

# A Penny For My Thoughts...



## 9 Things I am Thankful For at PP

David writes in Psalm 52:9, "I will give thee thanks for ever, because thou hast done it; And I will hope in thy name, for it is good, in the presence of thy saints." As I stand before God who has seen me through this new millennium, I shared a similar sense of overpowering awe and gratitude.

There are 9 things at PP that are forever etched into my heart that I am thankful for.

1. I am so thankful for the team of 5 men that will edify the congregation on Sunday mornings in 2000. These men are apt to teach, eager to share and raring to do so! PP is so fortunate to have people who teach by word and example in brothers Adrian, James, Gerald, Paul Quek and KC Cheang.

For too long, the pulpit has been the privileged domain of the full-time minister. While not wrong in itself, there is a danger of creating a situation where he becomes more influential than the elders. Often, the minister is adored and in some congregations, even looked upon with celebrity-like status.

Because of the professionalism that the full-time minister brings to the pulpit (still not anything wrong itself), preaching has become an exact craft which in turn (mostly unconsciously) draws people to be "entertained" by "uplifting preaching" instead of worshipping God.

With this team, we can look forward to a well-prepared, balanced diet of God's word from the pulpit each Sunday.

2. All my life, I had preachers telling me that they were working themselves out of a job. All my life, I looked to witness this actually taking place. I am happy to report that I have found this at PP.

A good example of this was the last Sunday of 1999. I enjoyed an heartfelt Awards Sunday in the morning, closed the year with a meaningful Song and Word service and had a great time at the BBQ and campfire. I am pleased to say that I had nothing to do with any of them.

All month long, people like Siew Lian, Iris and a host of teachers and students prepared for the Awards Sunday, led by their "principal", brother Beng Chuan. Brother Yong Wee led a great worship team that is slowly but surely transforming our worship services into sessions of great joy. The Roland Wees assisted by KC Cheang (and team) gave us the juiciest ribs this side of Texas. Charles' and Chay's teams prepared long and hard to give us a perfect programme.

**Thank God for people at PP who will pick up the ball and run along with it.**

**3. I am thankful for a most congenial atmosphere at PP. Serving the Lord is not only the most important work in this world, but serving Him at PP is also the best work in the world.**

**Sundays at PP are really special - they bring a tingle of excitement in my heart every time, the same feeling that overcame me at my baptism. What a joy it is to see members and their families. The oneness we share and feel for each other is so strong.**

**I enjoy working with the church staff and leaders. Like me, they are visionary, proactive and effective. We will try anything at least once. Cost is the last and least important consideration of any matter. We do things not because they are easy, but because they are hard. Everything we do, our main goal is to glorify God and take care of souls.**

**4. I am thankful for the strong sense of missions at PP. Right from the beginning, PP was reaching out to JB, Malaysia, sending teams each Sunday in our trusty VW bug to evangelise, and finally supporting brother Lau Kin Fatt (whom we are once again supporting) as our first missionary.**

**Today, our missions programme has grown by leaps and bounds. I like the way we stay with a missionary and put our weight behind him all the way, terminating only when he leaves the work. Missionaries are highly respected at PP - we love them all, especially long-serving ones like brothers Dacus, Cannon and Ashurst.**

**But it is not just the increasing proportion of growth in our mission to the overall work of the Lord that excites me. What is really thrilling is the way the entire body at PP supports missions. By your giving, prayers and readiness to go on tentmaking trips. I fully expect that PP will raise some missionaries of our own in the near future.**

**5. I am thankful for the inclination towards the things of God at PP. Our Bible classes are growing in numbers and interest. Annual Advances continue to bring back over 90% of the active membership. Judging by the responses of the membership to the Sunday sermons and Wednesday classes, the church is far from being a people "dull of hearing" but are a people able to be entreated.**

**Of all the activities at PP, my pet project is the Upper Room. It thrills me to no end to see men and women taking time to come and wait on the Lord. Some read Bibles and pray. Others meditate and pray. Together we all experience the refreshing presence of God as we unhurriedly come to His presence for an hour or more. The day the room is overflowing with people at all hours is the day I know PP is firmly anchored on solid ground.**

**6. I am thankful that PP is a congregation that cares for one another. From our very first leader, brother Ong Aun Nam to the newest convert, sister Tan, PP as a congregation will love, nurture and keep covenant with them. Because we do not marginalise anyone no matter what the circumstances may be, PP is a place where the active and the wayward can feel at home and find a forgiving, loving and accepting fellowship.**

**7. I am thankful that the church at PP loves children. Our daughter June was the first baby to be born at PP (followed by Charles). Since then there has been a lot of fuss over every baby, boy and girl at PP.**

**Our recent Awards Sunday last month exhibited this in a very clear way. More than 50 members - even youth, are involved in our Junior Bible class programme. As a result, PP has always had a good cross-section of every age group in the church. I suspect that many visitors have stayed on with PP because they know that their children will be loved and well cared for.**

**8. I am thankful for the generosity of members at PP. In the early years of PP, as many full-time workers were struggling to gain support from churches in USA, I surprised everyone by asking to be supported by a church made up of teenagers - without CPF, bonus or promise of the next month's salary! Not only did PP grow to support me fully, but we helped support brother Kin Fatt, a student missionary to JB and brother Raybestor who worked full-time with the church in Geylang.**

**Instead of asking for funds from our sponsoring church to purchase our property, we did it the old-fashioned way of borrowing and paying back when we were able. This determination to "pay our own way" has cultivated in many members the spirit of digging deeply in our pockets and giving generously. As a result, the Lord has always blessed PP with whatever we need and in turn, caused us to be generous to others in need.**

**9. I am thankful for the way PP ministers to one another. Members who are struggling with health, relationships and finances are surrounded with tender loving care.**

**The network of Care teams provides a close intimate relationship for every member. Whatever the need may be, there are members who are ready and eager to assist.**