

Jubilee of **God's Faithfulness**
1966 – 2016

Melaka Gospel Chapel



We believe that the Church, which is the body of Christ, consists of all who have been redeemed and reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a universal fellowship in which there is no difference based on race, social standing or sex.

It is visibly expressed in local congregation of Christians (local churches) who meet regularly and relate to one another in a close fellowship.



1960s – Bethany



1970s – Gospel Chapel Malacca



1970s – Renovation



2012 – The church before the latest transformation



2016 – Melaka Gospel Chapel

Contents

7	Foreword
8	Oversight and Ministry Leaders
9	Weekly Church Services
10	Congratulatory Message from the Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia
10	Congratulatory Message from MMS Trust
	Our Foundation
12	Pioneers of the Brethren Church in Melaka <i>by Betty Tan</i>
15	Once Upon a Time <i>by Betty Tan</i>
18	History of the Chapel Renovations
	Our Progress
20	History of the Christian Brethren in Malaysia and Melaka
21	The Founding of Melaka Gospel Chapel <i>by Teo Boon Cheng</i>
25	The Four Founding Elders of Melaka Gospel Chapel <i>by Teo Boon Cheng</i>

27	The Work of the Lord in the 1970s <i>by Josephine Wong</i>
29	Melaka Gospel Chapel from 1965 to 2016

Our Works

58	Melaka Gospel Chapel Sunday School Work
58	Sunday School (1976–2000) <i>by Chen Yoke May</i>
63	Children’s Hour (2006–2015) <i>by Khoo Yu Ming</i>
64	Melaka Gospel Chapel Young People’s Work
70	Youth Work (2005-2012)
71	Teens Club (2013-2016)
76	Appreciating MGC Youths (1989-2012) <i>by Siew Fook Ming</i>
77	The Chapel’s Mission Work

Our Sowers

- 80 Molly Cheah *by Rosalind Oh*
- 82 Mrs Tan Gim Ann—A Life Well-Lived! *by Betty Tan*
- 84 Tan Beng Tee *by Rodney Tan*
- 86 Shirley Yiau *by Chen Yoke May*

Our Partners

- 88 My Journey With Melaka Gospel Chapel
by Koh Gim Lam
- 90 What an Achievement of God's Work!
by Annie Tan
- 91 Great Is Thy Faithfulness! *by Andrew Chua*
- 92 Fond Memories *by Low Chin Siang*
- 93 A Rose in Melaka Gospel Chapel *by Rosy Lee*
- 95 Witnessing the Grace of God in MGC
by Victor Wong
- 97 MGC is Like a Family *by Lim Tse Shaun*
- 98 My Memories of Melaka Gospel Chapel
(1973–1975) *by Betty Tan*
- 100 Reflections (1973–1993) *by Richard Chen*

Reminiscence

- 102 List of Members in Fulltime Ministry
- 103 Newsletters and Bulletins
- 104 Song Books and Hymnals
- 105 Fellowship With Other Assemblies in Malaysia
and Singapore
- 106 Church Camps
- 108 Christmas
- 110 Evangelistic Meetings and Gospel Campaigns
- 111 Baptisms
- 112 MGC Reunions
- 114 Weddings
- 118 Melaka Gospel Chapel's 50th Anniversary
Thoughts
- 121 The Chapel's Challenges, Opportunities and
Strengths *by Rodney Tan*
- 122 From the Klang Valley to Melaka (2010-2015)
by Daniel Wong
- 123 Reminiscence and Reflections
by Tiong Kian Boon
- 125 Melaka Gospel Chapel's Statement of Doctrine
- 125 Acknowledgements

Foreword

Melaka Gospel Chapel celebrates her 50th year with the theme of “Jubilee of God’s Faithfulness” (Psalms 140:5). We have chosen to remember God’s working through the people and events that had occurred in the last 50 years of our existence.

This book hopes to capture some of the major developments and changes in Melaka Gospel Chapel in the last 50 years. It also included contributions by some key members who have gone before us and acknowledging those who are still around.

Melaka Gospel Chapel still holds dear Brethren distinctives such as the autonomy of the local church, plurality of elders and priesthood of all believers. There were some minor changes over the years such as the many separate cups used at the Lord’s Table, led worship on the first Sundays, allowing the sisters to share during the extended worship and the use of musical instruments during worship.

The next 10 years and onwards will definitely be more challenging than the past. We will be faced with leadership succession, migration to bigger towns and the changing social-religious scene in Malaysia. There is also a constant great need to share the gospel to the next generation and to other nations. But we can take heart that He will help us no matter what happens to us:

“With trials we grow stronger in faith. With faith we move closer to God. With God, we can do all things.”

This commemorative book is produced with the hope that all generations especially the younger generation will remember the past, be tireless in the present work and be focused on the future awaiting our Lord’s Return. We hope and pray that they will carry on faithfully as the older ones will eventually pass the torch of the Gospel and the responsibility of shepherding and building up the saints into their hands.

I would like to thank the writers who have contributed their invaluable insights and photos for the book.

Finally, the Word of God has assured that the Lord will continue to journey with us as a Church : “... *He named it Ebenezer, saying, ‘Thus far the LORD has helped us.’*” (1 Samuel 7:12)

RODNEY TAN

Editor–50th Anniversary Commemorative Book Project
cum Coordinator 50th Anniversary Celebrations
January 2016

The Oversight and Ministry Leaders

ELDERS

Elder Rodney Tan
Secretary

Elder Kian Boon
Treasurer

Elder Daniel Wong
Christian Education

CHILDREN'S HOUR

Mrs Chua

Khoo Yu Ming

Quek Kiat Tin

TEENS' CLUB

Elder Rodney Tan

Philip Lim

Esmond Khoo

Lim Tse Hwei

CARE GROUPS

- Group Love
Elder Rodney Tan
Tony Tay
- Group Joy
Elder Tiong Kian Boon
David Lim
- Group Peace
Elder Daniel Wong
Koh Lian Swee
- Group Faith (Young Adults)
Philip Lim
Yam Kah Wei
Esmond Khoo

LADIES' MEETING

Soh Chee Chee

BUILDING MAINTENANCE & UP KEEP

David Lim

Tony Tay

ADDRESS & EMAIL

MELAKA GOSPEL CHAPEL
C1146A Jalan Limbongan
Klebang Kecil
75200 MELAKA

Email: melakagospelchapel@gmail.com

Weekly Church Services

Worship Service

Partial Led and Extended Worship
every first Sunday of the month
(no sermon)

Sunday, 9.30 am

Prayer Meeting

Devotional message bi-monthly

Wednesday, 8.15 pm

Care Groups Meeting

Group Love

led by Rodney Tan and Tony Tay

Group Joy

led by Tiong Kian Boon and David Lim

Group Peace

led by Dr Daniel Wong and Koh Lian Swee

Group Faith

led by Philip Lim, Esmond Khoo and Yam Kah Wei

Friday, 8.15 pm

Teens' Club (TC)

Led by Rodney Tan, Philip Lim,
Esmond Khoo and Lim Tse Hwei

Saturday, 4.00 pm

Children's Hour (CH)

Led by Tiong Kian Boon, Khoo Yu Ming and Kiat Tin

Saturday, 4.00 pm

Ladies' Meeting

Led by Chee Chee

Once a month, Tuesday, 8.00 pm

Congratulatory Message from the Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia

CHRISTIAN BROTHERN SECRETARIAT MALAYSIA

Unit 697-2-2, Desa Kiara Condo, Jalan Damansara, 60000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-7722 3680 Fax: 03-7722 3680
E-Mail: cbsm070@gmail.com



28 December 2015

To the Oversight and the Saints
Melaka Gospel Chapel.

Greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord Jesus.

On this very special occasion of your 50th Anniversary, I wish you all God's abundant blessings. I rejoice with you all as you celebrate 50 years of God's faithful leading and blessed provisions, as you endeavoured to proclaim the Gospel and to build up God's people. During these 50 years, Melaka Gospel Chapel has weathered many storms and emerged victorious in every trial and trouble. The problems and struggles that you encountered have now become blessings and steppingstones. This is all because God's grace is amazing and sufficient. I thank and praise the Lord for you.

Reaching this momentous milestone is an exciting opportunity to reflect on all that has taken place over the years. It is a good time to pause to remember God's goodness by looking at how far He has brought you and be challenged to move forward and to move closer toward God's vision and plan for you. We serve a great and almighty God who is able to turn the goals and visions He gives into fruitful reality for His honour and glory. May you receive a renewed passion from God to pursue the vision that He has entrusted to you. May you continue to love, live for and lift-up our Lord Jesus Christ.

I wish to convey to you, on behalf of the trustees of CBSM, our deep appreciation and gratitude for the contributions of and the role played by Melaka Gospel Chapel in the various activities and projects of CBSM. We are especially thankful for the many years of rich and vital service rendered by brother Rodney Tan, a long-serving trustee of CBSM. Thank you for your active investment in the ministry of CBSM and we look forward to many more years of joyful partnership for the sake of the Gospel.

"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." (Jude 24-25)

In His Service,


Stephen Lew
General Secretary

One Lord One Mission One Heart

Congratulatory Message from MMS Trust

MMS TRUST

Unit 697 2 2, Desa Kiara Condo,
Jalan Damansara, 60000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel & Fax: 03 7722 3680
H/p: 014-338 6141
e-mail: mmstrust1@gmail.com

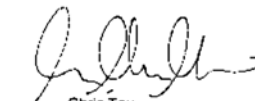
13 January 2016

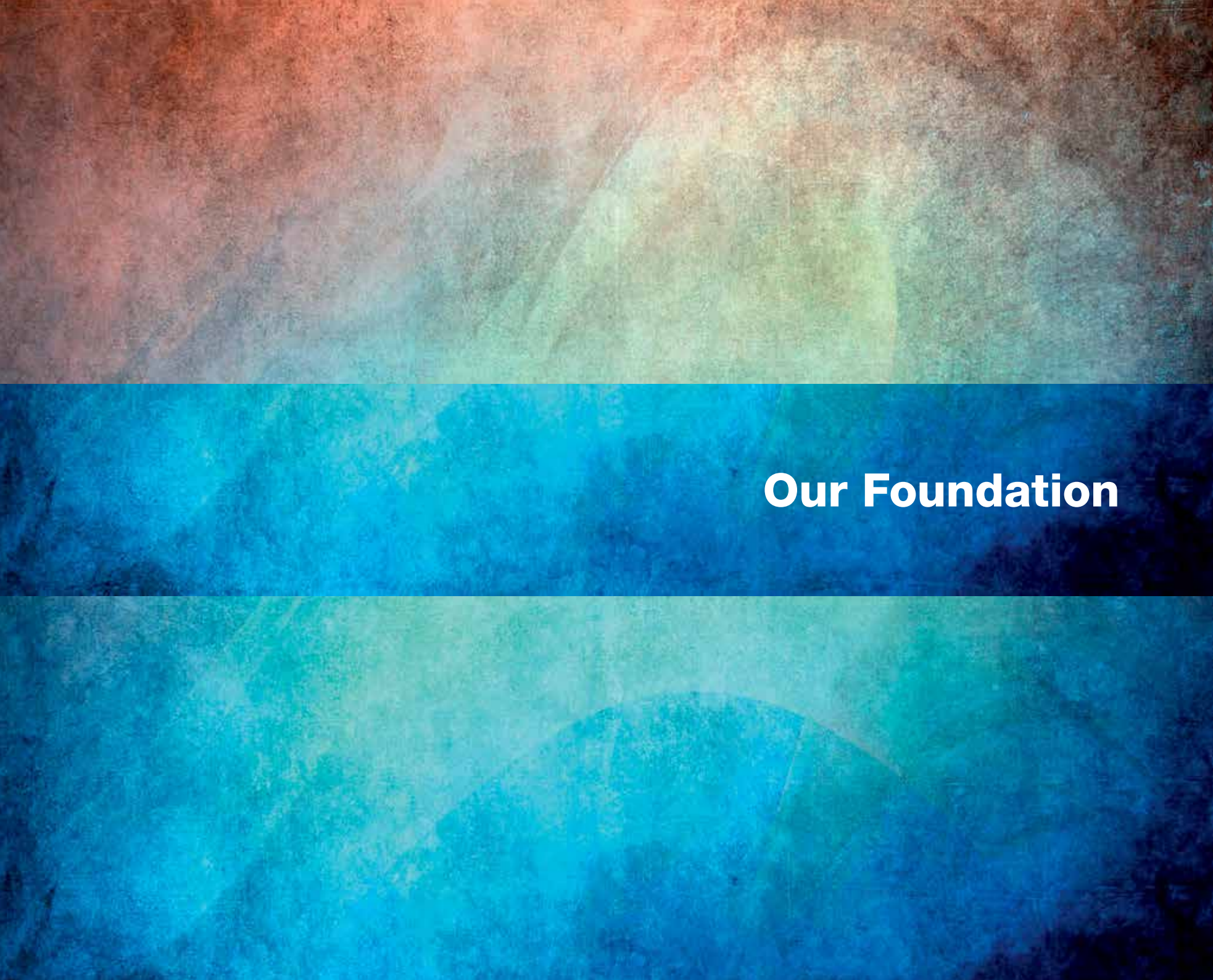
To the Elders & believers at Malacca Gospel Chapel.

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary.

We rejoice with you in the celebration of 50 years of the Lord's goodness and blessings. We praise the Lord for the life and fellowship of your congregation and the witness you have been doing in your area. We thank the Lord for the faithful support and fellowship which MMS Trust has enjoyed with your congregation throughout the years.

We pray that you build on what you have achieved, continuing to touch lives and making a difference to the people of Malacca. May Malacca Gospel Chapel use this special occasion to reflect on what has been accomplished over the years and to plan for the future. May Malacca Gospel Chapel continue to flourish for many years to come and may the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ be magnified through you!


Chris Tny
MMS Trust



Our Foundation

Pioneers of the Brethren Church in Melaka

It was at an inter-assembly Easter Conference that two special people met. And then things began to happen! Before long wedding bells rang in 1933 in the Elim Gospel Hall in Ipoh! He was Tan Gim Ann from Malacca, and she Voon Nyook Yoon from Elim Gospel Hall, Ipoh.

They made their home in Malacca. There were no Brethren meetings there. So Mr & Mrs Tan decided to hold the Breaking of Bread service in their home with a few others of like mind in 1934. They soon started a Sunday School for the children of these families and invited the neighbouring children.

Through the beginnings of this church, countless lives have been reached and touched by God's love through Jesus Christ. Known as "Sleepy Hollow", Malacca had very limited educational and job opportunities. So the young people who were brought to Christ and nurtured, left for further studies and jobs in bigger towns.

Then came the years when many migrated to other countries, The church was again depleted in numbers, but like the early church in Acts, the believers who were scattered continued witnessing, some planted new churches.

Tan Gim Ann had been brought up in a very strict Straits-born Chinese Buddhist home. It was while he was studying in the Hong Kong university that he had come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. For some time he had to be a secret believer when he returned home to Malacca. Life was

not easy, specially when he brought back a Christian wife. Both were persecuted for their faith, specially at the funeral of his father. Being the oldest son, he was expected to lead in the worship and funeral rituals. He and his wife had to make a stand. His mother cursed them. It was very painful and humiliating. Through years of consistent and patient humble menial services to her mother-in-law, kindness and thoughtfulness and going many extra miles, she was finally declared a good daughter-in-law. Eventually, the mother-in-law even attended a few of the ladies' meetings conducted in Baba Malay!

Mr Tan's Christian influence over his students was evidenced by several being added to the church, a few were elders and Christian leaders. One of his former students, a medical doctor in Singapore recalled that he was a strict disciplinarian and a strong Christian witness.

Mrs Tan was brought up by godly Christian parents and grandmother. She spent 16 years in Elim Home, Ipoh, which was begun by foreign missionaries, mostly for orphans and abandoned children. Although she was neither, she was admitted into the Home at 10 years of age. She learnt fast and quickly assumed many responsibilities. She gradually became "big sister" and later teacher to the younger children, as well as helper and even interpreter to the missionaries from whom she learnt a lot. It was preparation for later years in Malacca after marriage.

She was greatly devoted to God. Her boundless energy and care for the spiritual and physical needs of others always

saw her out of the home to do visitation all over the place. She tried to learn to drive but without success! By hook or by crook, she would find transport to do the visiting—by bus, or pillion-riding on a motor-cycle, or persuading someone to drive her. Some homes had no addresses. She had to walk through paddy-fields and farms to find the women. And among children, cats, dogs, chickens, pigs, she would share the gospel; reading from the Chinese Bible and praying with and for them. Some of these women came to church on Sundays.

She also visited the parents of Sunday School children and the young people, sharing with them the good news of Jesus Christ. To the Chinese-speaking she would carry along her Chinese Bible; to the English-speaking, the English Bible; and to the Baba-speaking, the Malay New Testament along with Mdm Nancy Tay to interpret for her. The Baba Malay-speaking women were the Straits-born Chinese.

Their home was large and sprawling, of a unique design and structure. It had not been originally built as a dwelling house. There were no walls, and so it had no rooms! In the middle of this building was a “boxed pool” which was later used as a baptistry! The Tans named their new home “Bethany”.

During the Second World War (1941-45) when the Japanese occupied Malaya, meetings and Sunday School were held in town in the home of Mrs Chow. When it was forbidden to meet in homes, they met across the street in Joshua Proctor’s printing press.

When the war was over, they built a simple building in Tranquerah Road and called it “Gospel Hall”. There were two congregations—the English-speaking and the Chinese-speaking. The Baba Malay-speaking meetings were for women only.

Mr. Tan returned to school-teaching and Mrs Tan continued homemaking, hospitality, visitation to homes and the hospital.

From the beginning, the young church needed in-depth Bible teaching. Missionaries came for short periods or stayed for a few years. Among them were Mr & Mrs Wyllie, Mr Marks, Mr & Mrs F.Regler, Mr & Mrs R.Vines, Mr Gordon Blair, Mr & Mrs Geoffrey Bull, Mr Charlie Tan, Miss Daphne King, Mr & Mrs T.Bentley. Miss Grieg was in Malacca for a few years working among the Baba Malay-speaking women.

Those who came to teach in Chinese included Mr Choo Min Soon from Taiping and Mr Charles Lee from Taiwan. The teaching sessions used to be around the ping-pong table in the Tan home during the week.

The church was very supportive of the Chinese-speaking church in Jasin, often visiting and joining them in their meetings. During the pre-war years, they sent two visiting sisters, Mavis and Mabel Lee, to help with the church visitation.

Bethany was often full of people. Besides those residing there—the Tan family of four, grandmother Voon and her disabled daughter, Mrs Ngeow and her young son (now an elder of a church), there were boarders from smaller towns who came to study in Malacca, or young people sent to work there for short periods.

Visitors were many, either passing through, or volunteered to help with meetings, or the sick who needed nursing. The daughters often had to give up their room and beds to sleep elsewhere on the floor.

Hospitality was freely given to all who loved the Lord from different denominations or organizations like Youth for Christ from Singapore or the local Scripture Union. The Tans worked together to hold outreach meetings and also served as Camp Parents in the SU Camps. Camp Mummy did the marketing and the actual cooking, and Camp Daddy did the driving and shopping. These involvements enriched the church members.

The church's first Bible Camp was held in 1951, to which other assemblies sent their young people. They included folks from Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Klang, and other smaller places. The first Camp was held in a boarding-home in Malacca, then in schools in Port Dickson and Malacca. Camp Teachers included Messrs. W. McVey, Bill Wilson, Bill Stott, Reg Vines and A.E. Phillips. Camp Parents were Mr & Mrs Tan who saw to the physical needs. Chinese-speaking inter-assembly Camps were also organized. Those who were bi-lingual were often involved in both English and Chinese work.

Open-air meetings by the Malacca River in town were held every Saturday evening, until it was not allowed to do so. Short messages were given in English and Chinese, sometimes by interpretation, interspersed by the singing of choruses and hymns accompanied by the piano accordion.

The leading brethren in the Chinese congregation included Mr Loh Wee Ken, Mr Goh Keng How. Those in the English-speaking congregation included Dr & Mrs. Lim Seang Chye, Dr & Mrs Micheal Oh, ...

Because of doctrinal differences, there were now two English speaking assemblies—Gospel Hall, and Gospel Chapel who meet in the former home of the Tans. With this multiplication, even more people are now reached for CHRIST!

BETTY TAN



Wedding of
Tan Gim Ann &
Voon Nyook Yoon

Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time, over 82 years ago, a young Christian man from Malacca was introduced to a young Christian woman in Ipoh. Courtship followed which resulted in wedding bells ringing in Elim Gospel Hall, Ipoh, in 1933!!!

This young man came from a very strong family of idol worshippers. He had become a Christian while studying in the Hong Kong university. On his return home, his parents wanted him to marry a woman of their choice. He stood firm that he would not unite his life with a non-Christian. They forbade him to have friends among Christians, not even to play tennis with them. One day they spied him in the mission compound playing tennis. They returned home and waited for him to return. They humiliated him by taking turns to beat him in the front of the house while the neighbourhood children, including his pupils, watched! They took turns to beat him till they were tired. As further punishment, they took his whole pay packet.

When he brought home a Christian wife, they both suffered persecution, especially at his father's funeral. But they showed all the Christian love in practical ways they could, without being involved in the worship rituals.

This couple, Mr & Mrs Tan Gim Ann, had begun the Lord's Supper in their home for like-minded Christians, and Sunday School for the children of these Christians and children in the neighbourhood. During World War 2, they met in a few different places in Malacca town. When the war was over, they built a simple building which they called the "Malacca

Gospel Hall" in Tranquerah Road. There were already two congregations—One in English and the other in Chinese.

(The different activities they were involved in are mentioned in another article "Pioneers of the Brethren Church in Malacca—Mr & Mrs Tan Gim Ann.")

Mr & Mrs Tan had an open home for all Christians and missionaries who loved the Lord. They helped Scripture Union in their youth camps, serving as Camp Parents. They also gave hospitality to the Singapore Youth For Christ who'd come to hold evangelistic meetings in the Malacca Town Hall. Mr Tan also preached in Malay in the Malay services in the Wesley church.

Some years later, a foreign missionary came to join them. He did not agree that the church members should be involved with Christians from other churches or organizations as the Tans and a few others were doing. They were stopped from the pulpit ministry or even taking part in the Breaking of Bread service, or be involved in any service of the church. Not being able to serve the Lord in any way in that church, they decided to leave to worship God in the way they knew and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, not bound by man-made rules but by the Word of God. They met in the home of the Tans.

This home was unique with an interesting history! Part of it was built above the ground. Mr Tan had the ground beneath dug deeper and cemented to make a large basement room.

The ping-pong table was placed there and other furniture too. This was where the young people gathered to play & to study.

Mr Tan passed away in October 1965, of cancer.

This group of Christians was growing and multiplying, still meeting in the Tan home, "Bethany." Mrs Tan sold her home to the church, now called "Malacca Gospel Chapel." With her aged mother, and Miss Doris Dove, a missionary seconded by OMF, they moved to a small cosy house in Klebang Besar.

Malacca Gospel Chapel, MGC for short, has seen many folks, especially the school students, growing physically, mentally and spiritually, through these many years. They left Malacca for further studies and training. Some have returned. Others have spread their wings to other towns and countries, practising their professions or into fulltime service for the Lord or planting new churches. We've new people to continue the work of the Lord in MGC.

Malacca Gospel Chapel will be celebrating her 50th birthday next year, 2016!! The people who have attended and come to know God and been blessed since the 1960s, have been invited to write their testimonies in a special book to commemorate this event! It will be exciting to hear their stories!

BETTY TAN (adapted from 'The Challenger')



Tan Beng Tee stayed in Bethany for part of his youth.



