# PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES

In Thanksgiving for God's Preservation of the King James Bible and the Far Eastern Bible College.



ISSN 0219-5984 July 2015 Volume 21 Num



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

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

**Rev Koa Keng Woo**, BTh, DD Lecturer in Bible Geography and Church Music **Rev Stephen Khoo**, BTh, MDiv, MA Lecturer in Biblical Studies

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

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

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

Editor	: Jeffrey Khoo
Publisher	: Far Eastern Bible College
Website	: www.febc.edu.sg
Permit	: MCI (P) 026/03/2015
Printer	: Chung Printing Pte Ltd

*The Burning Bush* (ISSN 0219-5984) is published bi-annually in January and July, and contains theological papers, sermons, testimonies, book reviews, College news, and alumni reports. Articles are indexed in the *Christian Periodical Index*. The journal is distributed gratis to the FEBC family and Bible-Presbyterian churches, and available online at www.febc.edu.sg. Local/Foreign subscription rates in Singapore dollars: one year —\$8/\$16; two years—\$15/\$30; back issues—\$4/\$8 per copy. Make cheques payable to "Far Eastern Bible College."

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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# Editorial

#### FEBC BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER

Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) started a new chapter in her life and history when she reopened with a day of prayer on 5 January 2015. The Scheme to govern the sharing and use of the premises at 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead Road between Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (LBPC) and FEBC was finalised by the High Court on 27 November 2014. The law of charitable purpose trust which is of public interest has been established and applied.

The High Court of Singapore allotted to FEBC 1811.88 sqm of space for exclusive use (LBPC has 1999.72 sqm). With this, FEBC can now have a central library with increased shelf and study space. The library is located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> storey of the Extension Block near the dorms for easy and convenient access. The three classrooms at the 4<sup>th</sup> storey of the new Beulah Centre are used for our Hebrew, Greek, and English classes. Our offices, staffroom, and bookroom are moved to Beulah House (the house with a turret). There will be additional dorm space at the 2<sup>nd</sup> parsonage and 5<sup>th</sup> storey of the new Beulah Centre. Repairs and renovations which started at the end of last year are still ongoing. The old buildings at 9A especially need a lot of repairs. We hope to complete the necessary works in due time without disruption to the activities of FEBC and LBPC.

We pray for peaceful co-existence with LBPC for the sake of the gospel and the testimony of Jesus Christ. We believe the Bible is 100% inspired and preserved in the Traditional Hebrew and Received Greek Texts underlying the good old Authorised Version (KJV). This is according to God's power in history and God's promise in Scripture (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18). This is true to the Westminster Standards and our Reformed Faith of *Sola Scriptura*—the sole, supreme and final authority of our faith and practice is in the infallible and inerrant *Apographa*, not just the *Autographa*. LBPC still uses the KJV. FEBC is defending the KJV.

#### Editorial

To be a faithful training institute for pastors and teachers, FEBC cannot but earnestly contend for the faith especially in these last days of doctrinal confusion and uncertainty (Jude 3).

This special edition of *The Burning Bush* is in thanksgiving to God for His miraculously inspired and preserved words of Holy Scripture and His marvellous protection of FEBC from those who sued to stop her from teaching a 100% perfect Bible without any mistake and evict her from her birthplace and home at Gilstead Road.

Indeed the words of the Lord are pure words "*purified seven times*" (Ps 12:6-7). The late Rev Dr Carl McIntire, founder of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation Movement and the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) and the Bible-Presbyterian Church (USA), taught the verbal and plenary preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures. In his sermon on Psalm 12 preached in 1992, he said: "*The words of the LORD are pure words*," not one of them is mistaken, '*as silver tried in the furnace of earth, purified seven times*. 'All the dregs are out. Here is a marvelous affirmation and vindication that **God's Word is perfect.** … Now, '*The words of the LORD are pure words*.' And then verse 7, how I love this: '*Thou shalt keep them O LORD*,' that is, **keep His words**; '*thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever*.' No matter what happens, one generation comes and another passes away, **God is going to preserve His words from one generation to another. The words of God will be preserved throughout all the generations**."

The false accusations of false teachers and bloggers in the social media notwithstanding, FEBC remains true to the good old Reformation Bible (KJV), the Reformed Faith, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Bible-Presbyterian Constitution and Statement of Faith to the glory of God and for the edification of His Church. Amen.

# THE TRUTH OF VERBAL PLENARY PRESERVATION

#### Suan Yew Quek

"Yea, hath God said?" were the first words of the serpent to Eve in the Garden of Eden. These words attack the perfect Word of God by casting doubt on them. The modern equivalent of these words is, "Can you really believe the Bible? It has mistakes, albeit very few and minor." Satan has attacked the Bible a doctrine at a time, from Ex-Nihilo Creation to the Global Flood, from the Virgin Birth to the Resurrection of Christ. Why this incessant attack? The reason is that without the perfect Word of God, there is no salvation. Without the perfect Word of God, babes in Christ cannot grow into spiritual maturity. Without the perfect Word of God, church leaders will not be able to defend the Faith. "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Prov 29:18). The "vision" and "law" here refer to the perfect Word of God. When the Word of God is obeyed, believers are happy, ie "blessed", which means that they have a personal salvific experience with Christ. When there is no perfect Word, the people die.

This old serpent is the devil himself. He knows the priceless value of the perfect Bible to all mankind. That is why he has not stopped attacking the Bible. In the past, Satan attacked its inspiration. When he failed, he started to attack its preservation. Instead of attacking the Bible writers, he is now attacking the Bible readers by spreading the lie that God has inspired His Word perfectly but did not preserve all of its words so that today Christians have a Bible with mistakes! This is the most deadly of all the attacks.

Bible attackers today claim to believe in the doctrine of inspiration, but they deny the doctrine of preservation. On the one hand, they say, "I am for the perfect Bible"; but in the next breath they say "the Bible has mistakes!" One hears such double talk from many professing believers. Did God inspire His Word without preserving it?

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To know the truth, we must start from the basics. What are the doctrines of biblical inspiration and preservation?

#### Verbal Plenary Inspiration and Verbal Plenary Preservation

Verbal" means "the words." "Plenary" means "all" or "complete." Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) means "all the words are inspired." Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) means "all the words are preserved." The attackers of VPI and VPP both say that the Bible is perfect only in spiritual or doctrinal matters but contains mistakes when it comes to names, places, numbers, dates etc. They further say that the mistakes are minor. Sadly, just as this fallacious reasoning worked to deceive many, the same reasoning has succeeded in deceiving many in these last days. Hence, the terms VPI and VPP were coined to defend the absolute and total inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible from these attackers.

The Bible verses that teach the doctrine of inspiration are 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The phrase "given by inspiration of God" literally means "God-breathed." All Scripture is God-breathed. Inspiration applies to every jot and tittle of every word without distinction, and its grammar and syntax. It covers not just the Old Testament but also the New Testament. The whole and complete Bible is the very Word of God itself.

The Holy Spirit inspired God's servants to write all of Holy Scripture (Mark 12:36, Acts 1:16). The purpose for the giving of inspired Scripture is that "the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim 3:17). This purpose always stands and has not changed. The Word of God is given for man's obedience and transformation. Without the perfect Word of God, man cannot be saved and be transformed. The inspired Word of God is indispensable.

The process of VPI is varied. In some instances, it is by dictation such as the entire book of Genesis, the Ten Commandments (Exod 20:3-17), the Civil Laws for Israel (Exod 21:1-23:33), the pattern of the Tabernacle and garments of the priests (Exod 25:1-31:18); and in other instances it is through eyewitness accounts or personal testimonies (Luke 1:2) and the Epistles. The writers of the Epistles clearly retained their

personalities. They were not robots or turned into machines. They wrote with their respective cognitive personal characteristics but the final product is altogether the words of God and not the words of men. The process may be varied but the end product is the same, ie the very perfect Word of God. The believers in the first century understood this very well. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." The inspired Word of God effectually worked in the hearts and minds of all those who believed. It is important to note that the doctrine of inspiration applies to the words of Scripture and not the writers of Scripture.

The doctrine of VPI is not about a translation or version of the Bible. It is about the original language words. The languages that God used to inspire His perfect Word were Hebrew and Aramaic for the Old Testament (Dan 2:4b-7:28; Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; and a few phrases in Aramaic in the Gospels) and Greek for the whole New Testament. VPI teaches that all the words in the original languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek were Godbreathed words. Every word is perfect because the God who gave those words is perfect! Nevertheless, since the perfect Word of God is given for obedience, man must first understand God's truth. If man cannot read and understand God's truth, he cannot obey it. Hence, there is a need to translate God's Word.

The VPI doctrine is meaningless if the inspired books of the Bible are not identified. The 39 books of the Old Testament were already accepted as Holy Scripture by Christ and the Apostles. The Councils of Hippo (AD 393) and Carthage (AD 397) reaffirmed 27 books of the New Testament as Holy Scripture. Therefore all the 66 books of the Bible are inspired Scriptures. VPI means that all the words of these 66 books of the Bible were God-breathed, ie jot-and-tittle perfect!

There are more Bible verses teaching the doctrine of VPP than VPI. These are just a few of the verses to show that the God who inspired His holy and perfect Word also preserved all of it perfectly: Psalm 12:6-7, "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." Matthew 5:18, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no

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wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Mark 13:31, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Luke 16:17, "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 21:33, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Psalm 19:7, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." James 1:25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." These Bible verses clearly teach the doctrine of VPP and the Bible's present perfection. The salvation and eternal life of every believer depends on the doctrine of VPP. Without the doctrine of VPP, every doctrine of the Bible comes under attack.

God gave numerous Bible verses to defend the doctrine of VPP because the attack on VPP is more deadly than the attack on VPI. God is perfect and His ways are also perfect. Indeed, we see this attack as more deadly and spurious because unlike the attack on VPI which came from the liberals and modernists, the attack on VPP comes from within the camp, ie from professing believers who claim to be conservatives. This makes their attack very potent and subtle. Personal relationships and financial considerations have muddied the waters so that the defence of the perfect Bible has become an emotional issue. The old serpent craftily blinded many by saying that this is a divisive doctrine that must be avoided and not allowed into the church. Foolishly, many church leaders say that they are neutral on the doctrine of the perfect Bible. Can a child of God be neutral on the doctrine of the perfect Bible?

VPI and VPP are the two sides of the same biblical coin. One cannot exist without the other. To believe in VPI is to believe in VPP, and vice versa. VPP means that God preserved the perfect Word of God the moment VPI started. VPP continues even after VPI stopped with the completion of the Book of Revelation. God gave His holy and perfect Word and God alone preserved it. Just as no one needs to know how inspiration was done in order to believe in VPI, no one needs to know how preservation works to believe in VPP. It is a matter of faith, like for all the doctrines of the Bible. God has declared in Hebrews 11:6, "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." The perfect God who inspired all His perfect Words has also perfectly preserved every jot and tittle of all His perfect Words.

#### Verbal Plenary Preservation versus Textual Criticism

It is tragic that the opponents of VPP have to resort to distortions of this blessed and God-given doctrine to lend support to their attack on the perfect Bible. For example, it is fallacious to say that VPP is an argument from "textual criticism", which is the study of ancient manuscripts or copies in order to determine the author's intended meaning (See http://www .gotquestions.org/verbal-plenary-preservation.html). Textual criticism was invented by German Rationalists who denied and criticised the divine inspiration of the Bible. These were modernists and are not even believers. VPP is a doctrine totally independent of this evil approach to sacred Scriptures. Textual criticism is an invention of the devil. The ones who employ it to criticise the Bible have become victims of his deception. Get out of this snare of the devil. Stop using textual criticism! It is based upon man's pride and vanity. How can sinful man claim to "find" the truth when the basis of their find is on their claim that the autographs of all the inspired Scriptures are lost forever? Unless these men have the autographs, there is no way sinful man can "find" even one word of the Bible, not to mention all the words of the Bible. A man has a better chance of finding his wife's wedding ring that she dropped in the middle of the Indian Ocean than these foolish men in finding all the words of the Bible. These attackers of God's truth who resort to the caricatures of the blessed doctrine of VPP and then demolish it have fallen prey to the wiles of the old serpent!

Just as the VPI books of the Bible have to be identified or else the doctrine is meaningless, all the perfectly preserved words of the 66 books of the Bible have to be identified too. The nature of the doctrine of VPP demands that the preserved texts be in continuous usage or circulation throughout the ages. The texts were not hidden somewhere and then suddenly discovered. All the inspired words of God are found in divinely preserved manuscripts, namely the Ben Chayyim Hebrew Text for the Old Testament and the Greek Textus Receptus (Received Text) for the New Testament. In 1611, the King James Bible translators used them to produce a most faithful and accurate English version of the Bible. They recognised the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words in those texts to be the very inspired and preserved words of God.

#### **King James Version**

The King James Version (KJV) is the most blessed English translation of the Bible. It is known as the KJV because for the first time in the history of the English Bible, the Bible was legally and publicly authorised by the King of England to be translated so as to unite a kingdom. Before that, there was a law across Roman Catholic Europe and England that made any unsanctioned translation of the Bible illegal and punishable by death. William Tyndale was the first man to translate the Bible into English from the original languages. For this, he was arrested and burned to death! The English translation of the Bible was key to the life and spread of Christianity. Of all the languages of the nations of the world, God used the English language as the foremost language to reach the world with His gospel and His truth. Today, the defence of the Christian faith as well as the attack is in the English language. To study and know the Bible in the original languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, the student has to know English. This was no accident.

By the providence of God, when the Apostle Paul wanted to go eastward toward Bithynia, the Lord told him to go westward toward Macedonia (Acts 16:7-9). By this one move, the gospel reached Europe and the gospel which began in Jerusalem was spread to the uttermost parts of the world through Europe. It was God's sovereign design to raise up Great Britain in the 18th century to rule 22.63% of the World and 20% of the world's population. God providentially caused Christianity and the English language to spread across the globe through Britain. Many countries today like America speak English. As such, Christianity in the English language also came under severe attack. This means that the Bible in the English language has also gone through the longest battle against the evil one. The longest attack has been on the English Bible. From the first translation in the 15<sup>th</sup> century till today, the attack has increased in momentum and ferocity. The reason for this attack is because English is the common language of the modern world today. Since the Bible is meant for obedience, and almost all believers in the world do not read Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, the English translation of the Bible is all they will and can read.

When the KJV was completed in 1611, it was translated by the most spiritual believers of the time as well as the most academically qualified.

The best minds with the highest spirituality were assembled together to translate the Bible for the nation of England and for the entire Englishspeaking world. There will never be a gathering of such spiritual men of such learning again to do this God-honouring task. In the 19th century, French Naturalism, German Rationalism and English Deism, coupled with the birth of Darwin's Evolutionism, arose to assault the Christian faith like never before. The assault was so fierce and the damage so vast that no seminary or Bible college or church was left untouched. Through the influence of these anti-Christian philosophies, textual criticism was born. Man began to criticise the Bible from the authorship to the very words of the Bible. Seminaries and Bible colleges were all contaminated by the evils of textual criticism. The basic assumption is that the Bible is lost or not preserved and now it is up to man to find the words of the Bible. All sorts of arbitrary assumptions were concocted as the basis for textual criticism. The amazing thing is that many fundamentalist seminaries and Bible colleges are duped into teaching this evil, thus polluting future generations of seminary professors and pastors. Most if not all of the scholars who teach in the major seminaries and Bible colleges today are sold to textual criticism. It is no wonder that the standard of biblical and theological excellence continues to decline with the passing of every generation. How true is the warning from the Apostle Paul that Christians do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers and rulers of darkness of the world (Eph 6:12).

#### **Other Versions**

The VPP doctrine teaches that all the inspired words of God are perfectly preserved by God Himself. As already stated, they are identified as the Hebrew Masoretic Text (MT) for the Old Testament and the Greek Textus Receptus (TR) for the New Testament. They are the traditional texts which have been kept pure throughout the ages. Insofar as the Greek text is concerned the TR underlies the KJV, while the Westcott and Hort text underlies the modern versions. The TR represents the majority of the 5000 plus manuscripts. The WH Text is in the minority.

Every translation is based upon a particular Hebrew and Greek Text as determined by the translators. It must be reiterated here that the doctrine of VPP is not about preserving a translation; it is about the preservation of all the inspired words of God in the original languages of Hebrew,

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Aramaic and Greek. Before there was any translation, there was the Word of God only, in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. No two translations are exactly the same. When we compare the New Testament in the Chinese Union Version (CUV) and the KJV, there are differences like fewer verses and different meanings in the CUV. We cannot deny these differences. What do we do with these differences? This can be applied to all versions or translations. There are two responses to consider:

#### **There Is No Solution**

(1) <u>Ignore the differences.</u> To reject VPP is to be like the proverbial ostrich—pretend that all is well and ignore the differences. It denies reality to believe that the differences do not exist or do not matter.

(2) <u>"I don't know"</u>. There are those who reject the VPP and simply raise their hands in surrender and cry, "I don't know; all translations have mistakes because the inspired words are lost." They either do not read the Word of God at all since they do not know where God's inspired words are, or they do read the Word of God but they choose to deceive themselves and others since they actually know!

(3) <u>"Somewhere out there but don't know where"</u>. This group of anti-VPP proponents cry, "The Word of God is somewhere out there in the 5,000 plus manuscripts but we don't know precisely where." Like the proponents of "I don't know", they do not read the Word of God since they do not know where it is; if they do read, then they are also deceiving themselves and others with their double talk.

The contradiction in the above three views is that whenever the Word of God is read, the translation used has to be based upon either the minority texts of Westcott and Hort or Textus Receptus which is the traditional text. Whenever a believer reads the Bible, the version he uses is his choice of the original text. The only way to be consistent to their "I don't know" view is to not read any Bible at all! By not reading the Bible, he will not be forced to choose. The moment he picks up a Bible to read, he has to ask himself, "where are the inspired words of God?" He has to be sure of all the inspired words of God before he starts reading! But the rejection of VPP automatically forfeits him of this ability to know for sure and choose the right version.

#### **There Is a Solution**

(1) <u>Compare with the Hebrew and Greek texts.</u> If you read Hebrew and Greek, then compare the CUV or any other translation with the MT for the Old Testament and the TR for the New Testament just as we compare the KJV with the MT and TR;

(2) <u>Compare with the most accurate and faithful translation in</u> <u>another language.</u> But if you do not read Hebrew and Greek but you read English and another language, then compare your translation with the KJV which is the next best way to know the truth. The KJV is the most faithful and most accurate translation of the Bible in the English language. So if the Christian reads English and Chinese (the CUV), then he can compare the CUV against the KJV. If he does not read English, then he should compare his translation with the most faithful and accurate translation in another language that he knows. The Rev James Sun did his thesis on the differences between the CUV and KJV (in the New Testament only) and it has been published by FEBC. This is a helpful companion to the CUV until a more accurate Mandarin version is made available.

(3) <u>Use the KJV as the basis for comparison.</u> Some might see this as an unjust comparison or reduce this to a racial or language problem between English-speaking and Chinese-speaking Christians. This is not the case at all. It is about the truth and accuracy of Scriptures.

God called the apostle Paul to go west when he wanted to go east in Acts 16:7-9. Because of this turnaround, the gospel headed west into present-day Europe. By the providence of God, the gospel reached Europe first and then to China much later. When the gospel went to China and before the first Chinese translation was completed (Marshman's Version in 1822), the KJV had already been in existence for over 200 years. This means that the first Chinese convert who believed in Christ did not have a Chinese Bible to read; unless he could read English, in which case he would be reading the KJV or Hebrew MT and Greek TR. He had to wait for the first Chinese translation. It came out in portions before the entire Bible was translated into Chinese.

