

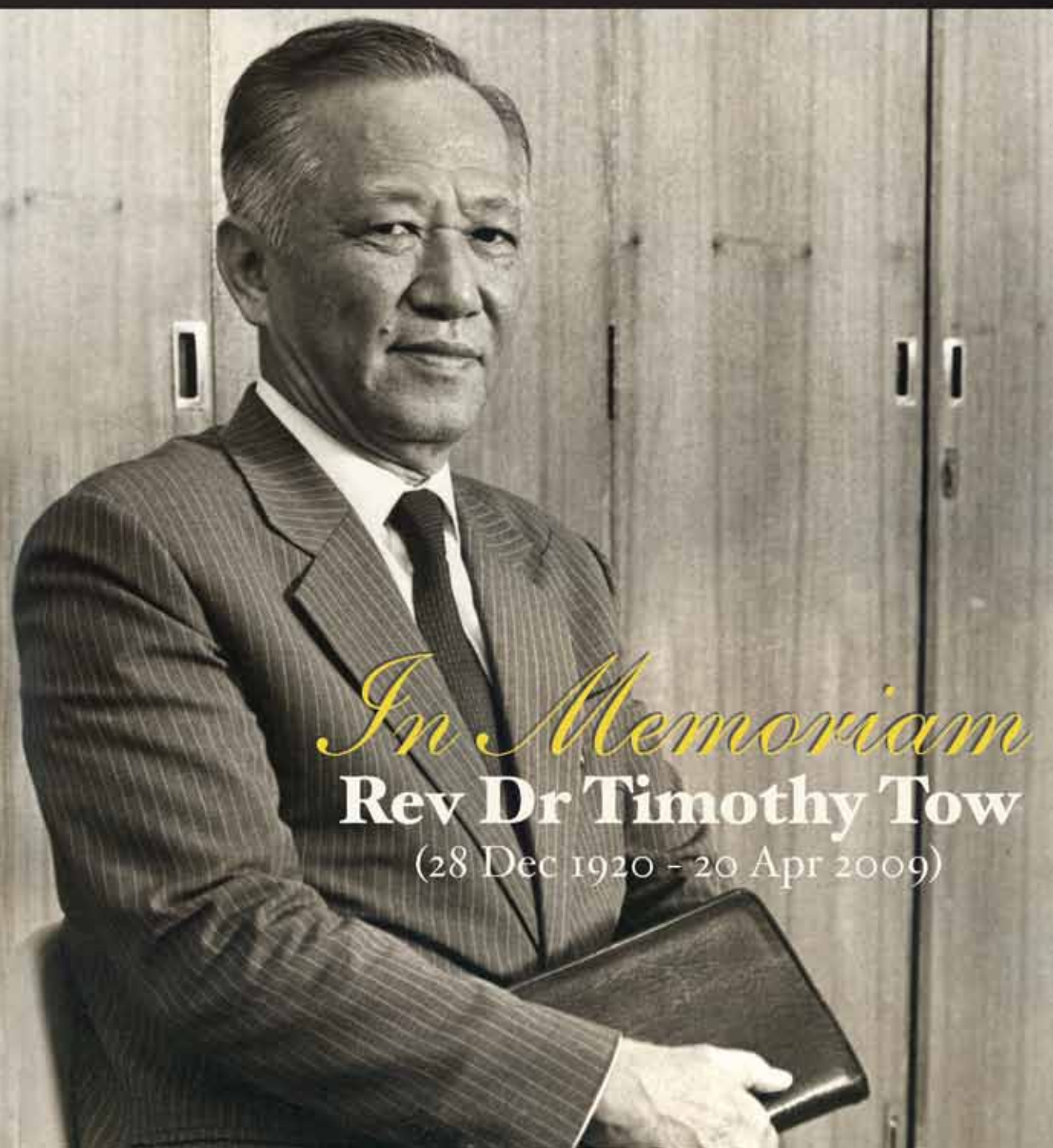
MARCH - JUNE 2009

MICA [P] NO. 197/03/2009

ISSN: 0219-5364

Volume 9 Issue 2

Bible Witness

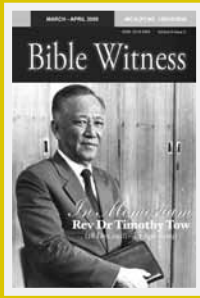


In Memoriam

Rev Dr Timothy Tow

(28 Dec 1920 - 20 Apr 2009)

CONTENTS



Editor

Prabhudas Koshy

Publishing & Circulation

Co-ordinator

Lok Kwok Wah

Technical Editors

Lok Kwok Wah, Jenny Lok, Ruth Low
& Melissa Mah

Cover Design

Prabhudas Koshy & Kenneth Wong

Layout

Kenneth Wong

Photographs

Family of Rev Timothy Tow, FEBC,
True Life BPC & Gethsemane BPC

Publisher

Bible Witness Media Ministry of
Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church,
Singapore

Printer

Eu Sin Printers Pte Ltd

Contact Information

By mail:

Bible Witness Media Ministry
510 Geylang Road, #02-06
Singapore 389466

Tel: (65) 6741 1910 Fax: (65) 6741 1016

Web-site: www.biblewitness.com

E-mail: editor@biblewitness.com

In memoriam: **Rev Dr Timothy Tow**

- 3** Editorial
- 4** In Memory of My Father
- 6** In Memory of My Brother
- 9** A Tribute to My Teacher
- 14** In Memory of My Spiritual Grandfather
- 20** Remembering Rev Dr Timothy Tow's Kindness
- 21** A Man who Served God in His Generation
- 22** A Tribute to My Beloved Late Tutor-Mentor
- 24** My Memory of the Faithful Man of God
- 25** A Man who Fought the Good Fight of Faith
- 27** Remembering the Late Rev Dr Timothy Tow
- 29** Remembering the words of My Spiritual Mentor
- 31** Condolences from Around the World

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The magazine is distributed free from 2006 onwards. "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

Postage and handling charges for 2 years (12 issues)

SURFACE MAIL	Singapore/Malaysia S\$10.00	Other Countries S\$14.00
AIR MAIL	Asia S\$26.00	Other Countries S\$34.00

International bank draft, money order or postal order drawn on a Singapore bank in Singapore dollars may be made payable to "Bible Witness".

LOVE-GIFT

Bible Witness Media Ministry welcomes love-gifts from readers to meet the cost of publishing and distribution. The Ministry also sends the magazine freely to churches in poorer countries. Hence your generous support is much needed and greatly appreciated.

USE OF ARTICLES

The articles may be freely used for non-commercial purposes, so long as they are quoted verbatim, and the writer as well as the source identified.

Editorial



*The casket of Rev Dr Timothy Tow at John Sung Auditorium,
Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church*

Dear Readers,

God has declared, "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance" (Psalm 112:6). He also instructs us, "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" (Hebrews 13:7).

It is God's pleasure that His people remember His servants who have served them well for the glory of God. Such a servant of God was Rev Dr Timothy Tow Siang Hui, whom the Lord has called home on 20th April 2009. Rev Tow, as he was lovingly known among his flock, was a man who never sought to make a name for himself in this world. He sought "the honour that cometh from God only" (John 5:44).

Every man leaves behind some kind of memory; and it depends entirely on what the man has been or what he has done. There are memories that do rot. There are also memories that would bless those that take time to dwell on them. Proverbs 10:7 says, "The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot."

Thousands around the world have been blessed by Rev Tow's life, teachings and pastoral ministry. Thousands who gathered during the three nights of memorial services and hundreds of condolences that his family, True Life B-P Church and Far Eastern Bible College have received from around the world speak volumes about the blessed legacy of Rev Tow.

On a personal note, the blessings that I have received through Rev Tow are too many to recount here; and I can never repay him in kind. I am certain that remembering Rev Tow through the pages of this magazine will bless and challenge the readers to live a life that would glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have included the messages and testimonies from the memorial services, and some of the tributes and condolences that we have received from his fellow labourers and students. (Visit www.febc.edu.sg where you can find a large electronic collection of his writings and sermons.) All glory be to God.

In His service,
The Editor

In Memory of My Father

Jonathan Tow

Many of you this evening know my father well. Some have co-laboured with him, many pastored by him, perhaps a number saved through him, and some taught by him. Regardless, many would agree that he was truly a man of God.

As Rev Tow's son, I've seen my father's life, both in the church and in the family. He was godly and devout. To me, he was a most gentle, patient, forgiving, generous, honest, loving, selfless, compassionate, gracious, loyal and obedient Christian. He practised what he preached. And, he always put God first. As a family, we witnessed this daily.

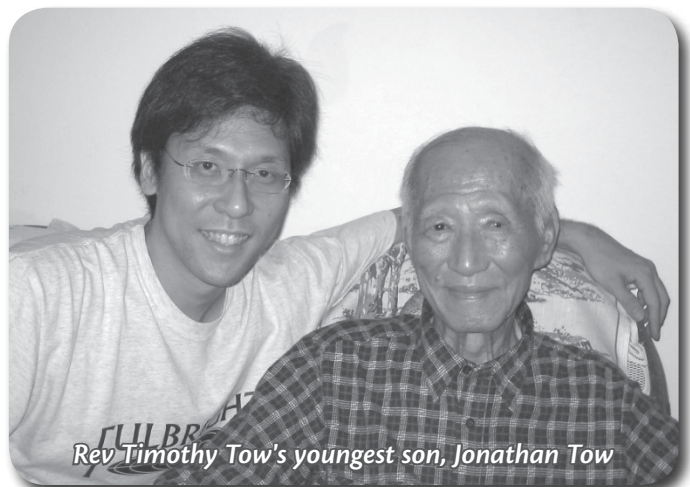
I just want to briefly share with you how my father was a man of faith and prayer. When confronted with situations, he always looked to the Lord for guidance and comfort. He recognised the sovereign will of God, and waited on His providence.

