

A COMMON VISION AND MISSION TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

Partnership for the Gospel

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel" (Philippians 1:3-6).

A "partnership" (*κοινωνία*) is a close association of individuals, a fellowship. Contemporary English uses the word "partnership" with the sense of a business friendship, or sometimes as a verb for a ministry asking for money (they want you to "partner" with them by giving money), the use of "partnership" (*κοινωνία*) in the first century was more complex. It is often used for close participation, where Scripture exhorts us to "participate" in the suffering of Jesus (Phil. 3:10); believers "participate" in the blood of Jesus (1 Cor. 10:16); and the mention of "participate" in sending famine relief (2 Cor. 8:4).

Applying this principle to churches today, and in particular, the Baptist Churches, which zealously uphold the concept of "autonomy" to the extent of going "solo" or "exclusivity" in fulfilling the Great Commission. While autonomy implies a church's independence in decision-making (and direction), none of us can disagree with the truth that the Baptist' autonomy is subsumed to Scripture. The church (bride of Christ) is pictured as a body, working in harmony (1 Corinthians 12). Believers are admonished for laziness (1Thess. 5:14). For Paul, and for all of us, as believers in the Gospel (Good News), it is crucial that the church(es) work together in mutual partnership through participation, not merely lip service.

A proper and true understanding of partnership calls for the Baptist churches to partner one another for the advancement of the Gospel the way

the Philippians did; to use our various gifts in order to advance the gospel in the most effective way possible. Such a vibrant partnership and participation demonstrate an active gospel. The "better-resourced" member churches should come alongside and partner the "less-resource" churches.



We are one Baptist Family, comprising of more than 37 member churches. Embarking on the journey of partnership for the Gospel begins with pastors and lay leaders, working together to lead their flock, as well as to encourage the flock of another church(es). And what better and visible way to demonstrate this "oneness" is through the Baptist Pastor's Pastors' Day Appreciation Dinner! (See last page for details.)

Let us resound the Call for Partnership for the Gospel! And see you all at the Baptist Pastors' Appreciation Dinner: "Rooted in the Past, Reaching for the Future!"

Blessings on behalf of Co-Labourers in the Convention,

Rev. Dr. Bobby Lee

Executive Director

Jesus' Commission

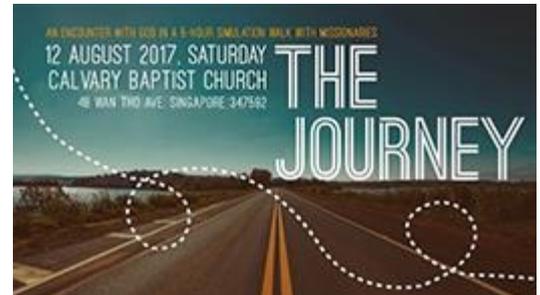
Andrew Tjang
Mission Strategist

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)***

The Journey

It was God's efficacious provision on 12 August for "The Journey" as we received 136 participants from 11 churches. We thank God for Calvary Baptist Church, Wycliffe and 70 volunteers for their sacrificial service. Together, let us pray for the Holy Spirit to germinate the seed of mission into the hearts of those participated for His harvest fields. Here are some encouraging words from the participants:

- "The step-by-step method really clarified the process to become a missionary, and the whole experience was very real."
- "The Bible College Station challenged me to be prepared to anchor on God's Word."
- "The Local Church Commissioning helped me know about the importance of church support and missionary sending."
- "I enjoyed and had a better knowledge after interacted with people from different countries and cultures."
- "The Journey prepared us for the real missionary life and adequate training is important."



Short-Term Mission Trips

We received about 16 short-termed mission trips throughout the fiscal year of the Convention (Sept 2016 to Aug 2017). It is our desire to see church members loving God in action. What an exciting movement for the Great Commission together!



Mission Team from Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church

*The Convention Mission Department welcomes all churches and individuals to make a contribution for our mission efforts. Send your donations to our bank account at **UOB 1163121943** and message **Andrew Tjang** at **(65) 9824 1832** for an acknowledgement of the donation. Thank you for your support!*

Baptist Pastors' Day **DINNER 2017**



“Rooted in the Past - Growing into the Future”

19 NOVEMBER 2017
SUNDAY, 7.00 PM

QIAN XI RESTAURANT
60 TESSENSOHN ROAD (CIVIL SERVICE CLUB)

\$45 PER PAX
(OPEN TO ALL CHURCH MEMBERS)

Register through your church or with the Convention Office at:
(T) 6253 8004 (E) dani@baptistconvention.org.sg

ORGANISED BY:
THE BAPTIST LAY LEADERS NETWORK & SINGAPORE BAPTIST CONVENTION