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*The Theological and Pastoral Wisdom of the
Rev Dr Timothy Tow from the Weekly of
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and
True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church*

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WEEKLY WISDOM: THE THEOLOGICAL AND PASTORAL WISDOM OF THE REV DR TIMOTHY TOW

Jeffrey Khoo and May-Lynn Khoo

INTRODUCTION

Christians are exhorted to “*remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*” (Heb 13:7). It is important to remember the faith and teachings of godly men who have gone before us so that the pure Word of God may continually be held in high regard. This is why a selection of the Rev Dr Timothy Tow’s writings from Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (LBPC) Weekly (*Life Weekly*) and True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (TLBPC) Weekly (*True Life Weekly*) has been compiled in order that the sound and biblical teachings be not lost. Through his writings, he addresses theology that covers various topics such as Theism (the study of God), Anthropology (the study of Man), Soteriology (the study of Salvation) and Eschatology (the study of the End Times). Furthermore, Rev Tow held missions and evangelism close to his heart and often stressed the need for more work to be done in fulfilment of the Great Commission. His writings cover reports of missions work he was engaged in and his vision for future work in God’s harvest field.

In addition, as Pastor of LBPC and TLBPC, he writes devotionally and counsels his church members on practical issues surrounding the Christian faith in daily life, worship and service. He often emphasised the Christian’s duty to be good stewards of God’s resources and time. In numerous articles, Rev Tow made use of illustrations like stories or testimonies to communicate God’s truth to the reader. His writings are never dull but are full of vibrancy as he recounts his personal experiences of God’s working in His life. As he shared of God’s

goodness and providence in his life, readers are reminded of God's sovereignty, grace and mercy.

As founder of the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) and Pastor of LBPC at the same time, Rev Tow often spoke of these two entities with great fondness. He counseled the students in the FEBC and the members of LBPC with fatherly care. As both the FEBC and LBPC reside on the same premises in 9A and 10 Gilstead Road, Rev Tow often stressed the importance of living charitably with one another in an economical and frugal way. He also emphasised the importance of thanking God for every blessing and deliverance upon Church and College, and summed it up with the Chinese saying, "When you drink water, think about its source."

May all who read these writings be richly blessed and built up in the Lord.

THEOLOGY

The Rev Timothy Tow discussed the Christian Faith with pastorly warmth and counsel. The importance of studying Theology is emphasised in order that the Christian may be well equipped to fight spiritual battles. Theology refers to the doctrine and study of God and we learn of God through the Holy Scriptures that are inspired and perfectly preserved through the ages (2 Tim 3:16, Matt 5:18). Understanding the various attributes of God brings comfort, peace and encouragement to souls that are afflicted and having a deep understanding of doctrine gives guidance in daily life. Rev Tow wrote devotionally as he pondered upon the brevity of life and urged Christians to give their lives to serve God full-time in light of Christ's soon-coming return. To those who are seeking an answer to life's questions, Rev Tow pointed them to the Saviour—Jesus Christ, who is willing to save and grant peace forevermore.

Importance of Theology

Rev Tow professed that Theology is the "Queen of sciences" as it brings its students to a more intimate knowledge and understanding of who God is. It is highly effective and powerful in saving the lost, convicting men of sin, and healing them from the wounds of sin. He likens Doctrine to the "Prescription of a doctor" that must be "strictly and accurately dispensed"¹ without the slightest subtraction. Like

¹"The Importance of Doctrine", 6 November 1965.

what the Apostle Paul advised young Timothy, Rev Tow advised the young, to give attention to the study of theology.² By being informed and equipped with the Word of God, Christians are more ready and able to contend for the faith intelligently.

Sovereignty of God

God's Sovereignty is a vital attribute that we must never forget. Rev Tow recognised this and often reminds his readers to find comfort in the knowledge that God is in control over every event and happening in life. To overcome the fear of men, Christians are urged to trust in God instead. It is impossible to satisfy all men, thus we are not to put our confidence in men, but seek to please God in every small thing. When we fear God, we will "shrink from the terrors of men."³ When disheartened and downcast, Christians can look to creation as a form of comfort. Rev Tow drew comfort from King David's observation of creation. It was by looking at the creation around us and above us that King David went beyond to find "God-awareness." David sings, "*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*" (Ps 8:3, 4).⁴ Truly, when we look at nature, we are reminded of how puny we are and how awesome the Lord is. Readers are reminded that all things work out for good and nothing happens by chance. The thought of God's sovereignty brings ease to every heart that trusts in Him.

Providence of God

Furthermore, the writer testifies of how God is our Great Provider. When we encounter difficulties and dangers, the Lord is ever willing to deliver us. Christ always seeks to do us good. When we are in need of daily necessities, the Lord is swift to supply. Rev Tow rightfully proclaimed, "We owe to God the day-to-day supply of the four fundamentals (according to Chinese idiom) of our livelihood, viz. clothing, makan, housing and transport."⁵ In light of God's Providence, Christians are exhorted to be grateful to the Lord for His manifold

² "Theology, Theology, Theology!", 29 January 1966; "Advice Again to Young People in USA", 29 January 1966.

³ "Thomas A Kempis", 14 June 1969.

⁴ "Look Up at the Sky to Solve Problems", 28 June 1987.

⁵ "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread", 10 September 1966.

blessings and to remember the poor and needy (Gal 2:10). A common problem believers face is to fear that God will not provide for their needs. Instead of fearing their own lack of faithfulness to the Lord, they fear that He will fail. This ought not to be, and readers are exhorted to “learn well that providing for our wants is God’s business, not ours. We have nothing at all to do with it. But we have everything to do with our own duty, our allotted work, the doing of God’s will... if we do them with fidelity, God will care for us.”⁶ Let us never forget to be faithful in our duties to the Lord as He does the work of providing for our needs!

Justice of God

When discussing the justice of God, Rev Tow observed that those who fear God and do good will be duly rewarded. In opposition, those who work the works of evil and wickedness will face curses and destruction. The reason why the world we live in is filled with injustice is due to the power of sin. However, God is sovereign and all things will eventually work out according to His justice and wisdom. Romans 8:28 reveals that life becomes no paradox when seen in light of God’s sovereignty and justice.

The Bible and its Doctrines

In addition, Rev Tow often wrote about the Holy Bible—God’s written and given Word to Man. He likens the Bible to a “diamond of truth with many facets”⁷ that teaches man how he came into existence and why he is living in this present world that is filled with misery. The Bible reveals the way of salvation and also provides divine wisdom and instruction on how to live a happy and successful life in the Lord. It records the law of God and promises blessings upon those who obey it and cursing upon those who disobey. Jesus Christ remains the central theme throughout the Bible.

Regretfully, there are many modernists and Bible scholars who undermine and take a very low view of God’s Word. This has given rise to the production of multiple versions of the Bible that give an inaccurate translation and reproduction of the original Scripture. In addition, vital doctrines like the doctrine of Christ and of creation have been sabotaged.

⁶ “God Will Provide”, 1 January 1972.

⁷ “What Do the Scriptures Principally Teach?”, 1 April 1967.

Rev Tow refuted the bold claims of these scholars who take a low view of Scripture and took the time to carefully examine disputed Bible verses and passages in light of the original languages. He faithfully claimed that “The Bible, God’s Holy Word, is inerrant, i.e., has no error; and infallible, i.e., cannot make any mistake (Matt. 5:18), is the Gibraltar of our faith!”⁸ Young FEBC students are warned not to fall into the “well of scholarship”⁹ that tempts one to approach Scripture without faith and belief. No one is able to speak anything against the truth but for the truth, and every jot and tittle remains perfect and preserved (Matt 5:18).

ANTHROPOLOGY

Brevity of Life

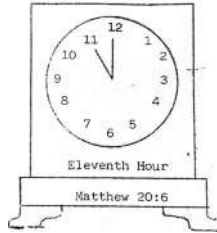
In a number of his weekly church articles, Rev Tow reminded his readers of how life is like a vapour that is brief and short, and therefore must be lived wisely for the Lord. God’s Word consistently stresses the importance of redeeming the time we have on earth. In Psalm 90:12 we are exhorted to “*number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*” Instead of pursuing the pleasures and fancies of this world that are vain and fleeting, we must pursue after the service of the Lord (Rom 13:11-14). Rev Tow favoured reminding his members of the brevity of life at the close of a year as well as the start of every New Year. He reminded Christians of how brief and temporal their lives are in an attempt to spur them on for the New Year that is ahead of them. Christians are not to spend the New Year’s Eve partying away mindlessly but to spend it reflectively and solemnly at Watchnight Service, with much prayer. No more time is to be wasted in the night of “timeliness”¹⁰ (a term coined by him), and whatever time has been lost in the past year must be regained in the New Year.

In addition, our life is not only brief but also unpredictable. Our future though unbeknown to us lies in the hands of the Almighty God. As we start out a New Year, we are to remember God when we make plans and not be presumptuous and ignorant (Jas 4:13-17). Rev Tow advised, “To wish one another a prosperous New Year, for Christians, we must

⁸ “Winston Churchill’s Defence of the Inerrancy and Infallibility of the Bible”, 14 May 1977.

⁹ “He That Boasts of His Knowledge Proclaims His Ignorance”, 11 March 1979.

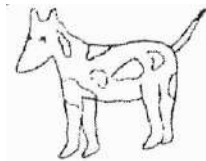
¹⁰ “Can Lost Time Be Regained?”, 6 January 1980.



include “in the Lord” or “by the Lord.”¹¹ All that we set out to do and accomplish must be according to God’s will and timetable. A life that is lived with the purpose of glorifying God will be abundant and full, whereas a life that is lived for self-glory will end up empty and forgotten.

Sanctity of Life

The life of both man and beast are important in the eyes of the divine Creator. Proverbs 12:10 gives valuable insight, “*A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast*”. The life of an animal is not to be taken lightly and animal abuse is utter wickedness. An animal like a dog can be a good servant of God. Rev Tow recounted how God blessed the church with a good watchdog in Peepa, a mongrel puppy, which appeared out of nowhere and laid on the doormat of the parsonage. She wagged her tail and looked lovingly at the pastor as if they were “old friends after a long absence”. She was as tame as a lamb and the little children loved her. She was a good and faithful watchdog and barked at suspicious characters but never at church members or FEBC students. Rev Tow said members and students can learn from Peepa how they can be faithful and loving in serving the Lord.¹²



Rev Tow warned us not to be “so concerned for the heavenly that we are of little earthly good.”¹³ Christians should seek to preserve life rather than destroy it as it is sacred and precious to the Lord, even a dog’s life.

¹¹ “The Higher Factor of God”, 7 January 1990; “Short-Term, Not Long-Term, Policy”, 8 July 1990.

¹² “Peepa Our Dog”, 30 December 1984.

¹³ “SPCA”, 1 April 1990.

Languages

Rev Tow recognised the importance of learning one's own mother tongue because "a Chinese not knowing Chinese is a real shame"¹⁴ He praised the Singapore government for making the education of Chinese language compulsory for all students. Genesis 11 sheds light on the curse that God pronounced on tongues, giving rise to the development of multiple languages. This has resulted in the difficulty of learning and picking up a foreign language. Nonetheless, it is still important for young people to get well acquainted with their mother tongue. Rev Tow shared that he found the Mandarin language to be "most elegant."¹⁵

Sin

The Bible is plain and clear in its assertion that Man is totally depraved. Jeremiah 17:9 states, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*" Human nature is entirely evil and there is no good in Man. It is from the hearts of men that evil thoughts and actions are committed (Mark 7:20). Rev Tow expressed that the evilness of Man must be overcome and completely changed. This can be achieved only by regeneration by the Holy Spirit (John 3:3, 5). Only the Holy Spirit is capable of restraining evil within a man and giving him the ability to do what is right.

Rev Tow identified that we are living in an evil time spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah, where "*truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey*" (Isa 59:15). Morals taught in Scripture have been turned upside down and are sorely compromised today. The Bible warns youth to "*flee also youthful lusts*" (2 Tim 2:22). However, the philosophy of this world has dulled the spiritual senses of Christian youth, deceiving them into thinking lesser of the evilness of sin and lust.

In addition, Rev Tow warned against the sin of pride. It is tempting to look back on past achievements with pride and to the future with confidence. However, we are to remember that all our strength and ability comes from the Lord and not due to our own intelligence or determination. Every Christian must seek to give God glory and live humbly for "*God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble*" (1 Pet 5:5).

¹⁴ "Chinese in Our School System", 11 August 1985.

¹⁵ "Learn Mandarin, the Most Beautiful Chinese Language", 11 August 1985.

Apostasy

Rev Tow shed light on apostasy that is extremely apparent in light of Christ's soon return. False teachers who spread false doctrines increasingly compromise the Christian Faith and Rev Tow sought to warn against such errors through his writings. In the spirit of the Apostle Paul, Christians are warned to beware of false apostles who are transformed into an "angel of light" (2 Cor 11:13, 14). The deadliest apostates are those who subtly present themselves as bearers of God's truth, when in reality, they poison the Gospel and lead men to destruction instead of salvation. Christians must beware!

In addition, apostasy is seen through idolatry and superstition most notably observed in the Roman Catholic Church. Instead of worshipping God alone in spirit and truth, Saints of old are also worshipped and venerated through images and statues that are produced. Rev Tow cited the example of the St Thomas Cathedral where "relics and legends galore surround the name of Thomas and worshippers by queues darken the St. Thomas Cathedral, seeking the Saint's help."¹⁶

When encountering members of cults, Rev Tow advised not to receive them into one's home or offer hospitality (2 John 10, 11). He also advised against attempting to convert them unless certain of one's own faith.¹⁷ It is imperative to be grounded in God's truth and be aware of their false teachings. Without a thorough knowledge of Scripture, a Christian will be vulnerable to the attacks of the evil one.

The Jehovah's Witnesses, who may seem convincing, actually propound a heresy that was taught by Arius in the early 4th century.¹⁸ They undermine Christ and claim that He is a created being, and not the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. This falsehood is clearly refuted by John 1:1, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" Scripture itself exposes the errors of falsehood that threaten the Church. On the other hand, the Mormons who show great zeal in spreading their faith reject the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and claim that the Holy Spirit is not part of the Holy Trinity.¹⁹

¹⁶ "St Thomas of India", 23 April 1966.

¹⁷ "Beware of the Cults", 1 November 1969.

¹⁸ "Nowadays", 6 November 1965.

¹⁹ "The Truth about the Mormons", 24 January 1970.

Ecumenism has been on the rise, and pushes for “one religion for one world”.²⁰ Ecumenists propound “love” but at the expense of truth. The Apostle Paul warned against apostasy in Revelation 17 and the Ecumenical Church is a fulfillment of this prophecy. In light of this spiritual threat, Christians are exhorted to *“earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Jude 3-4).

Questions Regarding Sign Gifts

In the Bible, there are many recorded instances of Christ and His Apostles performing miraculous healing on those who were sick. Rev Tow explained that these miracles were only a “handmaid to preaching of the Gospel, not the mistress of it!”²¹ This gift is not meant to take away the attention from Christ’s words and preaching. It is not miraculous sign gifts that can save a person from spiritual death, but the foolishness of preaching (1 Cor 1:17-24; 12:28).

Furthermore, the tongues speaking as seen in Charismatic Churches of today are not the same as the tongues speaking spoken of in the Bible. Rev Tow explained that “proper tongues-speaking came from God at Pentecost” and “is the speaking of a foreign language not learnt by the speaker.”²² These sorts of tongues have ceased (1 Cor 13:8) and must not be confused with the phenomenon as seen in Charismatic Churches.



To those who enquire the reason why John Sung has testified of receiving visions from the Lord, Rev Tow clarified that it is possible for the Lord to reveal Himself to individuals, like John Sung through visions and dreams during momentous or difficult times. Nevertheless,

²⁰ “Christianity Today”, 14 February 1982; “Apostasy: The Greatest Lie”, 14 March 1982.

²¹ “Faith Healing”, 11 October 1969.

²² “Questions from a Young Christian”, 12 February 1989.

he was quick to say, “We do not stress visions and voices. But we must not limit God Almighty’s workings, lest we sin presumptuously.”²³

SOTERIOLOGY

Christ the Saviour

Jesus Christ is central to the doctrine of Salvation. Without Jesus Christ, no one can be saved or find peace with God as “*salvation is of the Lord*” (Jon 2:9). Our righteousness has been earned by Christ and bestowed upon believers according to His mercy, “*not by works of righteousness which we have done*” (Tit 3:5). The wrath of God has been appeased through the shedding of Christ’s blood on the cross for us, for “*without shedding of blood is no remission*” (Heb 9:22). There is only one way to heaven and one way to make peace with God—through His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Rev Tow illustrated this by comparing Jesus Christ to a safety ladder that brings people safely out of a burning building about to be destroyed.²⁴ Jesus is the only sure way of escape from eternal judgment and punishment. Rev Tow called upon his readers to believe on the Lord and not delay the day of salvation!

It is regrettable that Jesus Christ is often reduced in the eyes of men who see Him as no more than one of the religious leaders. They do not see Christ as the one Living and True God who is the only one who can give salvation. Jesus is the only Saviour since He is uniquely both God and Man. Only Jesus can say that He is alive after having died for He arose from the dead. So it is He only who can save and give everlasting life by His Resurrection. His Resurrection is proof of His deity and supremacy over every man-made religion. As Paleario, an Italian man from the days of the 16th Century Reformation answered those who asked him, “What is the first, second and third cause of salvation?” It is “Christ, Christ, Christ”. In response, Rev Tow exhorted all who have not yet received the Saviour, to kneel before Him today and plead for mercy and life.²⁵

²³ “On John Sung’s Vision”, 23 January 1994.

²⁴ “Saved by a Rope of Bed Sheets”, 24 April 1971.

²⁵ “Kneeling Buffalo Spared from Slaughter in HK”, 24 July 1988.

Kneeling buffalo spared from slaughter in HK

HONGKONG — Workers at an abattoir here refused to slaughter a water buffalo, forcing its owner to sell the animal to a Buddhist monastery, newspaper reports said.

The buffalo, imported from China, apparently knelt down on its forelegs and shed tears, refusing to be dragged into the slaughterhouse.

The 540 kg animal stood up only after butchers indicated that it would not be killed, the reports added. — AFP.