Even in darkest moments and times of grave disappointment, he never blamed God, nor did he vilify those who treated him with evil intent. He was always calm and urged us to be like Jesus, the way He prayed to His heavenly Father. Even when my father was faced with physical infirmities in his old age, he never complained. He always said to trust his Saviour. There were times I questioned the Lord why certain things befell my father, a most faithful servant of God. Each

time I tried to solicit some response from my father, he always pointed to the will of God. Such was his total faith in God, as he would say, "Trust the Lord, He has a plan in your life, commit to Him."

During his ministry, it was not uncommon for my father to give his entire salary to further God's work. It was natural (as men of flesh) to sometimes feel worried what tomorrow holds should my father be called to the Lord early. We had some common fears, since my father, in worldly terms, owned nothing; no property and barely a nominal bank account. But he always responded spiritually; that we must have faith, trust the Lord and He will provide. The Lord is faithful, and the material is immaterial.

In terms of prayer, my father always focused on seeking God's will through earnest prayer. He never offered worldly advice, but always pointed to God's will and seeking after His Word. Also, when in doubt, he would tell



Rev Timothy Tow's youngest son, Jonathan Tow

you to pray. Pray, pray and pray. When we were young, we had our own family prayer meeting. In recent times, with his grandchildren, he would teach them to pray and bless them with his prayers.

When I look back, I sometimes wonder how it is possible to live like the great men of faith in the Bible; how to lead godly lives in all aspects. While he was certainly not perfect, I've seen my father to be a good example and encouragement, someone whom we can emulate.

Finally, I want to share what I see to be a "thread" binding these attributes of my father together. It was his desire to show us that as a father, to love his family was to demonstrate the love of God, our heavenly Father, to us all. It is not about wealth or promises; it is about simple faith and trust in the Lord. This also required us to love the Lord.

My father understood that as a father, he was but a temporary guardian. He showed us that our true Father is God eternal. When my father departed, we do not remain fatherless. Like him, we have the same eternal Father. That, to me, is a key essence he imparted to us.

I am privileged to share in his life. I thank God that I was able to return to Singapore last month (March 2009)

for two weeks. My father was in good health and continued to have a clear and lucid mind. His eyesight remained perfect and he was still able to read in Chinese. He also read the newspapers and even asked me some questions on international relations, as I was working in New York. But what struck me most was his profound humour. During the two weeks, he must have been a little irritated that I kept asking him the same question: "Dad, how are you?" He usually nodded silently. On the final night before I returned to New York, I asked the same question a couple of times. This time, he grinned, and asked the same question: "Son, how are you?" I smiled. I was stumped. I saw what he meant. It was a profound response. We both understood.

I thank the Lord that my father returned to his heavenly Father peacefully in his sleep, and during a time when his health had significantly improved. It was, to me, a remarkable and glorious return. The Lord did not forsake His faithful servant. The Lord returned to my father (as appropriate and just) a healthy physical and mental state, to honour him and to prove His power and love. And then, He bid my father welcome home.



Jonathan Tow, Khoa-May Ann, Mrs Timothy Tow, Khoa May Lynn, Mrs Jonathan Tow, John Tow Shanton, Mrs Jeffrey Khoa, Jeffrey Khoa.

In Memory of My Brother

Tow Siang Hwa

Born in 1920, Timothy Tow was educated at Anglo-Chinese School, Singapore, graduating top of the Class and Seow Poh Leng Medalist in 1937. In 1947, in response to the consecration call of Dr John Sung in 1935 to full-time service, Timothy cancelled his law studies in London, and enrolled at Faith Theological Seminary in America. At Faith, he imbibed the spirit of the 20th Century Reformation from Dr Carl McIntire the President.

Returning to Singapore, Timothy Tow, with Elder Quek Kiok Chiang (both of Life Church – *Say Mia Tng*) founded “Life Church English Service” in 1950. In 1954, the Tow-Quek duo formally withdrew Life Church English Service from the WCC-linked Chinese Presbyterian Synod. This was a crucial first step of “Biblical Separation”. Thus the B-P Church was inaugurated, mustard seed fashion, which today has grown into a global church movement, like a great tree, “... so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof” (Matthew 13:32).

To sustain an afternoon service at 4pm in borrowed premises was a real challenge – keeping up interest and warding off drowsiness in those hot and humid Sunday afternoons, without air conditioning. Nevertheless, by God’s grace, the congregation grew. Rev Tow was faithful in preaching, visitation, prayer meeting and family worship. Those monthly family meetings held in the homes of members proved to be a popular event in the life of the church. It allowed the members and families to get together and to know one another.

Labouring tirelessly in the service for over fifty years, he was “Pastor Available”, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, “at your service” to all who had a legitimate need. For the Lord’s people, he was ever ready to spend and be spent. In the building of God’s House, Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, Gilstead Road, he played a crucial role in its design, construction and funding. He patterned the design after the typical American country church, with a porch lined by seven stately

Grecian columns, topped with a bell-tower and steeple. The church building is now a national heritage.

From the earliest days, Rev Tow was fired with a burning zeal for souls. This sent him and Elder Hsu Chiang Tai on numerous



Rev Timothy Tow and Dr S H Tow with fellow believers.

missions to Malaysia's "New Villages" to evangelise the Chinese who were resettled by Gen. Sir Harold Templer in the war against Communism. In those villages, his knowledge of Chinese dialects was put to excellent use. He spoke fluent Teochew, Hokkien, Hakka, Cantonese and Mandarin, to convey the Gospel message to the villagers.

Life Church, true to its name, was full of life, like a fruitful vine bearing much fruit for the Lord. In quick succession, Life Church brought forth many daughter churches: Sembawang, Zion, Kelapa Sawit, Kulai, Galilee, Calvary, etc.

While a student at Faith Theological Seminary, Rev Tow first heard from Dr Carl McIntire the call to Biblical Separation. His heart was strangely warmed, gripped by the clarion call to "... earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Many of those who started out well, apparently striving together with us, have fallen by the wayside. But Rev Timothy Tow has remained faithful and steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord.

The motto "...for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9) had kept him faithful, "holding forth the word of life" (Philippians 2:16), steadfast and unmoveable in his stand on the King James Bible, the Bible of the Reformation, the only Bible whose translators suffered the fires of Rome. While some B-Ps have defected from the KJV to embrace the NIV, NKJV and other corrupt modern English versions, he continued to hold fast, unmoveable to the end.

In money matters, Rev Tow was completely clean and meticulous. At Life Church Session meetings, it was always a difficult thing to persuade him to accept a pay rise. His chief concern was for the need of God's House. During the purchase of Beulah House (across the road from Life Church) at a cost of about six million dollars, his entire salary went towards the building fund. He led by example and the people followed. Thus inspired, the entire sum was realized in six months.

A man of prophetic vision, he founded the Far Eastern Bible College in 1962. In his words: "Without a college to train our own workers, the B-P Church will die." FEBC to date has turned out over 700 graduates, workers for God's vineyard in all parts of the world. Not only does FEBC keep on enlarging its training programme, it has also helped to found Bible institutes and colleges in Myanmar, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania and Cambodia.

Amazingly, in his eighty-third year, he left Life Church to found True Life B-P Church. While men may wonder, we are persuaded that the thing is of the Lord for the words of Jude 3 still apply.

Physical slowing down notwithstanding, the spirit was willing even though the flesh was weak. Spiritual mentor to many B-P pastors, Rev Tow continued to be faithful in the Lord's service, steadfast, unmoveable, fighting the good fight of faith until the very end. Who will follow in the footsteps of this dearly beloved, faithful and fearless soldier of the cross of Jesus Christ?

"The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Condolences

I am comforted to know that father went home to be with Jesus peacefully. He's now with all his loved ones gone before and the greats from the Bible. Comforting to know that father served his loving Master to the end. Father literally gave his ALL to God and Church. He's now praising Jesus in Heaven.

Continuing in fervent prayer for FEBC . . .

Mrs Lily Dauber

Rev Tow's daughter in the United States

Dr Tow was indeed a champion for his Saviour and for the Word of God that he held higher and more precious than any words of men. We grieve that his former friends ... did him so much evil, simply because he believed in the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ to preserve His Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words verbally and plenary down to this very minute.

Though late in life, he stepped out and founded a new church, which now continues for the glory of our God. I remember him well when I was in a Bible conference in his church and that of his brother, Dr S. H. Tow, there in Singapore. After several of my sermons, he would greet me and say to this Bible-believing Baptist preacher, "WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH." I will never forget meeting this kind and godly gentleman.

Though he was thousands of miles away from me, I will miss him and his godly courage . . . May God continue to raise up many others in your fellowship to take the place of this illustrious and fearless Christian leader. I will inform our church and will pray for all of those in Singapore and around the world who loved him.

In Christ,

Pastor and Mrs D. A. Waite and
the Bible For Today Baptist Church,
Collingswood, New Jersey, USA

Your very special husband, father and grandfather is with the Lord. We too will see him again when we see the Lord.

