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巴耶黎峇卫理公会

**Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church**

299 Upper Paya Lebar Road, Singapore 534932

Tel: 6286 7243 • Fax : 6382 0117

Email: [plcmc@singnet.com.sg](mailto:plcmc@singnet.com.sg)

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巴耶黎峇卫理公会75周年纪念特刊

*Celebrating 75<sup>th</sup>  
PLCMC Anniversary*  
(1939 - 2014)

One Family  
Christ  
Christ in our families

基督里一家

基督居我家



巴耶黎峇卫理公会  
Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church





衛理公會

巴耶黎峇



PAYA LEBAR CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH





# *Glory Be To* **God**

But remember the Lord your God,  
for it is he who gives you the ability  
to produce wealth, and so confirms  
his covenant, which he swore  
to your ancestors, as it is today.

*Deuteronomy 8:18*

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With me are riches and honor,  
enduring wealth and prosperity.

*Proverbs 8:18*

**Yan San Metals Pte Ltd**

17, Tuas Avenue 4, Singapore 639368  
Tel : (65) 6863 2433  
Fax : (65) 6863 2522  
Email : [yansan@yansanmetals.com](mailto:yansan@yansanmetals.com)  
Website : [www.yansanmetals.com](http://www.yansanmetals.com)



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本75周年纪念标志呈圆形设计，融入了“基督里一家，基督居我家”的主题，圆形代表和谐相爱；七人手携手则象征七崇拜弟兄姐妹融合为一家人。我堂外观素描则是我们牧区的符号，是咱一家人灵之所系，心之所属的家园。以“75”为图形设计的十字架象征我们欢呼庆祝75年来上帝的信实。教会的连结乃维系于基督，并以祂为中心，生生不息，成长不断。

杨应正 译

The theme **“One Family in Christ, Christ in Our Families”** is incorporated in the design by the circular shape which represents unity, as well as the 7 people holding hands - symbolising the 7 congregations uniting as one family, as well as the respective families in the church.

It is befitting that we include our church building which is a representation of the local church that we all belong to and the sense of familiarity and belonging we have towards PLCMC.

The cross shape depicted by the number “75” celebrates God’s faithfulness towards us in these 75 years and how Christ is what ultimately holds the church together and reminds us that Christ is indeed the centre of the church as we continue to grow in Him.

Designed by Lim Siyue

如露心语

# 更新忠心 不负使命

黄文合会督  
新加坡卫理公会

主耶稣基督是我们教会的建造者。祂说：“...我要把我的教会建造在这磐石上；阴间的权柄不能胜过它。”（太16:18）为了达致这个目标，耶稣呼召弟兄和姐妹投入于祂的建造队伍之中。

巴耶黎峇卫理公会的先辈们回应了主耶稣的呼召，投入于教会的建立中，让我们的教会领受了先辈们的祝福。因此当我们庆祝教会周年的时候，让我们不忘为先辈们的忠心付出而向上帝献上感恩。

然而，教会的建立从不停歇。我们无不希望教会不断增长，于是教堂的建筑空间需要翻新和扩建，以容纳不断增长的人数。同样地，当我们在思想教会作为信靠耶稣者的属灵群体，而非外在的建筑物的时候，我们必须认定“改变和增长”的必要性，以便让我们给自己提供属灵的增长空间。

教会中的每一代人都必须不断自我更新，以契合上帝的心意，同时呼唤时代，引领潮流。我们总不能自我懈怠而仅仅靠赖过去的方式来引



领今天和明天的教会。先辈们给我们奠下了根基，明天的教会仍建基于此。然而，明天的教会期待着我们去塑造，因此必然与昨天的有所不同。

尽管事物常进展，时代常改变，唯有祂永不改变，“耶稣基督昨日、今日、一直到永远是一样的。”（来13:8）。因此，我们是否明白圣灵的带领，是一个关键。既是如此，我们不当因为不喜欢改变而抗拒改变，又或者，因为我们喜欢改变而做一些改变。我们唯有认定耶稣是教会的建造者。

在巴耶黎峇卫理公会迈向明天的当儿，愿上帝赐恩典，圣灵引导，使我们常更新，常忠心于祂，常服事于祂，让其使命不被辜负。

愿主耶稣所赐的平安归于你们！

杨应正 译



# 75th Anniversary of Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church

The builder of the Church is our Lord Jesus Christ. He said so, "... on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) In order to do so, Jesus calls men and women to be on His construction team.

Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church has been blessed by the many who responded to the call of God to establish this church. When we celebrate the anniversary of a church, we remember their faithful service with gratitude to God for them.

But the building of the church never stops. We are expected to be always growing, and as such, the building will have to be renovated and expanded to accommodate the increasing number of people living in it. In the same way, when we think of the church not as a physical building, but as a community of believers, we recognize the need for us to make "alterations and additions" in order to make room for growth.

Every generation of the church will have to keep changing to be in tune with God so that they will be able to reach their contemporaries. We cannot rely and rest on past ways to connect with present and future generations. The past has provided the foundation, but the future builds upon it. The future has yet to be shaped, and hence may look different from the past.

However, in the midst of all these developments, there is One who does not change. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). It is critical that we are sure of the leading of His Spirit. Then, we will not resist change just because it is something we do not like. Nor will we introduce changes just because we like them. But we acknowledge Jesus as the builder of His church.

As PLCMC moves into the future, may God grant you the grace to be renewed by His Spirit so that you will always be faithful to Him and His mission for you.

Shalom,  
**Rev. Dr. Wee Boon Hup**  
Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore

# 缅怀先贤 承先启后

张振忠牧师(博士)  
会长暨代主理



巴耶黎峇堂的创始期可追溯到1937年，当时中华基督教会长老会柴山礼拜堂的几位妇女向后港甘蔗园、椰园、亚答屋、木屋的村民传福音，带领村民信耶稣。当时卫理公会教区长方汉京牧师借用巴耶黎峇卫理女校旧址的课室，即现在曼德里路(Boundary Road)的三一年议会巴耶黎峇卫理公会礼拜堂现址，在下午两点半崇拜。1939年正式成立牧区，此后教会称星洲后港华人卫理公会礼拜堂。岁月匆匆，当时参加聚会的婴孩现在也75岁了，当然还有当年10几岁的孩童，今天是我们教会八、九十岁宝贵的历史见证人。有幸与第一代的信徒一同庆祝75周年，意义重大。