Call to Salvation

Rev Tow was evangelistic in his pastoral exhortations. He reminded his readers who may be feeling burdened with “*labour and are heavy laden*”, to find rest in Jesus Christ (Matt 11:28). To those who feel unrest and have no peace in their hearts, hope and spiritual health can certainly be found when Jesus is received as Lord and Saviour. Happiness is often deemed the most important thing in life.²⁶ However, true happiness cannot be bought or found on this earth. In order to experience true and lasting happiness, one must have his transgressions forgiven and sins covered through Christ (Ps 32).

Also, the call to salvation is urgent and pressing. Rev Tow said, “God’s Word is ‘COME’, and He tells you when to come, ‘NOW!’.”²⁷ There should be no delay in receiving the Lord, as the time of our life is not in our hands. Our life could be taken away by the Lord today and the time to receive Christ, as Saviour would be too late. Hence, Rev Tow’s constant urging for readers to believe in Jesus Christ today and to have their airticket to heaven stamped “OK!”²⁸

Faith

Having been saved, a Christian must live a life pleasing and acceptable in the sight of His Master and Saviour. The way to please the Lord is through a life of faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, “*But without faith it is*

²⁶ “What Is the Greatest Happiness?”, 23 August 1975.

²⁷ “Are You a Christian?”, 6 June 1970.

²⁸ “Is Your Airticket to Heaven Stamped OK or RQ?”, 26 November 1978.

impossible to please Him". We can only have faith and trust in a person whom we know well enough. Thus, to increase in our faith and trust in the Lord, we must be well grounded in our knowledge of Him, through His Written Word. Faith is not blind or empty but intelligent and knowledgeable. As Rev Tow put it, "Faith is scientific"!²⁹ In addition, the Bible is the "Science-Book of salvation to mankind"³⁰ and must be approached with the attitude of faith and belief.

Furthermore, the Christian life of faith is progressive and growing. Our faith is only perfected when we reach glorification. Till then, we are ever growing in our spiritual life here on earth. How we respond to trials and difficulties reveals the type of faith we possess—whether it is weak or strong, young or mature. Also, the trials God places into our lives have a sanctifying effect in strengthening our faith so that we will be able to possess a faith that "needs no more such experience."³¹ Do we display this progression of faith in our life? From an inexperienced faith, to experienced faith to a faith that needs no further experience?

Assurance of Salvation

Rev Tow shared from experience that the greatest joy in life is the joy of salvation—the joy of being forgiven.³² Despite having lost his first wife, daughter and aunt in a car accident, he could still proclaim with assurance that he felt deep joy and blessedness because he has the Lord and his sins are forgiven (Ps 32:1, 2). To church members who share that they are afraid they will lose their salvation and place in heaven, Rev Tow comforted them with these words: "If you are trusting Him, and no other, and have repented of your sins, I guarantee you on God's Word you will surely enter heaven."³³ God's salvation plan is complete and no one is able to pluck us out of His hand (John 10:28, 29). Once we are saved, we will always be saved.

²⁹ "But Without Faith It Is Impossible", 1 October 1966.

³⁰ "Religion, Not Science, Is the Beginning of Wisdom", 18 August 2002.

³¹ "Inexperienced Faith, Experienced Faith, and Faith That Needs No Experience", 6 May 2001.

³² "Acquitted!", 20 November 1965.

³³ "Complete Plan of Salvation", 13 January 1985.

Spiritual Warfare

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth. I came not to send peace, but a sword... and a man’s foes shall be they of his own household” (Matt 10:34–36). Once born-again, believers are commanded by God to take up their crosses and follow the steps of their Master. This involves enduring spiritual warfare and difficulties. Oftentimes, when a believer stands up for the truth of God’s Word, he or she will encounter opposition, from family members or even members of the church who turn against the Lord.³⁴ There is an ongoing raging battle in the spiritual realm between Christ and Satan, and believers who are on the Lord’s side must remain loyal and true to God’s truth. Also, as Rev Tow observed, “The battle between Christ and Satan was waged in Abel vs. Cain, in Noah vs. his evil generation, etc., etc. In our day that war is rising to a climax between militant Bible-believing Christianity and the Harlot Church of Rev 17.”³⁵ It is imperative that believers protect and maintain the purity of the Church from the influences of Satan by separating from evil. Christians must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves while enduring this spiritual warfare (Matt 10:16).



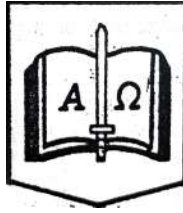
Rev Tow observed that Satan attacks in a “three-prong manner”³⁶ (cf Gen 3:1–4). Satan first agrees with you to disarm your suspicion and then injects doubt and questions God. Ultimately, he ends up disagreeing with you, leading you to destruction. This has been Satan’s consistent method of deception and Christians must be aware lest they fall into the same trap.

To encourage believers, Rev Tow echoed the words of the Apostle Paul and reminded them to “*fight the good fight of faith*” (1 Tim 6:12). Christians are soldiers of God and must put on the whole armour of God as they wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph

³⁴ “The Cross of Peace Becomes a Sword of Conflict”, 21 March 1970.

³⁵ “Who Is on the Lord’s Side?”, 1 April 1979.

³⁶ “Satan’s Three-Prong Attack”, 16 September 1984.



6:12–13). With the shoes for the Gospel propagation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God as offensive components of God's armour, coupled with much prayer (Eph 6:18), Christians are well equipped to face spiritual battles for the Lord.³⁷

Death

The reality of life after death, heaven and hell is eternal and universal. Heaven is described as a place of torment and judgment after death. It is a place where *"their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"* (Mark 9:43–48). This portrayal of hell is a warning from the Lord and those who choose not to heed His Word is *"like one remaining in a house on fire."*³⁸

Considering one's day of death is regarded as better than considering one's day of birth because *"death is the conclusion of a life of struggles, but birth is the beginning."*³⁹ When we go into the house of mourning, we are sobered as we remember the conclusion of life and the reality of life. As it is *"appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Heb 9:27), it is inevitable that death will face everyone whether prepared for it or not. In light of this, Rev Tow posed the question, *"Where will you end up, in heaven or in hell"?*

Hyper-Calvinism



³⁷ "The Church Militant", 22 September 1991.

³⁸ "Beyond Death's Door", 2 December 1979.

³⁹ "Salt vs Sugar", 15 July 2001.

There are Calvinists who quote John 3:16 and hold to the view that the Gospel of salvation is offered only to the elect and not to the whole world.⁴⁰ However, Calvin taught the opposite. Calvin's own commentary on John 3:16 finds him commenting that the Lord uses a general term "both to invite indiscriminately all to share in life and to cut off every excuse from unbelievers."⁴¹ Rev Tow likened Life Church as a Gospel Kelong, "But we will not attract anyone to come to Church unless we have the truth to offer them.... If our Sunday services are well attended, it is not due to the eloquence of the preacher but to the truth of God's Word and to the power of the Gospel."⁴²



The world has done nothing to earn God's favour but God still chooses to show impartiality when He calls all to believe in Him. Though it is only the elect who successfully receive salvation, the Gospel is nonetheless sufficient in saving all of mankind. A distinction has to be made when discerning between God's Desiderative Will and His Decretive Will.⁴³ While God desires that all men be saved, He does not reveal His secret decree by which the "wicked are doomed to their own ruin" (Calvin).⁴⁴

Rev Tow observed that the sons of the Presbyterian Faith misconstrue Calvin's teachings because they have not carefully read his many writings. In an attempt to address this problem, Rev Tow published his abridgement of Calvin's Institutes for the edification of the saints, and urged members to make use of the abridgement to educate and ground themselves with good theology.

⁴⁰ "John 3:16, Hyper-Calvinists and Calvin Pure and Simple", 31 January 1988.

⁴¹ "2 Peter 3:9, Hyper-Calvinists and Calvin Pure and Simple", 14 February 1988.

⁴² "The Gospel Kelong Idea Is from the Lord!", 12 March 1977.

⁴³ "Hyper-Calvinism Ends Up Neither-in-Evangelism", 14 February 1988.

⁴⁴ "Sale, Sale, Sale (Only Buyers Need Enter)!", 28 August 1988.

ESCHATOLOGY

The Kingdom of God



*Kingdom of
God Party*

God's Kingdom is global in its extent. God invisibly rules in the hearts of every believer across the whole earth.⁴⁵ Visibly, His Kingdom comprises those who make up local churches. Those who are part of God's Kingdom are tasked with a Great Commission, to extend His Kingdom through evangelism and missions. This is why the ministry of evangelism and missions is a vital component of the Church. It is a command and sacred commission from God to *"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"* (Matt 28:19-20). Though the kingdoms of men may fail and fall; yet the kingdom of God will go on forever.

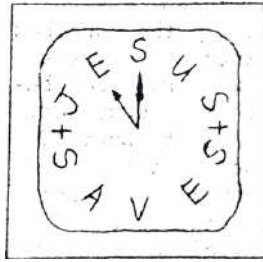
Christ's Second Coming

The theme of Christ's second coming is prevalent throughout Rev Tow's writings. He often reminded His readers that Christ is going to come back soon and of the urgency of the times. It is important to remember the soon return of Christ lest believers get carried away with the present tide of worldliness. Jesus is described to arrive one day like a "thief in the night" to judge this world, suddenly but surely.⁴⁶ We are to make sure of our salvation and also burn out for the Lord, for *"the night cometh, when no man can work"* (John 9:4). In Romans 13, the Apostle Paul exhorts believers to pay attention to the clock that is ticking.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ "Kingdom of God Party", 1 September 1991.

⁴⁶ "Jesus Is Coming Real Soon!", 6 January 1985.

⁴⁷ "What Time Is It on Your Clock?", 17 March 1985.



It is “*high time to awake out of sleep*” and not remain in a spiritually drunken stupor and spirit of complacency. We are saved to serve the Lord, and we must do so fervently and industriously for the “*night is far spent, the day is at hand*” (Rom 13:12–14). In application, Rev Tow mentioned three important points he desired his readers to reflect upon: “(1) I should want to make sure I am saved, first and foremost! “*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*” (Mark 8:36). (2) I should consider giving my young life to preaching the Gospel of His Kingdom. (3) If I am not called to preach, what can I do best to help the work of God before He comes? I want to use all my resources—time, influence, money, service.”⁴⁸

Global Events in Light of Scripture

In some of Rev Tow’s articles, he discussed global events and news articles that were occurring during his time. He pointed out that the common occurrences of natural disasters like cyclones and tidal waves are God’s way of warning us to be sure we are saved and not be complacent. Natural disasters are a sign of Christ’s soon return (Matt 24:7, 8) and His impending judgment upon sinful men. Nothing happens by chance but all the events that happen in this world, through nature or amongst men, are in God’s complete control. Also, the unrest and destruction often seen in the world is a reminder to Christians that we are not to seek great things for ourselves but present our bodies a living sacrifice to God as it is our “*reasonable service*” (Rom 12:1).

News regarding the nation of Israel is especially noteworthy when examining the events of the world. Rev Tow highlighted that the “*prophecies on the fateful events of the end-times, particularly in regard to Israel’s Restoration to prepare for Christ’s Return, are being fulfilled*

⁴⁸ “If Jesus Should Come in Ten Years”, 3 September 1966.

before our eyes one by one. Each fulfillment brings us one step nearer to meeting Christ in the air!" The nation of Israel is a special and chosen nation of the Lord and Christians are exhorted to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Burial or Cremation?

The topic "burial or cremation" is an important one as it is often disputed upon even amongst Protestant Christian churches. Bible-Presbyterians hold to the biblical practice of burial only, and Rev Tow explained that the reason why Christians should only bury the dead and not cremate is the hope of the future resurrection of Christians.⁴⁹ Jesus says, "*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*" (John 11:25, 26). He has promised resurrection and hope to all who believe in Him. The death of a saint is not the end, but the beginning of life everlasting with Jesus. Also, cremation is not a biblical practice but of human religion.⁵⁰ Cremation is a common practice of heathen religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism, but not a practice as taught in Scripture.⁵¹ Therefore, as a sign and testimony of our faith, Christians should bury their dead and use the opportunity to share the Gospel with loved ones who are not yet saved.

ECCLESIOLOGY

Ecclesiology refers to the doctrine and study of the Church. "The Church" can either refer to the Lord's people in general, any particular group of the Lord's people, or the building in which God's people come to worship (1 Cor 11:20).⁵² Christians who make up the Church are "called out" people who are to remain separated unto God. Rev Tow addressed his local church members by recounting the history of the 16th Century Reformation that sparked Protestantism. God used faithful men like Martin Luther to stand up for the truth and expose the errors of the Roman Catholic Church. By separating from the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ was preserved.

⁴⁹ "With Christ to a Cantonese Death House", 21 June 1969.

⁵⁰ "Answering a Lifer's Questions", 8 June 1986.

⁵¹ "Why We Do Not Cremate", 22 January 2006.

⁵² Timothy Tow and Jeffrey Khoo, *A Theology for Every Christian* (Singapore: Far Eastern Bible College Press, 1998), 330.

However, the fight did not end there. The spiritual battle against Satan, the Evil One, rages on. Hence, Rev Tow often called for more young men and women to step up and join the 20th Century Reformation against the rising tide of Ecumenism, Neo-Evangelicalism and Charismaticism.

Furthermore, in his writings, Rev Tow highlighted the Church's duty to fulfill the Great Commission in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ through missions and evangelism. It is the duty of every Christian to share the Gospel near and far with the right motives and methods. By God's grace, many BP Churches were planted not only in Singapore but also around South East Asia and Australia for the extension and proclamation of God's Word.

16th and 20th Century Reformation

Rev Tow often stressed the importance of remembering Church History and the roots of the Protestant Christian Faith. This is to prevent the reoccurrence of mistakes that once happened in the past. October 31, 1517 was the groundbreaking day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church to expose the deception of the selling of indulgences by the Roman Catholic Church.⁵³ Superstition and idolatry were characteristic of the Church in the 16th century until faithful forefathers like Martin Luther were used by God to expose these errors. Besides Luther, John Calvin was used mightily by God to introduce a systematised study of biblical doctrines for the spiritual edification of Protestant Christians. This he accomplished in the writing of the four books of *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*.



To remember one's history is taught in Scripture and stressed upon by Moses when he addressed the Israelites before entering the Promised Land. He says, "*Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them. For I know that after my death ye will utterly*

⁵³ "Reformation Is an Ever On-Going Process", 7 November 2004.

corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days..." (Deut 31: 28, 29).

As Christians are often forgetful people, it is important to remember Church History lest the Church fall into similar spiritual deceptions as before. This is why Rev Tow often encouraged his church members to be fervent students of the Bible and take up Monday and Thursday evening lectures at the Far Eastern Bible College for the building up of their spiritual immunity and strength.⁵⁴ When we take the study of God's Word seriously and remember our roots, we will be more aware and alert against the tactics of Satan who is constantly trying to destroy our faith.

This is especially important in our present day as the spiritual battle is not over and we face great threats seeking to damage the purity of the Church. In his writings, Rev Tow identified that there is a need for a "20th Century Reformation" because, "Today there is an Ecumenical Movement bringing the Roman Catholic Church and Protestants together, particularly through the efforts of the World Council of Churches. A trend has also set in whereby so-called Evangelicals are beginning to draw closer to Rome."⁵⁵

In response to the influences of the World Council of Churches (WCC), the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) was formed to defend the faith. Since being knit in his heart with Dr Carl McIntire who took a separatist stance against the WCC,⁵⁶ Rev Tow became a big supporter and participant of the ICCC. In adopting the spirit of Reformation, Rev Tow echoed the words of Calvin, "[it] is not a negative but positive undertaking, to restore the Church to her rightful position in Christ, according to Christ's Word. Separation from an apostate denomination is no schism but return and continuation in the apostolic faith."⁵⁷

Christians are duty-bound to show loyalty to Christ by staying separate from any organisation or movement that compromises the truth. In addition, Rev Tow observed that the "only power we had against the dark power of Rome oppressing its countless innocent souls was the Gospel, the atomic power of God unto salvation" that is

⁵⁴ "The Importance of Church History", 1 October 1989.

⁵⁵ "Reformation Sunday", 30 October 1971.

⁵⁶ "Why Reformation Sunday?", 26 October 1980.

⁵⁷ "Calvinists Foremost in Church Extension Missions!", 3 June 1979.

activated through “preaching”!⁵⁸ Without effective preachers, the ICCC would not have been able to accomplish its objective of a 20th century reformation. In light of this, Rev Tow entreated young readers, especially those “who love the Cause of the Lord” to be a “Solomon chosen of God to succeed David”⁵⁹ and show loyalty to the Lord. More mighty preachers are needed to stand against the rising tides of Modernism, Liberalism and Charismaticism.⁶⁰ Who will answer God’s call to fight for His cause?

Bible-Presbyterianism

In his writings, Rev Tow recounted how the BP movement was founded. BPism originated in the USA when Dr Carl McIntire, a disciple of Dr J Gresham Machen, spearheaded a break off with the Presbyterian Church USA over the doctrine of Pre-millennialism and the separated life. Those who started the BP movement were not tolerant towards smoking and drinking and were convinced of the biblical doctrine of Pre-millennialism.⁶¹ BPs hold to the Presbyterian system of church organisation, which is biblical and closely patterned after the “commonwealth of Israel” (Eph 2:12).⁶² The word “Bible” is prefixed to Presbyterian to “witness against Presbyterians who have apostatized from the faith.”⁶³ Some BP distinctives include “our stress on the Covenant of salvation between God and the family, the baptism of infants in keeping with the covenant, the doctrine of predestination, the keeping of the Lord’s Day holy, a trained pastoral ministry, the stress on the study of theology.”⁶⁴

Life BP Church was established when the English congregation of Life Church Prinsep Street withdrew from the Chinese Synod to found the present BP Church movement in Singapore. They withdrew because they wanted to disassociate from modernist Presbyterian missionaries and remain separate. Rev Tow reminded readers “that the Bible-Presbyterian Church is a Movement born of controversy with the

⁵⁸ “Add to Your Faith Virtue; and to Your Virtue Knowledge”, 24 July 1965.

⁵⁹ “There Were Defections Even in the Pre-Messianic Kingdom of David”, 29 April 1972.

⁶⁰ “21st Century Reformation”, 15 October 1995.

⁶¹ “Dr J C Maris Visit from Holland”, 18 March 1979.

⁶² “We Are a Commonwealth of Churches”, 6 February 1971.

⁶³ “What’s Right with Presbyterianism?”, 20 August 1966.