From the first day that I met Dr Tow at seminary, he was a completely faithful servant of the Lord. His encouraging words to me in 1966 caused me to stay and complete seminary. His same encouraging actions and words helped me greatly in also starting a college to train preachers and teachers.

For 52 years, I and many other ministers have benefited in our preaching and teaching of God's Word by the books and the teachings of Dr Timothy Tow. Here are precious words of assurance that mean much to me; at the end of I Thess 4:17, "and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

For months after returning from Singapore back in 2005, I promised one more trip to Singapore before the Lord would take Dr Timothy Tow home, unless I go first. On Sunday, April 19, I fell at home and went to the hospital – no broken bones but we almost went together. I'm OK.

With our deepest sympathy and many precious promises from God's Word,

Art Steele

A Tribute to My Teacher

Quek Suan Yew

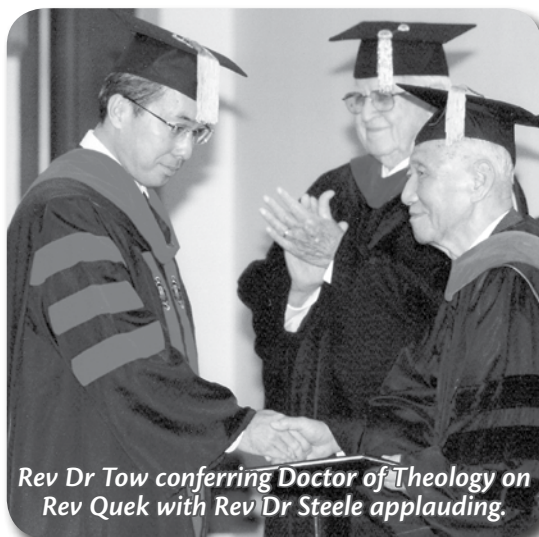
Rev Tow was my teacher. Please permit me to rephrase and say “Rev Tow was OUR teacher.” We are here tonight because Rev Tow lived a life that has touched our lives. He has taught us how to live as Christians and how to love his LORD Jesus Christ. May these words from Ecclesiastes 7:1-4 be true of us all tonight as we leave here. “A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting; for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.”

I first heard Rev Tow preach when he spoke at Sunset Gospel Hour (today called Sunset Gospel Bible Fellowship) nearly 30 years ago. His messages from God's Word were simple and yet profound. He had the gift of bringing out the thrust of the passage he spoke from with the greatest of ease. His statements and restatements of God's Word were like gems from heaven. This is especially true when he taught the Psalms. Psalm 34 – As One Snatched from a Tiger's Mouth and Psalm 36 – Man's

Megalomania vs. God's Majesty are but only two examples of many. Rev Tow explained God's truth with very apt and precise illustrations and testimonies. He made sure that the Word of God was always applied to the hearts whenever he taught. Once, he taught his students that if the Word of God is not applied, it is like shadow boxing. “The application has to be very pointed like a shot from a high-powered rifle and not like the many pellets from a shotgun,” Rev Tow would remind his students. But the most well known of all his illustrations that he repeats over and over again till it is indelibly etched in his students' mind is the “banana skin story”. We learned from Rev Tow how to teach and preach God's Word with precision.

My first personal encounter with Rev Tow was when I was looking for a Bible college to study in preparation for the full-time ministry. I had visited other Bible colleges before visiting FEBC. What struck me on my first personal contact with Rev Tow was

his godly counsel. He pointed me to God in my search, unlike others whom I spoke with who merely trumpeted the strengths of their colleges. Rev Tow lived as he preached and taught God's Word. At the end of the meeting, he prayed for me unlike the others who



Rev Dr Tow conferring Doctor of Theology on Rev Quek with Rev Dr Steele applauding.

treated full-time calling as a profession and they just said 'good bye'. Rev Tow understood and empathized with a young man's struggles and search for training and ministry. He always pointed us to Christ, and not to himself. There was no need for all these degrees in counselling. He taught many times that the only thing counsellors need today is the Word of God, not a piece of paper. With the Word of God in our heads and hearts, we are to counsel according to God's inerrant and infallible truth. We learned from Rev Tow how to counsel according to Scriptures.

Rev Tow was always available to all. He made time for all who came to see him, no matter how insignificant the matter was; even if it was for road directions! His life was his ministry and his ministry was his life. "24/7" was his motto and he practised it. To serve man in the name of the LORD is to serve God. To love man, even his enemies, in the LORD was to love the LORD Himself. 1 John 4:20-21 – "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." No call to preach God's Word or to share the Gospel was refused. Rev Tow was ever ready to go, because he was always shod with the shoes of the Gospel of peace. He needed no day off. An off day was like any other day ... a day spent on God's work and Word. He never talked about salary. "The moment a pastor speaks of his salary, he is a hireling" was what Rev Tow declared oft times. The line was very clearly drawn. There were few "grey areas" in Rev Tow's life. The Bible was Rev Tow's infallible guide. He made friends with the Bible as his basis. His love for man

was not sentimentalism. It was according to the truth of God's Word. For example, those who attacked his LORD and the Bible were not his friends. I once observed that Rev Tow did not shake the hand of one who attacked the Word of God, even when that person's hand was stretched out in front of him. The LORD and the Bible were the foundations of his life and ministry. We learned from Rev Tow the meaning of full-time ministry.

On many occasions, Rev Tow stood alone. Rev Tow's strength and courage was in his LORD. For the sake of truth and righteousness, Rev Tow would forsake all, even his ministry, and especially when the ministry is no longer God-honouring. The reason is that Rev Tow's ministry was his LORD, not a church or a college nor based on some sentimental feelings. Blood is not thicker than water when it comes to truth and righteousness. As long as that person or church or Bible college loves the LORD, Rev Tow would go out of his way to help. But when God's perfect Word or the name of his LORD Jesus Christ is diminished, even in the very slightest way, Rev Tow would stand up for his LORD and fight the good fight of faith to the very end. We learned from Rev Tow biblical courage and strength.

Rev Tow always held God's Word in the highest regard. His life was temperate and self-effacing. He not only taught his students God's Word but he lived out God's Word. He constantly reminded his students that the world is a dangerous and wicked place. Beware of the sins of the lust of the eyes and lust of the flesh and the pride of life. The world would persecute or seduce us. Either way we are destroyed if we succumb to these sins. Be circumspect and flee even the

appearance of evil. Rev Tow was not perfect, for no man is, but Rev Tow was holy - he lived his life as he preached. We learned from Rev Tow that life is a battleground and not a playground.

Three days after I entered FEBC, I was assigned to preach during the Homiletics class. This was the swimming pool of preaching for every student. We are thrown in and learn immediately how to swim homiletically. I was literally trembling when I stood behind the pulpit. Thank God that the pulpit was made of wood and not the transparent Perspex or else Rev Tow would have seen my knees knocking uncontrollably. We feared him, yet we loved and admired him. He looked stern and had a no-nonsense demeanour. But behind the stern facade and small stature was a kind and compassionate giant with a tender heart of gold. He gave chances upon chances to all who were prepared to learn and repent and turn from sin and error. He set aside personal feelings for the sake and cause of Christ. He knew many had taken advantage of his mercy and grace, but Rev Tow would always err on the side of mercy and grace rather than turn one genuine repentant sinner away. We learned from Rev Tow how justice must be tempered with compassion and mercy, and to give second chances.

Perhaps out of all of Rev Tow's testimonies, what he has taught his students best is his life of humility. Time and time again Rev Tow would remind his forgetful students that the formula for success in ministry is HUMILITY! HUMILITY! HUMILITY! In an age and time when pastors are more concerned with form than substance, Rev Tow stands out like a rose among thorns. While the people are as their pastors, more

concerned with decorating and beautifying church buildings, Rev Tow "built" the lives of sinners and turned them into saints by his life of humility and faithful preaching of God's Word. Pastors today pride themselves in their hundred-dollar hairstyles and strut around like peacocks in their thousand-dollar suits. Rev Tow would quietly stroll around the grounds of FEBC dressed in his well worn slacks and blue FEBC T-shirt and, of course, his feet were shod with the famous "char kia". His demeanour was most unassuming. "His LORD Jesus Christ must increase and Rev Tow must decrease" was the message he constantly sent to his students as he walked among the trees and plants in FEBC. Those who didn't know him would never guess that Rev Tow was the principal and founder of FEBC and the B-P Movement, a ministry that spanned across the globe from Tanzania to Canada to Australia and the uttermost parts of the jungles of Indonesia and Borneo. He looked more like the doorkeeper of God's house than a man mightily used of God. But that was Rev Tow. He did not need all the external trappings to be who he was . . . a servant of the Most High God. To Rev Tow, "a day in thy [God's] courts is better than a thousand. I had [he'd] rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my [his] God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Psalm 84:10). We learned from Rev Tow the true meaning of humility.

The list of lessons learnt from the life of Rev Tow is definitely not exhaustive. Rev Tow has made full proof of his ministry by his long years of courageous and faithful service. 2 Timothy 4:6-8 sums up well the life of Rev Tow as it summed up the life of the great apostle Paul - "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is

at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

All his students thank God that the LORD has graciously guided our lives to cross that of His servant, Rev Tow. The impact of Rev Tow's life in his students is immeasurable. His students owe Rev Tow their theology, precious lessons on how to live a godly life, how to minister with humility, to be sacrificial without complaining, how to love God and man, even his enemies, that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and so much more that time and space would not permit the listing of them all tonight. All his students thank the LORD for Rev Tow's life of obedience, faith and service. Rev Tow has served us in his life even as he served the LORD Jesus Christ. Now his students must remember Rev Tow, not by serving Rev Tow or praising Rev Tow but by serving Rev Tow's LORD Jesus Christ. He would not have it any other way. All of Rev Tow's life has been to point his students to Christ and not to himself. Let us all honour our teacher, God's faithful servant, Rev Tow, by loving the LORD Jesus Christ and continue to faithfully and courageously defend the inerrant, infallible and divinely inspired and preserved perfect

Word of God. We are to uphold the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ by a life of holiness. Rev Tow has left behind for us an example to follow even as he followed the LORD.

