

Village News

BARKER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH HOLLAND VILLAGE PREACHING POINT

For international circulation only April 2010



Christmas @ Buona Vista

A COMBINED CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Barker Road Methodist Church Preaching Point @ ACS (International) was asked by St James' Church to take the lead in organizing the Christmas@BV on 25th December, 2009. Despite being a relatively small congregation, we accepted the leadership role with faith though with some trepidation. But after months of planning and praying, the Lord blessed us greatly. Thus we offer Him all our praises and thanksgiving!

RAIN AND MORE RAIN

From 20th December, it had been raining off and on. At our final briefing on 24th December, it rained again and we prayed for the Lord to hold back the rain and to give us cool weather the following day. This He did in a marvellous way. Many volunteers from St James Church and our Preaching Point turned up in ACS (International) premises from 7.00am to find the sun smiling at us.

COMBINED CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

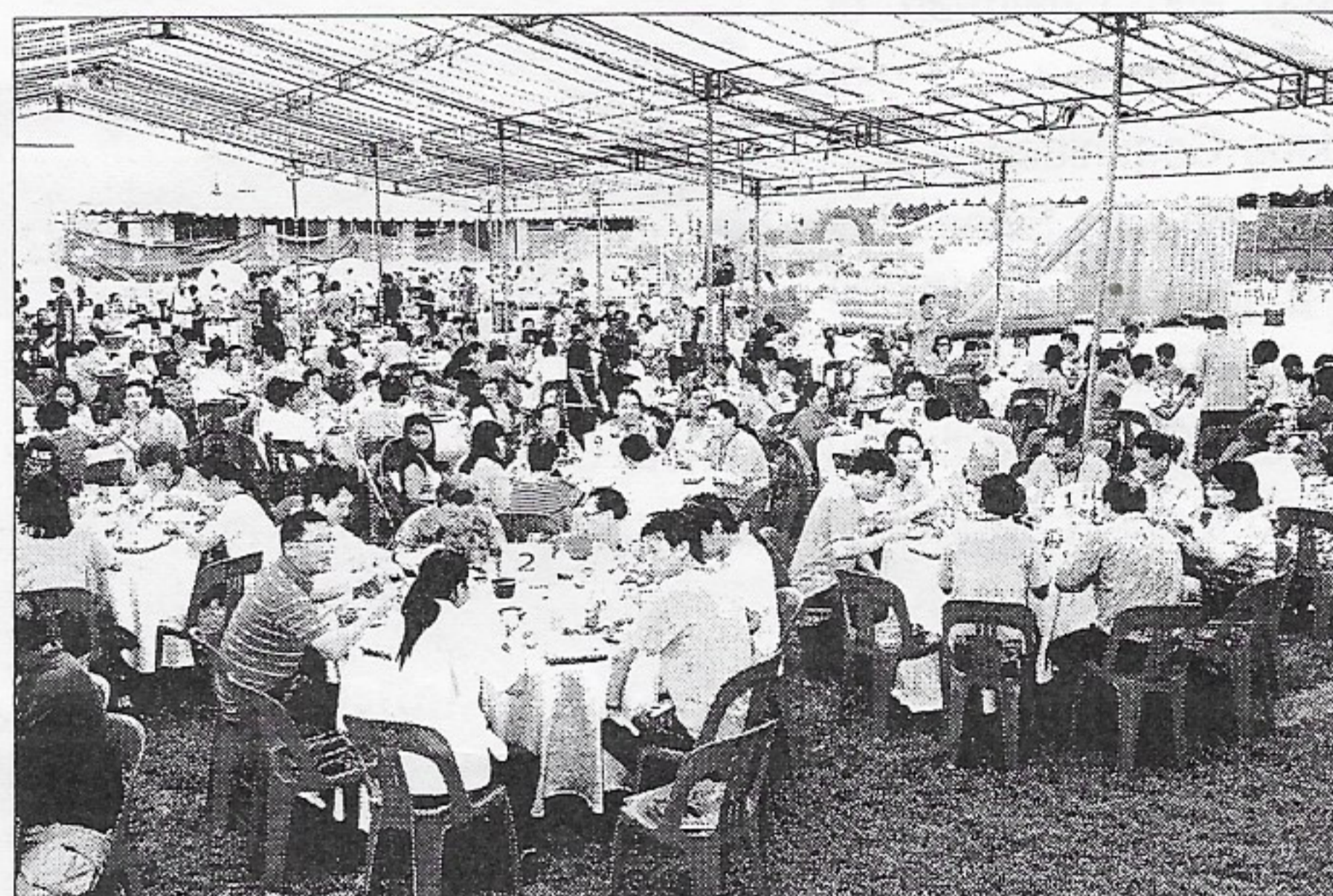
The combined Christmas Worship Service with St James Church began at 9.00am in the school field, with participation from both churches. More than 800 worshippers heard God's Word delivered by Dr Tan Gee Paw. He challenged us that in giving and forgiving, we must do so from our "heart" and he also focused on the need to remember the "why" of Christmas, that is, Jesus Christ "came to save". Each worshipper was given a specially designed batik bag as a present to take home.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR WORSHIPPERS

