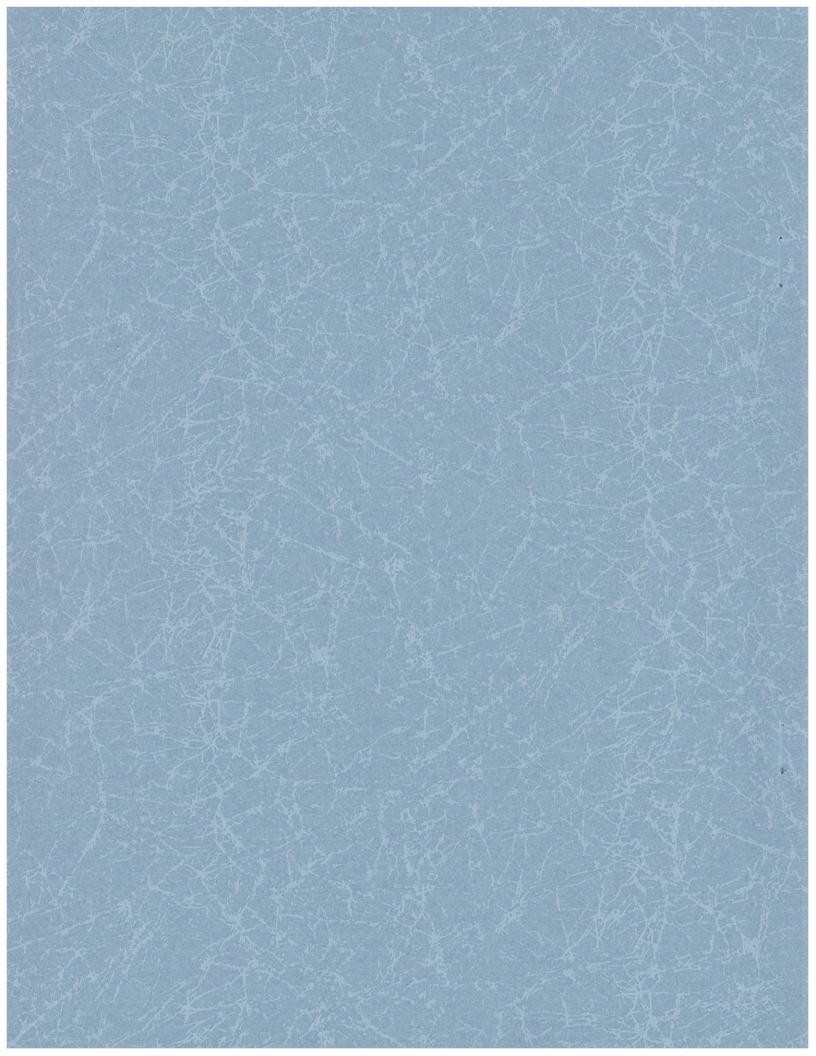
'Thus far has the LORD helped us' 1Samuel 7.12

THREE GENERATIONS OF GOD'S UNFAILING GOODNESS

Pasir Panjang Hill Brethren Chapel 1882 to 1999 Into the New Millennium



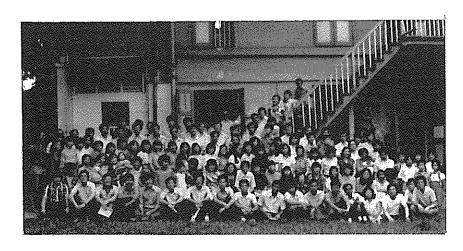
'LORD, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.' Ps. 90:1,4

This 'New Millennium' booklet seeks to provide a brief account of how the Lord God has led and guided our church Pasir Panjang Hill Brethren Chapel, from it beginnings up to 1999. We catch a glimpse of God's hand at work over a period of three generations, in the growth and development of our church which began in Chinatown area, and is now 'the church on the hill' along the western corridor of the island. We marvel at His faithfulness and unfailing goodness toward His people.

As Samuel of old set up a stone to signify God's help after a victorious battle, so we too would desire to record in this account the Lord's help through the years that have past. We raise our praise and thanksgiving to Him and cry out - '... Thus far has the Lord helped us'.

We know that He will continue to do so into the new Millennium and unto the end of the ages.