Rev Tow is not dead. He is more alive now than ever before. He did not die of old age or Alzheimer's (he was most alert whenever the Word of God was preached even as recent as a week ago, for his mind was lucid and clear though his body was weak) or a broken heart. He has been called home to glory, for his labour in the LORD is complete. His well-earned rest has just begun, and he is safe and secure in the arms of his Saviour. Rev Tow's enemies can take his earthly works but his spiritual works have followed him to glory. Revelation 14:12-13 – "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev Tow's works are not made of bricks and mortar. Rev Tow's works are the lives and ministries of his students who have been forever transformed by the power of the LORD and His perfect Word.



Rev Quek Suan Yew, Rev Stephen Khoo, Mrs Ivy Tow & Rev Timothy Tow.

One day we shall meet our teacher again in the clouds of glory. This separation is only for a moment. Rev Tow's work for the LORD is done. His students remain to continue the work of God. While we wait for that blessed reunion, let us be faithful and true to our Saviour Jesus Christ, the way that our teacher Rev Tow has been faithful. May we be comforted and encouraged by the words of the LORD in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and

rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." AMEN.

Condolences

I am currently in the U.S. on church visitations, and just heard the news of Dr Tow's homegoing to be with the Lord. I regret the fact that my schedule here prevents me from attending his funeral. Although he has entered his rest, I am deeply saddened by this great loss and the large vacuum that he has left. He has fought the good fight (2 Tim 4:7-8) and challenged us with his devotion and commitment to the Lord and to the Word of Truth. We have to take his torch and carry on the task which he has left behind for us. There remains also a generation of traitors, heady and highminded (2 Tim 3:4). Our prayers are with Mrs Tow, his beloved ones and the family of True Life and FEBC.

In the Bond of Christ,
Rev Mark Kim
Principal
Bible College of East Africa
Kenya

I heard that the Lord has called Rev Dr Timothy Tow home to glory. He was a man of great faith, humility, boldness and vision in the Lord's vineyard. His faithfulness and fervour resulted in the establishment of churches, Bible colleges, etc. around the world. I thank God for the fellowship I had with him through ICCC. I have had the privilege of interpreting his messages when he came to Kerala, India, to preach the Word of God.

My wife and I would like to express our deepest condolences to Mrs Ivy Tow and the family members. We are also praying that God's continuing blessings be upon the church and FEBC.

In Christ,
Bishop M.K. Koshy
St Thomas Evangelical
Church of India

In Memory of My Spiritual Grandfather

Prabhudas Koshy

Our beloved Rev Dr Timothy Tow was called home by his Creator, Redeemer and King on 20th April 2009. Because of his departure, we are gathered here tonight as mourners. We all feel a great sense of loss. My loss is as great as that of anyone alive. Death has done us serious injury, doubtless. It is not a small thing that God's servant who has always pointed us to Jesus Christ, who has always nurtured us with God's perfect Word, who has always cheered us with love and compassion, who has counselled us with wisdom, who has led us by his godly example, who battled to protect us from error, will not be with us anymore. Some would feel as though they are sheep without a shepherd. O, how death has broken that golden bowl!

Now that it has pleased the Lord to take His servant home, we must find our help in the Lord whom Rev Timothy Tow has trusted as

his refuge and strength all his days on earth. God's Word teaches us in Hebrews 13:7 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." If we would truly honour the memory of His servant, we must follow his faith, considering how he lived it out to the very end of his life. There can be no better tribute to Rev Tow's legacy than we who have been ministered by him, preach the Gospel everywhere, defend the truth of God's Word, serve His people with love and humility, and wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As I was preparing to speak tonight, my heart was very heavy. My mind was full of many experiences I had of Rev Tow. I will mention only a few of them.

My first encounter with Rev Tow was three decades ago in a small town in India. He went there to preach in an annual convention of St Thomas Evangelical Church. I was thirteen years old then. I remember him as a clear and passionate expositor of God's Word. Rev Tow was a friend of my dad through ICC. On his way to the airport, he stopped to view the house my father was building, and I remember



Rev Timothy Tow with Rev & Mrs Prabhudas Koshy

him praying at the site that God would help to complete the house and bless it. My impression of him then was that he was a man of God with excellent knowledge of the Word and a love for His people. That impression of Rev Tow has never changed. In fact, it has only increased with time.

Rev Tow had a unique way of encouraging and assuring the troubled. He was always quick to remind the troubled that they can trust the good providence of the Lord if they live obediently. The Scripture portion that he commonly used was Romans 8:28. God had also blessed him with a very astute and witty mind. I would like to relate to you how he tried to assure me while I was going through a time of trial at the end of my BTh course in FEBC. My parents were very concerned about my decision to marry a Singaporean Christian girl who is my wife today. Rev Tow knew that troubled me much. So he called me to his parsonage. He then wittily said, "Das, reverse the spelling of your name and read it." It then

read "sad!" Then, with a smile, he said to me, "Brother, if you have sought the Lord and found Carolyn to be God's provision for you, then God will take care of your marriage. Let your dad know that I will solemnize your wedding, and they should not be too worried about it." Then on the wedding day, in his sermon, he said to all the guests, "Das is my Indian grandson." During the reception that followed, he told me with a smile, "I told everyone that you are my grandson because I want you to know that I am happy with your marriage and nobody should worry about it. God will take care of you." He said those things 17 years ago. Yesterday morning, I was watching a video recording of an interview with Rev Tow that I did three years ago for Bible Witness Media Ministry. During that interview, he reminded me, with a huge smile on his face, "I said that you are my grandson." He has truly ministered to me like my spiritual grandfather! He has taught me, corrected me, assured me and spurred me on. When we started publishing the Bible Witness magazine nine years ago, he said to me, "Brother, the sky is the limit. Keep up the good work." Tonight, I thank God with all my heart for giving me a spiritual, Chinese grandfather.

The Lord has indeed made him a "father" to many. We, who have been blessed to receive God's love and care, rebuke and correction, encouragement and help, truth and wisdom, ought to glorify the Lord with faithful and fervent service.

Rev Tow's writings and recorded sermons would continue to provide us with much Scriptural truths and counsel. With reference to these published materials of Rev Tow, Dr



Solemnisation of the wedding by Rev Tow

Jeffrey Khoo aptly commented, "He being dead yet speaketh."

If you would take time to read and consider them, you would surely see that certain spiritual concerns always preoccupied Rev Tow's heart. Let me mention some of them: (i) Salvation of sinners, (ii) Nurture of believers in the Word, (iii) Establishment of churches and Bible schools around the world, (iv) Training of faithful men for the ministry of the Word through Far Eastern Bible College, (v) Reformed, premillennial doctrines, and (vi) Purity of the church through separation from sin, falsehood, liberalism, ecumenism, charisma and unfaithful translations of the Bible.

Doctrinal and practical purity of the church was a great concern of Rev Tow's heart. Just as it was in the beginning of his ministry, it also gripped his heart in the last days of his ministry on earth. His final battle for the purity of the church was his stand against the proliferation of versions based on corrupt texts of the Scripture. He warned the church again and again against inaccurate modern versions. Some loved him and some others hated him for his steadfast fight for God's inspired and preserved words in the Hebrew and Greek texts that underlie the King James Bible.

Rev Tow wrote in one of his pastoral letters, "A new form of attack on God's Word, however, has arisen. It is by the proliferation of translating the Bible based on the corrupt text of Westcott and Hort since the mid-twentieth century. This has caused an alarm bell to be sounded by Edward F. Hills, D. A. Waite, . . . the Trinitarian Bible Society, not least the Far Eastern Bible College. The

hundred versions now flooding the market, headed by the NIV (New International Version), are now further condemned by the ICCC (International Council of Christian Churches) at its 50th Anniversary, August 1998, to be 'perversions'. We support only the King James Bible, which has served the Church for almost 400 years. It is the most accurate and faithful translation based on the time-honoured and time-preserved Textus Receptus. We believe with the Westminster Confession that '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' (Psalm 12:6, 7). For Westcott and Hort to change the Textus Receptus and discard the equivalent of I and II Peter is cutting out a part of the heart of the Bible."

Now I would read that last part of that article. May we listen intently. "Will Our Sons Defend the Faith? Let the son of the author pick up his father's pen to add a new chapter on 'KJB vs the hundred perversions'. And if there arises another form of Satanic attack on God's Word, let his son's son continue 'to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints'. 'Fighting for the Faith Against an Undercover Enemy' is our watchword. Amen."

At this juncture, I want to say a word to all the dear brethren of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and Far Eastern Bible College. You, who have stood with your pastor and principal, Rev Timothy Tow, with steadfast love and undivided loyalty, have supported him to the very end for the purposes for which God has raised His servant. May your hearts be filled with the consolations of the

divine Comforter, the blessed Holy Spirit. Our comfort, beloved, is in our unwavering faith in the words of the Lord, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33).