传福音的热忱当继续下去：回想教会初创阶段，几位热忱的妇女挨户逐家去传福音，她们为教会树立了基督徒信主后当负起传福音使命的榜样。

教会是我家当持守下去：就像许多老教会一样，当教会有第二代、第三代人留在教会以后，“家族树”自然产生，彼此间有家族关系的信徒对教会有非常深厚、强烈的认同感。

青少年薪火相传当鼓励下去：环视我们教会目前在各事奉岗位参与服事的信徒，大多数是自小就在教会的，他们是10年前、20年前，甚至30年前在我堂出生的青少年人。这种薪火相传的传统

当继续鼓励，因此教会当珍惜我们的青年人，他们是我们现在和将来宝贵的资产。

敬重长者的精神当传递下去：我们教会的出身是简朴的乡村教会，那种淳朴重人情，敬老尊贤的气氛特别浓厚，因此我们常用兄姐代替先生女士彼此称呼，倍感亲切。我们也常看到青年人扶老搀弱帮助我们的长者。跟长者说话也是低声和颜，即便有长者动气，年轻人也谅解接受。这种敬重长者如敬重父母的精神，是非常合乎圣经的，要传递下去啊。

献身全职传道的呼召当响应下去：75年来，我们教会栽培了不少牧者、传道者、宣教士、全职事奉者等不下20人。福音的禾场从来就不会有工人过剩，总是庄稼多做工的人少，因此我们需要鼓励弟兄姐妹积极回应上帝的呼召，教会也当珍惜并引导他们，栽培他们成为未来主的仆人和使女。

教会庆祝周年，旨在让我们有机会追忆过去所领受的恩典，同时反省错误，及时纠正，以检讨过去前瞻未来。我们的教会走过的75年是上帝满满的赐福与恩典，未来也是上帝为我们预备的丰盛旅程。让我们缅怀先贤所留下的事奉榜样和美好脚踪，同时挑起承先启后的责任，为主得人，为下一代祝福。



# Remember our predecessors; Forge ahead with the cause

**Rev. Dr. Chong Chin Chung**  
President cum Acting Pastor-in-charge

The founding of PLCMC dates back to 1937 when the gospel was first preached by a few women from the Chinese Presbyterian Chua Shuan Church to villagers living in humble attap and wooden dwellings in the sugar cane and coconut plantations of Hougang. In 1939 a Methodist local conference was started by District Superintendent Rev Hang Han Keng when regular Sunday 2.30 pm worship services were held in a classroom of the old PLMGS at Boundary Road (the site of TRAC's PLMC today). It was known as the Singapore Hougang Chinese Methodist Church. How time flies! The infants in those early services are at least 75 years old today while the children and youths are now seniors in their 80s and 90s. They are the valuable witnesses of PLCMC's history. It is both meaningful and a great blessing to be able to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary with its pioneer generation of believers. As we commemorate this occasion, let us look forward with renewed commitment to:

**Persevere with the fervor of preaching the gospel:** We recall the work by a few women in the early days of this church. May their passion for preaching the gospel to each household be an example for all believers of Christ in this church.

**Uphold "my church, my home":** As it is in many older churches "family trees" are a natural growth when the second and third generations of believers remain rooted in the church. Members with such family ties have a very deep sense of attachment to the church and identity closely with it.

**Continue passing the torch to our youth:** Many of the younger generation currently serving in various ministries were born in this church about 10 – 30 years ago. This is a worthy tradition to maintain. Our church must cherish our youth for they are our precious assets, today and in future.

**Impart respect for elders:** Our church started as a simple and humble village church imbued with a strong sense of valuing human relationships, in particular respect and regard for the old. We often address each other as sister or brother instead of using formal terms ie Mr or Mrs in greeting, expressing a close and warm relationship. Our youths are often observed helping and supporting the elderly, and speaking respectfully with them. They show understanding and are accommodating when the seniors sometimes lose their cool. Their attitude of respect for elders as they would their own parents is Biblical and should continue to be imparted.

**Inspire response to the call to full-time ministry:** In the last 75 years PLCMC has produced no fewer than 20 pastors, preachers, missionaries and staff serving full-time in church ministries. There can never be excess workers for the Lord's harvest. Instead it is always the harvest being plentiful but laborers are few. Therefore we need to encourage our brothers and sisters to respond positively to the Lord's call and the church should value them, guiding and nurturing them to become God's faithful servants in future.

Our church's anniversary celebration is a time of remembering the grace received, of reflecting on mistakes and timely rectification, as well as looking forward to the future. The path taken by our church in the last 75 years was full of God's blessing and grace. Its journey ahead will also be one of abundance from the Lord. Even as we reminisce on the examples of faithful service of our church's pioneers and their beautiful footprints we will continue to carry the cause forward into the future, winning souls for the Lord and blessing the next generation.

# 单纯信心 激情事奉

梁朝阳  
会友领袖

主内弟兄姐妹，平安！

岁月悠悠75载，我们走过来了！这值得感恩、喜乐、欢庆和见证！我们必须见证的是，在上帝的恩典与眷顾下，我堂从初期参与敬拜的寥寥几位姐妹增长至今天近1000名弟兄姐妹，拥有8堂崇拜的教会（若计算布道站2堂崇拜）。其中，更值得为祂做见证的是，上帝也在我们的堂会中给新加坡的卫理公会造就了不少牧者与领袖。

展望未来，本人意识到摆在前面的三大挑战：各崇拜时间当如何恰当和适切的调整？教堂当如何重建？年轻一代的主内弟妹当如何让他们留住？

目前我们有8堂崇拜，每一堂按不同会众的不同需求、不同语言与方言，每一堂会众都希望能的主日早上，在理想的聚会厅里、理想的时段中敬拜上帝。可惜主日早上的时段有限，教会无法调整及配合各崇拜会众的需求，因此某些崇拜会众唯有选择退让，以腾出时间与空间，让所有会众，皆有成长的时间与空间。大伙都明白，上午8时15分开始崇拜，确实不容易邀请新朋友一同来崇拜。另一方面，崇拜时间设定在11时30分，也同样让领袖与同工们面对其它方面的难处。

尽管问题看来难以解决，然而，上帝让我看到了盼望，看到了祂就在我们当中，那就是弟兄姐妹们，特别是领袖们在心态上与观念上开始改变。

关于崇拜时间如何安排的问题确实是一个棘手的问题，在领袖中甚至成为闭口不提的敏感问题。感谢上帝，如今祂让领袖们聚集一堂，大伙以真诚的心，一同思考如何解决问题。

与此相关的另一个课题则是教堂的重建计划。我们于五、六年前曾尝试开展这个计划，但同工们未能取得共识。计划被耽搁下来，我深信上帝有其美意。我也深信，天父上帝让不同的意见和计划（特别是当不同意见出现尖锐化的时候）得到砥砺和净化。关键在于我们在议论、探讨时是否愿意持守爱心，相互信任。