As God's Church is made up of His people, you will find many names of men and women who have served in the church , and perhaps also many more, inadvertently left out. These latter would include those who in their own quiet ways have devoted themselves faithfully to the ministry of encouragement and prayer. No doubt their names too are recorded in heaven's Book of Life.



Who are the Brethren?

The term 'brethren' means 'brothers' and was an early description of Christians in the First Century AD. The modern Brethren movement began in Great Britain in the early 19th. Century when individual Christians sought to return to the New Testament principles and practices of church life, with emphasis on the Scriptural doctrine of the priesthood of all believers, the authority of the Bible, a personal faith in Jesus, and an open fellowship at the Lord's table.

THE FIRST GENERATION Mission House & Missionaries

'Go and make disciples of all nations...and surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matt.28.19,20

The Brethren work in Singapore was started in 1864 by an English merchant, *Philip Robinson*, who arrived here from Australia in 1857, and founded the well-known Robinsons Company. Since then the Brethren church have grown in number and size throughout Singapore.

Our beginnings was at the Mission house at 417 New Bridge Road, built in 1882 as a rest house for missionaries serving in this region. When missionaries were driven out of China between 1936 & 1948, countless servants of the Lord found the Mission House truly a place of refuge and rest.



For many years a small Sunday School work was carried on in the dining-room of the Mission house. In 1936, a nearby house at 155 Neil Road was rented to conduct Gospel meetings in English, Chinese and Malay. *Miss Gladys Grigg*, a missionary from UK, occupied the mission house until the Fall of Singapore.

The meetings ceased with the Japanese occupation and were re-started in 1947 at the Mission house. That year also saw the beginnings of the Malay-speaking (Peranakan) assembly. These were hard pioneering years undertaken also by Mr & Mrs Matt Finlay, missionaries from New Zealand who occupied the Mission house from January 1947 together with Miss Grigg. In the mid-60s Miss Grigg and the Finlays returned to their home countries after over 30 years of missionary service. New Zealanders Campbell and Elaine McSkimming took over the missionary work from the Finlays. They eventually returned home in 1976.

THE SECOND GENERATION Youth & House-churches

'Remember your Creator in the days of your youth' Eccles.12.1



The 60s saw the flourishing of youth and children's work at Neil Road Gospel Hall. Three Sunday Schools which began in the districts of Tiong Bahru, Redhill and Nelson, were run in the Gospel Hall. Superintendents were *Matt Finlay*, *Harry Tan*, *Charlie Tan*, *Tommy Cheong & Richard Chia*.

The English-speaking congregation was made up largely of young people below 20 years of age, and the Malay-speaking of the elderly in their 50s. Evidences of the youthful congregation were seen in the emergence of the 'Overcomers' youth group in the early 60s and the 'Bukit Ho Swee Mission' in the mid-60s. Youth leaders included *Charlie Tan*, Edwin Goh, Richard Chia, Tan Yew Jin, Tham Siew Kiong, Loi Tat Kai & Lawrence Chua.

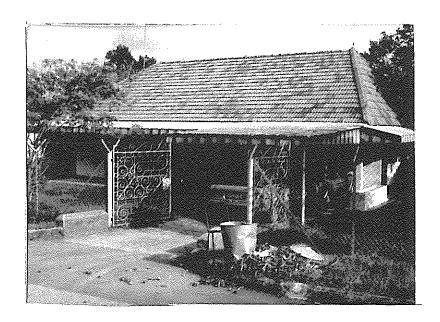


The church overseers were known as 'Responsible Brethren' who were appointed by the Bras Basah Assembly Elders. They comprised local and foreign leaders: Matthew Finlay, Charlie Tan, Richard Chia, Campbell MsSkimming, Warwick Neville & W. Hamilton. In 1966 Neil Road Gospel Hall, re-named New Bridge Road Chapel, became a fully autonomous local church.

1970s: House-churches

The 70s saw the beginnings of house-churches. The church faced with the challenge of having to move out from its existing premises upon the expiry of its lease in November 1979, developed house-churches from 1974 – 1977 along the 'western corridor' of Singapore. Church members were also encouraged to move towards the western part of the island when they applied for their new homes.

