

Bethesda Newsletter

JUL | AUG
2013

www.bethesdahall.com



Editorial Committee

William Koh (Editor)
Chow Chiew Gee
Rachel Tan
Tan Hin Oon
Tay Siew Lian
Peter Wong
Sonia Khoo
Tan Hui Qian

Advisor

Tan Jing Poi

Printed by

NPE Print
Communications Pte Ltd

Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio)

No. 601 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4

Singapore 569898

Tel: +65-6458-7474

Fax: +65-6456-6771

Email: bethesdahall@gmail.com

Bethesda Hall (Depot Walk)

10 Depot Walk

Singapore 109590

Tel: +65-6276-2484

Fax: +65-6276-2483

E D I T O R I A L

{ William Koh // williambizlk@gmail.com }

In the May/June issue of the newsletter, we focused on missions and evangelism, hoping to heighten our readers' awareness of the need to bring people to Christ. In this issue, the thread that ties all the articles together seems to be **Answering the call of God**.

In his *Deacons' Devotional* piece, Keith Wan talks about the call of God and how he responded unhesitatingly to serve among the saints in the Cantonese Assembly. In the process, not only was he a blessing to these saints, he was also blessed. Blessed because he has an opportunity to serve the Lord; and blessed because he gets to see new saints being added to the Cantonese Assembly. The Bohol Mission Trip report details how a group of believers from our assembly answered the call of God by making their annual trip to Bohol to reach out to non-believers through games, Bible study and special children's programmes. The trip also gave them the opportunity to provide warm fellowship to members of the Hwang family who have been serving the Lord in Bohol.

In our regular *Getting to Know* column, among other things, Linus Tan shares with us some personal details in his life, including how he

answered the call of God to serve as a deacon in the assembly. As he is also heavily involved in the young adults ministry, Linus has provided some good advice for young brothers and sisters who wish to serve the Lord.

Sim Mee Foong's report on the Sangkhim Canaan School traces the calling of God to start the school in Cambodia as an evangelical outreach to the children and community there. It provides a glimpse into the many challenges that the executive committee of the school faced and how the Lord helped them to overcome these challenges. This may be a young school (it will turn four this coming November), but it has big dreams. It aims to provide generations of young Cambodians with years of good education based on strong Christian values.

Also in this issue, we launched a new column entitled *Chats with our Children*, a column set up to widen our readership and give a voice to our young ones in our Junior Sunday School. This initiative, too, is a response to the call of God. Please go to pages 12-14 to read more about this column. You can expect regular instalments of this column for the next two years (at least!), as

we hope to chat with our children in AMK and DW kindergartens as well.

The Group D report by Tan Chee Hwee details the continuing effort by our assembly's Care, Concern and Communication (CCC) initiative in reaching out to our members. The first meeting for the D-group, for those aged 46-59, took place at Hotel Re, on 1 May 2013. Plans were laid out to cater to the various needs of group members, some of which have already begun to bear fruit. For instance, since that meeting, those in the activity interest group have already organised brisk walking sessions for members of this sub-group.

Finally, Susan Chan's excellent poem reminds us to get our priorities right, *not* to be distracted by all the attractions of this world but be firmly fixed on doing what God wants us to do.

As always, we hope that you will be blessed by the reading of these articles. We want to thank all our contributors to this issue, and Constance Chong, our designer, for doing the layout design. And, as always, we welcome your views on how the newsletter could be improved.

PRIORITIES

*I know that sometimes my priorities are not right –
I get distracted by the world's bright dazzling lights,
And then start dreaming of the great things I might do,*

Instead of living my life pleasing You.

*Lord, I'm sorry for my doubts and fears,
For moving away when You're always near.*

I need to retreat for a while, so my heart can be still,

And hear Your Word, do Your will.

So help me turn my face,

Regard my Saviour's grace.

Help me look above and behold Your great love,

So that the things of this earth may slowly fade away –

Help me live for You each day.

Why do I fret about what tomorrow may bring?

When I know You care, You know everything.

