

**HI SUMMARY
January-June 2004**



THE NEW HI BIBLE CLASS IS 6 MONTHS OLD!

The reorganized HI work is already 6 months old! Started on the first week of December last year, the restructured work has now built up a core group, with a firm foundation.

Our minister, brother Henry Kong started the first HI work amongst the churches of Christ in Singapore. Together with sisters Nancy Koh and Jenny Kwa, he started the 'Friends of the Deaf' and other activities. The number increased over the years and by the time the church moved to Pasir Panjang in 1984, a HI congregation was started with brother Patrick Ong as the preacher.

The HI work was terminated last year when declining attendance and lack of converts led the leaders of the HI work to merge with the English speaking congregation.

Brother Henry was determined not to let his "baby" die, nor allow the good work that many have put in to go to waste. Especially, he wanted to secure the souls of the handful of surviving HI members who have not given up the faith. He took upon himself to be the main teacher of this new work with the help of the old crew and the infusion of new blood. Together, motivated by a great love for the HI members, the work was revived.

GETTING TO KNOW THE THE HI WORK

The HI Bible class is the platform that oversees all the rest of our deaf work at PP. It is at 9:30am on Sunday class where all members and workers come together and work on the activities for the HI. Brother Henry is the main teacher for this class, assisted by brother and sister Patrick Ong as interpreters, with a core group of hearing workers.

Then at the worship sessions, several more people join in this group occupying the entire left side of the balcony. It is at the worship where the interaction takes place amongst the HI and with the hearing members. Sister Eileen helps out to coordinate songleaders for the HI while brother Patrick does the signing, with hearing men leading the songs.

After each worship, the friends of the HI provide good fellowship with the HI members. Workers like brother Mak Kok Meng even takes this opportunity to pray with the HI male members.

Every other Friday, the ladies Care teams meets with sister Judy at her home. This is where the HI members really come out of their shell and participate. For example, a regular visitor, Hui Ting travels all the way from Sengkang to attend faithfully. Sister



Tan Kim Mui, a quiet and regular member in the HI class never fails to bring food - even on occasions that she cannot come. The HI men are planning to start their own Care team soon, with emphasis on learning the sign language together.

Once a month, the HI Bible class goes out together for a meal as well as to enjoy some activity together after lunch like a movie or shopping. These sessions are great times of bonding and well participated by all involved.

It is great to see past HI workers like sister Jenny Kwa attending, as well as members who are interested in the HI work like sister Peggy Phua. It is also wonderful to see the family of hearing workers present, especially their children. During these fellowship we also enjoy having HI visitors like Daniel and Thomas.

From a decline of just two or three HI members attending Bible classes in 2003, 2004 saw a regular attendance of 6 HI members plus a growing number of visitors. Attendance at worship has also increased and the Care team is doing well. Monthly fellowships are attended by an average of 30 persons each month.

The HI members are great prayer warriors and have expressed an interest to be part of the monthly fellowship. Look out for our lovely HI members and take time to get to know them - they will light up your life!

GETTING TO KNOW THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE HI WORK

We are so thankful that the Lord has given PP a diversity of members, each one serving the Lord in their chosen way. Without the core group of people serving in missions, the Filipino work, deaf work etc. none of these good efforts would continue, grow or prosper.

We appreciate deeply the team of 'oldies' who have been working with the HI members for many years. It is hard to be with these people and not see their great abiding love for the HI. Brothers Mak Kok Meng, Patrick Ong, sisters Judy Ong and Farida Simon are amongst our most regular workers today.

Also, we are happy that an infusion of new workers have come in to inject new blood to the restructured work. Sister Agnes Lim was the first to answer the call and she takes care of the monthly fellowship. Sister Eileen Lim who used to help with the HI has also been roped in to help. Brother William Wong is providing great leadership to our HI Bible class. Our latest 'newbie' is brother Goh Chee Keong. Together they are learning the sign language to equip themselves more effectively in this good work. All hearing workers are paired with another HI member to mentor and coach them in their faith.