Five housechurches were started, namely Holland Road Chapel in 1974 (re-named Exodus, then Living Sanctuary), Dover and Angora in 1975, Gideon in 1977 and Living Hope in 1978. The house-churches used rented premises, or met in the homes of Philip Tan & Henry Hoe and in a property we purchased in Angora Close. During that period the total membership increased from 120 to nearly 400.



Leaders during this period were: Yap Pow Thong, Khor Tong Keng, Campbell McSkimming, Philip Tan, Charlie Teo, Richard Chia, Catherine Cheong, Lim Seng, Lee Juan Kow, Henry Hoe, Lawrence Chua, Peter Tan, Tan Joon Hong & Tan Juay Miang.

The First Combined Missions Board was formed in 1975 with the following members: Benny Tan, Chan Yau Seng, Helen Chow, Ho Wah Onn, Yap Pang Yong, Sandra Lau & Foo Fui Ping, Brenda.

In Nov 1978 Brethren Chapel Ltd was incorporated to handle all legal and official matters for the church property. The following were its directors: Chan Yau Seng, Khor Tong Keng, Philip Tan, Henry Hoe, Lawrence Chua, Richard Chia, Peter Tan, & Lee Chee Yeng.

A Time to build

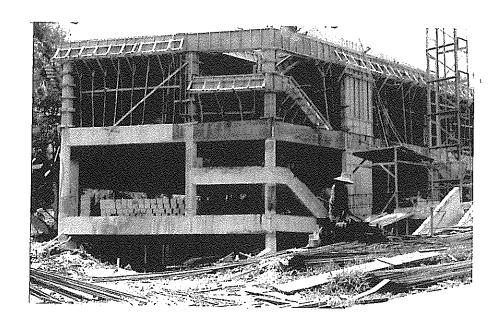
'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain' Ps.127.1

At the end of 1977, Grace Methodist Church offered for sale at \$170,000 its parsonage at 3 Pasir Panjang Hill. The sale which nearly did not go through, was delayed for almost 1½ years. It was finally completed in March 1979.

In 1978, the decision had been taken to build a new church building, as the lease on the Mission House would expire on Nov 19, 1979. The total membership of the existing congregations was about 400, of whom over 70% were students. The average age of the members was 22. The project tested the faith of the believers to trust God to provide the impossible sum of \$1 million. It also tested the durability and mettle of the leaders who held up under some trying times.

The building project seemed to have two diametrically opposing effects on the believers. Many fasted, prayed and gave sacrificially and experienced the blessings of the Lord. Others however were discouraged by the 'business' of putting up such an enormous physical building and would have preferred a less pretentious undertaking on a more 'spiritual' level.

Between July and Oct 1982 the church building was completed and occupied by four chapels – New Bridge Road Chapel, Clementi, Exodus and Angora. The first two merged to become PPH Chapel, Exodus was re-named Living Sanctuary and Angora birthed Peace Chapel, a Chinese-speaking congregation. The Malay-speaking congregation (Pernakan) of about 40 old folks led by *Charlie Tan*, also joined the church in later years.



100 years later

It is no coincidence that the Mission house was built in July 1882, and the building of PPH Chapel was completed in July 1982, exactly 100 years to the month.

Truly it has been the Lord's doing!

It testifies to the fact that the least among us can still be used by God for His glory. In spite of inexperience, of not being well-endowed with worldly possessions and wealth, God came into our midst and moved the mountains of impossibility, so that all may see and know that it is the Lord God Himself who has undertaken for us the impossible, and made all things possible.

To Him alone belongs the glory.

'Everything comes from you,
O Lord our God,
and we have given you
only what comes from your hand'
1 Chron.29.14

Profiles: Leaders and Full-time Workers

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'Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them. The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah...Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah...next to him Zadok ...also made repairs.'

Neh. 3.1-4

The Church is God's community of people working and serving together, witnessing together and caring for one another. As in days of old, God raised His men and women for the task of building His Church. The list of names is not complete and can never be complete until all is revealed when we see Jesus face to face. We list some of the leaders who served in the building of PPH Chapel and profile some who have served in lay and full-time capacities from the early years of our history.