这里也鼓励我堂的成年人及领袖们给周遭年轻一代体现出爱心、热忱并给予关照。例如主动与他们交谈、关爱他们，了解他们的心思与梦想，对教会的看法和想法，以及对未来的挂虑与担忧，等等。如此，年轻人自然会以温情回应。让我们从小小的行动开始，崇拜后找他们一块儿用餐。年轻的小弟小妹们，快快给叔叔阿姨们、大哥大姐们回应吧！

当我们为着堂会从1939年小小的崇拜聚会发展至今天8堂的崇拜、近1000人的会众，而大事庆祝的时候，谨此给各位一个小小的反思。当我们回顾及反思当年几位先锋姐妹那单纯的信心以及激情事奉的时候，也不妨反省自己，我们在祂的国度大业中是否也以单纯的信心，激情的事奉，在主里团结一致？若我们皆非如此，那我们要问：为何皆非如此？





# Greetings in the name of our Lord

**Neo Chow Yang**  
**Lay Leader**

The past 75 years gave us good reasons to rejoice and celebrate. We can certainly testify to the grace and mercy of God as we grew from a meeting of a few faithful ladies to a church with closed to 1000 worshippers in 7 congregations. More importantly, we have also seen how God has raised many pastors and leaders for the Methodist Church of Singapore through PLCMC.

Going forward, I see three challenges before us for the coming years: Service timing/rationalization, church building redevelopment, retaining younger people in our church.

We have now eight congregations, each serving people of different needs, languages and demographics. Each looking for worship space and time, most preferring Sunday morning. There are just insufficient time slots to cater to all and someone has to make way so that everyone could have the space/time to grow. It does not take a genius to know that a service that begins at 8:15am will be faced with difficulty of inviting newcomers. On the other hand, having a service that starts at 11:30am has its own set of challenges.

Yet in the midst of this seemingly impossible problem, I see hope and I see God at work – changing hearts and minds of the people especially the leaders of PLCMC.

The subject of service timing allocation is an awkward, sensitive subject which would have been considered “hush-hush” a few years back in PLCMC even among the leaders. I thank God that He made it possible for the leaders today to discuss this challenge openly, all coming together to prayerfully consider how to resolve this as a church.

Related to this subject is of course the church building re-development plans. We have attempted to make a start some 5-6 years back but were not able to come to an agreement. I believe that God has His purposes in allowing this delay. And I believe that differences in opinion (especially when the differences are sharp and uncomfortable) is sometimes used by our heavenly Father to refine a plan. The key is for us to exercise trust and love when we discuss.



I encourage all adult members and leaders of PLCMC to show love, interest and care for the younger people around them. Ask them about their dreams, ask them what they think of the church, talk to them about their concerns for the future – talk to them and love them. And they will love you back. Start small by asking them out for lunch after Sunday service. And young people – please respond positively when being asked lah!

While we have good reasons to celebrate the growth of our church from a few people in 1939 to 8 congregations with close to 1000 worshippers today, I would like to end my article on a reflective note. When we reflect on the simple faith and strong passion of the four ladies who started this church, what about us as individuals – are we just as undivided in our faith and strong in our passion for the Kingdom of God? If not – why not?

# Local Church Executive Committee

**Jeffrey Lim**  
LCEC Chairman

Church anniversaries are an opportune time for us to pause, look back and reflect on how God has led us, and to also look forward to where God may be leading us.

## Pause

We are often caught up in the busy-ness of life. Work and social commitments, church committee meetings, planning and executing programs, attending to the needs and concerns of our family members as well as that of our fellow brothers and sisters – we seem to be caught up in a never-ending spiral of activities, all calling for our attention and participation.

In the midst of this, our church's 75th anniversary gives us cause to pause.

As we pause, let us take some time to celebrate together as a family of God His goodness to us here at PLCMC and also to us as individuals.

As we pause, we should also ask ourselves a fundamental question: to what end are we so busy about and active for? Yes, we can be busy over many things, even over “church work” and “Christian activities”, but why or for whom are we so busy for?

There is a poem by C.T. Studd that goes:

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past  
Only what's done for Christ will last*

It does not matter whether our activities are church-related or job-related or family-related, if we do it all for Christ, then our busy-ness will indeed be time well spent.

It also does not really matter what challenges we will face or even how the fruit of our labour will turn out, for if we do it all for Christ, we will know “'twas worth it all”.

## Look back

As we look back at how God has been leading PLCMC this past 75 years, we are indeed grateful for how He has raised leaders, both from the clergy and from the laity, who have served the church selflessly and tirelessly in the past.

Our past church leaders not only served at the local church level, but also set the example of leadership and service that extended beyond our local church. They got the church involved in church planting, with the latest

being Sengkang Methodist Church, as well as in missions, where today our church supports a number of local and overseas mission work. They served not only in the local church but also at the CAC and GC level, an example that carries on today where our members continue to serve in the CAC and GC.

We are thankful to God for leaders who looked beyond their own needs, but were instead concerned for the growth and well-being of future generations. God gave them the foresight to plan ahead, and they were willing to walk in faith, hand-in-hand with God and with fellow church members, to acquire the land on which our church now sits and to develop the church building as well as see to its subsequent improvements.

We are also thankful to God for the wisdom He gave to our leaders to be more than just a Hokkien-speaking church and to embrace different worship styles, so that today our church has grown to a membership of more than 1,500 members worshipping in Hokkien, Mandarin, English and Teochew in 8 different worship services.

As we look back, we are thankful to God for raising members from our church



to serve Him as pastors and full time ministry workers, some of whom have retired and some of whom still continue to serve faithfully. We are indeed awed and humbled that God has chosen us to play a part in their formative journey with Him.

Of course, it has not always been smooth sailing in the past. As in any family, there have been disagreements, and members have been hurt along the way. But, we thank God for giving grace to our leaders and members to deal with such disagreements with an attitude of love and patience, and where wrongs have been done and hurts felt, with an attitude of forgiveness.

There is indeed much to be thankful to God for, and much for us to learn from those who have gone before us, particularly to be gracious, loving and forgiving in our dealings with each other, especially when disagreements arise in our multi-language, multi-congregation church family!

## Look forward

As we look forward, I would like to highlight 3 realities that we will face in the years ahead:

Firstly, we are facing an ageing population. While we already have a sizeable proportion of our members who are elderly, this proportion is expected to grow even more with more members entering into retirement. This will have an impact on what ministries we need, how we conduct our ministries, and how we are to finance them.