INTRODUCING OUR HI MEMBERS



Brothers Lee Chia Gee and Chong Woo Tai are the two regular HI members who are a joy to be with. Brother Chia Gee is a barber and has a nice family of graduate children. Brother Woo Tai looks extremely young for a 67 year old! His wife, Shiu Khiun is a member of the Chinese congregation.



From left to right: Sister Tan See Mui is the 'big sister' of the HI class, providing each member with a file to keep their class notes. She also provides perfect answers to class questions.

Sister Mary Wee is a delightful and helpful member, always ready to explain to another the lesson, if the point is not well understood. A fun person.

Sister Tan Kim Mui attends the deaf class and Care team faithfully. She is very helpful in providing food for the HI Care team.



Sister Mimi Ng (left) is another live-wire of the class. You can count on her to get full marks for the questions in the class. Sister Judy Tan who is pictured with her is no longer attending the PP congregation.

Besides the regular HI members, brothers Tan Poh Chuan and sister Chua Toh Yock have been coming back to worship this year. We are also enjoying the presence of HI visitors, some of whom are very regular. These include Hui Ting, William, Thomas and Daniel.

PROGRESS OF THE HI BIBLE CLASS DURING THE FIRST 6 MONTHS

In our first 6 months, the HI class has:

1. Met regularly every Sunday
2. Finished 2 sets of lessons on Christian Faith and Christian Growth. Currently on a module on Prayer.
3. Enjoyed refreshments every Sunday after class, some brought by members of the class like Chee Keong, Judy etc.
4. Had an luncheon outing every month with friends of the HI and their families
5. Enjoyed a 'Welcome New Members' session - all HI members received a gift each
6. Saw the movie, "The Passion of The Christ" together

7. Started a fortnightly Friday Care Team led by Judy Ong
8. Seen past visitors like Poh Chuan and William back at church
9. Paired Hearing members individually mentoring HI members for one-on-one mentoring
10. Enabled HI members and visitor, Woo Tai, See Mui and Hui Ting to attend the June church camp with subsidy provided by hearing worker, Mak Kok Meng
11. Provided a Prospect Book/Prayer Journal to build up their faith and reach out to their peers
12. Devoted HI members in the class have more time to discuss and share.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

In the next 6 months, we would like to encourage the Hearing Impaired to grow more in these areas:

1. At the HI class, after a 10-15 minute lesson:
 - a. The class will be divided into men and ladies groups
 - b. HI members will be encouraged to speak out
 - c. Men and ladies will have separate prayers.
2. A Friday Care Team for men will be started:
 - a. Just like the ladies' Care Team
 - b. It will meet twice a month
 - c. Emphasize on helping HI men use the sign language.
3. The hearing members will continue to help:
 - a. All will be encouraged to take sign language courses
 - b. Each will continue to mentor a HI member

- c. Men will help in leading songs at worship.
4. Monthly fellowship will be decided by HI members:
 - a. HI members will pay \$2 each
 - b. Hearing adult workers will pay \$5 each
 - c. This will be a time to invite more HI visitors (\$2 each)
5. Hearing Impaired members are asked to:
 - a. Read the Bible and pray every day
 - b. Attend Bible class and worship every week
 - c. Attend a Care team every fortnight
 - d. Join us in fellowship every month
 - e. Keep encouraging members and inviting friends
 - f. Join in the monthly prayer fellowship
 - g. Plan to attend the 2005 church camp.

From the HI Bible Teacher, Henry Kong



Working with the HI during these past 6 months have been a learning process for me. It is a rewarding experience and also a very humbling one.

The hearing workers are really fantastic with their readiness, zeal and love for the Lord and the deaf members. The work would not have continued so far without these people.

I simply fell in love with the HI. They are such wonderful Christians, ready to serve in every way. What a joy to see so many at my home during the Chinese new year, the oranges they brought and wonderful cake and gift for my birthday!

Thank you all for your support, work and growth that make this report possible.