

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pray for Eld Seah Soon Huat** as he prepares to speak next Sunday (10 July) from John 4:7-26. Message title: "Sharing Gospel- One to One" Service will be livestreamed at 9:30 am at [bit.ly/gracebpsermons](http://bit.ly/gracebpsermons).

**Adult Fellowship Retreat** in Penang 23-25 October 2022 (departing on 23 October afternoon). Speaker: Rev David Wong. Theme: "Walking in the Narrow Road," based on Matthew 7:13-14. Please sign up at the notice board. All are welcome.

**BPCIS Retreat**, 4-5 July. Tomorrow, 70 participants will gather at Changi Cove for our annual Pastors & Leaders Retreat, our first overnight Retreat after two years since 2019. Our theme is "Strengthening Our Churches" with speaker Pastor Denesh of The Crossing Church. Please keep us in prayer.

**BPCIS Website**. Please read latest story "Embracing Loss and Grief" at [bpcis.org.sg](http://bpcis.org.sg). What happens when loss hits, not once, not twice, but thrice within a year? Rev Dr Peter Teo and his wife Terrie share how God took them through the journey of grief.

**Adult Fellowship** on Sat 30 July, 5.00pm. Rev Mark Tay will share on "Temptations Seniors Face."

## NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

<b>Speaker</b>	Eld Seah Soon Huat
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Dn Jeremy Hor
<b>Musicians</b>	Lim Sue San, Stanley Poh
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Chea Ruei-E
<b>AV Ministry</b>	Dn Daniel Tan, Joshua Lim
<b>Ushers</b>	Richard Tan, James Chen, Tan Chew Gim
<b>Junior Worship</b>	Lee Min Sen
<b>Pre-Primary Worship</b>	Hannah Yeo
<b>Flowers</b>	Tay Boon Jin
<b>Refreshments</b>	Jenny Chin
<b>Prayer Meeting Devotion</b>	Rev Tan Eng Boo

## LAST WEEK'S GIVINGS

Offerings \$ 2, 105.00  
Tithes \$ 3, 218.00

QR code for tithes & offerings  
(Please indicate "Tithe" or "Offering" under Reference no. / description)



## LET US PRAY

Join us in praying for the church and the world via Zoom. Please contact Rev Tan at 9784 2761 for Zoom meeting ID and password.

You may also email us your prayer items at [prayer@gracebpc.org.sg](mailto:prayer@gracebpc.org.sg)

## MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

*I'll Wait till Later*

*Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.*

*Proverbs 27:1 (ESV)*

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

<b>Moderator</b>	Elder Victor Goh 9682 2281 <a href="mailto:Victor_Goh@gracebpc.org.sg">Victor_Goh@gracebpc.org.sg</a>
<b>Co-Moderator</b>	Elder Seah Soon Huat 9835 2178 <a href="mailto:Soon_Huat_Seah@gracebpc.org.sg">Soon_Huat_Seah@gracebpc.org.sg</a>
<b>Honorary Pastor (Mandarin Service)</b>	Rev Lee Fatt Ping 9668 1549 <a href="mailto:Fatt_Ping_Lee@gracebpc.org.sg">Fatt_Ping_Lee@gracebpc.org.sg</a>
<b>Pastor (Mentoring)</b>	Rev Tan Eng Boo 9784 2761 <a href="mailto:Eng_Boo_Tan@gracebpc.org.sg">Eng_Boo_Tan@gracebpc.org.sg</a>

# Grace Bible Presbyterian Church



Volume 47 · Issue 28 · 3 July 2022

## Speaker

Rev Tan Eng Boo

## Worship Leader

Eld Victor Goh

## Musicians

Adeline Lek

Chew Weh

## Scripture Reader

Chea Ruei Jean

## AV Ministry

Nathanael Goh

Sarah Goh

## Ushers

Dn Allan Lim

Lynna Seah

Naomi Neoh

## Junior Worship

James Chen

## Pre-Primary Worship

Chen Ching Huey

## Flowers

Adult's Bible Class

(Pastor)

## Refreshments

Adult's Bible Class

(Pastor)

## Month of July's Preaching Schedule

3 Jul	The Spirit of Discontent (Num. 11:1-15)
10 Jul	Sharing Gospel- One to One (Jn. 4:7-26)
17 Jul	Relating Gospel to Life Encounters (Acts 17:16-34)
24 Jul	Sharing Jesus as a Church
31 Jul	1 Kings 18

## Sunday Worship & Activities

## OUR MISSION

To bring people to salvation in Jesus Christ and disciple them in their relationship with Christ.