And whatever comes, whatever may be,

I know Your plans are the best for me!

~~~~~  
Susan Chan

# GETTING <sup>to</sup> KNOW LINUS TAN AND FAMILY

{ Linus Tan // linustanrenhao@gmail.com }

## 1. Tell us something about yourself and your family.

I am 27 and a physiotherapist at the Singapore General Hospital. I am married to Koh See Leng Hope, who is an assistant psychologist. My parents are Tan Chee Hwee and Amy Tan and my brothers are Lucas and Lucius.

## 2. How did you come to know the Lord?

It is hard to pinpoint an exact date or a particular event that led to my acceptance of the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. Although I usually tell people that I prayed the “sinner’s prayer” when I was 9, I continued to have a deep innate fear that I was not really saved. I felt compelled to say the sinner’s prayer repeatedly, just like how my namesake treats his security blanket in the *Peanuts* comic strip.

I knew that whether I went to hell or heaven would depend on my head and my heart. I was afraid my salvation could just be head knowledge and I would lack heart knowledge.

It wasn’t until a particular youth camp I attended, when I was in Secondary 4, that what the Lord Jesus did for me on the cross

and what He required of me really struck me. We sang “*It is a thing most wonderful*” and the lyrics brought home precious messages of what the Lord has done, what He had to go through for me and how my love for Him paled in comparison. I had to ask Him to light the flame within my heart and pray that I would love Him more each day.

## 3. How did you come to join our assembly?

I grew up in this assembly and Bethesda AMK is the only church that I’ve known all my life.

## 4. What areas do you serve in?

I am a deacon and am also involved in the children’s work and the young adults ministry.

## 5. How did the Lord call you to serve in the diaconate?

It was a difficult decision. I wasn’t sure whether I was capable of being a deacon or had the requisite qualities to be one. Fundamentally, as I was already serving God in other areas, I was uncertain whether God wanted me to switch my focus to another aspect of His ministry.

Subsequently, I started reading Ravi Zacharias’ biography, *Walking from east to west: God in the Shadows*, in which he described his experience when he was asked to serve in a particular ministry in the church and he was faced with the uncertainty of whether that was God’s calling. However, the elder who approached him had these words of wisdom for him: “*the Church’s call is the Lord’s call*”.

Although Zacharias’ dilemma and experience involved a different ministry from my proposed service in the diaconate, this phrase reassured me as I was certain that it was, and still is, God’s will for me to serve in this particular area. My insecurities and weaknesses were exactly what God required of me because it is only with my weaknesses that I am made strong in the Lord.

## 6. What are the challenges of your role as elder/deacon?

Making sure that my life is an example and a testimony is certainly the hardest. Another challenge is making sure that my motives are right, i.e. when I serve in any particular ministry, I am doing it for the Lord and not for myself.



From L-R: Linus, with his wife Hope, mum (Amy) and dad (Chee Hwee)

## 7. What message do you have for younger brothers to encourage them to serve?

I believe that those who are more gifted should have more responsibilities. God has given all of us different gifts and abilities that we ought to use for His sake.

He gave up His only Son to redeem us – isn’t our wholehearted service to God the least we can do?

Being adequately prepared is important and we start our preparation by reading the Bible. However, we should also read widely to understand different cultures, worldviews, religions and lifestyles. It is also essential to ensure that we are in constant communion with the Master, as this will not only mould us to be more like Him but also allow Him to show us where we are needed most in His service.

## 8. What would you liken a Christian walk to?

I liken a Christian walk to a roller coaster. It is completely dark and you have no idea where you are going or what lies ahead. It certainly requires one to take a huge leap of faith.

The Christian walk will not always be bright and cheery and filled with rainbows and sunshine. There will be ups and downs in our Christian walk. However, the most encouraging assurance is that when life hits rock bottom, it will eventually go back up. And the best part is that the Lord Jesus Himself is always there, next to you, to remind you not to be afraid because He is there with you.

## 9. What is your favourite bible verse (or hymn, or chorus) and why?

Currently, my favourite bible passage is *John 6:66-69*. Jesus

fed 5000 people with just five loaves and two fishes and, in the process, gained many followers. However, when He spoke about the sacrifices one would have to make in order to follow Him, many followers left Jesus. Only 12 remained and Jesus asked them whether they wanted to leave too.

I constantly ask myself this mind-boggling question: *Would I leave Jesus or would I stick by Him regardless of the challenges, difficulties and the trials?*

At *John 6:68-69*, Peter gave us the reason for following Jesus. He said that there is no one else, other than Jesus, who has the words of life. *Do I need anyone else? Is Jesus sufficient for me?*

He is the only one that loved me even though I was His enemy, and He loved me enough to die for me even though I was absolutely unworthy of His love. Jesus is indeed all that we need.