Mrs Ivy Tow and all the dear ones of the family of the late Rev Timothy Tow, we pray that God's peace that passeth all understanding will guard your hearts in Christ Jesus.

Brethren, let us take heed to follow the good doctrines and good example that God has given us through His servant. Let us remember also that we do not bid farewell forever. All those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ shall meet again before the throne of our Great Redeemer and King. Let us therefore comfort one another with the promises of our Saviour and wait for the day of resurrection at His soon return. Amen.

Condolences

A Tribute to God's Faithful Servant and Our Beloved Brother in Christ

The ICCC receives with great sorrow the news of Rev Dr Timothy Tow's going home to be with the Lord. We are joined in our grief by many who have known him as teacher, mentor and fellow labourer for the cause of Christ. We have lost a faithful servant of the Lord.

It is with deep respect and praise that we reflect on his life and legacy. In this day of apostasy and compromise, he boldly and unswervingly stood for the primacy of God's Word, Biblical separation and fundamentalism. His pioneering of the Bible-Presbyterian movement by the founding of Life B-P Church and the Bible College movement through the Far Eastern Bible College continues to impact Singapore and other communities around the world. It was during Rev Dr Tow's time as President of FECCC that ICCC was strongest and united in spirit. We praise God for his faithful life, made possible by his response to God's abundant grace.

Those who remain must not remove the landmark that he has set (Prov 22:28); they must not undermine the foundations that he carefully laid. He is no longer with us, but his conviction, spirit and love for God's Word will be carried on by his many disciples in Asia, Africa and in the far corners of the world.

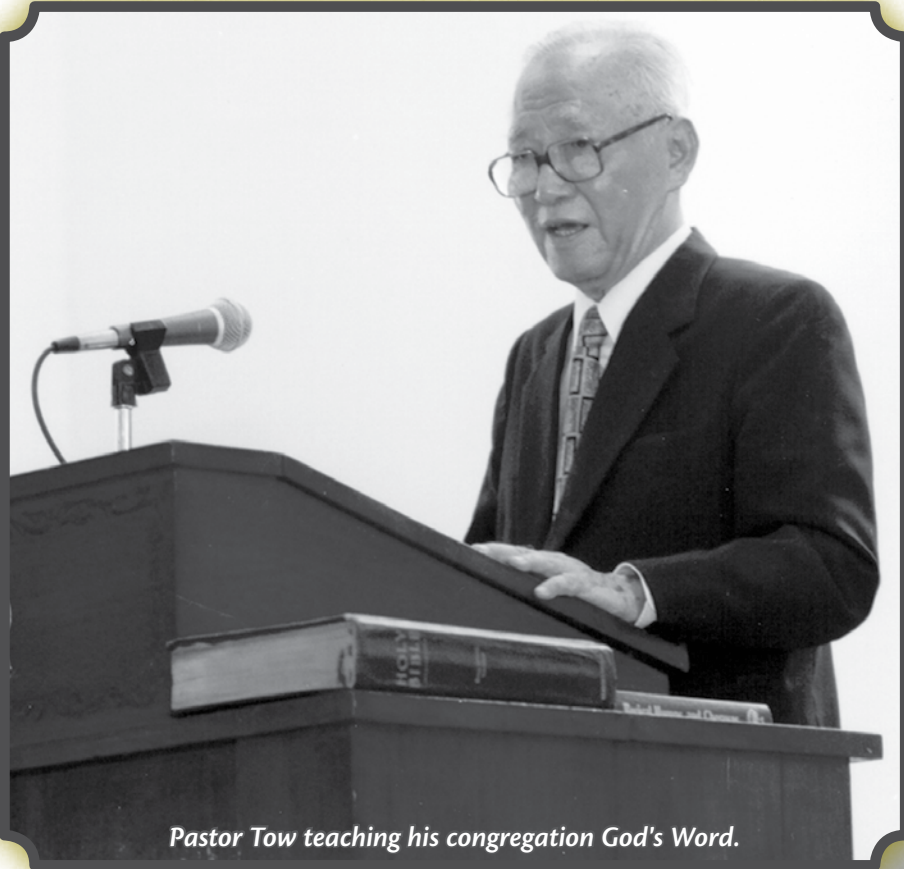
We do not sorrow as those who have no hope (1 Thess 4:13), but look forward to the day of our glorious reunion. We extend our sincere condolences to Mrs Tow and to the beloved family of Rev Dr Tow.

In His Service,
Kwang Jae Choi
President, ICCC

*Dr Carl McIntire, Dr J C Maris
& Rev Dr Timothy Tow
(During the 50th Anniversary
of International Council
of Christian Churches)*



In Memoriam - Rev Dr Timothy Tow



Pastor Tow teaching his congregation God's Word.



*Rev Tow baptizing
True Life*



*Conferring ThD on Rev P
together with Dr Ar*



With comrades in the proclamation and defence of God's truth.

*From L-R (back): Mrs Jemima Khoo, Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Tan Kian Sing,
Dr George Skariah, Rev Prabhudas Koshy, Rev Quek Suan Yew & Miss Carol Lee.
From L-R (front): Rev Koa Keng Woo, Mrs Ivy Tow, Rev Timothy Tow, Dr Arthur
Steele & Dr S H Tow.*

In Memoriam - Rev Dr Timothy Tow



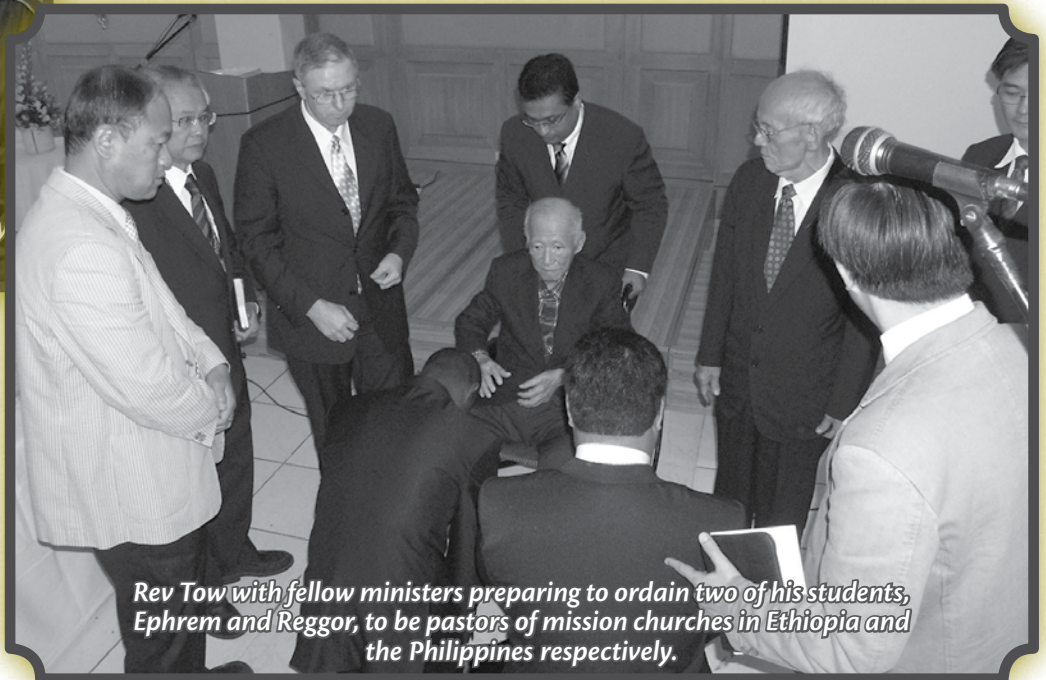
*Baptism of a child of Christian parents in his congregation,
B-P Church, assisted by Dr Jeffrey Khoo.*



*Baptism of a new believer by Rev Tow assisted
by the late Elder Eric Mahadevan.*



*Dr Prabhudas Koshy
with Dr Arthur Steele.*



*Rev Tow with fellow ministers preparing to ordain two of his students,
Ephrem and Reggor, to be pastors of mission churches in Ethiopia and
the Philippines respectively.*

Remembering Rev Dr Timothy Tow's Kindness

Mah Chin Kwang

Memories of Rev Dr Timothy Tow live on in the hearts of many people for many reasons. Many of us in Gethsemane shall surely remember him for his love and kindness to our church expressed through his practical encouragement and unfailing support. I recall that on one particular occasion I publicly acknowledged this. I thanked him for his support of Gethsemane by his presence that day and for his continued support even when he is not present. That remark, which he did not react to, keeping to his hallmark humility, expressed a sentiment that remains permanently etched in my mind and heart. By word and action, Rev Tow had always encouraged us from the beginning to his final days.

At the inaugural service of our church on March 5, 1988, in a humble function room in the Duke Hotel, Rev Tow was there with a word of encouragement for us. When we decided to press on in faith, struggling in the absence of a full-time servant of the Lord a year later, Rev Tow quickly assigned one of the students from FEBC, Bro Abednego from Ghana to serve in our midst. When Bro Abednego left for theology studies in London towards end-1990, Rev Tow immediately sent yet

another, and in his own words, his best student - Prabhudas Koshy to serve in our midst. When we stepped out in faith to serve the Lord in Harvey Avenue, in Simei, Rev Tow was again there at the dedication service of the rented premises to support and exhort us. Through the years, he came to minister to us, small as we may be. Even in recent years when he was frail and unable to walk unaided, he continued to show his love to us and found strength to travel long distances to spend time with us at our Church Camps in Batam, Indonesia, and Port Dickson, Malaysia, and at our Missionary Conference in Cebu, the Philippines.