The home was opened to all and was a place where people could go for meals or Bible study.



Front Row: Betty Tan (3rd from left), Mr. Tan Gim Ann (4th from right), Christine Koch (3rd from right), Daisy Tan (right most)

Lower Top Row: Tan Beng Tee (1st from left), Richard Teo (in front of Tan Beng Tee), Chin Yean Leong (right most).

Top Row: Mrs Tan Gim Ann (right most)



The car garage and the caretaker's house (1980s)



The dining area (1980s)

History of the Chapel Renovations

1968

The church was upgraded by putting up curtains, lights and fans, demolition of walls, fixing of 2 speakers, curtain boxes and eight pews.

1969

Fencing and repainting of Chapel

1976

Major repairs with 3 modern toilets with showers added. The front porch on both sides of the front entrance was constructed. The worship hall was enlarged by dismantling the side rooms and installing new ceilings. Construction of new Sunday School rooms and re-flooring of Chapel's back portion. The old terracotta "V or U" profiled tiles were completely replaced with corrugated asbestos-cement sheets and gutters built. A higher wall was built

1987

Reroofing to metal roofing sheets (the labour was contributed by a Christian contractor), minor repairs and the building was completely repainted.

1990s

Regular minor repairs and completely repainted.

2005

Conversion of the rear bathroom into a ladies toilet/bathroom and extended the main hall fully to the present capacity of 150 seatings. Complete repainting of church with purchase of additional pews (RM90,000) with a new backdrop and pulpit.

2010

External repainting and tiling of the air-well/courtyard with brick fencing along the perimeter of the neighbouring vacant lot, and a new front porch and awning.

2011

A new air-conditioned hall built on the old badminton court (1,500 sq feet) for children and youth work with new men's toilet/shower.

2012

Security system (CCTVs & intruder alarm system) installed as the church was subjected to frequent break-ins in the last few months (estimated loss of RM30,000 worth of equipment at the latest incident).

2012

Front hall renovated with universal access, compressed fibre flooring, extended roofing, new stage and pulpit and air-conditioning.

2014

The old rooms and kitchens were renovated into air-conditioned classrooms for the children's work and the old men's toilet converted into a disabled/OAP friendly shower cum toilet.

2015

New audiovisual system installed.

2016

New curtains to the new hall and classrooms to control the glare and noise factors.

The background of the slide is an abstract composition of horizontal bands. The top band is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. The middle band is a solid, dark blue. The bottom band is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue, similar to the top band but with more variation in tone. The text "Our Progress" is centered in the middle blue band.

Our Progress

History of the Christian Brethren in Malaysia and Melaka

The term “brethren” means “brothers” was commonly used from the 1st Century Christians to describe those in the family of God. The Christian Brethren movement began in Britain, Ireland and Germany in the 19th century. Individual Christians from various denominational churches began meeting in non-denominational groups for Bible study, prayer, worship and witness. Groups began to form in the 1820s and 1830s in Plymouth and Bristol, England as well as Dublin in Ireland. As the numbers grew, other Christians called the people in the Brethren movement as “Plymouth Brethren”.

Unfortunately, the Brethren movement was divided in the 1840s into the “Exclusives” or the “Closed Brethrens” led by John Nelson Darby, and the “Open Brethren” led by George Muller. The “Open Brethren” holds the view that no believer should be excluded from the Lord’s table in contrast with the “Closed Brethren”.

The work in the Malay Peninsula began in 1859 in Penang by a brother commended by the Bethesda assembly in Bristol. Later, the missionaries went to Singapore (1867), Taiping (1889), Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Kampar, Teluk Anson, Klang and Malacca.

According to the Echoes Quarterly (a Brethren missionary news magazine) mentioned that the work in Malacca was started by Mr J.W. Moore in the 1890s who worked amongst the Chinese. Later, he left for Borneo. For some years, Malacca was visited by workers from Kuala Lumpur. Then Mr and Mrs O.B. Wyllie laboured in Malacca for a short time before the war. When they left, the meetings were continued in the home of Mr and Mrs Tan (Gim Ann) and through the years of the Japanese Occupation.



The early elders of Malacca Gospel Chapel
(L-R) Teo Boon Cheng, Thomas Leong (deceased), Dr Michael Oh, Paul Tan, Richard Teo and Tan Beng Tee (deceased).

(Picture was taken in the early 70s at the Batu Berendam Airport, Melaka)

The Founding of Melaka Gospel Chapel

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

The story of the founding of Melaka Gospel Chapel has to be told, particularly so when on 13 February 2016 we celebrate our 50th anniversary. This intention is that we will continue to set our hope in God and not to forget to walk by faith and conviction to uphold and act on the commandment of Jesus Christ in sharing the Gospel to those we come in contact with.

The Root of Melaka Gospel Chapel

In 1934 the Malacca Brethren assembly work was first established when the late Mr & Mrs Tan Gim Ann held their first Breaking of Bread with a few other believers in their home. After WW2, in 1948 this group of brethren erected a timber meeting place on the state land with Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL) provided by the British government. The gospel outreach building was named Malacca Gospel Hall (MGH). God gave the increase of believers through weekly Gospel meetings, Open Air gospel outreach and special gospel campaigns. Believers grew in the knowledge and love for Jesus Christ. There was an overall enthusiasm to reach out to their non-Christian parents and friends in homes, work places and schools.

Thank God for the spiritual nurture that we received from our first missionary Mr & Mrs Frank A.V. Regler from England. He established an effective Sunday School and youth ministry and also greatly encouraged older young teenagers and men in the assembly in pulpit ministry and outreach work, reaching the unreached. I remember as a piano accordionist travelling weekly with Mr & Mrs Regler to share the gospel to juvenile criminals in Henry Gurney School at Telok Mas and also at the Open-air Meeting on the padang (open ground) opposite the present Melaka Public Bank at Riverside Road. Short messages were given in both Chinese and in English, interspersed with the singing of hymns and choruses.

Since the 50's the Malacca brethren assembly had always welcomed and prayed for the activities and fellowshiped with the Lord's servants in organisations such as the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF), Far East Broadcasting Corporation (FEBC) and Asia Evangelistic Fellowship (AEF—the first indigenous and interdenominational faith mission started by the late Dr G D James, a Singapore Brethren missionary), Scripture Union and Youth For Christ, Varsity Christian Fellowship (VCF) and Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES). One of the highlights was chartering a bus with non-Christian friends to attend the first Billy Graham Crusade held in the Merdeka Stadium, Kuala Lumpur.

1957 the Reglers left Malacca on furlough after faithfully serving the assembly for a decade. In the absence of a full-time worker, short-term and itinerant Brethren missionaries from the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand, and Bible

teachers and elders of inter-state Brethren assemblies came to minister to us.

The Rise of a Second Brethren Assembly Work in Malacca

In 1965, the Oversight of Malacca Gospel Hall (MGH) had a change of perspective and strong conviction not to participate or associate any more with para-church organisations, inter-denominational and denominational churches. In response to that, a few of us, after much self-examination and agonising prayers, felt it was expedient to maintain order and unity in the assembly by not challenging the stand of the Oversight. So as not to relinquish our active involvement in secondary and tertiary student ministry and in partnership with inter-denominational organisations, a few of us heeded God's calling to quietly withdraw ourselves from worshipping at Malacca Gospel Hall. In that year, standing before God, responsible and accountable only to Him, the families of the late Tan Gim Ann, Dr Michael and Molly Oh, Molly and Richard Teo Boon Siew and the late Mr & Mrs Koch, and Mary Chang left MGH. This initial exodus was later followed by Tan Beng Tee, Paul Tan, Daisy Tan, Teo Boon Cheng, and the late Thomas Leong.

In Bethany, Limbongan, the home of the late Mr & Mrs Tan Gim Ann, we gathered for weekly Breaking of Bread, Sunday School, prayer and youth meetings. Who would have expected that Bethany would be again the birth place of the second Brethren Assembly work in Malacca!

On 12 February 1966, a letter with several signatories was sent to the Brethren assemblies in Singapore and Malaysia to inform them that those who met at Bethany in Limbongan

could no longer continue to worship in Malacca Gospel Hall. This was followed by an explanatory letter to the Elders of MGH to clarify for the establishment a new Brethren Assembly known as Malacca Gospel Chapel. At that time we had no idea what the sovereign Lord had in store for us.

In the 1970s the level of devotion and enthusiasm for evangelical witness and outreach saw numbers increasing. MGC was abundantly blessed with an influx of high school students. We witnessed lives changed for Christ. At that period of time there was also an exodus of the families of Dr Michael Oh, Richard Teo, Paul Tan and Teo Boon Cheng to Australia. However, God in His sovereignty filled the gaps of leadership with the late Tan Eng Heng, Betty Tan, Richard Chen & Yoke May, Victor & Patricia Wong, Josephine Wong, Gan Chui Peng, Stanley & Lucy Lim to support the remaining elder, the late Tan Beng Tee.

Over the last five decades, the MGC building has undergone several changes. As a congregation, the spirit, vision and mission of the pioneers has remained strong in their hearts. Praise God, under the present oversight, MGC faithfully continues to serve God earnestly and fervently to meet the needs of His people and the unsaved for His glory and praise.

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
(Acts 2:42)

Teo Boon Cheng

85 D, Jalan Munsshi Abdullah.
MALACCA.
 12. 2. 1966.

In Good Letter To The Elders to the Christians meeting

At the Gospel Hall is:

SINGAPORE: Bethesda, Bras Basah Road.

Bethesda, Katong.

Gospel Hall, Neil Road.

Kuala Lumpur: Imbi Road Chapel; Gospel Hall, Petaling Jaya.

Penang: Burmah Road Hall; Gospel Hall, Butterworth.

Inoh: Gospel Hall. Seremban: Gospel Hall, Nilising: Gospel Hall.

Kampar: Gospel Hall Klang: Gospel Hall Kuantan: Gospel Hall.

Cameron: Gospel Hall Jasin, Malacca: Gospel Hall
Highlands.

The undersigned send you greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and beseech you to pray for us all who worship in the Lord's name in the town and FRT of Malacca, and seek to serve and witness for Christ in like manner as you all do throughout Malaya and Singapore.

We, the undersigned, together with others of like mind as ourselves, have been experiencing a prolonged period of strain in the Assembly in Malacca with which we have been associated, some of us for very many years.

This arises from the fact that during more recent years certain beliefs and practices are being followed, with regard to the fellowship of the Lord's people, which we find are very divergent from those which we have held and followed hitherto, and which are quite incompatible to our understanding of the Scriptures which form our guide in such matters.

As a consequence we are not happy or free in our fellowship and worship and witness for our Lord. There has been no solution to our differences, but we now feel, after long waiting and looking to the Lord that we should leave this Assembly and meet elsewhere on our own. We do not take this step lightly, we solemnly assure you, realising the gravity of such a step, but now that it is the only course to enable us to effectively worship and witness for our Lord.

293 Tranquerah Road,
Malacca.

18th August 1966

To: The Oversight,
Gospel Hall, MALACCA.

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I and my wife have decided as from the above date to disassociate ourselves from the Gospel Hall, Tranquerah Road, Malacca and will have fellowship with the Gospel Chapel, Limbongan, Malacca as there is no peace and joy in our previous fellowship and my witness will be more useful in the new Gospel Chapel, Limbongan, Malacca.

Yours in Christ,

Sanjaya
500 2/2/66

Carbon Copies to:

SINGAPORE: Bethesda Bras Basah Road.

Bethesda, Katong

New Bridge Road Gospel Hall.

Kuala Lumpur: Jalan Imbi Chapel

Petaling Jaya: Gospel Hall

Penang: Burmah Road Hall Butterworth: Gospel Hall

Inoh: Gospel Hall Seremban: Gospel Chapel

Taiping: Gospel Hall Kampar: Gospel Hall

Klang: Gospel Hall Kuantan: Gospel Hall

Cameron Highlands: Gospel Hall Jasin, Malacca: Gospel Hall

Malacca: Gospel Chapel, Limbongan, Malacca.

Copy of letters sent to the English speaking assemblies in Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia, informing them of the reasons for leaving Malacca Gospel Hall.

Malacca Gospel
Chapel's First
Anniversary,
1967

First Anniversary Programme Sheet

Duty Roster, 1967

First Anniversary Meetings Leaflet

The second church signboard. Notice the name of the church – Gospel Chapel Malacca.

The Four Founding Elders of Melaka Gospel Chapel

In the early 1970s migration to Australia particularly among Malaysian Chinese was growing. Besides the “push” factors at that time from Malaysia, the Australian “White Only” policy had also been abolished. From 1971 to 1976, these two factors played an important part in the departure of the four founding Elders from Melaka to Australia. Little did they realise that in their big move overseas, the sovereign God has a purpose for them to be in Australia.

When they arrived in Australia they found the Australian churches were not reaching out to the ethnic Chinese migrants. In 1974 to minister to the spiritual needs of the local ethnic Chinese, Elder Richard Teo and his wife, Molly, started a bible study fellowship group. They held weekly Breaking of Bread. In 1976 the fellowship group was formalised and given the name the Chinese Christian Church Brisbane (CCCB). It became the first ethnic Chinese church in Brisbane where bi-lingual services were conducted. Richard Teo, Paul Tan and Teo Boon Cheng were appointed elders with Andrew Teo and Lawrence Tang Seng (husband of Annie Chan) as deacons thus forming the first Church Council.

Currently there are five churches under the umbrella of CCCB, three of which are in St Lucia, the suburb where the University of Queensland is located. CCCB is very focused on overseas student and migrant ministry. Praise God that CCCB has been the spring board for the establishment of other Chinese ethnic independent and denominational

churches in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast of Queensland.

Dr Michael Oh and his family migrated to Perth in 1971. In 1980 he helped to start the Perth Chinese Christian Church. Later in 1989 he felt led to help the ethnic Chinese Christian witness in Darwin. In the following year Michael together with some local Chinese Christians established the Darwin Chinese Christian Church. In 1993 on learning that there is a need for spiritual leadership in the Gold Coast Chinese Christian Church, Michael took the challenge to make another move with Rebecca. In the last few years Michael's active and faithful service to the Lord came to an end. He is now bed ridden after a severe stroke and resides in a Christian Aged Care home at the Gold Coast.

In reminiscence, the four elders who left MGC can praise God for His faithfulness in overseeing their Gospel mission and ministry in Australia. They can now humbly echo the words of Paul the Apostle that says *“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* (Romans 8:28).

Teo Boon Cheng,
Brisbane, Australia.



Four founding Elders of Melaka Gospel Chapel by the side of Dr Micheal Oh in a nursing home in Australia.
(L-R) Richard Teo, Dr Micheal Oh, Paul Tan and Teo Boon Cheng.

The Work of the Lord in the 1970s

Malacca brings back fond and precious memories. The state is no stranger to me. My parents and grandparents all hailed from Malacca and I was born there in the late 40's.

Malacca Gospel Chapel is special to me in that God chose to post me back to Malacca after having gone away to study in Muar and Petaling Jaya. I remembered sitting on my bed in my rented room in PJ one night in 1970 pondering over which town I wished to be posted to. I dearly wanted to be in Johor Bahru because being a mere two-year-old Christian then with absolutely no experience of spiritual matters, I wanted to continue being discipled by the Navigators in Singapore which had a vibrant discipling ministry. Failing that, my second choice was PJ so that I could remain with them and the last was my hometown, Malacca.

Looking back, I am now very convinced He chose Malacca for me for the purpose of accomplishing His purposes! The events that happened in MGC in the 70s could not have happened without God bringing it about.

For the first 4 months of 1971, I was adjusting to life as a teacher in Malacca High School and I was looking for a church. I remembered very clearly even now, sitting at the corner seat of the 3rd or 4th pew next to the window at the piano side of the hall. For some unexplained reason, I felt drawn to this small, fledgling church and knew that I would not need to search anymore.

I worshipped and served actively in the church. I taught Sunday School, preparing the lessons faithfully and just being one step ahead of my students! I think I attended the Young Peoples' meetings as well. The Holy Spirit was there to teach me and to lead a bunch of mischievous but bright sparks into MGC! My role was just as a link in the chain of His purpose. I had no idea or training in soul-winning; I don't even remember sharing the gospel message to any of them. I just invited them to MGC for church activities. Many responded positively! I have never come across a time of such fruitfulness as that period! My later years at soul-winning was like catching frogs that leapt miles away even before you got a chance to lay hands on them!!!

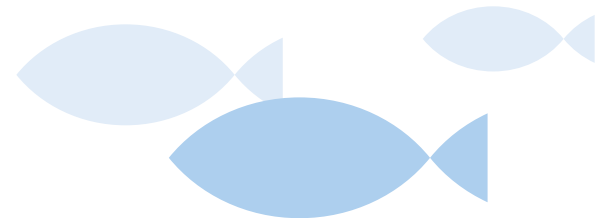
Certainly, what happened in those years and especially at the 1972 Annual MGC Camp, which I recalled very clearly was the work of the Holy Spirit. Some had called it a "mini-revival". Many students of mine and other young people attended the camp. I knew many were led to the Lord, through Tan Kok Beng's preaching and through the efforts of a group of pre-university students from Singapore who came on a ministry trip with him. Some of these Singapore students were the founders of the Eagles' Communication group. When a final call was made on the last night of the camp for new believers to identify themselves, there was not enough space for all to stand on the raised platform of the pulpit!

The following are some of the fruits of those years: Kian Boon, Chin Siang, Chin Hiang, Tuck Bin, Thiam Lam, Thien Yen, Say Khim & Say Keong, Aik Kuen, David Lim & Patrick Lim. Later, Edmund Tay and other Malacca High School boys joined in. The Lord also brought in SFI boys. I don't know how they came to MGC but they chose to stay and did good work. They consisted of the "3 Musketeers" consisting of Moy Kok Wah, Lim Tow Wang and Teo Beng Leong (deceased), and also Peter and Michael Sim. Then there were also others from MGSS, ACS and GBS: Philip Lim and Gregory Lim. There are many more of whom I cannot recall their names. What I wish to point out is that through these conversions and workings of the Holy Spirit, whole families have come to the Lord! Many of these young people were instrumental in bringing their parents and siblings to Christ.

Many are still faithfully serving the Lord today. It matters not whether it is in full-time ministry (Dexter Ng, Chok Teck Khin, Gregory Lim, Michael Sim, Sam Kumar and others) or in secular set-ups, they are walking with our Lord. This is the "stamp" of the Holy Spirit's working—lasting fruits. It starts from the individual to their whole families, their friends and the world beyond Malacca (Acts 1:8; John 3:8).

ALL GLORY GOES TO OUR GREAT AND GRACIOUS
GOD!!!

BY Josephine Ho (Wong)



Melaka Gospel Chapel from 1965 to 2016

1966

Letter dated 12 February 1966 was sent to all English-speaking assemblies in Singapore and Malaysia informing them of the reasons for starting a new Brethren Assembly, later, to be named Malacca Gospel Chapel, Limbongan, Malacca.

28th–30th August



- Gospel Meetings by Mr WJ Paterson (Evangelist from New Zealand)

1967

19th February

- The Gospel Chapel Building Fund was initiated on the First Anniversary Celebrations with the first deposit of RM500 transferred from the General Fund. Mr Lauw Kim Guan spoke.
- Baptism of Irene Koh: First Baptism in MGC (?)

12th March

Mr W. McVey was speaker at the Gospel Meeting.

22nd March

- Young People's picnic.
- Sunday School picnic was held at Palm Beach, home of the late Mr Beatty. 70 children were present.

30th April

- Baptism of Mrs Chew, Katherine Chew, Ronnie Chew.

3rd August

- Repairs done to baptistry.

6th August



- Baptism conducted by D.A. Angus of Kuala Lumpur Gospel Hall.

18th August

- Young People's trip to Seremban

11th September

- Young People's Ping Pong Competition

1st December

- Teen-Night Fellowship. Speaker: Mr Koon Leck Leong. 50 youth attended.

24th-25th December

- Mr Vincent Tan (Navigators) spoke at the Young People and Gospel Meetings. Special film show entitled

"I Beheld His Glory" was screened at Mr Richard Teo's house.

- At night, about 40 youths in six cars went carolling to the homes of Mr Koh, Mr Koch, Mrs De Run, Mr Mace, Dr Oh, Mr Tan Beng Tee and Mr Richard Teo.

31st December

- Watch Night Service at 11.30 pm. Dr Oh gave the message.

1968

15th January

- Talk on the Far East Broadcasting Corporation (FEBC) at Dr Oh's residence.

1st February

- Departure of Mary Chang for New Zealand Bible Institute

24th-25th February

- Church Second Anniversary Celebration. Mr Harold Cooke spoke at the home fellowship held in Dr Oh's residence on Saturday followed by at the Gospel Meeting on Sunday evening.
- Second Sunday School Prize Giving Day.

18th-23rd March

- The church was renovated and upgraded by putting up curtains, lights and fans, demolition of room walls, fixing 2 speakers, curtain boxes and eight pews.

13th April

- Teen Night was held. Anthony Francis spoke.

28th–30th June

- Mr A.E. Philips (Penang) spoke at both the English (3 meetings) and Chinese (2 meetings) Gospel Campaign. Invitations were sent to evangelical churches in Malacca town and to all Brethren assemblies in Malaysia and Singapore.

8th–9th July

- Mrs Chambers spoke at the Women's Meeting.

August

- 8 members from MGC attended the Bible Camp in Penang at the invitation of Jalan Imbi Chapel.
- The Chew family who were destitute were allowed to live in the room in the church garage.
- Ms Doris Dove (OMF) was seconded to work with MGC and this posting was unanimously agreed by the Oversight.
- Oversight begins to take in Christine Koch for six months fulltime service in MGC before going to Bentong to serve there.

2nd November

- Sunday School made a visit to the Malacca Zoo and had a picnic at the Ayer Keroh playground. 60 children turned up.

17th November

- Mr W. McVey spoke in English and fluent Chinese at two gospel meetings. Mr David Wong helped in the Chinese meeting.

1st December

- Mr George Francis (evangelist) had a gospel meeting attended by 60 people. Six accepted the Lord.

6th December

- A Malacca Christian Cemetery Committee was formed to purchase a piece of land at the 6½ mile stone Malim Road. Paul Tan was elected as the first Secretary. MGC donated RM300 towards the land purchase.

14th December

- Homecoming party for Christine Koch. A stand fan was purchased for her and her room rewired.

22nd December

- Sunday School Christmas Party at 3-5pm.

24th December

- Carolling with 40 participants. Amongst the homes visited were Lt. Payne's in Jalan Tay Boon Seng.

31st December

- Watch Night Service. Teo Boon Cheng spoke and porridge was served.

1969**21st January**

- Miss Christine Koch returned back to Malacca Gospel Chapel from the New Zealand Bible Training after a two year stint and successfully obtained a Diploma. She was commended by Malacca Gospel Chapel to fulltime ministry—the first person to be commended.

26th January

- The Grady Wilson Campaign in KL (21st–26th January) was attended by many MGC members. Five busloads with 169 persons from different churches in Malacca made the trip up to Stadium Negara, KL. Richard Teo was the Chairman of the Bus Committee.

23rd February

- Second Anniversary Celebrations and Sunday School Prize Giving Day.
- Formation of the first Young People's Committee.
First Office Bearers:

Chairman: Ronnie Chiew

Secretary: Ah Beng

Treasurer: Catherine Chiew

Committee: Rosalind Oh

Jennie Chiew

Mah Foo Eng

Goh Boon Fatt

Advisors: Christine Koch and Teo Boon Cheng

October

- Fencing and repainting of Chapel. Badminton court behind the Chapel to be built.

15th November

- Sunday School Picnic at Ayer Keroh. 70 attended.

10th December

- Homecall of Norma Koch.

