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# The Burning Bush

Theological Journal of the Far Eastern Bible College



# THE BURNING BUSH

Theological Journal of the  
FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE

Edited for the Faculty

Rev Jeffrey Khoo, BTh, MDiv, STM, PhD  
Principal, and Lecturer in Systematic Theology

Mrs Ivy Tow, BTh  
Matron, and Lecturer in Greek

Rev Stephen Khoo, BTh, MDiv, MA  
Lecturer in Biblical Studies

Rev Quek Suan Yew, BArch, BTh, MDiv, STM, ThD  
Academic Dean, and Lecturer in Old Testament

Rev Tan Kian Sing, BEng, GDBA, MDiv  
Lecturer in New Testament

Rev Prabhudas Koshy, BSc, BTh, MDiv, ThM, ThD  
Dean of Students, and Lecturer in Hebrew

Mrs Jemima Khoo, BTh, MA, MRE  
Lecturer in Christian Education

Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo, BTh, DD  
Lecturer in Bible Geography and Church Music

Miss Carol Lee, BBA, DipEd, MEd, MDiv  
Lecturer in Christian Education

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Please direct all correspondence to:



The Editor, *The Burning Bush*  
Far Eastern Bible College  
9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063  
Republic of Singapore



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## **FROM FAITH TO FAITH**

Jeffrey Khoo

Romans 1:17, *“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”* What does it mean to live by faith? In the light of God’s Word, living by faith means to put our trust:

### **In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Not Our Own Goodness**

How to get to heaven? “Do good,” “Be a good person” are the answers we often get. All the religions of the world talk about being good or doing good to enter heaven. Only the Christian Faith teaches differently. According to the Holy Scriptures, our goodness or good deeds can only get us to hell. Why are we all on our way to hell? God tells us why: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23). Man is a sinner from day one; he is born in sin and is living in sin (Ps 51:5, Rom 3:10-18). Every human being born into this world is disqualified from heaven and condemned to hell the very day he came into existence. All of us fall infinitely short of God’s perfect standard of holiness, and are woefully lacking in the perfect righteousness God requires of us. *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away”* (Isa 64:6). Galatians 2:16 says, *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”*

Proof of this is man’s transgression of the Ten Commandments, every one of them. No one on earth can say he has kept the Ten Commandments perfectly. Consider Jesus’ standards of ethical perfection: *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But*

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*I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matt 5:21-22). “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matt 5:27-28).*

Some might say, “I have broken one or two of the commandments, but not all ten; surely I am better than others.” God says everyone is the same, whether you have broken one, two, or all Ten Commandments, all are equally sinful and stand condemned by the law. *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (Jas 2:10).*

How then can my sins be forgiven? How can I be saved? How can I get to heaven? There is only one way to truth and life. Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).* Salvation cannot be found in any religion or in any human being, but only in the Lord Jesus Christ who is both God and Man, and the only Saviour of the world. 1 Timothy 2:5 says, *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* Acts 4:12 says, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? He died for our sins on the cross, shedding His precious blood, was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead (1 Cor 15:1-4).

If we want to be saved, we need to trust in the goodness of Christ, and His good works for us in His life, His death, and His life again. Titus 3:5-6 says, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.”*

Now, how do we know that all this is true, that Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead? We know this because God’s Word says so. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, *“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”* Note the words, “according to

*the scriptures.*” The Holy Scriptures are not the words of fallible and finite men; they are the infallible and inerrant words of the infinite God our Creator. If we believe in Christ and His words, we live; if we reject His words, we die! John 3:18 says, *“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

### **In Divine Revelation, Not Human Reasoning**

*“[A]s it is written, The just shall live by faith.”* Why must we live by faith? We must live by faith simply because God tells us to, *“as it is written.”* Our faith is not based on tradition, opinion, or experience, but on the Written Word of God. John 20:31 tells us the purpose of God’s written Revelation, *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”* Our faith is not blind faith or foolish faith, but Biblical faith. Biblical faith is a faith that is based not at all on fallible and depraved human reasoning, but only on the infallible and inerrant words of the Holy Scriptures. Romans 10:17, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

It is significant to note that in the Greek Scriptures, “it is written” (*gegraptai*), is in the perfect tense. This tells us that the words of the Holy Scriptures *stand perfectly written for all time*. The words were written in the past, they stand written in the present, and will remain written in the future. God saw to the perfect preservation of His words so that His people in every age might live by faith always and not by sight.

How do we know for sure that Jesus died for us on the cross, was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead? There is a hymn that goes like this, *“Were you there when they crucified my Lord? ... Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? ... Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? ... Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?”* No, we were not there when it all happened. If we were not there and did not see His death, burial and resurrection with our own eyes, then how can we be sure they truly happened? The answer is simple. We know for sure that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose from the dead because the Holy Bible which is God’s Word says so. In order to see and know the truth, there is no other way but to believe what the Bible says with all our heart! When we read the four canonical Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—which tell us what Jesus did

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when He was here on earth, it is as good as being there ourselves, witnessing His birth, His works, His death, His burial, and His resurrection with our very own eyes. *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom 10:17). The Bible says it, that settles it, we believe it. Unless the sinner humbles himself and believes what the almighty and all-wise God says in His forever infallible and inerrant Word, he will remain in darkness and will never see the light.

It is not the wisdom of the world that will convert the sinner, but the power of the gospel of Christ in His Word. That was why Paul testified, *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God”* (1 Cor 2:1-5). No amount of human reasoning, intelligent rhetoric, or clever arguments can ever convict and convert a sinner or an unbeliever. It is only by the preaching of the cross that sinners are saved: *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”* (1 Cor 1:18). *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (Rom 1:16).

Every Christian, young or old, rich or poor, educated or unlearned can preach the gospel of Christ. A Christian need not master all the rules of logic, or know all the answers to questions unbelievers might pose, or possess all the evidence to prove God’s existence, he just needs to preach the gospel of Christ in all its fulness and purity, and pray the Holy Spirit to do His work of soul winning. It is important to realise that God calls us to be gospel preachers, not soul winners. The convicting and converting of a soul to repentance and salvation does not lie with us but the Holy Spirit. So a primary school student can preach the gospel to a university professor, and it will be just as effective for the power lies not in the preacher but in the gospel and the Spirit to make the proudest and mightiest of men to become a humble believer of Jesus Christ. Without a miracle from God, the totally depraved man can never be converted.

Why must we as believers live by faith? We must live by faith because it is the only way to please the Lord. Hebrews 11:6 says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

It is important for us not only to begin with faith but also to end in faith. As Paul says, *“from faith to faith: ... The just shall live by faith.”* The future tense of the words, “shall live” (*zesetai*), has the sense of continuity and certainty, and may be rendered, “The just shall *keep on* living by faith,” or “The just shall *always* live by faith.” Whether rich or poor, strong or weak, healthy or sickly, promoted or persecuted, in good times or in bad, we must always live by faith and not by sight. In other words, we do not depend on any evidence or experience but purely on the Word of God alone for the certainty and security of our faith. As the hymnwriter says, *“My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God. Salvation by my Savior’s name, salvation through His blood. I need no other argument, I need no other plea. It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.”* Jesus says, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4). He also says, *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”* (John 8:31, 32, 36). We are freed from all uncertainties and all anxieties when we live by faith in the Lord and in His Word. Circumstances, evidences, or experiences do not determine what we believe or do not believe. We just continue in God’s self-authenticating Word of Truth and Life, trusting in every thing it says, as Paul says, *“let God be true, but every man a liar”* (Rom 3:4). We begin with God’s Word and we end with God’s Word.

*“From faith to faith,... The just shall live by faith,”* what does it mean? It means we ought never to trust in our own goodness or intelligence, but always in the gospel of Christ our Lord and His perfect Word. Faith is the victory!

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*The Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo is Principal of Far Eastern Bible College and Pastor of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church.*

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## THE NEED FOR GODLINESS IN MINISTRY

Keng-Woo Koa

Text: *“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained”* (1 Tim 4:6).

We have come here in great joy and unity, and with the sacrifice of thanks to God for His goodness and love for the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). As we all know, God used our late, beloved principal—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow—to establish the FEBC 50 years ago. From the time of its inception till today, the college has suffered many crises and attacks—some major, some minor—and the latest one being the most critical. But the Lord has saved and vindicated this college so that tonight we are able to use the same sanctuary, which our evictors four years ago had forbidden us to use. May all glory be unto God.

FEBC is the college of the Lord, training labourers to further and expand His Kingdom so as to accomplish the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as stated in Matthew chapter 28. This college has been and will always be for the Lord, fighting and defending the Faith against those who deny the Word of God, especially those who do not believe that every word of God in the Bible is inspired, infallible, inerrant and preserved and will continue to be preserved until the Lord Jesus returns. Men have tried to discredit the Bible. They constantly attack the authenticity and credibility of the Bible because they are the agents of Satan who are against God. But we are for God and His Word. Paul in Romans 8:31b said, *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”* This was the main reason why the Lord vindicated FEBC. It is so that she can continue to train His servants in her God-given birthplace.

A rich young ruler once came to Jesus to ask what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus answered that he must keep the commandments. His reply was that he had kept all the commandments. Jesus added that

he must also sell all he had and give them to the poor. This rich young man went away sorrowfully because he did not want to lose what he had. Jesus told his disciples that *"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."* The disciples were amazed and asked, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus answering the disciples said, *"With men this is impossible. But with God all things are possible"* (Matt 19:16-26).

God spoke to Abram after telling him that his wife Sarah at the age of 90 would bear a son and that He would return later. In Genesis 18:14 God said, *"Is any thing too hard for the LORD?"* Also in Jeremiah 32:27 God said, *"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?"* If we are truly for the Lord, the Lord will do things which are impossible for men to do. God is Almighty and He delivered FEBC so that she can continue to remain in her own home.

