

Faith-Living & Faith-Giving

¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding" (1 Chronicles 29:14-15).

King David prayed the above prayer in the presence of the people. Such exuberant and enthusiastic prayers are echoed by many believers today, for many who experience the joy of mature Christian stewardship. Whenever stewardship is consistently modelled, whether at home, or in church, it is because believers see their possessions - whether little or in abundance - as God-given.

Stan Toler, in *The Cycle of Victorious Giving*, writes that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with having a nice car, living in a comfortable home, or dressing in the latest fashion, unless those possessions possess us, unless the pursuit of those things keeps us from pursuing a deeper relationship with God.¹

Advance the Gospel; Reach the Nations – "Go"

The Singapore Baptist Convention exists to unite Baptist churches to engage in missions (local and global); assisting one another in areas of Christian education, leadership development and ministry. The over-arching goal is to advance the Gospel and reach the nations for Jesus. The clear mandate for anyone who bears the name of Christ, is to go forth and make disciples, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus have commanded (Matt. 28:19-20).

The importance of "going forth" is underscored by the apostle Paul, who writes: "¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15).

Advance the Gospel; Reach the Nations – "Give"

Besides going forth, believers are also given the privilege of partnership through giving. As we grow in spiritual maturity, it is not long before we reach the conclusion that God is the Owner of everything. We own nothing. We are managers (or caretakers) for what God has placed in our hands. The awesome responsibility of stewardship weighs heavily on our shoulders and grips our hearts and energizes us to give away what we have received, as an act of worship unto the Lord, our behaviour consistent with our belief - to live out what it means to be a living sacrifice. It is God first; and God alone. Believers who are consistent in giving unto the Lord are Jesus focused; and others-focused. They do not focus on themselves.



Step Up and Be Generous in Faith-Giving

There is great fulfilment in going and in giving. Both are needed in the work of advancing the Gospel. In recent years, there is a discernible drift in the Baptist Churches' involvement in supporting the financial commitment of the Singapore Baptist Convention. We thank God for the support of the 37 member churches. Moving forward, we want to challenge every individual member church to covenant to finance the work of the Singapore Baptist Convention. Start by praying and asking God to lead you and your church onto this path of giving.

Rev. Bobby Lee

Executive Director

¹ Stan and Linda Toler, *The Cycle of Victorious Giving: Your Time, Your Talent, Your Treasure* (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2004), 32-33.

Share the Word In and Out of Season

Andrew Tjang, Mission Director

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:31 (NIV)

EVS at Udon Thani, NE Thailand

Eddie Chan, Isaan Committee Chairman, together with 6 other people headed to Udon Thani (NE Thailand) from 27 – 31 March. The objective of this trip was to bring the Gospel to the community through the English Bible School (EVS). This is one of the many efforts borne through partnership with Sajatharm Baptist Church (SjBC) in reaching out to the local community there.



On the last day, a closing ceremony was held and 20 students were presented their certificates in the presence of their parents and guardians. On Sunday, the kids gave their praises to God for the lessons of the week, and each one spoke a sentence in English.

May the team's efforts and sacrificial love inspire our larger Baptist community to join with SjBC to continue God's work at the next EVS in 2018.