At the end of our worship service, most of our worshippers enjoyed a simple but tasty lunch in the school canteen. It was a time to celebrate in a modest way. Ramli burgers, nasi lemak and some other local dishes made up the menu of the day. Worshippers from both congregations had the opportunity to exchange greetings and socialize.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS

From 10.45am, our special friends from our two main neighbourhoods, in the Buona Vista constituency, namely Commonwealth Crescent and Holland Close started arriving. They sat down with hosts from both churches and fellow-



shipped over peanuts and koropoks. These are very special friends, whom both churches have been visiting and helping because of their individual situation and needs, especially through the difficult period of the financial crisis. About 166 persons and another 84 of their friends came to celebrate Christmas with us over a simple lunch.

OUR GUEST OF HONOUR

When Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office arrived, he was welcomed by the Pastors and leaders of the organizing committee, as well as the residents of the constituency. Mr Lim Swee Say felt completely at home as he



knew many of the residents. The Rev Wee CS David delivered the welcome speech while the Rev Canon Terry Wong said grace. In his address, Mr Lim Swee Say, by the sovereign will of God, reinforced Dr Tan Gee Paw's message regarding giving, stressing that it must come from the heart

and not from the mind. Over lunch, he spoke of "you all are lucky" and quickly changed that to "your God is good, giving us good weather today." He encouraged us to continue working together for the welfare of the community.