December

- Carollers sang in ten homes: Dr Oh, De Runs, Victor Samuel, Mrs Hooi, Thomas Leong, Mr Koh, Siew Gek, Molly Teo, Paul Tan and Tan Beng Tee.

1970**1st January**

- Several Young People went to Port Dickson for an outing in three cars.

11th–12th April

- Mr Harold Cooke spoke at Teen's Night and Sunday Ministry and Gospel Meeting.
- Easter Conference in KL organised by Jalan Imbi Chapel. 3 carloads of members went.

19th May

- Chapel Retreat. Speaker: Mr Tan Kok Beng (MEF, Singapore).
Talks: “Meet For The Master’s Use” and “The Christian’s Devotion”.

21st June

- Dr G.D. James spoke at the Sunday Ministry.

July

- Miss Christine Koch relocated to Bentong to continue on the work done by Mr & Mrs Roger Dalberg.

26th October

- Khe and Philip were baptised by Dr Oh.

27th November–4th December

- Mr Thrower’s (from India) visit. Spoke at Wednesday Ministry and Sunday Gospel Meeting.

29th November

- Choo Koon spoke at Gospel Service.

5th December

- Film “Something to Die For” screened.

31st December

- Watchnight Service. Mr Thomas Leong spoke.

1971**10th February**

- Dr Micheal Oh and family left Malacca for Australia.

19th–24th February

- Mr Lim Chin Kheng took the 5th Anniversary Day Gospel Meeting.

21st February

- Three staff workers of FES (Fellowship of Evangelical Students) spoke at Gospel Meeting.

3rd April

- Jalan Imbi Chapel choir (50 strong) came to sing at gospel meeting.

3rd–4th April

- Mr Lau Kim Guan spoke at the Morning Ministry and Gospel Meeting.

10th April

- Young People’s Campfire.

30th November–5th December

- First Bible Camp (Vacation Camp) held in MGC. Speaker: Mr Lim Chin Kheng and Mr Tan Kok Beng. 50 stay-in campers. 12 accepted the Lord.
- En Rosli (from Indonesia) spoke at the Gospel Meeting and Sunday Ministry in Malay and was translated by Mr Paul Tan.

15th August

- Mr Peter Shih (Bible Society of Singapore) spoke at the Gospel Meeting.

September

- Van purchased (Fiat 600T)
- Jalan Imbi Chapel gave a gift of RM7,000 to MGC for building (RM5,000 in fixed deposit and RM2,000 grant).
- Samson was tentatively allowed to stay in chapel rent-free in exchange for cleaning up and looking after the Chapel. Gifts may be given depending on situation.
- Mrs Tan Gim Ann offered to sell her house which was used for Chapel meetings for RM35,000 (16,500 sq. ft.) She had purchase a house in Klebang Besar.
- Jalan Imbi Chapel graciously provided a RM10,000 loan for the purchase of the building.
- Christmas Eve.

Young People organised a carolling to nine homes: Mr Koh, Richard Teo, Teo Boon Cheng, Mdm Takamori, Mrs Hooi, Josephine Wong, Tan Beng Tee and Paul Tan. The Young People went in one bus and the chapel van.

1972

- Second Bible Camp held in MGC. Camp teachers were Mr Tan Kok Beng and Mr Tommy Cheong; both from Singapore.

17th–24th February

- Ms Daphne Roberts (Scripture Union) held a three day youth leadership training and camp officers training in chapel.

26th February

- 50 youths from Seremban Gospel Chapel led by Mr Frederick Tan took over the Young People's Meeting.

February

- Final payment for building made. Transfer of property to Property Trust Fund. Building held in trust on behalf of Chapel.

22nd April

- Baptism Service: 6 baptised.

1st May

- Farewell party to Richard Teo and family as they migrate to Australia.

14th May

- Rev Peter Young spoke at the Gospel Meeting.

May

- Ms Doris Dove (OMF Missionary) relocated to Muar.

August

- Aunt Tan's mother passes away

October

- En Idad Zaccheaus (Indonesia) spoke in Indonesian at Gospel Meeting.

December

- Christmas Carolling. About 80 Young People were involved and 7 homes were visited. A chartered bus, chapel van and several cars ferried the carollers.

23rd December

- Young People's Christmas Party.

24th December

- Sunday School Christmas Party.

1973

- Third Bible Camp held in MGC. Camp speakers were Mr Tan Kok Beng and Mr McSkimming. 80 campers participated and 12 accepted the Lord.
- RBS was attended by Andrew Chua, Chan Cheng Lock and Mak Yin Cheng

6th–9th April

- Young People's Committee Retreat. Speaker: Tommy Cheong. He spoke at the gospel meeting as well.

May

- Victor Wong posted to Malacca at the Fisheries Research Institute in Batu Berendam. He was asked to stay in Chapel to help look after things.

12th May

- Mr Sim passed away. Ah Keng Koh conducted the funeral service.
- Mr Thomas Leong resigned from the Oversight.

6th June

- Sunday School Picnic at Tanah Merah beach.

3rd–4th July

- Visit of Mr McVey.

July

- Roster started for floral contributions for Sunday Worship from the sisters.
- Frankel Estate Bethesda group of 20 came and 15 stayed in Chapel.

29th–30th September

- The Life Chapel team came to conduct meetings.
- Klang-Malacca-Seremban (KMS) Inter Assembly Quiz started. Andrew Chua and Yew Keng represented Malacca Gospel Chapel. Young People chartered a small bus to ferry the MGC group to Klang Gospel Hall.

August

- Elim Choruses were purchased and used in meetings. A popular song book as many of the songs were just short choruses taken from hymns and modern Christian songs.

1974

- Weekly Sunday Gospel Service stopped.
- Gospel Outreach meeting held on first Sunday of the month.
- Breaking of Bread meeting moved from 9am to 8.45am.
- New hymnals purchased.
- RBS was attended by Tan Lee Wah, Tiong Kian Boon, Lee Moi Moi, Lim Tow Wang Peter Sim, Mak Yin Cheng, and Chan Cheng Lock.

12th–13th January

- Visit of Alan Knight (OMF) and family. He spoke at Young People's and Morning Worship.

24th February

- 8th Assembly Anniversary Celebrations. Speaker: Victor Wong. Reports from the various ministries presented.
- Mission trip to Bentong Gospel Hall planned and headed by Tan Beng Tee.
- Printing of Young People's Song Books—Songs for You.

4th February

- Third Residential Bible School begins in Penang.

25th July

- Evangelistic Film Show by AVL Evangelism. Titled: "For Pete's Sake"

16th–21st December

- Fourth Bible Camp at Port Dickson Rotary Sunshine Camp. Camp teachers were Mr Tan Kok Beng and Mr McSkimming.

31st December

- Watch Night Service at 11 pm. Speaker was Mr Tan Eng Heng. Church and financial reports were presented.

1975

26th April

- Night Evangelistic Film Show by AVL Evangelism. Title: "Time to Run".
- Employment Bureau headed by Tay Chor Ter started to help needy Christians needing funds to find employment.
- First "Gems of Joy" (from Australia) Evangelistic Campaign
- Fifth Bible Camp held at Christian Convention Centre (C.C.C.), Tanjung Bungah, Penang. 41 campers left in two mini buses. Speaker: Mr W. Douglas Anderson (Discipleship Training Centre, Singapore) and Mr Koh Gim Lam (Scripture Union, PJ). Theme: Equipped For His Service". Christmas for the campers was celebrated at Burmah Road Gospel Hall, Penang.



1976

1st January

- Picnic at Long Beach, Pantai Kundor on the first day of the year for 25 young people who cycled there.

2nd January

- Football fellowship between the North of the Malacca River Young People's versus the South of the Malacca River Young People's at Padang Pahlawan (Coronation Park).

7th February

- Chapel Retreat and Camp Reunion.

8th February

- Three left for Residential Bible School (RBS) in Penang —Micheal Sim, Edmund Tay and David Tan.
- First Gospel Meeting of the year. Message by Mr Stanley Lim.
- First baptism of the year: Tan Siew Hee.

14th February

- Evangelistic Film Show by A.V.L. Evangelism – “Story of Yoneko”. Chapel was packed and many accepted the Lord.

21st February

- Marriage of Mr Stanley Lim Hock Hoe & Miss Lucy Khor.

22nd February

- MGC 10th Anniversary Celebration. Rev Suwito (Wesley Methodist Church) preached in BM. 200 people came. Parents and families came to hear the gospel and watched a play in Hokkien with BM narration!

7th March

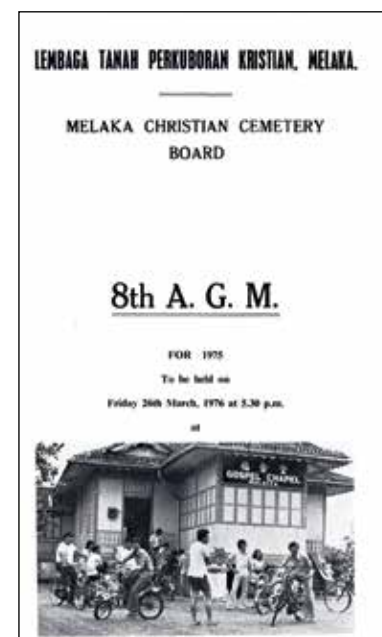
- Two more left for RBS: Teo Beng Leong (deceased) and Tiong Kian Boon.
- Gospel Meeting taken by Young People's group from Life Chapel led by Mr Kenny Philips.

13th March

- Assembly Picnic at Tanjung Bidara. Two busloads of Chapelites.

26th March

- Malacca Christian Cemetery Board had their 8th AGM in Gospel Chapel Malacca. (Tan Beng Tee was the vice-chairman of the board at that time).



18th April

- Easter Sunrise Service at 6.30 am at the Bukit Serindit Christian Cemetery. About 30 members joined this Melaka State-Level Interdenomination service on a cold, windy and rainy morning.

30th April–3rd May

- Annual Gospel Campaign with Mr Roger Dahlberg (Taiping Gospel Hall). Overpacked hall with 130 in attendance on first night. Topics: The Love of God, The Hand of God, The Image of God and The Christian Race. 25 were counselled and 13 accepted the Lord. Follow up Bible studies were conducted by counsellors.

8th May

- First Ladies Hour meeting of the year at 4pm. Held regularly on every second Saturday of the month. While the men had football match among themselves.

9th May

- Baptism Service conducted by Tan Beng Tee for 12 candidates.

30th May

- Victor & Patricia Wong given a farewell before they left for Perak.

7th June

- Major Chapel renovation started. Estimated cost RM20,000 with a RM15,000 loan from Jalan Imbi Chapel.

13th June

- Sunday morning worship services were held at Mr & Mrs Teo Boon Cheng's home as chapel was being renovated.

16th June

- Prayer Meetings were held at Mr & Mrs Stanley Lim's place due to church renovations.

23rd & 24th July

- Sunday School and Bible School Teachers' Retreat. Speaker was Rev Peter Warner (Pusat Latihan Kristian Melaka).

23rd November

- Here's Life "I FOUND IT " Second Regional Malacca Committee Meeting held in MGC.



December

- 3 day mini-camp.
- It was in this year that the Sunday School split into Sunday School (primary school) and Bible School (secondary school). 30 attended Sunday School while 70 attended the Bible Classes and also the Young People's meetings.

Three regional Bible Study groups formed for:

Tranquerah/Klebang Area: meets on Fridays at 7.30 pm in Chapel;

Banda Hilir Area: meets at Teo Beng Leong's home on Fridays at 7.30pm and Ujong Pasir Area: meets at no fixed place on Tuesday at 5 pm.

- The month of May 1976 was the 3F's month (Farewell, Food & Fellowship)—many were leaving Chapel for various reasons and to other states and countries.
- A Sunday School and Youth Meeting was proposed to be started in Ujong Pasir as a launching pad to an expansion work of MGC.

10th–12th December

- Second “Gems of Joy” Gospel Messengers of Australia Gospel Meetings. Speaker was Mr George Jones while Mr & Mrs Alan Sharpham sang. 7.30 pm nightly.

1977

- Training and mobilization of 4000 people. We learnt how to share the gospel and to follow-up new believers. Received a total of 37,296 responses—11,773 heard the gospel and 3,507 received Christ as their personal Saviour.
- First term holidays: Annual MGC Bible Camp at Pangkor Island.

1978

1979

4th February

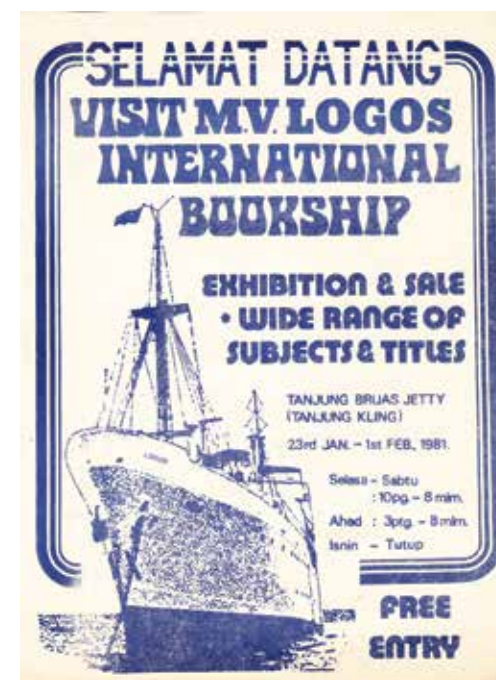
- Wedding of Chan Siew Ngo and Christopher Walton. Blessing ceremony conducted by Rev Loh Soon Choy and message by Mr Tadius Yusof.

1980

1981

23rd January–1st February

- Members of the church visited, bought books, participated in various meetings and trainings and even served as volunteers on board the MV Logos. Rosy Lee was serving with Operation Mobilisation.



1982

1983

- Chapel Camp held at Sentosa Island, Singapore. Speakers were Mr Teskey and Mr Cheah Cheng Hin (Kluang) who shared on the work of the Holy Spirit and Ephesians.
- Gospel Campaign. Mr Tan Kok Beng and five young men came to speak and help out at the 3-night meetings.
- Weddings:
30th July: Gary Soon & Grace Chuah
31st July: Peter Sim & Kim Neo (took place in England)
10th September: Chia Gim Beng & Laura Sim
- Sunday School. Weekly attendance about 30 students (4-14 year old).
- Yapp Hock Kee transferred from The Life Chapel to work in Terendak Camp Hospital as a pharmacist.

1984

July

- Singing Team from Singapore presenting at an evangelistic meeting



August

- MGC Retreat at a Sg Linggi Resort



1985

16th November

- MGC Barbeque Night. Members enjoyed hilarious games, good food and warm fellowship.



December

- Sunday School's Holiday Club.



- Christmas Carolling to various homes.



- Christmas Evangelistic Party.



- MGC Fancy Dress Competition.



25th December

- Christmas Service.



31st December

- Watch Night Service.



1986

December

- Holiday Club.



1987

April

- MGC Family Camp at Presbyterian Bungalow, Port Dickson. Koh Gim Lam was the main speaker.



November

- Youth Outing to the Beach.





- Youth Camp held in Chapel. Having their breakfast.

December

- Baptism Candidates.



- Christmas Evangelistic Service.



- Christmas Carolling.



1988

March

- Easter Evangelistic Meeting.



1989

31st December

- Watch Night Service with the late brother Loh Wee Keng sharing and Philip Lim translating. Aunty Tan shared a short word as well.



1990

February

- Chinese New Year Visitation by the youths to MGC's members home.



25th December

- Christmas Service.

1993

August

- Family Camp at Rose Bungalow, Cameron Highlands.



Lee Hong Kwang from PJ Gospel Hall was the speaker at the camp.



The campers posing for a photo.



Campers preparing to sing songs in a led worship session.



- Dr Peck Hock Cheng was a regular visitor and speaker.



- Priscilla Tong's Baptism



Some of the church members sang while witnessing the baptism.

1994

25th December

- Christmas Service and lunch.

1995

25th December

- Christmas Service and lunch.

1996

27th March–2nd April

- The ship Doulos visits Melaka. It was berthed at the Tanjung Beruas Jetty in Tanjung Kling. Many of our members were involved as volunteers, participants at seminars and visitors to the book fair. Rosy Lee was one of the main person in charge of the physical arrangements and the paperwork required to allow the ship to berth in Melaka.



1997

3rd–6th June

- MGC Family Camp in Cherating, Kuatan, Pahang



7th June

- Funeral of Shirley Yiau. She was placed in chapel and wake services were conducted there.
- Philip Lim initiated a Myanmar Ministry when an opportunity arrived to provide Christians who are Myanmarese migrant workers working in factories and eateries in Melaka. Monthly worship services were started on Sunday evenings. A handful joined our morning worship service. The Myanmarese even had a Christmas service in their own language which was well attended. But the work closed a year later due to relocations and contract termination.



A Myanmarese brother at our Sunday morning worship.

1998

24th December

- Christmas Celebration (evangelistic).



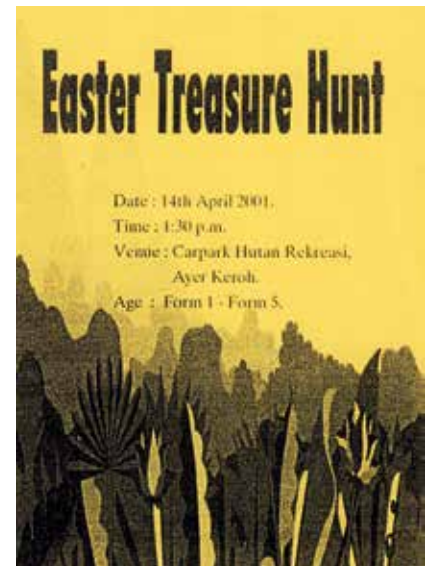
1999

2000

- The DMS Quiz or the Taman Daya, Melaka and Shah Alam assemblies quiz was started by Dexter Ng with the cooperation of the elders from the other two churches. A common bond existed as the three elders were members Melaka Gospel Chapel. Shah Alam Gospel Centre became the first host.

2001

- The Youth group was known as "Youth Alive" and was led by Siew Fook Ming. Amongst some of the activities carried out were the CNY-Bring a Friend event, Easter Treasure Hunt, barbeques, indoor game challenge, tele-match and Ops Bersih Contest.



3rd March

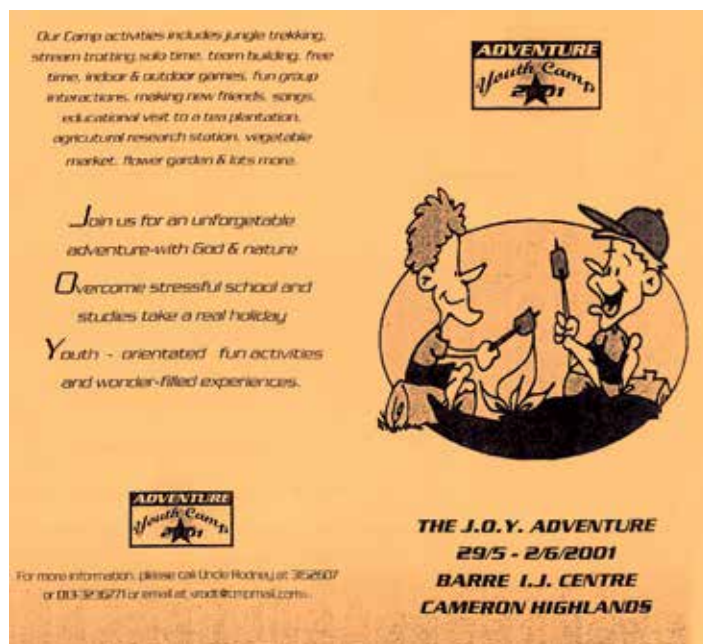
- Youth Ice Cream Nite (with the RBS Team led by Steve Mohan).

26th–27th May

- MGC hosted the Second DMS Quiz. Philip Lim was the quiz master. After arrival on the Saturday evening, the participants had games at the Wesley Methodist Centre and the quiz was staged at night in the chapel. Prizes were given out on Sunday after the worship. Altogether about 80 youths from the three assemblies were involved.

29th May–2nd June

- THE J.O.Y. Adventure Youth Camp (evangelistic) at the Barre I.J. Centre, Cameron Highlands, Speaker was Alister King. On the last night, the campsite had no running water as Camerons was overwhelmed by holiday makers who came up to the hill station for the long weekend and school holidays.



13th–15th September

- Leaders attended the Assembly Leaders' Conference at Port Dickson Golf & Country Club. Theme: Assemblies in Changing Times.

22nd December

- Youth Christmas Party.

2002

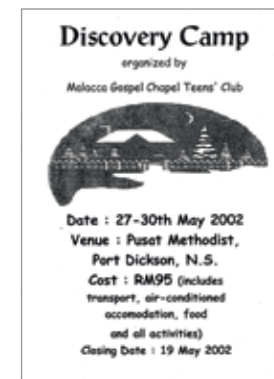
- Teens Club was very active and carried out monthly outreach activities such as New Year's Party, Ice-cream Nite with the RBS Team, Forum on BGR issues, Easter BBQ, BBQ, Games Day, Sports Picnic, Noise Night, Fun Night and Camps. Many of the topics covered relate to youth issues.

6th–7th April

- 4th DMS Quiz. SAGC was host and about 16 from MGC were at the quiz. Among the activities were captainball and skit night on Saturday while the quiz was conducted after the Sunday Worship.

27th–30th May

- Teens Club Discovery Camp (evangelistic) at Methodist Centre, Port Dickson.



26th–30th December

- Teens Club Christmas Gathering. The teens put up a sketch entitled: The Encounter.

Christmas Presentation
Year 2002

Sketch Title : The Encounter

Characters Involved

<i>Christian</i>	-	Geng Yi/Sin Yee
<i>Non-Christian</i>	-	Aaron Lee
<i>Jesus (infant)</i>	-	
<i>Jesus (adult)</i>	-	Daniel Lim
<i>Mary</i>	-	Jessica
<i>Joseph</i>	-	Jeremy
<i>Extra 1</i>	-	Shi Jue
<i>Extra 2</i>	-	Sin Lan
<i>Extra 3</i>	-	Sherene
<i>Narrator 1</i>	-	Tse Shuen
<i>Narrator 2</i>	-	El Sen
<i>Narrator 3</i>	-	Aaron Lee



- Youth's "The Cool Christmas Camp" at a government rest house named Seri Berkat in Fraser's Hill. Speakers: Rodney Tan and Philip Lim. A fruitful 5-day camp where 8 youths got saved. They included Theng Hui Meng, Liu Guang Jian, Tan Li Lian, Melissa Gomes, Jessica Lim, Sharonne Tan, Tiong Ngee Derk, Lim Tse Shaun.



2003

- Spectrum of Praise songbooks purchased.
- Eight youths started doing the SU Correspondence Courses series. A music class to learn how to play drums and electric guitar was started. An SU Camping Volunteers' Training was organized to develop our skills in running youth camps.

25th January

- Teens Club Discovery Camp Reunion.

15th April

- SUFES Camping Volunteers' Training at MGC.

19th April

- Teens Club Easter BBQ.

26th April

- DMS Quiz

5th–7th June

- MGC Family Camp at Peacehaven, Genting Highlands.



25th December

- Christmas Service. Lunch was provided.

2004

- Church theme: "Passion for God, heart for the people".
- Cell groups started doing the series on "Experiencing God" which was found to be beneficial.
- Sister Tan Kim Neo passed away because of cancer.

20th November

- New Working Committee had its first meeting. Committee members included Philip Lim, David Lim, Rodney Tan, Dr Sean, Ivan Chee and Hoh Yoon Kew.

26th December

- Tsunami hit Penang and a love offering was sent to the Island Glades Gospel Centre Tsunami Fund to assist in their recovery and repairs.

