

REVIEW OUR BLESSINGS & MAKING CHOICES FOR 2017

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< Tuesday Dec 27, 2016

Aleppo Christians celebrate Christmas as Pope calls for peace

Christian leaders call for end to violence in Middle East; Europe heightens security

AMMAN/VATICAN CITY • Christians in Aleppo celebrated under a giant Christmas tree lit up for the first time in five years after the city came back under full government control, as Christian leaders called for an end to violence in the Middle East.

The fall of rebel-held east Aleppo last week was the biggest victory of Syria's nearly six-year-old civil war for supporters of President Bashar al-Assad, and many in pro-government parts of the city were jubilant.

However, the rebel defeat has brought severe hardship on civilians who fled from insurgent-held areas, thousands of whom have been forced to camp in the wilderness under snow. Aid groups say many are in peril and children have died from exposure to the severe winter weather.

In the war-ravaged St Elias Cathedral located on what was long the front line in Aleppo's historic Old City, priests prayed for peace at the first Christmas Eve Mass for five years, attended by dozens of worshippers, including some Russian officers.

"The festive atmosphere is great. It's a new birth for Jesus Christ and a new birth for the city of Aleppo,"

Worshippers attending mass on Christmas Day at the war-ravaged St Elias Cathedral in Aleppo's Old City. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

hood, where the public Christmas tree had gone until since rebels took the eastern half of the city in 2012.

Christian leaders from the Vatican to Bethlehem struck a sombre note in their Christmas messages, speaking of war, fear and division, as cities in Europe ramped up

homily to plead for compassion for refugees and for a halt to the violence in the Middle East.

Religious ceremonies in Germany were heavy with the weight of the Berlin attack, which was claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

"Christmas this year carries a

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Christianity Growth in Singapore

- **1819** Founding of Singapore by Sir Stamford Raffles.
Early Anglican settlers from British East India Company in Singapore.
- **1826** Anglican Church established.
- **1843** Rev Keasberry set up Malay Chapel in Prinsep Street which is today's Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church.
- **1864** **Philip Robinson with 6 others started brethren fellowship**
- **1885** Methodist missionaries James Thoburn and William Oldham landed in Singapore.
- **1928** Assembly of God church established.
- **1937** Baptist church established.
- **1953** Lutheran Church established.

Our Brethren Pioneer(s)

- An English Christian Businessman, Philip Robinson
- 1857, set Foot in Singapore
- In Early 1860s, likeminded believers gathered
 - Bible Study, Fellowship & Break-Bread at the Lord's Table
- At First, Evangelistic Efforts Concentrated on the British Colonial Society
- Later, a Real Burden To Reaching out to all Races
- In 1864, a Mission Room was started at 108 Bencoolen Street as beginnings of a Brethren Assembly.

Bethesda Katong Church

NEW CHURCH Branch Of The Bethesda In Katong

Singapore, Friday.

A new \$10,000 church has been built in Katong. It is situated off Dunman Road at the corner of Carmel and Pennefather Roads, and is a branch of "Bethesda," Katong.

Mr. Wee Thiam Seng, a retired banker, presented the land for the site, and the money for the building and equipment was subscribed by members of "Bethesda," Bras Basah Road, except for a donation from up-country.

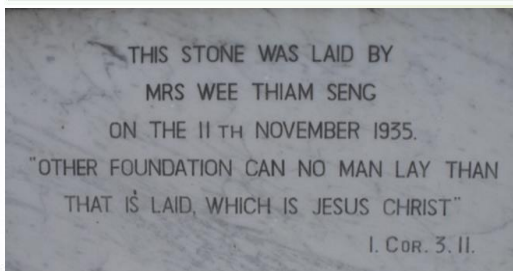
The church provides accommodation for more than 200 people, and is intended to serve the Katong district. It is to be known as "Bethesda," Katong, and services will be held in English, Chinese and Tamil on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

The church will be formally opened on Feb. 29 at 6 p.m. by Mr. Wee Thiam Seng.

The Sunday School, hitherto held in two shop-houses in East Coast Road, will be transferred to the new church as from Sunday, March 1. More than 100 children attend the classes every Sunday.

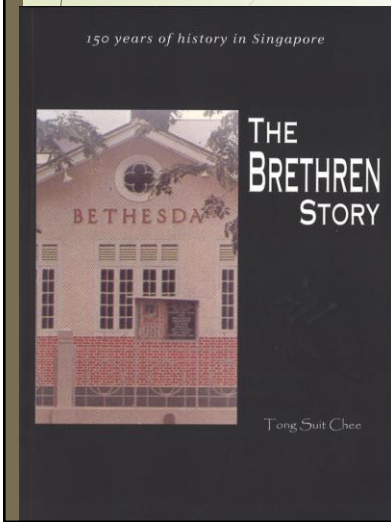
The new church is an attractive little building made of brick and tile, teak and "chengai." The estimated worth of the building, land and equipment is in the neighbourhood of \$10,000.