This is true of all translations including the English language. The first English convert did not have any Bible to read in his own language

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until John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English in 1382, the first English translation in over 1,300 years. But it was translated from the Latin Vulgate because Wycliffe did not read Hebrew and Greek. All the errors in the Latin Vulgate were also found in that first English translation. But as an English-speaking Christian who needed to read the Bible, he had no choice but to read that translation. It was either that or no Bible at all! There was not even an alternative translation to compare with because it was against the law of Rome to translate the Bible (unless the Christian could read Hebrew and Greek). The Roman Church hated Wycliffe for what he did.

The English-speaking Christian then should not reject the Bible in the original languages (VPI/VPP) just because Wycliffe's translation is different from the Bible in the original languages. This is what some of the Chinese-speaking Christians today are doing when they find that the CUV is different from the MT and TR—they reject the doctrine of VPP! By this very rejection they cut off the very foundation for the Chinese and all other translations! There would be no basis for translating any perfect Bible and evaluating which version is the best and most accurate and faithful!

The next English translation was by William Tyndale. He translated the first English Bible from the original languages. He managed to complete the New Testament (1526) and portions of the Old Testament before he was captured and burnt at the stake. He was martyred for translating the Bible into the English language. The Christians of that time could read Tyndale's English translation but it was incomplete. Does that mean they should reject the rest of the Old Testament which Tyndale had not translated? Of course not! The best method is to use Tyndale's and Wycliffe's translations together, with priority given to Tyndale's because his was translated using the Bible in the original languages and from the inspired and preserved traditional texts (MT and TR).

In 1611, the KJV was completed. For the first time in the history of the Church, a king authorised the translation of the Bible into English to unite a nation. The best minds and people with the best qualifications and highest regard for the Word of God, and who realised that the faith of an entire nation depended on their translation, were appointed to do this God-appointed work. This was done by God's sovereign will before the contamination that is textual criticism and before liberal churchmen like Westcott and Hort came into the scene to confuse and

undermine our trust in God's perfect Word. The KJV translators did not do it for money but for God's glory! The modern translations of today are contaminated by liberalism and textual criticism. Therefore, all the modern translations of all languages are inferior to the KJV because they were all translated by inferior translators tainted by liberalism and textual criticism.

#### Conclusion

The doctrine of VPP is a doctrine for all believers, as is the doctrine of VPI. It is not a translation issue but a source issue. God has chosen Hebrew and Greek as His languages for the inspiration of His perfect words.

Believing in the perfect Bible is more than just preaching it or writing theologically sound articles that defend and teach it. It is to live out the Bible in our lives! The Bible is given for one purpose only - it is to be obeyed in its entirety, not some part of it but every jot and tittle of it.

Those who defend the doctrine of VPP but disobey the Bible by their carnal and ungodly lives are more deadly and dangerous than those who tell you outright that they believe the Bible has mistakes. This is because they creep into the fundamentalist camp and deceive others into thinking that they are on God's side by their words. But their true colours are hidden from the gullible ones. These deceivers are indeed wolves in sheep's clothing; they do more damage to the cause of Christ from the inside!

Be discerning, dear believers. It is not what a person says from the pulpit or writes on paper that makes him a defender of the doctrine of VPP or the perfect Bible. He should be obeying the Word of God and defending it by his life even as he teaches and writes. The Bible is given for obedience and not for man to defend on paper! "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." (Deut 11:26-28).

The Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew is the academic dean of Far Eastern Bible College, and the pastor of Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church.

# THE BIBLE COLLEGE, THE HIGH COURT, AND THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE TRUST

#### Jeffrey Khoo

Did FEBC break the commandment in 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 in seeking a declaration from the High Court (Case No OS6/2009G) that she has the right to the premises at 9, 9A, and 10 Gilstead Road which be her birthplace and home since 1962?

The answer is no for the following reasons:

(1) The case between Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (LBPC) and Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) had to do with public and not private property and funds. Gifts and offerings were given by believers or collected in churches to purchase the land and erect the buildings not just for LBPC, but also for FEBC. Since monies were given for the purpose of a Bible College, specifically FEBC, it is the duty of the directors and trustees of the College to protect the funds and ensure that they are used to accomplish the charitable purpose for which they have been given.

(2) The dispute over doctrine and property should ideally be resolved between LBPC and FEBC without going to court. FEBC had repeatedly asked for a face-to-face meeting in 2007/2008 to resolve this matter amicably but to no avail.

(3) LBPC insisted that FEBC had no legal rights whatsoever to the premises. LBPC also demanded an unconditional undertaking from FEBC not to preach or teach the Verbal Plenary Preservation of the Holy Scriptures if she wanted to use the premises. This was impossible because FEBC cannot disobey God and act contrary to His Word. Verbal Plenary Preservation is a biblical doctrine (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35), and FEBC can neither deny the faith nor compromise on doctrine. To deny the faith and compromise on doctrine is sin.

(4) Since FEBC refused to sign this undertaking, LBPC ordered FEBC to vacate the premises by 30 June 2008. FEBC was deemed a "trespasser". LBPC warned FEBC against advertising any of her classes and said that any attempt by FEBC to do so would be seen as an attempt by FEBC to instigate the public to trespass into LBPC's property.

(5) The new FEBC term was about to open in two weeks' time. It was not possible for FEBC to vacate as she had nowhere to go. Besides, Gilstead Road is FEBC's birthplace and home since 1962. LBPC started to knock out and change the locks of the FEBC hall and classrooms.

(6) FEBC acknowledged LBPC's right to use the premises, but LBPC denied FEBC any right. Pushed to the extreme, FEBC had no choice but to appeal to Caesar. The question of whether FEBC is also "owner" and has rights to the premises was a question of law. Romans 13:1-5 tells us that the government is a divine ordinance to maintain peace and order in a country, and to make sure its citizens are treated justly and fairly [See J O Buswell's article, "Government as a Divine Ordinance," in TLBPC Weekly, 20 July 2008]. Buswell said, "There are cases ... in which one is a steward of a property for his own dependents and for others, cases in which it would be wrong to allow great loss without a protest. ... Indeed with the intricacies of modern economic and social life, there are some disputes which require the expert authority of the secular courts." What does the law say about our rights to the land? Having sought legal advice, the FEBC directors realised they had to act according to their fiduciary duty to seek the consent of the Attorney-General to apply for a declaration from the High Court concerning FEBC's rights to 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead Road.

(7) While FEBC waited for the Attorney-General's consent, LBPC went ahead to carry out her threat to commence action against FEBC. On 15 September 2008, LBPC filed a lawsuit to evict FEBC from the land. On 8 October 2008, the Attorney-General gave FEBC consent to seek a declaration from the High Court with regard to her rights to the premises at 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead Road.

(8) So, did FEBC sin against God? In light of the circumstances, No! John Calvin himself was not against the need to go to court when the situation requires it; he is only against those who initiate a lawsuit in

#### THE BIBLE COLLEGE, THE HIGH COURT, AND THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE TRUST

order to do harm to their fellow brethren. Calvin, in his commentary on 1 Corinthians 6, wrote, **"Paul does not condemn here those who, by force of circumstances, must enter into legal proceedings before unbelieving judges, for instance anyone who is summoned to court; but he finds fault with those who, on their own responsibility, bring their brothers there, and do them injury, as it were, at the hands of unbelievers, when another remedy is available to them. It is therefore wrong to take the initiative in instituting proceedings against brothers in an unbelievers' court. It is in order, however, to come into court and conduct your case, if a charge is made against you." In the court proceedings, LBPC was the plaintiff and FEBC the defendant.** 

(9) Calvin also went on to say that a lawsuit is in and of itself not wrong if it is for a good and just cause, but believers must enter into a lawsuit not with a heart of hatred or vengeance but with a heart of love. He wrote, "Let us therefore remember that Paul does not disapprove of law-suits on the ground that it is wrong in itself to uphold a good case by having recourse to a magistrate, but because they are nearly always bound up with improper attitudes of mind, such as lack of self-control, desire for revenge, hostility, obstinacy and so on. ... If a Christian therefore wants to prosecute his rights in a court of law, without going against God, he must take special care not to come into court with any desire for revenge, any bad feeling, any anger, or in a word any poisonous thing. In all this love will be the best guide."

(10) FEBC had no choice but to defend her birthright, her birthplace and home. It was done out of love for God, His Word, and His people. FEBC affirms and upholds not just the past but also the present perfection of the Bible, and by the logic of faith, based on the twin doctrines of Verbal Plenary Inspiration and Verbal Plenary Preservation, identifies where the infallible and inerrant words of God are so that God's people might subject their faith and practice to the sole, supreme and final authority of a sure and certain Scripture which is readily available and easily accessible. Surely such a biblical conviction and confession is good for the Church and all Bible-believers (Ps 19:7-14).

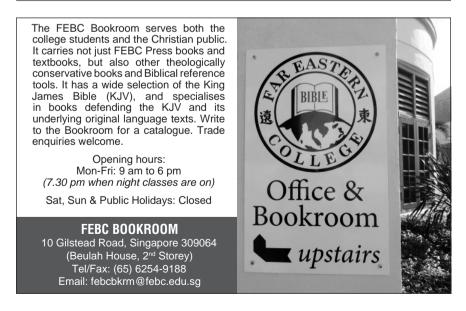
(11) FEBC was duty bound to protect the beneficiaries of the charitable purpose trust. FEBC did not seek the eviction of LBPC, but LBPC sought to deprive FEBC of her heritage and home. The apex court

on 26 April 2011 judged that FEBC has rights to 9, 9A, and 10 Gilstead Road and declared that "the College, in adopting the VPP doctrine, has not deviated from the fundamental principles which guide and inform the work of the College right from its inception, and as expressed in the Westminster Confession... It is not inconsistent for a Christian who believes fully in the principles contained within the Westminster Confession (and the VPI doctrine) to also subscribe to the VPP doctrine." FEBC is vindicated.

(12) This whole process has brought about a healthy respect for the judiciary and the law. It is also a matter of public interest to know and understand what a charitable purpose trust is. All churches and charities should understand this principle of law. God can glorify His Name even in a secular court, because the secular court is an institution set up by Him.

"I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. 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. In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul." (Ps 138:1-3).

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



# THE SCHEME FOR THE SHARED USAGE OF 9, 9A AND 10 GILSTEAD ROAD, SINGAPORE

1 This Scheme ("the Scheme") for the shared usage of Nos 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead Road, Singapore (collectively referred to as "the Premises") is hereby settled by the High Court of Singapore. The Parties to the Scheme are:

- (a) Life Bible-Presbyterian Church ("the Church"); and
- (b) Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Dr Quek Suan Yew, Dr Prabhudas Koshy, Dr Boaz Boon, Wee Hian Kok, Rev Koa Keng Woo and Rev Stephen Khoo; collectively an unincorporated association operating the Far Eastern Bible College ("the College").

# The Scheme is dated 27 November 2014.

# A. Background to the Scheme

2 The Court of Appeal has by a Supplementary Judgment dated 25 July 2012 ("the Supplementary Judgment"), attached hereto as Annex A, ordered that a High Court Judge draw up a scheme setting out the respective rights and obligations of the Parties in relation to the use, occupation, maintenance and upkeep of the Premises which have been impressed with a charitable purpose trust so as to:

- (a) equitably cater to the present and reasonably foreseeable future needs of the Church and the College without unfairly subordinating the interests of one institution to the interests of the other;
- (b) fairly apportion the obligation and responsibilities pertaining to the maintenance, upkeep and upgrading of the Premises between the Church and the College;

- (c) prevent or reduce the incidence of disputes concerning the use/ occupation and maintenance of the Premises; and
- (d) devise a resolution process to determine operational issues that may arise from time to time.

The Court of Appeal also directed that any division of the Premises should only be in terms of usage, not ownership, of the Premises. Any such division should not have regard to the amount of financial contributions made by each party to the acquisition and/or refurbishment of the Premises.

# **B.** General provisions

3 The purpose of the Scheme is to promote the harmonious shared use of the Premises. The Church and the College shall use their respective best efforts to co-operate with each other in the implementation of the Scheme.

4 The Party having exclusive use of any part of the Premises shall be primarily responsible to ensure that use and occupation of that part of the Premises shall be in compliance with all relevant laws, rules and regulations of the relevant authorities with regard to use of the same. If any Party receives notice or learns that there is or may be a breach of such laws, rules or regulations in respect of any part of the Premises exclusively occupied by the other, it shall immediately inform the other Party of such notice or information.

# C. Allotment and terms of use of the Premises

5 The Church and the College shall be allotted the parts of the Premises as described in Annexures B and C for their respective purposes and use pursuant to the charitable purpose trust. A description of the areas for exclusive use, shared use and common use is annexed hereto as "Annex B". A copy of the floor plans of the buildings on the Premises showing the respective allotment of the Premises for the Church and the College is annexed hereto as "Annex C".

6 The Party having use of any part of the Premises which are for

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#### THE SCHEME FOR THE SHARED USAGE

shared use must ensure that after its use of the same, that part is left in a clean condition ready and available for use by the other Party.

7 The Church and the College shall not be responsible to the other for any accident or incident by which injury is suffered or damage to or loss of any property is sustained by any one on any part of the Premises which at the relevant time is under the direct care and control of the other.

8 The Church and the College shall only use the Premises whether allotted for exclusive, shared or common use, in accordance with their purposes as church or bible college as the case may be and in compliance with all laws, rules and regulations of relevant authorities.

9 Neither Party shall carry out any additional or alteration works requiring the approval of the building authorities on any part of the Premises without the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall not be withheld if such works are necessary for the maintenance, upkeep or enhancement of the Premises and are supported by relevant professional and technical expertise to ensure proper planning and execution of the same. Works effected only for the purposes of repair shall not be regarded as additional or alteration works. All works shall be carried out in such manner as to minimise any interference with the other Party's use of the Premises,

10 Any unauthorised works installed on the Premises shall be removed forthwith by the Party responsible at its own cost if and when required by the other Party or by any relevant authority.

11 Neither party shall permit any other body to use the Premises at any time, whether for profit or otherwise, except with the written consent of the other.

12 The Parties may voluntarily agree to vary the allotted usage of the Premises from time to time. In this regard, a reputable licensed property manager shall be appointed to re-calculate the Parties' respective contributions to the General Maintenance Fund based on the principles of this Scheme.

# **D.** Obligations and responsibilities on the maintenance and upkeep of the Premises

13 13.1 The Church and the College shall each be responsible for the proper maintenance, upkeep, cleanliness, safety and security of the Premises allotted for their exclusive use.

13.2 As regards all parts of the Premises which are in shared or common use (eg, roofs, car parks and drains), the Parties shall have shared responsibility for maintaining those parts of the Premises.

14 The Parties shall appoint Messrs Jones Lang LaSalle ("JLL") to draw up a report addressing the proportions in which the Parties are to contribute towards the maintenance and upkeep for the parts of the Premises which are for common and shared use. The report shall show the percentage of usage according to the current situation (prior to this Scheme) and also for the situation when the Scheme is fully implemented and shall be issued together with the determinations pursuant to paragraph 21.

15 The Parties shall set up a General Maintenance Fund (the "GMF") in a joint bank account (the "GMF" Account) with an initial sum of \$20,000 for the regular general maintenance and upkeep of the Premises. The GMF Account shall be managed by joint signatories comprising one signatory each from the Church and the College (the "Signatories").

16 After the initial deposit into the GMF, as and when the amount in the GMF Account falls below \$10,000 the Church and the College shall upon written notification by any Signatory forthwith make further contributions to top up the GMF Account to \$20,000. Such contributions shall be in accordance with the proportions determined pursuant to cl 14.

17 In the event that urgent repairs and other non-regular works needed for the proper upkeep and maintenance of the Premises, which are shared or in common use, the Parties shall inform each other of the same and each be entitled to obtain appropriate quotations for any single expenditure above \$10,000 for the reasonable execution of such works. If the Parties cannot agree on the work to be done, the contractor of the same, they shall resolve their dispute in accordance with Section F. 18 If either Party shall fail to properly maintain the areas which are allotted for its exclusive use, the other Party may serve written notice to the Party in default to remedy or rectify the default within a reasonable time, failing which the dispute shall be resolved in accordance with Section F.

19 Without prejudice to any other provision of the Scheme, the Church and the College shall fully indemnify and hold each other harmless at all times from any loss, damage, injury, liability or claims whatsoever and howsoever arising from their respective breach of any term of the Scheme.

## E. Charges for utilities

20 Pending the full implementation of the terms found in paragraphs 21 to 24 below, the Church and the College shall contribute to the utility bills based on the proportions of their current usage as determined by JLL in paragraph 21.

21 JLL shall be appointed to determine which areas within the exclusive use of the Church and the College are suitable for the installation of separate utility meters. The findings are to be made within three months of the effective date of the Scheme and the Church and the College shall be bound by the determinations of JLL.

22 22.1 The Church and the College shall, within three months from the date on which JLL presents its determinations, install at their own expense utility meters for the areas that are allocated for their exclusive use so that the Church and the College may each be charged separately for utilities consumed on those parts of the Premises which are allocated for their respective exclusive use and occupation.

22.2 Utility meters for the areas that are to be shared by the Church and the College shall be installed during the same period so that the utility charges for these areas may be ascertained. The costs of installation shall come from the GMF.

23 Insofar as the separate metering facilities pursuant to paragraph 22 above enables the Church and the College to he charged separately for

utilities consumed on those parts of the premises respectively allocated for their exclusive use and occupation:

- (a) the Church shall he responsible for paying all utility charges incurred for those parts of the Premises allocated for its exclusive use and occupation; and
- (b) the College shall be responsible for paying all utility charges incurred for those parts of the Premises allocated for its exclusive use and occupation.

As regards charges for utilities consumed on (i) common property; (ii) those parts of the Premises that are to be shared by the Church and the College; and (iii) other parts of the Premises where separate metering is not possible to allow the Church and the College to be charged separately for utilities in the manner envisaged by paragraph 22 above, JLL shall be appointed to prepare a proposal as to how such charges for facilities should be shared between the Church and the College. Such proposal should take into account the respective use by the Church and the College of those parts of the Premises as provided for herein and the proposal made by JLL shall be binding upon the parties.

#### **F.** Dispute resolution

25 In the event the Church and the College are unable to agree on any matter pertaining to this Scheme, then without abating in performance of the respective obligations as prescribed under this Scheme, the Parties shall seek resolution of all such disputes through the following process:

- (a) The unresolved dispute shall be referred to the Singapore Mediation Centre for resolution by mediation in accordance with the Mediation Procedure for the time being in force. The Parties shall participate in the mediation in good faith.
- (b)In the event of failure to reach an amicable and mutual resolution through mediation, within one month of the same having been referred to mediation pursuant to sub-paragraph (a), the dispute shall be referred to and finally resolved by

#### THE SCHEME FOR THE SHARED USAGE

an ad hoc arbitration before a single arbitrator appointed by the President of the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore international Arbitration Centre ("SIAC"). The arbitration shall be completed within three months from the date the Arbitrator is appointed.

## G. Transitional provisions

Any part of the Premises which are to be handed over to the other Party pursuant to the Scheme need not be reinstated but is to be handed over vacant in an "as is" condition.

The handing over of any part of the Premises from the Church to the College or vice versa shall be completed within six months from the date of the Scheme.

# H. Parties

This Scheme shall bind the Church and its successors and assigns and all individuals who for the time being comprise the unincorporated association operating the College.