2005

- Many musical instruments were bought for the Easter drama—Yamaha Keyboard PSR 2100, Laney 165 keyboard amplifier 160W, acoustic guitar & amplifier.
- Care and Concern Committee was revived. Dr Sean heads the committee.

1st March

- Church bulletin was started. Cheah Geng Yi appointed as Editor.

26th March

- MGC put up a grand-scale Easter Drama entitled: "Behold the Man" at Yoke Bin Secondary School Hall. Almost everyone in church was involved as cast, musicians, in preparing props & costume, sound & light, publicity, finance and backstage hands. Total cost spent was RM15,000

June

- John Thomas Pomali (India) spoke at a series of night meetings on the The Second Coming of Christ.



2006

8th April

- Easter Cantata presented by the Kuala Lumpur Gospel Hall choir. Speaker was Johnny Wong.



27th May

- Chapel break-in. One of many that had occurred through the years.



1st July

- MGC Sports Day at Ayer Keroh Lake Playground (opposite Institut Putra).

2nd July

- Baptism conducted.



2008

- Youths visited a Christian orphanage for boys in Bukit Baru. They cleaned the house, played games and had a meal with the residents. The caretaker of the home was very grateful for our visit.



13th July

- An overview study on the Book of Genesis begins. Sessions taken by Rodney Tan.

22nd September

- Children's Hour Ice-cream Day.



2009

14th January

- Dr Sean and family shared his miraculous testimony of God's miracle in bringing him back to life after suffering a massive heart attack when he was in Australia.



30th May–2nd June



- DMSJ Fellowship Camp (10th Anniversary of the DMSJ Quiz). Camp was held at Golden Sands Baptist Assembly in Port Dickson. It was a special Inter-generational Camp conducted by the SU Team with Jason Fong as the main speaker. Besides a wonderful fellowship between three assemblies, was a special DMSJ All Star Quiz where only those who had participated as previous quiz contestants could participate.



November

- Uncle Allan Yong used his magic tricks and his puppet to share the gospel at the Children's Hour pre-Christmas Party.



14th–17th December



- Teens Club Youth Camp at SUFES Campsite. Speaker was Philip Lim. Theme: Zero to Hero. The 4 day 3 nights camp included activities like jungle trekking, night jungle walk, stream trotting, team building, personality test, fun night, trip to the waterfall and hot springs, and obstacle races.



2010

4th–6th February

- Our dear brother Raymond See was safe in the arms of Jesus after suffering a mysterious ailment. Wake was held in church.



11th April

- Our youths and MMU students were invited to conduct the Easter Evangelistic Meeting at Methodist Girls' Secondary School Christian Fellowship meeting. Dexter Ng shared a message. Our youths consist of Kah Wei, Melissa, Juliana, Frederick, Adrian and Sharma. Mime: Tse Shuen, Shaun, Jess, Celine and Melissa. The theme was "We Are The Reason".

14th–17th June

- First Xplore Youth Camp at Benum Hill Eco-Resort, Lanchang, Pahang. A joint evangelistic adventure camp organised by Kepong Gospel Chapel, Melawati Gospel Hall, Bentong Gospel Hall and Melaka Gospel Chapel.

30th July–1st August

- Youth Planning Retreat at Teluk Kemang Indah Condo, Port Dickson.

2011

January

- The MGC Young Preacher's Group was formed to mentor and train young adults and youth for preaching in church. A selected group of potential preachers were identified and met regularly to be trained by more seasoned preachers like Philip Lim, Rodney Tan and Daniel Wong. The young preachers also were given the opportunity to preach on the Sunday pulpit.

2012

- Ladies Fellowship headed by Lydia (Coordinator) and assisted by Judy Tan and Jennifer Tan. The sister served an important role in food and beverage, and other "behind-the-scenes" ministries such as prayer, visitation and relational work among the ladies.
- Visitation to the Children's Hour kids' homes was done on a regular basis by Kiat Tin and Chee Chee. Objective was to get to know the parents better and to build relationships.
- The audio and video series "The Bible in 24 Hours" by Chuck Missler was shown bi-weekly on Sundays after the morning breakfast. This series took the congregation through the Bible in 24 one-hour sessions.
- A Creation Versus Evolution Seminar was conducted by Philip Lim.

- A major church renovation at the back portion of the church was done to provide more space for the Children's Hour and Teens Club meetings on Saturday evening and to upgrade the rooms for Children's Hour classes. Air-conditioning was also installed in all the rooms and new annex hall.

10th–11th March

- DMSJ Quiz at Shah Alam Gospel Centre.

11th–14th March

- MGC Family Camp at Pine Hill Resort, Fraser's Hill. Speaker: Koh Gim Lam

7th April

- Children's Hour Easter Celebration.

2nd June 2012

- Wedding of Diego and Ngee Shin in chapel.

30th June

- Young Adults Fellowship's welcome gathering for university students.

15th September

- Sharma Dorai and Melissa Gomes' wedding in chapel.

7th September

- Children's Hour Sports Day.



19th October

- Youth Adults Orang Asli Mission Trip to the Bera area in Pahang.

9th–21st November

- Celine Tan attended the first edition of the 3 Holiday Camp in Cameron Highlands which was initiated by the Inter-Brethren Assembly Youth Development Committee (IBAYD) and opened to Form 3 students only.

13th–16th November

- Youth Camp at Golden Sands Baptist Assembly in Port Dickson.

6th–8th December

- Children's Hour English Camp with the Workplace People.

22nd December

- Children's Hour Christmas Party. 67 kids were present (17 kids from the Work Place contacts). 31 kids accepted the Lord.
- Building extension dedication service.

24th December

- MGC Evangelistic Christmas Meeting.

25th December

- Christmas Service.
- Dedication Service of the annex hall (formerly badminton court). Speaker: Wong Sai Weng (Chairman of Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia). Reports were made by the various ministries and a Powerpoint presentation of the history of the Chapel was done by Rodney Tan. There were also testimonies, prayer and a cake cutting ceremony as the new hall was dedicated for the Lord's use.

29th December

MGC Review and Planning Meeting.

2013

31st January–4th February

- RBS Team were in MGC to serve and fellowship with the church. Amongst the activities that they undertook were the Combined MGSS/ACS Christian Fellowship Meeting in MGSS Hall, MGC Young Adults Cell Group Fellowship and Children's Hour and Youth Fellowship (Ice-cream &

Movie Day. The team also put up a song presentation and shared their testimony.

23rd February

- Youth Chap Goh Mei Party. Message by Yam Kah Wei.

10th–13th March

- MGC Family Camp at Peacehaven, Genting Highlands. Speaker: Steven Low.

22nd–23rd March

- 14th DMSJ Quiz. MGC played host. Quiz was conducted on Saturday evening and Fun Night was held at night.

2014

- Teens Club continue on its ministry with a mix of WeChat Series teaching sessions and frisbee training on alternate weeks. The youths took part for the first time in the COPA-IBA games held at a sports centre in Klang. We were soundly thrashed but the youths vowed to come back the next year for a return match.

5th January–22nd February

- Celine Tan participated in the GLO Level 1 training at GLO School, Taiping.

22nd–23rd March

- 15th DMSJ Quiz. MGC is the host. Yam Kah Wei was the person-in-charge.

29th–30th March

- Young Adults Retreat in Port Dickson.

1st–4th June

- MGC Family Camp at MBS Retreat & Training Centre, Rawang. Speaker: Stefan Khoo (Ayer Itam Assembly)
Theme: Pass the Torch.

13th December

- Young Adults Christmas Outreach



December

- Christmas Dinners in homes was started where Christmas carols and a short Christmas message could be shared to a small group of guests.

2015

March

- DMSJ Quiz in Shah Alam Gospel Centre.



November

- AV system upgraded with new backdrop and two screens.

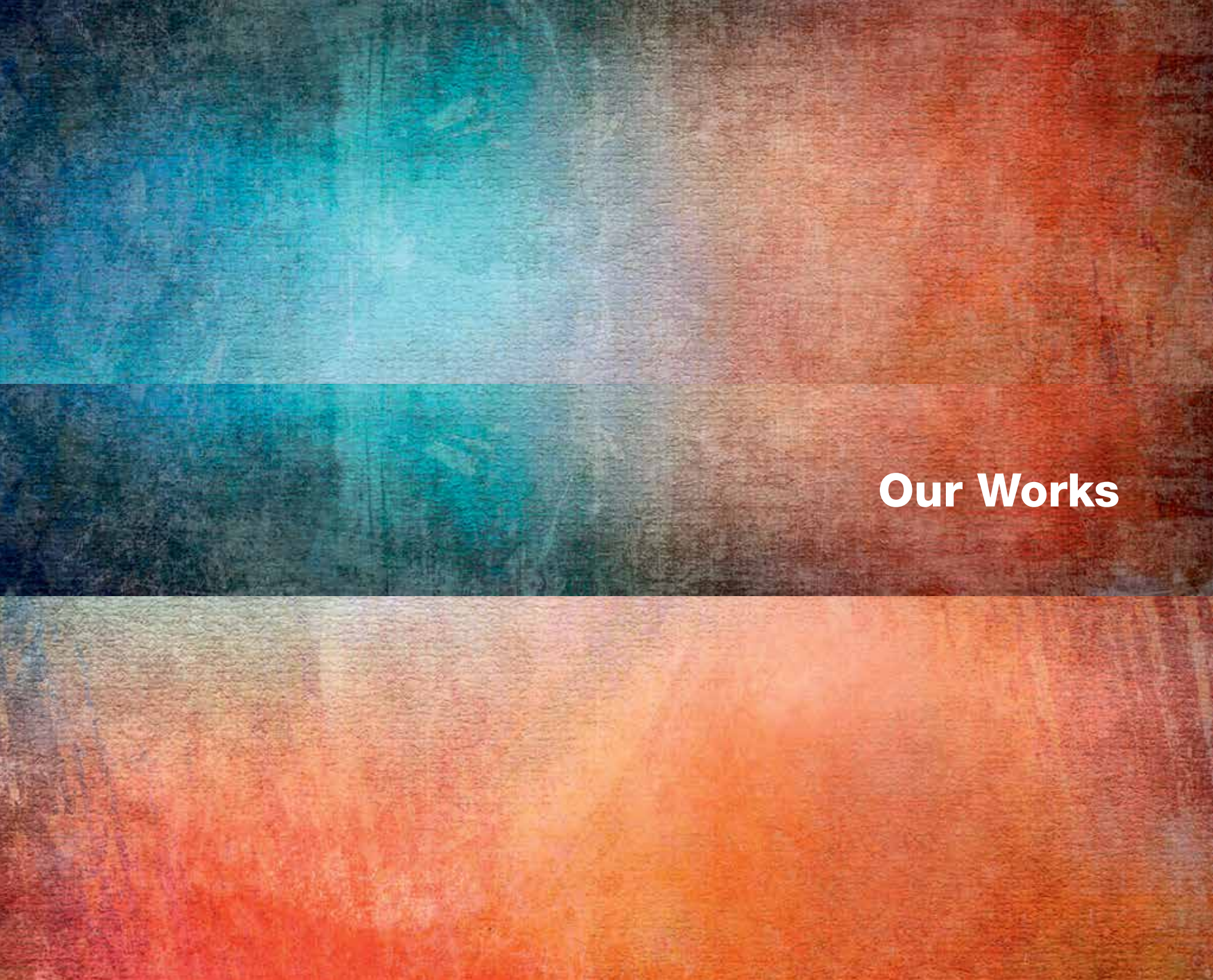
December

- Four homes were opened for Evangelistic Christmas Dinners.

2016

- Melaka Gospel Chapel's 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Celebrations



The background of the slide is an abstract composition of horizontal bands. The top band is a dark teal or blue. The middle band is a lighter, more vibrant blue. The bottom band is a warm orange or terracotta color. The colors are blended together with a soft, painterly texture, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Our Works

Melaka Gospel Chapel Sunday School Work

Sunday School (1976–2000) by Chen Yoke May

Children's work has always been a strength of the Melaka Gospel Chapel. The Lord has provided a string of teachers and people with a heart for children's work throughout the 50 years of the church's existence.

The Sunday School was rebranded as "Children's Hour" in 1995 after teachers received training from Children's Evangelism on starting Holiday Clubs. The approach revived the Sunday School and at its peak there were children meetings at three different homes. By 1997, the work was consolidated and the group met at Taman Asean only. It was later moved back to the Chapel.

Sunday School Superintendent

1968: Paul Tan

1974: Victor Wong

1976: Richard Chen

Christine Tan

Shirley Yiau

Micheal Ng & Cheng Lian

Philip Lim & Soon Guan Ngo

Rodney & Grace Tan

Khoo Yu Ming & Quek Kiat Tin



Sunday School in the 60s.



Sunday School in the basement, 1967.



Sunday School, late 1970s.



Sunday School, late 1970s.



1986: Puppet show to entertain the children and to share the gospel in a creative manner.



1985: Birthdays of Sunday School children were celebrated on a regular basis.



Late 1980s: Christmas party.



1985 : Sunday School classes in action

Yoke May's class.



1985 : Sunday School classes in action

Seet Lay Kim's class. The tables were made from a ping-pong table while the benches were made from wall planks.



1986: Holiday Club.



1995: The Sunday School was rebranded as "Children's Hour"



1987: Sunday School Nativity play.

MGC CHILDREN'S HOUR CLUB

 Held every Saturday except School Term Holiday
Place : Melaka Gospel Chapel,
CH46-A Lindongm, 75200 Melaka.
Time : 4 - 6 pm

Children's Hour is a church-run club for the wholesome needs of children aged 4-12 in their spiritual, mental, emotional, social & physical development.
The Club organizes weekly activities which includes singing, story telling, for activities & games.
We also have weekly meetings, educational visits, camp, sports, competitions, celebrations, parties, talks, music, creative arts etc.
It fun & quality spiritual learning experience and the activities are designed to be worthwhile and enjoyable for children between 4-12 years.
Refreshments are usually provided after our weekly activities & transportation is provided.
Our teachers and helpers are dedicated, trained volunteers who are dedicated and concerned about the well-being of our future generation.

Application Form

Name : _____ Age: _____ Sex: Male/Female.
Address: _____
Telephone No: _____
School: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Hobbies: _____ Religion: Christian/Non-Christian
Any medical problems/allergies/on medication? : No / Yes (If 'yes', give details) : _____

I hereby allow my son/daughter/ward to join and participate fully in the Children's Hour Club activities.
Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Further Enquiries: Contact Philip Lim (Tel:3342617) or Ruby Yim (Tel:3155607)

Application form to join Children's Hour.



1990s: Children Hour's Telematch.



1997: A Children's Hour Saturday Meeting. Notice the direction of the pews—facing the sidewall.



Zoo outing—caught in the rain.



2000s: At the field in Taman Sentosa, Bukit Baru. The Children's Hour moved to Taman Sentosa for a few years.



1998: Sunday School Sports Day.



1998: Sunday School Sports Day.



At the Kampung Hailam beach in Tanjung Kling. Children are having beach games before proceeding to the nearby Malacca Club for lunch.



Prize presentation to the group leaders after the Children's Hour Telematch event in Taman Sentosa.



2011: Children's Hour English Camp.



One of the group winners!



Popular Uncle Buttons was invited to a children's camp to present and share the gospel.

Children's Hour (2006–2015) by Khoo Yu Ming

Over the years, the Lord has faithfully used the children's ministry in Melaka Gospel Chapel to reach out and bless many children and families.

The children's session has been held regularly in MGC except for a period of about 2 years when the children's session was moved to Elder Rodney Tan's home in an effort to reach out to the kids in Taman Sentosa.

Subsequently in 2006, the children's session was moved back to MGC and we focused on outreach work in the nearby housing estates, village and flats. The work grew when the Lord led us to start outreach work in Taman Sayang Selasih, Klebang Besar. We started by getting a few youths at that time (Tse Shaun, Tse Hwei, Yen Mei, Elsen, etc) to play football in the field in the middle of the taman and invited the neighborhood kids to join in.

Mr and Mrs Chua who reside in Taman Sayang Selasih were the key persons who opened their home to the kids. They provided refreshments after the football games. It was a good way to get to know the kids and build relationships with them. Later, we invited the kids to come for Children's Hour in church. At the beginning, the teachers fetched the kids to church for Children's Hour in their own cars. Subsequently, when the Lord increased the number of kids, we decided to hire a school bus to ferry the kids to church.

For the past 2 years, Kiat Tin with other helpers from MGC (Bee Wan, Wan Neo, Ai Lian, Judy, Grace, Lay Kim, Sin Yee, Alex, Andy, Rachel, Fong Wan, Celine, Joel, etc) had been involved in the tutoring ministry at the Lereh flats. On Friday

afternoons, Kiat Tin gathers the children at one of the kids' homes and helps the kids in their English homework as well as other subjects. This is a good way to befriend the parents as well. The parents are very appreciative when they see their kids' English improve and as a result, they encourage other kids from the neighbourhood to come for Children's Hour as well.

We had also conducted regular Vacation Bible School or English Camps for the last few years. Every year we will organise a Christmas evangelistic party in December which were very well attended. Many parents will come to watch their kids perform or participate in the party. The message of the gospel is shared during the event. We had Christian clowns cum magicians, teams from Singapore, Youth For Christ and the Work Place people assisting and facilitating our holiday camps and Christmas activities.

The Lord has been faithful over the years as He has brought many non-Christian kids to our Children's Hour. We have had the opportunity to share the gospel to them through the Bible lessons and the many evangelistic events over the years. Many have come to know the Lord and many seeds have been planted in the children's hearts. Do pray that the Lord will continue to use the Children's Hour ministry as a beacon and a blessing to reach out to the many non-believers in our community.

Khoo Yu Ming & Quek Kiat Tin
Children's Hour Coordinators

Melaka Gospel Chapel Young People's Work

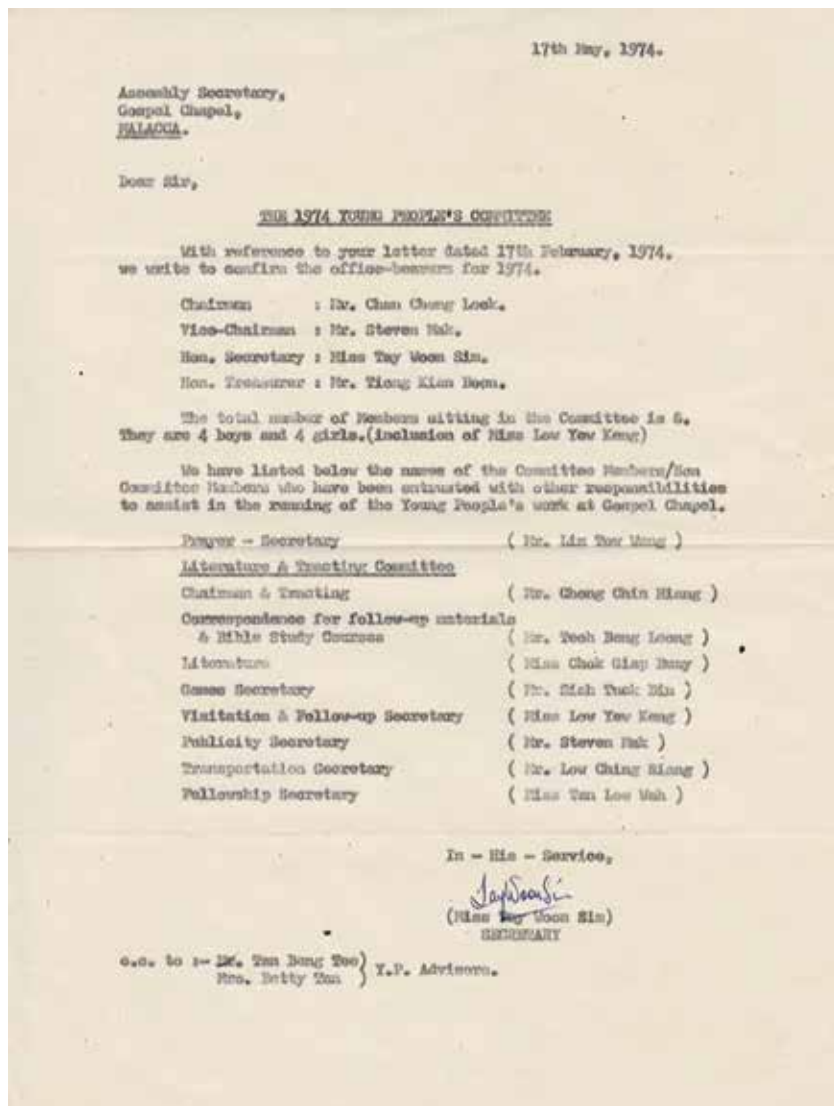
Youth ministry has been another fruitful work of the Chapel especially in the early years of the 60s and 70s. However, the work began to dwindle in the 80s, 90s up till the present. One main reason is the change in education system where the English medium schools were changed to national Malay medium school beginning in the 80s. Another factor is the constant outflow of young people after their secondary education moving out to the bigger cities for further studies and job opportunities. This outflow would have affected the young adults who are involved in the church ministries such as the Sunday School and Young People's. The 80s and the 90s were particularly challenging times but there were many who grew up well and some had even made a special point to return and to remain in Melaka. People like Koo Sin Yee, Koo Sin Lan, Sharma Dorai, Melissa Gomes, Lim Tse Shuen, Lim Tse Hwei, Raymond See (deceased).

But over the years, the church has trained and raised many youths who later are leaders and fulltime workers in many other churches, missions and Christian organisations. Many remember and speak fondly of their formative years where they were cared for and disciplined by various people in Chapel. They appreciate mature, older members of the family of in MGC like Aunty Tan, Uncle Beng Tee, Teo Boon Cheng and Yee Lin, Stanley Lim, Victor Wong among others who worked among them. Many older youths became mentors and "big brother" or "big sister" to the younger ones. When some backslided, there were those who kept in contact and brought them back to Christ and the church.

When some were missing from regular church attendance, there were those who seek out these people, to find out whether things are alright. It was this care and concern that impressed the youth to return back to God and the fellowship.

<u>GOSPEL CHAPEL, LIMBONGAN, MALACCA</u>		
<u>YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETINGS</u>		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>
30.9.67.	Mr. Paul Tan	Mr. Hong Ah Beng
7.10.67.	Mr. Tan Beng Tee	Mr. Ronny Chiew.
14.10.67.	Mr. Richard Teo	Mr. Billy Foo
21.10.67.	Dr. Michael Oh	Mr. Sundaraj Francis
28.10.67.	Mr. Anthony Francis	Mr. Law Ng Wan
4.11.67	Mr. Tan Beng Tee	Mr. Ronny Chew
11.11.67	Mr. Paul Tan	Mr. Billy Foo
18.11.67	Mr. Richard Teo	Mr. Chew Ah Beng
25.11.67	Dr. Michael Oh	Mr. Law Ng Wan
2.12.67	Mr. Anthony Francis	Mr. Raja Francis
9.12.67	Mr. Tan Beng Tee	Mr. Billy Foo
16.12.67	Mr. Paul Tan	Mr. Ronny Chew
23.12.67	Mr. Richard Teo	Mr. Law Ng Wan
30.12.67	Dr. Michael Oh	Mr. Chew Ah Beng.

The early years, 1960s.



The early years, 1960s.



The youth put up a drama presentation on Pharaoh and the Israelites (early 70s).



The cycling trips to Pantai Kundor (Pantai Puteri) and the picnics under a big tree behind the PSA bungalow became a regular feature of the fellowship. Many non-Christian friends were brought to these trips and the gospel can be shared in a non-threatening manner.



Great fellowship and sharing under the tree by the beach for the young people.



On some of these trips the Elders were invited to come and share with the teens.