Secondly, we are facing an ageing church building. We will need to look at how we can rejuvenate the church building so that it will more usable and more accessible. More usable, so that we can accommodate the needs of the different ministries that we will have. And more accessible, so that members and visitors will have less difficulty coming to church, and the young and elderly can comfortably and safely move around the church.

Thirdly, we are facing a younger generation who have grown up with many choices, and who expect to be able to make choices. Christians in this generation may have no qualms in trying out different churches to find what they perceive to be best for them and their children, or to change churches when they find the church they are in no longer meeting their requirements. The challenge we will face here would be not so much to make our church “attractive”, but to be able to ground our members on the Rock and in the Word, so that they would be able to make the right choices.

As we look forward, we can do so knowing that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The God who was with our church these past 75 years is the same God who is with us today and will be with us tomorrow! In the face of whatever challenges that may lie ahead, we can trust the future of our church to God, knowing that what's done for Christ will last.



# 竭力完成所托

# 让家事传承

罗文基  
75周年庆典筹备委员会主席

今年是本堂成立75周年，执行委员会于去年中旬的会议上委托我和张伟仁弟兄成立工作小组以筹备庆典相关事宜，“75岁”对一般人而言是古稀之年，而对一个堂会来说，历史尚浅，摆在眼前的是一条漫长的道路，但仍然值得我们一同欢呼庆祝。我们除了筹划一系列的节目，诸如诗歌创作和庆典主题标志设计比赛之外，也举办福音聚会，为的是鼓励弟兄姐妹在忙着庆祝75周年的同时，也不忘把得救的好消息传给还不认识耶稣基督的亲朋戚友们。

## 没有被岁月所吞噬

在筹划的过程中，我对出版一本讲述我们自己的故事的纪念特刊有着莫名的负担。事因我在一个偶然的场合接触了本堂于庆祝50周年时出版的纪念刊，那是1989年，迄今已整25年，是四分之一一个世纪了！当我翻阅特刊时，犹如时光倒流，浏览着特刊中黑白照片里的人物身影，当年活力奔放的年轻小伙子，如今已步入壮年、暮年，有些身材已不如往日，今昔“不堪”对比，当然还有一些人已不在特刊中，因为已蒙主恩召。虽然事隔25年，那些曾活现在我们当中而已逐渐被淡忘的人物与事件，因着本特刊的记载与保留而没有被无情的岁月所吞噬。

5年前当我们庆祝70周年时，我们也曾探讨出版特刊，由于无法物色适合的人选来挑负重任而不得不放弃。倘若我们今年还是踌躇不决，那几年后才决定出版特刊时，要将整30年间所发生的人与事串联在一起将是难上加难。感谢主！执行委员会支持筹备小组出版特刊的建议。我在成立编辑组物色人选时，也面临了大挑战，几经波折，终于排除了困难。值得感恩的是，其中的一位编辑组成员是主动挺身而出，不用费我一番的唇舌。



## 江郎才尽不知从何下笔

出版特刊的过程最具挑战的是邀稿这一环，几乎每一位受邀者都面对一些问题，有些是被那没完没了的工作所缠绕，另一些则有私人事情需处理，不然就是江郎才尽，不知从何下笔，迟迟交不了稿，需要一而再，再而三的催稿，我们事先所定下的进度表也不得不随着如此的处境而调整、延期。我所接触的受邀写稿者当中，有不少人很积极，有者甚至大力支持，给予了我们莫大的鼓舞。但也有比较消极的，或许有关挖掘肢体的资料和撰稿的工作对他们而言是件苦差事。尽管困难重重，进度缓慢，我们都站在同一阵线上，竭力完成所托，让75周年纪念特刊早日面世，让这个大家庭的故事可以透过文字传承给后人。

我要向所有台前幕后努力促成75周年特刊顺利出版的弟兄姐妹致以万二分的谢意，辛苦你们了！愿上帝赐恩予你们，让你们事奉得力，生命得激励！

细说从头



# 50年大事纪要 1939→1989

## 披荆斩棘 建家业

杨应正 整理



### 1937年

#### 不屈不挠先驱姐妹

- 1937年，方汉京教区长借用巴耶黎峇英文学校一间板屋课室开设崇拜聚会，向后港区九皇爷一带，以及大成巷亚答屋区向讲闽南话的工人和农人传福音。得到先驱姐妹们积极配搭，以不屈不挠的精神向后港及邻区传讲福音。她们是：林德武夫人（严贞洁姐妹）、胡良玉姐妹、陈银瓶姐妹、王荣能夫人（白水金姐妹）等。

但按另一资料，根据“新加坡后港卫理公会筹建圣殿募捐启”所记载，以及王文灿夫人所记述，1937年到1939年期间，几位姐妹：如严贞洁姐妹、白水金姐妹、胡良玉姐妹等人，热心传福音，领人归主，信主者接受洗礼，当时未有聚会处，于是恳请林鸿万教区长向巴耶黎峇英文女校商借课室作聚会之用，每主日下午由林牧师主理礼拜，教会于是开始萌芽而立。

- 1937年2月28日，“星洲后港卫理公会”（本堂原名）开始首个主日崇拜，参与崇拜者不及10位。

（梁南荣，《巴耶黎峇卫理公会成立五十周年纪念特刊》，王兴国，“巴耶黎峇卫理公会史略”，P22、P39。王文灿夫人，“建堂经过”，P28。”筹建圣殿募捐启”，P34。）

### 1939年

#### 执事会、牧区成立

- 1939年1月，陈碧玉传道受方汉京教区长委派到本堂牧会，会友显著增长。崇拜地点也于该年开始借用巴耶黎峇英文堂圣殿，时间是下午2时30分。根据王兴国弟兄在63周年纪念时的致词：两位退休牧师林宝真牧师与林鸿万牧师协助讲台，直落亚逸堂执事担任崇拜主席。除本堂会友持续增长外，直落亚逸堂部分迁居后港的会友亦加入本堂。方汉京教区长亦于该年发起成立执事会，陈碧玉传道任主席。同年牧区成立。

#### 厦语诗班成型

- 1939年，厦语诗班也随着牧区成立而有了雏形，初期阶段历任诗班指挥与指导为：方兆熙牧师、温植生弟兄、美国宣教士吴查理先生、翁约翰弟兄、颜玉钗老师等。

## 1940年

## 方兆熙传道教会我堂

- 1940年初（或1941年），会友人数增至70位。方兆熙传道受委派至本堂，在陈碧玉传道配搭下带领教会，会务蒸蒸日上，会友人数激增。方兆熙牧师在本堂牧会前后约十年，期间曾调往联邦教会。

