormitories to attend the morning and evening service. Five years ago, a morning service was started to cater to the need of the Chinese workers and permanent residents at the "Noah Ark."

The Lord blessed us with our third child Serene in 2013. Her birth was difficult because of Li Fang's age and her uterine neoplasm problem. But God was good, He provided an elderly Christian lady doctor through my Chinese pastor to help her to overcome her fear. Most of her visits to the private hospital bills were free.

When Serene was about three years old, she went to the Child Care Centre. Li Fang had to take on two part-time jobs in order to get a subsidy for Serene. Though it had been tough-going even though with our thrifty living, yet the Lord had not failed to provide for us.

We would like to thank God for the following faithful co-workers - Dn Royce Yeo who help in the evening bible study for the Chinese workers, Dn Hong Che Hwee who drives the people to the Sunday School, brothers Andrew Lai, Zhu Man Xin, Tianqi Chen, the teens and youth who are willing to play the piano and Joy who plays violin in the Chinese ministry during this period where there is shortage of musicians.

There are also many others who help and support God's work behind the scene like brothers Ng Thiam Koon, Chai Chew and sisters Pancy Siam, Hazel Hong, Chiang Mui Leng, Amy Tau, Lily Oh, Lin Guo Ying, Li Fang and Yeo Choon Pio and others who I might not be able to remember their names. They help to prepare food and drinks and bulletin for the worshippers. Do remember them in fervent prayers.

Finally, we would like to encourage every church member to serve in the Lord's vineyard (English or Chinese), for God's Word says, "*...be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding*

in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

"Only one life till soon be past, but ONLY what's done for Christ twill LAST" (C.T. Studd).

Last but not least, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, and also as reminder to all of us as it is written, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." (Zachariah 4: 6). Amen.

May God continue to use Maranatha BPC to be God's beacon of light & salt in this part of our country till Christ returns or we see Him face to face one day in heaven. Amen!

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Theme for the Quarter :

**LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE WORLD
(The Study of the Epistle of James)**

**MBPC 28th Thanksgiving Baptismal Anniversary
Combined Worship Service :**

Rev Colin Wong
speaks on

We Need To Hold Each Other Up In Prayer

(Scripture Text : Exodus 17:8-16; Responsive Reading : Psalm 100)

Interpreter : Bro Bertrand Lam

[End of MM]