

The Gibsbon Gazette 2004



Picture taken at Awana Hotel, Genting Resort, Malaysia on our Church Camp in June 2004

Dear Friends and Heirs In Christ...

It is coming to the end of the year again where we need to share what's been happening in the past year with all our friends. The year 2004 has been an eventful year for us with many changes & happenings, but above all we thank God for being there for us when we undertook the new challenges. Most of all we are grateful to God for our many faithful supporters who have been praying for us.

First of all, we would like to thank our friends and family in England who called us as to whether we were affected by the tidal waves. Thanks for all who had concern for us. It is hard to see that we had to end this year with such a natural disaster, but we are really grateful to God who graciously spared us from this unfortunate event. It could really have hit us as this merciless disaster affected many countries that are so close to us like Malaysia, Thailand & Indonesia. Singapore is so close to the centre of the quake but was shielded by Sumatra itself. We can't help but to say that we are really living in the end times and Jesus' coming is very near.

The main significant event of this year is that Tim took over from Pastor Mark as the English congregational pastor. He was overwhelmed by such a task at first as he's always been in a support role, but by the grace of God the Lord has surrounded him with faithful helpers. It has not been easy to take the lead, especially having to follow on such a great leader as Pastor Mark, and there has been an expected change in the congregation's make up, but overall the Lord is in control and leading us in His ways.

Another significant event we had was that our cell group including children initiated going to an old folks home to spread the Christmas cheer and continue blessing them on an ongoing basis. It was heartwarming to us because we had just completed the 40 days of purpose by Rick Warren & wondered how we could be a blessing to others. It was really a great experience where we sang Christmas carols, a hokkien song, Chinese songs & a dance with skit. The residents really enjoyed the time of sharing our love & testimony to them. Many of them were touched because they are destitute with no family to care for them. Before we left we gave them a gift & we definitely felt satisfied that we accomplished something & will continue to do this on a regular basis.



Tim talks.....

Truly this year, my fortieth on this earth, has been a very significant one for me. The Lord has brought into being many prophecies spoken over me years ago that I would be a vine keeper and shepherd over a missions congregation. That happened this year when Pastor Mark Geppert handed over the English congregation to me in September.

Leadership has always been a weak area of my gifting and this placing has pushed me into the deep. I believe God is using this season to mature me and implant valuable truths into my being that I will need for future ministry.

This year has been very busy and at times I have felt so overwhelmed with all that was to be done. Alongside leading the English congregation, sorting out all the usual problems involved with a hand over, I have been pursuing my Master's degree in Religious Education (which I was recommended and supported to do by the Church). On top of these I have also been coordinating and teaching in out English Christian Growth classes.

Also, I have seen the doors open for me to go into another area the Lord has spoken to me about many times, blessing Israel by taking teams there for study and prayer tours. This year I went with Pastor Song with a group of almost 30 people to Egypt, Jordan and Israel. I will be taking another team there this coming April/May – do pray as I raise a team to go as there's not much time – we're combining with Church of Singapore (Marine Parade) to take a team of 30.



Also, in 2005 I am going with a small team to Cambodia (in March) to teach the church leaders and reach out in evangelism and practical work with the orphans etc. This will be my first (but not my last) trip to Cambodia, linking up with our Church missionaries there.



Shen says.....

As I look back over the past 12 months, I can only say that God has been really faithful & challenging me to trust Him more & He must increase but I must decrease. I have been feeling a sense of a loss of identity as I felt that it was so monotonous to look after 3 kids & I felt a lack of achievement.

I was thinking of going back to the marketplace where I could once again show some achievement & also to help in our finances. I was seriously thinking about either going back to my previous profession, executive secretary, or as a child educator. As we brought this plan to our children, they were against the idea as they want their mum to be there all the time for them. I thought I could use work to entice them, that I could get what they wanted, but surprisingly they told me all those are not necessary but they just want me to be home for them. Tim too reminded me that they are our arrows & I have to bring them up in the way of the Lord to be an arrow to the unreached places where they can shine for Jesus & be a blessing to others.

One of the breakthroughs came when our church started a women's ministry. I felt called to be part of this ministry. Thank God that we started a bible study group on 'Breaking Free' by Beth Moore facilitated by Ellie Geppert who was the instrument of starting this women's ministry.

After this bible study, we had demand from more women & this time round I helped another sister, Serene, to facilitate the bible study on 'Women's heart, God's dwelling place'. We have 10 sisters joining this bible study & it brings joy to my heart as I see how we grow to the in depth knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ & how we are so transparent to one another. We had so many tears & much laughter in seeing how the Lord encouraged us & ministered to us with many powerful testimonies (Matthew is newly crowned as the mascot for the women's ministry by Ellie Geppert!!!)



I even helped to coordinate a women's trip to Kuala Lumpur where we joined a friend's church in a women's conference. This was an excellent time, not just because I 'escaped' from the kids and Tim looked after them in Singapore, but it was a time of breakthrough for all the women who went.

During this time of serving God in this women's ministry, the Lord promised me that He will surely help me to look after our family & indeed I am just grateful to God that by His grace, Melody & Gideon have done well in their studies. Truly the Lord has not shortchanged us & He has certainly taught me to be like Paul to be abased & abound in all things. To God be the glory!



Melody mutters.....

2004 has been an eventful year for me too. I truly enjoyed my time of school this year. I was privileged to be chosen for the racial harmony event in the Botanical garden with our minister of education (sorry no photo). I was also the best-behaved girl in our class and was also in the dancing team for International dance in the Singapore Youth Festival & we got the silver.

The Lord has been really good to me. Just a few months ago, our cupboard was broken badly; our bed & our study desk were not in a good condition. When we told our mum, she asked us to pray for God's provision. I did not actually pray but I really hoped that God would do a miracle. Just then my best friend was about to move house, my mum asked me to ask her whether she wanted to give away anything. She invited us to her house & she told us that she did not want her cupboard, bed & study desk, which were the things we needed. I was touched to tears because it was just like brand new & the colour suits our room. Isn't God great that He truly satisfies the desires of our hearts. My faith in God grew & I know deep from my heart that I can count on my heavenly daddy to provide all things. Another good news was that I got the S\$100 progress award from my school. It came as a shock because I did not do well in my Chinese this time. However I thank God for everything.



Gideon gurgles.....

I have nothing much to share except to say that I thank God that I truly enjoy my school life. This is my first year in primary school & I was picked to do an Indian dance. I got my book prize for coming 2nd in my class & I got S\$150 bursary award from the government for being in the top 25% on the whole school. I just want to thank God for helping me because I prayed to Him.



Matthew murmurs.....

Hi everyone, I am Matthew. I am 18 mths old & I can walk. Mummy keeps on saying I am small but I have powerful voice. I am growing slowly. I thank God for mummy, daddy, 'jie jie' & 'kor kor' who love me lots. We truly hoped you enjoyed reading our news & trust that you will have had a glimpse of our life in Singapore.

We are so grateful to God for each & every one of you from England & other parts of the countries that have been faithfully praying for us. Without your prayers, we could not go thus far. Our time in Singapore pastoring a church is just a season & we believe that God will ultimately bring us to the unreached areas as this is our heartbeat for Him. Do pray for us as we are doing this pasturing work. Sometimes we do face discouragement when people do not have the same vision with us standing together to see God's working in His church. As we move to 2005, the Lord has given us this verse to meditate upon:

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:3-8

With this, we want to wish you a very fruitful & blessed 2005.

Together For His Glory

The Gibsons

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PS. As this letter was a bit rushed we will send more ministry photos later.