Judith Prakash Judge

# Annex "B"

DESCRIPTION OF SPACE AND USAGE			
9/9A Gilstead Road - 1 <sup>st</sup> storey of L-Annex 1. The "College Wing"	For exclusive use by the College. The Church may, however, use the toilets when it conducts events in the Church Hall.		
9/9A Gilstead Road - 2 <sup>nd</sup> storey of L-Annex	For exclusive use by the College. The Church may, however, use the toilets when it conducts events in the Church Hall.		
9/9A Gilstead Road - 3 <sup>rd</sup> storey of L-Annex	For exclusive use by the College.		
10 Gilstead Road - 2 <sup>nd</sup> storey of Beulah House	For exclusive use by the College.		
10 Gilstead Road - 5 <sup>th</sup> storey of Beulah House	Rooms 5-4 and 5-5 are to be exclusively used by the College. The common toilets are to be used exclusively by the College.		
9/9A Gilstead Road - The Sanctuary	For the use of the Church save that the College shall be permitted use of the Church Hall on:		
	1. Every 1st Monday of January and every 3rd Monday of July of each year for the College's opening day of prayer in respect of each academic semester from 8.30am to 12.30pm. If either day is a public holiday, the College shall have liberty to use the Sanctuary on the next working day instead.		
	2. Every Monday and Thursday evening (from 7.30pm to 9.30pm) for the College's night classes.		
	3. The first week of May on weekdays from 8.30am to 12pm.		
9/9A Gilstead Road - the L-Annex 1 <sup>st</sup> storey 1. The "Church Wing"	For exclusive use of the Church.		

10 Gilstead Road - 1 <sup>st</sup> storey of Beulah House	<ol> <li>The College shall have use on weekdays from</li> <li>8.30am to 6pm.</li> </ol>
	2. The Church shall have use on all weekends and public holidays and on weekdays from 6.30pm onwards.
10 Gilstead Road - 1 <sup>st</sup> storey Beulah Centre - Multiple Purpose Hall	For the use of the Church save that the College shall have use on application made at least one month in advance for a maximum of twelve (12) 5-day weeks for each year between 8.30am and 6pm.
10 Gilstead Road - Entire 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> storeys of Beulah Centre	For exclusive use of the Church.
10 Gilstead Road - Entire 4 <sup>th</sup> storey of Beulah Centre	For exclusive use of the Church save that the College may use R4-6, R4-7 and R4-8 and the common toilets on weekdays, excluding public holidays, between 8.30am and 6pm.
10 Gilstead Road - 5 <sup>th</sup> storey of Beulah House	Rooms 5-1, 5-2 and 5-3 are to be exclusively used by the Church.
Car park spaces	The Church and the College shall each have exclusive use of three parking spaces on 9/9A Gilstead Road.
	Save for the three lots which are for exclusive use of the College, the Church shall have exclusive use of all other car park spaces on Saturdays and Sundays.
	The remaining car park spaces on the Premises shall be available for use by the Church and College on a first come, first served basis.
Non built-up areas	All non built-up areas on the Premises shall be available for the use of both the Church and the College and are to be used in a reasonable and responsible way with due consideration for each other.

# THE BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE BETWEEN FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE AND LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS II

For Part I, please see "The Battle for the Bible Between Far Eastern Bible College and Life Bible-Presbyterian Church: Chronology of Events," *The Burning Bush* 18 (July 2012): 86-108, or *To Magnify His Word*, Golden Jubilee Yearbook of Far Eastern Bible College (1962-2012), 244-263.

June 27, 2013	LBPC represented by Lee & Lee filed a new suit against FEBC in the Subordinate Courts on 27 June 2013 (DC1956/2013R). The suit was for \$250,000 which LBPC claimed FEBC to be owing them for utilities and maintenance from 4 March 1970 to 3 August 2007 (\$200,000), and from 4 August 2007 to 3 May 2008 (\$50,000).
July 7, 2013	An announcement of LBPC's new lawsuit was made in the True Life BPC Weekly of 7 July 2013. The announcement states, "Life BPC Sues FEBC Again: Life BPC filed a 'Writ of Summons on 27 June 2013 demanding that FEBC makes monetary contribution to Life BPC for use of utilities, maintenance and upkeep of the Premises from 4 March 1970 to 3 May 2008. Please pray the Lord to grant FEBC grace and wisdom to respond to this new suit."
July 14, 2013	In a "Pastoral Announcement" in the LBPC Weekly of 14 July 2013, it was announced, "During the ACM held on 28 April 2013, members were informed that Life B-P Church ("the Church") may have to resort to the law to protect and guard the interests of the Church in dealing with FEBC. Regrettably, the Church has filed a Writ of Summons in the

#### THE BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS II

Subordinate Courts and served it on FEBC to seek recovery of a sum of \$\$250,000."

July 30, 2013 FEBC's lawyers, Allen & Gledhill, filed FEBC's Defence arguing that (1) LBPC had earlier in their letter dated 28 January 2008 rejected FEBC's offer of a lump sum of \$200,000 for past utilities plus \$5,000 monthly and returned all cheques to FEBC and even told FEBC not to tender any further cheques as it was prepared to let FEBC occupy the Land free of charge for "this extended period", and that (2) what LBPC is attempting to do is an abuse of process for at no time in their 1st suit (High Court Suit 648) did LBPC make any claim against FEBC for unpaid contributions towards maintenance of the Land even though they could have done so (if they thought they had a valid claim).

August 11, 2013 FEBC released an article entitled "In the Interests of the Church" in the True Life BPC Weekly of 11 August 2013 which is a response to LBPC's "Pastoral Announcement" of 14 July 2014. In this response, FEBC highlighted LBPC's unbiblical act in suing fellow Christians for money in light of 1 Corinthians 6 which they themselves had acknowledged as something the Bible forbids in their Weekly of 13 July 2008. The article went on to give the context of LBPC's 1st lawsuit in 2008, explain the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP), provide the historical context of the symbiotic relationship LBPC had with FEBC, and show how FEBC had contributed to LBPC in the past. The article also clarified, "Contrary to Life BPC's 'pastoral announcement', there was no indication from Life BPC that it intended to accept an 'amicable compromise'. The letters from Life BPC's lawyers dated 25 January 2013, 4 February 2013 and 12 March 2013 contained no unambiguous or amicable offer 'to accept the

sum previously tendered'. As a matter of fact, the letters were not written in the form of a request, but a demand coupled with threats of legal action. While there is no basis for Life BPC's demands, the FEBC Directors have attempted to resolve the matter amicably with Life BPC, but this has been rejected by Life BPC."

- August 13, 2013 LBPC replied to FEBC's Defence. In their reply, LBPC alleged or asserted the following: (1) FEBC is estopped from taking the position that the 1970 Agreement is not a legally binding contract because FEBC's claim in Suit 648 of 2008 was based on the 1970 Agreement being a legally binding contract, and the Court of Appeal had found in favour of FEBC on this basis, so the question of whether the 1970 Agreement is a legally binding contract is therefore also res judicata, ie it has already been decided by the Court, and cannot be revisited; (2) LBPC did not previously collect contributions from FEBC because it was under the misconception that FEBC was a ministry of LBPC; and (3) FEBC admitted in its letter 3 August 2007 that it had an obligation to contribute to maintenance and utilities.
- August 27, 2013 LBPC filed an amendment to their Statement of Claim on 27 August 2013. The amendment sought to include an additional clause of action that the Defendants are liable "to contribute a reasonable and/or equitable amount of monetary contribution to the maintenance, upkeep, and provision of utilities for the Premises for the period stated."
- September 20, 2013 Lee & Lee filed a Summons for Directions to fix a hearing before the Court to obtain its formal directions for the parties to prepare the case for trial. However, it was expected that the Court would refer the parties to alternative dispute resolution processes such as mediation.

- November 5, 2013 Notwithstanding legal advice that FEBC have strong grounds to resist LBPC's suit, the Board of Directors decided to exercise the law of charity based on Matthew 5:38-48 in order to resolve this dispute. FEBC sent to LBPC's Board of Elders on 5 November 2013 a letter with the heading, "The Higher Law of Christian Charity", offering to LBPC a love gift of \$350,000 in full and final settlement of any and all claims by LBPC up to the date of the Scheme that is to be established and implemented. FEBC believed that this charitable gesture glorifies God and is good for all.
- November 18, 2013 In a letter dated 18 November 2013, LBPC rejected our offer of \$350,000 saying that it was inadequate. They also said they were disappointed that FEBC had used religious language and cited Bible passages in its letter of offer. They demanded \$500,000 and a further \$5,000 per month as contributions hereafter for a full and final settlement.
- November 23, 2013 At the Summons for Directions hearing held on this date, the Court ordered the parties to mediate at the Primary Dispute Resolution Centre of the Subordinate Courts in January 2014 following the parties' agreement to mediate.
- January 23, 2014 Justice Judith Prakash visited 9, 9A, 10 Gilstead Road on 23 January 2014. Her site visit was necessary to the Scheme she would be drafting to regulate the sharing and use of the premises by LBPC and FEBC. LBPC's representatives were their Elders, Ng Beng Kiong, Tan Cheow Hock and Lee Heok Seng. FEBC's representatives were Jeffrey Khoo, Wee Hian Kok and Quek Suan Yew. Lawyers from both parties were also present.
- January 29, 2014 A mediation meeting was convened in the Primary Dispute Resolution Centre of the State Courts

(renamed from Subordinate Courts) on 29 January 2014. Jeffrey Khoo and Wee Hian Kok represented FEBC. Ng Beng Kiong and Lee Heok Seng represented LBPC. The mediators (both District Judges) were Ong Chin Rhu and Joyce Low. FEBC offered to pay \$250,000 on condition that LBPC cease from making any further demands and suing for more. LBPC refused. The mediators scheduled another meeting on 19 February 2014.

- February 19, 2014 The second mediation meeting was attended by Jeffrey Khoo, Wee Hian Kok, and Quek Suan Yew. LBPC was represented by Ng Beng Kiong and Lee Heok Seng. Lawyers from both sides were present. The two mediators were the same two District Judges, Ong Chin Rhu and Joyce Low. FEBC emphasised that LBPC's claim was without basis. Out of goodwill and charity, FEBC offered LBPC \$250,000 to settle. This time, on top of the \$250,000, FEBC was prepared to contribute \$5,000 monthly to utilities until the Scheme is implemented. LBPC rejected our offer. The mediators asked for one more meeting to be held on 6 March 2014.
- March 6, 2014 Jeffrey Khoo and Quek Suan Yew attended the third mediation meeting. Ng Beng Kiong and Lee Heok Seng represented LBPC. The mediators this time asked the lawyers to excuse themselves. The mediators expressed concern that charity funds are used for litigation. We told the mediators that FEBC had obtained the Attorney General's consent for the first suit in the High Court. LBPC on the other hand did not. We adhered to our previous offer on condition that LBPC recognise FEBC as a co-beneficiary and co-steward of the premises. LBPC rejected our offer. As no headway was made because of differing fundamentals and perspectives, the mediators terminated the mediation process.

#### THE BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS II

- March 11, 2014 As mediation had not led to a settlement, the Court gave directions at the adjourned Summons for Directions hearing on 11 March 2014 regarding deadlines for the discovery of documents, the exchange of affidavits of evidence-in-chief of witnesses and the setting down for trial.
- June 12, 2014 Notice of Court was issued to the lawyers of both parties for trial to be held on 24 and 25 July 2014.
- July 24-25, 2014 DC Suit No 1956/2013 filed by LBPC against FEBC was heard before District Judge Seah Chi Ling. The plaintiff-LBPC-was represented by Mr Quek Mong Hua, Mr Nicholas Poa and Mr Jonathan Cho of Lee & Lee, and the defendant-FEBCwas represented by Mr Ang Cheng Hock (Senior Counsel), Mr Tham Wei Chern, and Mr Ramesh Kumar of Allen & Gledhill. The two-day trial ended with FEBC indicating it was ready to make a "no case to answer" submission after LBPC's close, but LBPC pleaded that its close was "mistakenly" Without deciding on whether LBPC's made. "mistaken" close could be retracted, the District Judge stood down or adjourned the case after the 2-day scheduled hearing had run its course but with a view to re-convene as soon as possible when FEBC could then proceed make its "no case to answer" submission if LBPC's "mistaken" close could not be retracted. LBPC was directed by the District Judge to inform him if LBPC's attempt in the meantime to transfer the case to the High Court or to reach an amicable settlement with FEBC was successful so that the District Court need not re-convene.
- July 31, 2014LBPC through their lawyers wrote to FEBC a<br/>conciliatory letter proposing an amicable settlement.<br/>They said that it is "in the best interests of both parties<br/>to fully focus on their respective ministries as they<br/>move on from all past differences and grievances in

an amicable manner that sets the right tone for the implementation of the new Scheme".

- August 4, 2014LBPC through their lawyers wrote to FEBC<br/>threatening to transfer the proceedings of their suit<br/>from the State Court to the High Court to sue for<br/>\$615,000 if FEBC should choose not to settle.
- August 8, 2014FEBC lawyers replied to LBPC's lawyers to<br/>underscore that their action was totally devoid of<br/>legal basis. In order to avoid further legal costs for<br/>both sides, FEBC decided to offer LBPC a settlement<br/>sum of \$300,000 out of Christian charity.
- August 8, 2014 LBPC filed an application to transfer the suit to the High Court (OS 764/2014). This was done without the consent of the Attorney-General.
- August 14, 2014 LBPC wrote to accept FEBC's offer of settlement.
- November 27, 2014 Justice Judith Prakash of the High Court finally issued the "Scheme for the Shared Usage of Nos 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead Road, Singapore".
- December 17, 2014 LBPC paid FEBC \$75,000 for costs in respect of the Court of Appeal proceedings (Civil Appeal No. 126 of 2010 hearing appeal on Suit 648 of 2008/J consolidated with Suit 278 of 2009 (started as Originating Summons 6 of 2009)). (LBPC had earlier in 2011 paid FEBC \$188,519 for costs and disbursements in respect of the High Court trial below.)
- January 4, 2015 Rev Charles Seet's article in the LBPC Weekly entitled "Live at Peace with All Men" called on Lifers to coexist peaceably with FEBC quoting Romans 12:17-18.
- January 4 2015 Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo in the True Life BPC Weekly

#### THE BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS II

in his report on FEBC entitled "FEBC Begins a New Chapter" wrote, "We pray for peaceful co-existence with Life BPC for the sake of the gospel and the testimony of Jesus Christ. We believe the Bible is 100% inspired and preserved in the Traditional Hebrew and Received Greek Texts underlying the good old Authorised Version (KJV). This is according to God's power in history and God's promise in Scripture (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18).

- January 6, 2015 Settlement Deed to settle DC Suit 1956 of 2013/R signed and delivered.
- January 21, 2015 LBPC filed a notice of discontinuance for their suit (DC Suit 1956 of 2013/R) against FEBC.



We thank God for our honourable lawyers from Allen & Gledhill (L-R): Mr Tham Wei Chern, Mr Ang Cheng Hock (Senior Counsel), Mr Ramesh Kumar.

#### Far Eastern Bible College Raised of God

Dr S H Tow

Senior Pastor, Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

I speak as an "honorary member" of FEBC (having served as President 1976-88).

When Brother Timothy called me to sit on the committee of a proposed Bible College, he had indeed planted a "*mustard seed*" which has grown into a great tree – an extension of God's Kingdom in the Far East.

In 1962, the College – FEBC – took shape in brick and mortar, to become part of God's divine plan for the last days, with roots tracing back to God's servants William Chalmers Burns (Scottish revivalist and missionary to South China) and John Sung, revivalist of the "Asian Awakening" of the 1930s. Without a doubt, these two servants of God had made deep imprints in Timothy's mind. That began the ministry of Far Eastern Bible College, a global institution set to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

FEBC is an oasis in a world that is in the throes of spiritual drought and famine. Here, college students from all parts of the world imbibe the highest learning of all – in the words of the late Founder-Principal, "*the study of God and man – to know God and to know yourself is the true knowledge.*" (John Calvin).

FEBC was raised an instrument of God "for such a time as this"- to stand in the gap against the rising tide of unbelief and "falling away" (2 Thess 2:3) which is soon to engulf the world. In recent years we have witnessed the enemy sweeping in "like a flood," but with the B-P banner already lifted up and flying high.

FEBC is a "College of the Reformation and its Bible" – the KJV, the most faithful English translation of God's inspired, inerrant and infallible Word. At FEBC, students "Study to shew (themselves) approved unto God, (workmen) that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15). FEBC trains students for service for God's everlasting

Kingdom, equipping men and women for the world's mission field, as SAFTI prepares soldiers for Singapore's armed forces.

FEBC, by God's enabling, extended its ministry of instruction in the Word of God by offering night classes, and on-line theological instruction: (1) <u>FEBC night classes</u>: This area of ministry is after the genius of the late Founder who filled two *"week nights"* with eager students from our own B-P churches and other churches in Singapore. These classes attract hundreds of hungry souls coming to be fed with the Bread of life. (Classes are held Monday and Thursday nights.). (2) <u>On-line instruction</u>: This *"on-line"* offer has made FEBC's courses of theological instruction a popular and convenient facility, readily accessible to students near and far, with growing numbers of on-line students from Singapore and overseas (in particular Perth and Melbourne, Australia) using this Gospel extension.

Ever conscious of our God-given mandate to be witnesses "*unto the uttermost part of the earth*" (Acts 1:8), FEBC has encouraged and helped her graduates to start Bible Colleges and similar institutions in their home countries. Over the years, these have sprouted up in Australia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, Indonesia and some African countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

FEBC has proved itself faithful, truly raised of God for such a time as this, the last of the last days – a banner to witness against the upsurge of satanic forces of Ecumenism, Humanism, and One Worldism. God only is our help: to Him be all honour and glory.

A final and closing word to readers of like mind: stand fast, quit ye like men in this closing hour of world history, that we may hear the returning King of Kings and Lord of Lords say: *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: .. enter thou into the joy of thy lord."* Amen.

My daily prayer is that the Spirit will keep FEBC always steadfast for "... the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9). Amen.

# **The Sovereignty of God** Rev Errol D Stone Pastor, Faith Presbyterian Church, Perth, Australia

I am thankful to the Lord for being an alumnus of my Alma Mater the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) in Singapore which is a Beacon (Isa 30:17, 33:23, Ezek 27:5) even a Lighthouse that points out dangers and hazards (2 Cor 6:14-7:1) to the lives of Christians and shines forth in Asia and throughout the world under the Sovereignty of God. The FEBC was founded, as was the Bible-Presbyterian Church movement in Southeast Asia, by the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow, and is not only one of the oldest Bible Colleges in Singapore, but one of the very few Bible Colleges that have remained faithful (Jude 3) to God`s inspired, inerrant, infallible, faithful and perfectly preserved Word.

Throughout the 59-year faithful ministry of Rev Dr Timothy Tow, he was more than doubly blessed. In the Sermon on the Mount which is considered by the secular world as the greatest speech ever given, Jesus Christ gave the Beatitudes (blessings). Not only do the initial seven Beatitudes (blessings) apply to the founding principal of FEBC, but so do the remaining two, followed by the rejoicing which says: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matt 5:10-12).

The FEBC is possibly the only Bible College in the world whereby the lecturers take the "Dean Burgon Oath," as they declare that God's Word is both verbally and plenarily inspired (VPI) (Matt 5:18, 2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:19-21) and verbally and plenarily preserved (VPP) (Ps 12:6-7, 119:152, Prov 22:20-21, 30:5-6, Isa 40:8, Matt 4:4, 5:18, 24:35, John 10:35, 1 Pet 1:22-25). By taking the oath, lecturers understand the faithfulness of the King James Bible/Authorised Version and have a "High View" of God's Word which delineates its lecturers, as opposed to a "low view".

In its original faithfulness, the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) which was established in Amsterdam in 1948 to stand against the World Council of Churches (WCC) understood the doctrine of VPP which is a necessary corollary of the VPI.

It was by the Grace and the Sovereignty of God that the FEBC was not destroyed when forced through the legal system because of its stance upon the VPP. Not only was the truth of the doctrine confirmed by certain Judges of the Singapore legal system as coming from the Westminster Confession of Faith, it is also most importantly declared by God's Word and understood by those who study it in truth. By the grace of God the boundaries (ancient landmarks) were protected from fraudulent shifting (Deut 19:14; 27:17, Job 24:2, Prov 22:28; 23:10; Hos 5:10).