## OUR VISION

To be a church that is passionate about God, transformed by the Word, authentic in relationship, and bold in witness.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

### Opening Song

MH313 We're Marching to Zion

### Opening Prayer

Gloria Patri

### Worship in Song

MH571 When We All Get to Heaven

### Responsive Reading

Proverbs 16:17-33 (KJV)

### Giving and Thanksgiving

Doxology

### Scripture Reading

Numbers 11:1-15 (ESV)

### Pre-Sermon Song

MH566 When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

### Pastoral Prayer

### Sermon

*The Spirit of Discontent*

### Holy Communion

MH239 It Is Finished

### Closing song

MH320 Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

### Benediction

Threefold Amen

9.30am Main Service      10.00am Junior Worship (7-12 yrs old)      11.30am Bible Classes

## HUNGER FOR REALITY: MY GOD IS REAL

By Rev Tan Eng Boo

When I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Saviour in 1967, I had a strong desire to know this living God personally. I attended church and Sunday School regularly and was excited to do so. But there was one bad experience I had which stumbled me. It happened at a church outing where I experienced church leaders who looked down on people who are poor and lowly educated. So I skipped church for one year because of that incident. That was the most unpleasant experience I had as a young believer.

The apostle Paul reminds us, **“Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother” (Rom. 14:13)**. Eventually, I went back to church because of my mother’s persuasion. Thank God indeed!

After returning to church, I continue to pursue after the Lord. I wasn’t satisfied with merely attending Sunday church service or Sunday School Class. The phrase from [Philippians 3: 10](#) **“that I may know him,”** was the theme of my life in those days and has continued to be one of the themes in my life.

My brethren, Jesus is real. Our God is real. The Bible says that our God is the true and living God. **“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Thess. 1:9 KJV)**. Now, if my God is real and alive, I want to know Him. I want to seek after this living God. The prophet Jeremiah was told by the LORD: **“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13)**. Israel was told: **“But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deut. 4:29)**.

These are wonderful promises from the Bible. These are promises you can claim for your own Christian life. Will you do [that](#)? Will you seek the Lord with all your heart in church whenever God’s word is shared as well as when you are on your own?

### Going through the rituals on Sundays

Don’t we go through many religious rituals every Sunday? We come together to hear the Lord’s Word (sermon), discuss the messages (sermons) in Bible Class, talk about the theological implications and applications of it, and we think that we have fulfilled our religious rites. Then through the week (Mon-Sat), we seem to live a different lifestyle. God doesn’t quite fit into our daily life. After Sunday, God seems to vanish because of the pressure we face at the workplace, family life, schoolwork etc. Why is that so? Where is Jesus in our workplace, home, school etc.?

One reason which explains this is, **“For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 2:21)**.

George Verwer wrote in the introduction of his book *Hunger for Reality*, about the “spiritual schizophrenia” Christians face:

“No one could say in these days that we Christians are spiritually starved. Through the care and faithfulness of God’s servants, we are generously fed, taught, encouraged, pampered, stimulated, supported, nursed along. A religious world of sermons, discussions, magazine articles, hymns, messages, books, meetings, and conferences surrounds us for our participation and growth. Yet we know very well, if we are honest, that these things have all too little effect on our lives. Why is this so?

If we give the matter a little thought, we will realise that most of us are living in “two worlds.” We have split our convictions, activities, and goals into two categories. In the first place our religious experiences: what we believe; what we sing about; what we pray about; and what we defend in argument.

The second category contains our world of secular values and actions: our use of leisure time; our actions taken to impress people; our attitude towards associates who are better or worse at their job than we are; and how we get our money and use it.

We keep these two worlds strictly apart, and though we may vaguely feel that something is wrong, we don’t suspect we are suffering a major disorder – a sort of spiritual schizophrenia. In church, and occasionally among Christian friends, we talk about dedication, commitment, surrender, revival, a life on fire for God, and other expressions of loyalty and love for God. But the words and their corresponding deeds get little exposure outside church wall.”