Meeting up and fellowshiping at an Elder's house was quite common.



The love of singing Christian songs and playing the guitar has always been an integral element of the youth work.



Friendships developed at Young People's meetings.



Christmas choir presentation by the youths (1987). Choir mistress was Ong Lay Hong.



Christmas carolling by the youths.



Youth Bible Study, 1988.



Youth drama performance, 1988.



Youth campfire in the 80s.



Youth church choir, Easter 1991.



Youth church choir, Christmas 1999.



Barbeque with MMU students, 2002.



Youth Camp at the SU Campsite, Tapah, Perak 1999.



Tenniquoit games were very popular during the early days and were usually played after the youth meeting.



If the youth of the 70s played tenniquoits, the youths of 2000 played captainball.



Youth fun and games at the Ayer Keroh park.



Youth Retreat.



Teen's Club meeting in one of the Sunday School room. Teen's work is lively and fun!



Outing at Sagil Waterfalls.



Youth Christmas gathering.



Celebrating birthdays of teens.

YOUTH WORK, 2005-2012



Combined meet with the Kepong Gospel Chapel youths at a bungalow in Banda Hilir, 16 August 2013.



Our youths consisting of Tse Shaun, Andy Mau, Tham Fong Wan, Tse Ken, Celine and Joel Tan helped to run an Orang Asli Youth Leadership camp held in MGC. The OA were from Pekan Baptist Church, Pahang. Uncle Rodney Tan and Dr Daniel Wong shared at the camp, 13 August 2013.



A typical youth meeting on a Saturday evening (4–6pm). The meeting will end with a game of captain ball with the children from Children's Hour, August 2013.



The young people like making visitations especially during the festive seasons such as the Chinese New Year.



Our youths taking part in the DMSJ quiz. We have won the first prize for some of the years

TEENS CLUB, 2013–2016

NEW FACES

The youth work prior to 2013 was actively spear-headed by Juliana Tasha Gomes, Melissa Tanya Gomes and Lim Tse Shuen. Yam Kah Wei and Sharma Doray also helped out initially, but their involvement decreased with growing involvement in the Young Adults and Young Preachers Group. The youth leaders of that time constantly sourced for teaching material on their own to meet the challenges facing them. The challenges came from the youth themselves—with former youths leaving Melaka to further their studies, the composition of the youth group changed. Most came from rebellious and Chinese-speaking backgrounds. The youth team also had to deal with language barriers and a lack of male presence and male role models.

Juliana, Melissa, Sharma and Tse Shuen left in stages, almost one after the other—for further studies, work, and a change of marital status, respectively. Before she left, Tse Shuen prepared a comprehensive report of the youth work in 2012, where the finer points of the work were expressed in greater detail. The report enabled the next youth team to prepare for the challenges to come, with a clearer picture of what was ahead.

The youth committee that took over the work in 2013 (also the current committee at the time of writing) was different from its predecessors, in that it was no longer predominantly led by the young adults who had only recently transitioned from being youths themselves. Previous youth leaders were the likes of Chua Beng Hui, Cheah Geng Yi and Aaron Lee

Wen Cheen, backed by a committee of youths carefully hand-picked to be in the committee.

The new committee was led by Elder Rodney Tan. Esmond Khoo, Lim Tse Hwei and Philip Lim formed the rest of the team. Three youths were later added to the team—Celine Tan, Joel Tan and Lim Tse Ken were first roped in to observe and to have a first-hand experience of how discussions and meetings were handled.

The composition of youth also varied through the years. Juliana, Melissa and Tse Shuen had already found earlier that we no longer had the average youth group. This was no longer a struggle of trying to get complacent Christian youths to be interested in the Bible and reaching out as a bonus.

Non-believers greatly outnumbered the believers, where most of them had graduated from the Children's Hour. The language barrier presented a real struggle, with only two Chinese-speaking youth teachers (and only one could read and write in Chinese competently).

Most of these soon left the group for one reason or other, and more came—mysteriously connected to each other in one way or another. We now had youths from different and varied backgrounds—the socially and economically disadvantaged, the ones who had more than just first-world problems with education (e.g. which overseas education should I pursue?), the Hindu, the Buddhist, the free-thinker, the Christian... Some could only speak one language, others could only speak languages the teachers couldn't speak or understand. We slowly began to see how deeply family,

cultural and religious environments could shape a teen. And this realization—albeit enlightening—had its challenges.

CHALLENGES

With no “usual youth group”, we found that it was no longer effective to conduct youth meetings the “usual way”, i.e. lessons on Christian teachings for a Christian group, coupled with the occasional out-reach as a means of evangelism and also fellowship.

Our predecessors had discovered and concluded earlier that splitting the group and giving English classes to one while giving other lessons to the other did not work. The reasons were obvious—we were ill-equipped to overcome the language barrier. “What can we teach them if they don’t understand us?” This was the great challenge.

Another was to cater for so many different groups of people and meet all their needs at once, without giving less to any one group. This balancing act proved difficult due to various factors. One of which was the lack of leaders who were willing to build friendships with youths from each group.

Location and logistics also posed a challenge for the leaders. All the leaders lived in the Bukit Beruang/Bukit Katil whereas the youths lived in the Klebang Besar area and beyond—literally opposite ends of Melaka. The physical distance between leaders and youth meant transporting them to youth activities (almost) became quite a huge weekly logistics exercise (though enjoyable). Furthermore, the physical distance also meant that it has been difficult to be present in the lives of the youth outside of formal gatherings.

REBRANDING

New perspectives were needed for new challenges. Philip suggested a rebranding of the youth group. The idea was to make the youth group a club of sorts (not the wild kind) that was exclusive to its members, in order to create a real and authentic sense of belonging.

The rebranding began with the re-naming of the youth group. “The Teens’ Club” seemed the most appropriate choice. We also created a Facebook group with the same name (save for a difference in apostrophes), which is now used to post news of weekly activities and to encourage the teens during trying times, such as exams and tragedies.

We used board games like carrom, darts, jenga to get the youth together over games.



MGC Teens Club—always trying to hit the mark

But what really brought the youth together in the end was something unexpected—we embarked on an adventure that has taken us places we never dreamed we’d be. Who would

have thought that a simple game of Ultimate Frisbee every alternate week would lead to an Ultimate Frisbee training and two participations in the Copa Iba?



Copa Iba 2015



We saw the youth genuinely fall in love with the sport. We bought our own frisbees, and skittles to mark boundaries. Rodney brought sandwiches, water and snacks every Frisbee week. The youth now play Ultimate Frisbee every alternate week.



It is heartening to see people from different backgrounds come together in friendship and sportsmanship when playing the game. Sports ministry has been integrated with youth ministry in this respect, and we hope that this will be a means by which we see a great harvest in our lifetime.



Bowling—a regular feature in our youth outings.



2014 Christmas Celebration at Esmond and Tse Hwei's apartment in Taman Asean.

CONSTANT ADAPTING NEEDED

There was a great need to constantly evaluate where we were and where we were heading. We evaluated our syllabus every quarter of the year to see how we were doing and changed the syllabus and our way of doing things according to the evaluation.

It was almost impossible to come up with a year-long schedule as the needs could vary greatly from one quarter to another.

We went from discussing “hot” topics like “High Expectations” and “Worry” to inductive Bible Study and exploring existential questions and questions about God. We also taught the miracles and parables of Jesus to bring them to a point of genuinely asking themselves who this Jesus was and why He was so important.

We also received feedback that there was a need for our Christian youth to receive the Word in a deeper way. Philip began giving Bible classes to our Christian youth on Sunday evenings to meet this need.

We thought that the need to adapt would slow down once the group became familiar with each other. We eventually found that this presented a challenge, because familiarity itself leads to another challenge: contempt and complacency. Our youth were now able to finish our sentences when we spoke the gospel to them, and yet they remained where they were. “Where are we heading?”

This question became inevitable.

MAZE RUNNER CAMP

We began preparations towards the first evangelistic youth camp in a long time, which was named after the blockbuster that was recently (at the time) released in the cinemas.

At the time, we didn't quite have the numbers for a camp, but decided to proceed in faith.

In the end, about 20-odd youth attended the camp, with 7 members in the organizing team. Dexter Ng was the speaker.



The Maze Runner Camp.

The sessions were carefully crafted: “The Comfort of the Glades” (safety, not seeking, afraid of the unknown), “Struggle in the Maze” (trying to find the meaning of life and losing your way in the midst of it), “The Great Escape”. These summed up what we felt was where our youths were at the time.

During the camp, Dexter made an altar call, and a number of youth responded. However, follow-up efforts have not been effective. We quickly found that some felt that Jesus was only an alternative, and not the answer.

Our perspective changed now that the gospel had been put to them in such a direct manner.

MOVING FORWARD

In 2016, the team welcomes a new addition to the ministry—Tham Fong Wan, whose teaching background and bubbly personality has brought new dimensions to the team.

The team also decided to take a more devotional approach to the Bible, one which could reach both believers and non-believers alike.

Instead of just saying “This is what you should believe”, we want to show them in both word and deed: “This is why you should believe”.

Instead of just saying “This is what the gospel is”, we want to show them “this is why the gospel is beautiful”.

GROWTH

Growth is measured in many ways. When asked the question, “What do you think our youth group needs the most?” at a family camp, one of our youth responded, “People”.

But we have been blessed to see our youth group grow in more than one way. It has been a great blessing indeed to see some of the youth grow in leaps and bounds, stepping up in leadership and taking initiative, though finding themselves in a very different environment from their predecessors. Celine, Joel and Tse Ken may not have had

the privilege of acting in skits, and organizing monthly gospel meetings, but they have had the greater privilege of living out the truth of Christ to those around them and actively participating in gospel ministry every week.

CONCLUSION

We’d thought that many would leave after the camp, considering the way the gospel was put to them. That great exodus did not happen.

A number of them eventually left on their own accord, on account of work and studies.

The work of this ministry has taught us to follow God’s leading and not merely our own devices and planning. We learned that we could plan all we want and use tried and tested methods, but we are ministering to people, not things that can receive “methods” like machines.

A great blessing is that we have grown to be very fond of the youth, and have close and dear friendships with many of them. Some of them will be leaving us for unavoidable reasons. Some already have.

Appreciating MGC Youths (1989-2012) **by Siew Fook Ming**

Melaka Gospel Chapel is a very caring and loving church in which I had the opportunity to teach and guide the youth to grow in the Lord.

In 1989, I was given the opportunity to work in Melaka and that was when I came into active fellowship with MGC. During my 13 years in Melaka, MGC was the place where I wanted to worship and served our Lord faithfully. I can still remember the classes and students of the youth fellowship. The youth work was known as "Teens' Club". I enjoyed Teens' Club time very much. The youth team was dynamic and teachers / helpers were really dedicated. Youth camps and retreats were really fun, enriching and edifying. The fireflies trip and stay in the Malaysia Nature Society campsite in Kuala Selangor are still very fresh in my memory!

The youth group met on Saturdays at 4 pm for activities. They had Bible study, talks and games. On many Easter and Christmas days, they formed and sang in the church choir.

We had our ups and downs. New member recruitment was one of the major challenges because MGC is a "sending church". Youths will leave Melaka to further their education after their SPM or STPM exams and they will settle down in other major cities.

The church leadership was very supportive and encouraging towards the Teens' Club ministry and in my personal walk with the Lord.

Teens, for example, Beng Hui, Geng Yi and Ye Yin have grown into wonderful adults and it gives me joy to see them continuing serving the Lord.

When my son, Joshua Siew was born in 1999, I knew that MGC would be the best church for him to grow in the Lord.

The sisters in MGC were of much help and encouragement when my wife, Priscilla was diagnosed with De Quervain's Tenosynovitis disease.

I also had the blessed opportunity to share God's Word for the Sunday sermons.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in one way or another throughout the time I was fellowshipping with MGC. God bless all of you as we celebrate MGC's 50th Anniversary!

SIEW FOOK MING
SS Gospel Centre, PJ

The Chapel's Mission Work

Orang Asli

Melaka Gospel Chapel contributes regularly to the Orang Asli ministry under the Pan Malaysian Orang Asli Mission and the Temerloh Gospel Chapel Orang Asli Ministry. Tan Beng Tee attends the Orang Asli bi-annual meetings regularly and on occasions had visited the Orang Asli work in Tapah. Melaka Gospel Chapel had mission trips to the Orang Asli and prays for the ministry.



Batu 10 Orang Asli Church Leader.



Tan Beng Tee had a heart for the Orang Aslis and regularly attends the Pan-Malaysia Orang Asli Mission and visits the Orang Asli Settlements.



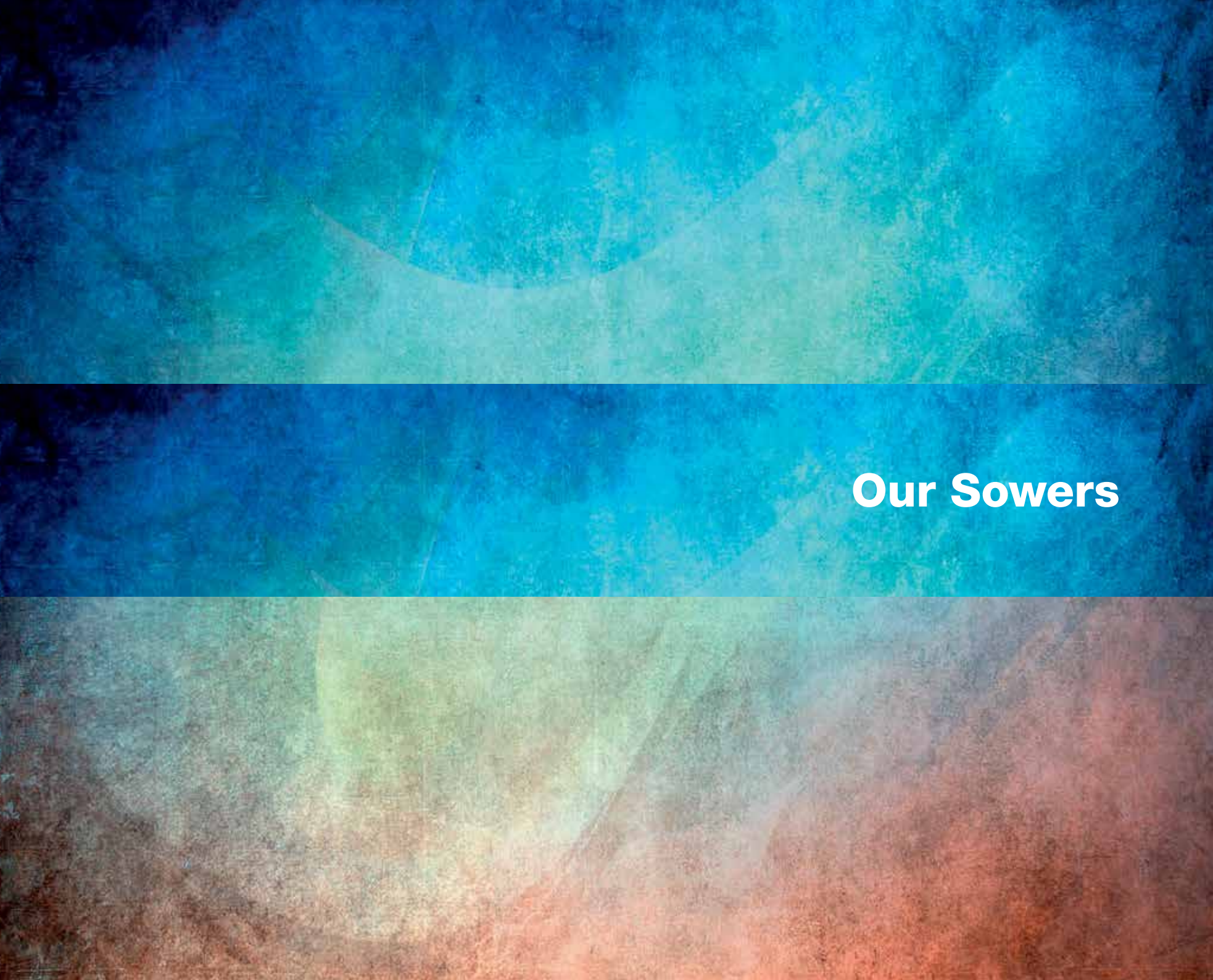
Youth Mission Trip to an Orang Asli Village where our youth stayed overnight and experienced what it was like to live in an Orang Asli village at the fringe of jungles.



Youth Mission Trip to an Orang Asli Village in Pahang.

Myanmar Ministry

For a period about a year in the early 90s, Melaka Gospel Chapel opened its doors to a group of Myanmar migrant workers and they even had a Myanmar Christmas Service in our church which was well attended. Unfortunately, its core leaders had to return home or moved to Kuala Lumpur and the work ceased.

The background is an abstract composition of textured, painterly strokes. The top half is dominated by various shades of blue and teal, with a lighter, almost white, curved shape that resembles a stylized 'C' or a wave. The bottom half transitions into a mix of green, yellow, and orange, with darker, more muted tones on the right side. The overall effect is organic and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a sense of depth.

Our Sowers

Molly Cheah

My mother Molly Cheah went to be with Our Lord on 10th September 2015. She was 88 years old, just under a month shy of her 89th birthday.

When she relocated to Perth, Mum retired from teaching piano at the hectic pace she kept in Malacca but she did take on one or two students who asked for help. In church however, Mum continued to be active playing on Sundays at Bedford Community Church and Perth Multicultural Church; and accompanying Christian singers who sang for residents at aged care homes on Saturdays.

Living alone in her duplex home (you may know it as a semi detached house), she kept busy with home duties, walking to do her shopping and taking care of her garden. I am also grateful that she helped take care of my sons, Hayden and Jorden once a week while I worked.

For those who haven't seen her for a few years, Mum has been gradually declining mentally over the past 5 years with short term memory loss and becoming unsteady on her feet. Despite this, she still lived in her own home and taking care of herself. After a fall walking to the shops, we asked her not to go alone as was her custom. Stephen, Li Leng, Li Ai and myself being the children who live in Perth, took turns to take her to our homes for dinner each night and provided her daily lunch.

Being the independent lady she always has been, Mum steadfastly refused to consider moving to retirement units or any type of supervised aged care facility. In the last 2 years we managed to persuade her to allow fortnightly home help to clean, although we subsequently found out, she sometimes sent them away denying that her home needed cleaning!

Unfortunately, Mum fell at home in February 2015 and sustained a fractured pelvis in two places. The treatment was bed rest for 8 weeks then gradually sitting and finally walking with aids. We were thrilled when she finally was walking again with the walking frame. However, we did realise that Mum would not be able to return home to live independently. Things seemed to be progressing according to plan with her fracture treatment, though she had a decline in her appetite. We put this down to her preference for Asian cuisine and also reduced dietary needs due to her inactivity.

We organised for Mum to move to a permanent residential care facility on the 20th May 2015 for continuing care. Her condition started deteriorating within a few weeks of the move and appetite did not improve despite trying to tempt her with homemade food and goodies. Her weight loss accelerated, she became increasingly disinterested in her surroundings and wanted to sleep more and more.

Throughout this time Mum never had any physical pain or discomfort. She increasingly refused food and in the last few days, even ice cream which she enjoyed.

We were called to her bedside by the staff of St. Michael's care on Thursday (10th September 2015), because she was weak and unresponsive. She passed away at 0950 peacefully.

In accordance with her wishes, we will bring her remains back to Penang to be buried in the Cheah family plot in Western Cemetery following cremation. We held a thanksgiving memorial service for her life at Bedford Community Church on Thursday 17th September 2015. We will also be having a brief service at the graveside in Penang when we inter Mum's ashes on Monday 28th September 2015.

While we love and miss her, we have the assurance that she is in the Lord's care and presence and we shall meet her again (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

ROSALIND TEO

on behalf of Philip Oh, Stephen Oh, Lillian Li Leng Oh, Li Ai Gamble and Joshua Siang Yew Oh.

Saturday, 26 September 2015



Cheah (Molly Siew Gueh):

06.10.1926 – 10.09.2015

Aged 88

Peacefully went to be with her Lord and her Saviour.

Devoted mother to Phillip, Rosalind, Stephen, Lillian, Li Ai and Joshua.

Beloved Grandmother and Great Grandmother to their families.

Loving sister to Edward her only remaining sib.

**Until we are re-united with her again, we cherish
1 Thess 4:14**

"For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep."

While her spirit is with the Lord, her cremated remains from Perth, W.A. will be laid to rest in the family plot, at the Western Road Cemetery, Penang on 28 September 2015 until the day of Resurrection when Christ our Lord and Saviour returns.

The interment service is at 10.00 am at the graveyard.

Mrs Tan Gim Ann—A Life Well-Lived!

She was almost always dressed in a modest cheongsam, but in 1979 she put on trekking gear. It was for a mission trip to Fang in northern Thailand. She normally spoke in soft, gentle tones as she comforted and shared the Gospel with the lonely and sick in homes and hospitals. But out there among the hills, she preached in a loud, authoritative tone to large crowds of villagers. They had trekked miles through hills and vales, rain or shine, to hear the precious Word of God. She herself had climbed rugged hills, crossed swaying rope bridges and trudged doggedly under the burning sun to meet these scattered hill tribes half-way; all done at the age of 72!

This was Voon Nyook Yoon or “Aunty Tan” as she was popularly known. She was born on 4 July 1907 in Sabah, the eldest from a large family of 9. The family moved over to Malaya when she was about 6 years old. They first settled in Taiping but later relocated to Tapah, Perak. Her mother used to read Bible stories to her and her siblings, as well as teach her to read the Chinese Bible in the Hakka dialect and basic skills in hospital and home visitation.

In 1917, at the age of 10, she was sent to board and study at the Elim Gospel Hall orphanage in Ipoh. There, she made a public confession of her faith in the Lord. The missionaries came to depend on her as the big sister to all the other children. She was also the official interpreter for the missionaries at Christian meetings because she was fluent in English, Cantonese and Hakka. At the same time, she learnt much from the missionaries. God was preparing her for His service in later years in Malacca.

She was in Elim Home from age 10 to age 26, when she got married. Aunty Tan had met a teacher from Malacca, Tan Gim Ann at an Inter-Assembly Easter Conference. She married him in 1933 and moved to Malacca. Gim Ann came from a very strict Straits-born Buddhist home but had become a Christian while studying in Hong Kong University. Life was not easy, especially when he brought home a fervent Christian wife. Both were persecuted for their faith. However, through years of consistent kindness, patiently carrying out humble, menial services to her mother-in-law, Nyook Yoon was finally declared a good daughter-in-law!

At the same time, the young couple began to think of reviving the Assembly work in Malacca which was started in 1895 but abandoned later. In 1934, the Tans decided to hold the Lord's Supper in their own home (Bethany) with others of like mind. It had been a large, sprawling, unique structure with no walls or rooms! Mr. Tan had walls put in and renovated it for normal living. In the middle of the building was a “boxed pool” which was later used as a baptistery. Countless lives were transformed by the Gospel and in-depth Bible teaching by the early missionaries. Years later, Aunty Tan, by then a widow, sold her home which became the Malacca Gospel Chapel.

After World War 2, missionaries came back from England with the concept of Christian camps. Aunty was roped in to be Camp Mummy and also as cook for very large inter-Assembly camps that catered for 100 to 200 campers. Mr Tan served as Camp Daddy, driving her daily, to market to get huge quantities of fresh produce and groceries for

the camp kitchen. She served in that capacity for a record period of 25 years until she “retired” in 1975. It is no wonder the Tans are so fondly remembered by so many.

The Tans were also well-known for their love for the Lord in practical actions of love for all and sundry. Bethany always had a constant stream of visitors. Speakers, missionaries and full-time workers were always welcomed at their home for a meal to which the whole church was often invited. They were always reaching out to people, the less fortunate and non-believers. They also often hosted missionaries and took in student-boarders and young adults working in Malacca for short periods.