⁶⁴ “The Bible Presbyterian Church Movement”, 15 October 1966.

unbelief of our day. Had we not in the beginning taken a stand against the inroads of modernism and ecumenism, the Lord would not have given us such a glorious following as it is today.”

Despite its firm and strong beginnings, there was a dissolution of the BP Church of Singapore at its 38th Synod Annual General meeting on 30 October 1988. This difficult decision was made due to differences in interpretation of the Doctrine of Biblical Separation, Fundamentalism and Neo-Evangelicalism.⁶⁵

Nations and Their Spiritual Heritage

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” (Ps 33:12). The Lord is pleased to bless a nation that fears and honours Him. Rev Tow recounted how America was once a great nation due to the faith of their fathers. He said of the American forefathers, “They were the Pilgrims who fled the old country to the New World that they might freely worship God. They were refugees, indeed, not like those who sail in leaky vessels today merely for freedom, but for religious freedom. The first batch of 102 sailed in the Mayflower in 1620, and half of them died in the snows of their first winter in a new country. But God saved the remnant, and from that “bruised reed” a great nation grew up.⁶⁶ It was because the nation began on a God-fearing note that it was blessed and prospered by the Lord.

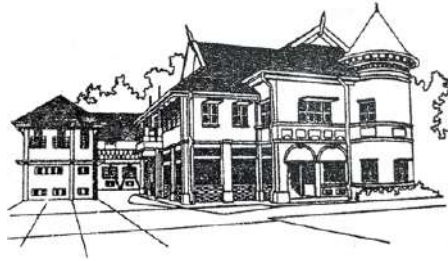
However, America morally declined once they forgot the God who established them. God’s Word has been discarded out of their culture.⁶⁷ If a country is to succeed and prosper, following God’s ways and laws is the only key. From America’s history, we learn of the importance of 2 Timothy 2:2, *“the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”* It is important to pass down a godly and spiritual heritage to succeeding generations in order that the good, old faith be not lost and compromised.

⁶⁵ “Statement on Dissolution of the Bible-Presbyterian Church of Singapore”, 6 November 1988.

⁶⁶ “From Harvard to Faith”, 4 February 1979.

⁶⁷ “He Commanded Our Fathers that They Should Make them Known to Their Children”, 18 March 1979; “Washington, Fountain of American Greatness”, 22 April 1979; Another Great American President Speaks: Harry S. Truman”, 20 May 1979; “A Standard Raised”, 24 June 1979.

Building the Church



Rev Tow insisted that Christians give of their best when establishing a Church building. To establish a Church and its building is a great work for the Lord and not for the praise of man. It is a means of labouring for the Lord. He cites 1 Chronicles 29 that deals with the attitude towards such a work. Verse 1 gives the picture: *“The work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.”* This explains how the motive for every Church project must be one that is pure and purposed for God’s glory. It is not a mere human establishment but a holy work.



Rev Tow recalled how in primary school, he read the story of the farm animals going to build a house: “There were the dog, the pig, the goose, the duck and the rooster. One said he could carry the bricks. The other could carry water, sand and cement. Another could lay the bricks. Yet another could make the roof. The rooster said he could stand watch and crow. Every animal did something to build the house.” Thus, in the work of building the church or extending God’s kingdom, every member has a part to play, whether big or small.

Rev Tow further exhorted, “We are doing a work which is not some run-of-the-mill work, not an everyday job, not a common thing, not a routine event, but ‘it is a great work’. This makes it something very special and outstanding, something that demands our very best.”⁶⁸ This message was of especial importance at a time when Rev

⁶⁸ “Building the Church”, 11 February 1990.

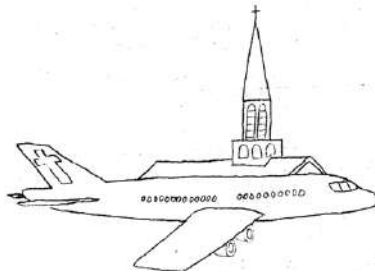
WEEKLY WISDOM

Tow was calling for the financial support of Church building projects such as the acquiring of Beulah House opposite 9A Gilstead Road. In giving to Church projects and building funds, Christians must do so with the right spirit and motive of glorifying God and not self.

Decentralisation

The pattern of decentralisation is reflected in the early Church. As the Church grew, responsibilities were disseminated rather than placed in the hands of one person. Acts 6:1 says, *“And in those days, when the number of disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.”* This led to the Apostles appointing seven deacons to spread out the work and administration of the Church. The practice of decentralisation can save a church from “overheating”⁶⁹ and involves increasing Christ and decreasing self (John 3:30). Rev Tow quoted a Chinese Proverb, “Dividing labour, work together”⁷⁰ and encouraged Churches to decentralise for maximum productivity and efficiency in the Lord’s Work.

Importance of Missions



Missions work is a vital component of the Church ministry. Without a high regard for missions work, a Church is merely a professional Church “groveling on the ground.”⁷¹ Rev Tow pointed out biblical imperatives for the Church to abide by when it comes to missions: We are commissioned (Matt 28:19–20), we are obligated to fulfill this duty out of a sense of gratitude, we are hastened because time is short and we must be conscientious in extending and furthering

⁶⁹ “Our Secret of B-P Church Growth”, 12 April 1981.

⁷⁰ “Decentralization, the Key to Church Growth”, 8 August 1982.

⁷¹ “When Does a Church Become Airborne?”, 16 February 1986.

the Gospel.⁷² Missions are also a means through which various like-minded churches can unite together in doing God's work. This brings about the blessing of joy and strength of comradeship.

When embarking on missions work, the Christian must have pure and holy intentions, lest the work is done in vain. In the article, "The Right Motive of Missions,"⁷³ Rev Tow observed that there is a danger of Christians doing missions for promotion of self. As missions seems to be a rising trend in Asian Churches, some Christians may hop on this bandwagon to promote self instead of God alone. This is dangerous. In addition, some young people may show an interest in taking part in missions work because they are motivated by the "adventurous element" and like to travel. This is not a right intention for doing God's work. In addition, some engage in missions work for "sacrilegious profiteering" in order to gain monetary profits.

Rev Tow pointed out that the right motive of missions is reflected in the testimony of the Apostle Paul who calls himself a "debtor", feeling great compulsion to give his life to His Master whom he owes His life to. Paul saw himself, as a bond slave of Jesus Christ with no will of his own, he followed what His master bid him to do. It is with this spirit that Christians should serve the Lord. Not for self-will or self-glory but in submission to the Lord, for His glory.

Importance of Evangelism

Evangelism is the duty of every Christian. Just as how Jesus saw the preaching of the Gospel as an urgent and needful work (Mark 1:35-38, Matt 8:16-18), it is likewise an important and urgent work for every believer to fulfill. Also, when a believer has experienced the freedom that salvation brings, it is inevitable that he would want to share this saving message with others too. It is the "irresistible fruit of every soul saved from the burning fires of hell and engrafted to the True Vine."⁷⁴ Rev Tow highlighted that it is especially important to evangelise to children at the earliest age possible.⁷⁵ It is the duty of every parent to teach his or her children in the ways of God's Word and stress the

⁷² "Why Every Church in Singapore Should Be a Missionary Church", 23 September 1977.

⁷³ "The Right Motive of Missions", 11 August 1973.

⁷⁴ "Evangelism Is Every Christian's Outgrowth", 30 November 1968.

⁷⁵ "Child Evangelism", 31 May 1975.

Salvation message. The spiritual upbringing of a child must not be neglected but be placed as top priority in every Christian home. This principle is reflected through Timothy who was converted at a young age due to the influence of his godly mother and grandmother (2 Tim 3:14). The Word of God is powerful to convict and convert even the hearts of young ones. Before evangelising to outsiders, we must put in effort to evangelise to our family and loved ones.

Furthermore, when believers share the Gospel message, it must be done with faith and belief. Rev Tow pointed out that a reason why so few people are delivered from condemnation is because of the bearers of the Gospel message who have little faith. He said, "They are like salesmen who do not believe in the quality of the goods they sell. These who little believe in the power of the Gospel preach it in their own wisdom (1 Cor 2:1), or for vainglory to show off themselves (2 Cor 4:5) or like mercenaries, are being paid to preach."⁷⁶ Let every witness for Christ take note that the preaching of the Gospel is also a means through which we exercise faith in the Lord. When done in faith and with much prayer, the Lord can work a mighty work in converting a sinner into a saint.

CHRISTIAN LIVING

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps 119:105). God's Word is a guide to every believer. Through Scripture, God has revealed His commands that require our willing obedience. When received by faith and obeyed cheerfully, the Lord is pleased. Acknowledging this, Rev Tow gave wise practical counsel to his Church members regarding their life on earth as Christians. How they respond to the study of God's Word, marriage and family issues, and relationships with others around them must be according to God's ways. In addition, the speech, dressing and lifestyle of a Christian is a reflection of their walk with God and should always glorify Him. Having a thankful and prayerful heart as well as observing the Sacraments are ways in which a Christian worships God. To those who have questions regarding Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Sabbath-Keeping, Rev Tow used Scripture to clarify any doubt.

⁷⁶ "In What They Say, the New Land of Gold", 24 June 1990; "The Just Shall Preach by Faith", 3 March 1996.

In addition, Rev Tow touched on how paramount it is for full-time Christian servants to possess the right attitude and heart when serving God. Those who enter the full-time ministry must not do so for self-gain but be prepared to suffer for the Lord. However, Christian Service is not limited to the full-time ministry. Every Christian can serve God in small or big ways wherever they may be. Finally, Rev Tow addressed Christian stewardship and money matters. Believers are stewards of God's resources and must be wise in handling what has been given to them, not to live excessively but frugally. The Bible gives the best economic pattern for believers to follow: *"But godliness with contentment is great gain"* (1 Tim 6:6).

Right Attitude in Christian Life

To be successful in one's Christian life, one must live for the Lord alone. Psalm 128:1 said, *"Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD: that walketh in his ways."* It is not self-ability or capability that makes one successful. The determining factor of triumph in a Christian's life is the Lord, and Christians are to live for Him every moment of the day.⁷⁷ Also, when we feel weak, we can find strength in the Lord as He is most trustworthy. The Lord gives wisdom liberally to all who ask of Him (Jas 1:5).

Rev Tow exhorted his readers to follow after the Bible's teaching on living a meek and humble life for the glory of God.⁷⁸ In order to be the "Salt and Light" of the world, a Christian must strive to do well, in reflection of God the Father in heaven. This may not always be easy, as the spiritual life is likened to a race that needs endurance and spiritual stamina.⁷⁹ However, with God's Word and by the Holy Spirit, Christians are given the strength to endure this spiritual race for His glory.

A Christian in Society

Every Christian possesses a dual citizenship—one in heaven and one on earth.⁸⁰ While a Christian loves God and His Kingdom above, he is required too, to show loyalty and love towards his country.⁸¹ Paul

⁷⁷ "The Determining Factor of Success in My Life", 13 September 1969.

⁷⁸ "Sermons from the Eight-Peaked Mountain of Blessing", 18 February 2004.

⁷⁹ "Christian Olympiad", 6 May 1979.

⁸⁰ "What Is National Day to You?", 8 August 1982.

⁸¹ "Christian Patriotism", 9 August 1981.

exhorts the Christians of his time who were living under Roman rule, to “*render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*” (Rom 13:7). Christians should seek to maintain a high regard for those who are in places of authority and pray for “*kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*” (I Tim 2:2). Also, Christians should seek the maintenance of the country’s peace and defence. When a country is at peace, the preaching of the Gospel would be easier and evangelism is furthered. Therefore, when boys are of age, they should count it a privilege to fulfill National Service as a reflection of their love for the country. He cited war hero Lim Bo Seng as an example.



To those who have this biblical mindset, Rev Tow commented, “National Service will not be a chore but a choice, because we love our country.”⁸²

In numerous articles, especially on Singapore’s National Day (9th August), Rev Tow spoke proudly of his home country, Singapore, which has been blessed by the Lord with peace and prosperity. It is by God’s grace that Singapore has achieved noteworthy success in its years of nationhood. However, readers are exhorted not to forget that the Lord gives the peace enjoyed in Singapore and He is to be praised. He urged Singaporeans to stick to traditional and biblical values, like chastity and purity (1 Pet 2:17, Heb 13:4), that were brought in by the first Christian missionaries to Singapore lest there be a serious moral decline in society.⁸³

⁸² “Honour Lim Bo Seng, Singapore’s War Hero”, 23 February 1992.

⁸³ “PM Agrees ‘Man Does Not Live by Bread Alone’”, 28 August 1994.

Judging Others

It is the sinful nature within us that causes us to hypocritically judge others. However, the Bible clearly states that there is none who is righteous and all are sinners, unworthy to pass judgments (1 Cor 6:1-8). Rev Tow commented that it is even worse to judge from the pulpit.⁸⁴ When we gossip or cast judgment, we break the ninth commandment. Instead of speaking “horizontally” of others, it is better to speak “vertically”, praising the Lord. Proverbs 10:19-20 gives wisdom: *“In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise. The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.”* Also, King Solomon warns against a bitter and hateful spirit towards our enemies, *“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him”* (Prov 24:17, 18). Oftentimes, a judgmental spirit arises from a heart that lacks charity and is full of pride. Therefore, one should never pass judgments according to appearance without first examining the matter thoroughly. It is better to keep our words few.

However, the Bible teaches us to judge righteous judgment. Believers are to beware of “wolves-in-sheep-skin” who tries to lead the flock of God away from the truth. In light of this potential danger, the Apostle Paul instructed the Ephesian elders of their duty to teach *“all the counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27) including warning against “grievous wolves” who speak perversity to draw believers away.⁸⁵ To discern between a true or false preacher requires judging righteously against the measure of Scripture alone.

Christian Education

Rev Tow reminded his readers of the importance of being grounded in the study of God’s Holy Word for spiritual growth and edification. The Bible is the most important tool of a believer’s life and must not be cast aside or neglected. When attending Sunday worship, Rev Tow recommended bringing a hardcopy Bible as it is a good tradition and habit to have.⁸⁶ The Bible should be read every day and

⁸⁴ “The Sin of Talking Bad of Others”, 14 January 2001.

⁸⁵ “The Unpopular Ministry of Identifying Culprits”, 10 March 1973.

⁸⁶ “Read Your Bible, Morn and Night”, 17 May 1975.

takes top priority over other Christian books though they have beneficial content too.⁸⁷ Furthermore, keeping personal quiet time and Bible study every day provides daily guidance and relief to the burdened soul. There are many who struggle with anxiety, nervous breakdowns and depression because of the lack of daily spiritual nourishment. In response to this, Rev Tow encouraged those who struggle to read the book of Psalms. He said, "Each Psalm is Balm for your sick soul. What Psychiatry cannot do, the Psalms can do."⁸⁸ God's Word is an effective antidote against spiritual sickness and disease if it is received with a devotional and sincere heart.

In addition, it is important to indoctrinate and teach others sound theology as well. To teach the whole counsel of God is one of the four mandates of the Great Commission.⁸⁹ God's Word must be handled with utmost care and it is imperative for those who teach theology to know "8 times more than their students" in order to provide a high standard of instruction.⁹⁰ Also, teaching children God's Word is of great necessity and importance. This is a command laid by Moses to the Israelites: "*And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up... And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates...*" (Deut 6:6-9). In addition, Solomon gives wisdom in advising to, "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*" (Prov 22:6). This is why Rev Tow recognised the value of setting up a Church kindergarten, in order to provide good sound Christian Education for children during their foundation years.⁹¹

The Christian Home

The Christian Home must be built upon Christ. Except the Lord build the house, those who labour to build it will do it in vain (Ps 127:1). Young men or women seeking to get married must only marry in the Lord in obedience to the biblical injunction: "*Be ye not unequally*

⁸⁷ "How Can You Help Yourself", 29 January 1976.

⁸⁸ "What Psychiatry Cannot Do, the Psalms Can Do", 23 February 1986.

⁸⁹ "Mandate to Teach", 28 September 1968.

⁹⁰ "The Safety Margin of 8", 5 May 1973.

⁹¹ "The Kindergarten in Our Church Movement", 11 January 1969.

yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor 6:14). Those who marry in the Lord must maintain Christ as the centre of the relationship and family for with Christ in the centre, their relationship will be as strong as a three-fold cord.⁹² Furthermore, in bringing up children, it is important to heed the words of Scripture to discipline and train them up in God's ways (Prov 29:17). It is the primary duty of every parent to train their children up in the Lord and not leave this role to Sunday School teachers. This is taught through the example of young Timothy who had a godly mother and grandmother who brought him up in the Lord. To do so requires exposing children to Scripture. Every Christian household is sanctified through the Word of God.⁹³

On Speech, Dressing and Food

In Christian Living, believers must be wary of their words and speech. The Bible has a lot to say about how dangerous the tongue can be (Jas 3:5-12). Rev Tow gave this sobering reminder to his readers that "by your speech one can tell many things about your spiritual health, whether you are worldly, selfish, covetous, spiteful, vindictive, unforgiving, sensual, hypocritical. So, guard your speech! 'For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned' (Matt 12:37)."⁹⁴ Believers are exhorted to use their speech to praise and thank God more with a worshipful heart, rather than use their lips to destroy or hurt.

In addition, Rev Tow warned against the danger of dressing immodestly. He reminded believers that we are to "worship God with (our) life and practice"⁹⁵ and this includes dressing appropriately. Because of the sinful heart of man (1 Pet 1:13-15), women ought to dress decently and cover up lest they cause others to sin. Women who dress immodestly make themselves a participant of psychological adultery.⁹⁶ In addition, it is necessary for a male to dress like a male and a woman to dress as a woman for God has created us accordingly (Deut 22:5). Under this biblical principle, Rev Tow commended the Singapore

⁹² "One, Two, Three, as Happy as Can Be", 18 February 2001.

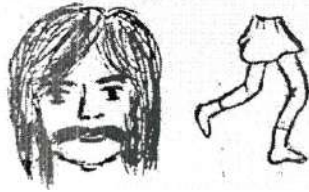
⁹³ "Displaying God's Word in Our Home", 4 March 1984.

⁹⁴ "Doctor: 'Show Me Your Tongue'", 7 October 1984.

⁹⁵ "Like the Miniskirt", 25 January 1981.

⁹⁶ "The Rev Irving on Miniskirts, Etc", 30 January 1971.

practice where boys and young men are required to keep their hair short when they attend school.