Newspaper Report of Opening of Bethesda (Katong) February 1936.

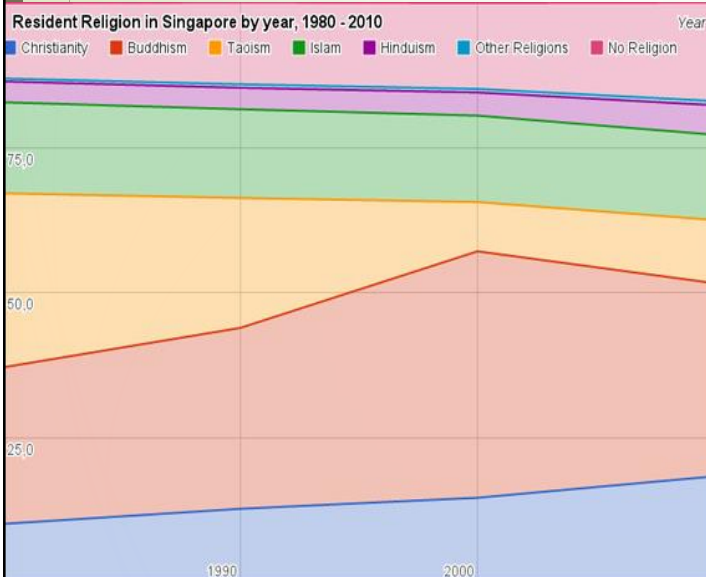




150th Anniversary Brethren Church in Singapore (1864-2014)

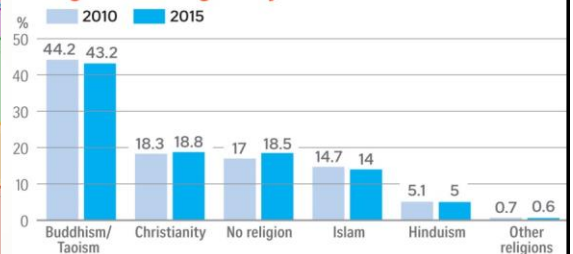


Christianity Growth in Singapore



Religious affiliations

Among residents aged 15 years and over



NOTE: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding

No religious affiliation by age group in 2015



Source: DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

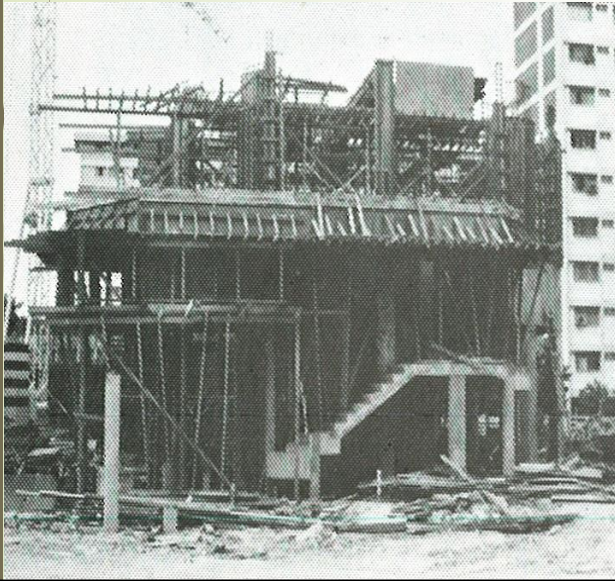
BBTC - Our History

- Other brethren assembly came alongside:
 - Bethesda (Frankel Estate) Church (BFEC)
 - Bethesda Bedok Mission Home (now Bethesda Pasir Ris Mission Church).
- BBTC was registered as a legal entity, on 8 Aug 1984.
- 1st worship service was held on 2 Nov 1986.
- The beloved late Dr Benjamin Chew was our first Chairman Elder of the council.
- Nov 1988, BKC gave complete autonomy and the BBTC Council became an independent assembly of believers.