Aunty Tan was greatly devoted to her God. Her boundless energy and care for others’ spiritual and physical needs often saw her out of her home, visiting them. She tried to learn to drive without success! By hook or by crook, she would find transport to do the visiting. Some homes had no proper addresses, so she had to walk through paddy fields and farms to find the women.

She always took along her Bible to read portions of Scripture in Hakka, Cantonese or English. Her greatest concern was that people hear the words of Scripture. Her return visits to the poor would always be accompanied by practical gifts of money, home-cooked food, used clothes for recycling into children’s wear, fruits, medicine, books, tracts and whatever else.

The old, sick and lonely featured very much in her itinerary in her twilight years. Like Caleb of old, at 86 years old, her zeal had not waned. Whenever an opportunity arose, she still made her rounds of Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur

or Malacca. However, age slowed her down; her hearing, sight and memory were gradually failing her. But her heart continued to burn brightly with the message of God’s love that no one should perish but that all should hear and repent.

Our beloved Aunty Tan spent her last seven years in Ipoh. She kept fellowship and served with Elim Gospel Hall until she was called home to the Lord on 18th February, 1996 at the age of 89. Faithful and zealous to the end, hers was a life lived truly well! But all she wanted was to be remembered as, “She has done what she could.” (Mark 14:8)

MRS JOSEPHINE HO and BETTY TAN



Aunty Tan with Yoke May beside her.

Standing at the back are Rodney Tan, Yoke Lin, Moy Kok Wah, Soon Bee Wan and Shirley Yiau.

Tan Beng Tee

Tan Beng Tee (1937-2012) was born in a Straits-born family in Tranquerah Road, Malacca. He was fondly known as "Uncle Beng" by the young people of Melaka Gospel Chapel.

In his teenage years (1949-1956), he lived part of it in Bethany, the home of Mr & Mrs Tan Gim Ann which is now our current church building. His family was not well-off and his mother allowed him to stay with his relatives. He accepted the Lord during his teenage years (1949) at a Bible camp and under the godly influence of Mr & Mrs Tan Gim Ann who were his first uncle and aunty. Beng Tee was the first in his family to become a Christian.

He was exposed to many visitors and guests who stayed at Bethany and who frequent the meetings and Bible studies that were run at the home. Much of his youth was also spent taking care of the home and doing chores for his uncle and aunt.

Melaka Gospel Hall was where he grew up spiritually and fellowshiped with the saints there as Mr and Mrs Tan Gim Ann were also active members there. He was active in mission and evangelism, and made trips to Jasin to help in Jasin Gospel Hall.

After completing Form 3, he worked at Borneo Motors (1954-1956) as a wireman and later at the Public Works Department (JKR) (1956-1990) as a mechanic till his retirement. He bought a Vespa scooter and later courted Soo Nyok Chin whom he later married after leading her to Christ.



OBITUARY
 "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."
 (2 Timothy 4:7)



TAN BENG TEE
 Age: 76 years
 Passed away peacefully on 27th March 2012

Leaving :
 Wife : SOO NYOK CHIN

Sons:
 TAN CHAI WHATT (RODNEY)
 TAN CHAI ENG (THOMAS)
 TAN CHAI CHENG (CEDRIC)

Daughter-in-law:
 TEH ON CHEW (GRACE)

Grandchildren : TAN HUI XIN (CELINE)
 TAN HUI JIE (JOEL)

Sister, brother, sister-in-law, nephews and niece.

Wake Service nightly at 8pm at 293, Jalan Tengker, Melaka.
 Funeral Service on 31st March 2012 at 11am at Malacca Gospel Chapel, Limbongan and thereafter to Cheng Christian Cemetery.

H/P: 013-3236771, 017-8834374

Tan Beng Tee was a man who had a heart for the people and was actively involved in union, social and religious affairs of his work place and community. Among his involvement were the Melaka Bible Society Auxilliary (1981), Chairman, MALAYSIAN CARE (1987), Local Representative, Malacca Christian Cemetery Board (from 1969—various posts including Chairman), protem-committee for setting up the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (1983).

He was also active in the social sphere where he served in the Henry Gurney School, Teluk Mas Release Board Committee (1962-1968), the Rukun Tetangga Tranquerah Pantai (1976-2000s), JKR Staffside Union (1982-1983), and Malacca Branch of The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism (1990s). He also was an active committee member of a local political party and a very regular blood donor. He cared for the people and was highly respected by the local multiracial and multireligious society. Later in his life, he was awarded a long service medal by the government.

In church, he was an Elder till his death. His heart had always been for the youth work from the beginning and many Saturday evenings and nights were spent at the Young People's Meetings and he helped fetch youths from their home to the chapel. He usually stopped for supper and treated his passengers. Parents trusted him and he had a good rapport with many of them. Many young people remembered him fondly as a loving, principled elder.

Beng Tee conducted baptisms and wedding solemnization during his tenure as an Assistant Registrar of Marriage. He was instrumental in MGC's first renovations in the mid 70s.

He would also regularly be at wake services, assisting and comforting the next of kin.

As he aged, he suffered from dementia and various other old age ailments. Towards the end of his life on earth, he was placed in a nursing home. When he became bed-ridden and had to be fed by tube, he was brought to my home. He was often in and out of the hospital. On the 27th March 2012 at the age of 76, he passed on peacefully in the hospital into the presence of our Lord and by the side of his beloved wife.

He ends his journey on earth by fulfilling one of his favourite Bible verse:

"I Have fought the good fight.

I Have finished the race.

I Have kept the faith. "

2 Timothy 4:7

RODNEY TAN

Shirley Yiau

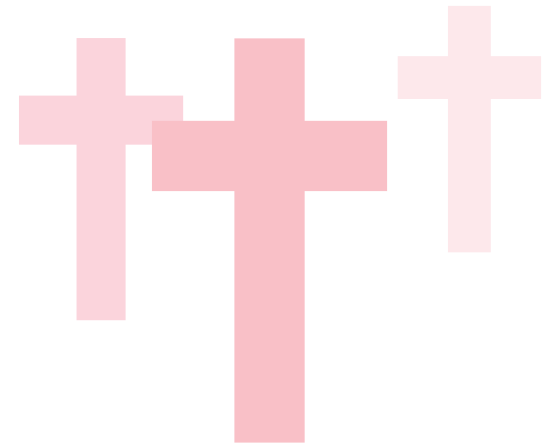
A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY YIAU

A faithful and dedicated Sunday School superintendent for many years. She organised all the Sunday School outings every year and kept meticulous records and accounts of everything. She organised the hire of the van and mini school bus to fetch the Sunday School kids. She also prayed fervently for everyone of the kids under her care.

We had regular Sunday School teachers' meetings to decide on the teaching materials, programmes and individual children's progress in the Sunday School.

She was a Sunday School teacher par excellence.

CHEN YOKE MAY





Our Partners

My Journey with Melaka Gospel Chapel

I became a high school teacher in 1965. My first posting was Tengku Ahmad Shah Secondary School, Cameron Highlands.

I found the Lord Jesus Christ, as my personal Savior on 4th July 1966 through the ministry of Dr. Bobby Sng Ewe Kong. Dr. Sng was then serving as a medical doctor in the Cameron Highlands at that time.

I became actively involved with the Cameron Highlands Gospel Hall soon after my conversion experience. There were also lots of opportunities for me to serve the Scripture Union Malaysia in camps and other youth activities as a volunteer.

Malacca is my hometown. Every school vacation, I would return home to Malacca. Dr. Bobby Sng informed me about Malacca Gospel Chapel and commended me to the leadership. Therefore, the Chapel became my second church. The leadership of the church made me felt very welcomed.

From the Cameron Highlands, I was transferred to Jerantut in Central Pahang in March 1969.

In April 1969, Yoke Ling and I were engaged. Our engagement ceremony was conducted in the Malacca Gospel Chapel. In fact, we were the 1st couple to have the engagement ceremony conducted in the Chapel.

In 1973, I was transferred to Bukit Gambir, Muar, Johor (about 50 km from Malacca). The Johor State weekend is Friday and Saturday, while the Melaka weekend is Saturday and Sunday. It meant that I have Fridays to be involved with Scripture Union Christian Fellowship groups in Malacca, and Saturdays in the Malacca Gospel Chapel Youth Fellowship. It was during that period that the sense of belonging to the Chapel grew.

By the early 70s, the sense of God calling me into a full-time Christian ministry grew stronger by the day. In 1973, I received an invitation from the Scripture Union to consider joining the team as a youth worker. As I was enjoying teaching after becoming a Christian, I found it very hard to accept the invitation. I asked the leadership of Scripture Union to allow me to serve for a year as an associate staff worker before making a decision. It was a good decision because the following year, when I decided to accept the invitation, I knew what to expect in Scripture Union.

When the leadership of Malacca Gospel Chapel heard that I was considering resigning from teaching and joining the Scripture Union, offered me an opportunity to serve for a year as a church worker. I could not accept the invitation because of the timing. The position in Scripture Union was vacant for over a year, therefore it was necessary for me to join the team as soon possible.

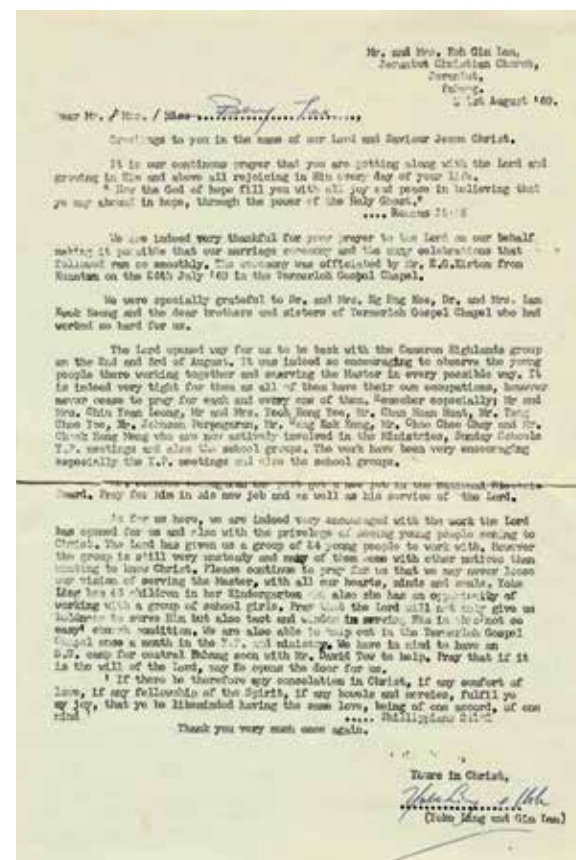
I joined the Scripture Union as the youth worker of the Central Region, covering the States of Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, and Pahang in May 1975. I continued to serve

with the Scripture Union and the Teachers' Christian Fellowship until I retired on 31st December 2010. During the course of my 35 years with the Scripture Union I took up various roles; youth worker and doubling up as staff worker of the Teachers' Christian Fellowship, team leader, General Secretary of Scripture Union, and doubling up as the Executive Director of Teachers' Christian Fellowship. In 1993, I was appointed the Regional Director of Scripture Union East and West Asia. Those 35 years with the Scripture Union had been a wonderful journey of experiencing the Lord's good hands on my life and ministry.

Today, I am retired in the Cameron Highlands, still having a busy teaching ministry in churches, camps and Scripture Union activities, serving the Orang Asli of Cameron Highlands and also serving as a board member of both Scripture Union Peninsula Malaysia and Scripture Union East and West Asia. I am also involved in two NGOs—R.E.A.C.H., an environment awareness organization, of which I serve as its secretary and C.H.E.R.I.S.H., a home for mentally challenged children. I serve as one of its committee members.

I thank God for Malacca Gospel Chapel for standing behind me all these years.

KOH GIM LAM
July 2015



What an Achievement of God's Work!

Happy 50th anniversary MGC!

I would like to thank Melaka Gospel Chapel for being instrumental in my conversion to Christianity. I attended MGC after completing secondary education in Methodist Girls Secondary School, Melaka. The church was walking distance from where we lived. I soon accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and was baptised in MGC.

Those who were significant to me at the time during the late 60s and early 70s in MGC were the late Mrs Tan Gim Ann, the late Mr Tan Beng Tee, Mr and Mrs Richard Teo, Mr and Mrs Paul Tan, Dr and Mrs Michael Oh, Mr and Mrs Teo Boon Cheng, the late Mr Thomas Leong, Miss Dove (OMF missionary) and Christine who was also a missionary. I was helped along as a new believer in my Christian life by the support, encouragement, prayers and spiritual mentoring of these unforgettable, faithful, down-to-earth Christians and leaders of the MGC. They made sure that we knew the basic doctrines of our faith, taught us to pray and read God's word on a daily basis. They showed us by example of being hospitable, how to love one another and to always share our faith with those who do not know Jesus.

By the time I left MGC to pursue nursing in England, I was a firm Christian. Before I left, I shared with the group of young people who bid me farewell with this verse from Isaiah 40:31

'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Similarly, I pray that the present leadership will never grow weary as they continue to serve the Lord no matter in good or bad times.

God bless you MGC on this auspicious day in celebrating your 50th anniversary and may you have many more to come.

ANNIE TAN

Great is Thy Faithfulness!

Sometime in late 1969, two of us (a guy called Yap and I) were given a tract and an invitation each by Annie Chan and Jenny Tan (who were Sunday School teachers at Melaka Gospel Chapel) to join the YP (Young People's) meeting.

From that invitation, I started to attend the YP meetings on Saturday nights (enjoying the badminton and other games after the meetings), Sunday School and other meetings as well. I could not exactly say when I accepted our Lord Jesus as my personal saviour but the seed of the Gospel was definitely nurtured in Gospel Chapel.

Andrew Teo, Cheng Lock, Steven Mak, Kian Boon and I, and subsequently others, took regular turns to chair the YP meetings. Our 'Chapel uncles' were the regular speakers. And I must mention the many Malacca High School boys who were brought to Chapel by our dear sister, Josephine Wong, greatly adding numbers to the YP meeting.

The faithful teaching and encouragement of our 'uncles and aunties' (amongst others, uncles Richard, Paul, Boon Cheng, Beng Tee, Dr Oh and aunties Mrs Tan Gim Ann, Betty Tan, Molly Teo, Daisy Tan, Yee Lin and others) at Chapel are definitely treasured memories. Not forgetting Ms. Doris Dove who was a full time OMF missionary based in Chapel. I thanked them all for their faithfulness in teaching the Word of God. The studies we had were definitely foundational and building blocks for my Christian journey.

Gospel Chapel was also where I met Yew Keng ...the rest is history!

But most of all, I thank God for all that He has done for me over the years—the words below aptly describes my Christian journey at Melaka Gospel Chapel and beyond:

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

ANDREW CHUA

Fond Memories

Many have fond memories of Melaka Gospel Chapel, as it was through this place of witness that led to many coming to know Christ.

I would like to thank the late Uncle Beng especially during my early years, in enabling me to come to Chapel by providing the transport to the YP (Young People's) Meeting.

I had to have a good reason to come out on a Saturday evening. It was a condition placed by my parents, especially my dad. He was being protective and caring.

I realized later that I was able to return this caring attitude to others by helping to drive the chapel van to pick up young people for Sunday School and Worship Service.

It was also through the work and concern of Josephine Wong, as a teacher that brought many others to Chapel.

There were also many others who contributed in bringing others to Christ and developing their faith. For example, Aunty Tan Gim Ann, Betty Tan, Victor Wong, Richard Chen, Gan Chui Peng and Teo Boon Cheng among others.

I started attending Chapel in 71 or 72. I remembered participating in the Chapel's Annual Bible Camp. I came to know our Lord on 14th December 1972, at the Camp where Asia Evangelistic Fellowship (AEF) staff, Tan Kok Beng (now

Dr.) was the Camp Speaker. And one of the Singaporean 6th Former (Yap Wai Keong) who accompanied the speaker, challenged me to accept Christ; which I did. It was really a tremendous experience and the start of a great spiritual journey.

I am now settled down in Shah Alam, married to Jocelyn Chin Yat Lee and we have two wonderful children—Timothy and next, Sarah.

God bless.

LOW CHIN SIANG

A Rose in Melaka Gospel Chapel

The first time I was really curious to find out more about the Christian faith was when my CHIJ ex-classmates became Christians in their second and third year of University. During varsity breaks, these friends would bring me to Malacca Gospel Chapel. I immediately sensed that people in MGC had a personal relationship with their God which was missing in mine and that God's love was real in their lives. Auntie Tan invited me to her home in Klebang Besar on several occasions and it was Auntie who helped me understand the assurance of salvation I could have in Christ. Once I understood that I took the step of baptism in Chapel.

I did not know the terminology then but it was Auntie Tan who disciplined and mentored me. I gave her a ride whenever she did her visitation rounds and till this day I could remember the Hakka words she had used to share the Gospel with her Hakka-speaking friends. I also never forgot how Auntie at the age of 80, sat at the back of a motor-bike, while her nephew, a pastor, rode through the hilly country of Northern Thailand so that she could share the Gospel in an open air meeting with a tribal group of people.

Later, it was in MGC that I felt my call to mission work. In 1976 a line-up team from the ship Logos took a meeting at Chapel. I was thrilled to learn that any Christian could serve God on a ship. Two and a half years later I quit my teaching job to join Operation Mobilisation (OM).

After one year with OM Pakistan and two years of service on the Logos, I felt that I should prepare myself for long term missionary service. I applied to study at All Nations Christian

College in England and MGC blessed me by giving me the total financial support I needed for 2 years. Thank you MGC brothers and sisters, for investing in me. I rejoined the ship ministry in 1987 where I met Carl and we got married in 1988. We returned to serve in Malaysia from 1992–2002.

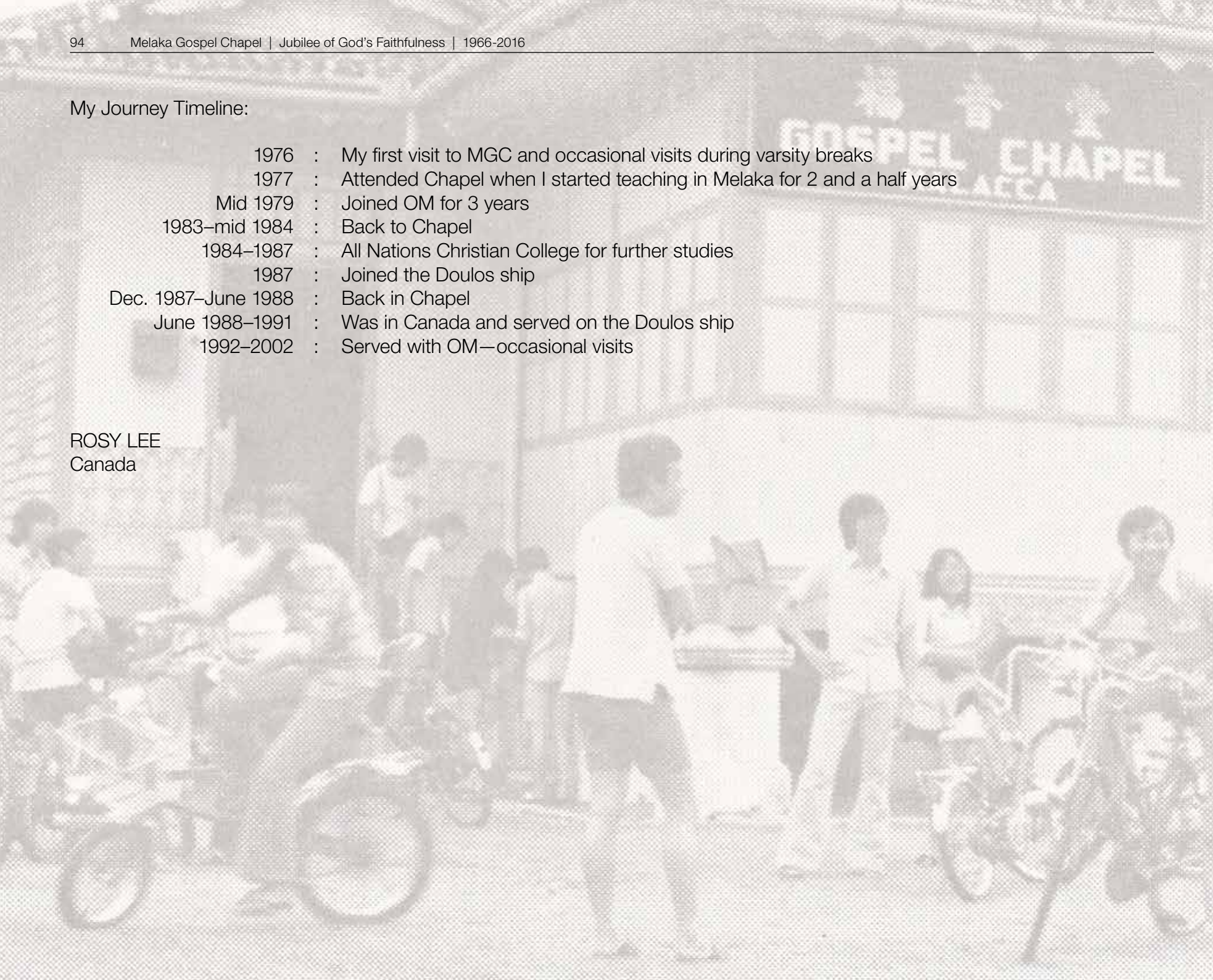
Since our return to Canada, we have been involved in OM's outreach work to the newcomers and refugees in Canada.

As I go down this MGC memory lane, I just praise God for Auntie Tan, Shirley Yiau, and so many of you here in Chapel who have profoundly impacted me, my spiritual growth and missionary service. You are my supporters in every sense of the word. Carl and I remember, very fondly, how we started our own English tuition centre in the outskirts of Rawang. Between Carl and I, we didn't have much business sense or experience but Philip Lim came to our rescue by setting up our company, doing the accounting and being our consultant, all for free! George Verwer, the founder of OM would have described many of you here as working behind the scenes in Chapel, plodding on with Sunday School and the youth group, giving your money faithfully to God's work and praying for God's workers, as the unsung heroes in our missionary journey. A huge "Thank you" to all of you who have given us so generously each time we came back for a visit. You are truly our faithful partners and encouragers as we continue to serve Him where we are in Canada.

My Journey Timeline:

- 1976 : My first visit to MGC and occasional visits during varsity breaks
- 1977 : Attended Chapel when I started teaching in Melaka for 2 and a half years
- Mid 1979 : Joined OM for 3 years
- 1983–mid 1984 : Back to Chapel
- 1984–1987 : All Nations Christian College for further studies
- 1987 : Joined the Doulos ship
- Dec. 1987–June 1988 : Back in Chapel
- June 1988–1991 : Was in Canada and served on the Doulos ship
- 1992–2002 : Served with OM—occasional visits

ROSY LEE
Canada



Witnessing the Grace of God in MGC

A very special greeting to all who had passed through the portals of Melaka Gospel Chapel a.k.a. Limbongan Gospel Chapel, Melaka. I had the unique privilege to work in Melaka for a brief three-year period (1972-1975).

In 1972, when I was to report for work at Freshwater Fisheries Research Station, Batu Berendam, my initial reaction was to find an assembly to worship on Sundays. Brother Lee Hong Kwang of Jalan Gasing Gospel Hall called up brother Teo Boon Cheng, an elder of MGC and suggested that I meet up with him. Upon meeting him, he was very persistent that I should stay in the Chapel premise.

