

FOCUS

For the Week of 1st November 2009



From our Minister...

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

- Galatians 6:9

There are quite a few ministers who have logged in over 40 years of full-time ministry. However, it is very rare to find many of them serving a single congregation for their entire lives. I am truly blessed to enjoy the privilege of such a wonderful relationship.

It has been a great joy for both Nat and I to work with such a highly motivated and supportive PP congregation. Each year, we witness the congregation grow from strength to strength with increase in baptisms, giving and attendance.

So as I stood on stage on Friday, 23rd October to thank a long list of people who made the occasion possible, and later stood with Nat at the exit after the dinner, you can imagine the gratitude that overflowed from our hearts.

It has been a long 4 decades, a period of ministry that has overtaken Singapore's modern history by a year. Together, the congregation made up of mostly teens, went through the struggles of Singapore's early years, the uncertainty of the British withdrawal and the pangs of the birth of independent Singapore.

The church started with the passion of teenagers worshipping at the only congregation at that time, at Moulmein Road. Brother Ong Aun Nam was the tireless leader who convinced sister Polly Lee of his vision and persuaded the A.

L. Harbins to serve as first missionaries.

While we had a good beginning, after a year or two, the interest started to wane. The original leaders begin to drop out and the A.L. Harbins decided to pack their bags to return to USA after two years. The Pence Dacuses also left Singapore but returned after more than 20 years. Like many who felt that PP will not amount to much, they were surprised that the congregation was not only alive but thriving.

The new work was suddenly left in the hands of the young members. When the Harbins left, they gave me an extra month's salary with no promise of continuing support. For the next 20 years, Nat and I lived on what the congregation can afford, without CPF or any other benefits. There were many occasions that we came close to throwing in the towel. But because others were looking up to us, we soldiered on, trusting in the Lord and looking to each other for support.

Indeed, I have much and many people to be thankful for. To Ong Aun Nam for his vision, Nat for staying by my side, the Awareness leadership (elders, deacons, leaders), PP's church staff, Care team leaders and members, Bible class and missions leaders, the Chinese congregation, Hearing Impaired and House Helpers BC, SIBI, sister congregations and the supportive members at PP.

PP FAMILY NEWS

Right: Many thanks to all who worked hard to ensure that we all had a wonderful time at our 45th Anniversary Grand Dinner. Our ushers were at the restaurant at 5pm that evening to ensure every detail was taken care of.



We thank God for the outpouring of love from the congregation for missions last Sunday. Over \$150,000 was given in cash and \$50,000 in pledges. This is the largest single Sunday giving in PP's history. If you have not yet given, please do so soon.

Elder Adrian will speak on "Mind the Gap" at our morning assemblies. Come back at 6pm to hear **brother Kenneth Koh** share his experience of the mission seminar in Hangzhou, China.

Please use the attendance cards to update your directory particulars. Brother Douglas, a professional photographer will be on duty to help you update your photo. The exercise will end on 30th November. We plan to release the 2010 pictorial directory in January.

We encourage all members to join in the a cappella singing at 1:30pm with brother Daniel and his team. If you ordered your lunch last week, please get your pack from sister Betty at the lobby today.

Many thanks to sister Florence for the extra special breakfast made with love last Sunday at 10:30am.

Join us this Wednesday at 10am for SIBI's Open Bible Study. **Brother Charles Cook** is teaching the book of Ephesians.

At 7:30pm this Wednesday, we look forward to the final SPC series for the year. Based on "Heart to Heart" series, brother Lee Hock will be our instructor. Bring the entire family.

The sign-up for youth camp is now open. Parents, please encourage your children to attend - it's a good way for them to make friends with fellow youths. Date: 28th-31st Dec. Venue: Camp Challenge, Sembawang (meet at church building for coach transport). Camp fees: S\$70. Sign up with Olivia, Li Jun or Angelin.

Order the 45th Anniversary Dinner Photo taken by deacons Paul and Terry, Edward, Peter Soh, Patrick and Barnabas. All in a DVD that you can view, print or reproduce and share with your family and friends. Order with any church staff with \$5 payment.

| Worship Service | Today (1 November) | Next Week |
|--|--|---|
| 8am Scripture Text: | Psalm 118:1-4 | Psalm 119:1-8 |
| 11am Call to Worship: SR/OP: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Shepherd's Prayer: | Henry Kong Kenneth Koh Paul Lim Michael Booker Elder Adrian Teo Elder Beng Chuan | Elder Adrian Teo Alvin Tjijto Matthew Tng Chew Chong Lin Ken McCumsey Elder Winston Chong |
| Ushers Balcony | Andy Wee HI Team | Jeronme Goh HI Team |
| 6pm Call to Worship Scripture Text: SR/Prayer: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Closing Prayer: | Henry Kong Psalm 118:28-29 Ban Haw Leong Valmond Teng Deacon Li Chhoan Kenneth Koh Elder Beng Chuan | Elder Adrian Teo Psalm 119:9-16 Patrick Ong Deacon KC Elder Simon Goh Deacon Lim Li Chhoan Elder Winston Chong |

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 1st November 2009
 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
 8:00am First Morning Worship
 Speaker: elder Adrian Teo
 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
 11am Second Morning Worship
 1:15pm Shuttle Bus Service ends