Leaders/members who served in the various building committees: Philip Tan, KhorTong Keng, Lee Chee Yeng, Richard Chia, Chan Yau Seng, Nick Lim Siew, Lee Chin Poh, Lee Hin Kong, Wellington Foo, Ho Wah Onn, David Lua, Tay Chew Ker, Andrew Ng, Wee Sun, Patrick Lee, Esther Teo, Jennifer Chua, Chiam Choon Meng, Kwok Choy Yong, Pansy Tan, Boey Sook Har, Chia Chian Hong, Phang Foong Kwang, Ng Geok Im, Lim Ah Hock, Heer Soon Lam, Awyong Ngan Cheng, Lim Mei Lee, Lee Dan Lin, Yue Chin Seng, Lawrence Chua, Peter Tan.

Profile: Philip Tan

Philip 53, joined our church when he was in Pr 6 in 1959. He grew up in the church through his active involvement in church life and leadership. He was among the pioneers responsible for the setting up of house-churches and the building of PPH chapel. Philip has a heart of compassion, especially for the down-and-out and the poor. For many years from the early 70s he committed himself to serve in Sunday School, slum work in Chinatown. He was also a youth leader and Elder. A businessman, Philip is married to Say Yin, and they have 2 children, Ern Yu and Choo Chien.

Profile: The full-time workers

Although the church is led by lay-leaders, one of the distinctives of the Brethren, several full-time staff were employed locally to assist the leadership and missionaries were sent overseas to serve in mission fields. In the period before 1990 the following served in the full-time ministry: Charlie Tan joined 1951, Mary Chang '71, Khor Tong Keng '74, Catherine Cheong'75, Richard Chia '76, Lim Geok Imm, Linda '76, YFC, K Supramanian '78, Navigators), Chia Kwee Cheng '78 Operation Mobilization, Kwang Mei Fong '78, OM, Benny Tan '78, Hong Kong Mission Hospital, Catherine Cheong '78, Christian Literature Crusade, HK), Janet Gan '80, Eagles, Eric & Rhonda Tan '81, OM, Leong Weng Kee '83.

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Church Secretaries: Connie Poon '75, Chia Kwee Cheng '76, Angeline Liew '78, Caroline Lee, Lim Mei Lee & Ng Geok Imm '81, Elsie Chua & Catherine Lim '82, Jenny Voo '86 & Lim Chee Mei '87.

Profile: Mary Chang

Mary, who started to attend the Chinese church from young, has a pastoral heart, especially for the elderly. She ministers to Christian and non-Christian parents, relatives and friends of church members in English and Chinese dialects. She also helps in telephone counselling for the elderly and at St. Luke's Hospital. This pastoral heart grew from her Primary School teaching years in Melaka in the 60s when she also helped the Chinese church there in house visitation and outreach work. In 1971-72 she served as our church missionary in Bentong, Pahang, and has since continued in the pastoral ministry in PPHC. She also ministers to the Filipinas church group.

Profile: Richard Chia

Richard 60, joined the church at NBRC in 1949 when he was in primary school. The Lord has blessed him with various spiritual gifts and he has served in different capacities in and outside the church. He was in the commerce and management for over 15 years and entered into the full-time church ministry in 1976. He has a heart for missions and was involved in pioneering missions for PPH in the 80s and 90s. Presently he serves as the Asia Pacific Development Director for Scripture Gift Mission and Advisor to the leadership. He is married to Tsu Yeow and they have three children, Joy, Jean and Steven and five grandchildren, Natalie, Mark, David, Daniel & Sarah.

THE THIRD GENERATION The manifold blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ

For the next 17 years, from 1982, the rich blessings of our Lord were showered upon His people at PPH Chapel.

- He blessed the five congregations meeting at PPHC with a total membership of over 500 members.
- He blessed His people with many, many children, and with youths who are now forming the third generation of believers in our church.
- He blessed His church with a faithful group of older members, and with a core group of young families.
- He blessed the Day Kindergarten which grew to over 200 children
- He blessed the Boys' Brigade ministry, which has touched the lives of many young
- boys.
- He blessed Living Sanctuary congregation which moved out to build a new centre of witness in Hougang.
- He blessed our church with the faith to send out and support missionaries and missions in several countries in E. Asia.
- He blessed the work of Scripture Gift Mission, located in the church premises, to enable it to become a regional centre for the publishing and distribution of Scripture portions throughout East Asia.