Melaka was an old, easy-going and laid back town; a charming and caring neighborhood quite unlike Kuala Lumpur. The Chapel was quaint and seemed more like a club house than a church. The building was the former home of Mr & Mrs Tan Gim Ann. The Malay architectural façade of the building placed it apart from other church buildings—a quintessential house church.

My earliest recollection of the Chapel was that the place was teeming with young people who came over after school to do their home work. They walked or cycled from their homes and spent their afternoons together with activities such as finishing their homework. Sometimes, the older boys would coach the younger ones with their assignments. Frequently, there would be on-going discussions related to their interests. Besides that, there were recreational time

with games like carom and other board games, or outdoor games like captain ball or tenniquoits in the open space in front of the Chapel.

It was a good opportunity to interact with these very open and friendly young people. Some were especially very curious about what went into my dinner pot. So, I invited some of them to join me in sharing the meal. It was easy to get to know each of these young people who came to fellowship during weekends. Still as the oldest one there, I had to maintain some form of discipline by ensuring some ground rules were to be observed such as ensuring they did their studies while they were in chapel and to ensure all lights were switched off and the gate locked at the end of the day.

According to Chok Giap Boey, they had prayed to the Lord to send someone to help them. Many years later, a teacher was instrumental in bringing many of her pupils to Chapel and many were led to the Lord. It was a time of spiritual revival where many individuals and their families were saved.

Those were difficult days as well. Christians had to make the choice whether to remain in Malaysia or to migrate because of the change in government policies affecting the social, economical and religious life of the country. As a result of emigration, Brethren Assemblies throughout Malaysia lost her members. It affected smaller town assemblies such as Melaka Gospel Chapel as well. Many of MGC's own young people left for further studies and for work in the bigger cities.

As for Limbongan Gospel Chapel, the remnant continued faithfully with short term transfers from other assemblies. Many of us weren't there for an extended period, but all of us had the privilege to serve and to help in the work. Some came with families and they came alongside these young people who needed encouragement and to help them grow in the knowledge and maturity of the Lord.

On hindsight, one can see the Lord's grace on this small church which experienced the loss of several prominent families through emigration in the late 60s and early 70s.

However, some of these young people chose to return to Melaka to serve in their home church. They worked as teachers, accountant and other professionals. The rest of the young people who graduated from their tertiary studies and professional training stayed in the cities, married and grew their families outside of Melaka. Out of this crop of young people, some have become leaders of other churches and some became full-time workers, missionaries or pastors. These developments indicate God's blessings that from one small assembly like MGC, much fruit may be garnered for the furtherance of God's eternal kingdom.

Surely we can be rest assured like Apostle Paul who wrote his letter to the Christians at Phillipi: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from

the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6).

Let us be forever grateful to our Lord God for using unworthy vessels as we ourselves to hold His glory as a wonderful testimony.

VICTOR WONG K.S. (D.Min)
November 18, 2015

MGC is Like a Family

As a child, I remember learning this particular phrase in Children's Hour—Jesus died on the cross for you and me. I remember this because my parents had praised me for learning this and proudly, I went around telling everyone, even when I did not know what it really meant.

Growing up in Melaka Gospel Chapel, this church has been a family to me. So many things have changed; we had the red carpet in the worship hall, our worship direction had changed, the church that was made of wood had concrete walls now. I used to avoid Uncle Tony Tay because he was known for catching kids like me at that time, and tickling us to unbearable levels. Today, he can't catch up with kids who have now grown up. He now put them on his lap.

But in all these changes, I do know that the church's mission has remained the same—to teach and proclaim God's Word to people. From my time in Children's Hour to Teens Club and now Young Adults, it's been a time of rooting my feet firmly in the knowledge of God and His Word. I have consistently been taught that God is the priority in life and to always go to the Bible for life's issues and answers. Special meetings like the Teens Club Ice-Cream Night, Valentine's Day, Christmas Musicals, and Frisbee outings weren't meetings to simply have fun and showcase talent (gulping down as many ice-creams as possible, for example) but to share the good news of God to non-believers. Church was not simply a time to have fun only but for fellowship, encouragement and to share God's Name to people.

As a child, I learnt that Jesus died on the cross for you and me. As a child, I went around telling everyone about this phrase. Today, I still do the same; not because my parents continue to praise me but because sharing the Gospel makes God happy. And MGC has taught me to do the things that makes God happy and to live for Him.

LIM TSE SHAUN
Student, USM

My Memories of Melaka Gospel Chapel (1973–1975)

My association with MGC dates way back because I was born into the family who founded the beginnings of this church. The church is also the building where I was brought up in!

In mid-1973, my husband Tan Eng Heng was transferred to work in Malacca! We, together with our two young children, lived with my mother in Klebang Besar. And of course, we became much involved with MGC! Those were rich years of learning, growing, serving, and getting to know those of you who were attending there then.

A few things stand out in my memory:

* MGC consisted of mostly young people. Most came from non-Christian homes. So this group of young people was a great mission-field. For some time, I was one of the lady advisors. This meant I attended the meetings on Saturday and stayed back during the game sessions to get to know the youths, especially the girls.

BUT, I was neglecting my two young children. I had locked them in the house! And when I got home and unlocked the door, they'd fly out like birds from the cage!!! My husband wasn't pleased and I felt guilty, so I resigned.

BUT, God sent a few young people to my home during the week for Bible study, counselling, fellowship! They would cycle to Klebang Besar. I was amazed at how God works when we're available to Him!

* Bible Camp in Port Dickson, 1974. Though I was the secretary, my memories are rather faint, but I remember it as enjoyable! The camp speakers were McSkimming and Tan Kok Beng while the Camp Commandment was Koh Gim Lam. The camp group leaders included Philip Kok, Goh Poh Kim, Goh Poh Gaik, Chng Chwee Lye, among others.

* The Residential Bible School in Penang was for school leavers. I used to correspond with some of them while they were there. They learnt many things which proved to be a good foundation to their Christian faith, as evidenced by their present involvement in the churches today.

* Male Quartet. Four boys came weekly for a season to learn a bit of music and to sing as a quartet in four parts. They then gave items at meetings.

* Leaders of the church must be responsible to keep watch over the flock especially with teachings that are not Biblical. There was one incident which could have caused trouble between the young people and the leadership, but fortunately it was nipped in the bud! A Christian had been invited to take a series of evangelistic meetings. He had morning sessions with the students to which the church leaders did not attend. So the leaders had no idea what was being taught. A few of the young people visited the homes of church leaders to observe what things in their homes might have evil spirits, e.g. antique furniture, decorative carved wooden fork and spoon and the symbol of the lion displayed on the bonnet of the Peugeot car. Later, the young people

were having bonfires in the chapel to burn their stamp collections, matchboxes and other collections.

When all these were brought to the notice of the elders, they had a session with the youth leaders, and it was also brought up in Bible class. The young people were told that the serpent represented evil when it tempted Eve, but when the Israelites in the wilderness were dying of serpent bites, God asked Moses to make a brass serpent, to hold it up high, and whoever looked at it would be healed! So Jesus is the Saviour when He was lifted up on the cross. (See John 3:14-15). Another example is when Satan as a roaring lion tempts people to sin. (1 Peter 5:8-9). But in another context Jesus is the Lion of Judah (Revelations 5:5)! In conclusion, not all symbols represent evil spirits.

* Jenny Chew, one of our members, was sick with cancer. There arose some misunderstanding among the Christians. One was that it was the presence of evil spirits in the church that caused Jenny's cancer. Another was the belief of a visiting Christian that all pain-killing injections should be stopped because God must heal those who are sick.

* Although there were some testing moments in the church's life, I've never again had such close relationships within a church context as I've experienced in MGC.

BETTY TAN
Puchong Gospel Centre



Aunty Tan and family.

Reflections (1973–1993)

In 1973 when I was transferred from Johor Bahru to Melaka, I asked the Lord to direct me to a church nearest my home and where I could serve Him. And for the next 20 years, I was with Melaka Gospel Chapel, and certainly the Lord kept me busy as an elder for 17 years. During my time, the chapel had 2 elders and 3 to 5 deacons.

The late elder Tan Beng Tee and I were appointed assistant registrars of marriage for our chapel. I conducted more than a dozen marriages in MGC, while Tan Beng Tee conducted all the baptisms. All my three children were baptized in the chapel.

The responsibilities as an elder kept me involved in the church with weekly prayer meetings and church Bible studies. We had youth meetings, choir practices, Oversight meetings and other special meetings with invited speakers and monthly gospel meetings. Besides all these, I had the privilege to preach once or twice a month.

The highlight which I enjoyed doing in the church was organizing church camps. Due to my exposure as a student with many Christian organizations such as Scripture Union, I was able to organize church camps outside Melaka. We had camps in Penang, Cameron Highlands, Frasers' Hill, Port Dickson and Sentosa Island in Singapore.

As I look back at those past years, there were a vibrant children's and youth ministry. The chapel was where all our youth gathered together for fellowship, group Bible study, games and interactions.

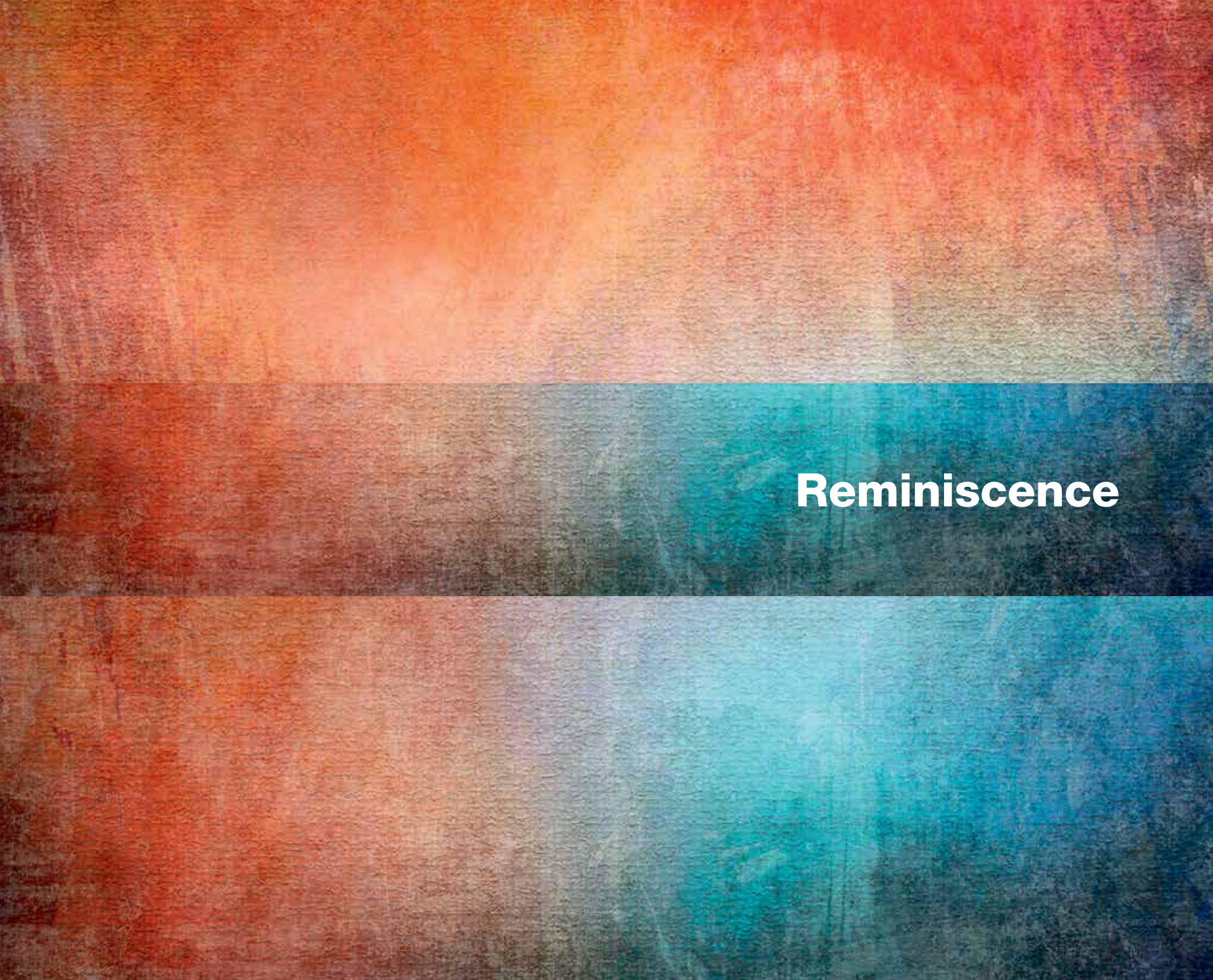
I thanked the Lord that though there were about 40 – 60 worshippers in the chapel then, today twelve or more from that group are full time workers serving the Lord all over Malaysia and the world.

Praise the Lord and to God be the glory.

RICHARD CHEN



Richard Chen's Care Group meeting at his home in Taman Muhibbah (1970s)



Reminiscence

List of Members in Fulltime Ministry

Our first commended fulltime worker was Christine Koch who was sent to a needy Bentong Gospel Hall and she later served in Scripture Union (SU) as a staff worker.

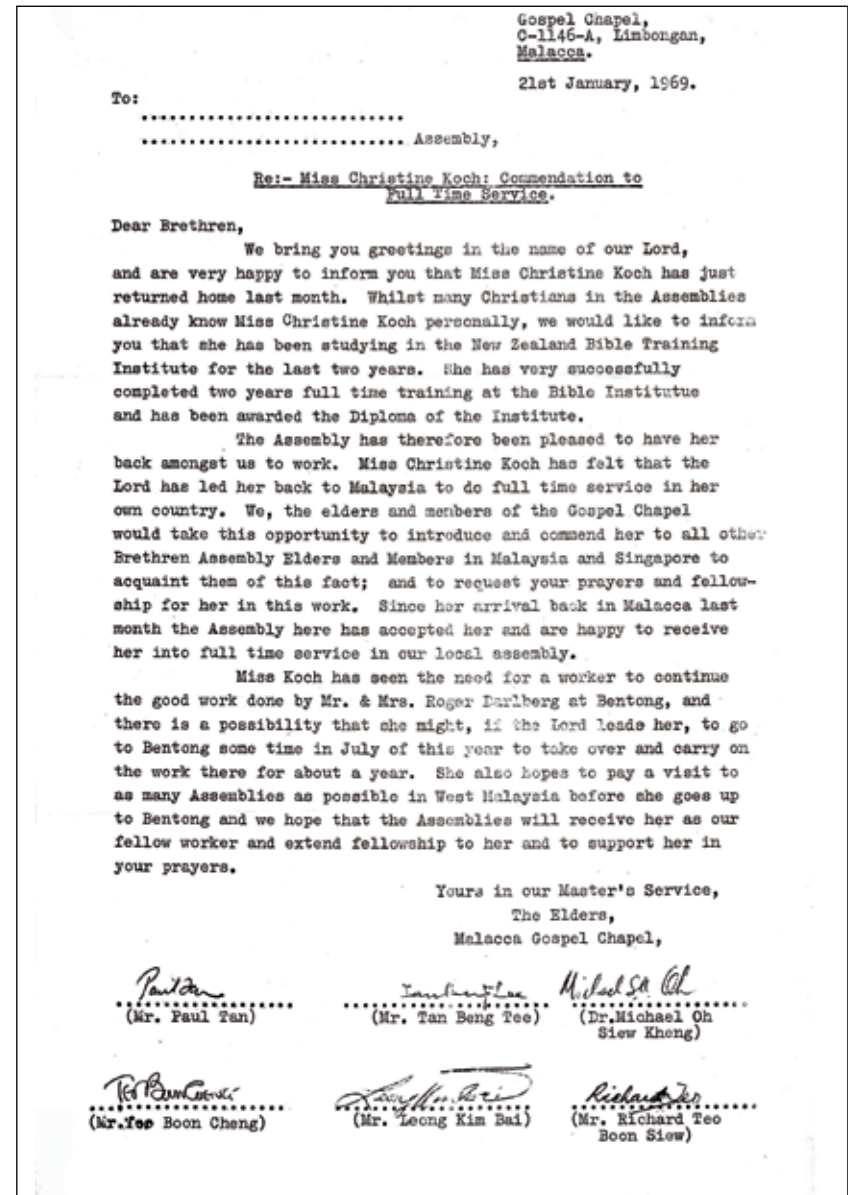
Besides Christine, Josephine Wong served in Scripture Union as one of it's staffworker. It was here that she met Jimmy Ho and tied the knot with him. They are now based in Elim Gospel Hall, Ipoh.

Another person associated with Melaka Gospel Chapel was Koh Gim Lam. He served in Scripture Union (SU), Teacher's Christian Fellowship (TCF) and the Scripture Union East Asia as it's staffworker. He is now retired and is helping out in Cameron Highlands Gospel Hall.

Rosy Lee quit her job as a teacher to join up with Operation Mobilisation on the ship Doulos and later in Pakistan. The church supported her when she did her theological studies in All Nations' College in England. She is married to Carl Wilson and they are both based in Ontario, Canada doing ministry among new immigrants.

Others in this roll-call but not commended by MGC include:

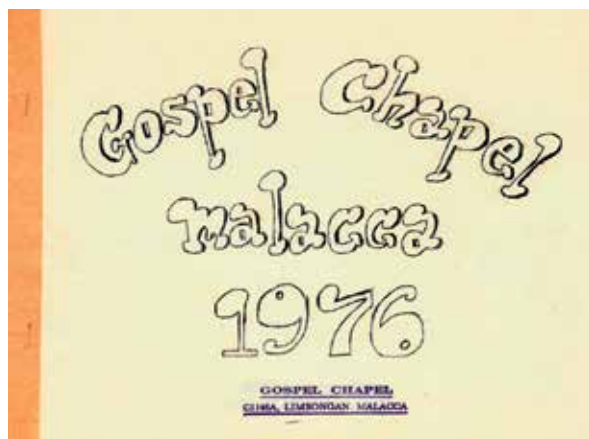
- Gregory Lim (Pastor in a Presbyterian Church in Australia)
- Chok Teck Kin (Pastor in SIB, KL)
- Sam Kumar (Pastor in a Tamil AOG Church in Muar)
- Dexter Ng (fulltime Elder at Shah Alam Gospel Centre)
- Sim Say Khim (fulltime Elder of FGA, Seremban)
- Ronnie Karunakaran (independent Pastor)



Newsletters and Bulletins

Melaka Gospel Chapel
Newsletter and Bulletin
Editors/Compilers:

- Derric Chen
- Sarojini Naidu
- Ong Lay Hong
- Rosy Lee
- Jennifer Tan



1976: Gospel Chapel Malacca (3 issues/year)



1975: Malacca Gospel Chapel Newsletter

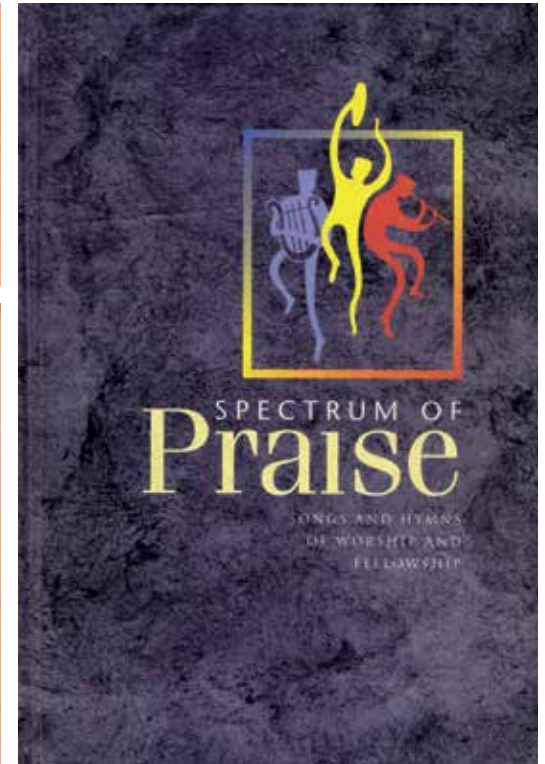
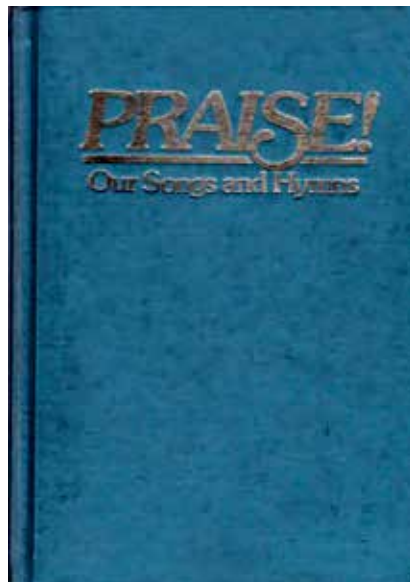
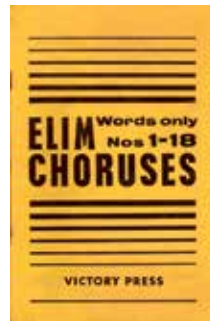
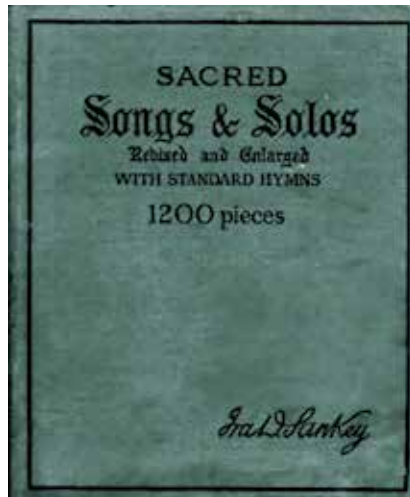
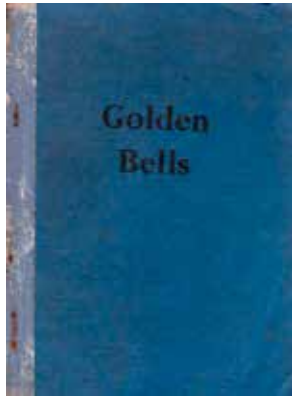


1983: MGC News (3 issues/year)



2016: Chapel News (produced weekly)

Song Books and Hymnals



Fellowship with other Assemblies in Malaysia and Singapore



New Bridge Road Chapel Youth Group.



KMS (Klang, Malacca and Seremban) Bible Quizzes were held in the late 70s between Klang Gospel Hall, Malacca Gospel Chapel and Seremban Gospel Chapel. The Klang Gospel Hall was strong and were champions many times.



Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel with Tommy Cheong being the key link.



Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel choir came and performed a few times at our evangelistic meetings in the late 70s and 80s.



At a Seremban Gospel Chapel camp in the 70s.

Church Camps



Group Photo at First Bible Camp 30 November–5 December 1971.



1972 Melaka Gospel Chapel Camp



1973 Melaka Gospel Chapel Camp



1974 MGC PD Rotary Sunshine Camp.



Christmas



Choir presenting the cantata "Come to the Manger" for the Christmas evangelistic event, 1996.



Refreshments was served after the events as a way of getting to know the attendees and for fellowship.

Song item at Christmas evangelistic meeting, 1986.



Christmas carolling at Tan Beng Tee's home.



Preaching at a Christmas evangelistic service, 2010.

Evangelistic Meetings and Gospel Campaigns

As a growing church, evangelistic efforts were common as the church responds to the Great Commission to preach the gospel to everyone. Many methods were used: preaching, singing, drama and film screening. Many came to know the Lord at such events as the altar call was made or after filling in a response slip.



Gems of Joy evangelistic campaign in 1976.