## 10. If you could share a meal with a biblical character, who would that be? Why?

It would be interesting to feast at the King’s Table in Solomon’s opulent temple and dine with the wisest man who ever walked on the earth. It would certainly be very enlightening to talk to this very astute gentleman!

## Deacons' Devotionals

### REFLECTIONS

+ ON +

## THE CANTONESE ASSEMBLY WORK

{ Keith Wan // keithwan2000@gmail.com }

In 2011, one of the elders in our Cantonese Assembly approached me to help, as they lacked enough brothers to lead in their worship meetings. Because there were few others with the language ability, I agreed to help almost immediately, even though I had doubts about how useful I would be.

The Cantonese Assembly comprises mainly elderly saints. There is a shortage of brothers to lead in the worship meeting. As a result, I am responsible for opening in prayer, choosing the hymns, Bible reading, and giving thanks for both the bread and the cup. Although there are a few invited speakers who give the Lord's Day message, occasionally they may not be available. As such, I have to be prepared and be "on standby" to share a message too.

When I think back about how I decided to commit to serve in the Cantonese ministry, I remember that I did pray about it, but not really for long. Neither could I find any specific Bible verses to support my decision. I just spoke to the Lord, asking Him to take my service if it could be used for Him. I recalled a passage from Matthew 21 when the Lord sent two disciples to bring Him an ass

and a colt from the next village<sup>1</sup>. In Matthew 21:3, the Lord said: "If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them [the ass and the colt], and he will send them right away." That man didn't ask for any details or for any proof. I think that man was simply amazed and full of joy that the Lord asked to use what he had.

This is in contrast to the servant who was unwilling to let his master profit, in Luke 19. "And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin."<sup>2</sup> The Lord's reply was "... thou wicked servant ...".<sup>3</sup>

At the end of a holiday in a foreign country, many of us will try to spend all the foreign currency we have, rather than change it back into our local currency, and so lose on the exchange. In Luke 16:1-9 the Lord teaches us to "make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."<sup>4</sup> Besides mammon (money), how about our time and our talents? All these will also fail one day. What shall we say then, if we have kept all these things instead of using them before they lose their usefulness?

I have no regrets in agreeing to help in this ministry. I have found much joy serving these elderly, faithful saints. Despite the challenges posed by their age, they willingly make the long journey from their homes to Bethesda Hall every Lord's Day, rain or shine. You will see their faces full of joy when they come for the meeting. They will greet one another with "Peace in Christ (主内平安)" when they see each other. If you ask them, "How are you?", they will reply with a thankful heart that attending the meeting is a blessing.

Indeed, by God's grace, there were three newly baptised believers added to the Cantonese Assembly recently. Let us continue to pray and look to the Lord to use this Cantonese ministry to reach out to the Cantonese-speaking people around us who are still lost.

The Lord Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."<sup>5</sup> We have to treasure every opportunity when we can still be useful to our Lord. I thank God that I am given the opportunity to serve among the Cantonese saints, though I may not see the fruit of my service easily.



*He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.*<sup>6</sup>

[Editor's Note: The Cantonese group meets every Lord's Day afternoon from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm for the breaking of bread service and Lord's Day message in the Main Hall of Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio).]

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 21:1-3

<sup>2</sup> Luke 19:20

<sup>3</sup> Luke 19:22

<sup>4</sup> Luke 16:9

<sup>5</sup> John 9:4

<sup>6</sup> Ecclesiastes 11:4-6



## CCC (D-GROUP)

1 May 2013

# FIRST GATHERING

{ Tan Chee Hwee // hweecheetan@gmail.com }

### Introduction

*The Care, Concern and Communication Initiative was first mooted in October 2011 during the Elders' and Deacons' Retreat to improve the level of care, concern and communication within the assembly in order to meet the needs of assembly members. The D-Group gathering, whose theme was "Moving Forward", was cheekily nicknamed "D Event of the Year". Our objective was to offer an opportunity for those in age group "D" (46-59 years) to come together to discuss where and how the assembly should move.*

### Background

The D-Group Committee comprising Eric Choa, Adrin Loi, Daniel Thein, Tan Chee Hwee (Chair), William Chew, Jeffrey Jee, Kan Shik Lum, Daniel Skelton and Tay Kim Swee had our first meeting in May 2012 and spent the next few months identifying persons in this age group that we could care for.

The Committee prioritised their efforts by seeking out first and foremost those who have been missing from our assembly; then secondly, those who have been irregular at our meetings; and thirdly, those who are regular at Sunday's Breaking of Bread meetings but not involved in any other activity. Reaching out to

some of these members was disheartening. However, we persisted where we thought there was still hope of a breakthrough. Praise the Lord: we are now seeing some of them regularly attending the CEP after the worship meeting.

Following the May 2012 meeting, we divided the 312 D-Group members into four groups. At least two committee members will touch base with members from one of the groups. As there are nine committee members for four groups, every member in D-Group will be contacted by at least one committee member and