Profile: PPHBC Kindergarten

The 'Kindy' started in 1987 with an enrolment of 79 students. Today, under the care of principal Mrs Annie Yew it has 226 students, 12 teachers and 1 Administrator as it seeks to reach out to children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially those living in the West Coast neighbourhood. The Kindergarten emphasizes character-building activities to enhance the confidence and self-esteem in children. Courtesy, kindness and love are encouraged among the children. Besides the basic skills, the children also learn about God through Bible stories and songs.

Profile: Kat Seet

Kat, who joined our church in 1957, loves children and is much loved by them. She is noted for her faithfulness and dedication in her work and served full-time in the Church administration from 1987. In 1991, she took on the Kindergarten Administrator's role.



Profile: The Junior Sunday School and Nursery.

Today the JSS has grown to about 200 children: 110 in K2 – P6, 60 in Nursery & Kindergarten & 20 in the Crèche. About 95% are children of church members and 5% from our Day 'Kindy'. The JSS seeks to provide biblical teaching to children with the aim to equip them as future leaders in the Church and society. Past JSS Superintendents: Kwan Mei Fong, Wong Sau Chee, Chia Kwee Cheng, Lai Fong, Kwok Choy Yong, Judy Hoe, Pauline Sng. Present: Yong Eng Siang, Mee Huan Poh Tin, Selene Koh and Linda Ng [Co-ordinator].



Profile: The Boys' Brigade

PPHC's 39th Singapore Company was founded in 1987, starting with a junior section meeting at Qifa Primary School and followed by a senior section in 1993 at Swiss Cottage Secondary School. Today we have 30 boys. The ministry seeks to advance Christ's Kingdom among boys through the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline and self-respect, towards a true 'Christian manliness'. Past leaders: Wong Sau Chee, Kwan Mei Fong, Lawrence Leong, Patrick Boey, Alvin Ngo [Chaplain], Benny Tan [Chaplain]. Present leaders: Cpt. Raymond Kwok, Wong Khai Hong [Chaplain], Wilson Tan, Jeffrey Wong & Hui Xian.

Profile: Raymond Kwok

Ray 41, is known for his 'practical Christianity' and sense of humour. He has been with the church since he was in Pr 3 [1967]. He loves to undertake projects for the church and he is among the pioneers of BB work in PPHC. He has served in the BB for 12 years. Ray is married to Nancy and they have 2 children Shermine & Sheranne. He presently works as a Business Development Manager and also helps out in projects in the BB HQ.



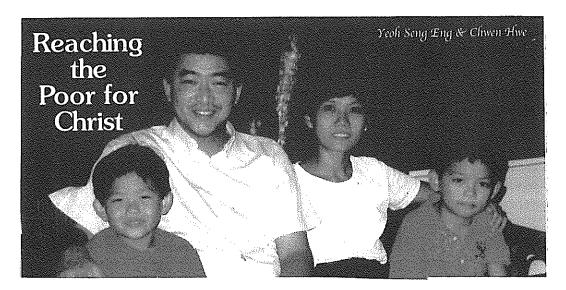
Profile: Missions

Our church began its missions involvement in the 1980s after many years of local outreach in the Tiong Bahru, Chinatown, Redhill, Holland Road and Clementi areas. In our missions effort we seek to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christian to the millions of unsaved in the countries around and beyond Singapore.

Under its first 7- year plan, 1988-1994, the church sent out three missionaries, Eric & Rhonda Tan [Pakistan, '89 – '92], Wong Sau Chee [Indonesia, '92 – 96], Chan Yeet Chieng [an Unreached Peoples Group, '94 – '97], and also supported indigenous work among the poor in the Philippines, orphanage work in Myanmar, and a Bible School in Indonesia.

In the next 7 years, 1995 -2000 we sent and re-commissioned the following missionaries: Richard Chia [East Asia for SGM '97- present], Chan Yeet Chieng [re-commissioned to an Unreached Peoples Group, '97- present], Yeoh Seng Eng & Chwen Hwe [Philippines ministry among poor, '98- present], Kwok Choy Yong [an Unreached Peoples Group, '98- present].