We have come here tonight to give thanks to the Lord for His goodness. Yes, He is God over all, and is able to overturn the judgment of the High Court and to vindicate the truth of His Word. May all our praises be unto Him.

Perhaps, you may be wondering why I have chosen 1 Timothy 4:6 to preach in this Alumni Thanksgiving Service, thinking that a message wholly about thanksgiving would be more appropriate. The reason is that, on the one hand, we need to thank God for His goodness and His faithfulness in sustaining this college so that we can train more of His servants; on the other hand, we need to train servants who will be faithful and able to serve the Lord effectively so that the Gospel can be preached to the uttermost part of the world.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy that, as an evangelist, he must put the brethren in remembrance of these things, so that he can be a good minister of Jesus Christ (1 Tim 4:6). To put the brethren in remembrance is to let his congregation know of the apostasy of the end times, people departing from the faith, imbibing the doctrines of the devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy.

Not only was Timothy required to remind the brethren of these things, he must also impart "the words of faith" and "good doctrine" to the believers in order to be a good minister of Christ. Similarly, we, as ministers of Christ must do likewise, warning of the apostasy and hypocrisy of the latter days and teaching them the Word of God and

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sound doctrine. To do that, we must first know the words of faith and good doctrine ourselves so that we would be able to impart the “words of faith” and “good doctrine” to others. I believe FEBC is doing just that. Not only the faculty must take the Dean Burgon Oath at every convocation but also teach the students the true words of faith (infallible and inerrant, inspired and preserved) and good doctrine. Anything which is contrary to the teaching of the Bible must be exposed and refuted.

We must not lay a bad foundation but a good one for our students. Notice the word “nourished” in verse 6. Timothy must have been like a good mother who nourishes her child with good food. I am growing many orchids at home and in order to get more quality blooms, I have to nourish them by taking good care and applying fertilizer regularly so that the plants will have needed nutrition to grow well and bloom. A good minister of the Gospel must be able to impart and nurture the “words of faith” and “good doctrine” to the believers.

Another aspect of the instruction of the Apostle Paul to Timothy should be noted. This is the building of the character of a minister. A minister of Christ must live a godly life. This is one evidence to show that he is truly a minister of the Gospel. It is of no use for someone to be trained in the FEBC with all the “words of faith” and “good doctrine” and to graduate *summa cum laude* without having a godly life and good character. The degree would be of no value and such a one will not be a good minister of Christ.

The Apostle Paul was telling young Timothy (probably in his mid-30s) that he must set a godly example in his life so that he would not be despised by others even though he was young. To train students just to excel in academic achievements is insufficient and incomplete. It will be like a soldier with an incomplete armour and not well prepared and protected. FEBC trains students not only academically but also assigns them to various chores and duties. This is to ensure that when they leave the college to serve, they will be prepared to do the most menial tasks like sweeping the floor, washing the toilets, and endure hardships.

My good friend, the late Rev Chng, once told me, “Rev Koa, I am a board member of a Bible College, and my friend, an Elder, had donated a large sum of money to this Bible College. But it was very unfortunate that the fund was used to furnish chairs with seats fully covered with velvet for the comfort of the students in the chapel. Each chair costs \$500.

When students went out, they sought churches that would provide them with the best comfort and luxury.” In 2 Timothy 2:3, Paul said to Timothy, *“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”* Paul told the Ephesians to put on the WHOLE armour of God so that they will be good soldiers to fight against the devil (Eph 6:11). They must equip themselves with truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. A good soldier and servant of Christ must be fully equipped and well trained, fit and ready to go out to fight against the devil.

Many years ago, before I became a Bible-Presbyterian, I was a secretary in the Executive Council of the Malayan Synod of Presbyterian Churches. There was an unfaithful preacher who quietly permitted illegal squatters to build their houses even a Buddhist temple on the land belonging to the Synod. He quietly collected monthly rentals from those illegal squatters and pocketed the money for himself. This went on for many years until it was found out. The dishonesty and greed of this preacher was known to many. He was finally asked to leave and he ceased to be a preacher of the Presbyterian Church. His bad name remains even to this day. Proverbs 22:1 says, *“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”* Ecclesiastes 7:1 says, *“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth.”* This preacher had not a good character and did not set a good example as a minister of Christ. We must not follow his example and way of life.

In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul tells us what godliness is and how godliness can be achieved. It does not come automatically or naturally. Paul teaches us that *“We must exercise ourselves unto godliness.”* It is a process. We must keep on cultivating godliness in the fear of God by means of His infallible and inerrant Word through the help of the Holy Spirit. Godliness is not instant but gradually achieved. It is not like what the Mormons teach: “God becomes man and man becomes God.”

Paul teaches us that we must be godly in the following ways:

(1) **In Word:** The word here means speech. Ministers must be truthful in speech. In Matthew 5:37 Jesus said, *“But let your communication be Yea, yea, Nay, nay.”* We must be honest and truthful in our speech. We must always keep our word. Once we have made a promise, we must not break our promise nor change our word. People will then see that you are a man of your word.

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There is a Chinese proverb saying: “Once a word is spoken, even the fastest horse will not be able to retrieve it.” We must also be careful in our word not to offend or injure others as James chapter three says: the tongue though small is very powerful. Not only will our speech offend, it will also injure, and even kill others. So in order to be godly, we must be careful to control our tongue, our words.

(2) **In Conversation:** This word “conversation” means conduct. If we turn to Philippians 1:27, Paul said, *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.”* What Paul meant was let your behaviour, your way of life show that you are a Christian which will become a living testimony so that when people see your character and behaviour, they will come to the Lord.

(3) **In Charity:** That is in love. A minister must have love for God and also love for His flock just like Jesus the Great Shepherd who loves and cares for His sheep, even sacrificing His own life because He loves His sheep. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:1 said, *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”* What Paul meant was that love being a divine virtue, is more important and excellent than other gifts of speech.

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:43-44 Jesus said, *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour; and hate thine enemy.”* The phrase “ye have heard” means the tradition passed down by their ancestors which stressed loving only someone who loved them, but not their enemies. But Jesus said, *“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”* A good minister of Christ must have the charity of Christ.

(4) **In Spirit:** Every minister of the Gospel ought to have a zeal and warm spirit truly inflamed with the love of Christ. This requires a governing of our passions, a mind that is always controlled and ruled by the Holy Spirit and not by the world. It also means having a mild and forgiving disposition.

(5) **In Faith:** This means believing in God and His Word fully even without seeing. This kind of faith is required in times of peace and in times of trial and trouble. Job had this kind of faith when he said, *“though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”* We need to show to others that we are

always maintaining an unshaken faith in God and a steady confession and profession of the Gospel.

(6) **In Purity:** This refers to chastity in life. Chastity of mind and body was taught by Paul in 1 Timothy 5:2, “[*Intreat*] the elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.” We often read in the news about sexual scandals involving government ministers. A minister of Christ must be very careful not to fall into the lust of the flesh. Be like Joseph who resisted temptation. When Joseph was a slave in the house of Potiphar, the mistress of the house tempted him but he resisted temptation and fled, “*And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out*” (Gen 39:12).

Dear alumni and friends of FEBC, a good minister of Christ should be well trained with the “faithful words” and “good (or sound) doctrine” so as to be able to impart to God’s people the inspired and preserved, infallible and inerrant Word of God. It is equally important that ministers of Christ possess godly virtues. This is important because we are being watched by many. If we are not showing the virtues of godliness in our lives, our preaching may be in vain.

To conclude my message, let me share with you a story. In the book *History of the English Presbyterian Church*, the author Edward Band wrote about how William Chalmers Burns went to Swatow. It took him ten years to convert a Chinese man to Christ. The English Presbyterian Church then set up a small medical station with a doctor and several nurses. The Mandarin (Magistrate and Mayor of *Teo Chew Fu*, the provincial capital) staying far from Swatow was seriously down with diarrhoea. After a week, his own physician was not able to heal him. So a doctor from the mission station in Swatow was called and he traveled many hours by boat to reach the Mandarin’s home. The doctor stayed there until the Mandarin was healed. In gratitude of what the doctor of the mission station had done, a very big plot of land was given to the English Presbyterian Mission Station for the building of a big hospital where many people sought treatment. This was a very rare act and practice as at the time of the Ching (Manchurian) Dynasty, the Manchurian Chinese were anti-Christians and considered Christianity a religion of the foreign devils or Westerners (in Chinese they are called *yang gui zi*). Many who went there for treatment were healed, and

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because of the love and care of the doctors and nurses, they believed and accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Balbour College was started by the English Presbyterian Mission. One of those who studied there was the late Rev Quek Keng Hoon, the uncle of the Rev Quek Kiok Chiang. He later migrated to Singapore and was ordained. He was one of the earliest batch of Christians there who were converted because of the good example of the missionaries.

Do you know why the big plot of land was given to the English Presbyterian Mission? It was because of love, a virtue of godliness. God's love that was shown by the doctor touched the heart of the Mandarin. It was through this that many of the Teochew people came to the Lord.

My question tonight to all our alumni is, have we the virtues of godliness in us? If we do not have, then our ministry for the Lord will be hampered. May the Lord continue to help us so that we will cultivate all the virtues of godliness. Our ministry then will be with power and many will come to the Lord. Amen.

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*The Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo is the pastor of Muar Bible-Presbyterian Church, and a lecturer at the Far Eastern Bible College. The above message was delivered at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Service of the Far Eastern Bible College held at Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, 21 September 2012.*

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The Rev Koa Keng Woo was conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*) by the Far Eastern Bible College on 21 September 2012.