With regard to food, Rev Tow reminded believers to live economically and not waste food. Jesus Christ set the example in making sure no food went to waste after He performed the miracle of feeding five thousand. He asked His disciples to “gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.” (John 6:12). Likewise, believers should not waste food that has been provided for them, but pray and eat with a thankful heart. However, food that has been offered to idols should always be avoided. Though Paul rightly observes that idols are nothing in and of themselves, yet, when food is offered to them in worship, the whole process becomes a sacrifice to devils (1 Cor 10:20). Believers who drink the cup of the Lord cannot drink the cup of devils (1 Cor 10:21) and should steer clear of such types of food.

Thanksgiving

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD” (Ps 92:1). Believers ought to have a spirit of thanksgiving in every aspect of their lives. To show thankfulness to the Lord is a form of worship to Him and is characteristic of a Christian. Paul exhorts, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph 5:20). We are indebted to God who is our Provider and Redeemer and must show this quality in our lives.

Rev Tow observed that being a thankful people has three benefits. Firstly, thanksgiving prevents us from forgetting the Lord and His blessings. Secondly, thanksgiving is a form of rebuke to those who are ungrateful and take God’s blessings for granted. Finally, thanksgiving reveals Church members who are cold in their love for the Lord and are nonchalant towards Him.⁹⁷ In contrast, those who are humble and sincere take great delight in worshipping God with a thankful heart.

⁹⁷ “The Philosophy of Thanksgiving”, 28 October 1967.

This is reflected in their spirit of cheerful giving to the Lord through their tithes and offerings. Such people are noticed of the Lord and He bestows favour upon them.

Vows and Oaths

Vows are defined as earnest wishes or prayers that are made to the Lord. Vows are made in regard to either the past or the future. There are vows of thanksgiving, made for the purpose of giving thanks to God for past blessing or deliverance, or there are vows of penitence, in seeking God's mercy due to sin. Vows are not to be made rashly or out of a whim, as it is serious and binding. King Solomon gives a serious warning concerning the making of a vow: *"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?"* (Eccl 5:4-6).

Tithing and Giving

To give of our tithes to the Lord is a command that still applies to believers today, in accordance to the 8th Commandment. Dispensationalists argue that the Old Testament Law of tithing does not apply anymore, however, it is a standard of giving for any age or "dispensation."⁹⁸ Those who do not give their tithes are guilty of "robbing God" (Mal 3:8). We are required to give the Lord our best and not the scraps of what we possess. In fact, giving our tithes is the minimum we can do to show our love for the Lord. Instead of losing out when we give to the Lord, we gain even more as He is pleased to bless us with increase. Rev Tow encouraged, "God can outpour blessings on those who honour him."⁹⁹ Thus, we are not to be a miser when it comes to giving our substance to God.

In addition, Christians are to be giving and charitable to others. We are to be ready and willing to give to not only the Lord, but to our neighbours as well. Rev Tow advised those who are "well-to-do" to channel their surplus goods to those who are in need, so that it can be

⁹⁸ "Isn't Tithing a Law for the Jews Only?", 4 March 1967.

⁹⁹ "God Blessed Me with a House Because I Tithed", 31 May 1975.

put to better use.¹⁰⁰ The best way our money can be put to use is to give to the Lord's work. This is why Rev Tow often encouraged his church members to contribute to missions work of the Church as well as to the Church building funds, for the extension of God's Kingdom.

Rev Tow used a striking illustration to demonstrate the value of having a giving spirit by alluding to the Sea of Galilee in the Holy Land. He observes that the Sea of Galilee is "full of life because she willingly gives all the waters she receives from the Lebanon mountains into the River Jordan."¹⁰¹ In contrast, the Dead Sea only receives waters but never gives out. Thus, the Dead Sea is dead, literally dead, without any life in it. Those who show a spirit of giving in their lives are filled with greater abundance than those who are miserly and stingy.

Fasting and Prayer

It must be clarified that the practice of fasting is not a means through which one can obtain salvation. Instead, it is a means through which one can draw closer to God in prayer. Fasting is a temporary abstinence from food so that the body can be brought into subjection to the spirit that seeks God in prayer. There are no specific rules laid down when it comes to the practice of fasting but it is up to the participant's discretion as the Lord leads.

Having a prayerful spirit is vital and every Christian should strive to "*pray without ceasing*" (1 Thess 5:17). Paul taught the Ephesians that they should be "*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit*" (Eph 6:18). Without a prayerful life, a Christian is severely weakened in his Christian life and is more susceptible to the wiles of the devil. Rev Tow lamented that "prayerlessness is the plague of a prosperous people" and that "Singapore being a prosperous place, Singapore Christians, including pastors, are prayer paupers."¹⁰² Let Christians, especially those who experience peace and prosperity, remember to seek the Lord in prayer always in order that they might find greater spiritual strength and resilience. Martin Luther promoted this motto to his students: "To pray well is half the study."

¹⁰⁰ "The Ministry of Surplus Goods", 15 April 1972.

¹⁰¹ "Much Given, Much Required", 13 March 1971.

¹⁰² "Losing Out through Prayerlessness", 3 February 1985.

Sabbath-Keeping

To keep the Sabbath Day Holy is a requirement of every believer. Rev Tow often reminded his church members to observe this sacred command as the Lord is to be feared and worshipped. He rightly observed that those who sincerely seek to worship the Lord on the Sabbath often experience joy and peace through the week. On the other hand, those who willfully miss the Lord's Day experience misery and sadness in their lives.¹⁰³ Thus, it is important to come and attend a Church service to seek spiritual refreshment and release. The Lord promises peace for those who do.

Rev Tow also brought to attention the manner in which Christians should approach the Lord on the Sabbath Day. When we come to worship God, instead of chatting away, we are to observe silence "for His Lordship is sitting up there, grave and serene."¹⁰⁴ We may not see the Invisible God whom we worship, but He is present when we worship Him. In addition, we should not be habitually arriving late, as it is disrespectful to the Lord. To those who adopt a "Neo-Pharisaism" attitude when it comes to Sabbath Day laws, Rev Tow pointed out that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28).¹⁰⁵ The law of human necessity overrides the law of Sabbath community. Thus, we are to show graciousness when the occasion arises and not be quick to judge.

Music

Rev Tow often quoted Martin Luther who said, "Music is next to Theology" as he recognised this to be true. Music is a useful tool to promote the Word of God and is also a reflection of the emotions of a believer. Christians should be filled with songs of praise to the Lord instead of being filled with wine. This is encouraged by Paul: "*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*" (Eph 5:18, 19).

¹⁰³ "The Blessing of the Lord's Day", 30 July 1966.

¹⁰⁴ "Courtesy in Worship", 4 September 1983.

¹⁰⁵ "Eating Out on Sunday Is Transgressing the 4th Commandment" 23 January 2000.

Furthermore, music is a form of worship unto the Lord and thus a vital component of every Church Worship Service. Rev Tow advised that every pastor should have “some rudimentary knowledge of music”¹⁰⁶ and be able to carry a tune in order to lead the congregation in singing hymns. In addition, every church should have a good collection of hymnbooks and sacred songs to refer to during their worship services.

Baptism

Mark 16:16 says, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*”. Baptism is a command from the Lord to all who believe in Him. It is a reflection of a believer’s association with the Lord and the willing acceptance to receive Him as personal Lord and Saviour. Once a believer is baptised, he is to remain separated from the world and surrendered to the Lord who is His Master, Provider and Guide. It must be noted that it is not the sacrament itself that saves a person’s soul. Instead, it is like a seal that “confirms” salvation that has been received by faith through the inner working of the Holy Spirit.

While Christians ought to be charitable with views regarding the mode of baptism—whether through immersion or sprinkling, the BP stand is to practise baptism through the sprinkling of water. Rev Tow explained that sprinkling was the mode used in the Old Testament to cleanse the furniture of the Tabernacle (Lev 16:14-16). Sprinkling is a historic, biblical and prophetic practice, instead of immersion. Thus, BPs adopt this method in an attempt to stick closely with biblical practices.

Regarding the practice of infant baptism, Rev Tow said that we should “baptize our children inasmuch as Abraham was commanded to circumcise his male-children.”¹⁰⁷ The New Testament practice of baptism is the equivalent of the Old Testament practice of circumcision. This is seen in Colossians 2:11, 12 where baptism is referred to as the “*circumcision of Christ*”. Also, believers who are counted the children of Abraham (Rom 4:11) ought to receive baptism just as Abraham received circumcision as an outward expression of his inward faith. Furthermore, the Apostles often stressed the importance

¹⁰⁶ “Music, Says Martin Luther, Is Next to Theology”, 10 June 1984.

¹⁰⁷ “Infant Baptism”, 28 March 1982.

of family salvation and not just individual salvation (Acts 2:39; 16:15). Thus, when parents bring their infant babies for baptism, it is with a desire to seek God's salvation for the child and as an act of commitment to bring up their child in the Lord. Rev Tow rightly remarked that the practice of infant baptism "should increase the faith of believing parents."¹⁰⁸

Chinese New Year

Celebrating Chinese New Year is a common practice of Chinese Singaporeans. Rev Tow took the opportunity every year to remind his church members to be giving and thankful towards the Lord and be wary of the sin of loving money. During this time of celebration, it is easy to get caught up with prosperity and the exchanging of *hongbaos*. However, Rev Tow reminded readers that, "money is not everything. There are more important things in life which money cannot buy."¹⁰⁹ In fact, Scripture warns, "*labour not to be rich... for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven*" (Prov 23:4, 5). Money is fleeting and should not be the end-goal of a Christian. While it is not wrong to be rich, Christians should think of using their riches and resources for the extension of God's kingdom instead. Quoting a hymn, Rev Tow encouraged believers to "Give of thy wealth... And all thou spendest Jesus will repay."¹¹⁰

Furthermore, the red colour of Chinese New Year is a reminder of the Blood of Christ that saves and frees us from sin.¹¹¹ Even as believers enjoy the festivities of the New Year, let them not forget the greatest blessing they have received—the blessing of Salvation through the Lamb that was slain.

Easter and Christmas

Easter and Christmas are held in remembrance of the resurrection and birth of Jesus Christ respectively. It is important for believers to worship God by meditating on His person and work. When we worship Him with this sincere purpose in spirit and truth, He is pleased to accept it. To those who argue that Easter has association with "Eastre",

¹⁰⁸ "Why We Baptise Infants", 14 April 1985.

¹⁰⁹ "Peace to You from the Lord", 8 February 1981.

¹¹⁰ "Blessing of Blessings", 14 February 1981.

¹¹¹ "The Hongbao and What It Means", 21 January 1990.

a goddess whose festival was held at the spring equinox, Rev Tow stated that we strongly dissociate ourselves from such superstitious revelries but place emphasis on the death and resurrection of our Saviour.¹¹² Easter Service is an important day where the Gospel is preached and the Lord is praised.

Christmas has been greatly commercialised by the world. However, this is not a reason that should hinder Christians from commemorating the Lord's birth and His life work. The Lord has given Christians freedom in worship as long as it is in accordance to principles contained in the Old and New Testament. Paul urges that we discern the best way of worshipping and remembering the Lord and not to enforce our ideas on others: *"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord: and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it."* (Rom 14:5, 6).

In light of this biblical principle, it is acceptable to celebrate Christmas. It must be noted, Christmas is not a time of merry-making, eating and drinking, but a sober time to remember how Christ was born to suffer for us and save us. It is also not just a time to remember Christ's birth, but His "Whole Life-Work."¹¹³

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Right Attitude in Serving God

Believers are to serve the Lord with enthusiasm and zeal as we are called to be a people who are zealous of good works. Paul explains why Christians should be zealous in Christian service in Titus 2:11-14, *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

Because Christ who sacrificed His life for us has redeemed us, we ought to offer our lives to Him in grateful service. Christ has paid a

¹¹² "Can Lifers Celebrate Chinese New Year?", 18 February 1996.

¹¹³ "The Two Secrets of Christmas", 13 October 1965.

great price for our salvation and serving Him is a believer's reasonable service. Thus, let God's work be done with a cheerful and grateful heart rather than a grudging one.

In addition, believers ought to be persevering in the work of the Lord. Rev Tow likened doing the Lord's work to a race that "requires straining of every nerve and muscle."¹¹⁴ To succeed in God's ministry is not an easy task but requires endurance and resilience. There may be times the Christian encounters difficulties, discouragements and setbacks. However, the Christian must not remain defeated, but quickly restore his strength in the Lord. The Apostle encouraged the Hebrews to "*lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed*" (Heb 12:12, 13).

Furthermore, it is of greatest importance that every servant of God remains humble when doing God's work. Psalm 75:6-7 says, "*For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*" This speaks of how it is the Lord who is sovereign and in control, and not us. He is the one who promotes or demotes. Rev Tow noted that the affairs of great nations are in God's hands and even more so is the Church.¹¹⁵ Because He is the Almighty God whom we undeservingly serve, Christian service should not be done with an ambitious heart that seeks self-gain and glory. There is no place for competition when it comes to serving the Lord and the Lord is pleased with those who serve Him in humility and meekness. "*But many that are first shall be last; and the last first*" (Mark 10:31).

The Full-Time Ministry

Rev Tow defined Christian Service to have a two-fold meaning: "Vertically, it means worship. So we say Worship Service. Horizontally, it means doing the Lord's work in one way or another."¹¹⁶ While every believer can serve the Lord through small and little ways in life, it is nonetheless a privilege to serve the Lord full-time. In light of God's harvest being plenteous but the labourers few, Rev Tow favoured

¹¹⁴ "A Horse's Strength Is Measured in Mileage", 29 October 1978.

¹¹⁵ "The Higher Factor of God", 18 November 1984.

¹¹⁶ "Best Insurance in Service", 9 November 1986.

encouraging the youth in Church to answer God's call to full-time service. He would call for young men and women to "sell all you have" and "come, take up the cross and follow" Him!¹¹⁷ Especially in these last days, serving the Lord full-time with fervency is more needful. Also, to young people who are seeking out what they should do with their future, Rev Tow cited that "the best way to insurance of a secure future is serve the Lord while we can. 'Occupy till I come'."

However, entering the full-time ministry is not a bed of roses. Those who intend to "must be prepared for the worst, even death at your post"¹¹⁸ It is not easy or void of challenges, but full of difficulties because a spiritual war is being fought. "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but... against spiritual wickedness in high places*" (Eph 6:12). God commands Christians to "*be thou faithful unto death*" (Rev 2:10), suggesting that being a follower and disciple of Christ requires full loyalty and surrender of one's life. Serving God full-time demands unconditional surrender with no strings attached. To those who are being prompted by the Holy Spirit to give their lives to full-time service, Rev Tow echoed the words of Hebrews 3:7-8, "*Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts*".

Ministry of Women

The ministry of women in the Church is an important and precious one. Rev Tow observed that in the four Gospels, "we not only see the Twelve Apostles in action with the Lord, but also the humbler ministry of the women."¹¹⁹ Well-known women in the Bible like Mary Magdalene and lesser-known women like Joanna and Susanna are not forgotten for the work they have done in Jesus' name. Rev Tow commended the ministry of women in the church, saying that the fragrance of such service "smells sweeter when it is realized that their ministry is an essential counterpart to the men's." Truly, every work done for the Lord is of value to Him, even the washing up of cutlery, cleaning of tables, cooking of food for a time of fellowship—these acts of service, when done sincerely and truthfully, is not to be despised. As it has been said, "humble work becomes holy work when it is done for

¹¹⁷ "100 Labourers into the Harvest Fields by 1982?", 22 April 1979.

¹¹⁸ "Follow Me and I Will Make You Fishers of Men", 2 August 1987.

¹¹⁹ "The Ministry of Women", 13 May 1973.

God”!¹²⁰ Therefore, let all believers, men or women, serve God with fervency, not with eyeservice as menpleasers: but in singleness of heart with the fear of God (Col 3:22).

Christians can also serve the Lord through the ministry of encouragement. By saying a kind word or showing kindness and charity to others, Christ is reflected in a believer’s life and His name is glorified. What do our actions and speech reveal about us? Do we reflect Christ and point others to Him? Or do we stumble others and lead them away from the Saviour?

Pastoral Ministry

The role of a pastor is to be an evangelist, a baptiser, theologian and missionary of the Church.¹²¹ This is reflected through the life of Peter who passed on this pastoral charge to his successors in 1 Peter 5:1-6. Pastors should always strive to minister and not be ministered unto just as how *“the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”* (Mark 10:45). He must be so humble that he *“is willing to be wronged even when he is right.”*¹²² In addition, pastors must be diligent in the Word ministry, through writing and Bible reading. To ground Church members in the truth of God’s Word is essential so that they be not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14). This is why Rev Tow made it a point to cover many topics of the Christian faith when counseling his Church members through his writings in the weekly Church bulletin.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Biblical Economics

The Bible sets forth the best economic guideline for every Christian to live by: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain”* (1 Tim 6:6). To fear the Lord and be satisfied with one’s lot is the way to reap the most profit in life. The world seeks material profit and gain. However, for Christians, God’s kingdom ought to be sought first and foremost. All else that we may need, He will provide (Matt 6:33). Thus,

¹²⁰ “14 Years of Loving Service”, 19 July 1987.

¹²¹ “Peter the Pastor”, 20 December 1992.

¹²² “Give Me a Servant’s Heart”, 28 November 2004.

Christians ought not to be covetous people (Exod 20:17), seeking to hoard more and more riches, but rest content and satisfied in Christ.

While it is not wrong to possess riches, the Bible rightly teaches us that riches should not be the motivation for why we live and work: *“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed”* (John 6:27). Whatever riches we have can be used for the advancement of God’s kingdom rather than on fleshly enjoyment and pleasure.

In addition, it is important to live a frugal life and to live within your means. It is God who gives us the power to get wealth and not by our own work or doing (Deut 8:18). How we spend our money is a reflection of whether we follow after the world or follow after Christ. We are to be a wise steward of the resources that God has bestowed upon us. Rev Tow exhorted his readers to remember that they are *“not towkays but stewards”* of God. Our dues that are meant for God must be paid in full and not held back. Giving our tithes and offerings is a wise way in which we can invest in spiritual things (Mal 3:10).