BBTC Church Plant in 1984



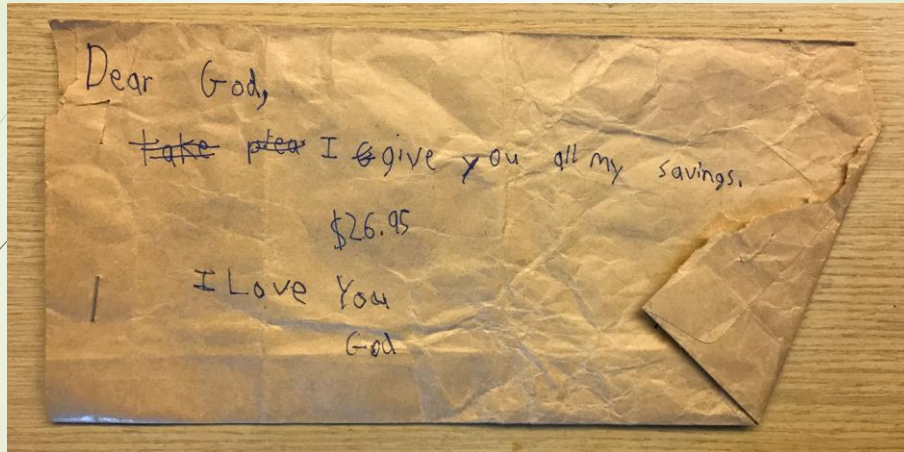
BBTC Church Plant in 1984



BBTC Extension in 2005



The Widow's Mite equivalent



Mark 12:43-44 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

BEYOND 30

BBTC Camp 2016





SONGWRITING COMPETITION



37,836 ACTS OF BLESSINGS



BLESSING CAMPAIGN



FUNFEST@300



GOOD FRIDAY / CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

BEYOND
Our Country



54 TEAMS SENT OUT TO **21** REGIONS

BEYOND
30

BBTC 30th Anniversary Celebrations



FINALE CELEBRATIONS



FLASHPAY CARD



TESTIMONIAL DEVOTIONAL



MAKING CHOICES FOR 2017



3 Key Anchors for 2017

1. We have a **Faithful, Covenant** keeping God.
2. **God has a specific and unique plan for every one of us.**
3. God is the **Potter** and we are the **clay**.

1. We have a **Faith, Covenant** keeping God:

Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD Your God is God;
He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love
to a thousand generations of those who love Him and
keep His commandments.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

1. We have a **Faith, Covenant** keeping God:

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) Let us hold unswervingly to the hope
we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) Let us hold tightly without wavering
to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep
His promise.

2. God has a specific and unique plan for every one of us.

Psalm 139:13, 16

13 For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. **16** Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2. God has a specific and unique plan for every one of us.

Psalm 37:3-5

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. **Take delight in the LORD**, and He will give you the desires of your heart. **5** Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will do this ...

Matthew 6:33

But **seek first his kingdom** and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well ...



3. God is the **Potter** and we are the **clay**.

Isaiah 64:8 Yet You, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay,
You are the Potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God
and not from ourselves ...

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for
the good of those who love Him, who have been called
according to His purpose.



God uses 3 principal means to mold us -

1. His Word,
2. People,
3. and Circumstances.

1. His Word

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. People

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. **25** Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit but let us encourage one another.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: **10** If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

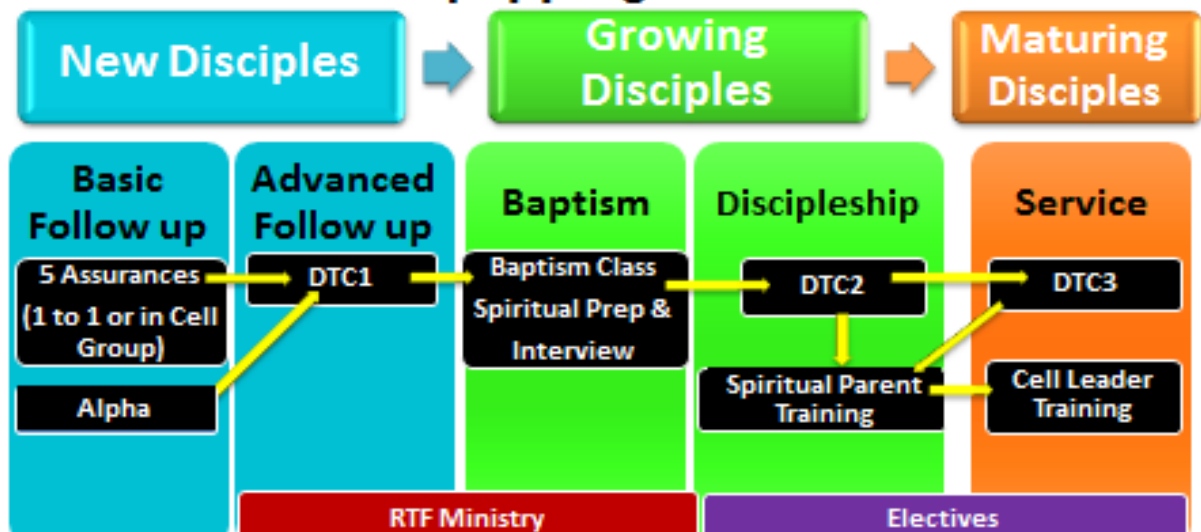
3. Circumstances

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Equipping Track




Ephesians 4:12 ...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

MAKING CHOICES FOR 2017

Joshua 24:14-15

**“Now fear the LORD and serve Him
with all faithfulness.**



**Choose for yourselves this day
whom you will serve, ...
as for me and my household,
we will serve the LORD.”**