These are the significant events that I recall of his support for our church and ministry. There were certainly countless things he had done: encouraging words he gave and prayers that he supplicated on Gethsemane's behalf over the past 20 years. I am convinced that I, and I must say, all of us in Gethsemane as well, have been the more blessed of God because of Rev Tow's love and kindness to us.

May the Lord help each of us in Gethsemane B-P Church and beyond, to learn of Rev Tow's exemplary love and kindness.



Rev Tow at Elder Mah's home

A Man who Served God in His Generation

Lee Kim Shong

The Word of God said of David "...after he had served his own generation by the will of God, [he] fell on sleep..." (Acts 13:36). If we are not serving our generation, who will? Men of the world hope and yearn to be served. Do we Christians hope and yearn to serve others for Christ's sake? The Lord has saved us, not to serve ourselves but others for Christ's sake.

Eighty-nine years ago, the Lord sent a baby boy into this world. It was God's gracious response to a praying mother. He was Timothy Tow Siang Hui. The mother vowed to the Lord that this son should be given for His service. Throughout the years, the Lord worked in marvellous ways to mould His servant for His ministry.

Rev Timothy Tow had gone through many severe trials in his life and ministry. The Lord raised him to start a mission-minded church movement called "Bible-Presbyterian Church". Not only that, the Lord had also moved him to start a Bible college in Singapore by the name of "Far Eastern Bible College". Many have received the Gospel blessings through his ministry.

In recent years, his physical body gradually became weak. Nevertheless, the Lord sustained him in many instances. His mind was clear and he still showed concern for the Lord's

work. There were times he made great effort to teach or preach though encumbered with infirmities. And the time has come for the Lord to take His faithful servant home in the early morning of 20 April 2009.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

Rev Timothy Tow indeed had served his generation. We, who have received the spiritual blessings through his ministry, want to thank God for him. He was an instrument of God's grace to many people around the world.

"The memory of the just is blessed..." (Proverbs 10:7).



Rev Lee Kim Shong, Rev Timothy Tow & Bro Dominino

A Tribute to My Beloved Late Tutor-Mentor

Brutus Balan

*He walked the corridors of Gilstead
Yet he filled the spaces of our spiritual homestead*

*Clutching his black Bible high up and close to his heart
He was sure footed and simple smart*

*He looked his pupil in the pupil
Yet not dismissing the disciple like some people*

*He was a man of small stature
But seemed a giant, a godly creature*

*He smiled, just a measured little
Enough to tell that you are not a mere tittle*

*He evoked awe and reverend fear
All froze in mid sentence in silence to seer*

*A man not known for many words
Yet he spoke in volumes in many goodly works*

*A simple man, looking like a caretaker than a principal and pastor
Pomp and pride was never his character*

*Like his Master once mistook for a gardener
He too paced the place in like manner*

*He came to lecture just his Bible and his mind
All his notes embedded somewhere in this godly kind*

*Words unknown spilled and thrilled
Learning English with theology our minds were filled*

*His voice vivid and clear still ringing in ear
Though time has passed year after year*

*Time has passed yet he speaketh
His voice still heard, his life still meaneth*

*Many have gone near and far with his fire
In heavenly desire and die to retire*

To have known him and to have caught him
Is to be his kith and kin humming a grateful hymn

In praise to God for a servant true and right
A model to follow for dill and the bright

Now laid to rest after doing his humanly best
His work goes on with the faithful rest

His life lives on with his children not his born
Father of many, still true but few, with some gone

His memory soon forgotten
But a stone in a building block, a token

As is the case with those passed into glory
A mere passing reference not knowing the full story

But he will be known as he walks the heaven's garden
Meeting and greeting myriad saints the pardoned

His grave may settle but we will remember
Till the day in body we soon will slumber

God forbid the praise of a man, yea, even our own
But he was a man in whom Christ was known

His name is Timothy Tow
To many of us, just Reverend Tow

So till we meet again, dear teacher,
Rest in Peace, sir!



Rev Timothy Tow, Pastor & Mrs Brutus Balan and Mrs Ivy Tow.

My Memory of the Faithful Man of God

Reggor Galarpe

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).

Monday morning while having breakfast, I received a call from Bro Eli Ortega in Singapore relaying the sad news that Rev Dr Timothy Tow, our beloved principal of FEBC and the founder of the Bible-Presbyterian movement in Singapore and Asia, has gone to be with the Lord around 5:45 in the morning.

After that brief phone conversation, I went back to the breakfast table and shared with Carol the sad news. My thoughts were then filled with my own fond memories of the great man of God from whom I am one of those privileged to have received sound Biblical instruction. I am richly blessed to have sat at his lectures on Systematic Theology, Calvin's Institutes, Homiletics and all other subjects from which I learned a lot, including many practical lessons pertaining to the ministry.

To the students, Rev Tow was not only a principal and teacher but also a father and friend. I can still remember how he would invite students to join him for lunch at the stone table (I have had this privilege on not a few occasions) where he

would take time to chat with the students as a father to his children or as a friend. Together with Mrs Tow, they both have shown sincere concern for the needs of the students, especially for foreign students like me.

In our devotion that Monday morning, we took time to ponder upon Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:6-8: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." No doubt, Rev Tow had fought a good fight; had finished the course; and had kept the faith.

Rev Tow's life and ministry is one fine example for every servant of the Lord to follow; to learn humility and meekness, love and kindness, patience and endurance, faithfulness and godliness, and many other Christian virtues.

Praise God for His mighty work in the life of this faithful man who had accomplished great and mighty things for his Lord and Master.



Rev Timothy Tow with Rev Galarpe

A Man who Fought the Good Fight of Faith

Errol D Stone

The soul of Rev Dr Timothy Tow was escorted to be with the Lord (cf. Luke 16:22) at 5:45am on Monday, 20th April 2009. As with the Apostle Paul, Rev Tow fought a good fight and was faithful until the end (2 Tim 4:7).

Rev Tow was the founding Pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (1950) and then to put true life back into the Church, was the founding Pastor of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (2004). He was the founder and principal of the Far Eastern Bible College (1962) and God used him to acquire Beulah House for accommodation for overseas families of FEBC students, with future development for FEBC itself and accommodation for all FEBC students (*Chronicles of Conquest*), which is now in readiness. There were times in the past when instruments of Satan were used to attack the Far Eastern Bible College as still occurs today.

I had the privilege of meeting Rev Dr Timothy Tow in January 1994 when I visited the Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore with a view to full-time studies. Rev & Mrs Tow then stayed with us on the farm in Western Australia before we moved to

Singapore in May 1994. Upon graduation, Rev Dr Timothy Tow presented my BTh (1998), ordained me through the FEBC (2000) and later conferred MMin on me (2008).

Rev Tow was my beloved Pastor, Principal, Spiritual father and faithful brother in the Lord. He was a godly man who was called by God and used mightily by Him. He was a humble man, not influenced by wealth, materialism or deviousness of the world, which he saw influence many in ministry. Rev Tow was betrayed by certain near and dear ones, students and others who contributed to his ailing health. He was forced out of Life B-P Church of which he was the founding Pastor. Regardless of the betrayal and the hatred that many developed for him as he stood on the verbal plenary preservation of Scriptures, many hypocritically write and speak kindly about him to save their face, but without repentance (1 John 1:8-10).



Rev Timothy Tow with Rev Errol Stone

King David's pain in Psalm 55, resulted from his good friend Ahithophel deserting him, as time proved he was not a real friend, but a conspiring and subversive companion, with ulterior motives. In his book *Meditations from Psalms*, Rev Dr

Timothy Tow appropriately titled this Psalm, "Anathema to the Traitor". The vicious and malicious lies, spreading iniquity and trouble, scheming to overthrow King David, occurred around him in the dark alleys of Jerusalem as nocturnal schemers plan by night and implement by day. God's Word says, "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords" (Psalm 55:21).

Rev Tow was unashamedly Calvinistic, Covenantal, Reformed and Premillennial in eschatology and maintained a stance on Biblical Separation that is unequalled in Singapore and throughout much of the world of Christendom. He was a Principal (FEBC), Pastor (24 hours a day), Linguist, Preacher, Teacher, Biblical Counsellor, Evangelistic Missionary, an earnest "Contender for the Faith" (Jude 3) previously involved in the ICCC, a leader of the 21st Century Reformation, a Hymn writer (preparing people for eternity), a prolific writer and defender of the Authorised Version (KJV),

opposed to many perversions on the market. He also loved Israel and God's chosen people.

I had the privilege of sitting under the teaching of Rev Tow in the Acts of the Apostles, Systematic Theology, Calvin's Institutes, Major and Minor Prophets, Homiletics, etc. Rev Tow was a modern-day Spurgeon and a profound preacher, which the less discerning may have found difficult to grasp.

Although his friends caused his heart to be broken, by faith he continued to trust in the Lord (Rom 8:28), understanding the providence of God and that vengeance belongeth unto Him (Psalm 94:1; Rom 12:19). Rev Tow's life verse was Mark 8:36, and he reminded his students never to claim that they will be faithful until the end, but pray that they will. It was maliciously reported that Rev Tow suffered from Alzheimer's disease in 2000, but it must be publicly corrected, for even medical doctors have refuted it. Praise God for Rev Dr Timothy Tow, being of sound mind, dignified and faithful until the end.

Condolences

Please accept the condolences, thoughts and prayers of Mrs Gibson & myself on the homegoing of Rev Timothy Tow. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" (Ps 116:15). With the great Apostle, he can say: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim 4:7).