Hard-Work and Industry

As Christian stewards, we ought to have an industrious and hardworking spirit. Proverbs 13:4 says, *“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat”*. It is a biblical principle that in order to eat, we must work (2 Thess 3:10). God does not take delight in those who are slothful and lazy. Instead, a hardworking workman is commended to be *“worthy of his meat”* (Matt 10:10). Rev Tow observed that industry is a divine command as seen through the Fourth Commandment: *“Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but on the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God...”* (Exod 20:9–10). While believers are to spend the Sabbath day as a day of rest, this is not to say that the other six days of the week are left for the idle wasting away of time. Christians must strive to work hard and give of their all when doing God’s will for, *“whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might”* (Eccl 9:10).

ILLUSTRATIONS

Anecdotes

In his writings, Rev Tow enjoyed alluding to ancient Chinese stories to illustrate certain biblical principles that are being discussed. On some occasions, he would quote Chinese proverbs and share a narrative of a story he had come to know of either from his childhood or from newspaper articles. This would be followed up by an explanation of how it links to lessons that are gleaned from Scripture. By making use of stories, lessons from Scripture are conveyed more vividly for the reader to remember. An example of this would be the “Story of the Farm Animals” that Rev Tow learned of when he was in Primary Two.¹²³ It speaks of the importance of unity in Christian service and how every believer has a part to play in contributing to God’s kingdom. Whether young, or old, every Christian is important in the King’s Business.

In addition, Rev Tow frequently made reference to Confucius’ sayings in his weekly articles. He quoted Confucius on things that are biblical and run parallel to Scripture. To those who criticised Rev Tow for alluding to Confucius, Rev Tow responded: “When Confucius says things that are right, we cannot unchristianly say he is ‘Confusious’.”¹²⁴



However, he also explained, “Confucianism is not a religion. It is a philosophy of human life and relationships, particularly in its present state... This is not to say Confucianism can now be accepted as Gospel truth. There are differences, and serious differences between Confucianism and Christianity.”¹²⁵ Thus, although Rev Tow saw value

¹²³ “Story of the Farm Animals”, 31 January 1993.

¹²⁴ “Quoting Confucius and Reagan”, 11 August 1985.

¹²⁵ “Confusion Confounding Confucius”, 6 February 1983; “The Text of Confucian Teaching on Ancestor Worship”, 13 February 1983.

in some of Confucius' sayings, he is also wary in quoting those that are right and biblical. He did not throw the baby out with the bath water, but used Scripture to discern which is truth and which is falsehood.

Testimonies

Not all of the Church weekly articles consist of Rev Tow's pastorally exhortations to his flock. There were occasions when Rev Tow penned down testimonies of the lives of missionaries, Pastors and full-time servants of God whom he had encountered or been impacted by. These include Sadhu Sundar Singh, Leona Wu, Jason Linn and An Yohan. Noteworthy is his frequent mentioning of Rev Silas C T Hsu who was his good friend since the John Sung Revival in the 1930s. Rev C T Hsu was an extraordinary example of a faithful disciple of Christ. He was a "taxi-pastor" who took every opportunity to share the gospel with strangers. He was known to wear a jacket with a label on the back that says "Only Jesus Saves"¹²⁶ and lived a frugal life but was extremely generous in giving his earnings to the Lord's work. Through the life of faithful men who have gone before us, like Rev C T Hsu, readers are encouraged to deny self and increase in zeal and fervour for the service of the Lord.

Personal Experiences

Rev Tow was very personal when addressing his Church members in his weekly articles. He shared real-time experiences of how the Lord was present in his life, providing for and protecting him in his life. He recounts his missionary travels to Dyak country and various other places in Southeast Asia and shares of his conviction that "the pastor is also a missionary as shown us by the Apostle Paul."¹²⁷ He felt a great burden to fulfill the Great Commission in preaching the Gospel far and wide overseas.

In his pastoral ministry, Rev Tow was required to conduct many Christian funerals and vigil services. He took every opportunity to testify of the hope of the future resurrection for every believer and preach the Gospel with non-believing family members. In his life, Rev Tow had experienced the mysterious guiding hand of God that

¹²⁶ "C T Hsu, My Brother in the Lord", 20 September 1981.

¹²⁷ "In Journeyings Often", 6 January 1985.

led him to answer the call to the full-time ministry and receive training in Biblical studies. He quoted Proverbs 16:9, "*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps*", and urges young people preparing for the ministry to "find out what God wants you to do, and stick to it,"¹²⁸ instead of changing vocations after a short and brief term of service.

Furthermore, Rev Tow shared his travel experiences in his writings. He travelled widely to attend the congresses of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) and Far Eastern Council of Christian Churches (FECCC) as well as to further his studies in America and Israel. Through his travels, Rev Tow imbibed the doctrine of "Particular Providence", or God's special care of His children. He recognised God's supernatural leading and protection upon him through all his journeys, giving him confidence and security all the way. In one article, Rev Tow recounted how though his Singapore passport has facilitated ease in traveling overseas, his safety, however, is not in his country's flag, "but rather in the cross of Jesus Christ, by whose precious blood we are sealed unto salvation forever."¹²⁹ It is with this assurance that he shared he could feel safe as he travelled here and there for His kingdom.

In his evening years, Rev Tow experienced some bouts of illnesses and injuries. Despite suffering physically, he testified of God's goodness and the lessons he learned from them. He shared that sickness should cause believers to search their hearts for hidden and unconfessed sins (Ps 39:11). Human frailty ought to cause believers to desire to serve God and lay up their treasures in heaven rather than hoard treasures on earth. In addition, he encouraged himself and others who are on beds of affliction, to find their refuge in Christ who is their strength. He cited Psalm 91:9-12, "*Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*"

¹²⁸ "Son of a Mother's Vow", 12 September 1982.

¹²⁹ "Our Sabbatical in Israel", 14 June 1969; "At the American Institute of Holy Land Studies", 30 August 1969; "Singapore Hits the Headlines", 30 August 1969.

FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE

Purpose

The Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) was founded in 1962 for the purpose of training up young men and women in the truth to fulfill the Great Commission. Prominence is placed on the teaching of God's Truth and not just mere scholarship. Those who enter the FEBC are taught to fear God first, for *"the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"* (Prov 1:7). Without the fear of God in one's heart, the study of His Word would be futile. Thus, students are reminded not to study theoretically but to maintain a deep spiritual walk with the Lord coupled with a humble and willing heart to serve Him.

Rev Tow observed that every college adopts a motto it stands by. As principal of FEBC, he chose John 8:32 as the motto of the college: *"And ye shall know the Truth, and the truth shall make you free."*¹³⁰ He explained that the truth the college is primarily interested in is "metaphysical after physics (according to Aristotle), or rather beyond the physical in the deeper investigation of the spiritual." Till today, it is the goal of the FEBC to faithfully proclaim God's unadulterated truth and train up every student, for the extension of God's Kingdom.

Providence

Throughout the decades of FEBC's existence, Rev Tow testified of God's unwavering providence shown towards the College. From its small beginnings of three students only, within 10 years the student body grew four times.¹³¹ Also, despite minimum tuition fees, the College has always been able to continue running without any hindrance due to the prayerful financial support and love gifts of church brethren. As principal, Rev Tow has always advocated frugality and economy in the College. This principle of economy and "maximum use", he testified, "has saved the College especially tens of thousands of dollars."¹³² When there was a need to extend the campus capacity to accommodate the increasing student body, the Lord used the combined ministry of the FEBC with Life BP Church to enable the increase. Rev Tow likened the relationship between the Church and College to the widow of

¹³⁰ "FEBC Motto", 9 February 1974.

¹³¹ "Ebenezer—'Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us'", 8 July 1972.

¹³² "Economy Is the Mother of Prosperity", 12 May 1985.

Zarephath and the Prophet Elijah. Both entities help each other for the glory of God.¹³³ As Rev Tow mused upon God's providence shown towards FEBC in the past, he echoed the words of Samuel, "*Hitherto hath the LORD helped us!*" (1 Sam 7:12) in praise to the Lord as he trusted in Him to continue providing for the future needs of the FEBC.

Night Classes

One highlight of the FEBC is its night classes that are offered to the general public. Church members were often highly encouraged to attend the "Basic Theology for Every Christian" night classes that are made available on Monday and Thursday evenings. Rev Tow especially encouraged Sunday School teachers to come and study for "a teacher is one who seeks learning by every means so that he may be able to teach others. No learning, no teaching!"¹³⁴ It is God's providence that the FEBC is strategically situated at the centre of Singapore "like how Jerusalem is at the centre of the world."¹³⁵ This makes the coming together for Bible study and night classes even more convenient and accessible.

Hospitality

Another noteworthy ministry of the FEBC is its hospitality ministry. Every Christian home should be ready to accommodate servants of the Lord who are passing through (1 Tim 5:10), more so, a Christian College and Church. The Apostle John also commends Gaius for showing hospitality to fellow brethren and strangers. Those who show hospitality towards God's servants are called "*fellow-helpers to the truth*" (3 John 5-8). This is why in its early years in the 1970s, the FEBC campus was used to host fellow servants of God who needed a place to stay. Rev Tow gave wise counsel, "Never let the fine buildings and facilities God has given to fallow. Hence the open door policy of Life Church and FEBC. We must use them for the promotion of the Gospel, for the extension of the Kingdom."¹³⁶

Thus, the crew members aboard the LOGOS ship—a Christian outreach organisation, found shelter in the campus grounds of the

¹³³ "Our Burden Is Reduced by 50%", 10 February 1985.

¹³⁴ "Our New Year Resolution", 13 January 1985.

¹³⁵ "Jerusalem at the Centre of the Earth", 12 March 1977.

¹³⁶ "Chinese Christians in New York", 14 July 1973.



College.¹³⁷ Also, several non-Christians who sought accommodation were granted access and were drawn to the Sunday worship services. They eventually found salvation in the Lord and were baptised.¹³⁸ Through the spirit of hospitality, 9A Gilstead Road, home of the FEBC, has been a blessing to many.

LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thanksgiving Services

Life BP Church was founded in 1950 and was considered to be the “Mother” of all Singapore BP Churches. Through the Life BP Church, a Church movement was born in fulfillment of the Great Commission and the defense of the faith. In his writings, Rev Tow reminded Lifers at every church anniversary worship service to remember their small and young beginnings, just as how Americans celebrate Thanksgiving in remembrance of the pilgrim fathers. The blessings they have received are from the Lord. Rev Tow often quoted from Psalm 103 to remind his church members to count their blessings lest they forget the Lord.¹³⁹

Economical Management

Life Church was run economically. Following after Jesus’ counsel to His disciples to let nothing be wasted (John 6:12) when gathering up the leftover fragments of multiplied bread, Rev Tow recognised the importance of being frugal. It was always the rule not to build “bigger and better” to vie with others, but “only so much as is needed, on strict lines of economy and simplicity” for “overbuilding and over

¹³⁷ “How Gilstead Road Has Become the Logos’ Singapore Anchorage”, 2 February 1974.

¹³⁸ “Sparrows and Swallows”, 23 July 2000.

¹³⁹ “Church of the Open Door”, 29 March 1987.

furnishing is a wasteful luxury.”¹⁴⁰ Wise stewardship of God’s resources was always the key! Furthermore, the Church had a symbiotic relationship with the Far Eastern Bible College. While the Life Church helped to pay for physical expenses of the campus, the FEBC was responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of the whole compound.¹⁴¹ This unique sharing arrangement was made possible under the biblical principle of Christian Charity where believers are commanded to “*look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*” (Phil 2:4).

Reasons for Resignation

Though Rev Tow served the Lord faithfully as Pastor of Life BP Church for 53 years, he eventually resigned as Pastor in 2003. In his Church Weekly writings for True Life BP Church, he explained the reason for his resignation: “Why are we not at Life Church today but worshipping at RELC? It is my being taken lightly by the majority of Life Church Session and their lambasting without a drop of brotherly love left that I have to run here, following our Saviour’s example.”¹⁴²

The reason why Rev Tow made the heart-wrenching decision to step down as pastor of Life BP Church was because doubts were cast upon the perfection of Holy Scripture. So, Rev Tow came out of Life BP Church to found the True Life BP Church under the strong conviction that God’s Word is 100% perfect without any mistake. To confirm this truth, he quoted God’s Word seven times:

1. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16)
2. “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” (Ps 12:6-7)

¹⁴⁰ “Cheap and Good”, 22 February 1987; “But Woe unto You That Are Rich”, 24 May 1987.

¹⁴¹ “A More Prosperous Principle”, 25 June 1966.

¹⁴² “Local Ginger Is Not Hot”, 12 October 2003.

3. "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." (Matt 5:18)
4. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matt 24:35)
5. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." (Mark 13:31)
6. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." (Luke 21:33)
7. "The scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35b)¹⁴³

CONCLUSION AND TESTIMONY

Hebrews 13:7 reads, *"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."* This verse teaches us that it is necessary to consider faithful men who have gone before us, remembering the lives they lived for God and the words they have taught from Scripture. It must be noted that it is not the fallible human being we ought to follow after, but rather, we ought to remember and follow after the God whom they trusted and believed in. This God is none other than the One Living and True God, Jesus Christ, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

Remember the Faith of Our Fathers

The reason why Christians are exhorted to "remember" our faithful forefathers is due to the human tendency to forget. It has been a pattern throughout all of time for God's people to forget Him and His commands. This we see reflected in the Nation of Israel. When God extraordinarily delivered the Israelites out from bondage in Egypt into the wilderness, the Israelites ought to have remained immensely grateful and loyal to their covenantal LORD. Instead, while at the foot of Mount Sinai and in the very presence of God, they willingly chose to worship a golden calf made by their own hands. Despite having seen, with their own eyes, the miraculous and stupendous hand of God in delivering them from Egyptian slavery, they were so quick to forget His

¹⁴³ "First Two Chapel Messages by the Principal to FEBC Students: (1) 'My Glory Will I Not Give to Another', (2) 'Why I Resign from Life Church?', 18 January 2004.

power and demanded for Aaron to *“make us gods, which shall go before us”* (Exod 32:1). In addition, their disregard for the LORD is seen through their ignorance in referring to Moses as the *“man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt”* (Exod. 32:1), instead of recognising that it was God who brought them out of Egypt. Thus, we see that the sinful tendency to forget God is often a cause for unfaithfulness towards Him.

Furthermore, during the time of the Judges, the Israelites who were supposed to be God’s separated and chosen people, rebelled against Him by following after other gods. During that time, the Israelites were described to have done *“that which was right in his own eyes”* (Judg 21:25). The supposed “Chosen Nation” of God was void of purity and sanctity but full of idolatry and immorality. The reason for this decline in spirituality and morality was due to their swiftness in forgetting the law of the Lord. Also, they quickly turned away from the Lord because they neglected to follow after the *“way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD... they did not so.”* (Judg 2:17). This is why it is so important not to neglect the careful remembrance of our faithful forefathers in order that our faith remains strong and unadulterated.

It is of no wonder then, that the Children of Israel were commanded to read the Law of God to their families and young children in order that they may not forget it (Deut 6). The commandments of God were to be passed down, taught diligently unto their children and spoken of in daily life (Deut 6:7). Lest it be forgotten, God commanded that His Law was to be greatly feared and held in highest regard in every household without exception. The Israelites were required to *“Hear”* and *“observe to do”* all that have been taught (Deut 6:3). This constant reminder to remember reflects how easy it is to forget God and His commands. Christians today are not exempt from these commands that Israel received since the beginning. We must strive our very best to remember what our forefathers have taught us from Scripture and seek to teach the same truths to those who come after us.

Americans Ought to Remember

In Rev Tow’s writings, he mentioned the moral decline of America due to the nation’s forgetting of the God who established them. America was made a great nation due to the faith of their fathers—the “Pilgrims who fled the old country to the New World that they might

freely worship God... God saved the remnant, and from that 'bruised reed' a great nation grew up."¹⁴⁴ The faith that the Pilgrims possessed was passed on for a number of generations. Rev Tow was impacted by the faith of the First President of the United States, George Washington. He testified, "In his valedictory letter to the governors of the States before he relinquished command of the Army, he wrote, 'I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in His holy protection, that He would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another for their fellow citizens of the U.S. at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we never can hope to be a happy nation.'"¹⁴⁵

In addition, Rev Tow testified that the American President, Harry S Truman was "forthright"¹⁴⁶ in his testimony of faith in God. He quoted some of Truman's sayings: "1. The unity of our country is a unity under God. It is a unity in freedom, for the service of God is perfect freedom. 2. I do not think I am being old-fashioned when I say that children ought to have religious training when they are young, and that they will be happier for it and better for it the rest of their lives. (Doesn't this sound like Prov 22:6?) 3. We must remember that the test of our religious principle lies not just in what we say, not only in our prayers, not even living blameless personal lives—but in what we do for others. 4. Material things are ashes, if there is no spiritual background for the support of those material things. 5. Human life is God given and infinitely valuable. 6. If men and nations would but live by the precepts of the ancient prophets and the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, problems which now seem difficult would soon disappear. 7. The American people cannot afford to trust their future to men of little vision. The Bible warns us that where there is no vision, the people

¹⁴⁴ "Americourier XXXI: He commanded our fathers...", 18 March 1979.

¹⁴⁵ "Washington, Fountain of American Greatness", 22 April 1979.

¹⁴⁶ "Another Great American President Speaks: Harry S. Truman", 20 May 1979.

perish. 8. It is time that every American recognises what our forefathers knew—that it is an honourable thing to work with our hands.”

Thus, as observed through history, America started off with good and godly beginnings. The Pilgrims were people who loved the Lord and displayed it through their act of moving to another land for the sake of their faith. In addition, most of the early Presidents ruled the country with the fear of God in their hearts. For this, the Lord blessed and prospered America. Americans of today have faithful forefathers to look up to and emulate. However, the moral trend of the nation is now on a decline. In 1978, Rev Tow wrote: “When I was here 30 years ago 1 out of 3 marriages ended in divorce. Today the ratio is 1 to 2.” He observed that Americans have “thrown His Word out of their culture e.g. Prayer and Bible, the 10 Commandments, are now forbidden in public schools.” This resulted in replacing God’s wisdom with Man’s wisdom, to the country’s detriment.