## SON OF A MOTHER'S VOW: A BOOK SUMMARY

Kit-Hoong Leong



After attending FEBC's Golden Jubilee 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving services last Friday and Sunday, 21 and 23 September 2012, the memory of the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow filled my mind. How the Lord had used him so mightily in founding the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) in 1962 and also the Bible-Presbyterian Churches in Singapore and Southeast Asia since 1950.

The Rev Timothy Tow baptised me in the year 1980 in Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. He was my first pastor and my mentor. His humility and love for the Lord and unceasing fervent zeal for the Lord are always my examples to follow. We have much to thank the Lord for this man of God. The Lord took him home to glory on 20 April 2009. He served the Lord till his last breath and always shared with us that there is no retirement in the service for the Lord. The Word of God in Hebrews 13:7 reminds 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."*

In this article, I will share with you a summary of the Rev Timothy Tow's autobiography entitled *Son of a Mother's Vow* (Singapore FEBC Press, 2001). I will always be reminded of the challenge that the Rev Timothy Tow made to us from Matthew 16:24, *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."* May every son and daughter of the Bible-Presbyterian Churches obey these words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to be His true and faithful disciples as our founding Bible-

Presbyterian pastor—the Rev Timothy Tow—had demonstrated in his life!

### **Introduction**

The book is an autobiography of the life of the Rev Dr Timothy Tow, the founder of the Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore and the Far Eastern Bible College. It is a moving account of how the author gave his life to serve God full-time and how God has used him for the extension of His Kingdom despite many difficulties and trials faced by the author—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow.

The book tells us how it all began with the vow made by the author's mother when he was born. His mother vowed him to the Lord and consecrated him for God's service. God had prepared the author for a great work ahead of him for the Truth of His Word and proclamation of the Gospel. The author tried to run away from this high calling but God brought him back through the death of his mother and daughter. Indeed, the higher hand of God is beyond the ways and thoughts of men. On hindsight we see how God has blessed and used the author, the Rev Dr Timothy Tow. How he gave himself fully to the Lord's work is a great encouragement to all readers to follow the Lord wholeheartedly.

Reading the book will only cause the reader to give all the glory to God for His mysterious and wonderful work in the life of the author and that through him, many thousands have been saved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and many churches established not just in Singapore but throughout the region. Best of all, we see the establishment of Far Eastern Bible College which has trained many pastors in the ministry. The author had great vision in God's work and tremendous perseverance and commitment for the work of the Lord.

### **Birth and Childhood**

The book begins with the roots of the author as early as 1815 through the missionary effort of William Burns in China particularly in Swatow. The author has a godly lineage starting from his maternal great grandfather Tan Khai-lin who was the first convert of the English Presbyterian Mission to Swatow (1859). Thank God for another missionary from Germany, Rudolph Lechler, who ministered faithfully to the fishing village Iam-tsau which was the home town of the Tow clan. Tan Khai-lin was later called to pastor the growing flock there.

The author was born in Swatow in 1920 and had godly parents. His father received medical training at the Swatow Hospital and his grandfather was an evangelist of the English Presbyterian Mission. The author's mother loved the Lord and would teach all her children the way of the Lord and sing Christian songs to them. When the author was born, which was an answer to the prayer of his mother for a son, she willingly gave him to the Lord to be a pastor when he grew up. This promise to the Lord was told to the author when he was a young boy.

Owing to the unrest in China and the revolution headed by Chiang Kai-shek, the Tow family finally decided to migrate to Singapore. The Lord used a sickness suffered by the author's father to lead them out of China. After arriving in Singapore by sea, the Tow family then quickly settled in Senai, Johor. A rubber estate was bought and some workers were employed to tap rubber.

The initial period was comfortable for the family. The author's mother was most concerned for the education of her children. She would want to send them to the best schools in Singapore. The author was eventually admitted to Anglo-Chinese School (ACS). The author and his siblings would stay with their grandfather, a pastor, during school term in Singapore and only return to Senai during the school holidays. There was great spiritual blessing living with grandfather who had regular family worship with them. When the Great Depression came to the world in 1929, the Tow family was in financial difficulty as rubber was not worth very much. God was good to provide for them through the approval of the author's father to practise medicine.

### **Vow Fulfilled**

God sent a mighty revival in the person of Dr John Sung to Singapore in 1935. It was at one of the revival meetings that the author was moved by the Holy Spirit to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. There was great joy in his soul as his soul was set free. During the two-week revival campaign, many souls were saved and they were changed with a new desire to read the Bible and pray. Evangelistic bands were formed and the author enlisted cheerfully. During a message by Dr John Sung for "whole-time consecration", the author gave his life to the Lord. He remembered the words of his mother to him to be a pastor when he grew up.

However, as the author continued in his education, he met with failure in college even though he was the top student in ACS in the Senior Cambridge exam. The author then took up training to become a government interpreter and worked in the Supreme Court. During this time, the author married Nancy Loh Lan Yin.

After the Japanese Occupation, the author forgot his promise to serve God full-time and instead made application to study law in London. On the eve of his departure to London, he received a telegram that his mother had gone home to be with the Lord. The author had to delay his trip to London but was still determined to go. However, five weeks later after his mother's death, he received another telegram from his wife that his baby daughter was in hospital for an operation. The baby died after the operation. These two deaths brought the author back to "life" as he was totally shattered. He recalled his mother's vow and resolved to give himself fully to God.

Instead of studying law, he would go to China to study theology and God led him to Nanking to study under Dr Chia Yu Ming who was a champion of fundamentalism. After one year of studies, God opened the door for the author to study at Faith Seminary in USA. God provided for the needs of the author and his family throughout his studies and led him to receive the right theological training. It was in Faith Seminary that the author imbibed the spirit of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation under the banner of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) which opposed all forms of modernism and liberalism promoted by the World Council of Churches (WCC). The author graduated from Faith Seminary in May 1950 with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

When the author returned to Singapore, he was invited to pastor the English Service of Life Church Prinsep Street. God also raised up Quek Kiok Chiang who shared his vision for the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation movement. Finally, the author fulfilled his mother's vow as a pastor four years and six months after her death. The author's only regret was that he could not tell his mother that he had become a pastor. The author was ordained by the Philadelphia Presbytery of the Bible Presbyterian Church USA at the World Congress of the ICCC in Geneva.

### **Pastoral Ministry**

The author started the English service at Life Church Prinsep Street with two important principles: (1) separation from doctrinal and

ecclesiastical apostasy, and (2) absolute dependence on the Lord for financial support. The new English service was inaugurated on 20 October 1950 with a core membership of about 50 including children. When it came to the financial support for the pastor, the Lord had always met his needs even when the church was small initially. The author had always taught the church to be evangelistic, to obey the Great Commission. In the mission field, he and a few likeminded brethren like Quek Kiok Chiang and Hsu Chiang Tai would go forth to Malaysia to preach in the various cities. Through their missionary effort, contacts were made and new churches in Malaysia were established. This led to the formation of a missionary society.

It was challenging and tough for the author to start the new church but God blessed the church with an increase in numbers and correspondingly the stipend for the pastor. One key challenge was to maintain the separatist stand of the church. The church fought for the withdrawal of the Presbyterian Chinese Church from the Malayan Christian Council (MCC) which was linked to the WCC. However, the motion was defeated at the Synod. Therefore, Life Church English service decided to withdraw from the Synod and in order to distinguish itself from the Synod churches, the prefix "Bible" was added and the new church was called Life Bible-Presbyterian Church.

New outreaches began to spring out from Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, eg Zion at Serangoon Gardens, Sembawang, Galilee, Jurong and Carmel, through faithful members who had laboured there and God's provision of land and buildings. Life Church's policy was decentralisation and this led to the growth of the many Bible-Presbyterian churches in Singapore and beyond.

The author had the vision for Life Bible-Presbyterian Church to have its own building and to found a Bible College. The Gilstead Road land was granted by the government for the building and God moved the hearts of the people to give. In order to prepare for the founding of the Bible College, the author left for a year's study at Faith Seminary for his Masters degree in Sacred Theology. The Bible College would be located at the site of the new Life Bible-Presbyterian Church at Gilstead Road. In April 1962, the foundation stones for the College and Church were ready to be laid. FEBC opened on 17 September 1962 with three students. Life Bible-Presbyterian Church moved to the Gilstead Road premises on its

12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 21 October 1962. The Lord provided all her needs with the cheerful and sacrificial giving of His children.

### **Trying Experiences**

The author shared candidly of his personal experience in the death of his first wife and daughter in the car accident on the way to a Bible camp on Cameron Highlands. The faith of the author in accepting this tragedy from the Lord for a higher purpose was most encouraging. Many lives were changed and consecrated to the Lord through this incident. The Lord later provided him with another help meet for his ministry when he married Ivy Tan. The author also shared about his children and how God has blessed each one of them to be faithful to the Lord.

The author related the difficulty to maintain the separatist stand which met with opposition from the church session when he stood against Billy Graham because of his ecumenical ties and compromises. When the relationship between pastor and Session became stretched to breaking point, the author decided to take a five-and-a-half months' leave away from Singapore. God led him to spend the vacation as a short-term missionary to Israel. This blessing of the knowledge of Holy Land and the contacts in Israel enabled the author to lead many pilgrimages to the Holy Land from 1983 onwards.

The Lord honoured the author with an invitation by Faith Seminary to teach at the Seminary in 1978/79. The Lord also enabled his family to be with him in the stay in USA.