## 1942年

## 日军铁蹄下聚会先驱府上

- 1942年2月，日军占领新加坡，不准在教堂聚会，会友只得在 Lorong Ah Soo王兴国弟兄府上聚会。另两处聚会点是在林德武弟兄及陈银瓶姐妹两家府上。

## 1945年

## 妇女服务会成立

## 1950年

## 黄懋庭牧师任主理

- 1950年，黄懋庭牧师任主理，次年调往芽笼牧区任主理。

## 1951年

## 吴昭智牧师任主理

- 1951年，吴昭智牧师任主理，深感建堂的需要。

（梁南荣，王兴国，“巴耶黎峇卫理公会史略”，P22。王文灿夫人，“建堂经过”，P28，P29。王兴国，“五十年大事简记”，P39。方兆熙牧师，P55。黄懋庭牧师，P56。王兴国，“教会诗班”，P132。黄秀兰，“妇女服务会”，P117。）

## 教导事工开展

- 1951年，主理吴昭智牧师及牧师娘推动并领导教导事工，初期老师为王永丽姐妹、林玉英姐妹，后来三一神学院神学生也加入协助教导。当时主日学语文是中英文并用。随着1968年新圣殿落成，班级、学生及老师也增加了，语文方面也分成中文部及英文部（梁南荣，黄幼莲，“主日学”，P112）

## 青年团契会成立

- 1951年，5月20日，青年团契会成立，首任会长林炳华弟兄。初期经常出席者50多位，唯按统计，会员人数为81位（1953年达114位）。青契前身为“勉励会”，由方兆熙牧师于1949年设立，许国华弟兄任会长。

- 1952年，青契参与青契南区布道，也到柔佛哥打丁宜新村布道。1953年6月22至25日，青契举行布道培灵大会，讲员为孔保罗牧师，出席者超过160位，其中15位决志信主。

（杨基煌，《星洲后港卫理公会青年团契会成立第二周年纪念特刊》，1953，P8，P11，P13，P17，P30，P34，P37。王兴国、梁南荣，《星洲后港中华基督教卫理公会青年团契会十周年纪念特刊》，1961，P15。）

- 1951年至1961年，青年团契历届会长芳名：第一届：林炳华，第二届：许国华，第三届：杨基煌，第四届：林炳华，第五届至第十届：王兴国，第十一届：梁南荣。

（王兴国、梁南荣，1961，P15-P18）

- 1993年，由于缺乏导师的咨询和引导，以及各相关年龄层的交接问题，青年团契或于该年终止聚会。

## 1956年

## 建堂委员会成立

- 1956年，教会建堂委员会成立，经过多年信心的祷告与筹款，1968年2月4日，农历正月初一，本堂开始迁入新圣殿举行崇拜，初六举行感恩礼拜。8月24日，叶金豪会督及新马华人年议会会长方中南牧师主持献堂典礼。建堂共费30万元。

（梁南荣，王兴国，“巴耶黎峇卫理公会史略”，P22。王文灿夫人，“建堂经过”，P28，P29。王兴国，“五十年大事简记”，P39。）

## 1968年

## 成年团契会成立

- 1968年，在吴主恩医生、翁安德烈弟兄、翁约翰弟兄、黄宝民弟兄、蔡爱珠弟兄及曾广丰弟兄的带领下成立了成年团契会。初期，聚会与开会以英语为主。70年代中期，一批受华文教育的兄弟姐妹从青契“毕业”，加入成契。1975年，成契分为华语及英语两组个别聚会，但仍属同一个职员会。

（梁南荣，黄幼莲，“成年团契”，P123）

## 1970 - 1980年

## 华崇、圣歌团、英崇成立、教牧荣休

- 1970年7月，开设华语崇拜。

- 1970年，华语圣歌团成立，创始时期指挥为：吴昭智牧师、陈周荣弟兄、关玉兴弟兄等人。此时期主要大事有：参与圣乐促进会“第一届圣诗比赛”，数次参与三一神学院“诗班赞美会”，受邀在广播局华语连续剧《天涯同命鸟》中客串教堂诗班演出，以及“教会五十周年纪念音乐赞美会”假维多利亚音乐厅演出交响乐圣诗“凯旋之颂歌组曲”，等。

- 1972年，本堂除了曾给马来西亚的教会及新加坡三一神学院捐助外，堂会也捐助1万元给大巴窑堂作建筑基金。1978年，成立宏茂桥堂布道所，开拓本堂宣教事工。1979年，本堂四十周年感恩崇拜及感恩宴会，奉献5万元给宏茂桥堂作建堂基金。

- 1976年陈碧玉牧师事奉30年后荣休，期间曾调往联邦牧会。
- 1979年，吴昭智牧师荣休，退休后仍主理本堂会务至1980年年底始卸下牧职担子。
- 1980设立英语崇拜。

### 1981年

#### 施谦益牧师任主理

- 1981年，施谦益牧师任本堂主理，陈耐卿牧师、洪茂喜传道任助理。  
(梁南荣，王兴国，“五十年大事简记”，P23，P39。“华语圣歌团大事记”，P135。)

### 1982、1983年

#### 儿童乐园、儿童诗班成立

- 1982年，儿童乐园开设，陈彩虹姐妹任校长。学生人数曾多达130位。
- 1983年，洪茂喜传道及陈灵哲弟兄任施谦益牧师助理，三一神学院讲师颜玉钗姐妹任本堂圣乐指导。
- 1983年，施谦益牧师在颜玉钗老师的协助下，成立了儿童诗班。数年后，少年团契与成人诗班中皆有从当年的儿童诗班中长大的孩子事奉的身影。



### 1984年

#### 吴昭智牧师安息

- 1984年，吴昭智牧师安息天家，吴牧师任本堂主理达30年。卫连胜牧师调派到本堂协理牧会。曾堃龙弟兄受聘协助圣工，陈灵哲传道协助牧养英文部会众。
- 1985年，陈碧玉牧师及丘少华牧师任本堂退休义务牧师。

### 1985年

#### 议决增建教育中心

- 1985年，执事会议决增建4层楼基督教教育中心。1987年5月20日，由何志诚会督主持奉献礼，会长王聪光牧师协理。教育中心耗资55余万元。

### 1986年

#### 施谦益牧师兼顾两堂会

- 1986年，施谦益牧师续任本堂主理，并兼任直落亚逸堂主理。卫连胜牧师及陈耐卿牧师为协理，吴崇正传道协助英语崇拜。  
(梁南荣，陈彩虹，“儿童乐园”，P139。刘树强，“儿童诗班的回顾”，P137。)