1:30pm A cappella singing with brother Daniel and his team
 6pm Evening Worship
 Speaker: Kenneth Koh

Wednesday, 4th November 2009

10am SIBI Open Bible Study the book of Ephesians by brother Charles Cook



7:30pm New SPC series on "Heart to Heart" by brother Kuek Lee Hock

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

Elder William to get well from chicken pox - Hedy Wong, Michael Yam
 Me to find a suitable job in Singapore - Roy Tay
 Me to utilize more time in the Lord's work - Immanuel
 The salvation of my son, Keith and house helper. My husband's heart to soften so that God can speak to him. Thanks for Shernise's return to God - Serina Kho
 The health of my friend, Minerva's kidney problem - Amparo
 Adeline and her influence to bring her family back to God's church - Hong Ngee
 My church's preacher. Our family in India - Kumar
 My family and PP church members and my work - David Dass

Thank God for:

Elder Winston's sermon - William Chong, Michael Mariarajas, Josephine Seow
 Timmy Tng's presentation - Henry and Nat
 My children's salvation in Christ - Milagros Aquino
 Being with Audrey through her exam. Our safe holiday - Julie Wee
 Blessings of PP church 45th year - Geoffrey Kiang
 Your faithfulness for the past 45 years. As we rededicate ourselves anew to your service, we pray that you may renew our strength and devotion to God - Henry Kong

As we will be realising a pictorial
Membership
 Directory on January 2010, Christians who wish to place membership at PP may see our church staff for a membership form

| FACTS & FIGURES | | <i>Gifts of Love</i> | | Receipt No. | Donor | Amount |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|--------|
| 8am Worship | 128 | | | 3RsF 1311 | Chinese congregation | \$700 |
| 11am Worship | 240 | | | 1312 | Chew Chong Lins | \$1000 |
| 6pm Worship | 119 | | | | | |
| Total: | 487 | | | MF 1313 | Anonymous | \$300 |
| | | | | MF 1314 | Anonymous | \$100 |
| Morning Giving | \$132,646 | | | MF 1315 | Anonymous | \$300 |
| Evening Giving | \$ 12,379 | | | | | |
| Total Contribution | \$145,025* | | | | | |

* Does not include early missions gifts or pledges



More Than Just An Anniversary Dinner

by Peter Soh

Our 45th anniversary dinner at the Dragon Gate restaurant was a great event as far as I'm concerned. It was my first church anniversary dinner and as soon as I arrived at the venue, I could feel the vibes. It's not the setting, the food or even the occasion. It's the vibes.

I booked a table to invite my golfing buddies. I wanted them to experience the fellowship that really exists in the PP church. Out of the nine of them, four are attending various denominations. The rest are non-believers and do not have a religion.

During the course of our friendship over the years, I have sought their views on their beliefs and we have debated on the reasons of why I am a believer. Since we cannot accord faith in scientific terms, we can show it. We can display how by being a Christian our faith is unquestioned and the way we live, talk and interact with each other demonstrates our faith and our conviction.

So at our annual dinner, I saw this in action, in all its glory. So did my friends. The souvenir booklet that was given out was at first shunted to one side by some of them. By the end of the dinner, they were holding and browsing through them and eventually brought it home, everyone of them. Our vibes for each other made some of them wonder if they were missing out on something.

It started the moment you get to the entrance of the restaurant. There were elders Adrian and Beng Chuan greeting everyone like they were bridegrooms. You enter the hall and everyone was excitedly talking with each other. The atmosphere was of a large family gathering. When the dinner commenced my friends witnessed several manifestations of fellowship. Next to our table, Patrick was interpreting for the hearing impaired almost everything that was going on. I don't think he had a decent dinner. And he was standing up during the whole time. I had several elders and deacons in smart suits drop by our table to say hello. Edward came by to take pictures and chatted with them about golfing. Sandra came along and gave a three minute, passionate, inspiring and dynamic speech about why she gave up golf and devoted herself to God and that He was enough for her! She went off after giving that resounding speech and left everyone astounded! When my friends heard that she was a single handi-

capper, they were even more amazed. Our minister Henry came to chat and found a way to work his charm into some of them.

I was told by one of them that when he attended churches in Europe, most of the time they were filled with the elderly people. At that moment, the youths gave a fantastic rendering of songs in a cappella. That brought the subject up that our church was not filled with old people. Those visits to our table gave the impression that we welcome visitors like family. There was also the observation of our church having a very good mix of races. Also by a coincidence the two African singers, Mac and Stanley showed their amazing talent in song. They produced such a magical and virtuoso performance that I myself wondered if they were part of our church! Needless to say, my friends were impressed. Two of my friends were escorted right to their table by some church receptionist on duty.

My point in all these is that sometimes we cannot convince people about our beliefs through dialogues or reasoning. But we can do so by displaying our verve, joy and fellowship that is based on our true faith and belief in God. It could be infectious. It was apparent at the annual dinner night. My non-believing friends were made to wonder. If even one of them decided to find out more about the way people behave because of their beliefs, they would be on the way to acceptance. I hope we would see some of them one day, in our church. I myself have been the beneficiary of the goodwill extended to me since I came to the PP.

To me it is PP's most important asset – welcoming visitors with true sincerity and affection regardless of race, background, physical disposition and belief. We should nurture this great asset and use it as a tool to expose others to God in bringing them to Christ.