### **Into All the World**

The author related the extension of God's Kingdom into the neighbouring countries and then into all the world. This was in obedience to the Great Commission and it was wonderful to see God opening the doors and His faithful servants willing to serve and contribute in all these evangelistic ministries and missions throughout the world. The early years were missionary efforts into Malaysia from Batu Pahat to Muar River. The mission field then went further into Indonesia in which a Gospel boat was built for them. Gospel outreaches then went further into Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Philippines, Laos, Brunei and Vietnam. FEBC graduates have been a good link and support to these countries. There was also the call to start the Bible-Presbyterian Church in Australia and

London. The story of Kemaman and Kuantan was also shared to tell how God opened the doors for this new ministry in Malaysia.

Besides relating the overseas outreaches, the author related the formation of various local Bible-Presbyterian churches that came out from Life Church, for example New Life, Tabernacle, Maranatha, Berean etc. Details were shared on the acquisition of the land in Woodlands for New Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and how God provided all the needs at the last moment. Another project for the Lord was the acquisition of Beulah House which was told in great detail. Again the Lord did not fail to provide all the needs for this new place for the extension of Life Church and FEBC. Another project was the Mersing youth campsite and how the Lord led the author and the church to acquire it. There is also an interesting story about the bookstore and how it became the FEBC Bookroom today.

### **Challenges Ahead**

The Bible-Presbyterian Synod was dissolved in 1988 following disagreements over the degree of separation one should practise. Some Bible-Presbyterian ministers were sympathetic to the Charismatic movement and did not believe tongues had ceased. Some even questioned the truth of the Genesis account in the Bible.

The Bible-Presbyterian denomination's firm stand on the King James Bible against all the modern English versions was also challenged by certain Bible-Presbyterian churches. The deception and corruption of the Westcott and Hort text had influenced all the modern English versions like the New International Version (NIV). There were some Bible-Presbyterian ministers who promoted the NIV over against the KJV.

The premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ was another key doctrine of the Bible-Presbyterian Church. This doctrine was a breakaway from the encrusted Hyper-Calvinism and Amillennialism that had stifled the Reformed Faith.

### **Conclusion**

The author shared his life testimony in a very intimate way to challenge all readers to occupy till the Lord Jesus returns. The Lord has led and used the author in a tremendous way and he is indeed a man of God, specially called by the Lord in our time and generation to earnestly



contend for the Faith and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ far and wide. The sons and daughters of the Bible-Presbyterian Faith ought to be grateful to the Rev Dr Timothy Tow and to thank God unceasingly for his life which was given wholly to the Lord.

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*John Leong Kit Hoong is an Elder of Tabernacle Bible-Presbyterian Church which celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving this year 2012.*

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The **FEBC Bookroom** serves both the college students and the Christian public. It carries not just FEBC Press books and textbooks, but also other theologically conservative books and Biblical reference tools. It has a wide selection of King James Bibles, and specialises in books defending the KJV and its underlying original language texts. Write to the Bookroom for a catalogue. Trade enquiries welcome.

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri: 10:30 am to 7:30 pm

Sat: 10:30 am to 5:00 pm

Sun: Closed

### **FEBC BOOKROOM**

9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063

Tel: (65) 6254-9188

Email: [febcbkrm@febc.edu.sg](mailto:febcbkrm@febc.edu.sg)





## **FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IN PRESERVING FEBC AND HIS WORD**

Sok-Sin Chan and Kay-Heem Chan

It was 50 years ago when the Rev Timothy Tow  
Set up a school at 9 and 9A Gilstead Road,  
To teach willing men and women the Word of God  
That they might grow in the knowledge of our Lord.

It had a humble beginning of three students  
With hearts full of zest and good intentions;  
But alas, two left, before the year-end  
For other schools with a more established brand.

So the faithless began to doubt;  
“Close the school!” came the shout.  
Did the Almighty God really call  
To build a Bible school at all?

Despite tears in his eyes and sorrow in his heart,  
The Rev Tow would not depart  
From the goodly course the Lord has steered  
Plainly and surely through the years.

When we are weak, the Lord is strong;  
In our darkest moments He gives a song  
To encourage and to strengthen  
His faithful, though much disheartened.

“O Father, Thou Almighty art ...  
And deign to dwell in contrite hearts;  
And visit with Thy grace and peace ...  
Forever bless with Thine increase!”

With renewed zeal and quiet resolve,  
The Rev Tow persevered on.  
Unflinchingly, he would sit on his stool,  
Expounding the whole Truth to the school.

No servant has our Master ever forsaken;  
His presence could never be mistaken.  
Slowly, steadily the numbers increased,  
To be trained as teachers, pastors and evangelists.

Many graduates from the school would  
Follow the faith their teacher had firmly stood;  
Not only in word but also in deed,  
In all the commandments the Lord has decreed.

Whether it be biblical separation,  
Or verbal plenary preservation,  
To patiently and earnestly contend  
For the Faith once delivered to holy men.

Even when supporters are few,  
From God's Word we are not to skew.  
Instead, we must be on the Lord's side,  
From His battle we are not to hide.

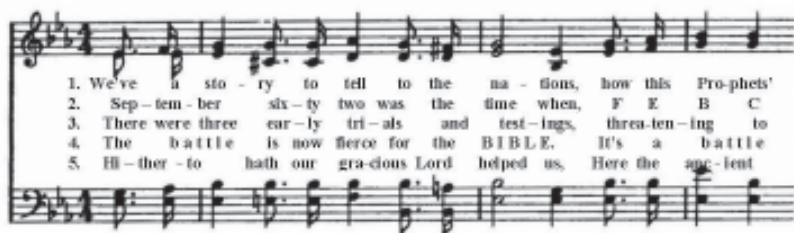
So the school was put to the test  
When its premises Life-Church schemed to wrest,  
Unless the school stops teaching  
The Perfect Bible God has been preserving.

Obey we must, in the Word we trust,  
Our burdens, upon our Deliverer cast.  
Once again, our Lord proves faithful  
To save victoriously, He is merciful.

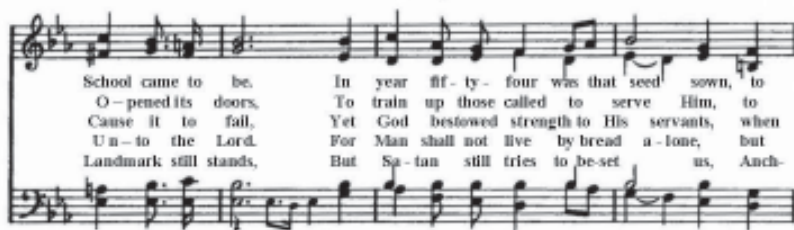
**The FEBC Story**  
(Sung to the tune of "We've a Story To Tell")

CKH

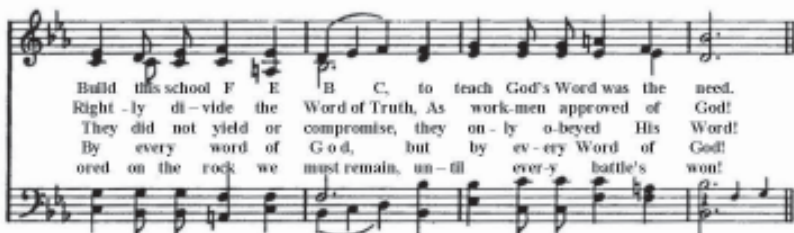
H. Ernest Nichol, 1862-1928



1. We've a sto - ry to tell to the na - tions, how this Pro-phets'  
2. Sep - tem - ber six - ty two was the time when, F E B C  
3. There were three ear - ly tri - als and test - ings, threa - ten - ing to  
4. The bat - tle is now fierce for the B I B L E. It's a bat - tle  
5. Hi - ther - to hath our gra - cious Lord helped us, Here the an - gels

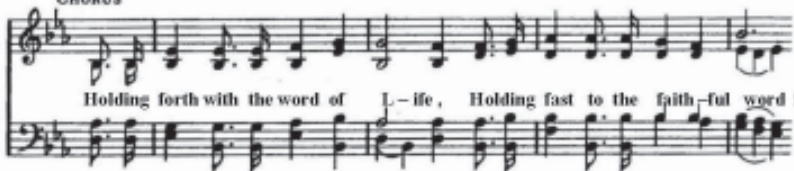


School came to be, In year fif - ty - four was that seed sown, to  
O - pened its doors, To train up those called to serve Him, to  
Cause it to fall, Yet God bestowed strength to His servants, when  
Un - to the Lord, For Man shall not live by bread a - lone, but  
Landmark still stands, But Sa - tan still tries to be - set us, Anch -



Build this school F E B C, to teach God's Word was the need.  
Right - ly di - vide the Word of Truth, As work - men approved of God!  
They did not yield or compromise, they on - ly o - beyed His Word!  
By every word of God, but by ev - ery Word of God!  
ored on the rock we must remain, un - til ev - ery bat - tle's won!

**CHORUS**



Holding forth with the word of L - ife, Holding fast to the faith - ful word !



May F E B C be steadfast still, In face of the fire and sword!

We thank the Lord for these 50 years,  
Keeping, guiding and allaying our fears.  
May the Lord help us to stand fast  
Until His face we see at last.

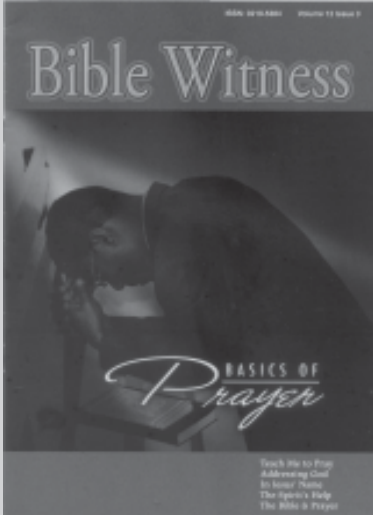
To God be the glory!