We recall, on one of his visits to Ontario with Mrs Tow, that he preached to us in Calvary Baptist Church, Brampton, and after the service, he and Ivy and a number of other Singaporeans came to our apartment for fellowship. My wife, Iris, remembers how Ivy kicked off her shoes and came into the kitchen to help her with the lunch, as if she was very much at home. . . .

Please assure Mrs Ivy Tow of our sympathy and our prayers at this time. How blessed for her to know that absence from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:6-9).

Yours in Christian Love,
Iris & Denis Gibson

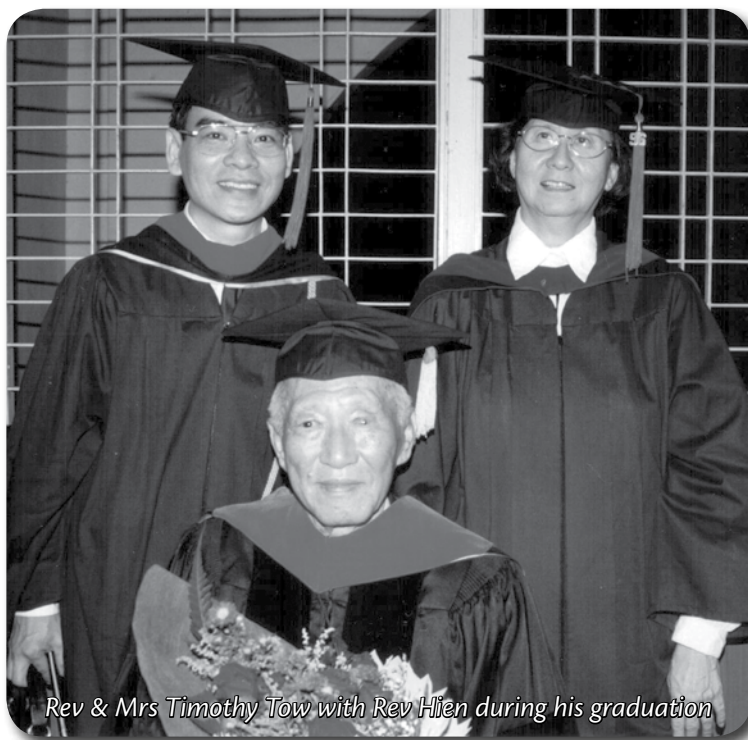
Remembering the Late Rev Dr Timothy Tow

Hien Gia Nguyen

I came to the Trinity Theological College (TTC) in July 1999, and after studying there for one month I decided to go back home due to her liberal and modernist teachings. Thank God for His grace and providence that before leaving Singapore, I met Bro Minh Thanh Tran at a Vietnamese student fellowship meeting. Bro Minh was surprised at my decision and suggested that I should meet his principal, Rev Dr Timothy Tow, the founding principal of the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). So I went to meet Rev Dr Timothy Tow after lunchtime (around 1:00 pm) just one day before I left Singapore in August 1999. When Bro Minh rang the door bell of the parsonage, Rev Tow, wearing a pair

of wooden clog, opened the door. I was so impressed by his modesty. Knowing that I had decided to leave TTC, Rev Dr Timothy Tow told me that at FEBC the lecturers only teach the Word of Life and that he was a disciple of Dr John Sung. I knew Dr John Sung and admired him because he came to Vietnam in 1938 and there was a great revival in my country. I was so happy when Rev Dr Timothy Tow welcomed me to FEBC with full scholarship from his church. Then Rev Dr Timothy Tow took me to the FEBC Bookroom and gave me several of his books. I ardently thanked him and left. In my heart, I gave thanks and praise to the Lord for guiding me to meet Rev Dr Timothy Tow and to study His Word at the FEBC.

I always thank God for the sound and Biblical teaching and training at the Far Eastern Bible College, for the blessed days of studying His Word under Rev Dr Timothy Tow. I enjoyed studying all his courses such as Systematic Theology, Calvin's Institutes, Minor Prophets, Old Testament Law for Today, and Homiletics. He did not only teach me Biblical knowledge but also instilled in me his love for the Lord,



Rev & Mrs Timothy Tow with Rev Hien during his graduation

his sacrificial service to the Lord, his zeal and strong stand for God's perfectly preserved Word, and his fervent contending for God's truth without any compromise.

Thank God also for the great privilege of having a close fellowship with Rev Dr Timothy Tow during my four years at the FEBC: having lunch and dinner with him quite often, giving him a haircut every month, making juice for him on weekdays, etc. During the conflict between Life B-P Church and FEBC over the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation of the Scripture, how I loved and upheld Rev Dr Timothy Tow in my prayer as he was severely opposed and verbally attacked by his two assistant pastors and some elders and several deacons in every Session meeting until he had to resign and start True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church in October 2003. How we were touched and thankful to the Lord for the first worship service on the Lord's Day, October 5, 2003, at the RELC (Regional English Language Centre) with so many brethren who took the same stand for God's perfectly preserved Word!

After my graduation and migration to Australia to be reunited with my family, how happy I was when I was adopted as a

missionary preacher of True Life B-P Church in September 2004 on Rev Dr Timothy Tow's advice. Then after three years of service, I was ordained by Rev Dr Timothy Tow and the faculty of FEBC on May 6, 2007, to be the pastor of Brisbane Bible-Presbyterian Church. Moreover, every year I was invited to join True Life B-P Church Camp, and I was very glad and thankful to the Lord when I met my beloved pastor and principal who still had a very sharp mind, peace and joy despite his old age and the attacks from Life B-P Church. True Lifers and I will miss him so much as we shall not see him at the coming True Life B-P Church Camp in June 2009.

I have been deeply impressed by Rev Dr Timothy Tow's modesty, humility, godliness, faithfulness and selfless service to the Lord since I first met him in August 1999. "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 136:1).

May the LORD my God graciously help me to follow Him and His Word faithfully unto death just as my beloved pastor and principal, Rev Dr Timothy Tow, had done, having fought a good fight, finished his course and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). Amen.



From L-R: Elder Boaz Boon, Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Quek Suan Yew, Deborah, Judith, Ivy Tow, Rev Timothy Tow & Rev Hien.

Remembering the words of My Spiritual Mentor

Tan Kian Sing

Rev Dr Timothy Tow will always be remembered as our beloved pastor, our humble teacher of the Word of life and our spiritual mentor. We praise God for using him to set us a good example that we may learn how to live for Jesus and serve Him faithfully.

I remember some wonderful principles of life that Rev Tow would repeatedly mention

in his lectures in FEBC. They are very helpful to those who desire to live a life of genuine, humble and effective service for the glory of the Lord. Rev Tow would repeat them that his students might learn to conduct their lives as meek and humble servants of God. He is no longer here, yet he continues to speak to us! Let me just mention a few of those wonderful principles that I have learned from God's servant.



Rev & Mrs Timothy Tow having tea with Rev Tan Kian Sing

"Galilee that gives and gives is ever full. The Dead Sea that gets and gets is dead empty."

"Do not be afraid to give. As a well gives of its water, it is soon refilled by lively springs."

"One blessing of giving is that it brings you joy unspeakable and good health."

"Money is very secondary to spirituality."

"No one who uses his hands will ever starve."

"I do not give you a fish, I teach you how to fish."

"If everyone will do his best, God will take care of the rest."

"Self-help with God's help is the best help."

"Do not sit in your room to pray for bananas. Go downstairs to the garden with a changkol, and manna from the heaven will come down."

"If you eat a big dinner tonight, drink only water the next morning."

"Economy is the mother of prosperity."

"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."

To illustrate the mystery of predestination, the principal tells his banana skin story: "Suppose I invite you to dinner and you break your kneecap on the way by tripping on a banana skin. Who is liable?"

"Music is next to theology – Martin Luther. Music is half of John Sung's sermons."

"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)."

"Quoting Calvin: 'the first three rules of theology are humility, humility, humility.'"

"God uses a man and a movement, not a machine and a monument."

"A Christian will never say, 'die!'"

"Be prepared to die, if you want to serve God."

"To pick up litter on the College grounds for Jesus' sake is as sacred as preaching from the pulpit."

"The half of knowledge is to know where to find it."

"Do something good for Jesus everyday."

"Not tongues in confusion, but tears in confession."

"Darkness can never fight against light. If your life is light, no dark power can harm you."

"The meek shall inherit the earth. So do not be a go-getter."

"He who wants to build God's House must have clean hands and a pure heart. (Psalm 24)."

"Prayer is the hardest lesson to learn, so it is a lesson from which I have not graduated."

"Quoting John Sung on the baptism question: 'More faith less water, less faith more water.'"

"A higher law overrides a lower law, e.g. the law of necessity takes precedence over the law of Sabbath."

"No loss, no gain, no cross, no crown."

Condolences from Around the World

On behalf of Foundations Bible College and Theological Seminary and its ministries I wanted to write and express our deepest condolences to you, your family, and to the Far Eastern Bible College in the passing away of Dr Timothy Tow. He was of a generation that was exacting in the Word of God as well as in the living of its principles.

The investment of our prayers on his behalf can now cease as he has gone to be with his Beloved Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Please be assured of our prayers on your behalf as well as for the family members in their bereavement.

We also pray that God will enable you in the divine task that will increase due to Dr Tow's homegoing and in the responsibilities that will now fall upon you in the providence of God.