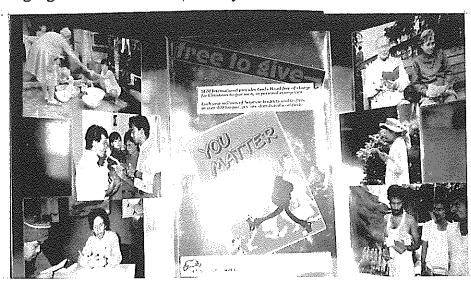
We also widened our support for the training of indigenous workers in the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and India. This period characterized by Tent-Making methods in the sending our missionaries, has also seen closer partnerships being forged with other churches and mission agencies.



Profile: Scripture Gift Mission.

Our church has been involved in the distribution of Scripture portions published by SGM since the mid-80s. Today PPH Chapel houses the nerve centre of the SGM ministry in East Asia. SGM publishes and distributes free-of-charge selected Scripture passages in high quality & colourful booklets or leaflets.

SGM is in 17 countries and publishes over 400 languages. The mission is over 110 years old.



PPH Chapel: Touching lives for Christ

The church at 3 Pasir Panjang Hill is called to touch lives for Christ. This calling is in obedience to the Great Commission of Our Lord Jesus Christ, "Go and make disciples". We desire to reflect the love of God in us and to our neighbours, to be a blessing to others, that they may know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. That's the greatest blessing we will be to them.

As we rely on the Holy Spirit's power we see 2 major challenges First, the challenge to be immersed in the society where God has placed us. As we identify ourselves with our fellowmen, we must be the salt that will influence for good and the light that will shine in the darkness.

The second challenge is to maintain our Christian identity even as we are immersed in our society. "We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of Him Who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light". Can others see the difference our faith makes to our living. Does our Christianity have any life-changing impact upon others?

As we begin the new Millennium, the urgency of the task to which we are called increases. Like our Lord, we must do the work of Him Who sent us whilst it is still day. Night is coming, when no one can work.

May the Lord our God equip us with everything good for doing His will and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Elder, Hooi Shing Chuan Chairman, Diaconate.

Profile of PPH Chapel, 1999

Congregation: about 300 members and 190 children.

Leadership [Diaconate]: Elders Hooi Shing Chuan & Benny Tan.
Deacons Lim Chwee Pheng, Tan Joon Hong, Teh Kwang Hwee,
Wilson Tan, Wong Khai Hong & Patrick Yong. Deaconesses Linda Ng & Chia
Choy May. Advisor: Richard Chia

Ministry Leaders: AVA: Johnson Lim, Board of Evangelism & Missions (BEAM): Teh Kwang Hwee, 39th Coy BB: Wilson Tan, Evangelism: Lim Chwee Pheng, Full-Time Staff Board: Tan Joon Hong, Homemakers: Tan Cheng Bin, International Fellowship Group (IFG): Vincent Lau, JSS (Creche): Celene Lim, JSS (Nursery): Chek Poh Tin, JSS (Kindergarten): Leong Mee Huan, JSS (Primary): Yong Eng Siang, Kindergarten: Lim Chiew Sen, Ladies' Fellowship: Chia Choy May, Library: Mathilde Hanscamp, Children Library: Lam Chow Peng, Music: Kevin Lim, Prayer Committee: Benny Tan, Property Management Committee (PMC): Tan Joon Hong, Scripture Gift Mission (SGM): Jenny Lau, Richard Chia, SPARK: Koh Keok Chuah, Youth Ministry: Vincent Lim, Refreshments: Yeo Hai Pin, Flowers: Chia Ten Eng

Full-time staff: Chan Yeet Chieng, Missionary, joined '90, Mary Chang,
Pastoral Worker '71, Richard Chia, SGM Asia Pacific Director,
Advisor to Leadership '76, Peter Hanscamp, Pastoral Staff '99, Henry Hoe, Church
Manager '99, Kwok Choy Yong, missionary trainee @ Columbia International University
'97, Lam Chow Ming, Church Secretary '93, Jenny Lau, SGM Manager '92, Mark
Lim, student, Singapore Bible College '97, David Ong, SGM Store Supervisor '99,
Katherine Seet, Kindergarten Administrator '87, Wong Khai Hong, Pastoral
Worker '97, Yeoh Seng Eng & Chwen Hwe, missionaries '96, Annie Yew,
Kindergarten Principal '89.

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'Thus far has the LORD helped us'



And He will continue to do so...unto the end of the age...