*Chan Sok Sin*

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*Dr Chan Kay Heem and his wife Sok Sin worship and serve at True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. Mrs Chan Sok Sin was awarded a Certificate of Religious Knowledge by FEBC in 2012. They have three children—Joshua, Joel and Anne.*

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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2013

**Bible Witness**

*BASICS OF Prayer*

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# THE FEBC STORY RETOLD

Siang-Hwa Tow

I shall tell it as I saw it happen 50 and more years ago. Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) is not just any college, but a college of the Bible, the inspired and inerrant Word of God—everlasting and unchanging. To handle such a Word, nay, to teach and expound it, is no mean task, but only such as are called of God, for it is God’s Holy Word.

Psalm 138:2 says, “...*thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name,*” and who is called “The Word of God” but our Lord Jesus Himself (Rev 19:13)! How carefully and reverently, then, must we be when we handle the written Word of God!

## The Story Starts with a Man

It happens the man was my brother, Brother Number One or “Big Brother,” in the Chinese “family hierarchy.” (I was Number Three among the boys.) In the absence of Father, Brother Number One was the “Head,” and in all our schooling years, we boys lived with Grandfather, away from Father. So for years, Big Brother held the reins of authority among the five brothers. (How important he was!)

My “FEBC Story” starts, therefore, with Big Brother, Son of Mother’s vow. In 1935, a most significant spiritual event took place in our home: the coming of revivalist-evangelist from China, Dr John Sung. His fame preceded him.

For six months we prayed for Dr Sung’s coming to *Nanyang*—“South Seas.” Miss Leona Wu had been much blessed by the ministry of Dr Sung, and she was Mother’s best friend. Miss Wu subsequently proved to be the only interpreter who could cope with Dr Sung’s preaching—translating from his Mandarin into Hokkien the *lingua franca* of the overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia. Through Miss Wu we were well prepared for Dr Sung’s coming.

## Rejoice, FEBC!

Rev Dr SH Tow

William H Walter

1. Re - joice, F E B C! Give  
2. Through fif - ty bles - sed years, Our  
3. Hold forth the Word of Life! For  
4. Stand fast F E B C! The

thanks with heart and voice, The Lord hath giv'n the  
Wit - ness He hath raised He led us thru the  
God's truth we con - tend With Him we tri - umph  
bat - tle ra - ges on His grace is e - qual

vic - to - ry Re - joice with joy - ful noise.  
vale of tears, May Je - sus Christ be praised!  
in the strife, Be stead - fast to the end.  
to the task- In Christ the vict - 'ry's won!

## *THE FEBC STORY RETOLD*

In his first preaching campaign in 1935, our entire family was saved and blessed. We practically attended three meetings each day for two full weeks without a miss—so powerful and gripping were Dr Sung’s messages.

At the first appeal for consecration issued by Dr Sung, Big Brother responded. Let me quote Big Brother’s own words:

When the call was made, I was one of the first to go up front.... Before the Doctor’s appeal, insofar as I was concerned, it was crystal clear what I should be when I grew up. When I was born, Mother gave me, as Hannah gave Samuel, to the Lord. Grandpa prayed the prayer of dedication. From a tender age, Mother would tell me of her vow and that when I grew up, I should serve God as a pastor. Thus, as the working of the Holy Spirit in my heart deepened with the quick passing of the days of the Revival Campaign, I was resolved to give the Saviour my all.

That was in 1935. Dr Sung visited Singapore in four successive years always in August during the school holidays.

The turn of events, however, saw the rise of Japanese power over Southeast Asia and the beginning of the fall of the mighty British Empire. The God of History was at work. Suddenly, the Japanese had displaced the British as a new colonial power. Everybody feverishly began to study Japanese! That was in 1942.

### **Amazing Turn of Events**

Like a bad dream, the years of Japanese Occupation dragged on: 1942-45, years of patient endurance. Big Brother joined the Japanese “Judicial Officers’ Training Institute.” Strange and unexpected, Japanese rule was abruptly shattered by America’s two atomic bombs (Hiroshima on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9, 1945). The Japanese surrendered, the British would soon be back.

But, how about Big Brother? His promise to serve the Lord was shelved! After all, his two years’ legal training seemed to point to a future in law. As soon as the British were back in charge, surely the reasonable thing to do was to complete his law studies in England.

Consequently, 1946 saw Big Brother accepted into London University and the Middle Temple to complete his law studies. It was then that the higher hand of God began to move. Like a bolt from the blue, Mother was taken home after a mysterious five-day fever. Undeterred,

Big Brother pressed on with plans to leave for London. (After all, his ticket was already bought.)

Then came a second blow: God took Big Brother's seven-month-old daughter, Lilyn, following an operation for intussusception of the intestines (an extremely rare reversal of the bowel contractions). This second blow shook him to his senses. Let Big Brother tell the story himself:

At the KK Hospital, as I entered the Babies' Ward I saw the grim spectacle of death. (Baby Lilyn had been operated on unsuccessfully for intussusception of the intestines.) But I was determined, adamant as rock, still set on London, when a sudden fainting sensation came over me. I saw myself passing out of this world. The fame and power that I was seeking became a worthless smouldering heap to me, a dying man. The Word of God struck me: for what shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul? The Lord spoke to me. I prayed: Lord, if you will give me back my life I will serve Thee forever. Amen.

My life returned to me, praise the Lord. I announced to my wife and all the relatives gathered in the hospital room, 'No more London for me!' Praise the Lord. I will only serve Him. I remembered Mother's vow, and my consecration at Dr John Sung's meeting: only Jesus, always Jesus! No more man's law, but the Law of God. The rest of the story is well known.

Big Brother found God's School of the Word: Faith Theological Seminary. There he obtained the Bachelor of Divinity degree [the Master of Divinity today], returned to Singapore and founded Life Bible-Presbyterian Church 1950. FEBC followed in 1962.

### **At Faith Seminary**

At Faith Seminary, Big Brother met his spiritual mentor, Dr Carl McIntire, leader of the "Twentieth Century Reformation Movement," to call men of faith to join in a global movement to oppose the Satanic "One World" or "Ecumenical Movement." The world's only hope is in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His righteous rule over all the Earth.

Such a "Call to arms" echoes the "Revival" and "Call of Christ" sounded out by Dr John Sung in his four years' (1935-39) successive visits and Evangelistic Campaigns in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

This "FEBC Spirit" gripped Big Brother, and is summed up by these words: "Save Souls! Revive the Church! Earnestly contend for the Faith, until Jesus returns."



## About FEBC and Its Function

Under Big Brother (1962–2009) and the Faculty, FEBC strives to equip men and women in Bible Theology. That is the primary purpose, not in man’s philosophy or “higher criticism.” Students are taught and equipped to be faithful to God’s Word, and to be able to use it to “*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 3; also 1 Pet 3:15). We live in the perilous end times when the forces of Satan are everywhere seeking to wound, cripple and destroy Christians.

FEBC courses of study are available in “Academic Programmes,” in “Night Classes” on selected topics, and “Online Theology” for students who find these computer-aided courses convenient (eg in distant situations).

FEBC helps and promotes Bible Colleges in countries overseas, eg ASEAN (Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines), Australia, Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania).

FEBC uses and promotes one English Bible only, the King James Version Bible. It is the “Reformation Bible”: its translators suffered the fires of Rome and its readers, by the hundreds, were burnt by Rome. Only the KJB and no other breathes the spirit of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century spirit, and is proscribed by Rome.

## How Did We Get the Bible?

All Scripture (autographs) is given by inspiration of God (Verbal Plenary Inspiration), and copies (apographs) by preservation of God (Verbal Plenary Preservation).

The Life Church Pastors and Elders did not believe in FEBC’s teaching of Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP). They charged FEBC with teaching “heresy” for which they instituted legal action to evict FEBC from the Gilstead Road premises.

In the ensuing trial, the Court of Appeal Judges awarded the case to FEBC. Thus (1) VPP is not inconsistent with the Westminster Confession of Faith, (2) FEBC has equal rights to the property at Gilstead Road, (3) FEBC and LBPC are to share the property.

In all the conflict, LBPC persecuting FEBC, Big Brother did not retaliate. He resigned as Pastor and founded a new Church—True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, which has been signally blessed of God.

## **Conclusion**

We believe in Romans 8:28, “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

FEBC was founded “*for such a time as this*” (Esth 4:14), for the raising of a standard against the enemies of God (Isa 59:9).

As the end time “falling away” (2 Thess 2:3) was beginning to sweep around the world, God raised His banner bearer, Timothy Tow, to lead men of faith and valour to rise up and stand against the enemy pressing on every hand, for these are the perilous end times.

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*Dr S H Tow is the Senior Pastor of Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the three-men founding committee responsible for the setting up of the Far Eastern Bible College and served as 3<sup>rd</sup> President of the FEBC Board of Directors from 1977 to 1989. Dr Tow was the honoured speaker at the Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service of FEBC held at the John Sung Memorial Chapel, Calvary Pandan BPC, September 23, 2012.*

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**RPG (Read, Pray & Grow)** Daily Bible Reading Guide is published quarterly by Tabernacle Books, Singapore. Since 1982, the RPG has been helping Christians around the world to read God's Word regularly and meaningfully. Its writers are conservative Bible-believing pastor-teachers of fundamental persuasion, with a “high view” of Holy Scripture. The RPG uses the King James Version of the Holy Bible, the Bible of the Reformation, most loved and trustworthy, and a bulwark in the path of unbiblical ecumenical union.

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# **GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING RETREAT**

Ruth Mei-Ern Low

*“All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee” (Ps 145:10).*

My purpose for signing up for the FEBC retreat at the Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, 17-19 September 2012 was to rejoice with the lecturers, alumni, students and friends in FEBC’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I felt it was an opportune time to recount the many blessings of God—both in FEBC as a college and my three-and-a-half years as a student. FEBC, by God’s sustaining grace, has been a great tool in the training and equipping of many for the ministry.