God's Word says, "Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord" (Heb 10:30, Deut 32:35). As the jealousy of Joseph's brothers caused hatred towards him and they meant it for bad, God meant it for good (Gen 50:20). As FEBC endured the opposing pride and bitterness of hearts (Isa 64:6, Jer 17:9), the doctrine of VPP was further delineated and clarified by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo (the current FEBC Principal) and fellow lecturers. This was used for good for the furtherance of the Gospel truth (Phil 1:12) under the Sovereignty of God.

# Unflinching and Uncompromising Rev Stephen Khoo Lecturer in Biblical Studies, Far Eastern Bible College

I joined FEBC as a student in 1980 when I was 42 years old and graduated in 1985. It was initially a struggle for me, considering my age, to return to studies. But I thank my Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, for His sustaining grace. It was a great privilege to have been accepted by the College to pursue a course in Theology.

It was only after further studies at Grace Theological Seminary in America that I appreciated my studies in FEBC. I had a solid and sound grounding of the Word at FEBC which helped me during my time at Grace. I would like to thank all the lecturers at FEBC for their labour of love, in particular, the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow, the Principal and lecturer, for not only his unflinching and uncompromising stand on the Word but his passion as well. These virtues have challenged and inspired the students, and have encouraged them to serve in the mission fields in their home countries. Many lost souls have been saved, and have been built up in the faith once delivered unto the saints, and thereafter the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been spread afar.

The theological knowledge and the life experiences which I received and learned in FEBC had stood me well during the almost 14 years of serving in Melbourne, Australia. They also helped me to prepare systematic weekly Bible lesson notes for every Christian to increase his knowledge of God and know His Will, thereby deepening his love for God and leading a meaningful life. And now in my evening years, by the grace and mercy of God, I am able to lead a purposeful life because of my alma mater.

As long as FEBC remains faithful and steadfast, the Lord our God will be pleased with her and will bless her in marvellous and mysterious ways till the day the Lord Jesus Christ returns!

# **God Watched Over FEBC** Wee Hian Kok Director, Far Eastern Bible College

"But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions." (Heb 10:32)

This was my experience in the past decade at FEBC. Thank God that He blessed FEBC, and FEBC prevailed.

My association with FEBC started in 1990. From its beginning, it had a close symbiotic relationship with Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. The leaderships of both were fervently supporting the late Rev Timothy Tow, the founding pastor of Life BPC and the founding principal of FEBC. In the decade of the 1990s, a lot of resources in terms of manpower and money went into expanding God's work in ASEAN (Southeast Asian countries). Bible schools and colleges were set up in Cambodia, and assistance was given to the Hilltop ministry in the Philippines, and in Myanmar.

But at the turn of the century, Rev Tow's leadership in the church was challenged, and the teaching of the Verbal Plenary Preservation of God's Word by FEBC was opposed. In 2003, Rev Tow felt he had no alternative but to resign from the pastorship of Life BPC. The relationship between Life BPC and FEBC deteriorated. Eventually the leadership of Life BPC tried to evict FEBC with a lawsuit in September 2008. Thank God that they failed. They failed because God judged.

As Dr Khoo had written in the True Life BPC Weekly of 15 March 2015, "The apex court on 26 April 2011 judged that FEBC has rights to 9, 9A, and 10 Gilstead Road and declared that 'the College, in adopting the VPP doctrine, has not deviated from the fundamental principles which guide and inform the work of the College right from its inception, and as expressed in the Westminster Confession ... It is not inconsistent for a Christian who believes fully in the principles contained within the Westminster Confession (and the VPI doctrine) to also subscribe to the VPP doctrine."

It was not an easy decade for FEBC. Our founding principal went home to be with the Lord. Two lawsuits were filed against us. But it was a necessary fight, for it was to defend the Word of God. Rev Timothy Tow knew that FEBC would face numerous attacks as it upheld God's Word. Remember the last stanza of the FEBC Anthem,

> If you unflinching wield the Sword; With loyal heart join in the fray, And fight till dawning of the Day!

We indeed thank God that He watched over FEBC throughout. Praise be to God.

#### **Trusting and Relying Upon the Lord!**

Rev Tan Kian Sing Pastor, Berean Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore Lecturer, Far Eastern Bible College

Praise the Lord! At last, after years of praying, trusting and relying upon the Lord God Almighty, FEBC has finally been delivered from the attack of her enemies. We thank the Lord for His faithfulness through it all. "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lam 3:22-23).

There are several lessons which all of us can learn from the experiences which FEBC has gone through. We can see how the Lord works mightily as He cleared the way for FEBC. We can truly praise and thank the Lord for how He has marvelously worked things out for good. "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" (Rom 8:28). Do we not testify that indeed the Lord is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20)? Is there anything too hard for the Lord (Gen 18:14)? Is the Lord's hand waxed short (Num 11:23)? "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). Even though the college had to go to the High Court, the Lord was in control. "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Prov 21:1). "For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods" (Ps 95:3). "This is the LORD 'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes" (Ps 118:23).

I hope that the experiences of FEBC will urge all of us to keep on trusting in the Lord and relying upon Him. "*The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him*" (Nah 1:7). Let us learn from the psalmists as they cried unto the Lord for help in whatever difficult situations. "*They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded*" (Ps 22:5). "*And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me*" (Ps 50:15). "*In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me*" (Ps 86:7). "*He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him*" (Ps 91:15).

Be not afraid of what man may do unto us. Trust and rely on the

Lord. For with man, his is an arm of flesh, but the Lord our God is with us to help us, and to fight our battles. Are you facing a battle with someone who thinks he has the authority over you, and you seem so helpless to overcome his tyranny? Well, trust in the Lord. He knows those who are His and who trust in Him. If you are a child of God and are walking in His ways, He will help you and deliver you when you call upon Him.

So, let us trust and rely upon the Lord and pray: "O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause" (Ps 25:2-3).

# New Period of Greater Faithfulness Carol Lee

## Lecturer in Christian Education, Far Eastern Bible College

Can I tell of the great LORD's excellent greatness? Surely His greatness is so immense that it is past my description. Yet, the psalmist says in Psalm 145:3, "*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.*" And so, tell I must of my God's greatness.

2015 marks a victorious closure to a difficult period in the history of FEBC. That difficult period was fraught with many questions in my mind (the finite mind of a creature) as events developed: Why did the Lord allow Life BPC to take FEBC to court and not intervene? How can ex-FEBC lecturers allow their church Session to do such a thing to Rev Timothy Tow and to their alma mater? Where can FEBC go should FEBC lose the case? A second lawsuit by Life BPC against FEBC? Are they out of their mind? Why is this happening? Etc, etc.

In the midst of many unanswered questions, that difficult period was for me also a time of constant self-reminder that "God is still on the Throne. He never forsaketh His own; His promise is true, He will not forget you, God is still on the throne" (Mrs F W Suffield). My Lord knows what He is doing even if I do not. And He knows best! I must echo the psalmist's words in Psalm 118:6, "*The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?*" What can man do to FEBC when it is on God's side, defending God's perfect Word? And I must be prepared to respond like Job in Job 1:21, "...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

As we celebrate FEBC's 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015, it is timely that I specially give praise and thanks to our Almighty God for

His powerful deliverance of and bountiful provision for FEBC and for the many lessons He has taught me. (I believe many who love FEBC have also in the process learnt precious lessons from our Lord.) Our Almighty God can move the hearts of men, even the hearts of the judges. No one is beyond Him. In the end, He blesses FEBC with more than what we asked for! In His own time, in His own way, He took care of FEBC. He is faithful and can be trusted to deliver and to bless! All praise, thanks and glory be unto our most high God!

And yet, it is still not the end. After that period of great difficulties, 2015 must also mark the commencement of a new period for FEBC and for me. A new period of greater faithfulness to God; a new period of greater resolution to relentlessly persevere in serving our Lord of lords and King of kings to His glory till "...*the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God…*" (1 Thess 4:16). Until then, come what may, the Lord's name is to be praised! Until then, may we be found faithful.

To God be the glory!

A Memorial of God's Goodness Dennis Kabingue Greek Tutor, Far Eastern Bible College, Singapore

Forty graduation ceremonies is not a small achievement, thanks to God's faithfulness. The LORD who planted FEBC fifty years ago looked after this School of Prophets and gave her the increase! Praise the Lord! "O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy" (Ps 107:1-2).

The five years that I spent in FEBC for theological studies were the best years of my life. I learned spiritual lessons from the Word of God as well as practical lessons through interactions with my lecturers and fellow students. I will never forget the counsel that I received from the late Rev Timothy Tow on 21 July 2003 (my first Day of Prayer and Registration). He spoke about the need to take our studies in FEBC seriously. He warned the freshmen that FEBC is a spiritual SAFTI (Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute). Being a foreigner, his advice went over my head that day, but soon I learned what he meant. Indeed, there were many "battles to fight" as there were many papers to write. Thoughts of giving up visited me again and again. What kept me going were my

calling and the two 'P's – God's people are PRAYING and PAYING for my studies. I remember approaching my Pastor, Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy, one of the main lecturers, for advice. His reply was, "Brother, sleep less. There is no other way." Looking back, I thank God that the training was hard. I learned to be disciplined and industrious – qualities that a young preacher must pick up because in the ministry the work abounds; bulletins, visitations, Bible studies and sermons must be done every week!

Indeed, FEBC is a memorial of God's goodness. Like a mustard seed, it was of a humble beginning. But the LORD blessed her with scores of people who love and care for her. These are the lecturers and tutors who commit themselves to equip the students; the board of directors who oversees her; the dedicated staff who give their lives to serve behind the scene; the students who keep the surroundings neat and clean; the "privileged few" who help the matron, Mrs Ivy Tow, in the kitchen; the benefactors who give their substance cheerfully; and the prayer warriors who intercede for FEBC daily. Praise the Lord! Thus today, FEBC is by no means a small set up. It has grown to become a healthy and strong mustard tree that is able to accommodate more than 100 students from more than a dozen countries to lodge on its branches, semester after semester for more than fifty years now! Many of these brethren come from very poor backgrounds, yet at FEBC they receive a first class education from godly pastors free of charge, as many of them receive support from the Bible-Presbyterian Churches in Singapore, Malaysia and Australia which are in fellowship with FEBC.

Thus, when FEBC was dragged to court, I was very sad. I feared the worst. I could not imagine what would happen to the Gospel work around the world if this School of Prophets perished. But God is good. What appeared to be a big setback for FEBC became instrumental in strengthening the ties of likeminded brethren who love FEBC.

I pray that God who planted FEBC may give her many more years of service, that those who are called, like me, to serve King Jesus may find a spiritual SAFTI, even a strong FEBC!

> Making Sense of Invoking God to Annihilate Far Eastern Bible College Elder Han Soon Juan

English Tutor, Far Eastern Bible College

I am no theologian, but trying to be as detached as I possibly

could, I still cannot fathom why the Board of Elders (BOE) of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (LBPC) could be so full of hatred for the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). I humbly submit that, however I look at it, my conscience and common sense tell me that their failed attempt to evict FEBC from its birth place is wrong and that it goes against the Holy Will of God simply because FEBC still trains workers for the Lord's Vineyard to proclaim and defend His Holy Word.

What 'unpardonable sin' has FEBC committed which justifies its eviction from Gilstead Road? Our only transgression is that we believe that we still have the perfect Bible preserved to the jot and tittle (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35) today. Like us, members of the BOE of LBPC also declare that the KJV is the very Word of God. As such, they should agree that the Bible in the original Hebrew and Greek underlying the KJV must similarly be the very Word of God! Incredibly, precisely because of our belief, they accused us of being heretics, who historically were branded criminals to be ex-communicated and burned at the stake. In short, they usurped the power of God to damn us to hell!

On 15 September 2008, LBPC filed a lawsuit to evict FEBC, claiming that they did not infringe on 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 because FEBC had indicated in July 2008 that it would seek a declaration from the High Court with regard to her rights to the premises at Gilstead Road. In light of FEBC being threatened to vacate the premises by 30 June 2008 or being deemed a 'trespasser', what would LBPC have expected FEBC do? Vacate the premises without seeking the determination of the Court, an institution ordained of God and eminently placed to do so? Certainly we did not break God's injunction in 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 as it was LBPC which commenced legal action against FEBC first as FEBC obtained the consent of the Attorney-General only on 8 October 2008 to bring its case to the Court, which FEBC duly did in January 2009.

I fail to understand how audacious and foolhardy the members of the BOE could be for having absolutely no fear of God in His command: "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?" (1 Cor 6:1) Not only did they take upon themselves, acting presumptuously without any care for the Word of God, but they even endeavoured to justify their action for going to law "before unbelievers" (1 Cor 6:6). Granted that, should they erroneously but sincerely believe that FEBC was instituting legal action against LBPC to its detriment, they should have known that two 'wrongs' did not make one 'right'! Also, that did not make it biblical for them to ignore God's warning in 1 Corinthians 6:1-8! Ironically, they even invoked God by holding daily prayer meetings for the duration of the Court Sessions that He should obliterate His own work at FEBC, preparing labourers for the harvest field! Obviously, they prayed amiss; praying outside the Will of God, beseeching Him to go against Himself!

As mortals, we may not know the end from the beginning, but praise the Lord, the Word of God declares in Isaiah 46:9-10: "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not vet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." And we take comfort because we know that "the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down" (2 Sam 22:28). We do not wish ill to our tormentors who have been bent on making enemies of us. Whatever it is, since "only by pride cometh contention", we, the "well advised" (Prov 13:10) will humbly let the proclamation of the Holy Word of God take its course. And we do well to be imbued with the godliness of American lawyer Horatio Spafford (reminding us of Job) who tragically lost his only son and all his real estate investments in 1871 and his five daughters two years later. In the midst of his sorrow, he penned the words to the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul". Indeed, we know from His Holy Word that it will be well with FEBC! All praise and glory be unto Almighty God!

#### Lessons in the Battle for the Perfectly Preserved Bible

Mrs Anne Lim English Tutor, Far Eastern Bible College

As a fresh FEBC student in 2004, I found myself in the midst of the battle for the perfectly preserved Bible. I listened intently to the debate, knowing that God would surely ensure the preservation of His Word, for nothing is impossible with God. I made up my mind to find out more about how God preserved His Bible. I felt that I had much to learn and God had given this opportune time to learn as much as I can.

Thus I chose as my thesis the subject of demonstrating how God had preserved His Word from the earliest times, continuously till today in the texts underlying the King James Bible. This entailed much research work, reading the best godly minds who wrote on this subject. It was an enriching experience to learn of the many Bible texts that proclaim clearly that God's Word is settled forever as well as to learn of the work of Bible scholars like John William Burgon who devoted his whole life to defend the inspired and preserved Word of God by studying ancient manuscripts all over the world. All these gave me a good understanding of how to defend this important doctrine.

I also had to deal with the emotions involved when lecturers, church leaders and friends did not support this doctrine. Stories of meanness and unkindness of the opposite camp went around. Many were hurt as actions were interpreted as high handedness. It was difficult to be indifferent. However, by the grace and mercies of God, I sought to be as objective as I could. We were dealing with brethren but brethren who disagreed with us. It was important to be Christ-like in all our dealings with those who do not see eye to eye with us. I must not sin even when I am defending the Word of God. Later I heard from a sister who testified that she came out of a non-VPP church to join a VPP church because doctrine was important to her. She was most disappointed when she found members in the VPP church were behaving worse than her previous church. Though every church has its mixed multitude, the point is that with right doctrine there must be godly living.

The other memorable experience was the intensity of our prayers. How we prayed and cried unto the Lord to intervene and show us His loving favour as we felt that we were pushed around. This was especially so when the Life Church sanctuary was not made available to us. We prayed without ceasing. At every morning devotion, every Chapel Hour, every lecture and every group meeting in the dormitories, prayers were offered up to the Lord for grace and mercy. The Lord seemed to test us as things got worse. A lawsuit was brought against FEBC. They wanted to evict us! They were removing the ancient landmarks. Those were very dark days for it ended with us losing the court case.

Then a miracle happened. We appealed and we won. God be magnified. He has given us the victory. "*The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad*" (Ps 126: 3).

God Works In Miraculous Ways Mrs Irene Lim English Tutor, Far Eastern Bible College

Over the last decade, the Far Eastern Bible College has been put through a traumatic roller-coaster experience. Triggered by disagreements over the VPP doctrine, the conflict between the College and Life B-P Church culminated in a lawsuit against the College. Our Board of Directors and Faculty members, having always been law-abiding, peace-loving believers, faced the lawsuit with trepidation but went in with God's assurances, "*Lo*, *I am with you alway....*" (Matt 28:20b) and "...*Fear not; I will help thee*" (Isa 41:13b); and He certainly did.

The news of the defeat at the initial round was devastating but it brought all who loved and believed in the College to their knees, seeking God's Will and direction for FEBC. It was a trying but blessed time as we humbly learnt to pray as never before.

Upon the decision to appeal to the highest court in Singapore, God's gracious intervention overturned the earlier judgment which resulted in FEBC not just being allowed to stay put but awarded the use of more space and access to all three premises. Words could not describe our joy and gratitude when we received the news. More so was the miraculous way He brought it about.

God demonstrated to us the precious lesson that our sovereign God does not need to depend on trained theologians or even experienced ministers to defend His Word and His Work. In an astounding turn of events, the Appeal Judges, all of whom were not theologically trained, were given clear and deep insights into the issues brought before them. Our witnesses had been instructed not to present theological arguments during the hearing, so God did not use them in this instance to speak for Him. Yet, when the judgment was delivered, the judges showed detailed and accurate understanding with regard to inspiration, preservation and even the Westminster Confession of Faith. They pointed out that FEBC had not deviated in its doctrines but has in fact been consistent in its teaching and beliefs.

With grateful hearts, we thank God for His gracious endowment of more space and facilities to the College. Students in the next academic semester will be able to do their work in a more spacious and better-planned library and more accommodation facilities means that the College can open her doors to more, even families, who want to be trained and equipped to serve our Lord. All praise and glory be to His Holy and Blessed Name.

#### Like a Father to His Children

Rev Andrew Kam Pastor, Yangon Bible-Presbyterian Church, Myanmar

Whenever I hear the name FEBC, I feel happy in my heart because it is the place where 20 years ago (1991-94) I learned much Bible knowledge for four years. The training I received at FEBC prepared me for the mission

work here in Myanmar. I have been serving the Lord after I returned from Singapore. It was a very happy time and I also had happy fellowship with fellow students from different countries.

One person whom we can never forget whenever we mention FEBC is Rev Dr Timothy Tow who has already gone home to be with the Lord. He was the founder of FEBC, and he founded it while pastoring Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. He was mission-minded and his constant prayer was that the Gospel might be spread to the whole world. Part of his vision was to send missionaries to different parts of the world and thus gave them good training in FEBC. Indeed, though Rev Timothy Tow is no longer here on earth, the mission work is still ongoing through the alumni of FEBC, especially Myanmar BPCs that were born through his prayers and the kind support of certain churches. Some of our churches had received support from Life BPC at the time of the split. One thing I regret deeply is that I, as moderator of the Myanmar BPCs, signed against my spiritual father and benefactor who helped me to be what I am today. But thank God that now the problems have been settled by the grace of God. FEBC is still standing as before and training many people from many countries.

When my daughter passed her matriculation, instead of going to university, she wanted to study in a Bible college. Her prayer and vision was to go to a Bible college. It was quite a big problem for me to recommend a Bible college. FEBC came to my mind but because I signed against her, I thought that door was closed. However, when I sent an email to Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, the principal of FEBC, his kind reply was a big surprise and I was so happy to receive his loving words. He said he would accept my daughter to study in FEBC and that she would receive scholarship as well. Luke 15 came to my mind. I felt so happy.