not be neglected. Each group has an average of 80 members. Three groups are in BAMK and one group is in BDW. In February 2013, the committee met for the next phase of action to meet the needs of the 312 members who are actively engaged in our assembly meetings and ministries. We prayed and felt that there was a need to gather the members together. But the question was: "How?"

### 18 March 2013 Moving Forward Gathering

On 18th March 2013, a meeting was convened with some D-Group members to discuss what we would like to see take place at the

gathering. Brothers Boon Chuan Jian, Cedric Tan and Steve Chia, and sisters, Doris Chang and Yim Siew Mei, came on board to help. All of us agreed that we should gather our members together for a discussion and discovery of the needs of assembly members in group D. So a date was set and a venue suggested. Various suggestions on how we could foster closer fellowship were made. These included "polarisation" and bringing members of similar areas or fields of interest together. We broadly categorised these as *Activities Field*, *Needs Field* and *Spiritual Field*. More meetings were held for the planning and execution of this gathering.

### The Gathering Proper

On 1 May 2013, a high tea was held at Hotel Re from 2.30 to 6.30 pm. The purpose of the gathering was to offer a relaxed atmosphere for members to come together for the first time. An Ice Breaker game, conducted by William Chew, kick-started the gathering.

The second part of our programme was a time of fellowship led by brother Boon Chuan Jian. Many said that they enjoyed this



segment as they had the opportunity to meet with very interesting members whom they had not heard from or spoken to for some time. Besides this heart-to-heart session, we enjoyed the sumptuous high tea, partly sponsored by an anonymous member of the assembly.

The last segment was the "Polarisation" session, where members were asked to mingle and move around the various "Field" tables. We recognised that this segment might not adequately cover the interests and needs of all present. However, we had hoped

that it could at least cover some common areas of interest, and that we could obtain feedback for other "fields" to be included in future gatherings.

Most members went to the *Activities Field* tables where they were grouped according to specific interests such as health concerns, sport activities, and travelling and relaxation. The sessions were constructive. At least two groups indicated interest in organising brisk walking sessions at various parks and recreational venues. Another group was heard planning





bible land tours to Greece. A smaller number went to the *Needs Field* table. This group discussed needs that they perceived as unmet in the assembly. Some of these needs were, for example, the lack of hospital and home visitations, and practical fellowship with those in financial hardships or with physical ailments. Many offered suggestions but few were willing to take the lead to execute them. All present recognised the challenges. We would do well to look to the Lord to raise His “Moseses” to deliver the suppressed and His “Joshuas” to lead His people into the Promised Land. There was also a call to organise talks for the young as well as the mature ones. Another member raised the issues of elder care, family relationships

and the cost of living. All these are real and pressing issues. Where then does our help come from? The Psalmist has this comfort: *My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth* (Ps 121:1-2). Do pray for the Lord to exercise the hearts of members to be His servants in these areas and help meet the needs of our members.

The last field, the *Spiritual Field*, had an even smaller number of members showing interest. Fewer than ten members shared on their regular prayer and bible study group meetings. One member lamented that there was not much of a “discipling” culture between the more mature Christians and the younger ones. Some in this small group were ready to initiate prayer and bible study groups.

Another suggested that more could be done to encourage assembly members to be more evangelistic in their lifestyle.

#### Summary of Suggestions

- » More time for fellowship and sharing
- » Creation of a contact list for interest groups, for example, setting up a “What’s App” group
- » More of such gatherings with greater focus on addressing concerns
- » Singing and outdoor activities like picnics.

#### Conclusion

In summary, the gathering went well and useful feedback was obtained. However, it was sad that so few of the Lord’s people were inclined towards service and spiritual exercise. On a personal note, I was mentally prepared by the Lord on the morning of the gathering. During a brisk walk along the MacRitchie Board Walk Trail, there were three signs that caught my attention. The first, “Radiating Grace”, sat next to some ferns. The second, “Blemished Bark”, was next to a tree. The last sign was the one that inspired me most. Standing next to a tiny plant, it read “Tiny but Important”. Just like Paul’s advice to young Timothy in 2 Tim 2:3, we suffer hardship, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. We must endure so that we will live with Him and reign with Him. *If we deny Him, He also will deny us* (2 Tim 2:11-12).

Do look out for our next D-Group activity!

If you have suggestions on how we could better serve one another’s needs in the assembly, please feel free to approach me.



# CHATS WITH OUR CHILDREN

{Rachel Tan // mrsbfung.edits@gmail.com}  
 {Tan Hui Qian // tanhuiqian@gmail.com}