As the golden jubilee video depicted and summarised, there were four crises in the life of the institution: (1) the discouraging number of students and their departure at her inception; (2) the infiltration and influence of Charismaticism resulting in the dissension within the Bible-Presbyterian circle; (3) the dissolution of the synod; and (4) the recent Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) lawsuit. Nonetheless, God’s higher ways inevitably came to pass. FEBC withstood the onslaughts of the evil one as God saw her through every trial and despairing moment until this very day. Who would have imagined how He would vindicate Himself and preserve FEBC? God always prevails for nothing can thwart what He has ordained.

Despite FEBC’s victories, some students have come and gone from the ministry after graduation. For one reason or another, some have abandoned the work of the Lord. But of course, there are those who remain faithful. I am thankful that through FEBC, many like-minded churches have raised up godly men and women who are currently serving in their respective ministries, be it in their home country or abroad, as a pastor or preacher, or as a lecturer or teacher. I gave thanks to the Lord in my heart when I heard the many reports and testimonies of alumni who came from various parts of the world to be at the retreat. They shared

with the rest the goodness and working of God. It was such an encouragement to have a glimpse of the work God has called each of them to do, and to see photos of the children, youth and adults whom they minister to every week. Many of these people are not rich or well educated, and their places of worship/ministry are not the best but I thank God that the Word of God has reached places where sound preaching is often lacking.

From the reports, I witnessed the perseverance of God's servants. They did not despise humble beginnings. The places used for Bible studies, lectures and Sunday school may be small and simple but they remained contented and faithful. Opposition and discouragement also came from those who do not love God or understand the manner of Christian life and ministry. One of the Thai alumni reported that there were people saying they will not join the Bible College until a proper building is erected; and in some places, those who attended Bible classes dropped out halfway; and some churches started with very few people. But the ministers of the Word continued their work. I pray that God will strengthen their hearts and enable them to remain steadfast and true to Him when things seem unpromising.

I am truly amazed by the Bible College movement abroad. There are Bible colleges which have been set up by FEBC graduates or where they are serving as lecturers. We hear of *Bethel Bible College* in Chiang Rai, Thailand; *True Gospel Bible School* in Cambodia; *Calvary Batam Bible College* in Batam, Indonesia; *Upper Room Bible College* in Pontianak, Indonesia; *Bible College of East Africa* in Nairobi, Kenya and Tanzania; *Bomet Bible Institute* in Kenya; *Faith College of the Bible* in Eldoret, Kenya; *Gethsemane Bible Institute* in Ethiopia and the Philippines; and *Aboriginal Bible College* in Perth, Australia. God-willing, there will also be a *Conservative Presbyterian Seminary* in Korea. Praise the Lord that His Word is taught far and wide in the continents of Asia, Africa and Australia!

In addition to the Bible College movement, there are churches springing up, three of which are *True Gospel Bible-Presbyterian Church*, *True Faith Bible-Presbyterian Church* and *Lively Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church*—all in Cambodia. Both the church and the college are closely linked to each other, and immensely important in the furtherance of God's Kingdom here on earth. I praise the Lord that with every Bible College which was reported on, there is a church supporting

## GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING RETREAT

or associated with it. Even without Bible colleges in some other areas, there are still fundamental churches that preach the Word of God. Rev Hien Nguyen, the Vietnamese pastor of Brisbane BPC, had his many struggles at the beginning of his ministry but he shared how God graciously provided for the needs of his family and church. Today, he shares the Word through preaching and writing a short section in the newspapers. Rev Hien's faith in God, humble demeanor, and cheerful countenance as he testified of God's faithfulness brought much encouragement to my heart.

I was glad to hear that there are several ministries for children such as in Bomet, BCEA (kindergarten), Eldoret (outreaches to primary schools) and Chiang Rai (*Bethel Development Center*). God uses Bible Colleges, churches and children outreaches to bring God's Word to everyone—from full-time ministers to laymen in the church to children in the street.

In short, I am thankful for the opportunity to hear how FEBC-trained men and women are empowered to serve God in every place He has appointed them. God has reminded me through the reports, testimonies and messages to be faithful even in the smallest tasks done for His name. I need to pray more diligently for the work and the workers, being more mindful than before of the great lack of preachers and teachers everywhere, as well as the dire need of souls for the Gospel.

Besides the blessings I received from the sharings, I thank God I was able to see and talk to old friends in the retreat; forge new friendships; enjoy a physical and spiritual rest; and even learn some new choruses penned by the late Rev Timothy Tow. I am also very appreciative of those who settled the administration matters for this retreat, and the student body who laboured much in the preparation of the sketches, song presentations, golden jubilee video and meals. The sketches were very humorous yet meaningful, and the video was done well. I must say the singing of FEBC students have improved tremendously too. All praise to the Lord for their hard work! It is my prayer that they will bring with them a servant's heart when they enter the full-time ministry.

As FEBC celebrates her golden jubilee this year, may the Lord bless all lecturers, alumni and students with more fervency and holiness in His service now and in the years to come.

*“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation” (Ps 24:3-5).*

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*Ruth Low (MRE 2008) is a full-time staff of Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church serving in the Bible Witness Media Ministries of the Church.*

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## GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING RETREAT

RESORT LAUTAN BIRU, MERSING  
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2012

*GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING RETREAT*



**Top:** The Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo speaking at the opening night and introducing the Retreat handbook.

**Bottom:** Mrs Ivy Tow, Matron, praising the Lord in her testimony on how the Lord helped FEBC in her early years.





Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FEBC with five thanksgiving cakes and 50 candles. What a joyful evening!



*GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING RETREAT*



**Top:** ASEAN students presenting a song item.

**Bottom:** Singing hymns and choruses penned by FEBC's founding principal—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow.



**Top:** The Rev Dr Mark Kim reporting on the work of the Bible College of East Africa in Kenya, Tanzania, and God willing Rwanda.

**Bottom:** The Rev Michael Koech sharing on his work at Bomet Bible Institute in Kenya.

*GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING RETREAT*



Chan Sopheak (top) and Liv Rotha (bottom) reporting on their work at True Gospel Bible-Presbyterian Church and Bible School in Kampot, Cambodia.

*The Burning Bush 19/1 (January 2013)*



**From top left clockwise:** Rev & Mrs Koa Keng Woo; Rev Koa conducting the FEBC choir; Rev Dr Park Seung Kyu; Weerapong Harichaiikul; Kenny Cheong; Rev Biak Lawm Thang; Nelson Were; and Mrs Ivy Tow (Matron).

## WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!

*“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name” (Ps 138:2).*

What a week of rejoicing and thanksgiving to our God and Saviour Jesus Christ for His good hand upon the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) all these 50 years of her existence. It was a double thanksgiving and blessing! The College held two services, an Alumni Thanksgiving Service on Friday, September 21, and the Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service on the Lord’s Day, September 23, 2012.

The Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner and Service was attended by 400 who dined alfresco under royal and coconut palms at the college grounds. The Lord heard our prayers and withheld the rain. A brief shower at 4 pm cleansed the grounds, and by the time the dinner started at 6 pm, the air was cool and fresh, and all enjoyed the food and fellowship under the clear, sunset skies. The highlight of the Service was no doubt the conferment of the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on one of FEBC’s faithful alumni, the Rev Koa Keng Woo, 83 years of age but still going strong, serving the Lord with much joy and zeal. Here is his citation as read out by the Principal:

The Rev Koa Keng Woo was born in Mentakab, Pahang, Malaysia on 12 May 1929. Born into a Christian family, his parents were Christians who migrated to Singapore and Malaysia from Southern China. His paternal grandfather was a preacher in Changchow, Fukien province, and his maternal grandfather was the first pastor of Trinity Church in Muar.

The Rev Koa believed sincerely in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour in 1946. In 1981, he enrolled as a student of Far Eastern Bible College after much encouragement from the Rev Dr Timothy Tow. More importantly, he was moved by God’s Word to answer God’s call to full-time service. John 9:4 in particular spoke to his heart, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” In 1987, he graduated with his Bachelor of Theology degree. In partial fulfilment of the requirements for his degree, he wrote a thesis on “The History of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore and Malaysia.”

In 1981, the Rev Dr Timothy Tow assigned him to teach Church Music and Bible Geography at the Far Eastern Bible College, which he continues to teach to this day. As a musician, the Rev Koa plays the piano and the flute and conducts the College choir.

The Rev Koa (then an Elder) was ordained a minister of the gospel on 31 July 1989. Since then he has been the pastor of Muar Bible-Presbyterian Church. He is currently also the pastor of Rawang Bible-Presbyterian Church and Bukit Gambir Bible-Presbyterian Church, and the advisory pastor of the historic Trinity Church in Muar which in 2011 celebrated her centenary.

The Rev Koa was also part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation Movement under the Rev Dr Carl McIntire. He was Vice-President of the International Council of Christian Churches representing Malaysia.

Being fluent in both English and Mandarin, the Rev Koa is well sought after as a speaker by many churches. He has been called upon many times to preach at Kemaman Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, Miri Bible-Presbyterian Church, Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church in Sibul, and recently the Chinese service of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. The Rev Koa is 83 years old. Despite his age, he labours tirelessly and cheerfully for the Lord. Like the Rev Dr Timothy Tow, retirement from the Lord's service is not part of his vocabulary.

The Rev Koa has a helpful and supportive wife (Siew Kheng). They were married in 1962, the same year FEBC was founded. Mrs Koa taught pianoforte at FEBC from 1981-2007. We thank the Lord for her contribution to FEBC as well.