I am so happy and so thankful to the Lord and FEBC for training me to become a servant of God in Myanmar. I am very proud to be one of the alumni of FEBC, which is like a father to his children, especially to me. FEBC has helped many servants of the Lord in mission fields in the world. So I pray that the Lord will bless and use FEBC, and keep her strong in Christ for His kingdom. Yes, I believe the words in the Bible are God's words 100 percent, and that He has preserved His words (Matt 5:18, Matt 24:35) How dare anyone say otherwise.

#### **All Things for Good**

Rev Biak Lawm Thang Pastor, First Bible-Presbyterian Church, Yangon, Myanmar

On this glorious occasion of FEBC's 40<sup>th</sup> graduation service, I share the joy of all those who are a part of FEBC. I praise and thank God for raising FEBC and sustaining it through many ups and downs for more than half a century to train many labourers for the Lord's harvest.

It was in 2005 that I had the privilege to enroll at FEBC. When I attended the day of prayer service, and observed the sobering seriousness and humble demeanor of the principal and lecturers in "the King's business", the first thing I realised was that I was in the right place. This was further confirmed as I continued to sit under the tutelage of faithful, committed and able teachers for the next three years.

Studying at FEBC was both a challenge and a joy. A challenge, because the academic work loaded on the students by the lecturers seemed heavier than one could possibly bear. A joy, because few other graces, if any, can be compared with the satisfying joy of delving into God's Word in a Bible College where God's Word is believed and taught as from God Himself. Indeed, many are the lessons I have learned and the blessings I have received from FEBC. Space will not allow me to enumerate them all. I owe to FEBC much of what I am, what I believe, and how I serve the Lord today.

One particular thing that deeply impressed me and drastically changed my theological thinking is the high regard FEBC has for the Bible. At FEBC, the belief that the Bible is perfect not only in the past but also in the present, and thus the sole, supreme and final authority on faith and practice, is not just stated on paper, as many Bible colleges do today, but it is lived out. The Bible is faithfully taught in every class and manifested in the actual day to day life. After all, is this not what is really needed of Bible colleges where preachers of God's Word are trained?

I greatly appreciate FEBC's educational philosophy, or may I say its spiritual mindset. Today, it is not uncommon in many Bible colleges to provide merely theological education without any genuine concern for building up students' lives for the Lord's ministry. FEBC does not merely provide theological education to her students, it also strives to "birth" and mould faithful preachers and teachers for God's kingdom.

Certainly, it was not by chance, but by the Lord's providence that I studied at FEBC in the years 2005-2008, probably one of the most intense and trying periods for FEBC. The pressure from Life BPC was great. It affected all of us in one way or another. Some students were shaken and entertained thoughts of moving to other Bible colleges. I still vividly remember how some of us knelt down before the throne of grace in fasting, and how some of us had to sit on the staircase to the principal's residence

during the night classes. The pressure nonetheless birthed a more prayerful group of students. I recall, in the midst of this trial of faith, that the academic dean, now principal, remarked to the students, "Those who are studying at present are the most fortunate ones." The reason was obvious – the lesson was learned not only in class but also in practice. Truly, the faith, courage and forbearance FEBC manifested during those trying periods were surely not in vain; it was a great encouragement to me personally (and for many others as well, I believe), particularly for the ministry where the Lord would soon lead me. In retrospect, those were spiritual moulding and shaping periods. Had I not studied at FEBC, I wonder if I would be found in the ministry where I am now. All praise and glory be to God, who makes no mistakes. How I thank God for subsequently vindicating and protecting FEBC from seeming eradication. Our faith is doubly confirmed, and more importantly, God's Word is magnified (Ps 138:2).

Truly, I praise and thank God for FEBC. May the good and faithful God, whose inspired and preserved Word FEBC ardently teaches, faithfully defends and suffers for, be pleased to continue to sustain, protect and bless her for His glory, till He returns. "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth" (2 Cor 13:8). "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" (Rom 8:28).

#### **Always Remember to Pray for FEBC**

Daniel Yaban Lecturer, Bomet Bible Institute, Kenya

As the Far Eastern Bible College celebrates her 40<sup>th</sup> graduation service, I praise and thank God for upholding her since her inception in 1962. And as a recent alumnus (May 2014), I am pleased to pay tribute to the founding Principal, the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow, and to join the entire family of FEBC to celebrate this graduation exercise.

All thanks and praises to God for raising and using the founding Principal to establish this international college. Although I have not met him personally, I have benefitted from his teachings. Firstly, from the Bomet Bible Institute (BBI) principal, Rev Michael Koech, an alumnus from FEBC, who usually mentions him in class, especially in the area of his humility. Secondly, I have been blessed through his writings. Most of the BBI library books were donated by FEBC and most of them were written by him. These aroused my interest to meet him and after I prayed

to the Lord for an open door to study at FEBC, a door was opened in July 2011. By then, the Lord had called Rev Tow home; nevertheless, I was privileged to study God's Word at the college that he founded. I was also privileged to be taught by his faithful students, especially his wife, Mrs Ivy Tow, who was one of the first students to graduate, the current Principal the Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew, Rev Dr Das Koshy. Mrs Tow has faithfully served the Lord in the college with the wisdom that God has given her. May God strengthen her so that she can continue to serve Him. I also thank God for the Rev Dennis Kwok and Truth Bible-Presbyterian Church who paid my school fees and upkeep during my student years.

The ministry in Kenya is challenging. By God's grace, I am currently ministering to students at Bomet Bible Institute and Kipyosit Africa Gospel Unity Church that are approximately 36 kilometres apart. Here are where the knowledge that I have gained from FEBC is applied. Students' duties such as cleaning, serving in the kitchen, etc. are part of the practical lessons that will help them in their future ministry.

Because all of her achievements for the Lord, Satan is not happy with the college and therefore seeks to destroy it. This is the reason it has passed through, and is still going through, many challenges. But thanks be to God for what He has planted which no one can destroy. "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt 16:18,19). For this reason, all brethren from all over the world should put on the whole Armour of God and always remember to pray for FEBC, for wise leadership, for her principal and the entire faculty; and for them and the students to stand firm on the solid Rock, and battle on till Jesus comes again. Amen.

#### Wishing FEBC to All!

Degu Genffe Guyola Principal, Hosanna Theological Seminary, Ethiopia

"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). For me, FEBC is a college where all men and women should study and be trained to be faithful and diligent ministers in God's service. I used to hear and read about FEBC through her scholars and writings from 2004 to 2008 while studying in the Bible College of East Africa (BCEA),

Nairobi, Kenya. I never thought that one day I would study there. But at the end of my 4th year, the principal Rev Mark Kim asked me about my future plan. I replied, "Upon completion of my studies, I will go back to my church and serve for at least five years and then think of further study." Rev Kim told me to pray about going to FEBC and for God's will to be made known.

In 2009 the door was opened, through God's divine and miraculous way, for me to enroll at FEBC. I studied for almost two years and graduated with Masters of Ministry in Theology. Thus, with full confidence I can say, FEBC has *"not shunned to declare...all the counsel of God"* in agreement with Apostle Paul. Just as God declared His counsel through Paul, today God declares His purposes through His faithful men and women of the School of Prophets that is FEBC.

In witness of FEBC, I am in my 5<sup>th</sup> year of ministry in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) Hosanna Theological Seminary (HTS). And I have been experiencing tremendous blessings of God with the students I am teaching. Always, as I look back, I am reminded to praise and thank God for FEBC because the time I spent there was divinely assigned by God for me to be equipped and nourished with the twin doctrines of God's Word—Verbal Plenary Inspiration and Verbal Plenary Preservation. Indeed, I very much enjoyed studying at FEBC.

Despite the persecution, FEBC remained firm upon the solid rock which is none other than Christ, to teach God's infallible and inerrant Word.

Finally, quoting Apostle John in Revelation 1:9, I would like to say, FEBC is "...for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ". My constant prayer for FEBC is that she will continue to make known the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour in Singapore and beyond. To sum up, in the words of the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow, "Onward, every FEBCian!"

# Learned Many Wonderful Biblical Doctrines

Guo Sufang 4<sup>th</sup> year student, Far Eastern Bible College

I thank God that I could come to study in FEBC. Thank God for the biblical knowledge I have learned in FEBC. I thank God FEBC believes the Bible is the perfect Word of God. With such a high view of God's Word, FEBC's teaching is based solely on the forever infallible and inerrant Scriptures (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 2 Tim 3:16-17). Thank God for the wonderful lessons I have learned from the faithful lecturers over the past

years, from subjects such as Systematic Theology, Old Testament History, New Testament Introduction, Charismatism Q & A, Christian Education and so on. I also thank God that I learned many wonderful biblical doctrines, especially Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI), Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) and Biblical Separation.

Thank God for FEBC. She has set a good example to faithfully defend God's Word. Thank God for the faith of the faculty, who faithfully and diligently prepare every lesson and faithfully teach God's Word. I pray that all the faculty members will continue to faithfully teach and defend God's Word. All glory and praise to God.

#### **I Love FEBC!**

## Rev Hien Nguyen Pastor, Brisbane Bible-Presbyterian Church and Vietnamese Bible-Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, Australia

It is always my joy to hear about the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC), to talk about her, to pray for her and to write about her, my Alma Mater. Every time when I recall my days at FEBC, my heart is filled with thanks to God, my Heavenly Father, to Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour, and to the Holy Spirit my Comforter, Teacher and Guide. It was by God's providential grace alone that I was led to FEBC, to meet my beloved founding Principal of the FEBC and the founding Pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow, who kindly welcomed me to FEBC after I had decided to leave the Trinity Theological College due to her liberal, modernist, ecumenical, and compromising stands. I joined FEBC in July 2000, and enjoyed the blessed, sound, and biblical teaching and training from godly and Bible-believing Principal and lecturers. How I thank God for His grace and mercy! Praise the Lord!

It is also God's providence that I am one of the eyewitnesses to what had happened to FEBC and the opposition and persecutions Rev Dr Timothy Tow, Dr Jeffrey Khoo and the FEBC Board of Directors and Faculty suffered from Life BPC leaders who were against our faith in the perfect Word of God, inerrant, infallible, without any mistake, not only in the original Texts (Autographs) but also in the divinely preserved Texts (Apographs), even the Traditional Hebrew Text (Masoretic Text) and the Traditional Greek Text (Textus Receptus) underlying the King James Bible. Personally, I had loved and read God's Word, the Holy Bible, with much faith, thirst and hunger before reading a book that casts doubt on God's Word through textual criticism. It was miserable as I had to turn to so-called "scholarly" men and books! It is by God's grace that my faith in His Word was restored with the doctrine of the Verbal and Plenary Preservation of the Scriptures (VPP), which is based on the Holy Scriptures and our faith in the Verbal and Plenary Inspiration of the Scriptures (VPI) (Ps 12:6-7; Matt 5:18; 24:35 etc) that was taught at FEBC when the opposition from several of Life Church leaders occurred in 2002. Thank God for providing some faithful prayer partners like Jonathan, Nelson and later Chang Ha to join me to pray for Rev Tow and FEBC.

It was a great pain for me when in August 2003 I heard that Rev Tow had to resign from the office of Pastor of Life BPC that he had founded, loved, and laboured hard for her growth for the past 53 years! After that, we truly thanked God for opening a door for Rev Tow to found True Life BPC, starting with the FEBC Worship Service held at the RELC on the first Sunday of October 2003. We continued praying for FEBC every day, and how we thanked God when we could complete one semester after another until we graduated! The Lord always honours those who honour Him and His Word (1 Sam 2:30). Without God's grace, God's Word and the biblical training at FEBC, I would never be what I am today, and that is why I have loved FEBC and prayed for her. With the sound teaching and training at FEBC, especially the original languages of the Scriptures, I now turn to, depend on, trust in and submit to God and His Word alone, and not men and their words. All thanks, praise and glory be to the Lord alone!

After my graduation in 2004, also by God's providence, I was reunited with my family in Brisbane to start the ministry over there, but I have never forgotten FEBC my Alma Mater since then. Later it was my privilege to be adopted as True Life BPC's missionary preacher. Then, it was my great joy to come back to Singapore for my ordination by my beloved Principal Rev Tow and the FEBC Faculty at the FEBC's 32<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Service in May 2007. Praise the Lord for His grace and mercy!

Satan does not need to waste his time and energy to attack professing and compromising "Christians" and pastors, but he will spare no effort to attack faithful Christians and pastors who seriously believe and practise the Word of God to the jot and the tittle, and then faithfully teach it and preach it to others. It was a great pain for me again when I heard that Life BPC leaders sued FEBC to evict her from her birthplace and to take over FEBC with their own personnel and programmes in September 2008! However, we continued trusting in our good, faithful and sovereign God,

humbly and earnestly crying unto Him with prayers. Our faith was tested when Dr Jeffrey Khoo emailed and informed me that the verdict was in favour of Life BPC! During the court case, all True Life BPC and Life BPC leaders and members prayed to God fervently. Thus, whose prayers would God listen to? Thank God for His sufficient grace that we did not give up our faith in Him and His Word in our prayers for the Court Appeal, knowing that Life BPC's joy would not last long. And exactly, our faithful and sovereign God did hear His children's humble prayers and defend FEBC and grant FEBC the victory at the Court of Appeal in April 2011! And later, God granted FEBC another victory over Life BPC's lawsuit against FEBC concerning the financial issue and the usage of the premises. How glad and joyful I am with many thanks and praise to God for His help and deliverance of FEBC and for blessing FEBC all these years!

I shall continue upholding FEBC, my Alma Mater, in my prayers, knowing that the enemies of God's Truth, especially Satan, will not leave FEBC alone. May the Lord our God continue to be with FEBC, preserve her, bless her and use her to train faithful ministers of God's Truth as His faithful witnesses in these last days of compromise, ecumenism, deception and apostasy. May God strengthen and bless the FEBC Principal, Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, and the Board of Directors, the FEBC faculty and students, and faithful FEBC alumni around the world.

To the brethren who are looking for a faithful Bible College to attend, I would wholeheartedly and highly recommend the Far Eastern Bible College and pray that you will also enjoy the blessed time and days with sound and biblical teaching and training at FEBC as I did. Amen.

# Highest Regard for God and His Word Joycelyn Chng Siew Miang MDiv student, Far Eastern Bible College

How has Far Eastern Bible College been a blessing to me? As I reflect on my life, I realise that through each stage of it, the Lord has given me the wonderful privilege of being blessed by this college. My awareness of this School of Prophets began when I was still a child growing up in Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. I remember FEBC students assisting Mrs Tow in leading and teaching us at children's choir camps. That was my earliest introduction to FEBC.

As I grew older, my mother would share the many things she had learned from attending the Basic Theology for Everyone night classes. I

witnessed the impact that the Word of God had on my mother. At some point, she faced a bad situation at work, but because her faith had been built up through the teaching at FEBC, she did not stop trusting God. She continued to persevere in studying His Word. Gradually, the Lord moved my sister and me to join my mother at the night classes.

I count it a wonderful privilege to have been taught by Rev Tow. I remember fondly his class on Minor Prophets where He taught so simply and yet so profoundly. Over the years I had the privilege of being taught many spiritual lessons by faithful teachers whom the Lord had raised up to continue the work in this college. Praise the Lord for each and every one of them.

When the Perfect Bible issue erupted, I was truly devastated. I could not believe how anyone could deny that God has preserved His Word for us perfectly. But I have been most instructed through FEBC's response, not least by her founding principal's dying resolve to be found on the Lord's side and to magnify His Word rather than to soak in the riches and accolades of the world. Through the trial that FEBC faced, I was personally provoked to consider what God's Word truly means to me, and for this, I am truly thankful to God.

I still remember vividly the day the Lord vindicated His Word and His college through the verdict issued by the court of appeal. I was sitting at my office desk when I received a call from my mother informing me of the news. As I listened to her words, my tears streamed down my face. After years of fiercely defending the Word and the legal pains, the release came in a most wonderful and humbling way. The Lord seemed to say, "It was not your logical arguments that won the day, but everything has been in My control."

I am most grateful that the Lord worked through all these to call me to study His Word full time in FEBC in order that I may be prepared to serve Him. As I am in the midst of my studies in FEBC, I am glad for the opportunity to take a moment to reflect on the blessings that I have received from FEBC, and which I am still receiving. Of all the blessings I received, the most wonderful is the highest regard for God and His Word that I have gotten from the teachings in FEBC. "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." (Isa 42:8)

How I praise God for upholding the witness of this School of Prophets so that the children of God can be instructed and built up in the faith. FEBC is truly a school most dear to me. May the Lord continue to preserve her for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## If I Forget Thee, O FEBC!

Rev Jonathan C Langat

Pastor, Bomet Africa Gospel Unity Church and Lecturer, Bomet Bible Institute and Faith College of the Bible, Kenya

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy. Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof." (Ps 137:5-7).

These were very strong words from an Israelite in exile. It is probable that when they were in Jerusalem and enjoyed the blessings thereof, they did not value her as much as when they remembered her while in exile. It is the same with FEBC students – those of us who are out in the fields understand how it is. Would we, the alumni, forget the wisdom, the skills, and all the manifold blessings we have received from thee, O FEBC? Circumstances may change but the memories cannot. When FEBC went through a furnace, we felt it deep in our hearts. It is like Jerusalem, the beautiful city of God, falling into the hands of the heathen and the place of worship being desecrated by the godless. Personally, I rejoice that God has kept FEBC as the apple of His eye. The lawsuit put me in prayer for my alma mater. The Principal, Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, kept us updated on what was going on through the various organs of the college and of True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. We thank God that FEBC has triumphed and we believe that her splendour will be brighter than ever. My prayer for FEBC is reflected in Psalm 12: "Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us? For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him. The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted."

When those who speak the truth become few and the contrary ones become many, only God can preserve them (the truthful) even when they are purified through a furnace. Those who speak the truth are those who

hold to verses 6-7 of this Psalm that refer to the preservation of God's Word 100%—that absolute truth. May the Lord continue to preserve FEBC and all God's faithful. What I am now and what I can do is by the grace of God and through what FEBC has passed on to me. The many blessings that I received slightly more than ten years ago are the same blessings I am passing on to many brethren in Kenya—through Church ministries, Bible colleges, and other ministerial avenues. I am most thankful to my alma mater. I abundantly benefited from her.

May Almighty God grant rest and room for this college to expand and extend her boughs afar. Her ministry is urgently and necessarily needed in this perilous time. Where else will God's servants be trained? To all my faithful and committed lecturers, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Josh 1:5-9). Amen

#### **Thank God for the Lawsuits**

Jose Trinipil Lagapa ThD student, Far Eastern Bible College

It was not a pleasant experience for the FEBC Principal and the Board of Directors to go through the ordeal in the High Court of Singapore during the recently concluded lawsuits. The pressure was very intense, that even when I was not directly involved, as a student, I felt the weight of the trial during the whole saga. Brethren from afar also sensed the grave threat that hung over FEBC.

Yet, looking back at those trying times, I treasure them as being very profitable to me as a student. Those struggles strengthened my experiential knowledge and faith in the Living and True God. There were doubtful moments that I thought my training would be concluded when there was a likely closure of FEBC. But the Sovereign Lord proved magnificent in His ways – far beyond man's comprehension – when God Himself overturned the judgment in favour of FEBC. That He personally defended His precious Word and magnified it even above His Name built up my trust and confidence in the ultimate importance of His 100% inspired and preserved Word.

Those arduous experiences have surely led me and the rest of the students through a journey of prayer and spiritual wrestling with God. These moulded me to understand how real and actual a spiritual battle is, as a trainee in the Lord's army. Especially in this end time, the lawsuits made it clear to me how many shall fall away from the truth, even in the so-called fundamental and Bible-believing camps. The suits also manifested how the enemy is doing his best to hinder the faithful witness of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in these last days.