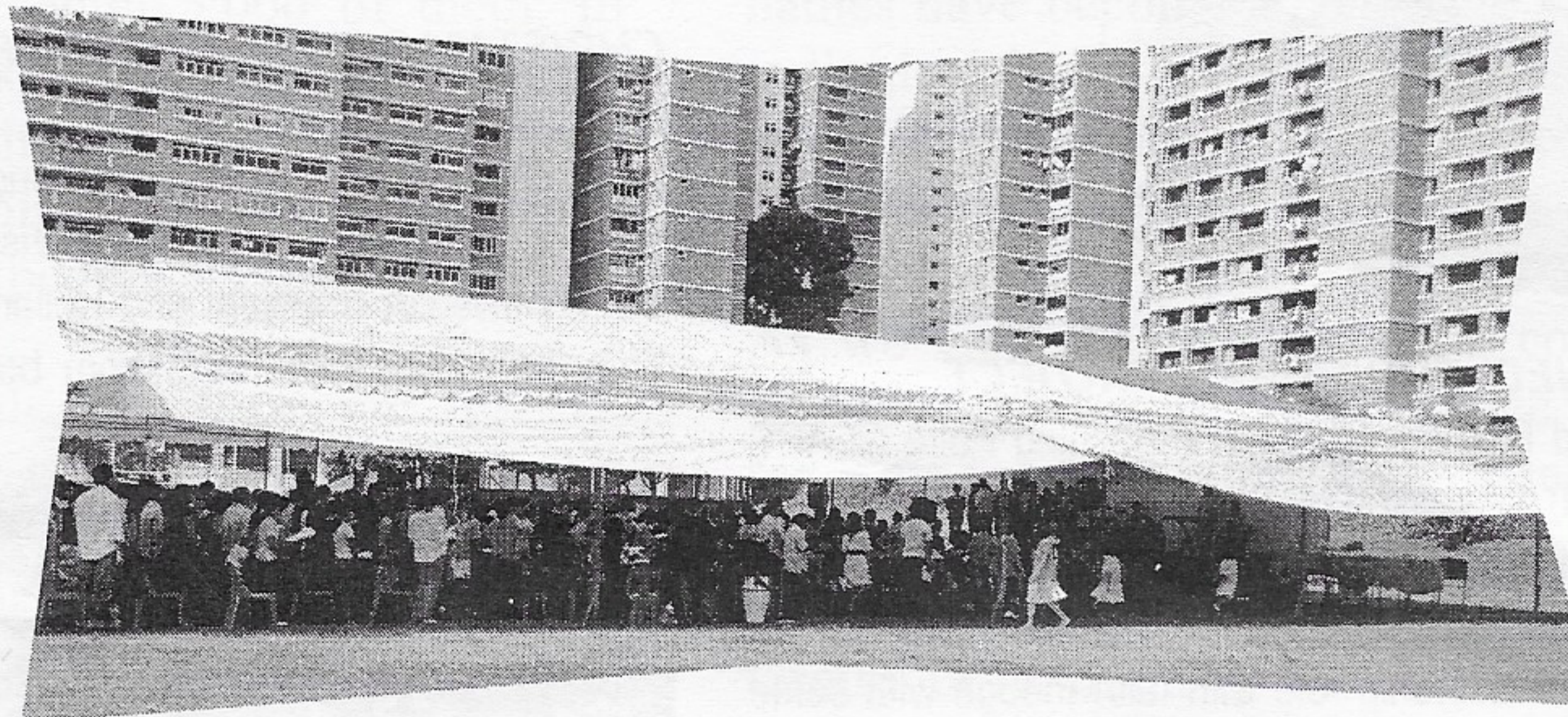
BONDING WITH CCC LEADERS

Ten CCC leaders came to join us at our Christmas@BV event. It was a good time to bond and get to know them. We wanted them to know that more than just being neighbours, both St James' Church and our Preaching Point want to be good neighbours.

\$10,000 CHEQUE PRESENTED TO MP

Mr Mun Kwok On, the LCEC Vice-Chairman of Barker Road Methodist Church and Chairman of the Preaching Point Working Committee presented Mr Lim Swee Say with a donation of \$10,000 from Barker Road

Methodist Church to the Buona Vista CCC Bursary and Welfare Fund to support families in the Buona Vista constituency who are going through difficult times.



CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

From 11.00am to 5.00pm, our premises was open to residents in Buona Vista. Weeks earlier, our members had distributed flyers to the residents to invite them to "Come, Celebrate Christmas" with us. They came, the young and the elderly. It was a family outing and fun day for them. There were seven activities, including the Giant Water Ball (the children's favourite), as well as two games stall and free candy floss and pop corns.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

At 2.30pm, when the entertainment programme began, God allowed the dark clouds to form over us and the rain came down in sheets. The children scrambled to shelter under the tentage; and there they were able to enjoy a variety of programmes such as a puppet show, song items, and a magic show. God's timing is perfect indeed.

WHAT PERFECT IDEA!

The original plan was to hold the event in the vicinity of the residents' flats at Holland Avenue, where the previous

Christmas@BV was held. Praise God, the proposal to hold the Christmas@BV on ACS (International) premises, in fact, came from a grassroots leader. Now

many residents have become aware of the existence of a church in the School, including our GOH and other CCC leaders.

ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE

Mr Mun Kwok On shared these words of Scripture:

"For I am confident of this very one thing that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" Philippians 1:6.