Is that a description of who you are? Is God real in your life 24/7?

### A heart after God

Beloved, our Christian belief must correspond with our everyday life. It can’t be only for Sunday. Can that be done? Yes! Let the apostle Paul tells us how to do so. He says, **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly....” (Col. 3:16)**. In other words, we must: **Let the Word of God get into us!** This is different from just “getting into the Word.” We get into the Word, but does the Word “get” into us? We come out from listening to the sermons and the Bible Class lessons each Sunday, but did the Word of God impact our hearts? If it did, it will transform us to be Christ-like. It would revolutionise us (Acts 17:6). The evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be manifested (Gal. 5:22, 23). The living God speaks to us from His Word.

Take this step first. Go into Bible reading and Bible study with a sincere heart to know the living God. Do not make your daily Bible reading or Bible study a ritual. Knowing God involves: Listening to God’s Word and receiving it as the Holy Spirit interprets it, and then applying it to ourselves.

**“There’s a difference between knowing God and knowing about God.  
When you truly know God, you have energy to serve Him, boldness to share Him,  
and contentment in Him.”**

– J.I. Packer

## HOW I CAME TO RECEIVE THE LORD INTO MY LIFE

*By Preacher Zhang Li Feng*

I grew up in an environment where I was completely insulated from religious influences, especially Christianity. My understanding of religion was nothing more than what was written in textbooks: it was a tool (or means) for rulers to fool and mislead corrupted people and oppress them.

But during my studies in Moscow, I kept visiting Christian churches. To tourists, Moscow has a rich heritage of churches with impressive architecture of a different era. And in the midst of many palaces, whether large and small, you could always find a magnificent church. But isn't Russia an atheist country? After all, its predecessor was China's "big brother", the Soviet Union, so how could there be so many churches? These questions flashed through my mind briefly, as I had no interest or concern about religious and social issues then.

The time I came into contact with the gospel was during my work-study period. A Chinese-American missionary came into my store sometime in June 1994 and preached the gospel to me. I did not have a good impression of monks and priests at that time but this missionary's parting remark, "The great scientist Isaac Newton also believed in God", caused me to wonder: "Did great scientists like Newton also believe in religion?"

Since young, I had heard many stories about Newton, such as "Isaac Newton's Dinner", "Apple Falling", etc. How is it this missionary's story was different from my secondary school teacher's versions? I was a big fan of the great scientist Isaac Newton, so I decided to find out who was lying. As I researched on the biographies of scientists in Moscow, I was surprised to learn that many of the great scientists were Christians. This began to shake my narrow view of Christianity and I wondered, "How can a scientist believe in superstition?"

Without realising it, I was starting to become more accepting of the Christian faith. From then on, whenever I met the missionary, I no longer resisted his preaching of Jesus Christ, but became increasingly interested instead.

Most importantly, I began to understand sin. In the past, I did not see myself a sinner as I equated it with lawbreaking, and I had not committed any crimes or illegal acts. But dishonesty to teachers and parents and cheating in exams are also acts of sin. Even if I tried to cheat but failed or did not dare to do it, it's a sin. By the Holy Spirit's conviction, I realised my faults and realised the need for a Saviour in my life. That' when I decided to accept Jesus as my personal redeemer.

My newfound faith saw two obvious changes: First, I relied on the Lord Jesus Christ and quit smoking — which I had always wanted to but couldn't. Second, I started to

read the Bible whenever I had time and attend church worship on Sundays — I would attend two worship services because one time was not satisfying enough!

Slowly but surely, God has changed me and drawn me to Himself until today!

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### MY CALLING INTO FULL-TIME MINISTRY

*By Preacher Zhang Li Feng*

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."  
(John 15:16)*

*"and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation"  
(Romans 15:20)*

In the summer of 1994, during my second year in Moscow, I put my faith in God and was subsequently baptised into the church in September.