### 1986、1987年

#### 华委、少契、乐龄团契成立

- 1986年，华语聚会工作委员会成立，宗旨是协助牧者推动各肢体工作。
- 1986年，少年团契成立，由3位少契辅导协助带领。少契的前身是学生团契。
- 1987年，9月20日，乐龄团契会成立，主要带领者是：王兴国弟兄、洪玉枝姐妹、陈惠兰姐妹、温植生弟兄等。

### 1987 - 1989年

#### 前后三位主理相更替

- 1987年，陈耐卿牧师任主理，之后赴美深造。蔡伟山传道受委派到本堂牧会。卫连胜牧师在新马事奉34年后返美。
- 1988年，施谦益牧师主理牧会，蔡伟山牧师为副理。
- 1989年，张振忠牧师任本堂主理，吴崇正牧师为副理。三一神学院讲师江淑娴姐妹受委为本堂传道。

(梁南荣，王兴国，“巴耶黎峇卫理公会史略”、“五十年大事简记”，“乐龄团契会”，P22,P39,P40,P119。吴昭智牧师，P57。陈耐卿牧师，P59。洪茂喜牧师于，P60。卫连胜牧师，P61。陈灵哲传道，P63。黄幼莲，“华语聚会工作委员会”，P107。《结晶》第7期，1987，P18。)



# Brief History of Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church

By Ong Heng Kok

## Isaiah 9:2

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light”. These fifty years, since Feb 1937, we, at Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church have indeed seen the Lord working amongst us. From our humble beginnings, in the remote attap villages in Hougang to what we are today.

As we celebrate in wonder, love, praise, glory be to God who has wrought among us these 50 years. It was indeed proof that the spirit of the Lord was at work in the expanding programmes of the Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church throughout the past fifty years of formation.

In 1937, the Rev Hong Han Keng, the then District Superintendent mooted that Hougang village was the place for the Methodist Mission to plough and set up a chapel in this remote and slump area borrowing a wooden classroom from the Paya Lebar Methodist English School at Boundary Road opposite the Paya Lebar Police Station.

At that time, the Rev Hong Han Keng was very acquainted with the Moderator, Elders and stewards of the Bethany Presbyterian Church (Cha Sua) of Kim



Chuan Road. Kim Chuan Road was named after Elder Ng Kim Chuan, the father-in-law of the Rev Fang Chao Hsi. The Rev Hong had a very good rapport with Elder Ng and approached four dedicated women stewards for their assistance. They were Mrs Lim Teck Boo of Lim Teck Boo Road, Madam Aw Leong Geok of Lorong Tai Seng (Chang Mo Hng), Mdm Tan Goon Pan of Kim Chuan Avenue (all these three faithful members of our church were later called

home safely in the arms of the Lord) and Mrs Ong Eng Leong of Lorong Ah Soo, (the only surviving founder member with us today).

The work in the beginning was undoubtedly very difficult and full of anxieties and one can imagine how those four old pioneers laboured and toiled away each day by spreading the gospel of Christ to the farmers and non-believers in the scattered Hougang attap

village. They had contributed greatly to the growth of the church.

The chapel then known as Sin Chew Hougang Chinese Methodist Church (now named Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church) held its first worship service on 28th February, 1937 with less than 10 members and a few children.

1937 and 1938 were the most difficult years as we had no full time pastor to take charge, as we hardly could afford one. The Rev Lim Hong Ban was asked to be our part-time pastor with the help of his brother the Rev Lim Poh Chin and some senior stewards of Telok Ayer Methodist Church took turns on rotation to lead in the Sunday worship service. The gospel work was making good progress and the average weekly attendance rose.

As the membership grew, preacher Miss Tan Phek Geok (now active retired Elder, the Rev (Miss) Tan Phek Geok) who came from Amoy, China, was recommended and joined our church as the first full time preacher to pastor the chapel as from January 1939. Through her ministry of effective preaching, the chapel began to experience renewal among the members. Enthusiasm for church attendance and service markedly increased and soon the existing classroom used as chapel had to be further extended.

Fortunately, when the Paya Lebar

Methodist Church (now under TRAC) erected their church building in August 1939, with the kind permission of the Rev Chew Hock Him, Pastor-in-charge of Paya Lebar Methodist Church, we held our first Sunday worship service at the sanctuary in the afternoon from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Since we are able to worship in a proper church, the official board was officially established on August 1939 consisting of 4 women stewards appointed by the District Superintendent, with Rev (Miss) Tan Phek Geok as chairperson of the Board.

To entice more non-members to the church, an elementary mandarin class was conducted by the Rev (Miss) Tan. It drew quite a number of students from the nearby village who also attended the Sunday Worship Service. Sunday School were conducted in two classroom borrowed from the school.

The growth continued and in early 1940 the membership passed the 70 mark. Pastor Fang Chao Hsi (now CAC Elder, the Rev Fang Chao Hsi) from Kampong Bahru, Malaya joined our church and assumed greater responsibility of the church affairs and worked closely with Pastor, Miss Tan Phek Geok and the stewards. More church programmes were created. The Sunday School also attracted more pupils.

On December 8, 1941, Japan attacked Singapore. The Singapore fortress, so far considered impregnable, fell to

the Japanese on February 1942 and remained under Japanese occupation until September 5, 1945. On 16 December 1941, Rev Fang Chao Hsi married Miss Ng Cheng Han.

Both our Pastors continued to serve throughout the war years. Sunday Worship Services could only be held in the homes of stewards as the church for some reasons or another would not permit us to use, therefore, church activities were restricted.

After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, the restoration of Sunday Worship Services in the sanctuary commenced as from the first week of October 1945. Congregational life was resumed with all freedom restored.

Pastor Tan Phek Geok left us for China on vacation at the end of January 1947 and the Rev Fang Chao Hsi continued with much more responsibility.

Late in 1947, we built our own Parsonage and Social Hall at the influence of the Rev Hong Han Keng, District Superintendent, at Boundary Road on a piece of vacant land about 7,000 square feet, so kindly presented to us by the Methodist Mission in Singapore. The Parsonage enabled the Pastor and his family to dwell in a decent place with good environment and for easy access of the church members. The Social Hall was fully used for additional church programmes. The WSCS and

the Church Christian Endeavour Union (CEU) were organised with vigor. They have played no small part in contributing to the church's growth.

The Rev Fang Chao Hsi after having served the church for 10 years was transferred to Seremban, Malaya. The Rev (Miss) Tan Phek Geok, on her return from vacation was transferred to Jasin, Malacca.