{Allison, Benjamin, Gabriel, Jing Tong, Luke, Rayna, and Timothy from the Primary 2 class of the Ang Mo Kio Junior Sunday School. We would like to acknowledge the sisters, Koh Mei Ling, Amy Kui, Mary Law, and Tay Lei Shan, who devote much time and energy to teaching these young ones.}

We started this column to hear from the younger ones in our assembly and reach out to them, their parents, and their relatives. The idea began with Rachel's nephew. When he was a tot, he returned from Sunday School and said that he did not want to believe in Jesus. When asked "why?", he mournfully replied that his Sunday School teacher had said: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will [be] eaten alive". Clearly mortality was easier to grasp than immortality. (The teacher had actually said: "you will have eternal life")

## THE COLUMN'S CONCEPTION

So we sat down and chatted with our children during their Sunday School time. Both of us were very impressed at how sound their Bible knowledge was, and how forthcoming they were in sharing their thoughts. In this issue, we feature our Primary 2 children, fresh from their lesson on how Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Please do give us your feedback so that we can improve on the column!



### How do you pray?



*This is how I pray*

BENJAMIN  
 "It depends"

JING TONG  
 "I pray by myself"

GABRIEL  
 "I have a praying book with my mother"

RAYNA  
 "On the bed"

LUKE  
 "With Mommy"



*Copycats*

### Do you tell your friends about Jesus?

LUKE

"I try, but they keep running away!"



"All our friends are Christians, because we go to a Christian school. So we don't have to tell them"

ALLISON  
 & RAYNA

# CLASSROOM CONVERSATIONS

The children give us their insights into their most recent bible lesson—Jesus washes the disciples' feet

"Dust got in their sandals, which were hard and uncomfortable."

*Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?*

*How did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?*

"He used a basin, rag, and towel"

"He didn't use soap because it would have been too slippery after that."

"Soap hadn't been invented yet."

*Why didn't the disciples wash Jesus' feet instead?*

"No one wanted to act like a servant."

"The disciples were too proud. So Jesus wanted to show love and goodness and how to be humble"

## What were the sandals made of?

maybe some RUBBER

by JING TONG

PLASTIC

by GABRIEL

by ALLISON

WOOD

Only the Finest  
Jerusalem Sandal Shoppe

by LUKE

by BENJAMIN

WOOD & PLASTIC

by TIMOTHY

PLASTIC, but SOFT PLASTIC,

not **HARD.**

Like a MINERAL WATER BOTTLE

but **THICKER.**

by RAYNA

# BOHOL TRIP 2013

{ Lydia Choa // lydia.choa@gmail.com }



From left Francis, Steve, Amos, Gabriel, Jeremy, Xin An, Ren An, Andrew, Jonathan, Theodore, Robyn, Lydia, Dawn

### Trip report by team member, Lydia Choa

Our 13-member team from Singapore was in Bohol, Philippines from 21 to 30 May 2013 to co-labour with missionary Hwang Soo Young and his family. This was the third mission trip and the second Tchoukball Camp in the Philippines, coordinated by Andrew Sng and Francis Chia. The mission's theme this year was "Be Ready", in anticipation of the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bohol Mission 2013 had 3 objectives – to **encourage** the Hwang family by partnering them in their outreach efforts, to **evangelise** in different villages and through the Tchoukball Camp, and to **expose** Bethesda's youth to mission work. To fulfil these objectives, the schedule was packed with speaking engagements, Bible studies, children's programmes and workshops, and the concluding 3-day Tchoukball Camp.

Harry Tan was in Bohol for four days as the speaker for a Bible Conference at Tagbilaran Christian Church (TCC), where saints from Dumaguete also attended. Brother Harry spoke from 2 Peter about the end times and stressed the urgency to be ready for Christ's second coming. Through the messages, many local saints were gripped by the reality of false teachers and those who questioned the word of God. According to one sister from Dumaguete, the Bible Conference "encouraged her to get ready, to trust Him, to be faithful in Him." She also learnt that we must help and encourage one another to share the Gospel to unsaved people around us. For her, knowing God was the "greatest thing that we can do to lay a good foundation for our lives." It was amazing to see the power of God changing lives for Him.



Daily morning devotion before the start of the day

Practising what was being preached at the Bible Conference, the mission team and saints from Tagbilaran and Dumaguete went to various villages to conduct evangelistic bible studies and children's programmes. We even travelled to Cabilao Island, two-and-a-half hours away by boat, to conduct these programmes and to give a gospel message. While bringing spiritual nourishment to the villagers, we did not neglect their physical needs; food was provided as many impoverished people lived in these areas. We pray that the villagers will embrace God's saving grace, ultimately giving them a hope that does not disappoint (Romans 5:2-5).

The main evangelistic event of Bohol Mission 2013 was the 3-day Tchoukball Camp organised for the students at Bohol High. The camp was managed by Gabriel Fong, Depot Walk's Tchoukball team coach. About 80 participants attended the camp. Each day's training was preceded by an evangelistic devotion. God was evidently at work in the camp as two



Game demonstration during the Children's Programme



Harry Tan helping to conduct a baptism service

students prayed to accept Christ. The Lord kept the team's spirits up throughout the camp even though many fell sick. The participants enjoyed themselves thoroughly, especially during the Mini Tchoukball League which concluded the camp. After each day's training, activities such as a movie screening and a song night were held to promote interaction between the students and believers from TCC and our team.