"And let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us; And do confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands" Psalms 90:17.

Amen.

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) Welcomes A New Principal

Since January 2010, ACS (International) has got a new Principal in Mr Kerr Fulton Peebles. A native of Edinburgh, Scotland, he prefers to be called Kerr.

Married to Margaret, they have four children. Ana (24) is reading dentistry at Aberdeen as a second degree, Mark (22) graduated from Durham in Natural Sciences and is seeking employment, Christopher (19) is reading Ocean Sciences at Plymouth, while Matthew (13) has just enrolled at ACS (Int'l) in Year 2.

From 1983 to 1996, Kerr taught geography at different schools. He served as Principal of King William's College in the Isle of Man between 1996-2000 and after that as Headmaster of King Edward's School in Witley from 2000-2009 before taking up his new position with ACS (International).

His interest ranges from rugby, water sports, travel, natural history, farming, photography, theatre and reading to hill walking. Sorry, Kerr, we only have undemanding Mount Faber and Bukit Timah to offer you for your hill-walk. Nevertheless, we bid you and your family the most cordial and warmest welcome to ACS (International) and to our Preaching Point!

WHAT IS GOING ON?

1. CHURCH OFFICE AND MINISTRY SPACE

When you drive into the School premises, you can see a new building taking shape. That new building will house our office on the 5th Floor and an additional space for ministry on the 6th Floor.

We had agreed to contribute \$837,300 towards the cost of the 5th Floor and piling work for the 6th floor. As the building work was in progress, approval was sought from the BRMC LCEC to finish the 6th floor for ministry use. This will cost us a further \$225,000 just for a bare floor. A further request for another \$225,000 was made to furnish the office on the 5th Floor (\$170,000) and partially furnish the 6th Floor (\$55,000).

The 5th Floor is projected to get its TOP by early May and the 6th Floor in early July 2010.

To date, we have received about \$150,000 donations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Pray and...

A. Make an outright donation, indicating it is for the Building or the Furnishing.

B. Do a fund-raising project for us.

C. Donate the following items for the PP's needs:

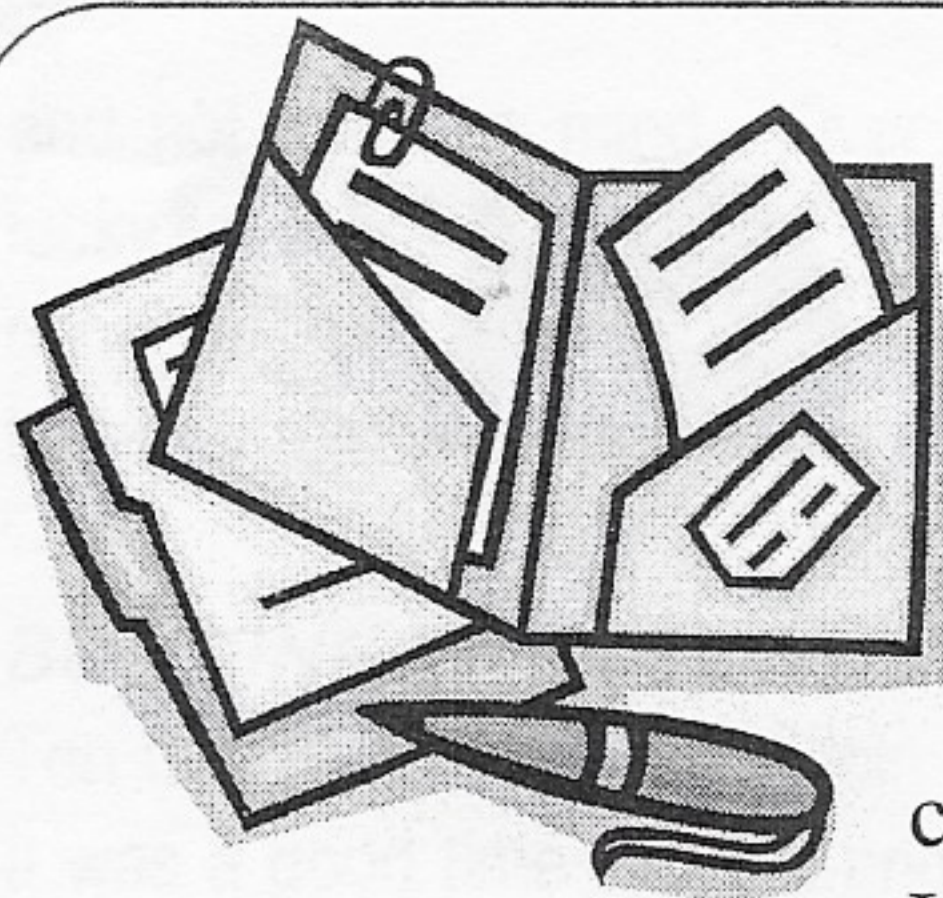
- ▶ Laptops (four)
- ▶ LCD Projectors (three)
- ▶ Screens (three)
- ▶ Pulpit/lectern
- ▶ Medium size Refrigerators (two)
- ▶ Microwave Ovens (one small and one medium)
- ▶ Kitchenware – forks, spoons, teaspoons, saucers, plates, trays, etc
- ▶ DVD Player
- ▶ Keyboard or synthesizer
- ▶ PA set
- ▶ TV Monitors (two)