In addition, America used to possess notable godly men who stood fast for the truth at all costs without wavering. The Lord used godly men, like Dr Carl McIntire, to found Faith Theological Seminary in 1937 that stood in “spiritual succession to the faith of the Pilgrim Fathers” and was “one of a few seminaries in U.S. today that holds fast to the faithful Word.”¹⁴⁷ Also, the BP faith originated from the United States of America in 1937 through the efforts of Dr Carl McIntire, J Oliver Buswell and Allan MacRae.¹⁴⁸ These godly individuals recognised the need to separate from the “blatant unbelief in the great Presbyterian Church in the USA”¹⁴⁹ and protect the Church from modernism and unbelief. They began the BP movement on a strong spiritual footing. However, Faith Theological Seminary has since closed down and the present day situation of the BP Church in America is bleak and barely existent anymore. In a population of approximately 141 million Protestant Christians,¹⁵⁰ the BP Church consists of only 3,500 members.¹⁵¹ If the Reformed faith of the founding fathers of the BP movement had been passed down faithfully to succeeding generations, perhaps America would not have such a great spiritual drought today.

¹⁴⁷ “From Harvard to Faith”, 4 February 1979.

¹⁴⁸ Wikipedia, sv “Bible Presbyterian Church”, last modified 2020.

¹⁴⁹ Timothy Tow, *The Singapore B-P Church Story* (Singapore: Life Book Center, 1995), 19.

¹⁵⁰ Wikipedia, sv “Protestantism in the United States”, last modified 2020.

¹⁵¹ Wikipedia, sv “Bible Presbyterian Church”, last modified 2020.

Singaporeans Ought to Remember

BP Christians in Singapore ought to remember the faith of their founding father who laboured hard to give them a city of habitation (Ps 107:7). The BP movement in Singapore began in 1950 under the hand of Rev Dr Timothy Tow and grew to become a denomination consisting of 43 churches. Rev Tow began this movement in Singapore because he felt convicted to take a separatist stand against the rising tide of Ecumenism and join in the 20th Century Reformation.¹⁵² He was also Reformed, Calvinistic and Premillennial in his teachings. It is paramount that this spirit of separatism against error and standing for the truthful system of doctrine remains throughout each generation to prevent it from getting lost. Also, in order to preserve the truth of God's Word throughout each generation, it is the responsibility of the present generation of Christians to teach succeeding generations faithfully. This pattern is taught to us through the Apostle Paul's injunction to young Timothy: *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"* (2 Tim 2:2). It is our human responsibility as believers to faithfully pass down God's Truth to those who come after us for their remembrance.

This is why, time and time again, Rev Tow would enjoin young Christians to answer God's call to the full-time service. When more true believers sincerely answer God's call to serve Him, the baton of God's truth can be passed on for, *"how shall they preach, except they be sent?"* (Rom 10:15). Thus, there is a need for more Christians to take the step of faith and serve God unconditionally and wholeheartedly. To those who refuse God's call because of selfish ambition, Jeremiah 45:5 reads, *"And seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not"*.

Though We May Forget, God Never Forgets

Though we see a pattern of forgetfulness amongst God's people throughout history, one thing remains a constant contrast—God's faithfulness. It is interesting to note that right after we are instructed to *"remember"* those who have spoken to us God's Word in Hebrews 13:7, the promise is given to us in the following verse that Jesus Christ is *"the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever"*. The faithfulness of God shines

¹⁵² Timothy Tow, *The Singapore B-P Church Story* (Singapore: Life Book Centre, 1995), 53.

bright against man's unfaithfulness. Though we so often forget to remember and keep God's laws, yet, God never fails to keep those who are His own. It is comforting to know that though we may fail, God never fails. This should cause us to strive towards more perfection and prove ourselves faithful to Him. We must not forget the Lord and the Word that has been spoken to us through faithful men of old.

Through the compilation of selected weekly articles written by Rev Timothy Tow, I have been richly blessed and reminded of the need to remember the sound biblical teachings of those who have gone before me in the Christian Faith. It is important to recollect not only the lessons they taught from Scripture, but also the lives they lived in service to the Lord—one of unconditional surrender and service. This collection of articles is an attempt to revive the godly writings of Rev Tow so that the good "old-fashioned" faith of our fathers is not lost completely. Though it has been 11 years since his passing, "*He being dead yet speaketh*" (Heb 11:4) and it is a blessing that Christians today can still receive the counsel of Rev Tow through his writings. May God's Word continue to be glorified through each generation and His name magnified.

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THE SAYINGS OF THE REV DR TIMOTHY TOW

The Rev Dr Timothy Tow was a godly man of many wise sayings. His wise words on Giving, Pastoral Theology, Bible College, Family, Homiletics, Church Administration, Missions, Faith, Bible, John Sung, Covenant Theology, Calvinism, Christian Testimony, Christian Work Ethics, Defending the Faith, among others, are often quoted by his students. *“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning”* (Prov 9:9).

Giving

1. Let us bring our gifts to the Lord worshipfully, willingly and not wearily.
2. In God we trust or in gold we bust?
3. Those who give of a worshipful heart bring gold. Those who give out of custom bring brass.
4. Do not be afraid to give. As a well gives of its water it is soon refilled by lively springs.
5. Galilee that gives and gives is ever full. The Dead Sea that gets and gets is dead empty.
6. Giving is not by faith-promise but by love-increase.
7. If you want to have a happy trip, the only way is generously tip.
8. One blessing of giving is that it brings you joy unspeakable and good health.
9. Money is very secondary to spirituality.
10. Owe no man anything is the other side of the coin of love.
11. A windfall of blessing is doubly sweet.
12. Economy is the mother of prosperity.
13. A pound of help in time is worth a ton.

Pastoral Theology

1. The pastor is enhanced ten times in his work when he has a good helpmeet.
2. I have no retirement. To retire means to go home and wait to die.
3. The four walls of my church cannot contain me.
4. Every pastor should not be hemmed in the four walls of his beautiful brick church. His church fence should extend to the uttermost part of the earth.
5. To be a pastor is not taking on a profession, much less a vacation, but a vocation.
6. The pastor is a pattern and not a power over the congregation.
7. If a pastor has a strong inclination to sell Christian books, then let him resign his pastorate and become a Christian bookseller.
8. If Calvin says that the pastor should stay near the Church, I say he should stay in the Church.
9. Every pastor should be like the fireman—be on call 24 hours of the day. He must settle in himself, “I am prepared to be bothered anytime of the day or night.”
10. As for me I do not want to buy a little house for retirement because I believe a Christian minister should die in harness.
11. He who wants to build God’s house must have clean hands and a pure heart.
12. Be prepared to die, if you want to serve God.
13. “My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure” should be the vigour of every Christian minister.
14. The four Chinese sins are womanising, gambling, drinking, smoking. The four temptations of a Christian minister are money, sex, pride, idleness.
15. Don’t keep ducks, but feed sheep!

Bible College

1. After false Christs, false spirits, false apostles, false brethren, false witnesses, false prophets, false teachers, the principal has discovered an eighth variety: false students.

THE SAYINGS OF THE REV TIMOTHY TOW

2. To pick up litter on the College grounds for Jesus' sake is as sacred as preaching from the pulpit.
3. I am training you students to be lions, but not after the king lion who sleeps seventeen hours a day!
4. I do not give you a fish, I teach you how to fish.
5. If you buy a book, you must read it, or else it will be a loss.
6. Learning Hebrew with its intricate pointings makes you a precise man.
7. The distinctiveness of FEBC instruction is that every lecturer is also a pastor; what he teaches has gone through the crucible of testing.
8. Quoting Calvin, "the first three rules of theology are humility, humility, humility."
9. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Restated: religion is the key to science.
10. Knowledge is power; knowledge of God is divine power.
11. A College that is called a Bible College is called to defend the Bible.
12. Head knowledge that puffs up without heart knowledge is a dangerous thing.
13. Prayer is the hardest lesson to learn, so it is one lesson from which I have not graduated.
14. Every student should learn to be an elephant—his docility.
15. Perspiration without inspiration is exasperation.
16. Monologue not dialogue; we believe in dogmatic teaching.

Family

1. Marriage is a multi-mysterious mystery.
2. Parents who have eaten more salt than children eat rice can discern more clearly between right and wrong.
3. In standing for Christ, in-laws often become out-laws.
4. The two greatest blessings on earth are health and a happy home.
5. Old people's words are like medicine. You need to wrap them up—My Grandfather.

Homiletics

1. When you speak, speak like a man, not like a clergyman.
2. No sermon is dull that cuts the conscience.
3. As for me, I sleep soundest the Saturday night before I preach my Sunday morning message. I put the thoughts of my message to ink and paper early Sunday morning and go over three times. Sermon preparation is like cooking.
4. When you preach, speak with your ears.
5. The four forms of support for effective speech are statement, restatement, illustration, testimony. Restatement is the most important of them all.
6. Transition in a sermon is like the shunting of a train.
7. Anticipation in a sermon will lead to effective application.
8. Quoting Augustine, "The first three rules of rhetoric are pronunciation, pronunciation, pronunciation."

Church Administration

1. The Great Commission I have called, "The First Commandment to the Church".
2. The Missionary Society comes into being when the Church ceases to be a Missionary Society.
3. The symbol of church growth is the mustard, not the mushroom.
4. Not vertical but horizontal is the divine pattern for Church growth.
5. The ministry of theological training accelerates church growth by geometrical progression.
6. Not centralisation, but decentralisation, is one genius of B-Pism.
7. Every Church is a missionary society.
8. My grandfather taught me never to borrow, never to pay interest, and I have applied this principle to the running of the Church.
9. To theorise on Church growth is like sowing seed on the classroom cement floor.
10. The Church must be run like a private enterprise with the profit-motive for souls first of all.

11. Default of a Church in carrying out the Full-four Commission produces para-church organisations.
12. If every member will do his best, God will take care of the rest.

Missions

1. The Great Commission is an Unfinished Commission.
2. Cost-effective missions is divine economy.
3. The Great Commission is a Full-four Commission: missions, evangelism, church organisation, indoctrination.
4. Gospel songs sound sweeter in another language.

Faith

1. We are not saved by a complacent faith but by a consuming faith.
2. Theology is to be studied by putting on the eye-glasses of faith.
3. Faith without seeing is more blessed than faith after seeing.
4. If you are a second or third generation Christian, all the more you need to examine your faith (2 Cor 13:5).
5. When someone asked me if by believing Jesus he would have rice to eat, I replied, 'Without Jesus, you get one bowl. With Jesus you get two bowls because with your improved appetite (like giving up smoking) you eat more.'
6. Dr Chia Yu Ming: "Inexperienced faith; experienced faith and faith that needs no experience."

Bible

1. I was a Government interpreter and translator once. What was required of us when translating anything in dispute was to render it word for word. To give a dynamic equivalent at the expense of the original word in Bible translation is inadmissible.
2. The Church has every jot and tittle in the traditional text best represented by the Textus Receptus on which the KJB is based.

John Sung

1. Music is next to theology (Martin Luther). Music is half of John Sung's sermons.

2. John Sung's ministry brought no tongues in confusion but tears of confession.
3. Quoting John Sung on the baptism question: "More faith less water, less faith more water."
4. Many who claimed to have the Holy Spirit end up having an unholy spirit. Instead of being filled by the Spirit, they are felled by the Spirit (commenting on true revival in the days of John Sung over against the Charismatic movement of today).
5. "A pastor who tries to make money will go bankrupt."
6. Beware of the seminary which is actually a cemetery (John Sung's experience at apostate Union Theological Seminary, USA).

Covenant Theology

1. To the Amillennialists the thousand years of Revelation 20 is measured not horizontally but vertically.
2. The holy law of God springs not only from His holiness but also from His love. Thus the Ten Commandments, positively stated, is to love God and man.
3. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. This means the Sabbath is adjustable to human needs, not contrary.
4. The covenant of works is invisibly inscribed upon the human heart which is our conscience.
5. Dispensational theology is like taking a lift up a seven-storey building stopping at every level. Covenantal theology is like going up from ground to top floor at one stretch.
6. A higher law overrides a lower law, e.g. the law of necessity takes precedence over the law of the Sabbath.

Calvinism

1. Calvin says the law of predestination does not contradict the law of providence. Therefore if you have good teeth, don't say I have no need to brush them.
2. Calvinism is not static but dynamic inasmuch as predestination is not fatalism.

3. Calvinism is Paulinism systematised.
4. John 3:16 is taught by lopsided Calvinists to offer salvation only to the elect and not generally to all. The door to heaven is one leaf shut.
5. What we disagree with sons of Calvin who out-Calvin Calvin is their exegeting Scripture like riding a bicycle on a tight rope.
6. If John 3:16 is a restricted offer only to the elect, then it is like holding a sale confined to "Only Buyers Can Enter".
7. The higher factor of God in our favour is what the world knows not.
8. Christmas is the time when God universally reconciles men unto Himself.
9. Jesus Saves. Can anyone compose a sentence of two words more powerful than this?

Christian Testimony

1. Do something good for Jesus every day. Do something good for Jesus out of the way.
2. How you dress tells what you are.
3. A Christian will never say die.
4. He who is not afraid to die will not easily die.
5. The meek shall inherit the earth. So do not be a go-getter.
6. Live as if Christ is coming next Monday, but today is Sunday!
7. If you eat a big dinner tonight, drink only water the next morning.
8. Without the horizontal there is no vertical: "he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen how can he love God whom he hath not seen" (1 John 4:20).
9. Darkness can never fight against light. If your life is light, no dark power can harm you.
10. Without courtesy, one becomes a bull in a China shop.
11. Self help with God's help is the best help.
12. God will judge not only our life, but also the abundance He has blessed our life with.
13. Worship, says Augustine, is the mother of all virtues.

Christian Work Ethics

1. No one who uses his hands will ever starve.
2. Do not sit in your room to pray for bananas. Go downstairs to the garden and changkol, and manna from heaven will come down.
3. Learn to use your hands like the Americans—that is how they became a great nation.

Defending the Faith

1. Truth must subdue error. Truth is one-sided. Truth is exclusive, not inclusive.
2. Satan's three-prong attack on God's Word. Yea=Yes; Hath God?=Question; No=No.
3. Only a snake that has a forked tongue can double talk.
4. Right-is-might must prevail over Might-is-right.
5. Deeds of daring are born of danger.
6. Truth is qualitative, not quantitative. One with God is majority.
7. In the history of salvation, God has not used councils and committees, but always a man (Isa 59:16) to accomplish His purpose.
8. God uses a man and a movement, not a machine and a monument.
9. No loss, no gain; no cross, no crown.

Miscellaneous

1. To make the bomb after war is declared, is too late.
2. The Hydra has nine heads. When one is cut off, it becomes two.
3. Samaria, the capital of man's planning, lies in ruins. Jerusalem, the chosen city of God, flourishes forever.
4. Gardening is one occupation that is without sin, because that was man's occupation in the time of his innocence.

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FEBC Life in Film

Pictures taken with
Kodak Portra 800
on a Nikon FM2

Morning Bell
(6:30 a.m.)



Breakfast
(7:00 a.m.)



Student Prayer Meeting &
Morning Devotions
(7:40 a.m.)

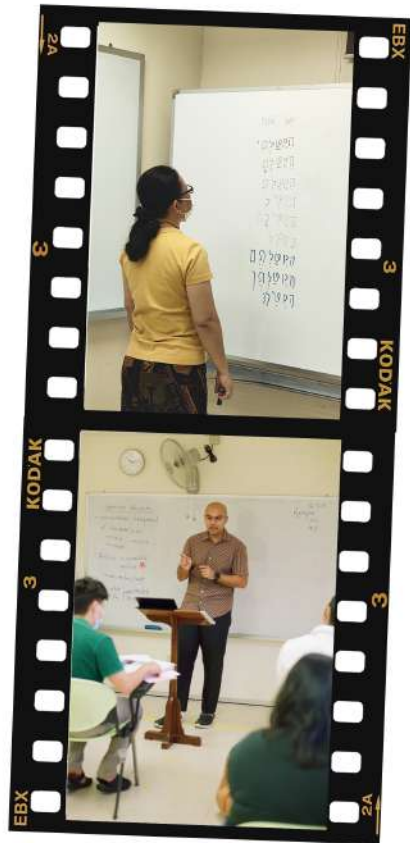


Chapel Hour
(8:00 a.m.)

FEBC LIFE IN FILM



Homiletics &
Language Classes
[Hebrew/Greek]
(8:30 a.m.)



Morning Classes
(9:30 a.m.)



Lunch (12:30 p.m.)

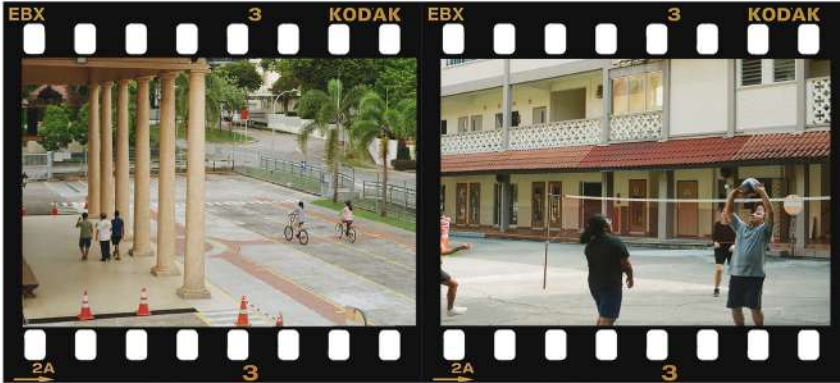




English & Afternoon
Classes (2:00 p.m.)



FEBC LIFE IN FILM



Afternoon Studies,
Duties, & Recreation
(3:00 p.m.)



Dinner (6:00 p.m.)



FEBC LIFE IN FILM

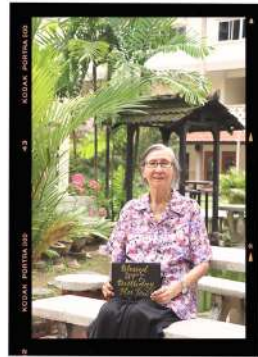
Dorm Prayer (9.30 p.m.)