Through the course of Bohol Mission 2013, friendships were formed and renewed with the Hwang family. The Hwangs and the team stayed together, had morning devotions together, and also had a night out for dinner. These moments helped to refresh and strengthen the team and the Hwang family in the Lord. Bidding farewell was not easy: tears and hugs accompanied the emotional goodbyes. Despite the geographical distance between the team and the Hwang family, prayer and Skype continue to keep the relationship strong, even as we anticipate Bohol Mission 2014.



The Hwang Family (from left Heidi, Sally, Enoch, Sung Hea, Soo Young)

#### Reflections from Andrew Sng, team coordinator

*"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." – Proverbs 27:17*

Bohol Mission 2013 reminded me that true fellowship will inevitably have the element of "sharpening one another".

Brother Harry's passionate sharing from 2 Peter helped to give a deeper understanding of the Christian's perspective and responsibility towards Christ's imminent return. The Spirit-filled messages helped to sharpen our focus, and melt our indifferent attitude towards Christ's imminent return.

The devotional sharing and workshops on Christian living helped us understand that in the face of troubles and temptations, we can have victory when we consistently walk intimately with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is the Mighty Conqueror over Satan, sin and death. These sessions sharpened our resolve to walk in the light.

The multiple gospel presentations through bible studies, children's programmes and before every Tchoukball training helped to foster fellowship between the brethren from Tagbilaran Christian

Church, Dumaguete and the team from Singapore as we worked in unison to reach the lost for Christ.

Partnership founded on the Gospel brings greater strength, encouragement and courage in reaching those that are living in bondage and spiritual darkness. The close partnership helped the participants both from Singapore and the Philippines to sharpen their spiritual gifts and talents that the Lord has bestowed on His beloved.

#### Reflections from Lim Sung Hea (wife of Hwang Soo Young)

*"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." – Proverbs 25:25*

I really thank God!

The Singaporean brothers and sisters may think that they are just having a mission camp in Bohol but it really means more than that to us. God's Word from a distant country is indeed like cold water to our thirsty soul!

We followed a very tight schedule and I believe that everybody was really tired, but they did so well.

I especially thank God for Harry Tan's messages, which awakened us to be ready for the second coming of our Lord. Many of our brothers and sisters confessed that they were sleeping, but they have started to fix their minds again on Jesus Christ.

*"And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:19)*

God's Word is very powerful, and is more than enough to change lives. One thing I am very sure of is that your work will not vanish in this world. The gospel you shared with many people, especially the high school students, will remain as a seed in the Philippines, and someday we will see its fruit. I feel that we have so many co-workers for the work in the Philippines because the team from Singapore came. It is not just work, but it is touching people's

minds and lives with His Word through our love. We are so encouraged!

The Singapore brothers and sisters were mostly young, but we could see in their hearts that they were trying to love God more and follow His instructions. This challenged our youth - and me.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Andrew, Francis, Cedric and Steve for all the arrangements they made for this mission.

The daily morning devotion was a wonderful touch. We are different people, with different minds and from different nationalities, but we were one in sharing His Word, and in our focus on Him. This brought tears to my eyes and joy to my heart.

Please pray for all who heard the gospel at the Tchoukball camp and the gospel meetings. Thank you so much for praying for us and working with us for His glory.



*Tchoukball Sports Camp 2013*

# ◆ SANGKHM CANAAN SCHOOL'S ◆

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF ITS NEW SCHOOL CAMPUS

{ *Sim Mee Foong // meefoongsim@gmail.com* }

31 May 2013 was a milestone for Sangkhim Canaan School. It marked the official opening of the school campus.

I had the privilege of attending the celebration ceremony. As we reached the place, I felt very thankful to the Lord for His provision of the school campus. We had come a long way – from the day in November 2008 when the Exco members of this project went to Phnom Penh in search of a suitable site for the school, to the day when the campus was officially declared open. On 1 June 2009, the school started with 15 students in a rented place. Today we have 155 students in our own premises, to which we moved on 12 September 2011.

The ceremony, done in an elaborate Cambodian style, was attended by some 400 students, parents and senior officials from both the Cambodian Government office and our Singapore Embassy.

As guests streamed in, they were heartened to watch a video presentation, "The Journey of the Sangkhim Canaan School". Parents were busy snapping photographs of their children performing before the guests, with much delight. The highlight of the ceremony was the ribbon-cutting segment by the Provincial Deputy Governor, His Excellency Cheng Ngan, the Deputy Chief of Mission Singapore Embassy, Edgar Pang, and Tan Kian Huat, Chairman of Sangkhim Canaan School Exco.