2. NEW SANCTUARY

When the School's new Sports Hall is ready, there are plans to retro-fit the current Multi-Purpose Hall into a sanctuary cum performing arts centre for church and school use.

This project will cost the church is at least \$800,000.

If you wish to seek clarification, please speak to **Mun Kwok On, Christopher Ong or Pastor**. Thank you.



A Note From Our Pastor

We are living in changing times. In Jesus' days, He spoke directly and honestly to His audience. His intimacy with the people was exemplary, as recorded in His teaching 5,000 of them. In His time, there was, of course, no telephone, no emails or websites to download sermons or videos of worship services. But He had direct access to the people.

I may be old fashioned. I am not Internet savvy though I do try to keep up with emails and Power Point presentation. The reality is, these modern gadgets, including mobile phones, are here to stay. They are designed to help us communicate or get things done more efficiently, but in reality, that's another story altogether.

Thirty years ago in ministry, I was contactable only by phone in the office or at home. Otherwise, the church member would come to see me in the office, or I would go to his home, or see him in the hospital if he had been hospitalized (hopefully not in prison, though on one occasion I had to make a trip to bail someone out!).

Thirty years ago as Pastor of Barker Road Methodist Church, I knew almost every one of the 500 plus worshippers and their

children by name. Having done my tour of duty at Wesley, Barker Road, Bedok, Christ, Wesley, Fairfield and latterly in the UK, I returned to take up this Preaching Point assignment. However, these days remembering all the names have become a challenge. To me, every individual is important. It was Jesus' personal attention to individuals as recorded in the Bible which we should emulate.

As we continue to grow as a congregation, I want to share with you that the element that binds us together is the glue of relationship. It is relationship which binds and gives us an identity as a people of God. Find a Small Group or a ministry to serve in. Have you noticed the band members and the worship team members? They have gelled so well, they now know each other by first name.

We have a strong fellowship but we need more worshippers to respond to the needs of a growing congregation. If you can commit three to four hours a week, Evelyn and Mary will be happy to share with you the vision of the Preaching Point and how you can contribute to fulfill God's purpose for us in Holland Village.

*God bless,
Pastor*

SECOND OFFERTORY

It is the practice of The Methodist Church in Singapore to take up a second offertory on Holy Communion Sundays for worthy causes. As we participate in the Lord's Supper, once a month, we remember the selfless giving of Jesus Himself that inspired John Wesley and the Holy Club to meet and also to collect monies for needy families. We continue this practice each month to give towards a worthy cause. This provides an opportunity for us to participate and give meaningfully towards the ministry the Lord has laid a burden upon our hearts.