With good ground work laid by both the Rev Fang and the Rev (Miss) Tan, our new Pastor, the Rev Wu Chao Chi had an easier task when he took over full charge of our church as from January 1951. The Rev Wu and the stewards continued to labour sacrificially, joyfully and faithfully for God and his people, particularly to residents in the Hougang and Paya Lebar areas. They continued to make systematic and regular visits to Christian and non-Christian homes to foster closer relationship.

The years 1951 to 1955 may be looked upon as a turning point for the church for it began what is now seen as a renewal and significant growth of church membership and attendance.

With the heavy load of increased church programmes and the constraints of space shortage in a borrowed church, the need for our own church building (the present sanctuary) was apparent. A Church Building Committee was formed in 1956 during the first Quarterly Conference

chaired and inspired by the Rev Paul S H Hang, District Superintendent. After 10 years of continued faithful prayer, the Lord answered our prayer. Three of our Church members Mr Tan Tok Teng and his elder brother Mr Tan Beow donated \$63,000; and another member Mr Ang Oon Hue donated \$20,000. That was an enormous amount at that time! Indeed, the Lord's grace is often beyond our highest expectation.

The two storey church building and parsonage (present church) was completed before the Chinese New Year in February 1968 at the total cost of \$300,000 (cost of land, construction and furnishing) and was dedicated to the glory of God, on Saturday 24th August 1968 by the first Asian Bishop, the Rev Dr Yap Kim Hao assisted by the Rev C N Fang, CAC President of Malaysia and Singapore, when the CAC (autonomous church) was in session, held in this new church. We must give our sincere appreciation and thanks to Paya Lebar Methodist Church (English church for allowing us to use their church for 30 long years).

The Rev Tan Phek Geok was appointed associate Minister in 1968 to assist the Rev Wu Chao Chi. Both work cooperatively and faithfully for the church. At the end of 1976, the Rev Tan Phek Geok officially retired from the CAC but continues to serve our church as active retired Pastor up to the present moment.

The Rev Wu Chao Chi after having faithfully served our church for 30 years was officially retired in 1980 and was called home to be with the Lord on March 21, 1984. The Rev Tan Lye Keng became the supply Pastor in 1981/82 until the Rev See Ping Eik officially took over in early 1982 as Senior Pastor.

As the church grew, it was imminent that Mandarin and English Worship Service be carried out so that our Mandarin and English speaking members could continue to worship in our Church. This was important as their parents were members of the Hokkien congregation.

In July 1970, Mandarin Worship Services were started and attracted 120-150 members and the English Worship Services were separately conducted with the average attendance of 150 members weekly. At present there are three worship services on Sundays, Hokkien, Mandarin and English with a total membership at 800.

On the first Sunday of August 1978, Rev Wu Chao Chi together with the Rev Tan Lye Keng conducted our first Sunday Worship Service at 2:30 pm at 25 Mayflower Rise, Ang Mo Kio. Our Chairman LCEC, members of our church and some Christian friends of Ang Mo Kio attended the inaugural service. Thereafter, gospel meetings were held every Sunday led by Pastors and stewards of our church on rotation. Our WSCS and MYF, organised eight



visitation teams to distribute gospel tracts in the Ang Mo Kio area twice weekly. Average attendance was about 35 every week.

As soon as the new Ang Mo Kio church was built, the AMK work was handed to the Chinese Annual Conference in 1981 who appointed the Rev Wesley Yong Ong Ngie as Pastor-in-charge of this pioneer work as from January 21, 1981. Smooth transfer of the 30 members of the Ang Mo Kio Chapel were handed over to the Rev Wesley Yong by our supply Pastor, the Rev Tan Lye Keng. With the foundation laid and the core of Christians, the Rev Yong and members of the congregation was able to embark on an intensive evangelisation of the Ang Mo Kio residential area.

When the Rev Yong left for U.S.A at the end of 1982, our Pastor, the Rev Tan Lye Keng, who was one of the pioneer work pastor of Ang Mo Kio was appointed to the church.

Praise the Lord, our labour was rewarded. The Ang Mo Kio Church now has over 300 worshipping members!

The church premises built in 1968 (18 years ago) were inadequate for church extensive programmes. The church growth continued when the Rev See Ping Eik served as senior Pastor-in-charge. Through his ministry of dynamic preaching the attendance and service markedly increased and soon the existing facilities had to be further reviewed.



At the LCEC meeting held in August 1985, our chairman LCEC made a bold proposal to build a four storey Christian Education Centre at a cost of between \$500,000 and \$550,000 to cope with the church heavy programmes. Our chairman stated that since our church has received a love gift of \$100,000 from Mrs Ong Eng Leng (a founder member of our church) specified for church Extension Fund, we should take the opportunity to put this money in good use and proposed that the church building extension be implemented as quickly as possible in view that cost of building materials was at its lowest level then to enhance the urgent needed amenities and facilities.

With the concurrence of the Pastor, the Rev See Ping Eik and the unanimous agreement of all LCEC members, a committee was formed with Mr Ong Heng Kok and Mdm Ang Geok Kie as chairperson to look into this extension project.

Fund raising for the project was launched on 11th September 1985.

With overwhelming support of the church members another \$450,000 were pledged and collected inclusive of \$60,000 donated from Mrs Lee Kim Tah and \$55,000 from Mdm Ang Geok Kie. Building plans submitted to the Ministry of National Development in August 1986 were duly approved.

Work commenced on September 3, 1986 and the whole project was completed on March 3, 1987 for occupancy at a total cost of \$554,835.00. The four storey Christian Education Centre was dedicated on May 24, 1987 by Bishop Ho Chee Sin assisted by the CAC President, the Rev Wong Kiam Thau.

When the Rev See Ping Eik left us at the end of December 1986 for official transfer to Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church, the Rev Tan Lye Keng became Pastor-in-charge. The Rev Tan Lye Keng left us for Texas to pursue his Master Degree in Ministry Programme in August 1987 and the Rev Tan Phek Geok became the supply Pastor until the end of the year, when the Rev See Ping Eik in concurrent with the Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church pastoral ministry became part-time pastor of our church.

Pastor Victor Goh was appointed Minister-in-Training at our church as from September 1, 1986 up to the present moment and the Rev Chong Chin Chung has been appointed Pastor-in-charge as from January 1, 1989.

## KINDERGARTEN

Seeing the need for Christian Education within our church, the Rev See Ping Eik with our LCEC Chairman founded the Children's Centre in 1982 with a strength of 120 pupils. The Super-intendent is Mdm Tan Chye Hong. There were also four paid teachers and one casual worker. The work was very encouraging.