In his speech, Kian Huat referred to God's goodness and the long journey of faith. He thanked all who had helped the school overcome its many obstacles. The biggest obstacle was corruption. Many officials had asked for money in return for approval to our plans. As Christians and educators, we could not agree to the giving of bribes because this is wrong and we want to set a good example for our staff and students by refusing to offer bribes.



Here is an excerpt from Kian Huat's speech:

*"When we first came to Kampong Chnnang, we were led to buy five vacated buildings on a piece of land formerly called Infantile School, a Buddhist School with a hostel and a hospital. After many months of negotiation, we decided in April 2008 to buy the land. Our lawyer, Benson Samay, however, advised us that it was illegal to buy this piece of property and the purchase was thus aborted. He told us that the seller offered him a bribe if the deal was done.*

*In September 2008 we decided to rent a place to start the school. We renovated the place and employed the staff. We were ready in January 2009 but we could not obtain a permit to start classes. The reason was that we had to offer bribes in order to get the school registered. We waited and prayed. We continued to pay rent, salary and utility bills for 6 to 10 months.*

*Through some friends, we were introduced to Noy Shoung, Deputy Secretary General at National ICT Development Authority. He spoke to the HE Im Sethy, Minister of Education to support our application. With their support and encouragement, we were able to obtain the registration certificate in June 2009 and enrolled the first batch of 15 students in Kindergarten 1. The students spent only 5 months in K1 and were promoted to K2.*

*In August 2008, the Exco purchased a 5.2 hectare plot. Again we encountered many difficulties with dishonest officials. Wrong information was given in the title deeds and the GPS data. When we started*



*Children's performance*

*construction, more problems showed up as our neighbours disputed the position of the boundary walls of the school. We found out that the GPS data given to us by the officials was wrong. Along every step we had to deal with officials asking for money. Our policy of Doing the Right Thing with NO Bribery stayed.*

*By God's arrangement, in January 2010, I met HE Senator Chhit Yeat Kim at Singapore Changi Airport. I was coming to Cambodia and he was on his way to Australia. We became good friends. He introduced us to HE Am Chhun Lim, Senior Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning & Construction. In February 2010, Am Chhun Lim wrote a letter to support the construction. With his letter we were able to get the approval for the construction plan."*

It was an amazing journey with God's help at every turn. The journey was possible only because our mighty God had worked in marvellous ways among His people. Kian Huat had met strangers and friends at God's timing. The Lord had linked us with the Cambodian Minister of Education and the Senior Minister of National Development. Through their support we were able to get approval to commence construction and start the school. The community noted the testimony of the school and was amazed

to see that it operated without having to offer any bribes.

On our flight to Phnom Penh, we met a Singaporean lady who operated two schools (in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh). When she heard about our school, she invited us to visit her schools to observe her school programmes. On his flight, Felix Lim also met a businessman from Penang who showed interest in helping our school.

Kian Huat took the opportunity at the ceremony to emphasize that a nice building would not make a good school but it would be the efforts of dedicated teachers who love their students and instill in them the values of honesty and integrity as well as life-long skills. Our mission should be upheld and it is to provide children from Nursery to Grade 12 a holistic education grounded on Christian values, as reflected in our school's motto: 'Transforming learners to responsible leaders'.

As the guests toured the school, they had only compliments for the school designed by Felix Lim. They were impressed by the building which

reflected Kampong Chnnang's heritage. The classrooms were adorned with beautiful murals done by our young people during their BMET trips and, of course, by the staff of the school.

At the end of the ceremony, everyone was treated to a good spread of refreshment and souvenirs specially brought over from Singapore. Yakun International generously sponsored its famous Yakun Kaya.

I thank God for His faithfulness and the abundant blessings He has bestowed on the school. I thank Him for the assembly's support in prayer, monetary gifts and the various forms of help rendered to the school. Each member in our assembly is an important co-labourer in this ministry of touching the lives of the people in Cambodia.

Indeed, to God be the glory, great things He has done!



*The Deputy Governor cutting the red ribbon*



*Edgar Pang from the Singapore Embassy*



*Hort Hor, School Principal and Youmi, School Supervisor*

Watch the video, "The Journey of Sangkhim Canaan School" from this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nloPHBVu2E>

# Assembly News

## Birth

23/06/13 – God's gift of a baby girl, Jia Xuan (2nd child) to Tay Teng Hwee & Shirley.

## Bereavement

17/06/13 – Kan Shik Lum, Judy, John, Nicola and family on the passing away of Judy's sister.

25/06/13 – Victor Chiam, Sarah and family on the passing away of Victor's grandmother.