The struggle was tough, especially for those who were in the forefront, but their faithfulness and courage in the defence of God's Word was not in vain. Their stand will be remembered not only in my generation of students, but also in future generations.

Above all, the Lord God Almighty will definitely commend them – He who gave them the strength and perseverance to fight and win for Him. All thanks and praises be unto our great God who with His marvellous plans and purposes allowed FEBC to go through those lawsuits for the good of His children and for the glory of His Name. To Him be glory forever and ever!

## **Holding Forth and Holding Fast**

Karen Lee Full-time staff, Truth Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

I thank God for the ministry of FEBC, and how He has used her to hold forth the Word of Life and to hold fast the Faithful Word. I am greatly indebted to the Lord for His mercies upon me, and am filled with gratitude each time I think about how He had used the College to be a blessing to me because she was faithful to do that which God had commanded her to do.

**In Holding Forth the Word of Life:** I was a beneficiary of the good work FEBC was doing even before I knew the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God for the Word of Life that FEBC holds forth in her faithful proclamation of the Truth, and through this Word, I saw light, and it gave me life, even life eternal.

In Holding Fast the Faithful Word: Thank God for His mercies upon FEBC, and for the grace He has given her to hold fast the faithful Word, especially in these last days. I am a beneficiary of the good work FEBC is doing in contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. I thank God that even though it was not easy, by the grace of God FEBC was faithful to teach and defend the Verbal Plenary Preservation of Holy Scriptures. Because of this, I was brought to the light of how important this doctrine is, and God convicted my heart of the truth after reading all the articles that were written on the subject. It was not an easy thing for me to do as I was worshipping in a B-P church that did not hold to the VPP doctrine. I thank God for the clear and logical arguments presented in the writings. It was difficult to leave a church I came to know Christ in, and the people I loved dearly, but I thank God I can now worship Him and be baptised in a church that believes not only in the verbal plenary inspiration of Holy Scriptures but also its perfect preservation. I thank God for the faithful Word He has given us, and the faithful Word FEBC is holding fast to by preaching and defending. Because of this, we can have full assurance and confidence in the Word of God. Thank God for the blessings that not only I received, but also my sister and my mother who came to know Christ not long after me.

Not only was FEBC used of God to bring me to a salvific knowledge in Christ, and confidence in the veracity of God's Word, she also helped me grow as a Christian. God was gracious to call upon an undeserving one like me to serve Him full time after I completed my university studies. I thank God for a place where I could be equipped to do so. I entered the College as a young Christian and thank God for the theological studies I received that helped me to know God and His Word more. I thank God, most of all, that in this College, I was taught to always have the highest view of God and His Word, and how we must apply the three important rules of "Humility! Humility!" whenever we approach God and His Word. Our lecturers did not just teach the doctrines of VPI and VPP, and did not just defend these doctrines with their lips. I see that having been convicted by the truth of God's Word, they were prepared to hold on to it despite the fierce opposition they faced. I am thankful also that my lecturers did not just teach and defend the doctrines of VPI and VPP, they also preached, taught and showed obedience to the Word of God. During the period of the lawsuit, I saw not only their good examples, but was reminded often that we must not sin in order to "win".

FEBC is my alma mater in every sense of the word, and I am greatly indebted to her for nourishing me with good and faithful doctrines found

in God's Word, and for training me to serve the Lord better, not only with my head, but also with my hands and heart. I am indebted to my alma mater for teaching me the importance of God's Word, how it is and how it must be the sole, supreme and final authority for our faith and practice. May the Lord keep FEBC faithful to the work He has entrusted her, and may He continue to use her to hold forth the Word of life and to hold fast the faithful Word, to the praise of His Name. "*For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*" (Ps 36:9).

#### Thirsting for God's Word Keeps Me Growing

Michael Khoo Deacon, Bethesda Katong Church, Singapore

I came to Christ and accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour 13 years ago at the age of 53. Although I used to attend a church regularly on Sundays, I did not feel I could call myself a Christian, because I was not living a life anywhere close to the life of a true believer. To be honest, I did not know enough of the God that I professed to worship, and of His Son Jesus Christ. I was never encouraged to read the Bible.

After I was born-again, it dawned on me that to be a Christian is to have a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. It is only through the study of God's Word that I can cultivate this relationship with Him and know Him in a personal and intimate way. I attended Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). BSF is a weekly programme that helps people know God and equips them to effectively serve the Church. After attending BSF for 11 years, I felt that I still did not fully accomplish what I set out to do, and that was to have a vibrant relationship with the Lord. I prayed and I came upon Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Clearly, it is our Lord's desire to have fellowship with His people. So I called unto the Lord, and He answered. He led me to Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC). At FEBC, where the study of God's Word is much more in-depth, the Lord showed great and mighty things of Himself to me. Initially, I attended the evening classes as an audit student and I enjoyed this new revelation. Then, Rev Jeffrey Khoo encouraged me to take the courses for credit instead of audit. Immediately, I was overcome with fear at this suggestion. I was 63 years old then. It has been a long while since I attended formal classes, let alone sit for exams. But more than anything else, I felt that at my age my mind does not function as well as before. I was apprehensive about whether I was able to retain what I

learnt. The pressure of meeting assignment deadlines was something I did not relish because I am retired and I want to relax and enjoy this last season of my life. But then, the desire to study God's Word compelled me to seek Him in prayer for guidance. He led me to Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*" With that, I enrolled myself for the day classes. With Christ, who strengthens me, I did the impossible. In the span of four semesters, I managed to accumulate 22 credits that qualified me to receive the Certificate of Religious Knowledge. It was one of the proudest moments of my life on graduation day, 11 May 2014.

To those who are apprehensive about studying God's Word in their evening years, be encouraged that it is possible. "For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37). The thirst for God's Word keeps growing on me day by day. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (Ps 37:4). I truly thank God for the FEBC teachers who have equipped me with effective spiritual leadership and service. To Him be all the glory, honour and praise! Amen.

#### **God's Faithful Provisions**

Khoo Peng Keong Deacon, Calvary Tengah Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

I remember one of the FEBC night classes some years ago, the lecturer shared solemnly about the trials between the church and the college. The former was pressing to make the latter quit the premises and the only way out was by legal recourse. The public address system had been locked up and we were forewarned that the rest of the college might be locked up as well. This was a real opposition right before the students' very eyes! We were using the lecture hall because FEBC was already barred from using the sanctuary for night classes.

I also remember reading in my office a newspaper report concerning the college and church going to Court. It was quite embarrassing actually but that is the reality of living in this sinful world. As a part-time student then, I attended the night class and was thankful to have a place to study. There was always some excitement as we saw God's faithful provisions.

The first thanksgiving came when classes resumed at the sanctuary. Now as a full-time student, I feel privileged to have a part in God's blessings on the college. With the Appeal settled, there is no longer any lawsuit; there is instead a proper division and sharing of the premises. The first facility to be renovated was the library which was ready for use in late

February. It has a better study environment for students with more space and greater access to all the books than before when the library consisted of smaller rooms at different locations.

Thank God for protecting FEBC. It is a great blessing to study in a college that holds fast to the King James Version, wherein the Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus and to make us fit for His service.

#### The Spiritual Battle Rages On

Ko Lingkang

## Preacher, Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

My journey with FEBC began on the 18 July 2005, when I enrolled as a student in the Bachelor of Theology programme. At that time, I had heard of some rumblings about the doctrinal controversy regarding the preservation of the Bible, but I was not fully aware of all that was going on. I simply knew that the Lord had called me to the full-time ministry, and the best place to receive a theological education was certainly the Far Eastern Bible College.

Within a few short months of my enrolment, my own church, Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Churh, was thrown into the deep end of the conflict, as a church member was disciplined for publicly distributing in church, right after the worship service, subversive material that questioned the perfection and preservation of the Bible. In the months that followed, I witnessed how my pastors were sued for "defamation" by this church member because they refused to compromise and remained steadfast upon the truth. I also saw with growing dismay how this issue caused a split within the Board of Elders, with Elders beginning to take sides, whether they were for or against the doctrine of the Verbal Plenary Preservation of God's Word.

I thank God that while all this was going on in church, my personal convictions on this doctrine was being formulated and strengthened in the classroom. I felt very privileged to be able to study subjects such as Systematic Theology I, Fundamentals of the Christian Faith and New Testament Introduction, all which had an extensive section on the present perfection of the Bible. Lesson after lesson, we were brought to the very words of God, and shown how it is beyond a shadow of doubt that God has certainly promised to preserve His Word, down to the very jot and tittle.

Over the next few years, we also witnessed how the troubles grew in the college as well. It began with little inconveniences, like Life Church preventing us from using the PA system in FEBC Hall, and we were not allowed to use the small field at Beulah house for our recreational activities. These were a "thorn in the side", but tolerable. Then more restrictions were decreed, such as disallowing our use of the main sanctuary for the night classes, forcing students to cram into the smaller FEBC Hall, with many having to sit outside the hall and outside the kitchen to listen to the lectures. Many of the structures to house the students were also taken down, along with the area behind the kitchen where we had our meals. Also, the threat of legal action grew, as numerous letters were exchanged, with allegations thrown at us. Life Church naming FEBC as heretics, and insisting that they were the owners of the premises and FEBC was a tenant who had outstayed her welcome.

Faced with the prospect of possible eviction from our home, the students rallied together and initiated a weekly Thursday morning prayer session. As a student body, we poured our petitions unto the Lord, not just in those sessions, but also privately, and each time we came together. The theory that we received in the classroom was being put to the test, as we too had a little taste of what it means to earnestly contend for the faith, and to be on the receiving end of the persecutions that followed. I learned much throughout this period from both my lecturers and my fellow students, and learnt what it meant to practically live by faith and obey God's Word, no matter what. We thank God that none of these things broke us, but instead strengthened our resolve to hold firm to our faith, and the truth of God's Word.

Day by day, we also saw how our dear founding principal, the late Rev Timothy Tow, grew weaker and weaker, his heart undoubtedly weighed down with grief and sorrow over the unjust and vindictive actions of the pastors and session of the church that he founded and nurtured. I thank God that in my first few semesters, I still had the blessed opportunity to take subjects offered by Rev Tow, and even travelled with him on his final Holy Land pilgrimage in 2006. He passed away peacefully in his sleep in April 2009, one month before I was due to graduate. It was a sad morning, but one that I remember vividly, as all the students were gathered to bid farewell to our teacher, principal, mentor and spiritual guide. Perhaps that was also God's grace for him, as he did not need to experience the painful process of the court case that followed. Through the lawsuit, and then the appeal that followed, God's will was done, and His truth was vindicated. I was in Perth ministering at BPCWA when I received a call from Rev Quek who informed me of the Court of Appeal's decision. We had won! FEBC would be allowed to stay. It was an indescribable joy, an overflowing of thanksgiving, an overwhelming desire to praise and glorify our Lord. The years of battle were now coming to a close, the end was in sight.

Today, I am still very much a student of FEBC. I thank God for the wonderful opportunity to both study and serve the Lord at the same time. It has been nearly 10 years since I first stepped foot into the college, as a young wide-eyed ignorant boy. I thank the Lord for the education that He has provided, and the experiences that I have gained. The four years spent there were priceless beyond rubies.

I know that although the battle has now come to a close, the war is certainly not over. The spiritual battle rages on, and we must always be prepared to hold forth the Word of God, and to stand firm against the many attacks of the evil one. My prayer is that we, the younger generation of full-time ministers, will remain steadfast and true, just as our forefathers have. We must never take the peace that we now have for granted, and never wane in our love and zeal for the Lord. Ten years may seem like a long time, but I know it is but the beginning. My prayer, and I hope you will pray the same for me, is that I will always remain faithful, and always seek to do only His will. Amen.

#### **God Is Good**

# Li Yage 4<sup>th</sup> year student, Far Eastern Bible College

Glory, majesty, power, dominion, kingdom, belong to our triune God. He is sovereign. If one thinks one can attack God's Word by saying the Bible is not perfect and contains mistakes, he must be careful. He is confronting God Himself. How dare he think that God left His Word without providential care! God does not need anyone to protect and defend His perfect Word, for the eternal and almighty God is powerful enough to do it. There is no one like Him.

I give thanks to God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who allowed me to witness the battle for the perfect Bible during my studies in FEBC. God is a jealous God who will certainly preserve His Word. God can use even the layman to contend for the perfect Bible. "And all the

inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan 4:35)

The Most High God rules in the kingdom of man. How unsearchable His wisdom is. How powerful our God is. Give all the glory to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Thank God for His perfect Word in which His children can put their trust with full assurance. God is good and His mercy endureth forever.

#### A Wonderful Source of Spiritual Blessing!

Lim Ah Sang Deacon, Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

I was a babe in Christ, spiritually deprived of the sincere milk and meat of the Word for many years, and faced many trials in life. I can only thank God, deeply from my heart, for leading me to FEBC to receive much spiritual blessings.

I thank God for the founder and teachers of FEBC who earnestly contend for the faith and who faithfully teach the Word of God. Studying at FEBC has helped me to grow in grace and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, thus enabling me to witness for Him the wondrous works He has done in my life.

Though my journey of faith has been fraught with many trials, the spiritual blessings that I have received through FEBC have strengthened my faith and helped me to experience how real and good God is through the richness of His Word.

May the Lord continue to sustain FEBC, a wonderful source of spiritual blessings to His children, till Christ returns. To God be the glory.

#### **Provided Great Foundational Studies**

Lek Aik Wee Preacher, Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

**Psalm 30:4** *Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.* 

Thank God for the Far Eastern Bible College where I had the privilege to study at her night classes after work from January 1999 to May 2004 and for full-time studies from July 2004 to May 2007. Thank God for the vision of our late principal Rev Dr Timothy Tow to start a

Bible College to train workers for God's vineyard. To fulfil the Great Commission, according to him, is "the first commandment of Christ to the Church". By the grace of God, the work is now being carried on by the present principal, Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo and the faculty.

I have benefitted much from the training at FEBC. It provided great foundational studies on systematic and biblical theology, church history, Bible geography, pastoral duties, biblical counselling, Christian education, homiletics, hermeneutics, biblical languages in Hebrew and Greek. The MDiv course is very rigorous, which requires much discipline and permits no slacking from the student. Thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in His vineyard after graduation. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I endeavour to continue in the proclamation of the biblical doctrines and vision of the gospel work.

Our late principal Rev Timothy Tow once said in an "Eschatology" night class in 2001 that we are the privileged people with the message of salvation – "Only Jesus Saves". He led us to sing the song "The Last Hour" written by Dr Tow Siang Hwa after the tune "O Master Let Me Walk with Thee" by H Percy Smith (1825-1898). A verse in the song goes as follows: "The sunset burns in western sky, upon the air a warning cry. The siren wails from tower to tower, brethren this the last, last hour."

Indeed, Jesus is coming again and there is work yet undone. Now that the lawsuit is settled and premises made available for her continuing work, it is our prayer that FEBC will grow from strength to strength. May FEBC persevere in upholding His Word to the glory and honour of His blessed Name! Amen.

#### Those Who Stand for the Truth Are Vindicated

Rev Lee Kim Shong Pastor, Calvary Jaya Bible-Presbyterian Fellowship, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

When the Lord called me into the ministry, I was not aware of a Bible College called Far Eastern Bible College. I was considering another Bible College which is more well-known. But God guided me to enroll in FEBC in 1986 through His providential care. I spent four years to receive training.

Thank God for the instructions in this School of Prophets. We were taught to honour God through paying heed to His Word. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). I was

taught to preach and teach according to the Scriptures. Oftentimes Bible teachers are tempted to follow the latest trend. Many want to be regarded as successful rather than faithful servants of God. God's Word is eternal and stands against the tide of time and is able to withstand many tests put to it.

I would like to thank God for all the faithful teachers and fellow students too. Your fellowship in the Lord has helped me to stand in spiritual battles.

As for the lawsuit, I recall the verse from Psalm 76:10 "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." It was a very trying process for the leadership of the College who was put to severe testing in the "fiery furnace". Thank God for grace and mercy in preserving His school. Ultimately, the faithful are used by God to glorify Himself. Those who stand for the Truth are vindicated.

May the good LORD grant the teachers and students strength to fulfill His will. "*Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.*" (Deut 33:25)

#### A Kind Mother to Me

Li Yahui 4<sup>th</sup> year student, Far Eastern Bible College

Thank God for raising Far Eastern Bible College in the last days for the teaching as well as defending of the inspired and preserved Word of God. And I do count it a great privilege to be a student of hers.

FEBC indeed is a "kind mother" to me. She has taught and nourished me with the sincere "milk" of God—the faithful and fundamental teachings of God's Word. Even though I grew up in a church, yet because of the lack of sound teaching of God's Word, I was not clear about many truths concerning the Christian faith. But by God's grace, now I am very clear about these truths. In addition, my understanding of the whole counsel of God's Word has also increased.

Just as a loving mother will not allow her child to be a mere "bighead", FEBC is also the same. Here the lecturers constantly remind us that we must not store the knowledge in the mind only, but we must be transformed in the heart. And in order to help us to be a "doer" of God's Word, we have various duties in our daily student life. Truly, the duties have taught me to be faithful toward God. Furthermore, as a partaker of the "crisis" in her life, as well as a witness of the Lord's wonderful deliverance, I see the faithfulness of God toward His children, and my faith is much strengthened.

Last but not least, I will continue to pray for FEBC, that the faithful Lord will keep her and use her to be a greater blessing for many in the years to come!

## Tribute to My Alma Mater – FEBC

Lo Sushiang MDiv graduate, Far Eastern Bible College

The first time I heard about FEBC was in 2004...

First, God made the Bible Study in my house to keep growing.

Then, God caused a brother to suggest that some of us should take up the correspondence course in FEBC.

Later, the brother reported that the course was not suitable because it was a self-study.

So, some of us went to attend night class in a Bible College in Melbourne.

However, God made me not comfortable with the teaching there.

Finally, I concluded that there is no need to go to a Bible College. God's Holy Spirit can teach us His truth.

## By God's providence, I went to FEBC for a week's study in 2008...

By God's providence, my father regretted his decision of not letting me go to a Bible College many years ago.

By God's providence, my eldest sister revealed father's regret to me through an email.

By God's providence, I decided to study in FEBC for a week in order to tell father not to regret his decision.

By God's providence, a brother encouraged me to write to FEBC and gave me FEBC's email address.

By God's providence, the principal responded positively and provided me with a place to stay in FEBC.

By God's providence, the one week study led to a year of seeking God's will for the full-time ministry.

By God's leading, I went into FEBC in 2009...

By God's leading, I entered FEBC at a momentous time. FEBC was in the midst of an infamous lawsuit.

By God's leading, I became aware that FEBC students would not have a lecture hall for our classes.

By God's leading, I realised that international students like me could lose our dormitory at any time and have no place to live.

By God's leading, FEBC students had to live like people in tents. We had no room to accumulate things and had to be ready to move at any time.

By God's leading, semester after semester, we gave thanks to God for a venue to begin our semester and at the end of each semester, we were not sure whether we would have a place to return to for the next semester.

By God's leading, students in my batch went through the sad news of losing the lawsuit. We were not sure whether we could ever complete our theological studies in FEBC.

By God's leading, FEBC students had to concentrate on the study of the Bible despite all adverse circumstances. Failing subjects because of the lawsuit was not an acceptable excuse.

By God's leading, FEBC students went through more uncertainties during the appeal. However, the study of God's Word took on a new light. The issue of 1 Corinthians 6 on lawsuit was no longer a hypothetical case remote from us. The reading of Acts 25:11 and 28:19 caused us to ponder why Apostle Paul had to appeal to Caesar. Even the proverbial saying: *"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set"* had a fresh meaning to us.

