



# **NEW LIFE**

## **BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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**LORD'S DAY 12 AUGUST 2007**

*My dear readers,*

### **1. Gospel Advance in China**

A report from *"Christian News"* (July 16, 07) reports the astonishing growth of the *"underground or house church"* in China. The CN article is reproduced for readers' information and prayer.

#### **"Over 100 Millions Christians?"**

The number of Christians in the communist Republic of China is estimated to have reached the 100 million mark. The increase is mainly the result of the virtually mindboggling growth of local evangelical house churches.

These consist of smaller groups who meet in private apartments or houses. Some estimates state that over 70 million Chinese are members of such house churches. According to the *Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung*, house churches are conspicuously watched by government agents and sometimes persecution is evident. In Peking alone, there are between two and three thousand house churches.

In contrast, there are only eight official registered Protestant churches. Estimates about the number of Catholics in China run between 12 and 18 million, of which about 6 million, according to the report, are faithful to their government policy. Because the government can no longer control house churches, no serious attempt is made to enforce street control. One representative stated: *"The police knows about our churches, but does not try to oppress us. We are advised not to admit foreigners in our groups and not to encourage the house church to become too large."* In other provinces, however, strict control of house churches is implemented. Between the months of May 2005 and May 2006, approximately 2,000 Christians have been arrested. – *IdeaSpektrum 2 January 2007, pg 12.*

Again we recognize the difficulties some believers experience in various instances. It is a proven fact, however, that the more the opposition it receives the more the Church will grow. Therefore, the Church in China is alive and well in spite of the degree of persecution it is currently receiving. *(End of article)*

### **2. My China Mission Trip with Rev Pang**

We arrived at city P and took another plane to city Q. Due to the delay in the flight,...

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we only got to check into the hotel in city Q at around 1.30am. We hastily settled down ourselves and went to bed at 2am as in a few hours' time, there would be worship and baptism services at two house churches. Before baptizing the believers, Rev Pang confirmed their faith by asking them many pertinent questions. If there be anyone who was still not sure of his salvation, Rev Pang would advise him / her to postpone baptism. The worship service at church A lasted from 8am to 1pm. After lunch, there was a Q and A session (1.30-3.00pm). It was summer and temperatures could soar to 38<sup>0</sup>C. But thank God that on the day of our arrival to city Q, rain came about and cooled down the temperature very much.

During the night time, Rev Pang had to preach and baptize at house church B. The moment we stepped into this house church, we could sense a strong spiritual atmosphere. Their hearts were prepared and ready to worship God. Their singing and prayer were so sincere that tears rolled down their cheeks. After the night service, we went for steamboat, costing us only S\$13.

For the next five days, Rev Pang trained about fifty leaders in city Q. Some of these leaders came from places two or three hundreds km away. All of them gathered and stayed in house church A. Their food was prepared by some God-loving brethren on the second storey. Rev Pang taught them the Inductive Bible Study Method and the training time was from 8am to 8.30pm. Other than lunch (12-2pm) and dinner (6-7pm) , the rest of the time was spent listening to sermons. Other than teaching them the Inductive Bible Study Method, Rev Pang also had devotional messages with them every morning. He did not only focus on head knowledge but he emphasized spiritual needs too. This dual strategy was very effective. Trainees not only had lectures, but they had practices as well. Every trainee was required to read a passage many times in order to look out for key words, and the author's flow of thought so as to ascertain the theme of the passage. As usual, starting a new thing met with much inertia; the trainees could not understand what they were expected to do. But after two or three days of patient explanation and correction by Rev Pang, the trainees gradually got into the right track. In order to master this Bible study method, trainees needed to continue to practice. Rev Pang especially instructed trainees to complete the homework assigned to them. He even encouraged them to submit their completed homework through emails so that he could correct it.

The weather was very humid and warm. Along the way to a small town, we could see middle-aged men, with their singlets removed, exposing their potbellies. They enjoyed sitting outside their houses fanning themselves with fans. In the evening, swarms of mosquitoes attacked us mercilessly. After dinner, Rev Pang used God's Word to counsel a prospective bride and bridegroom. The next day was the Lord's day. We originally intended to attend worship in a local house church in the morning. However, one of the leaders in the house church suggested that for the sake of security, only another sister and I were allowed to attend their worship. The wedding was held in the afternoon and the ceremony proceeded smoothly. Before the wedding, all the guests gathered together for lunch. Similarly, after the wedding ceremony (about three hours after lunch), we were treated with another meal.