## Our New Members

We welcome the following with joy into our fellowship: Frances Lim Chin Pei (12 May 2013) from Cheras Gospel Centre, Malaysia and Linnet Padmini Rachel Bright (26 May 2013) from Bethany Bible Chapel, USA, who desired to be identified with us.

## Wedding

24/05/13 – Wong Yong Jian and Rina Ting.

## Farewell

We bade farewell to:-

1. Philip Williamson, who returned to New Zealand on 27 May 2013.
2. Cynthia Carol Kodimani, who returned to Malaysia at the end of May 2013.
3. Peggy Low, who migrated to US on 11 June 2013.

## 21st – 30th May 2013, Mission Trip to Bohol Island, Philippines, coordinated by Hwang Soo Young



Mission Theme: Be Ready (Luke 12:40)  
Purpose: To equip the saints at Tagbilaran assembly and to share the gospel to the unsaved in the various provinces through evangelistic Bible studies, children's ministry and by conducting a Tchoukball sports camp at a local university.

Participants: Andrew Sng (leader), Francis Chia, Harry Tan, Ho Xin An, Ho Ren An, Theodore Tan, Jeremy Chia, Amos Chew, Gabriel Fong, Jonathan Boon, Dawn Sng, Robyn Tan, Lydia Choa, Cedric Tan & Steve Chia.

## 1st May 2013, CCC (Team D)'s "Moving Forward" Gathering

Venue: Hotel Re  
Objective: To foster greater functional fellowship via a programme of food, fun and fellowship.  
148 attended.

## 1st June 2013

### Extraordinary General Meeting (AMK), 5pm

Chairman: Tan Chee Hwee

Secretary: Tan Jing Poi

To approve the proposed budget and option for BAMK's A & A works.



## 3rd – 5th June 2013, Bethesda (AMK) Kindergarten, Sunshine Day Camp for K2 children

Teacher: Mah Lai Yeng

Theme: Greater is He

Activities: Singing, Bible stories, games, craft, cookery and outing.

An average of 71 children attended the 3 days camp.



## 5th – 7th June 2013, 3-Day Special Ministries by Stephen Yuille, 8pm

Title: "The Blessings of Adoption"

1. Satisfied Aspirations (Rom. 8:18-27)
2. Sanctified Afflictions (Rom. 8:28-30)
3. Silenced Adversaries (Rom. 8:31-39)

Chairmen: Daniel Skelton, William Chew & Edmund Yong

About 120 attended nightly.

## 10th – 15th June 2013, Assembly Bible Camp

Theme: Beyond Belief, Matthew 17:20

Speakers: Stephen Yuille (adult), Chen En Ling (J1), Wesley Ng (J2), Tan Li Sheng (J3), Raymond Chin (Cantonese Speaking)

Workshop leaders: William Koh (adult), Goh Lay Guan (J3), Mervyn Tan (J2).

Venue: Century Pines Resort, Cameron Highlands  
Committee members: Stephen Chang (chairman), Kenneth Khong, Chia Pei Xian, Salome Choa, Tan Wee Siang, Lawrence Tng, Wilson Goh, Sean Koh, Ng Lai Fun, Selene Gan, Chong Lai Wah & Ng Lee Peng.

199 attended.

## 15th June 2013, COPA OAR outing to Pastamania, Nex



18 residents and 6 POAs attended.

## 23rd June 2013, Special COPA Evangelistic Film at BAMK, "Ring the bell"

About 150 attended.

## 29th June 2013, "Mini" YPCC Family Day organised by the BAMK Assembly Youth Committee

Main purpose was for the youth and children to bond with their parents as well as with the YP and CC leaders.

Programs: Relay games and sessional life-skills workshops.

About 80 attended.



Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio & Depot Walk)

## SPEAKERS AND CHAIRMEN LIST JULY - SEPTEMBER 2013

| <i>MORNING MINISTRY</i> |                 |                   | <i>GOSPEL SERVICE</i> |              |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| DATE                    | SPEAKER { AMK } | SPEAKER { DW }    | SPEAKER               | CHAIRMAN     |
| 7 Jul                   | Tan Kian Huat   | Tan Jing Poi      | Joseph Sng            | Bryan Chan   |
| 14 Jul                  | Tan Kian Huat   | Sum Siew Tak      | Andrew Sng            | Francis Chia |
| 21 Jul                  | Sum Siew Tak    | Victor Ng         | Wan Yin Chi           | Kenneth Chua |
| 28 Jul                  | Andrew Kwan     | Andrew Sng        | John Bjorlie          | Amos Chew    |
| 4 Aug                   | Andrew Kwan     | Dennis Loh        | Robert Hmar           | Kelvin Ng    |
| 11 Aug                  | Kan Shik Lum    | Harry Tan         | Joel Boon             | Nicholas Ong |
| 18 Aug                  | Kan Shik Lum    | Harry Tan         | Francis Chia          | Joseph Sng   |
| 25 Aug                  | Victor Ng       | Bernard Fung      | Keith Wan             | Gerald Sim   |
| 1 Sep                   | Wong Tuck Keong | Kenneth Wong      | Ng Kim Khoon          | Edmund Yong  |
| 8 Sep                   | Linus Tan       | Andrew Premsundar | Tan Ah Beng           | Vincent Teo  |
| 15 Sep                  | Daniel Thein    | Tay Kim Swee      | Dave Harvey           | Ho Xin An    |
| 22 Sep                  | Kenneth Wong    | Ho Kuang Cheng    | Felix Lim             | Jesher Loi   |
| 29 Sep                  | Kenneth Wong    | Chan Man Wong     | Ho Xin An             | Sean Gan     |

### *TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING*

| DATE   | BIBLE TEXT   | SPEAKER { AMK } | SPEAKER { DW } |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2 Jul  | Ex 12: 37-42 | Mak Yew Choong  | -              |
| 9 Jul  | Ex 12: 43-51 | Richard Kan     | Wong Tet Keong |
| 16 Jul | Ex 13: 1-10  | Law Gin Lieng   | Ho Xin An      |
| 23 Jul | Ex 13: 11-16 | Jesher Loi      | Wayne Pang     |
| 30 Jul | Ex 13: 17-22 | Vincent Tham    | Daniel Thein   |
| 6 Aug  | Ex 14: 1-9   | Ng Lee Peng     | -              |
| 13 Aug | Ex 14: 10-18 | Linus Tan       | Tan Hin Oon    |
| 20 Aug | Ex 14: 19-31 | Lucas Tan       | Tan Hee Chin   |
| 27 Aug | Ex 15: 1-18  | Lim Heng Thong  | Aaron Wong     |
| 3 Sep  | Ex 15: 9-27  | Kenneth Chua    | -              |
| 10 Sep | Ex 16: 1-12  | Raymond Chan    | Poon Kum Meng  |
| 17 Sep | Ex 16: 13-21 | Matthew Chia    | Sean Gan       |
| 24 Sep | Ex 16: 22-36 | Wesley Ng       | Steve Chia     |