The Rev Koa Keng Woo exemplifies the spirit of the Far Eastern Bible College which is faithfulness to the Lord and to His Word. As such, the College, on this auspicious occasion of her Golden Jubilee, is pleased to confer on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa*.

As the honoured speaker that night, the Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo gave a most pertinent message, "The Need for Godliness in Ministry."

There was a screening of the video on the history of the College produced by students Kenneth Wong, Choong Yijie, Eileen Chee, and Kenny Cheong highlighting the many crises and challenges the College had to go through since her founding, and how the Lord wonderfully protected the College from all the attacks of her enemies and gave her victory.

FEBC's Golden Jubilee Yearbook—*To Magnify His Word*—was given out that night, hot off the press. All who came also took home a



## *WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!*

souvenir coffee mug with the FEBC logo and the words, “Self help with God’s help is the best help”—one of Timothy Tow’s famous sayings, well known to all his students.

Sunday night saw over 800 at the Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service held at the John Sung Memorial Chapel, Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church. The Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew, pastor of Calvary Pandan, chaired the service, and Dr S H Tow, senior pastor of Calvary Pandan and one of the patriarchs of the Bible-Presbyterian Church, was the Lord’s messenger. Dr Tow gave many insights into how God promoted and preserved the College, how in many divinely ordered events in the history of the College, life came out of death!

Mrs Ivy Tow—one of FEBC’s first students and graduates—was honoured and affectionately called “Mrs Bible College”—she was the founding Principal’s good “right hand” and “helpmeet” since 1966, and truly a mother to all her students.

A total of \$68,552.90 (plus about \$220 in foreign currencies) of thanksgiving offerings was collected from the two services. All will go to the support of the Bible College movement overseas except for \$2,400 which was designated specifically for FEBC by “Grateful Alumni”.

The FEBC ship did not sink as many had hoped, but sails on steadily with Jesus Christ as her Captain and Pilot steering a straight course along the strait and narrow that leads to life. What further challenges and battles lie ahead for FEBC? Only the Lord knows. But with Him in the vessel we can smile at whatever storms that may come our way. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

### **Anniversary Greetings**

#### **From Grateful Alumnus**

Dear FEBC

I praise God for raising FEBC for training ministers and full-time workers for His vineyard. And I cannot give thanks enough to God for leading me to His choice college because it is within its halls that I have learnt what it means to be faithful to His Word.

God has indeed shown His great faithfulness in how He has led and protected FEBC through the storms—glory to His Name! The events recounted during the lead up to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary have truly

strengthened my faith—that those who remain faithful in honouring God, God will honour.

1 Samuel 2:30 says, *“Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”*

The sound teaching on theology and doctrines are critical for the work of God but the lessons learnt within the halls of FEBC go beyond them. The additional training of the spiritual man and character is most invaluable for God’s servants, as well as the emphasis on humility in the study of theology.

It has indeed been a tremendous privilege to be part of this momentous period of FEBC’s history and to have the honour of standing on the Lord’s side with FEBC. May God continue to grant FEBC the courage, zeal, and strength to be faithful to the inerrant, infallible, inspired and preserved Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ to the very end.

All glory to God in the highest!

In Christ

Grateful Alumnus

**From Dr Paul Lee Tan**

September 20, 2012

Dearly beloved Dr and Mrs Khoo:

Congratulations on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE, and its Christ-centered, Bible-based churches.

In Psalm 103:2, King David wrote: *“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”* And truly, God has given many abundant “benefits” to the strategic ministry of FEBC in the vital training of future servants of God for worldwide Christian service.

Today, as we all celebrate another milestone of God’s mission, may God fill all of you with joy, peace, and renewed strength.

It is amazing to see how God had envisioned His servant, beloved Dr Timothy Tow, to establish the Far Eastern Bible College for the furtherance of the Gospel ministries in Singapore and worldwide. And through this wonderful school, you have motivated, trained, equipped, and sent forth countless servants of God into the mission field.



## WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!

In this half century of sacred ministries—while waiting for Christ’s soon return—FEBC has stood fast on sound Bible doctrines, and has uplifted Christ amidst a changing world, based on your founding principles and continuing diligence in the Faith.

Now, as you enter another chapter (and century) of your sacred service for God, may the Apostle Paul’s prayer be fulfilled at FEBC: *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”* (Phil 1:6).

Matthew 28:19-20: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Thank you and may God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr Paul Lee Tan, Prophetic Ministries Inc.

### From Kenya

To the Principal and the whole fraternity of Far Eastern Bible College:

On behalf of Faith College of the Bible Board of Directors, Faculty and students, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your Golden Jubilee in the service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The late Dr Timothy Tow, founder of FEBC, had a vision that led to the establishment of FEBC 50 years ago; a vision that God has richly blessed and whose fruit is evident in the large number of pastors and teachers who have graduated from FEBC, the number of churches planted by these men, and the vibrant ministries of graduates of FEBC.

In the light of this great blessing and success, may all the glory be unto God. I entreat you to continue *“serving the Lord with all humility of mind ...”* (Acts 20:19) that He may continue to bless this wonderful ministry.

Here in Kenya and especially Faith College of the Bible, we have been blessed by the ministry of your students especially, Rev Michael Koech, Rev Titus Nzoka, Rev Jonathan Langat, Pst Nelson Were and Mrs Christine Were, Pst Francis Nyamiwa and Mrs Violet Nyamiwa.

Congratulations and may the Lord bless you and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ

Rev Joshua L Musyoka, Principal, Faith College of the Bible, Eldoret

**From Sierra Leone**

Dear Rev (Dr) Khoo,

Covenant greetings in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am so happy to know that FEBC will be commemorating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Let me take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to you, all the lecturers, Board of Directors and the Administrative Staff of the Far Eastern Bible College for cordially inviting me to attend the FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Week, September 17-23, 2012. May the good Lord richly bless FEBC, the principal, Rev (Dr) Jeffrey Khoo, and the FEBC family. Even though I may not have the opportunity to attend, I will share my testimony.

Before I went to FEBC, I had been like the Ethiopian eunuch who read the Scripture but lacked understanding. So he needed someone to guide him in order to understand Scripture. And I was like Apollos of Alexandria who knew "only the baptism of John" (Acts 18:25). I needed Aquila and Priscilla to expound unto me the way of God. So the Lord opened a door for me to study at FEBC.

After two years of intensive God-honouring, Christ-centered and Bible-based Reformed teaching by "conservative Bible-believing pastor-teachers of fundamentalist persuasion" at FEBC, I joined the Apostle Paul to say, *"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place"* (2 Cor 2:14).

When I returned to Sierra Leone, a door was opened to me by the Lord to teach at Reformed Theological School from 2008 to 2010. When we are faithful over few things, the Lord promised to make us rulers over many things. By God's grace, I am the supervising pastor at Nyangba Town Presbyterian Church, Waterloo-Freetown, pastor in charge of First Presbyterian Church, 2 High Broad Street, Murray Town, Freetown, and Acting Moderator of General Assembly Presbyterian Church of Sierra Leone (PCSL). All glory be to God.

I will always remember FEBC for four things: (1) They believe the Bible to be the Word of God. (2) They tirelessly defend the Word of God. (3) They teach and preach the Word of God. (4) They live in accordance to the Word of God.

### *WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!*

I pray that the good Lord will continue to use FEBC to be the channel through which many more blessings flow to many of God's children around the world. Amen.

I have attached a photo of my teaching ministry at RTS to this testimony letter. God bless.

In His Service

Rev Albert Ben Kainesie

### **From the Philippines**

Dear Dr and Mrs Khoo,

On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Far Eastern Bible College, I wish to let you know how grateful I am to God for graciously leading me not only to visit your campus but also for allowing me to have a taste of what the school teaches. Indeed it is not by chance that Dr and Mrs Lagapa have become my friends in CMU. God used them so I can be instructed in the truth from God's Word which I observed had become a rarity even in so-called fundamental churches.

I shared what I learned from the Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on the Theology of Giving last summer with the elder women in our church and they expressed how blessed they were by the message. Right now, God allows me to learn from the Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy the Gospel of John through online study. This is helping me a lot in building my confidence to conduct Bible studies with several students in the school where I am teaching. God's Word indeed is powerful, and I am grateful to God for faithful men and women at FEBC who teach God's Word, who show a clear defense of the King James Bible as the most faithful translation, and for discipling men and women to be faithful in His service.

At my age, and for the many years that I have professed to be a Christian, I am very happy that God is teaching me through your ministry. I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to the administration, faculty and staff for a job well done in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

Prof Patria P Solidum, Central Mindanao University

Dear Dr Jeffrey Khoo,

I would like to greet Far Eastern Bible College on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I praise and thank God for FEBC for continually preaching and teaching faithfully the Word of God and for continually defending God's Word against the attack of the enemies. My family and I are thankful to God for allowing us to attend the Daily Vacation Bible College of FEBC last year. Truly, we have been blessed by God through FEBC in strengthening our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy, inspired, infallible and inerrant Word.

I pray that FEBC will continue to stand firm in her God-given commission.

A brother in Christ,

Dr Einstine Opiso, Central Mindanao University

### **From Vietnam**

Dear Dr Khoo,

Greetings to you in our Lord Jesus Christ from Vietnam.

I am so sorry that I cannot come and rejoice with my Alma Mater at her 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Week. I had planned to come since I heard of this event. However, I have a ministry in Vietnam already scheduled to be held at the same time as the anniversary. I wish I could change my schedule but I cannot. We have a church dedication and thanksgiving service on 24<sup>th</sup> September in the highlands which is eight hours by car from HCMC. I will be the guest speaker and am in charge of this service. Surely, I cannot be back on time if I went to Singapore. I will miss a wonderful time.