FEBC Faculty, Lecturers, Tutors, & Staff



Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Khoo



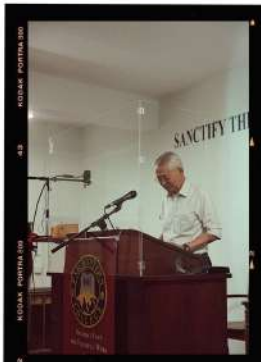
Mrs. Ivy Tow



Rev. Dr. Quek Suan Yew



Rev. Tan Kian Sing



Rev. Stephen Khoo



Rev. Dr. Koa Keng Woo

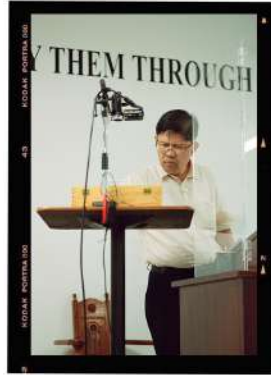


Rev. Dr. Prabhudas Koshy

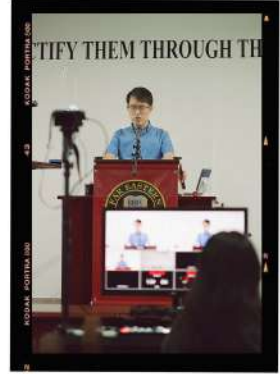
FEBC LIFE IN FILM



Rev. Clement Chew



Rev. Dr. Jose Lagapa



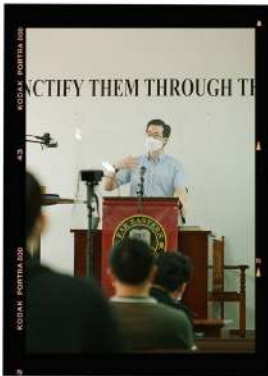
Rev. Zhu Jianwei



Miss Carol Lee



Mr. Samuel Joseph



Mr. Joshua Yong



Mr. Cornelius Koshy



Miss Joycelyn Chng



Elder Han Soon Juan



Mrs. Patricia Joseph



Mrs. Eileen Khoo



Mrs. Yap Ling Ling



Miss Janet Lim



Mrs. Tan Chew Ying



Miss Khoo May Lynn
& Mrs. Manuela Heng

Photos taken by Jose Trinipil B. Lagapa II (Biboy)

THANKSGIVING TESTIMONIES OF THE CLASS OF 2022

David Chew



“What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.” (Ps 116:12-14).

I praise and thank God for the opportunity that I had to study at FEBC. The Lord has been so gracious and merciful to me despite my disobedience and unfaithfulness to Him. He has shown His great faithfulness and compassion to me each and every day, especially for the past six years in FEBC.

Truly, it was a great blessing and privilege to sit under faithful preaching and teaching day by day through the past years. How blessed it is to be able to hear the voice of God daily, from chapel to classes. It was amazing to see how felicitously and directly God spoke with regard to various situations and struggles at specific times, and to see Him present by way of His Word. However, I must admit that there were many times where I had taken this privilege for granted, and I had to remind myself that I was hearing the voice of God, and not just teachings of men. This meant that with this blessing also came a responsibility for obedience.

Many think that FEBC is a place that prepares you for the ministry because of the good doctrines it teaches. While I found that to be true, I came to realise that FEBC was far more than that. FEBC taught me much, not only in terms of doctrine, but also in terms of living. I am thankful that in FEBC, I had the privilege to learn how to cook, clean the toilets, and do various other menial tasks. One thing that made an impression on me was what Mrs Tow said in my first year, when we had

to clean the entire College: “Do all things as unto the Lord”. It was a vital reminder for me that we are to be faithful even in the least, and we are to give our best unto the Lord.

I also thank the Lord for providing for all my physical needs, such that I truly lacked nothing—the funds needed for my school fees, lodging, meals etc through the love of Truth Bible-Presbyterian Church and my parents. I also thank God for how the church had laboured in prayer for me and for the College in our weekly prayer meetings.

Furthermore, I am thankful to the Lord for His providence. He used the time in College to open my eyes to my sins and weaknesses, and to cause me to realise that I am truly nothing without Him. I entered the College with so much pride and ambition, thinking that I could do something for the Lord, and the Lord had to chastise and break me in order for me to realise that without Him I am nothing. I have made many mistakes, and sinned against God many times, and yet the Lord was still merciful to forgive and restore. I truly thank God for His marvellous, infinite, and amazing grace that He would even care enough to shape and to mould an undeserving sinner like me. I pray that He will use me however He will, for His work and for His glory. Amen.

Cing Sian Lian



My name is Cing Sian Lian. I am from Myanmar. Firstly, I would like to thank God for the salvation through Christ Jesus our LORD. It is a great privilege and honour to be part of the FEBC family. I am very blessed to be witnessing FEBC's 60th Anniversary. All glory and praise to God for her 60 faithful years in the work of the LORD.

I would like to thank God for FEBC. Truly, she has blessed me spiritually and also physically. I came to FEBC with little knowledge of the Bible. I was 16 years old, and just completed high school. I am now 24 years old. Time really flies, yet God's grace is ever fresh. I can look back and firmly say it is God who has sustained me.

THANKSGIVING TESTIMONIES OF GRADUATING STUDENTS

By the grace of God, most of my youthful life was spent in FEBC. If I were to study in the University instead of FEBC, I know for sure, I would be miserable. God placed me in the right place in His perfect time. God's timing is always the best! Although, there are discouragements here and there, yet God's faithfulness never lets me down. He is faithful to provide me with the most fundamental college (FEBC) to study in. I did not understand how precious FEBC is until I saw her value in the truth and beauty in her faith.

Truly, I have learnt the precious words of God under faithful teachers and tutors. I have also learnt how to serve God joyfully behind the scene like FEBC's staff do. Everywhere in FEBC is a classroom to learn from the good and also from failure. FEBC has shown me that "Head knowledge without heart knowledge is vain." FEBC has never let God's standard down! I thank God for placing me in FEBC. FEBC feeds the students with spiritually solid Truth and also physically nourishing food.

I thank God for everyone who serves in FEBC. They truly are the testimony of God's faithfulness in FEBC's journey for the past years. I thank God for all my friends in FEBC, for they have taught me the practical part of God's Word in day-to-day life as we live and serve together in the college. I thank God for True Life BPC for supporting me throughout my studies. Truly, I have tasted and seen the goodness of God all these years. All that I learn from papers and also people are precious to me; they remind me of God's goodness and faithfulness, and His providence!

FEBC is my alma mater. I thank God my father, Andrew Kam, introduced me to FEBC. My father guided me to FEBC because he knows where to go for the Truth as much as he was blessed by FEBC. I pray that God will continue to keep FEBC in the Truth and in the Faith standing firmly on God's Word.

Lastly, I would like to end my testimony with Psalm 103:1-5, *"Bless the LORD O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."* Amen!

Gyzza Berindez Dandoy



I am Gyzza Berindez Dandoy, one of the Filipino students in FEBC. I want to praise and thank the Lord for how He has not only called me unto salvation but also to surrender my life to serve Him full-time. It was through much prayer and God's grace that He led and opened a door for me to come here to study His Word. I thank God indeed for how I have experienced His abundant grace, mercies, faithfulness, and goodness throughout my four and a half years of studies. As I looked back it was indeed not a bed of roses but a life full of hard work, tears, and sacrifices especially the beginning years as I struggled through the thorough and tough training in FEBC. Nonetheless, I learned very important lessons which I will forever treasure for the rest of my life.

Firstly, I learned the true meaning of humility. In FEBC we are always reminded that the formula for success in studying the Word of God is humility, humility, humility. Truly, every semester, I struggle with all my assignments, especially Greek. It is like a huge mountain. I felt so much weight and pressure put on me. But one thing that stuck with me was the word "humility". I really needed to kneel down to seek, ask and rely on the Lord for His wisdom, help, and strength knowing that without Him, I can do nothing. As I humbled myself before the Lord, He gave me strength and comforted me through His Word to press on and persevere in my studies.

Secondly, I learned the importance of faithfulness. In FEBC we are always reminded to be faithful in keeping and obeying the Ten Commandments of FEBC (Matt 22:37-39), to be faithful in our studies, duties, services, and personal walk with the Lord, knowing that above all God sees and knows our heart in everything we do. I thank God for all my lecturers and tutors who show a good example for us students to be faithful in the service of the Lord, especially those lecturers and tutors who are still faithfully serving the Lord in their evening years. I am very blessed and encouraged because of their fervent love and passion

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to serve the Lord even till the very end. Indeed, faithfulness is 100% commitment to the Lord until He calls us home.

Lastly, I learned the importance of knowing the truth. FEBC teaches every student the pure Word of God, by *“Holding Forth the Word of Life”* (Phil 2:16) and *“Holding Fast the Faithful Word”* (Tit 1:9). Therefore, I thank God for raising up this Bible College where I am trained and taught to have a high view of the Bible and the fundamental doctrines. As I study the Word of God, it only made me realise how little I knew and how I needed to keep learning and to never stop learning for I can never exhaust the boundless and infinite riches of God’s pure and holy Word. May the Lord help me and enable me to hold fast to the truth of the perfectly inspired and preserved Word of Truth as well. Truly, *“faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”* (1 Thess 5:24).

I also want to give thanks to the Lord that throughout my time here at FEBC, I suffered no lack. God in His goodness and faithfulness provided for all my needs both spiritual and physical. I would like to thank the Lord for the True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church for supporting me in my studies all these years. I thank God for our Principal, Board of Directors, lecturers and tutors, the staff, and all the like-minded brethren whom I have come to know here, who have encouraged, helped, supported, and above all prayed for all of us students at FEBC. May the Lord continue to sustain and preserve FEBC to train and equip more students for the service of the Lord and for the extension of His kingdom, all for His glory!

Han Wei Wei



I want to give thanks and praise to God for the privilege that He has given me to study in FEBC. Three and a half years of studying in FEBC is a precious and significant period in my life. I had prayed for a Bible school or seminary for theological training for almost two years before I came to FEBC. It was Rev Im Seong Ho, a graduate of FEBC, whom I met in Korea in 2018 who introduced me to FEBC. When I was presented with two options: to study in

Korea or in Singapore, I chose Singapore because I didn't know any Korean word. Studying in the Korean language would take a longer time for me to graduate than in English. But now as I look back at the last three and a half years here, I am very sure that it was God's will and providence to bring me here to be trained, and not just my own preferred option.

As regards the faithful teaching of God's Word, I can say FEBC is one of the best Bible Colleges in the world. Here the Word of God is taken seriously, even the original languages in Hebrew and Greek, and all the doctrines are Bible-based. My Systematic Theology has been built up in FEBC, with a lot of sound and fundamental doctrines I had never heard before in China. These teachings have given me more knowledge of God and changed my life. I also thank God for the faithful teachers in FEBC. They spare no effort to teach and train us with love and patience. Sometimes, they discipline us with the heart to turn iron into steel (恨铁不成钢). Without their help I could never have learned so much by myself. They labour for the Lord both in the College and in their own churches, and set good examples in their ministries for us.

FEBC is not only faithful in teaching, but also faithful in administration. We are trained both in academic studies and daily life. Doing campus duties assigned to every student is a unique feature of FEBC. It trains us to get various life skills, like cooking and cleaning, and becoming independent. There is much wisdom that we can learn for our lives in our duties. We collect rainwater to do cleaning, use waste paper to collect our hair on the floor after showering. Mrs Ivy Tow always tells us that this is God's ministry and God's money. Thus, we must be faithful stewards.

Moreover, I am grateful for the staff and my fellow students here. It is by their help and encouragement that I could go through the hardship in my studies and life in FEBC. When I injured my foot and had surgery to my eye, they always took care of me and prayed for me. I must give thanks for the doctors who treated my sicknesses, Dr Winston Chew from Truth BPC, Dr Sim Tiong Peng from True Life BPC, and Dr Ong Sze Guan my eye surgeon.

I also want to remember Mrs Jemima Khoo for her good testimony and tender care for me. She was a mum to me and gave me a lot of nice and nourishing food when I got sick and was far away from my

family. From her I have seen that death in Christ can be so peaceful and hopeful.

I also want to give thanks to the Lord for our advanced English teacher Elder Han Soon Juan. We are relatives due to the same surname—Han. Once he took a queue to get some Chinese food for me after my eye surgery. I have not only learned good English from him, but also been touched by his faith and love for the Lord. There are still many other brothers and sisters for whom I need to give thanks and praises to the Lord. If I had studied in other schools and not in FEBC, I do not think I could overcome all these difficulties and learn so much. It is God’s providence for me to study at FEBC. What I have received is far more than what I have given out. What I can do is to give to others what I have received from the Lord here.

Thessa Lagapa



“[B]e ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom 12:2). Most students would study in school with the hope of succeeding. Though the road to learning is never easy, they would nevertheless look forward to the day where they will be clad in graduation gowns and caps to receive their diploma. In this school of prophets, success runs deeper than graduating well. It is not just the deepening of one’s knowledge but truly the changing of one’s mind, heart, and behaviour to Christlikeness through God’s Word. It was the semester of July 2018 that I entered in and the Principal’s message was titled, “Three Rules to Succeed.” Since it is impossible to summarise God’s goodness upon me throughout the four years of studies in FEBC in just one page, I have decided to base my testimony on these three rules instead, which are also the main spiritual lessons I have gained. I pray that my heavenly Father will receive all the honour and praise despite my inadequacy to capture everything in a few paragraphs.

The first rule that the principal said was **“for the glory of God alone.”** In FEBC, I learned to always keep in mind that God’s glory

should be the focus of everything I do. From the bigger and daunting assignments of teaching slots in homiletics to the daily duties of cleaning toilets, sweeping, mopping, and even cooking for my fellow classmates, I must do them for God's glory. Even if there is no one to watch over what I do, I must not cut corners but to give my best and my all knowing that it is for my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The second rule given was John Calvin's famous principle when studying theology: "**humility, humility, humility.**" Indeed, in the study of God's Word, there is no place for pride. Once pride creeps in, the studies will be in vain because then, as Rev Timothy Tow illustrated, it is like a mountain where the rain simply flows away compared to a humble valley that will receive all the showers of blessing. It was during moments when my pride was damaged through rebukes, failures, and embarrassments that I learned how to be humble and to fully depend on God. I had to be stripped of every confidence I had in myself. Even the understanding of a single verse, the ability to write one word for an assignment, the strength to cope with both studies and duties every day, and the answer for each question in exams come from God. I am sure that each student at the end of every semester will look back with wonder on how he has pulled through only to look up and know that it was never any of his doing but God's grace alone.

The third rule was FEBC's late founding Principal's wise words, "**Self help with God's help is the best help.**" In FEBC, it takes hard work to succeed. Our lecturers always reminded us of this. Though we know that it is only by God's grace that we can survive every semester, that does not mean we sit back and do nothing. Laziness and procrastination may get us a pass, but there is no blessing from God and surely it is not a good testimony. With all the busyness of life as an FEBC student, there should really be no time to waste. Every minute is precious. Assignments must be organised in the planner, time must be allocated for each activity throughout the day, and all this must be done while submitting to God's will and asking Him for grace.

I thank God for all my lecturers who have taught me in the hall and through their lives on what it means to be a servant of God, for all the staff who worked behind the scenes, for True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church in supporting me financially and with their precious prayers. I thank God for my family who always encouraged me to press

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on and for those who have studied alongside me throughout the semesters for how they have helped me grow in one way or another. I pray that as these three rules have guided me in my four-year journey in FEBC, I will still remember them as I serve the Lord wherever He leads me. To God be all the glory.

Gracia Lee Yun Ling



Psalm 75:1 "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Four years ago, God by His grace called me through His Word to full-time service. I was filled with many fears and uncertainties, but I knew that God had called me and I had to answer this call by first studying here at FEBC. Four years on, as I end my final semester of studies here, I can truly testify that *"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."* (1 Thess 5:24).

As I think back on my time at FEBC, I can say that these years have truly been the most difficult years, not just due to our studies, which I would rather say have been most enjoyable and exciting, but more so the lessons that God teaches us outside of the classroom. Yet, I can say that these years have been the most blessed few years that I have ever experienced, for the Lord's abiding presence has never been nearer, and I have been able to spend every day and night here studying God's Word.

The lessons God has taught me in FEBC are countless, and these lessons do not just pertain to our minds, but to our hands as well, and most importantly, our hearts. Each spiritual lesson in FEBC is difficult and painful especially those of the heart, and I often see myself as one with many rough edges that only the tough and painful shaping process at FEBC can smoothen.

FEBC taught me to be a diligent workman, to show myself approved unto God and unashamed, rightly handling God's truth (2 Tim 2:15). Although our grades are important to help us see how much of God's Word we are truly learning, what is most important is how it must also sanctify us and how we ought to be more and more holy as we study the Bible. I learned that each assignment done was not simply to

complete a task on paper or to earn the credits, but a chance for me to know my God more in order that I might obey Him and love Him more.

Our duties taught me that I ought first to be faithful in the least before I can be faithful in the much, for how can I care for the souls of men if my duties are not even done well for the Lord. God also taught me a lesson through our dear Matron, Mrs Ivy Tow that whatever I do in my studies and in my future ministry must never be conditioned upon my own terms, but upon what God wants me to do for Him.

My time of studies, duties, and life here in FEBC has truly taught me how to be a servant for the Lord, and I thank God for the utmost privilege of being trained here. I thank God for my Principal, Dr Jeffrey Khoo and the Board of Directors who have allowed me to study in this College. I thank God for my pastor, Rev Quek Suan Yew for his spiritual help, care and guidance. I thank God for Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church for supporting me in my studies at FEBC. Through their love and generosity, I suffered no lack.

I thank God for the lecturers for faithfully teaching me God's Word. At times, a two-hour class can feel like 30 minutes, for it can be so enjoyable, and the Lord has used the teaching of His Word through our lecturers to teach me so many spiritual lessons. I thank God for the staff, for their care for us students and labour of love for the College.

I thank God for the students here who have been a family to me. We have lived together, laughed together, cried together, and done all our daily activities together, but what I will leave remembering the most will be the times of us praying together, studying God's Word together and bringing one another into closer fellowship with our Lord. I thank God also for my brothers and sisters in Christ outside the College, for their prayers and the encouragement that they have shown to me during my time of studies here.

I thank God for my family. I am grateful for how they have prayed for and with me and for their love and support shown to me. Most importantly, I thank God for His bounteous grace and mercy, for saving me to serve Him and calling me to study here at FEBC. The Lord is good, and as He has led me through my studies, I trust that He will continue to lead and guide me with His Word from here onwards. All glory and praise to God.

Roel De Guzman Requirme



First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our almighty and sovereign God, who is in control of all things in this universe and who has providentially called individuals to salvation and ministry.

Second, I thank God for Calvary Tengah Bible-Presbyterian Church, for their unfailing help and support. Truly, in a foreign nation, this church became my home church. They did indeed provide for all of my spiritual as well as my other material needs, enabling me to focus on my studies full-time and not worry about some temporal need.