By God's leading, students in my batch experienced God's ultimate deliverance and the triumph of faith. God vindicated His Bible College just before we graduated from FEBC.

By God's leading, FEBC went through fire and water but God gave her an expected ending. Indeed, "they that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." (Ps 125:1).

Thank God for showing me that

God not only raised His Bible College for His Bible-believing people, God will also raise students of the Bible for His Bible College.

Generations come, and generations go,

Only God's Word abides forever.

We pray that God will continue to keep FEBC faithful to His Word and to her high calling of training God's people for the ministry. May FEBC remain faithful to God until Christ returns! Amen.

#### **Stressing the Academic and Practical Side of the Ministry**

Rev Michael Koech Principal, Bomet Bible Institute, Kenya

It has now been more than 30 years since my relationship with FEBC commenced. I was introduced to FEBC by missionaries of The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions (IBPFM) when I was a student at Bible College of East Africa. At that time, Rev Timothy Tow had come to Nairobi for the International Council for Christian Churches (ICCC) Congress. Subsequently, I applied to study at FEBC.

I came in January 1984 and undertook the BTh Course, and graduated in 1987. The main reason for my coming to FEBC was to be equipped to teach the Word of God. The Africa Gospel Unity Church where I minister was a young church with a handful of trained pastors. The long term plan for meeting this need was through the establishment of a school to train the pastors. FEBC was the right place for that training. At FEBC I learned to unlock the secrets of theology and developed proper discipline of studying and teaching the Word of God. Rev Tow was instrumental in stressing both the academic and practical side of the ministry. He was then the pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and I attended the service every week.

When I left FEBC in 1987, it was not for the last time as I would come back again. I commenced teaching at the newly found Bomet Bible Institute and became the principal in 1990. I serve in that capacity to-date. Everything we teach comes from what I learned in FEBC. At the Institute, the Lord has blessed our graduates and many of them are serving in the local churches here in Kenya. A number of our graduates have also come to FEBC to upgrade themselves. Jonathan Langat and Nelson Were are some of the alumni who had done well and are teaching with me at Bomet. The latest addition is Daniel Yaban.

I had no intention of coming back to FEBC until one of my friends came for a higher degree, since he was a little older than I was. Then I thought I could also attempt for a higher degree. I came to FEBC again in 2003 and graduated in 2004 and 2005 with MDiv and MTh respectively. All that I learned was worth it all.

It was at this time also that Rev Tow resigned as Pastor of Life BPC and started True Life. We had first-hand experience of the "controversy" about the VPP doctrine. We have since included this doctrine in our Institute's Statement of Faith. FEBC's current Principal Dr Jeffrey Khoo was instrumental in the defence of this doctrine and has written extensively on it. It is always true that all things work together for good to them that love God. The debate and the splits that the controversy has caused were not in vain as the importance of the VPP doctrine

has been highlighted. I read the Court of Appeal's judgement on the property issue and it was interesting that a public institution was able to interpret doctrine positively. Only the providence of God made this come to pass.

It is with great expectation that we look forward to a continuous association with our alma mater. Since 2005 Sister Carol Lee has become a visiting lecturer at BBI and we have received much of FEBC's teaching material. We will continue to uphold our School of Prophets before the Lord and pray His servants to serve faithfully.

## **Pray and Not Faint**

## Nelson Noel N Were Lecturer, Faith College of the Bible, Eldoret, Kenya

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We give thanks and praise to God for the Far Eastern Bible College and send warm and heartfelt congratulations on this special occasion. May God keep and prosper FEBC.

Memories of our stay and study at FEBC are fond ones and the experience precious. It was at FEBC that we learnt and affirmed the doctrines of the Bible and were not only taught to know them but also to defend and propagate them. It was at FEBC that we learnt diligence and hard work, in the many assignments (reading and writing) as well as the duties in the kitchen, dorms and church. It was at FEBC that we established godly and lasting friendships and relationships. Thank God for the prayer groups, both assigned (morning devotion group as well as Thursday dorm prayer group) and unassigned (night prayer group as well as the African prayer group). God was gracious to lead us to work together with brethren with whom we prayed together, and it is a joy to be serving together even now! It is FEBC that has given us committed and concerned teachers who even years after graduating, still consider us their students and guide and advise us with the same diligence with which they taught us while we were students sitting in their classes. Truly I believe that the number of students' lives and ministries our lecturers are involved in is unparalleled anywhere else. The Far Eastern Bible College has not only been moulding men of God for the work of the ministry, but has also been monitoring those sons and daughters of the East who within her walls have learnt the word and are now in the fray, standing and fighting till break of day! May God grant us His truth and

grace to fight the good fight of faith and be found faithful at His coming! May God bless FEBC as she continues to prepare men and women for the great cause of Christ. Amen.

The FEBC-Life Church court case has been a valuable lesson on prayer for me and many who have been praying for FEBC. Since the early days as a student, I remember each time Rev Tow walked through the men's dorm to go to the many session meetings and escorted by Dr Khoo, we would go into our dorms to pray. Later, whenever Dr Khoo and our lecturers had to correspond in writing with Rev Charles Seet of Life Church and shared about the goings-on during class lectures, we would pray. Every semester Mrs Tow asked us to pray as it seemed uncertain that FEBC would continue to occupy the premises at Gilstead Road. We studied as it were one semester at a time, but by God's grace we completed and graduated. Even after we graduated and returned home, we continued to pray during the court case. Whenever our lecturers came to teach at BCEA and we visited with them, "Just Pray lah!" was the clarion call, and "just pray" we did. We prayed even more when the first verdict came in and the appeal was lodged but we rejoiced and thanked God when we won the appeal! The prayers continued through the difficulties and hurdles in the implementation of the verdict and we still pray as we read of the renovations that are currently ongoing. God has been gracious and merciful to FEBC. When I was thinking of what to write on the court case, Jesus' words came to mind and the experience for me has been a sort of vivid modern-day life experience parable on prayer that men ought always to pray and not to faint!

> Easier a Student than a Teacher Rev Dr Park Seung Kyu Lecturer, Bible College of East Africa, Tanzania

Praise the Lord once again, for He has done the wonderful and great works for FEBC, my beloved alma mater, until today!

I think that it is not easy to be an alumnus of FEBC. When I was studying in FEBC, during those nine years I experienced various hardships. I think these came from my difficulty in studying. I was praying unto the Lord throughout every semester for survival, literally. The Lord granted me His grace and mercy that I might complete all my studies in FEBC. I really thank God because I have learned from FEBC that the Bible is the inspired and preserved Word of God.

I am a teacher in the Bible College of East Africa, Tanzania. I have realised I was learning from wonderful teachers in FEBC. I believe that they are patient with the students, more diligent than the students and faithful unto the Word of God more than any other teacher in the world. Sometimes, I feel myself unworthy as a teacher. It is easier to be a student than to be a teacher. I always remember the teachings and lives of my teachers to inspire myself to be a useful teacher for the Word of God.

I am one of the witnesses to the blood, sweat, tears of the family of FEBC through her trials. They were trying to do something good before God and for the glory of God according to the Word of God even when conditions and circumstances were getting worse and worse. They showed me how to serve the Lord unconditionally and how to love those who hated us and attempted to destroy FEBC. They believe that God is their *"refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* 

Most of my fellow workers in Africa are alumni of FEBC. I am very proud of them for their sincerity and faithfulness to the Word of God. However, we need more co-workers from FEBC. Please come and help us! We always remember FEBC in our prayers. May the Lord bless FEBC more than ever!

## My Beloved Alma Mater

# Rev Paul Cheng Pastor, Bethel Bible-Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Australia

Far Eastern Bible College is my alma mater. It is a college that I am proud to trace my roots to and be associated with because of her unwavering and uncompromising stand and biblical convictions, and because she is a valiant defender of the Bible. It is a college that I have been trained, equipped and mentored for the work of the ministry. It is a college that I have grown to love and cherish deeply through the years.

**Theology:** As a student entering FEBC in the year 1999, I had a passion to serve God but I did not have much grounding in the Word of God (Rom 10:2). At FEBC, I was taught the Fundamentals of the Christian faith, the Westminster Confession of Faith, Calvinism, Covenant Theology and Biblical Separation; and I was convinced of the Reformed and Premillennial doctrines. In this ecumenical age of doctrinal compromise, it is hard to find a Bible College that still remains faithful to the Word of God and earnestly contends for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Undeniably, FEBC is a champion of the Verbal Plenary Inspiration

(VPI) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Holy Scriptures.

**Teachers:** As a student, I had the privilege to learn from the late Rev Timothy Tow the Word of God and to listen to his words of wisdom. I used to marvel at how he was able to use simple illustrations to make "*things hard to be understood*" (2 Pet 3:16) easy for the students to understand. I praise and thank God for all the lecturers in the college, many of whom were also fulltime pastors. It is one thing to learn theology from them but quite another thing altogether to see a "live telecast" of theology being lived out in their lives. Most certainly I was greatly edified and encouraged through their teachings, counsels, experiences and life testimonies.

**Training:** As a student, I looked forward to the day of graduation, thinking that it would be the grand finale to the years of gruelling hard work, only to realise that it was just the beginning of unfathomable struggles, difficulties and heartaches in the ministry. I would never be able to serve in the capacity of a pastor and deal with the different challenges in the ministry without the Holy Spirit's enabling and FEBC's training which have helped to mould, shape, prepare and equip me for the work ahead.

**Thankfulness:** Now, as a former student, words cannot fully express my gratefulness to Almighty God for sending me to FEBC. Rev Timothy Tow used to quote this Chinese saying: "When you drink the water, remember the source." How can I forget FEBC for all the goodness that I have received from God through her?

To hear the news that my beloved alma mater would be evicted, brought to court and probably closed down was most disheartening and devastating beyond words. No more FEBC?! But God in His great mercies has sovereignly preserved this School of Prophets where hundreds have walked through her halls convicted and transformed by the power of His Word. May the Lord continue to use FEBC to *fight the good fight of faith*, *lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses* (1 Tim 6:12). All praise and glory to His name!

## God Raised FEBC with a Purpose

Philip K Lagat Pastor, Good News Church in Africa and Lecturer, Faith College of the Bible, Eldoret, Kenya

We praise and thank the Lord for the 40th graduation of FEBC. I thank the Lord for opening the door for me to study there (2005-2007). God

raised FEBC for a purpose, and that purpose is to train men and women in preparation for propagating the Good News of Jesus Christ. I am writing this because I had the privilege to study under the faithful servants of the Lord including its founder, the Rev Dr Timothy Tow who has gone home to be with the Lord. They faithfully taught us the faithful words of the Lord, not only in class, but also by their example. They are diligent in teaching, delivering, defending, and propagating God's Word.

Indeed, the Lord raised this college for the purpose of preparing men and women so that they will take the whole Word to the whole world. Those of us in Kenya who graduated are teaching the faithful words which we have learnt there to faithful men who in turn will teach others (2 Tim 2:2). The Lord is using us also to plant more churches. He has also opened more doors for propagating the gospel through radio, and thousands are ministered to once a week. All these are the fruits of FEBC. And since it was the Lord who raised it for such a work, which is being done for His glory, we know that though the enemy may attack, he will not prevail but fail.

We shall continue praying that the Lord will continue keeping it. Let us also continue praying for the principal, Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo, and the lecturers that the Lord will preserve them in unity (John 17:11, 21); keep them from the evil one (John 17:15); and that He will sanctify them (John 17:17), that they will be vessels meet for the masters use (2 Tim 2:21). Let us all pray for one another always that we too would be faithful in teaching and defending God's word in our life, and live out the doctrine we have believed. There are challenges in the ministry, but the Lord is greater than them all and He will be with us. Let us continue serving Him faithfully looking towards His soon appearing. May the Lord bless and continue keeping FEBC. May He bless and keep us all for His Name's sake. Amen.

## **Unbending Trust in Our Sovereign God**

Rev Joseph Poon Minister of the Gospel, Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, Perth

The reach and usefulness of FEBC is far and wide. I thank God as I witness the many worshippers, both young and elderly who take its online courses, grow in grace as they increase in the knowledge of God. They are strengthened in the most holy faith and their lives are changed. Only God's Word can do such a transformation. The faithful and in-depth exposition of God's Word and the clear and precise teaching of doctrines and theology are what attract God's sheep week after week, semester after semester, year after year. This has become a distinguishing hallmark of FEBC in *"holding forth the Word of Life"* (Phil 2:16) in these last days of compromise and apostasy.

Moreover, FEBC's importance to B-P Churches everywhere is invaluable. FEBC produces B-P ministers for our churches, provides additional avenues to worshippers to study God's Word systematically, and in effect contributes significantly to the clarity and unity of faith as a result.

Hence, it is not surprising that Satan will seek relentlessly to destroy FEBC. Studying at FEBC as she went through the lawsuit is an experience I thank God for. Those were truly momentous days. I never thought I would see the day when a church takes a Bible college to court as a result of the college's belief in a perfect Bible, preserved jot and tittle by God. Through the lives of the lecturers at FEBC, I learned first-hand many valuable lessons in defending God's Word and doing His work. What I saw was unbending trust and faith in our Sovereign God and the uncompromising uprightness to be honest and to do right at all costs during the lawsuit. What mattered was not who stood with us but Who we are standing with. I could see that life was very difficult for the lecturers, but no matter how trying it was, they fought tirelessly for the cause of God's honour—that He has done what He promised in preserving His Word. If we stop defending His Perfect Word, we fail God and the generations to come.

I count it a great privilege from God to be part of those standing with FEBC in her unwavering stand in "holding fast the faithful word" (Tit 1:9). Thank God for using FEBC to stand uncompromisingly "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9), and granting the board of directors the courage to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

#### Stand Squarely on God's Perfect Word

Rev Reggor B Galarpe Pastor, Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church (Cebu), Cebu City, Philippines

It was in 1999 when I first heard about the Far Eastern Bible College through Christian missionaries serving in a Christian Drug Rehabilitation Center here in Cebu, Philippines, and most of whom were graduates of the College.

They had brought along some books and literature published by FEBC Press, and thus I had the opportunity to read books like *John Sung My Teacher, The Story of My Bible-Presbyterian Faith, and Basic Theology for Everyone* (co-authored), written by our beloved principal, the late Rev Timothy Tow.

Those books gave me insights into what it is like to really seek to know the truth of God's Word; to live a life of faith, and to heed God's call to full-time service and the challenges that come along; and then the call and courage to stand for the Truth and defend the Truth. It was then that I first learned to appreciate the importance of *"earnestly contending for the faith"* (Jude 3).

In July 2000, the Lord by His grace opened a door for me to study in FEBC. The next three years were spent in studying and learning God's Word, receiving sound Biblical instruction and training from Rev Tow and the other lecturers, learning the fundamental doctrines of the Bible, practical and pastoral theology, the invaluable lessons on missions and evangelism, as well as the finer points of theology such as the Westminster Confession of Faith, Covenantal and Reformed Theology, Calvinism, Pre-millennialism, Biblical Separation and the Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Scripture, all of which are the distinct standards of Bible-Presbyterianism.

I am thankful to the Lord for such a great privilege to have studied at FEBC and learned from faithful men who, despite the opposition and rejection by many of the doctrine of the VPP of Scripture, stand squarely on the perfect Word of God. All glory be unto God!

## FEBC is a Place of Learning and Defending the Truth

Samson Hutagalung ThM graduate, Far Eastern Bible College

"I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth." (Ps 57:9-11)

It has been 20 years since my first coming to FEBC. Thinking back, it was a shocking moment when I first saw the lecture hall. It was simply a square room full of benches. What I had pictured in my mind was a Bible College that was like a university with grand facilities as seen in various countries. However, everything changed when the days and nights were spent to deepen my understanding and knowledge of God. FEBC hall had become a lovely

and exciting place as the Word of God was expounded daily (cf 2 Tim 2:15).

The Bible was the very foundation of all teaching and preaching in every class. A high view of Holy Scripture had been inculcated into every student (cf Matt 5:17-18; 24:34). The Bible is the only source of all truths for spiritual and practical living of every true believer in Christ Jesus (cf 1 Pet 1:25). Lecturers in unity had exalted the preserved Word of God as a standard of faith and living. FEBC has never changed in her stand for the Bible.

A high regard for the Word of God was also displayed in the intensive study of biblical languages, Greek and Hebrew. These two languages were *"scary subjects"* to most students, not only because of their difficulty but also in terms of the time consumed. The importance of going back to the original languages was impreseed upon students so that the preaching and teaching of the Word of God might be done with clarity and confidence (cf 2 Tim 3:16-17). The compulsory learning of these languages will truly help students to be rooted and grounded in the Word of God so that they might not be easily influenced and deceived by false teachers. Indeed, FEBC prepares students to be ready to fight for the Truth in these perilous times when apostates and heretics flourish.

Though FEBC might not be as grand as other Bible colleges in Singapore, yet she has been in the hearts of those who love the truth around the world. FEBC was the place where I started to learn the truth and be built up in the foundation and direction in understanding the Word of God with confidence. It is not merely a place of intellectual debate but a place where holy truths are expounded and clarified to enlighten every thirsty soul. It is a place for God's called people to be trained and deepened in their understanding of the knowledge of God. It is not a place of confusion where all human views about theology are declared and adopted (cf 2 Tim 2:15).

The faithful servants of God would not be spared without trial (cf 1 Cor 10:13; 1 Pet 4:12). The lawsuit against FEBC was a very sad and disappointing event. It was shocking when the late Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow was regarded as "*a heretic*"! It was something that I never expected from his former students and fellow pastors in the church he founded. All these happened because of his love for the Truth, the perfect and preserved Word of God (cf Matt 5:17-18; Ps 12:6-7). When FEBC lost the case, I pondered, "*O Lord, where should FEBC go? Would FEBC be closed for good?*" It seemed that it was the climax of the trial. God's servants ought to defend the truth. The Lord knew everything about FEBC and her future.

The lawsuit against FEBC was allowed by the Lord to take place with a purpose – that FEBC might grow from strength to strength and have faith in Him. This was proven by the appeal to the higher court that gave FEBC victory. Praise be to the Lord Almighty; for the Lord still has a plan for FEBC to train more of God's called people.

Now with the settlement of the use of premises between FEBC and Life BPC, I pray that FEBC will continually flourish just like in the 90's when increasing students from various countries came to be trained by God for the harvest. I pray FEBC will continually have peace without hindrances as God's called people come to study God's Holy Word and to be trained and prepared to be God's servants for the harvest (cf Luke 10:2). May FEBC continue to stand fast till Christ comes again. Amen.

## The Burning Bush Defends, Educates and Informs

Sang Kipyegon Charles Preacher, Ongata Rongai AGUC, Nairobi, Kenya

The Burning Bush is an outstanding journal in defence of the Christian Faith in these last days characterised by compromise and apostasy. I came in contact with *The Burning Bush* which is the theological journal of the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) through Bomet Bible Institute (BBI). Since then I have come to treasure the journal as the best because it articulates every issue at hand based on the Word of God. Firstly, when the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Scripture came under severe attack, the journal greatly supplemented the teachings that we received in BBI and FEBC. It supplied a great wealth of instructions proving the doctrine plainly as a biblical truth based upon the very Word of God.

Secondly, the journal provided a clear chronology of events which finally ended in Singapore's Court of Appeal between FEBC and Life BPC regarding VPP. When I joined FEBC in July 2009, the case was still fresh in court. We were unsure whether we would complete our studies or whether it would come to an abrupt end. Life in FEBC for the next four years was not easy; yet it was the best time to learn how to live by faith from day to day. The student body united together to pray for divine intervention in the case during school days and holidays. During this period, there was a lot of misformation going around about VPP and FEBC's position. However, *The Burning Bush* was a beacon of light in clouds of darkness that brought forth all the necessary information in order to educate and rebut false allegations against the doctrine and the college.