Congratulations to you, faculty members and all the students with all my heart. My heart rejoice and I am thankful to God for what He has done for my Alma Mater. It is a wonderful testimony and a great encouragement for all of us to witness that the Lord is faithful to preserve this college for His glory. Truly, the Word of God says in Psalm 127:1, *“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”*

May the Lord continue to bless and preserve Far Eastern Bible College to train more and more faithful and able men for His Kingdom.

May God bless you.

Your students,

Bao An & Nha Uyen

## WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!

### From Myanmar

Dear Pastor Jeffrey,

Greeting you in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God, and your prayers, and True Life BPC's love gifts and support, we all here (NLOC) have been running well and doing well till today. Praise God.

I am sorry that I cannot join FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary thanksgiving. But my family and I and all the children here are so happy and thankful to God for His goodness and guidance and protection which saved FEBC from many difficulties and hardships. Praise God.

Actually, Satan wants to destroy FEBC and wants to evict FEBC from her birthplace using Life BPC but God protected and preserved and saved with His mighty hand because God had appointed FEBC to hold/keep His Word (VPI, 2 Tim 3:16) and (VPP, Matt 5:18), and to stand strongly and rightly at the end of the day.

Job 8:7 says, *"Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase."* May FEBC train more pastors, teachers, evangelists in the future until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again; *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"* (Phil 1:6).

Pastor, we ( NLOC) are always behind you praying for you and for True Life BPC and FEBC. Pastor, thank God that He has provided for the needs of NLOC through True Life BPC till today. We (NLOC) are very happy and thankful to God and to True Life BPC too. Praise God and to God be the glory. Thanks.

We all here always pray for you and for True Life BPC and FEBC. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Thangno, New Life Orphan Center, Yangon, Myanmar

### From Australia

Dear Dr Khoo and FEBC Faculty

Greetings in the Lord's most precious Name!

We rejoice with FEBC as she celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We thank God for prospering her and for the many servants of His that have been very diligently prepared for His service over the years. We thank God

also that in this age when the great ‘falling away’ gathers momentum, FEBC has been standing up as an exemplary bastion of truth. We thank God that FEBC stood faithfully and triumphantly in the defence of the divine preservation of Holy Scripture in the face of overwhelming unfaithfulness—a task that can only be described as being favourably endorsed by our God.


May the Lord continue to increase the witness and the educational effectiveness of this school of prophets.

Yours in Christ

Elder Koh Kim Hiang, on behalf of Sydney Bible-Presbyterian Church

Calling All Alumni, Students, and Friends of FEBC!  
You are cordially invited to attend the following events during

**THANKSGIVING WEEK**




**THANKSGIVING RETREAT**  
Monday-Friday, September 17-19, 2012  
@ Resort Lautan Biru, Mering, Malaysia

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Thursday, September 20, 2012  
Welcome to Chapel & Lectures @ FEBC HALL  
9A Giltread Road  
Time: 8 am – 12.30 pm  
Night Lecture @ Church Sanctuary: 7.30 – 9.30 pm

**ALUMNI THANKSGIVING SERVICE & DINNER**  
Friday, September 21, 2012  
@ Far Eastern Bible College &  
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Sanctuary  
9A Giltread Road  
Dinner: 6 – 7 pm  
Service: 7.30 – 9.30 pm  
Come & Collect Your Copy of the Golden Jubilee Yearbook

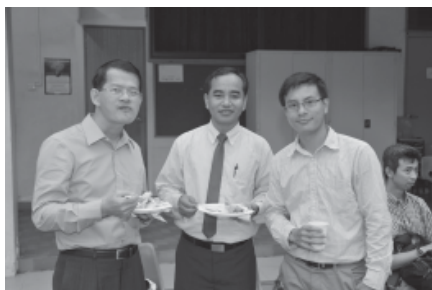
**GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
The Lord's Day, September 23, 2012  
@ Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church  
201, Pandan Gardens  
Time: 6 pm (reception thereafter)  
Speaker: The Rev Dr Tioe Sang Hwa

"I WILL WORSHIP TOWARDS THY HOLY TEMPLE, AND PRAISE THY NAME FOR THY LOVINGKINDNESS  
AND FOR THY TRUTH: FOR THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD ABOVE ALL THY NAME."  
- PSALM 138:2 -



FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE  
1962-2012  
[www.febc.edu.sg](http://www.febc.edu.sg)

*WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!*



FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner, 21 September 2012.



*The Burning Bush 19/1 (January 2013)*



FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner, 21 September 2012.



*WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!*



FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Service, 21 September 2012.

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FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Service, 21 September 2012.

*WHAT A GOLDEN JUBILEE!*



FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Service, 21 September 2012.

*The Burning Bush 19/1 (January 2013)*



FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Service, 21 September 2012.

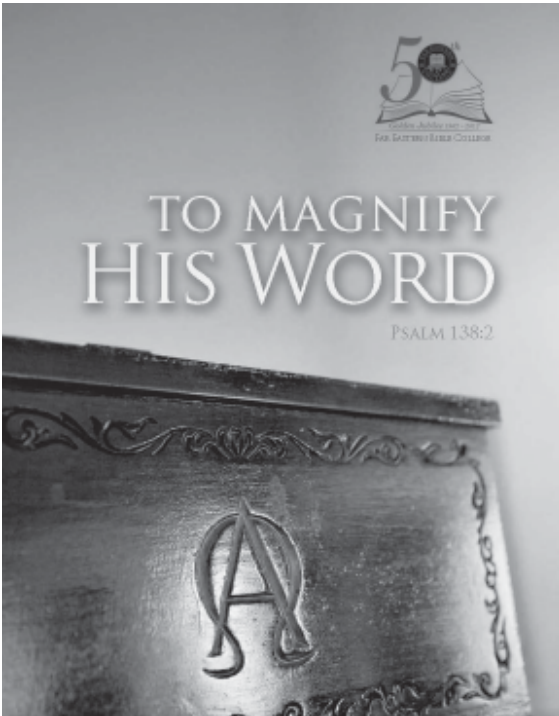
## College News

**FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary academic year** commenced on Monday, July 16, 2012 with a day of thanksgiving and prayer on home soil at 9A Gilstead Road in the sanctuary of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church which is a conducive and convenient place for worship and fellowship. The Principal spoke on what it means to follow Jesus Christ from Mark 8:34-38, *"And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."* All members of the Board and faculty together with the students and alumni enjoyed a blessed morning of reunion and rejoicing. Among the alumni, we had Mark Heath from the Class of 1984 who gave a testimony on how he has been blessed by his alma mater, especially now through her online courses. Mark serves in the Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (BPCWA).

**In the July-November 2012 semester**, the College saw a total of 395 students enrolled in its various programmes. These students consist of 90 day-time students (46 full-time, 44 part-time) from 13 countries (Australia, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Tanzania, and Thailand), and 226 lay students in the Basic Theology for Everyone (BTFE) night classes on Mondays ("Joshua, Judges & Ruth" by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew) and Thursdays ("1 & 2 Peter" by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy), and 79 distance learning students taking the online courses. The following are new full-time students: Byju Samuel (India), Chiang Koon Joo Matthias (Singapore), Cheong Fu Yan Jeffrey (Singapore), Jang Se Jin (Korea), Kiet Thaven (Cambodia), Lal Lian Uk (Myanmar), Shobastian (Indonesia), and Yap Wai Ho (Singapore).

**The FEBC Golden Jubilee commemoration and celebrations** were held in the week commencing September 17, 2012. FEBC was





founded on September 17, 1962. The college family had a thanksgiving retreat at the Resort Lautan Biru from September 17-19. There was an FEBC Open House on September 20. On September 21, we had an Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner and Service. The Service in full academic regalia was held at the Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Sanctuary and attended by over 400. The Rev Koa Keng Woo was conferred the Doctor

of Divinity *honoris causa*. As the honoured speaker that night, he preached a message on “The Need for Godliness in Ministry”. The week-long celebrations reached a grand finale on the Lord’s Day, September 23, 6 pm at the John Sung Memorial Chapel of Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church where over 800 came to attend the college’s Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service. Dr S H Tow was the honoured speaker and he spoke a timely message entitled “For Such a Time as This” giving insights into the founding and history of the college and its founding principal—the Rev Dr Timothy Tow. A commemorative yearbook and a souvenir coffee mug were given out during the thanksgiving week. Praise the Lord!





The Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo delivering his message on “Godliness in Ministry” at FEBC’s Alumni Thanksgiving Service, 21 September 2012.

**Far Eastern Bible College**  
**2nd Bible Lands Pilgrimage**  
In the Steps of the Apostle Paul (from Antioch to  
Troas) and  
The Seven Churches of Revelation

**Turkey**  
**December 10 – 20, 2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEBC conducted her 2<sup>nd</sup> Bible Lands Pilgrimage** to Asia Minor (Turkey) in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul from 10 to 20 December 2012. A total of 46 pilgrims from eight churches (Berean, Bethel, Calvary Pandan, Gospel Light, Sharon, True Life, Truth BPCs and Wesley Methodist Church) participated. Two credits are awarded to pilgrims who complete a research project after the trip.

*The Burning Bush 19/1 (January 2013)*



FEBC's Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service, 23 September 2012.





FEBC's Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service, 23 September 2012.

**Top:** Calvary Pandan Church Choir.

**Bottom:** FEBC's African Students.

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FEBC's Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service, 23 September 2012.

**Top:** Deborah Mae (CertRK 2005) and Judith d'Silva.

**Bottom:** FEBC Choir.



**TO MAGNIFY HIS WORD**  
**FEBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Thanksgiving Service**  
**@ Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 21 September 2012**





***“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Ps 133:1)***

**FEBC’s Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Retreat  
Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, 17-19 September 2012**