Third, I praise God for the amazing opportunity to enter FEBC for full-time studies. God had instilled in me a strong desire to further my theological training. I praise God for leading me to a Bible College with a high regard for God and His Word.

Fourth, I praise God for the dedicated lecturers. To say “thank you” would not be enough for all the spiritual lessons I have received here. Students come from different backgrounds and have different academic credentials, but the lecturers treat them not according to their differences but according to their profession of calling into the ministry to be trained, equipped, and moulded as God’s servants.

Next, I express thanks to God not only for the academic aspects, but also for the practical aspects of my training, such as the duties and responsibilities assigned to students. Students needed to do their academics and cleaning duties faithfully. Our lecturers often reminded us to be faithful. Those who are faithful in the least will also be faithful in much. Thus, this Bible College is not the place for the lazy.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to God for everyone who has been a part of my little journey here in Singapore studying God’s Word. You will surely be remembered in my prayers. Words are not sufficient to express my gratitude. May the Lord bless us as we work together to fulfil His will through His Word. This testimony reminds me of one of my favourite hymns in the *Revival Hymns and Choruses*, Hymn 55, “Our Great Saviour”. The chorus goes, “Hallelujah! what a Saviour!

Hallelujah! what a Friend! Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end." God is to be praised!

Jenerose Sagayoc



"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name" (Ps 63:3-4). I thank and praise God for His lovingkindness in my studies here at FEBC. Because of His great mercy, He granted me this privilege to experience His loving hands through the life of my lecturers. They patiently guided me to grow in my spiritual life by their teaching and examples. I am not worthy to receive their kindness but unexpectedly, I experienced God's graciousness through them. There were times that I wanted to give up on my studies but God, through their advice, encouragement, and help, strengthened me to continue. Above all, their examples brought impact to my life. They extended encouragement to me by saying things like, "You must study hard. Don't give up!", "Pray hard and work hard. Be diligent in your studies." "Do you pray for your lecturers? If you do, you will not fail." "Be strong, and be brave. Don't be afraid of people." And most of all, when the late Mrs Jemima Khoo told me, "Jenerose, you are here to learn something and to study the things you do not know." Those are short and simple words from my lecturers that gave me the courage and motivation to finish my course here at FEBC.

I want to share specifically how Mrs Jemima Khoo's life and service impacted me. I was one of her students in pianoforte. She was already diagnosed with lung cancer then. But despite her illness, she continued to fight in serving God. She finished her syllabus although her cough hindered her from speaking so much. She was so patient with me as she endured the pain and dealt with my stiff fingers. When I played wrongly, she never raised her voice to correct me but encouraged me and demonstrated the proper way to do it instead. When her illness became worse and she was not able to teach me anymore, she still found a way that I would not miss our weekly session. She asked

her daughter, May Lynn, to teach on her behalf. Besides being faithful and committed to her service in teaching, she was like our loving mother in college. In spite of the pain she bore, she was still energetic to come down, help to prepare the meals for the students, and prepare for us tea or other drinks. She even organised recreation for us. I remember those times when she was admitted to the hospital and we missed her presence. She was still concerned about the students' needs though she herself was in pain.

This was the Mrs Khoo I knew. Like the Lord Jesus Christ, she was loving, understanding, and forgiving. I thank the Lord for giving me the privilege to witness a little bit of her life to teach me how to be a faithful, committed, and loving servant someday, God willing.

Thang Deih Piang



My name is Thang Deih Piang. I am from Myanmar. First of all, I would like to thank God for His call to salvation as well as to service. Secondly, I thank God for giving me the privilege to study in FEBC as it was what I have been desiring and praying for. I also thank God for Elder John Leong for recommending me to the College. I must also thank God for the church, Tabernacle Bible-Presbyterian Church for supporting me financially throughout my four years of studies in FEBC.

Thirdly, I thank God for His sustaining grace throughout my studies in FEBC throughout these four years. As FEBC is also known as a spiritual SAFTI, there were times when I became downhearted because of my poor results, command of English, assignments, and exams. But the Lord encouraged me and brought me through. Moreover, my bad health, my dad's passing away, and my country's condition were pressing me down but the goodness of the Lord sustained me day by day and strengthens me all the way.

Fourth, thank God for the sound and deep doctrines of the Bible that I learnt under faithful teachers of God's Word here. They impacted me not just with their teachings but also with their own testimonies. Their faithfulness in expounding and teaching the Word, their hard

work in preparing the lectures, and their never-give-up attitude are such which have made a huge impact on me and encouraged me. Indeed these life lessons from my teachers are priceless and I sincerely desire to faithfully follow their example till my last breath.

Fifth, thank God for the staff who have been working behind the scenes. Their faithfulness and humility impacted me most. Not many know what they have contributed to the College and how they are essentially important to the sustenance of the College. However, they do not mind and continue serving God faithfully and humbly.

In conclusion, if not for God who has brought me through these four years of studies I would not be able to graduate and witness the 60th Anniversary of FEBC. Indeed, I declare affirmatively, "It is by God's help that I am what I am right now." *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."* (Ps 121:1-2).



COLLEGE NEWS

Day of Prayer

FEBC reopened with a Day of Prayer on Monday, July 19, 2021. About 50 in the College family—faculty, staff and students—gathered for a time of exhortation, fellowship and prayer at the FEBC Hall from 8.30am to 12pm. The Principal spoke from Luke 9:57–62, “*And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*” (Luke 9:57–62). He charged all to serve the Lord unconditionally with 100% commitment for it is an honour and privilege to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. In that Day of Prayer, the Principal called on all lecturers and tutors to give a brief word of exhortation to the students. FEBC has a total of 19 in the faculty including two new tutors—Cornelius Koshy and Eileen Chee—both MDiv graduates of FEBC. Both took the Dean Burgon Oath on stage to pledge their allegiance to God’s infallible and inerrant Word. Eileen also serves as Assistant Matron in the College.

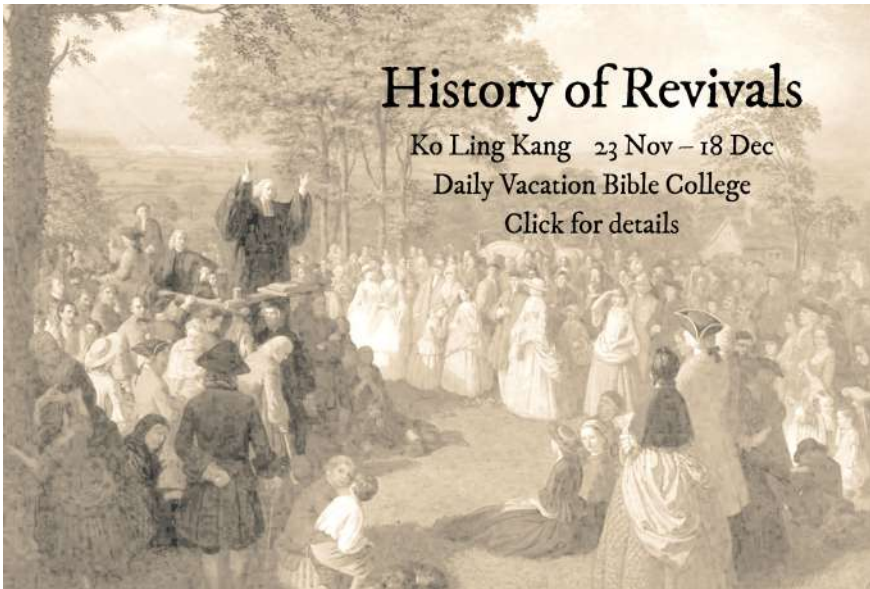
In the New Year 2022, FEBC reopened with a Day of Prayer on Monday, January 3. Faculty, staff, and students assembled at the FEBC Hall for a time of Bible meditation, testimonies, and prayer.

The Principal spoke from Ecclesiastes 3:1–11, in particular verse 11 which says, “*He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*” It is the Romans 8:28 of the Old Testament. Times are ugly for those without God, but when we have God in our minds and hearts, life and circumstances can be beautiful because God’s plan and purpose for His people are always good and will result in His glory.

The Principal also brought to the attention of the college family that the year 2022 is FEBC's 60th year (Diamond Jubilee). Throughout the six decades, FEBC has seen changes to its personnel, premises, and programmes, but its position in terms of doctrine can never and must never change. FEBC must remain a Reformed, Premillennial, Separatist Bible College by upholding the Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Bible, its consequent infallibility and inerrancy in the original languages, and its sole, supreme and final authority for faith and practice.

Daily Vacation Bible College (DVBC)

Three courses were offered at the DVBC from May 10 to July 2, 2021: (1) Angels and Demons (Dr Jeffrey Khoo), (2) Epistle of Jude (Dr Jose Lagapa), and (3) Jesus the Master Teacher (Ms Carol Lee). A total of 420 students from 66 churches and 17 countries enrolled.



One course on the History of Revivals taught by Ko Ling Kang (BTh, MDiv, ThM) was offered at the DVBC from November 23 to December 18, 2021. There were 194 students from 45 churches and 10 countries.

Total Enrolment

Total enrolment in the July–November 2021 semester was 665—25 full-time residential students and 640 part-time students. The part-time students were all taking the courses online due to the COVID-19 situation. The student body was represented by these 16 countries: Australia, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, and Thailand. There were three new full-time students: Cho Hyeon Seo (Korea), Hkaw Du Htin Htut (Myanmar), and Maria Mae Durango (Philippines).



Total enrolment in the January–April 2022 semester was 623—30 full-time residential students and 593 part-time students from 12 countries: Australia, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand. There were three new students: Andrew Abecendario Adolacion and Florante Campos Cabanas from the Philippines, and Lee Hasom from Korea.

Courses On-Campus and Online

Twelve Basic Theology for Everyone courses were offered to the public online in the July–November 2021 semester—nine were livestreamed (Biblical Missions, Biblical Covenants, 1 Timothy, Theology of Worship, Contemporary Theology III, History of Modern Israel, 2 Chronicles, Heaven and Hell, Systematic Theology III in

Chinese), and three were video-screened (Systematic Theology I, Hermeneutics, Christian Apologetics).



The lecturers/tutors (and courses) for the July–November 2021 semester were: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo (Systematic Theology I, Heaven and Hell), Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew (Hermeneutics, Hebrew Reading I, Homiletics, 2 Chronicles), Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy (Biblical Covenants), Rev Stephen Khoo (Church Administration), Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo (Bible Geography I, Church Music III), Rev Tan Kian Sing (1 Timothy), Miss Carol Lee (Sunday School Curriculum), Rev Dr Jose Lagapa (Biblical Missions), Rev Clement Chew (Hebrew Elementary I, Theology of Worship), Rev Zhu Jianwei (Systematic Theology III: Soteriology [Chinese]), Pr Samuel Joseph (Greek Exegesis I), Pr Cornelius Koshy (Greek Elementary I), Pr Joshua Yong (Contemporary Theology III), Miss Eileen Chee (History of Modern Israel), Dr John Whitcomb (Online: Christian Apologetics), Miss Khoo May Lynn (Pianoforte), Mrs Patricia Joseph (English Intensive I), and Eld Han Soon Juan (English Advanced I).

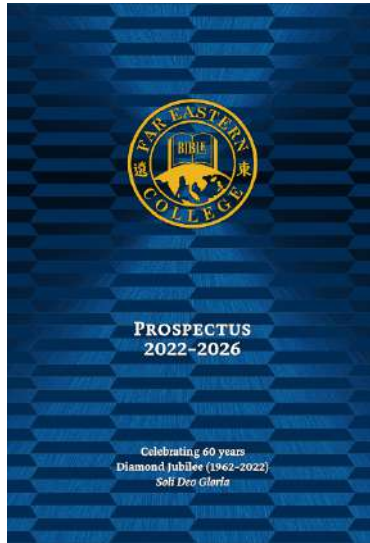
Eleven Basic Theology for Everyone courses were offered to the public online in the January–April 2022 semester—nine were livestreamed (Doctrine of Providence, Old Testament Poetry, Proverbs, Esther, 2 Timothy & Philemon, Church History I, Haggai & Zechariah,

Contemporary Theology IV, Systematic Theology IV in Chinese), and two were video-screened (Systematic Theology II, 1 Chronicles).



The lecturers/tutors (and courses) for the January–April 2022 semester were: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo (Doctrine of Providence), Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew (Old Testament Poetry, Homiletics, Hebrew Reading II), Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy (Proverbs), Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo (Bible Geography II, Church Music IV), Rev Stephen Khoo (Esther), Rev Tan Kian Sing (2 Timothy & Philemon), Rev Dr Jose Lagapa (Church History I), Rev Clement Chew (Hebrew Elementary II, Haggai & Zechariah), Miss Carol Lee (Theological Research and Writing), Rev Zhu Jianwei (Systematic Theology IV: Eschatology [Chinese]), Pr Joshua Yong (Contemporary Theology IV), Miss Joycelyn Chng (Introduction to Christian Education), Pr Cornelius Koshy (Greek Elementary II), Pr Samuel Joseph (Greek Exegesis II), Miss Khoo May Lynn (Pianoforte), Mrs Patricia Joseph (English Intensive II), and Eld Han Soon Juan (English Advanced II).

New Prospectus



The FEBC prospectus (2022–2026) commemorating the College’s Diamond Jubilee is out and can be downloaded from the College’s website (www.febc.edu.sg).

Quiz and Craft



On National Day, August 9, 2021, FEBC students enjoyed a time of Quiz and Craft organised by the Assistant Matron. It was a fun time of learning and fellowship. It certainly chased away some of the blues brought about by the pandemic.

Homegoing



Mdm Tay Siew Kheng (89), the beloved wife of the Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo and former piano teacher at FEBC, was called home to the Lord on November 19, 2021. Vigil was conducted by the Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo and Funeral by the Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Mrs Koa is buried at Choa Chu Kang Christian Cemetery on November 22, 2021. Rev Koa remains as lecturer in Bible Geography and Church Music at FEBC.

Wedding

The Principal—the Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo—married Eileen Chee on December 25, 2021 at Calvary Tengah Bible-Presbyterian Church. The wedding was solemnised by the Rev Dennis Kwok. Here is the Principal's testimony of how God provided for him another helpmeet

since the homegoing of his first wife Jemima (published in the True Life Weekly, December 19, 2021):

GOD HELPED ME WITH A HELPMEEET



I really must thank God for His good and gracious providence. Our Father in heaven sees and knows ahead and is able to provide for all our needs both physical and spiritual.

I thank God for providing me with my first wife Jemima some 30 years ago—the daughter of Rev Timothy Tow and Mrs Ivy Tow. At that time, I was a student at Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). She too was a student there. I was trying to look for a wife, but all my attempts were in vain. So, I gave up. I prayed, “Lord, I am a failure in looking for a wife. Please help me. Send one to me.” Soon after I prayed, the Lord sent Jemima to me. That was in 1986. I knew from that moment she was God’s will for me. She was an immediate answer to my prayer. We got married on May 22, 1991. Jemima helped me very much in the ministry. We served the Lord together as husband and wife for almost 30 years. On March 2, 2020, she was found to have a very rare form of lung cancer. We prayed for her healing. She fought a good fight. She wanted to live to serve the Lord with me. I wanted that too, very much. But it was not to be. The Lord saw fit to take her home on May 11, 2021. I can only submit to His will, “*the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*” (Job 1:21).

It was a most painful time for me with Jemima gone. Without Jemima, I felt handicapped in the ministry and I also felt lonely. I am

reminded of what God said in Genesis 2:18, *“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”* 1 Timothy 3:2 says the pastor must be *“the husband of one wife”*, but I have become the husband of no wife. Having served for nearly three decades as an ordained minister, I saw how necessary it is to have a wife by your side to help you in the ministry. I prayed, “Lord, you know my needs. Please help me and provide for me a wife.” The Lord had compassion on me and heard my prayer. He led me to Eileen Chee. It was love at first prayer (cf 1 Cor 7:39, Jas 1:5–8, Prov 18:22).

I felt I needed to tell the church about my intention to remarry and to ask for prayers as well. This I did at the church’s Friday night prayer meeting. I thank the Lord for a number of True Lifers who came forward to encourage me, to tell me they were praying for me. They even shared with me who they felt was most suitable—and every one without exception gave me just this name—Eileen—no other. Even my mother said, “I am praying for you and I am praying it will be Eileen.” All this was said to me without their knowing that the Lord had already placed Eileen in my mind. I believe this is the Lord’s directive will at work. I had asked the Lord for a sign, and He showed me not one but many signs that she is the one for me.

I am convinced that Eileen is most suitable. She studied at FEBC from 2008 to 2011 and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. She then served at FEBC as assistant to the Matron Mrs Ivy Tow for eight years before heading to Israel in 2019 for further studies at the University of Haifa for a year and a half. Although back in Singapore, she had every intention of going back to Israel for long-term ministry. I prayed the Lord to move her heart to serve in FEBC again if she was indeed the one for me. When I asked her to return to work at FEBC and forget about Israel, she said yes. The Lord heard my prayer and answered it most clearly.

When I finally took the step of faith to ask her to marry me, I am so thankful she again said yes. She has been praying for a husband too—specifically for one who is a pastor. The Lord heard both our prayers. It is the irresistible grace of God that brought us together. It is His providence at work. To me, the Lord gave and the Lord took, but the Lord gave again and without delay!

Although Eileen said yes, it was important I get her father's blessing. When I asked her father Mr Johnny Chee for her hand in marriage, he said something most encouraging, "It is very good that both of you can serve God together." I thank Eileen's father and mother for giving me their blessing. I thank the Lord also for my parents—Rev and Mrs Stephen Khoo—who have been supportive of me from the start, especially my mother who prayed for me. Most of all, I thank God for my two filial daughters—May Ann and May Lynn—for their faith in the Lord and for their love and support for me.

The wedding service will be held on Christmas Day morning at Calvary Tengah Bible-Presbyterian Church in the presence of our respective parents and immediate families, inviting just the Session of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and the Board of FEBC, with the Rev Dennis Kwok officiating and some friends helping. We are very sorry we cannot have all of you to attend the wedding personally. We take this opportunity to invite you to join us virtually (the link will be sent to you).

Our wedding verse is taken from Joshua 24:15, "*choose you this day whom ye will serve;... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*" We covet your prayers. All we need is God's grace. May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ grant us His grace to serve Him until He comes or until He calls us home!





**FEBC Students with Mrs Ivy Tow
on Her 84th Birthday**



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