God's grace was upon the Abundant Life Christian Evangelical Church in Moscow, which was growing fast. The church brethren were very active in bringing people to the church and were eager to spread the gospel. In her first year of establishment, the number of believers increased from eight to 200. It was one of the several churches founded by the Great Commission Centre International throughout Eastern Europe. The pastors assigned to Moscow from the Great Commission Centre were either the centre's own missionaries or pastors who were on short-term loan from other churches.

At the start, a pastor named Yi Ming, who was a Vietnamese American missionary, was sent to the church for one year. In April 1994, the church borrowed a Korean chapel as a place of worship and established a Chinese church. Within one year, the number of places of worship increased to three. After I was baptised in September, I often went out with Pastor Yi to preach the gospel among the Chinese in the business districts of Moscow. I also enthusiastically participated in various ministries in the Church. In early 1995 (four months after my baptism), the church appointed me to be the chairman of a co-workers board.

John 15:16 often kept coming to my mind, where Jesus said, "...but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide".

At that time, I only understood this verse to mean that we have been chosen by our Saviour Jesus Christ to do His work as His children. So, we should all go out and preach the gospel and bear fruit for the Lord. Like others, I worked and studied at the same time, served, and preached the gospel in the church. It was only in the spring of 1995, that I began to realise that God was calling me to serve full time. All the while, when Pastor Yi challenged me to serve full time, in the past, my excuse was always, "I am not ready yet".

About three months later before the end of Pastor Yi's mission in Moscow, he invited me to join him on a week-long retreat in a resort near a lake on the outskirts of Moscow. In the mornings, the pastor would lead me in devotion and prayer and reflect together on the ministry ahead. Pastor Yi once again mentioned about dedicating my life to serve full-time, challenging me to pray more in seeking God's guidance. The pastor also shared with me that God had impressed upon him that He was going to raise up his own workers in our fledgling church.

So, I prayed before God for days and something wonderful happened. Not only did God cause me to recall the verse John 15:16 again, but God also brought to my attention, Romans 15:20. When I read Romans 15:20: "... thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation", it seemed to be speaking to me. My heart was gripped by a vision of the Lord working on the threshing floor. It seemed to be showing me the need for a homegrown Pastor in my own Church, and my tears began to flow spontaneously. I began to be deeply aware that the church needed her own servants to shepherd the sheep of God, as sooner or later the "pastor on loan" had to go back to his own place.

After that personal retreat, I began to seriously think about the full-time ministry path. I had two major concerns: the first was that being the only man in my family, serving God would definitely interfere with my filial piety duties at home. The second was that I had no money for theological studies.

After Pastor Yi left, Pastor Spark Gau and his family were sent from California to Moscow to serve in the church. He and his wife continued to mentor and strengthen my faith. In the meantime, God also showed me that my constant presence with my parents didn't necessarily make them happy. I think that's the answer God was giving me. Therefore, I silently prayed, "If you are calling me, if you are leading me, you will look after the financial and school preparation." Thereafter, I told Pastor Gau and his wife of my decision: If it's God's leading, I am willing to surrender.

In August 1995, when I was preparing for the entrance examination of St. Petersburg Christian University, there were two short-term mission teams visiting in Russia for three months, consisting of teachers and students from the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong and the Logos Evangelical Seminary in America. God supported me through

the care, prayer, and testimonies of the team members. Notice. They also helped to support me financially in my study. Amazingly, what they gave me happened to be a little more than what I had to pay for my first year of study. God is so wonderful!

During the course of my theological studies at St. Petersburg Christian University, I have experienced God's supply. God never missed the time nor stopped supplying for my needs — exceeding all that I could ask or think! Some funds were transferred from Hong Kong, some from the United States, and some were even from people in London who sealed the money in an envelope and asked someone else to hand it to me. The most wonderful thing is that the total amount of funds received from various places for each year was always a little more than the total amount of school fees and living expenses I needed in that year! How did all these people — whom I had never met, neither did they know each other — know how much money I needed each year? Only God knows. What a wonderful thing God has done!

God had answered my financial concerns and provided me with everything I needed. When I was preparing for my entrance examination, a seminarian from the Alliance Bible Seminary said to me, "When He leads, He sees to the end!" Yes, our faithful God, I have experienced how great You are! To paraphrase the words of Job in Job 42:5, "I have heard of you before, and now I see you with my own eyes!" Glory be to Your Name!