May Dr Tow's memory continue to inspire and encourage the remnant in Singapore and around the world to ever be faithful to the Word of God in these dark and difficult days of the falling away.

Remembering You in Prayer,

In His Majesty's Service,
Dr H. T. Spence, President
Foundations Bible College
and Ministries
Dunn, North Carolina, USA



We learned with great sadness the homegoing of Rev Tow yesterday morning. On behalf of my family and myself, Bomet Bible Institute and Africa Gospel Unity Church, we convey to you our heartfelt condolences.



I am privileged to have studied under him at FEBC. We benefited greatly from his teachings and added greater value to our ministry. His selfless devotion to the service of the Lord, especially in missions, had a profound influence on us to serve Him to the best of our ability. His legacy is great and we will continue to thank the Lord for his ministry and pay tribute to him. We will not forget Rev Timothy Tow. He has finished his race and may those of us who are left here on earth follow in his footsteps. Soli Deo Gloria,

In Christ,
Rev Michael Koech



We heard Dr Timothy Tow, Principal of Far Eastern Bible College, went to be in our Father's Home. On behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Vietnam, The Hope Presbyterian Church, and our family, we send our deepest sympathy to the family, the staff and students of FEBC. Please accept our deepest sympathy.

Rev Khai Van Le
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Condolences from Around the World

Please convey my deepest sorrow and respect to the family of Dr Timothy Tow. I have looked upon him as a modern Apostle Paul. Our brief times of working together were high points in the life of my wife as well as mine.

Moody once said that the world has yet to see what God could accomplish through one person who was totally dedicated to Him. I think we came close to seeing that in the life of Timothy Tow. My heart soars in joy at thinking what is going on right now in heaven.

Howard Carlson



Greetings in our Lord's blessed name.

We received the news of the homegoing of our dear Pastor and Teacher Rev Timothy Tow with much sadness. Yet, this is the way of all men.

How we wished that he would see the justice done to the cause of God for which he gave all his life before his departure! But the Lord has taken him to His rest.

Though Rev Tow passed away, his works and legacy live on in the lives of all who heard him and know him personally. It is the duty of all his spiritual children to rise up to the cause of Christ in his footsteps. And we trust God to provide all the grace and wisdom we ever need for this glorious work of preaching and defending the Word.

May the messages delivered during the memorial services touch the hearts of many for the glory of God's name and for the testimony of the Truth, which he loved and lived for.

We will uphold in prayer the family as well as the FEBC family. May God comfort your hearts at this difficult moment.

With prayers,

Rev & Mrs Ephrem Chiracho

Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia



O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness



Combined Choir of True Life B-P Church and FEBC singing during the Memorial Service

Condolences from Around the World

We just came to know that our Beloved Brother Rev Dr Timothy Tow has passed away. He is right now with the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are praying that the Lord will comfort you with His peace, and surround you with His love, and encourage you with His presence.



Family and friends during the service at the burial site

We remember the good times we had with Dr Timothy Tow who visited the Holy Land. We will take him as our example, for he remained faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry.

II Cor 1:3,4. May we keep the faith and teachings of Dr Timothy Tow, even that of the Bible-Presbyterian Doctrine. This coming Sunday, we will have memorial service for our Beloved Brother Dr Timothy Tow at Baraka BP Church.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you,
Rev George Awad, Rev Danny Awad and Baraka Church family



The E.A.C.A. was meeting in the Bible College of East Africa, Nairobi, when we were told of the sad news of the departure of our beloved teacher, leader and friend. To us, Rev Dr Timothy is a hero of the faith and he has joined other heroes in glory.

Yes, he fought a good fight, he had finished his course and he had kept the faith. We shall be praying for the Tow family, the church and the college. We are with you during this trying moment, Rev 14:13.

Till we meet again in glory, Rev Tow, rest in peace.

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

E.A.C.A. under the leadership of his students,
Bishop Richard Kivai, Rev Dr Mark Kim, Rev Stephen Masila, Rev Eben Yoon



East Africa Christian Alliance sent their condolences

Condolences from Around the World

It is with heaviness and sorrow that we received the news of the homegoing of Rev Tow, beloved pastor and father in the Lord. Our loss seems great, and when we think of FEBC and the family and you, sir, we don't know what to say or how to bring comfort to you. May the Lord be your comfort and your strength. The task ahead is indeed great, the battle hard, but as we lean upon the Lord, may He be gracious to grant us good success (Joshua 1:1-9). . . . Let us continue to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the LORD. God grant you strength, grace, wisdom, joy and his ever abiding presence in all that is ahead of FEBC and all who love the LORD in sincerity. Our prayers are continually with you.

God willing, we desire to start FEBC alumni among those of us in Africa, first in Kenya and, God willing, extend it to Ethiopia and Tanzania. We hope that through it, we may be able to stir each other up in the faith, warn each other, rebuke, exhort and encourage each other and keep each other updated concerning the contemporary issues facing Reformed Fundamental Christianity.

Yours in Christ's Love, and service
Nelson, Christine and Charmaine Were



Yesterday I received a message from my brother Benny (Gethsemane BPC, Singapore), informing me of the homegoing of Rev Tow.

Having read the message, I sat down for a while and thanked the Lord for the life of Rev Tow. Like thousands of people around the globe, my family and I are indebted so much to Rev Tow for what we are today and we will always treasure his influence in our lives and ministry.

Now, the challenge is on us to carry forward his vision and passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ, for which let us do our utmost by trusting in the power of the Almighty.

We share with you all the sorrow, pain and agony of missing him. My family and I pray for you all, especially for Mrs Tow.

George Skariah and family
Bangalore, India



The hearse leaving the church for burial site

Greetings to you all in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

My deepest condolences on the homegoing of Rev Timothy Tow. We pray that God's peace and comfort be upon you all. May the Sovereign LORD preserve FEBC.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

Sincerely Yours,
Bro Edsel Locot
Gethsemane B-P Mission Church (Bohol), the Philippines



Condolences from Around the World

It was a great shock to me, humanly speaking, to learn that the Rev Timothy Tow, my beloved principal of FEBC, was called home to be with the Lord. Although many may not realize, Rev Tow's bodily presence was a comfort and strength to the students of FEBC and many others. Upon learning this, my wife and I knelt down and prayed for the comfort of the bereaved family.

Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

May all the bereaved families, FEBCians and True Lifers, be comforted and strengthened by the Spirit of God, constantly realizing that Rev Tow is now in a better place, eternally safe in the arm of his dear Lord, and that he had truly "fought a good fight", "finished" his "course" and "kept the faith" to the very end of his life on this earth (2 Tim 4:7). He set a good example for us all, lovers of the Word, to follow.

Please be comforted that we will continue to pray for all the relatives and also for FEBC and True Life.

In Christ,

Biak Lawm Thang
Myanmar



I received a message from Singapore on my mobile phone that our beloved Rev Timothy Tow has gone to be with the Lord. Indeed, I was saddened. Nonetheless, I rejoice in the Lord for his exemplary life and ministry. He was a prophet who preached the Word and practised it. His life was an open book for everyone. From that book, his disciples from different parts of the world learned both written and unwritten lessons for their lives and ministries. The words of the Apostle Paul are very true in my Principal's life - "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

On behalf of my family, I would like to express our deep condolences. In this painful moment, we are praying for Mrs Tow and the FEBC family.

Philip Cherian
Jubilee Memorial Bible College, India

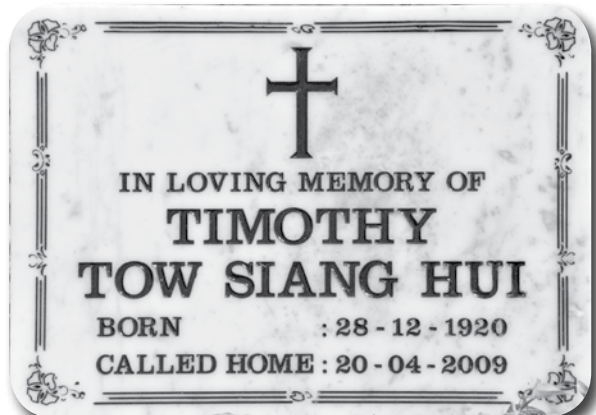


We are deeply sorry to hear that Rev Timothy Tow has passed away. He was greatly used by God and loved by his students. We would like to convey our deepest condolences to you. We pray for God's special grace to be upon you during this time of bereavement.

Very sincerely yours,
Mr and Mrs Dominino dela Cruz Jr.
Gethsemane B-P Mission Church
(Bogo), the Philippines



Rev Timothy Tow's grave



In the New Jerusalem

Timothy Tow

Bethel Hymns

We're a pil-grim band now head-ed for the glo-ry land a-bove. We are trav'ling thro' the wil-der-ness be-
In that land of glo-ry where the saints are gather'd round the Throne. Not a sigh or tear, no sor-row nor a
We are head-ing near-er near-er for the land that's now in sight. Will you join us to the Ci-ty fair and

- low, We've a home that's far a-way be-yond the hea-ven and the stars.
groan, But an ev-er-last-ing song of vict'ry flows from ev'-ry tongue. In the New Je-ru-sa-lem!
bright? Is your name for-e-ver writ-ten in the Lamb's book of Life?

Chorus

Hal-le-lu-jah! fills the hea-vens For the saints have all come home To Je-ru-sa-lem! To Je-ru-sa-lem!

Joy-ful-ly they shout Ho-san-na! Come and crown Him King of Kings! In the New Je-ru-sa-lem!