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How could our stomachs not be bloated up? We had three to four sessions of Chinese tea in between the two meals, creating opportunities for us to chit-chat. Rev Pang also seized the opportunity to video for the couple as well as the ceremony, adding much joy and fun to this happy occasion.

The next day, we took a coach to city P early in the morning, the journey was about four hours and along the way, there were plots and plots of green paddy fields as well as small rivers. The city P is densely populated, packed with many modern buildings and the air was rather polluted. The sky was always covered with haze. Rev Pang also conducted the Inductive Bible Study Method for about twenty brethren. They only could spend three days in training and hence had less time practicing. But no matter how, they mastered the basic Bible study skill. As for the sister who came to city Q to seek medical treatment, she was given a clean bill of health. Praise be to God! Rev Pang did a good job in arranging the different schedules. When I just left city P for home, his wife and children joined him for summer camp in another venue. (*Report by Bro. Kelvin Wong, Tengah BPC, 27 July 2007*)

Brethren, pray for the Christians in China. (Written just before leaving for Changi Airport).

*Lovingly in the Lord,  
Dr SH Tow, Sr Pastor*

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## **Whatever Comes, I'll Trust Him!**

*Sometimes our perfect little worlds  
Are shaken, tossed about.  
How did it happen? Why, Lord, why?  
And questions foster doubt.*

*But, oh, I've found down through the  
years,  
God's granary avails;  
His funds are not depleted yet;  
His larder never fails.*

*How many Israelites did God  
Feed in the wilderness?  
Did even one go wanting there?  
God proved His faithfulness!*

*Do lilies face their world unclothed?  
Do sparrows beg for bread?  
Does God forget His chosen seed?  
Is His hand limited?*

*He is my buckler and my shield;  
His promises are true.  
His covenants stand forevermore,  
And what He says, He'll do!*

*The God of Daniel succors me;  
He makes the crooked straight.  
I'm graven on His precious hands  
Till all things consummate.*

*He will not leave me, though my world  
Lies groveling in the dust.  
Job's God is still upon His throne;  
And though He slay, I'll trust.*

— Mary Mason

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

## CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4)

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm**.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
<b>Morning</b>	<i>Today: 12/08/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 19/08/2007</i>	<p>We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We specially welcome Veronica to our morning worship service last Lord's Day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome:</b> We would like to warmly welcome Dr Tow Siang Hwa, our Task Force chairman and Senior Pastor of Calvary Pandan B-P Church, S'pore.</li> <li>• <b>Family Worship:</b> Those who are interested to open up their homes in August and September, please inform Pr Mok.</li> <li>• <b>Memory Verse for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:</b> Those who would like to carry out the memory verse review, please see Pr Mok.</li> <li>• <b>Sabbath School:</b> The Sunday School is catered for children of ages 6-12. This will be held at the Library after the morning worship service. Children are encouraged to sit with their parents during morning service.</li> <li>• <b>Those serving on the Lord's Day:</b> Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer.</li> </ul>
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Dr Tow Siang Hwa	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Ready for His Return?	Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me to Do?	
<i>Text:</i>	Matthew 24:35-44	Acts 9:6	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
<b>Evening</b>			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Dr Tow Siang Hwa	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	A Mighty Fortress is Our God	Can I Offer My Service?	
<i>Text:</i>	2 Thessalonians 1:1-12	1 Corinthians 12:28	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 12/08/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 19/08/2007</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Joyce	Wah Soon/Yetta	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Esmeralda	Carol	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	BBK	BBK	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 17 Aug	7:30 pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Spkr: Pr Mok	
Sat 18 Aug	4.00 pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Spkr: Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b> £609.03		<b>Lunch:</b> £19.92	
<b>Maasai Mission</b> £12.00			
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<i>Previous Week (August 07 Wk 1): <b>Matthew 6:33</b></i>			
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.			
<i>This Week (August 07 Wk 2): <b>Mark 13:32-33</b></i>			
But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.			
			<p><b><u>God Always Gives</u></b></p> <p><i>God always gives a better thing Than that He takes away— Exceeding joy tomorrow For the tears we shed today; Immeasurable treasure For the gain we counted loss; Yea, a thousandfold of blessing For the bearing of the cross!</i></p>