MR. ROGER DAHLBERG (TAIPING)
will speak nightly as follows:—

April 30th, Fri — "The Love of God"
 May 1st, Sat — "The Hands of God"
 May 2nd, Sun — "The Image of God"
 May 3rd, Mon — "The Lamb of God"

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

—John 3-16

Roger Dalberg spoke at a series of gospel themed messages at a 4-night evangelistic campaign in 1976.

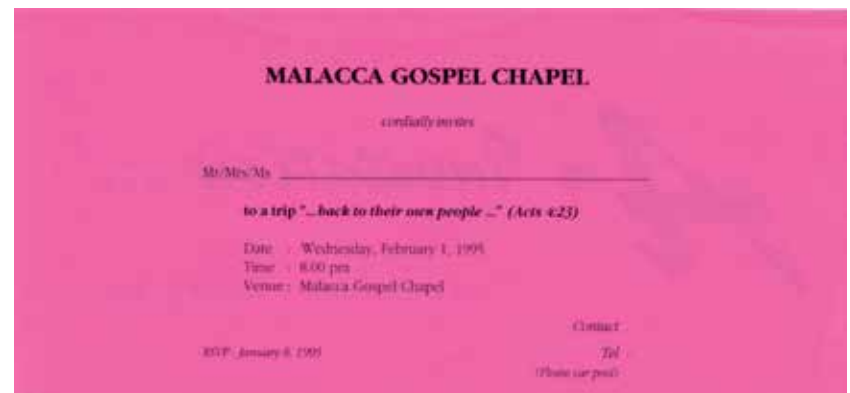
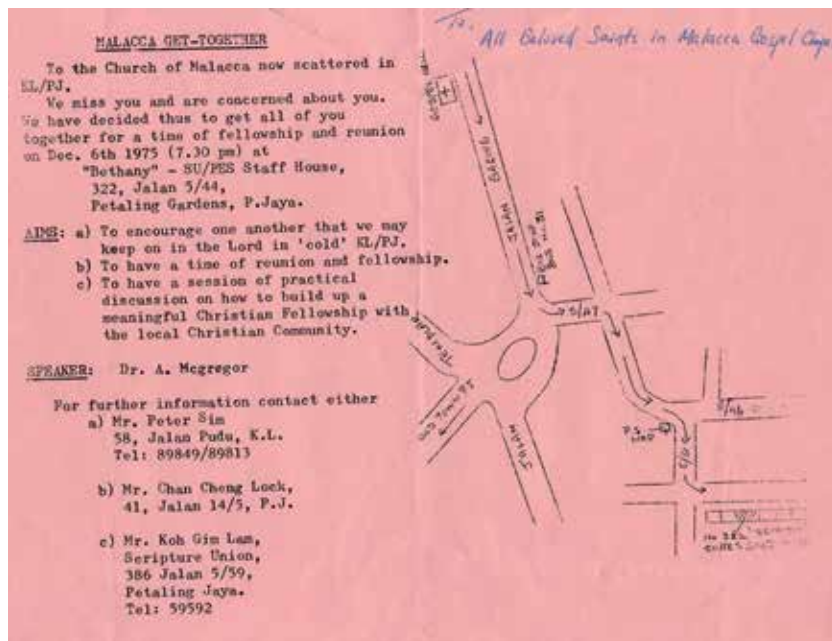
Baptisms



Many young people were baptised on Christmas Day, 25 December 1977. Baptised by Rodney Siew.

MGC Reunions

At least two or more major reunions were officially held. One on 6 December 1975 in PJ with Chan Cheng Lock, Peter Sim and Koh Gim Lam being the prime movers and the other one on Wednesday 1 February 1995 in MGC with Dexter Ng's initiative. There were also many other smaller, informal ones especially during the Chinese New Year season. The 70s group is very active in getting together, much like an ex-school alumni get-together except that this is due to the common bond of Malacca Gospel Chapel in our hearts. Someday all of us from Malacca Gospel Chapel will meet up in the Great Gathering of the Saints in heaven together with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!





Weddings

Weddings have always been an event to look forward to as a couple ties the knot and the whole church is involved. From the decorations, food, flowers, ushering to the officiating or blessing ceremony, members of Melaka Gospel Chapel would chip in to make this special day a memorable and meaningful occasion. After all, that's what God's family is for.

There were tender moments when the bride or groom breaks down in tears recalling people who had made a mark in their lives. Some were more dramatic with trumpets to sound the arrival of the bride and many were more subdued, simple affairs. More importantly is their life ahead as both needs to fulfill their roles as husband and wife, and caring for their little ones and even their parents in their old age.

The church was privileged to have two Assistant Marriage Registrar appointed by the government i.e. Elder Tan Beng Tee and Elder Richard Chen Sau Yin beginning in 1982. A reconciliatory body was also set-up consisting of five members which included two spouses. They were Tan Beng Tee, Richard Chen Sau Yin, Alvin Wong Ah Fook, Tan Moy Huang (Mrs. Alvin Wong) and Vong Yoke May (Mrs. Richard Chen).

Among those who used the marriage register were:

1. Chia Gim Beng & Laura Sim Siok Keun (10 September 1983)
2. Tiong Kian Boon & Quek Kiat Tin (31 December 1983)
3. Philip Lim Tau Lih & Soon Guan Ngo (18 February 1984)
4. Sim Say Kiong & Teo Lay Peng (14 April 1984)
5. Micheal Ng Soon Ngee & Judy Lim Cheng Lian (16 June 1984)
6. Ivan Hoe Wat Sing & Lily Tay Seok Lee (24 October 1984)
7. Leong See Chew & Angelia Ang Geok Eng (6 April 1985)
8. Dexter Ng Seng Tong & Moy Saw Chan (26 July 1986)
9. David Lim Kim Eng & Jennifer Tan Chiew Hong (6 June 1987)
10. Low Chin Siang & Chin Yat Lee (21 May 1988)
11. Yong Siong Sung & Ong Lay Peng (9 September 1989)
12. Rodney Tan Chai Whatt & Grace Teh On Chew (3 November 1990)
13. Ong Gim Yan & Chua Yuik Ling (25 November 1992)
14. Tan Pheng Guan & Sharon Khoo Siok Yong (5 June 1993)
15. Tony Tay & Angelina Ang Lee Ching (6 November 1993)
16. Foo Wee Swan & Gillian Chew Gek Toh (14 May 1994)

Unfortunately as the church could not maintain the rate of at least two or three marriages a year, the Assistant Marriage Registrar licenses had to be terminated. However, couples have been advised to comply with the legal requirements of the land by going to other recommended Christian churches to register their marriage and have their marriage ceremony done at the Chapel by one of the leaders.



1994: Foo Wee Swan and Gillian Chew Gek Toh



1987: David Tan and Jennifer Lim



1985: Leong See Choo and Angela



1988: Low Chin Siang and Chin Yat Lee



1986: Dexter Ng and Moy Saw Chan



1984: Ivan Hoe and Lily Tay



1989: Yong Siong Sung and Ong Lay Peng



1984: Micheal Ng and Cheng Lian



1990: Rodney Tan and Grace The



2014: Esmond Khoo and Lim Tse Hwei



2015: Tiong Ngee Zheng and Juliana Gomes

Melaka Gospel Chapel's 50th Anniversary Thoughts

Question: What do you like about MGC?

What I like about MGC is about how it makes me feel as a family with all the members and how they care about each other. It makes me feel so warm with them. I will always be MGC-ian no matter where I go because I love MGC and every member in church.

–Aaron See

The fellowship amongst the members.

–Anthony Gomes

I like how the fellowship in MGC is so warm and that there will always be a lame joke in our conversations.

–Celine Tan

The brethrens here are warm and loving, because they are happy and rejoicing in the Lord.

–Diane

I like that MGC is a family church where the members not only know each other but their family members as well. The fellowship and worship together also felt homely and warm.

–Eng Siang

The fellowship and worship to God.

–Goh Chee Hui

The fellowship and the activities like captain ball. =)

–Joel Tan Hui Jie

Can worship and praise, pray and fellowship through camps or quiz.

–Khoo Chai Hoe

Friendly environment.

–Richard Wong

MGC is a warm shelter for the lost and always seeking to be a testimony for community and society.

–Tham Fong Wan

The unique building, the caring brothers and sisters, different kinds of ministries.

–Tony Tay

The people. Everyone in MGC is so nice and friendly. We also know a lot of lame jokes, haha XD

–Zhu Shi

Members are humble & caring.

–Anon

Question: Who were/was the one who influenced you a lot in MGC? Why?

The teachers and Children's Hour. We do the children's work together and serve in the same ministry and have a common goal.

-Angelina Ang

Cheah Geng Yi. As the youth leader, he used to ferry the youths to church in the church van every week. It took him about an hour to do it, but he never complained. He called me & followed up with me after giving me a task to make sure I was doing ok and to get my feedback. Once when I didn't want to go to church due to a personal issue, he was the only one who called to ask why and to find out how I was doing, and to persuade me to come back to church. He was an example of selfless service.

-Lim Tse Hwei

The Sunday School teachers. For their committed heart for God and love to the children.

-Teng Hui Ming

Question: What is your hope for MGC in the coming years?

That we will truly "be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2) in all aspects of church matters.

-Andy Mau

To have a library where we can read and share good biblical news. A quiet room where we can read for 1 hour or so.

-Karen Kok

More loving and faithful to Lord Jesus and may God allow us to grow in wisdom and members.

-Kevin Long

Our church will grow in numbers and spiritually. Growth in children and youth work too.

-Michelle Tay

As much as I appreciate the 'work of our forefathers', I hope that MGC will be less a shrine to its founders that lives in the past, and more a congregation of God's pilgrim disciples, actively seeking to establish His kingdom, even at the expense of ourselves.

-Ngee Derk

That members of MGC will be great disciplers. =)

-Rachel Koh

Hope for more new people to join us as members of the church and young adults who have left for another place because of work will one day, return to MGC.

-Tina Choo

To be a giving church towards the community around us in terms of earthly needs as well as spiritual ones.

-Yam Kah Wei

Question: Why do you attend MGC?

Style of worship. Members are ever so caring & concerned, friendly, and above all endearing.

–*Alicia Ong*

I grew up in this church.

–*Daniel Lim*

Ideal numbers. Not too big and not too small. Know most of the members.

–*David Lim*

After my SPM, I was brought to chapel by my sister. At the “I Found It” campaign, I trusted the Lord & have been attending chapel since then. Throughout the 41 years in MGC, good memories of God’s faithfulness. Praise the Lord!

–*Jennifer Tan*

Messages are clear. Members are friendly, kind, helpful. Hope more new members will join.

–*Mrs Tong (Chua Ai Ming)*

Question: What were some important events in MGC that you remembered? Why?

The BBQs!! that we used to have many years ago. The fellowship, the closeness, the simple joy of just being together. =)

–*Adrian Mau*

The ‘I Found It’ Campaign. The enthusiasm of everyone and me in reaching out.

–*Andrew Mau*

MGC parents day back on 25 June 2005. It was an opportunity for me to bring my parents to church and they did. I was really glad that they came. The same year itself we had our Easter Drama. I remembered my parents and brother came and I am sure seeds were planted.

–*Chen Li*

Youth camps at Christian campsites which involves team building & help us with our walk with God.

–*Koo Sin Yee*

Because there are many opportunities to grow in and serve in. =)

–*Lim Tse Ken*

The Youth Camp. Joel and me had a talk about personal faith.

–*Wong Zhu Xin*

The Chapel's Challenges, Opportunities and Strengths

Strengths

1. Established children's and youth work—strong outreach and fruits.
2. Young Adults work has been established to cater to university students and working adults.
3. Families who are firmly settled down in Melaka provide the stability and biological growth to the church.
4. Strong in Biblical teaching and thinking.
5. Vision for growth—spiritually and numbers.
6. Building has been fully renovated to cater to growing needs in children and youth ministries.
7. Intimacy and close relationships in a small church.
5. To encourage members to go into mission work and to serve as a fulltime worker in MGC.
6. Training of potential young men as preachers and teachers.
7. To multiply our small groups for effective pastoral care and concern.

Challenges

1. Changing socio-economic scene of our country—time is getting shorter.
2. Language barriers amongst the children and teens.
3. Lack of labourers and aging membership.
4. Slow growth.
5. Need to increase the numbers before considering expansion work.
6. To put our faith (even though as small as a mustard seed) in our Lord and to seek His will.

Opportunities

1. Discipling and mentoring members to be leaders/disciplers and to grow into maturity of faith.
2. To establish an outreach work once a certain mass in membership is reached.
3. Mandarin-speaking ministry especially among the children, youth and adults.
4. To use the building to reach out to the community and be a gathering place for people during the weekdays.

A Reflection by RODNEY TAN

From the Klang Valley to Melaka (2010-2015)

We are one of the few families who have made the move from the Klang Valley to Melaka. Having been in a large brethren assembly, it was a welcomed change to be a part of smaller church family when we first arrived at the end of 2010. It is much easier to get to know people and to be involved in the life of the church.

With the smaller congregation of 40-50, it meant that our children would not have many peers who come from a Christian background. Likewise, there were not many members who are around our age. Things we took for granted in our previous assembly were palpably absent. So it was mission focus from the word go. We felt very much that God had brought us to the Chapel so that we might be active participants in the building process rather than passive consumers.

The migration of young adults to other parts of the country took some adjusting to because it was challenging to form a core group of like-minded, dynamic individuals who would be mentors and trainers for the next generation of believers. However, we have always been reminded that growth in gospel ministry is God's work and we simply have to trust Him. We have also come to recognize that God's kingdom is a lot bigger than the work at the Chapel. We now see ourselves as exporters of gospel partners to other parts of Malaysia and beyond.

The pulpit ministry and one-to-one bible reading are two areas of growth over the next few years. Young preachers are being trained and mentored that they might rightly

handle the Word of God. Whilst care groups remain an integral part of the assembly for bible study and fellowship, there is a unique opportunity for strengthening one another in one-to-one setting. In addition, we have had the wonderful privilege of counselling several couples as part of their marriage preparation.

Our children are learning to be Christ's assets at the Children's Hour and Teens' Club as well as the music ministry.

We believe that God is in the business of transforming hearts and lives by his grace. Seeing the growth of some of our brothers and sisters has been a joy and blessing to us. We look forward to encouraging our fellow believers at the Chapel to be bold in speaking the truth in love to one another and to a broken world that desperately needs restoration and forgiveness.

The apostle Paul wrote frequently of the sacrifice and problems associated with his gospel ministry. So whilst there have been the occasional discouraging moments, we know that we are partakers of a glorious and ultimately victorious ministry.

To God be the glory.

DANIEL & CHEE CHEE WONG
23rd December 2015

Reminiscence and Reflections

Reminiscence of the Past

A little less than 45 years ago, at the invitation of a classmate, I stepped through the doors of an old building in Limbongan to be greeted by a dozen or so people; half about my age and the rest considerably older. My group of 8 or so classmates numbered more than half of those in the hall. I cannot remember all of them but I can remember Andrew Chua, Cheng Lock and his two lovely sisters, Alice and Annie, Steven Mak, Jenny Chew, Paul and Daisy and Uncle Beng. The hall then was less than half the current worship hall; there were 12 pews (check out the 12 pews that are still in perfect condition in Chapel and those were the pews then). We were all so much less prosperous then; the 12 pews could seat 60!

I accepted Christ a few months later in the privacy of my own bedroom. I was not responding to any inspired preaching or altar call; I was responding to the sincerity, love and consistency of the testimonies of the saints in Chapel.

My memories of Chapel in the first five years were of families leaving and leaving. And of young people, upon completing their secondary education, leaving for studies without any plans to return to Malacca. At the same time, my memories were also of the close intimate relationships formed within a very short period of time with many if not the entire church family. Relationships so intimate that, as I found out much later, young people who needed financial help with their air fare to travel to the UK and Australia for career development could share with the uncles and aunties and personal loans

were made without any conditions attached. When I made my first trip to the UK, the bonds that linked us together caused the sisters in UK to take a day off and wait for me at the airport. (My flight was delayed for 5 hours and they were there when I arrived!)

It was in that context of the close relationship, and a genuine interest in the welfare of each other that the “discipling” and mentoring take place. Life lessons and scriptural truths were mostly imparted through time spent in fellowship and conversation, not through structured programmes and syllabus.

In the ten years that I was away, I read of families and individuals being sent to Chapel, even as others had moved out. None of the brothers and sisters who had grown up in the church had returned; instead people like Shirley and Rosy who found Christ in university returned to Malacca and worship and served in the ministries in MGC.

I was for the most of that time worshipping in an even smaller fellowship in Kent; seeing for myself the same outward pull the bright city lights can have on us all. It was then the conviction grew in me that it cannot be God leading His people away from the smaller towns and villages to leave His work unattended. We had probably put the cart before the horse and seek for employment without seeking God’s directions as to where He wants us. It was also then I was led to return to Malacca. It was to be a difficult decision later with career, personal and professional development dangling temptingly before you and the economics of sustaining a family.

I finally came back in 1985; Malacca had become Melaka. The last thirty years in Melaka had its ups and its downs especially the early years. I look back and can truthfully declare that the Lord had been good to us. The family grew naturally and the Melaka Gospel Chapel remains the same size numerically. This is not to say the fellowship had not grown; and as we look at our numbers, we note that a greater part of those in fellowship 20 years or even ten years ago are no longer with us. God had grown the fellowship but He had grown the diaspora from MGC even more. It is a diaspora represented by many who, I hope, will celebrate the 50th anniversary in person with us. It is a diaspora that had aid greater growth in God's kingdom wherever they had set roots. It is a diaspora that despite misgivings our human minds can have, that had caused us to be proud that we had laboured in MGC not in vain. The footsteps that those who went before us are footsteps left not only in Melaka but throughout the four corners of the world.

The ministries in MGC had continued to prosper not by the head counts each week but by the changed lives and matured Christians who continued to grow and minister to God's people and in God's work wherever they decided to put down their roots.

Reflections for the Future

When Rodney brought up the idea of a 50th anniversary celebration, I was unaware that the fellowship was started in 1966. I knew it was in existence in 1969, the year of the incident that was the "push" factor leading to the outward migration to Australia by so many of the families in MGC.

As I reminiscent of past events, I had reflected on what it meant to us for the future of Melaka Gospel Chapel. The conclusion of the reflection is, I pray and hope, that the future will be more of the past. That the ministries with the children and the youths will continue to prosper even if the numbers remained constant. That these two ministries will continue to attract the children and youths from households of non-believers.

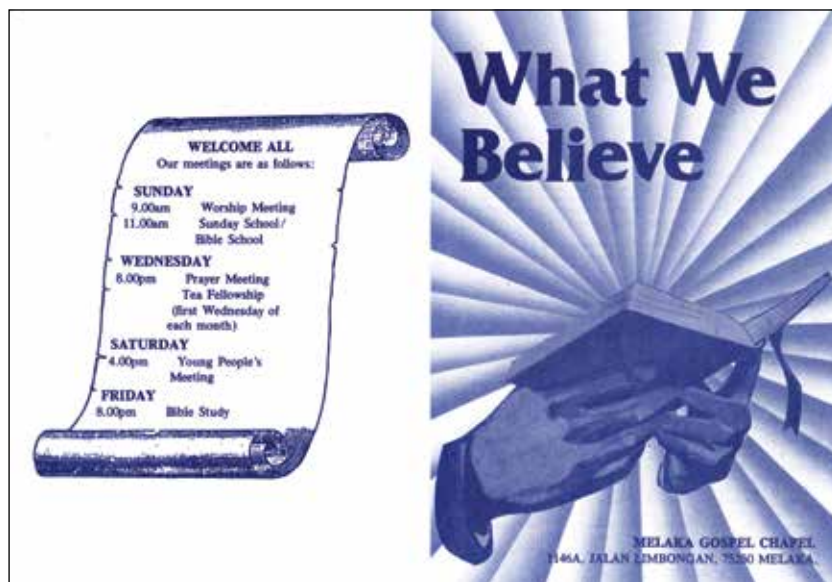
More than that, God willing, the Young Adults will grow in numbers with some of the younger diaspora returning to complement the work here and the sending church can also be a planting church.

That we will continue to be a family that allow each other the opportunities to grow, to teach and be taught, to be an uncle or an aunty in every sense of the honourific, and most of all, allow the space for mistakes to be made, admitted and forgiven.

God bless Melaka Gospel Chapel and may the footstep we leave in the sands of time be of help to those who came after us.

TIONG KIAN BOON
18th January 2016

Melaka Gospel Chapel's Statement of Doctrine



MELAKA GOSPEL CHAPEL
1146A, JALAN LIMBONGAN, 75250 MELAKA.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

WE BELIEVE in ONE God eternally existing in three Persons-Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and sovereign in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgement.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh; we believe in His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His victorious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His present mediatorial work in heaven and His personal return in power and glory to receive His people unto Himself to execute judgement and to reign as 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords'.

WE BELIEVE that Man who was created by God to worship and serve Him, is alienated from Him because of sin and is therefore under His judgement.

WE BELIEVE that the salvation of man from sin and its consequences is entirely an act of God's sovereign grace; it is not achieved by any meritorious works on man's part but is appropriated by him through repentance towards God and faith in (commitment to) Jesus Christ and in His redemptive work on the cross.

WE BELIEVE that it is the regenerating and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, who indwells the believers, that enables him to live a holy life pleasing to God.

WE BELIEVE that the Church, which is the body of Christ, consists of all who have been redeemed and reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a universal fellowship in which there is no difference based on race, social standing or sex. It is visibly expressed in local congregation of Christians (local churches) who meet regularly and relate to one another in a close fellowship.

WE BELIEVE that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust at the final judgement, the former to a resurrection of life and the latter to a resurrection of damnation.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Scriptures (Bible) are originally given were inspired by God ("God-breathed") and recorded by men who were "borne along" by the Holy Spirit's power and expressed the mind of God in words provided and expressed by Him; they are therefore the supreme authority for faith and life.

OUR PRACTICES

BAPTISM. We practice the initiatory rite of water-baptism by immersion as an indication of spirit-baptism (baptism with/in the spirit) by which a believer is incorporated into the body of Christ and is identified with Him in His death and resurrection.

LORD'S SUPPER. We observe the feast of Holy Communion or Lord's Supper on the first day of each week (normally). As we believe in the priesthood of all Christians, our form of service provides for the free participation of all believers on an equal basis (consistent with 'all things being done decently and in order').

USING SPIRITUAL GIFTS. As we believe that all believers are endowed with one or more spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit for the common good we encourage and endeavour to provide opportunities for the use of these gifts in Christian service both within and outside (where appropriate) the local church context.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE. We believe that for the effective functioning of a church there must be discipline. We believe that maintaining good order and discipline in the local church is the mutual responsibility of all its members with the emphasis on its purgative, corrective and exhortatory aspects. In the event of a grave breach of discipline, the oversight of the church will have to act collectively and overruly if necessary. All forms of discipline will be administered in accordance with the injunctions of Scripture.

Acknowledgement

The editor would like to thank all those who have contributed their articles, pictures and feedback to this 50th anniversary publication.

Many who contributed recalled how the Lord had worked in their lives and the lives of their families, friends, students, children and youth. They marvelled at the faithfulness of God in various lives where many of them had continued steadfastly and growing in maturity and service for our Master. Many are or were leaders and fulltime workers in various churches or Christian organizations throughout the country and even overseas.

Some had spent much time recalling, researching or calling up others for information that had occurred many years ago.

With the usage of the Internet with such apps as Whatsapp and emails, the compilation of these articles and photographs had been made easier.

We must apologize should there be errors and omissions especially in the write-ups and photograph descriptions that relate to yester-years due to the lack of written records and fading memories.

RODNEY TAN
Editor

Autographs

MELAKA GOSPEL CHAPEL

C1146A Jalan Limbongan
Klebang Kecil
75200 MELAKA

Email: melakagospelchapel@gmail.com