For these reasons, among many others, the journal is not only part of my library for reference in theological issues, it also gives updates regarding our beloved *Alma Mater*. It is therefore a rich piece of writing and I would not like to miss any issue. May God bless FEBC and the ministry of *The Burning Bush* as you celebrate God's faithfulness all these years.

## Faithfulness of Our Sovereign God

Sharon Poon Minister's wife, Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, Perth

Studying at FEBC was an invaluable experience, a privilege and a memorable time that remains deeply etched in my heart. Indeed, within her walls, students learn the infallible truths from God's Word. These same walls also stand as a silent witness of the history of the Bible-Presbyterian movement in Singapore. They testify of the veracity of the ever present, ongoing spiritual warfare against Truth and God's work. I thank God that He saw it fit to give me the opportunity to study at the College during one of such times, during the lawsuit against the College. Through this, I have learned lessons of faith.

It was a tumultuous time, but the lessons were invaluable. When Peter was imprisoned, prayer was made without ceasing by the church (Acts 12:5). In like fashion, FEBC students gathered to pray – and some even fasted. Never is one drawn to prayer in such a manner until one realises his own helplessness in a situation – when God is the only Helper. And a faithful Helper He is indeed, when it is in His will and for His work.

Yet sometimes, through the trials of others, God teaches us what it means to stand for the Truth. We saw lecturers – men of God – greatly scorned in the eyes of the world. Yet, they stood unflinching. We studied about the battles in church history fought by other churchmen. But as the trial unfolded, we saw with our own eyes the cost of following Christ in this world. We live in a world of easy Christianity, but God gives privileges to His chosen to stand faithful for Him. Such battles are infrequent today – not because the roaring lion has changed, but because many choose to flee from the cause of Christ instead of standing firm to fight as Christ's soldiers. At the same time, the fight for the Truth must only be done in truth. Etched indelibly in my mind is the memory of how the lecturers openly testified with their mouths and lives that everything said and done in the trial would be honest

and upright before God – even if it seemed to disadvantage our cause. Those testimonies spoke volumes. They taught me that in God's work, the fight is not about winning in the eyes of the world. It is about doing God's work God's way – the fight for the Truth must always and only be in truth and integrity.

But most importantly, we learned about our God. Ultimately, it isn't about the skill of the lawyers, or the courage of the lecturers. It is about the faithfulness of our Sovereign God (Deut 7:9). The battle is the LORD's (1 Sam 17:47).

## **Training Changed My Life Tremendously**

Sun Sokha

## Preacher, Phnom Penh Bible-Presbyterian Church, Cambodia

It is a great privilege and joy to express my gratitude to FEBC. I remember that the Lord has blessed me a lot during my three years there. I learnt many new things about how to relate to friends, to live independently yet rely upon our Lord Jesus Christ alone during the toughest times. After the training at FEBC, I could see my life being changed tremendously. I could trust God more and learned how to seek His will for my life and ministry. Through FEBC I have gained confidence to share the Good News to anyone I meet.

To me, FEBC is the right place to train men and women to be faithful for full-time service. It is not just a school that teaches spiritual knowledge; it is also a place that teaches character. We were taught to be patient with the testing of criticism from our beloved matron. I am always thankful for her words of wisdom: If you fail in your training here, you will not succeed in the mission field. I did not understand what she meant then, but now I understand. Thank God for her training.

Another thing that I will never forget to give thanks to God for is our FEBC principal, Dr Jeffrey Khoo. In the darkest time of my life in Phnom Penh, he and his wife came to visit and encouraged us with the Word of Life and sent us loving gifts.

During your special 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Service, I would like to praise God for what He has done for FEBC. I feel that FEBC is really the apple of God's eye. "*Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.*" (Ps 17:8). "*For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.*" (Zech 2:8).

And to the graduating students, may the Lord bless and use all of you greatly for His glory and Namesake and may He be with you always wherever you go.

May the Lord continue to bless and use FEBC continually to be a place of training for more men and women to be faithful ministers of the Gospel throughout the whole world. To God be the glory! [Sokha serves with his wife Nam Soon also an FEBC graduate.]

## We Have Been Much Blessed

Nirand and Jess Tamee Missionaries in Thailand

Thank God for the years of blessings upon our Alma Mater the Far Eastern Bible College! Through FEBC, we have been much blessed, even our two children, Paul and Ann, who have stayed in her special rooms in and out since 1987.

Thank God that FEBC is not merely a school of theology because so many practical lessons are taught for the real mission field outside its walls. For example, frugality is the mother of prosperity, sink or swim, less-water-more-faith versus more-water-less-faith, banana skin story, and many more. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Eph 1:3).

## "All Things Work Together for Good"

Tan Sok Sin (Mrs Chan Kay Heem) Member, True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

Could anything good come out of a lawsuit, before three judges two groups of Christians stood? Both groups professed to be on the Lord's side and daily to heaven for help they cried. On the side, invisible to our naked eyes was the Devil cheering over broken ties; working overtime, tricking them to deny the testimony of our Risen Christ.

It was not the outcome of the judgment that determined which group was triumphant.

For the result was already pre-determined solely by the Almighty God, the Judge Supreme. The trial was not about the Word of God if it has been preserved perfectly or not. For the Author of the Bible would vindicate the Truth the Devil had tried to eradicate.

It was a test of faithfulness of those who testified if the 9th commandment they would obey or defy. Those who truly know and fear the Lord would submit and trust our gracious God – who could deliver them from evil when all things seem hopeless, desperate and their prospects dim. The supporters of these groups were not spared from a simple test the good Lord had prepared.

When the verdict of the suit was out, did one group gloat and the other doubt? Or, did we meekly, humbly and lovingly commit each other to our Lord prayerfully? Our Lord is good and very merciful, that we may know if our hearts are deceitful. Could anything good come out of a law suit? To those who repent, "All things work together for good".

To God be the glory!

## Faithfully Abiding in God's Truth

Tang Tuck Kong 1<sup>st</sup> year student, Far Eastern Bible College

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15).

"Without the Bible College the Church will die" (Paul Contento). Without a College faithfully abiding in God's Word, we would have no place to study the Word of truth.

It was at this one night class in FEBC many years ago that I began my journey of learning who my God is. My hunger for more and wanting to dig deeper into God's truth strengthened my faith. I still remember the excitement and joy when I stepped into the church hall listening and absorbing all of God's goodness and grace. Knowing Him and His Word was time well spent.

I want to praise and thank God for giving us FEBC and faithful lecturers to teach us His truth. Even when FEBC was under siege, God did not leave us alone. He has kept and preserved the College for us and our sincere prayer is that God will keep it for the next generation and more. All glory, power and honour be to our Lord forever. Amen.

## The Lord Is Our Defender

Richard M Tiu

## Missionary-in-charge, Gethsemane Bible Institute, Cebu, Philippines

"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee." (Ps 5:11) We rejoice together with the whole FEBC family for the marvelous work that the Lord has done in preserving and prospering the ministry of our alma mater. The Lord is our Defender!

**To our dear principal and faculty members** – We thank the Lord for your faithful and uncompromising stand for Christ and His inspired and preserved Words till this day. Upon this conviction, the godly heritage of FEBC is passed on to the generations that follow even in the face of much adversity – holding forth and holding fast the faithful Word of life (Phil 2:16; Tit 1:9).

To the alumni and student body – We must never cease to praise God for the excellent training we have received and continue to receive from our alma mater. We must treasure and cherish the perfect Word of God as we have been taught; and the lessons we have learned therein must be passed on with the same conviction to the faithful that they may teach the same to others also (2 Tim 2:2).

**To our detractors** – We enjoin you to pray with us that we may all "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." (Ps 34:14) As our alma mater has always taken the step towards this goal, we pray for everyone to follow that example. We pray for the good Lord to bless us all, knowing that His goodness leadeth us to repentance (Rom 2:4). "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." (2 Cor 13:8) As you may have learned well by now, we can only hurt ourselves when we kick against the pricks.

*"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."* (Ps 119:89). May Jesus Christ be praised!

# Armed with Practical Knowledge for Pastoral Ministry Rev Wee Eng Moh Pastor, Berith Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

All praise and glory be to the Lord for moving the heart of our founding father, Rev Dr Timothy Tow to set up FEBC. Through her portals, God has equipped and raised many of His servants with the fundamentals of the faith and pure Biblical doctrines.

I thank God for enabling me to come under the tutelage of this faithful, fundamental Bible College. I am thankful also for the dedicated teachers who taught me the Word of God, and armed me with practical knowledge for the pastoral ministry.

Recalling my student days at FEBC brings back a flood of memories. I attended classes in the mornings and reported for work in the afternoons, as I had taken on a part-time job to support my family. To keep up with my studies, however, I often stayed up till the early hours of the morning. There were many struggles, but I thank God for His grace that was ever sufficient for me.

My favourite subject in FEBC was Homiletics, which our principal, Rev Dr Timothy Tow good-humouredly called "The Homiletics Swimming Pool" because like swimming we would either "sink or swim" in the process. This compulsory course gives every student the opportunity to preach a sermon before the whole student body. We all dreaded the day when we had to stand and deliver our message lest we received critical comments from our fellow students. Our course teacher, Rev Tow, constantly reminded us to "say a good word" to encourage the student speaker. He himself usually had kind words for us. To this day, Rev Tow's gracious example is something I always try to emulate in my ministry.

In closing, we at Berith BPC are grateful to the Lord for sustaining FEBC through the tumultuous events of the past few years. Our Lord is ever faithful to those who are true to Him. May the Lord continue to uphold the Bible College as she earnestly contends "*for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" (Jude 3), and to uphold the inspired, perfect and preserved Word of God. May the Lord find us faithful till Jesus returns. Amen.

# Thank God for His Vindication of FEBC

Zhu Jianwei

## 4<sup>th</sup> year student, Far Eastern Bible College

Thank God for His great faithfulness toward the Far Eastern Bible College. As a student of this college, I have tasted how good and wonderful the Lord is toward us. During the four years of my studies here, I have seen how God guided and directed FEBC step by step.

When I first came to FEBC, I did not know what was going on. I did not know why Life Church and FEBC were at odds. By and by, I came to know more and more. Through the writings of many lecturers, and the class lectures, I realised that the core problem is about the belief and conviction of VPP (which means the Verbal Plenary Preservation of the Holy Scriptures in the original languages). I was motivated to know more about VPP, and why we should hold fast to it, and regard it so dearly.

After a few semesters of studies, I understood more about the doctrine of VPP. Indeed, there is a battle for the Bible going on today. This is not a personal matter, but a doctrinal stand of the college for the Lord. Through the good training in the college, I can see that the doctrine of VPP is not an optional doctrine that man can choose to believe or not, but a command from God's Word. The Bible has declared in no uncertain terms the Perfect Inspiration (2 Tim 3:16) and the Perfect Preservation of the Holy Scriptures (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:17-18). Now, I understand that the battle is not between the church and the college, but between God's people and Satan's instruments. We cannot decide the final result of the battle, but God can, for He is absolutely in control of everything.

God knew how FEBC suffered great trials and persecutions all these years, and He has set the perfect timing for the end of the battle. During these years, FEBC has experienced different kinds of oppression. Yet we know that it is not in vain, and the Lord sees and the Lord vindicates.

I do not regard FEBC as the one who won the battle, but God Himself. God has won the battle perfectly. We are just under His victorious banner, and enjoy the victorious result from Him. Truly the Lord is just and righteous, and He stands for His own name, and He fights for His own Word. The victory is His!

I thank God for His vindication of FEBC. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless and keep FEBC, and to use her to preach, teach, and defend His forever Infallible and Inerrant Word! May all glory and honour be unto the Lord God Almighty, forever and ever, Amen!

## To Raise a Faithful Generation of Young Men and Women

Deddy Crisno Manalu; Maritus; Zakharia Suhartono; Shobastian; Stefanie; Murniwati Mendrofa; Elisabet; Megawati Zega; and Charyhon Sinaga Indonesian students, Far Eastern Bible College

First of all, we thank God for His wonderful grace and bountiful mercies upon our beloved college, the Far Eastern Bible College; and for how God has faithfully preserved and protected her for over 50 years from the attacks of the evil one, both from within and without. By God's grace, FEBC continues to fight the good fight of faith through her teachings and practices.

From the many islands of Indonesia, nine of us came to study at FEBC, called of God, to be prepared, trained and equipped through the learning of the Word of God for our future ministries. We testify that it is not by chance, but by His providence, that FEBC has been blessed by God with sound teachings and faithful lecturers who boldly and courageously proclaim that the Bible is inerrant, infallible, perfectly preserved in the original languages underlying the KJB. We have been greatly blessed through this college, for we have not only learned the biblical doctrines taught by our lecturers theoretically, but in the six years of trials which FEBC faced, we also learned from our lecturers the practical lessons of how to apply the biblical truths in every part of our ministry. Though we were not here at the start of the lawsuit, we were present to witness how God delivered FEBC by His Word and through our lecturers' obedience.

We thank God that we learned not merely the good and sound teachings, but also how to be faithful ministers of the Bible according to Holy Scriptures; how to preach the truth without compromise; and how to be an instrument used by God for the benefit of God's people in Indonesia. We hope and pray that God will help us through our studies in FEBC that we may serve Him faithfully in our respective places to continue to promote the Kingdom of God here on earth. We pray also for the principal, the board of directors, the lecturers and all who are involved in leading FEBC in this generation, that they may continue to be faithful to the Lord. And may the Lord be merciful to raise a new generation of faithful young men and women to lead this college in time to come. How would be the generation after us? And how would be our generation in our ministries in Indonesia? O may the Lord be merciful to keep all of us faithful to Him and His Word.

# **College News**

**FEBC started its new term with a blessed day of prayer on Monday 5 January 2015.** We had a good attendance of over a hundred faculty, students and alumni. The principal spoke from Psalm 98 which is a psalm of joy and praise for God's protection and preservation of His people. With heartfelt gratitude to God, Matron Ivy Tow, shared about FEBC's beginnings and inaugural day of prayer back in September of 1962 when the Founding Principal, Rev Dr Timothy Tow, in a hall of "majestic emptiness" in the new premises read Psalm 34:10, "*The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.*" The Lord is true to His promise. In a time of great distress when LBPC sued to evict us, Mrs Tow shared how the Lord comforted her with this verse, "*Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you*" (Deut 3:22).

In the January-May 2015 semester, the College had a total enrolment of 605 students: 90 day students (fulltime: 50, part-time 40), 359 students in the "Basic Theology for Everyone" night classes, and 156 distance learning students. The students come from 11 countries: Australia, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Singapore.

There were a total of nine new fulltime students: (1) Allan Tang Tuck Kong (Singapore), (2) Bae Myung Ho (Korea), (3) Chieng Yew Jinn (Australia), (4) Cing Sian Lian (Myanmar), (5) Elisabet (Indonesia), (6) Kim Yechan (Korea), (7) Lee Young Won (Korea), (8) Samuel Joseph (Singapore), and (9) Wang Shuai Yong (China). However, two from Korea, Bae and Lee, have decided not to pursue their studies here due to FEBC's premillennialism, and have since returned home.

The lecturers and courses taught last semester were as follows: The Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo taught Systematic Theology IV (Eschatology), The Westminster Standards, Greek Exegesis II; Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew Old Testament History II, Revelation, Contemporary Theology II, Hebrew

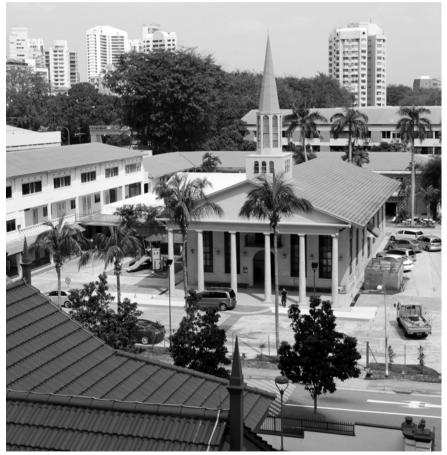
#### College News

Reading II; *Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy* the Gospel of John, Homiletics, Hebrew Elementary II (assisted by Clement Chew); *Mrs Ivy Tow* Greek Elementary II; *Rev Stephen Khoo* Church Administration; *Rev Dr Koa Keng Woo* Bible Geography I, Cults I; *Rev Tan Kian Sing* Ephesians; *Mrs Jemima Khoo* The Christian School, Beginner Pianoforte; *Miss Carol Lee* Adult Christian Education, Thinking and Study Skills; *Mr Dennis Kabingue* Greek Reading II; *Mrs Anne Lim* English Intensive I; *Mrs Irene Lim* English Intermediate I; and *Elder Han Soon Juan* English Advanced I. The online courses offered were Calvin's Institutes II, Life of Christ I, and The Bible and Miracles.

The "Scheme for the Shared Usage of Nos 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead **Road, Singapore**" was issued by the High Court on 27 November 2014. The renovation and repair works at FEBC are underway. The L-Annex and Extension Blocks at 9A Gilstead Road already a half-century old need a lot of repairs. The dormitories which the Judge remarked as "spartan" will get a new lease of life. The corroded water and sewage pipes in the toilets need to be replaced. The pitched roof has been waterproofed. FEBC have rights to 10 Gilstead Road as well, in Beulah House and the New Beulah Centre (5-storey block) behind Beulah House. Beulah House was supposed to be built for FEBC. God is just to give us our share of Beulah House. The 2<sup>nd</sup> storey of Beulah House houses the FEBC offices and bookroom. The 2<sup>nd</sup> storey comes with high ceilings, coloured window panes, and wood flooring. It has a charming colonial and yet kampong feel to it. Hebrew, Greek, and English classes are now conducted at the New Beulah Centre (4<sup>th</sup> storey). We are also thankful for the additional living quarters at the 5<sup>th</sup> storey of the New Beulah Centre. "*The LORD is the portion of mine* inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." (Ps 16:5-6).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> lawsuit (DC Suit No 1956/2013) filed by Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (LBPC) against FEBC was withdrawn on 21 January 2015 after LBPC proposed to settle out of court when the State Court hearings concluded in July 2014 with FEBC having no case to answer. (A no case to answer is the defendant's submission that the plaintiff has no evidence and no legal grounds to make a case for the defendant to rebut. A successful no-case submission results in the acquittal of the defendant.) Applying the biblical law of charity, FEBC offered Life BPC a sum of \$300,000. LBPC accepted it. The "Cost Apportionment Report for Life Bible-Presbyterian Church and Far Eastern Bible College at Nos 9, 9A and 10 Gilstead Road, Singapore," was completed by Jones Lang Lasalle on 25 March 2015. The main purpose of the Report was to review and address the cost apportioning of the maintenance and upkeep of the Premises including utilities charges currently occupied by both parties. The Report calculated that the College has exclusive use of 1811.88 sqm and the Church has exclusive use of 1999.72 sqm of the premises (ratio of 48% and 52% respectively).

**Here's a pictorial glimpse of the college campus and facilities** (photos by the Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew):



▲ 9A Gilstead Road taken from 10 Gilstead Road, New Beulah Centre

# College News



▲ View of Main Library with Study Carrels (L-block, 2nd storey, 9A Gilstead Road)



▲ New FEBC Office at Beulah House



▲ New FEBC Staff Room at Beulah House



▲ New Conference Room at Beulah House

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▲ 4<sup>th</sup> Storey Corridor to Classrooms at New Beulah Centre



• Spiral Staircase to 2<sup>nd</sup> Storey of Beulah House



• View of 2<sup>nd</sup> Storey inside Beulah House



▲ New FEBC Bookroom at Beulah House

10 Gilstead Road - Beulah House in foreground, New Beulah Centre in background



FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE Board, Faculty, Students 2015 Background: Beulah House, 10 Gilstead Road

A man

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