## CHURCH WORKERS

The Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church has produced seven full-time pastors, the Rev (Ms) Lorna Khoo with TRAC, the Rev Tan Lye Keng, Pastor-in-charge Hakka Church (August 1989); the Rev Chua Ooi Suah, Assistant Pastor Kum Yan Cantonese Methodist Church; the Rev Koh Keok Nguang, Assistant Pastor, Geylang Chinese Methodist Church, the Rev Seow Choon Seng (Pastor-in-charge of Ang Mo Kio Church and Pastor Victor Goh, Assistant Pastor attached with our church. We have also a full-time missionary Miss Grace Toh, a Master Degree graduate, many years with the Ministry of Education, Singapore, serving as a missionary in Africa and now in France studying French for future mission work. We have another member Mr Francis Lim with Moody School of Theology, U.S.A. We have also two graduates from TTC Singapore, Mdm Tan Chye Hong, and Mdm Chee Lye Mei serving in Child Care Centres, Christian Education Work.

## CHURCH FINANCE

Although our church members are not all that wealthy, yet any church project whether big or small, as soon as it was announced saw the church members giving willingly. Church giving has increased over the years. Our church also share with other churches in their church building projects be it in Singapore or in Malaysia.

In 1972, we donated \$10,000 to Toa Payoh Church Building Project. When the new church at Ang Mo Kio was being constructed we contributed \$50,000 in 1979. We also contributed quite a substantial sum to Wisma Methodist Project in Malaysia and also donated to other church projects in new town areas. Last year, we help Segamat Church with \$10,000 for their building project. This year we have also made contribution of \$1,000 each month to Trinity Theological College for Asian Teachers Endowment Fund. Our church members are encouraged to donate to the Trinity Theological College Building Fund. So far our church members have donated more than \$35,000 to this project excluding the CAC undertakings of which our share is \$17,000.

We thank God for His providence.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Despite our modest beginning, God's hand has been graciously leading our church. Our church membership rose steadily from under 10 in 1937 to 150 in 1950, 250 in 1960, 380 in 1970, 450 in 1980 and over 750 in 1989. In order to cope with such growth of our three worship services, we have a pastoral team with two full-time Pastors, one active retired Pastor, two part-time missionaries, one part-time experienced Minister (reading his Doctorate Degree), two secretarial staff and five Christian Education Centre staff.

## CONCLUSION

Looking into the future, the emphasis will be leadership and lay training and equipping members for active service in the church. As we look back over the past 50 years, we are indeed grateful to God for his bountiful grace to our church, for the dedicated Pastors and faithful members.

Everyone has done his best to contribute either spiritually or financially. May the Lord continue to use the church to carry on the good work which our predecessors had accomplished and paved — the way for the successors to reach greater heights.

See you at our next Diamond Jubilee.

Glory be to God!

# 一砖一瓦拓家园

赞美感谢上帝无尽的恩典，我们早年开拓厦语崇拜的先辈们都已先后回到主的身边，今天的领袖与明日的领袖将继续积极参与教会事工。耶稣说：“你们的光也当这样照在人前，叫他们看见你们的好行为，便将荣耀归给你们在天上的父。”

(太5:16)

上帝赐福给本堂，将得救的人数天天加添给我们，从没有堂址的卑微起步，上帝奇妙的作为成就在每一件事工上，我们清楚了这是上帝的恩典。在这75年的过程中，我们见证了4个建堂工程。

1947年，第一个建堂工程，包括牧师楼与聚会厅，竖立在7,000平方尺的土地上。地皮由新加坡卫理公会宣教会提供。牧师楼与聚会厅在1967年年底转让给巴耶黎峇女子中学，目前归巴耶黎峇英语堂所拥有。

1966—1968年，第二个重要工程是在1968年完竣的圣殿与牧师楼（二层楼）建筑，共26,000方尺，建筑在当时价值\$40,985，巴耶黎峇上段的地皮上。感谢我们在天上的父，祂丰富的供应，感谢圣灵感动会友同心服侍主。我们用10年的时间来计划，筹款与进行这项工程（1956—1966年）。教堂建筑在1968年2月工程完竣，并于1968年8月24日举行奉献礼。工程费用一共是\$296,669，余款\$2,127。第一届新马自治年议会就在这新落成的教堂举行。

1982—1987年，本堂在1982年收到荣誉执事王荣能夫人（白水金女士）特别申明作为教堂发展之用的\$100,000奉献，（她与家人庆祝了85岁大寿以后便将这笔项奉献给教会。王夫人在1998年2月20日安然辞世，享年92岁）。这笔\$100,000的爱心奉献后，超过600名的会友也为第三次的重要工程慷慨奉献。基督教教育中心包括扩建与装修工程一共是4层楼，其中包括了教会办公室以及牧师楼。在9个月的时间里，我们筹得\$603,164，扣除工程费用后尚存\$758。工程于1987年2月完竣，5月24日举行奉献典礼。我们感谢上帝的奇妙恩赐与无尽的恩典。

1993—1995年，因着教会活动激增，以及各崇拜人数的增长，1993年本人向执行委员会建议扩建，在原有的建筑物上面增建2层楼的课室与圣殿，建筑费介于\$1,500,000至\$2,500,000之间，由本人为首的扩建委员会于是成立。我们的心充满了对上帝的赞美与感恩。在大家同心协力下，教堂扩建与装修工程终于完成并于1995年8月20日我们举行了奉献典礼。

整体工程包括家具在内的费用是\$3,030,021.93，尚有余额\$9,464。

主内弟兄姐妹，回顾过去的4次建筑工程所需丝毫没有半点强迫或压力，都是出自会友自愿，甘心乐意的奉献。通过不断的祷告，圣灵深深感动了许多人的心。根据教堂建筑工程报告书的记录，奉献额有\$2，\$5，\$10至上千上万不等。因为通货膨胀，金钱的贬值，建筑费的增加，第5次的建筑工程所需的将会远超过之前的款额，我们是否仍然像先辈一样回应圣灵的感动，大大地祝福这间教会呢？

**摘自王兴国先生于教会63周年纪念崇拜讲稿**





## 各崇拜设立及植堂年份一览表

由于母堂厦语崇拜的迅速增长，母堂增设了各个崇拜：

母堂（厦语）	1937
华语崇拜	1970
大巴窑卫理公会	1972（巴耶黎峇堂捐赠了\$10,000）
宏茂桥布道所	1978 - 1980（已成立牧区）
英语崇拜	1980
布道所	1990 - 1997
潮语崇拜	1992
英语现代崇拜	1999
后港宣教站（MM）	1999
盛港宣教	1999（已成立牧区）
双语崇拜	2009

# History of Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church

1939→1989→2009

By Mr Ong Heng Kok

## The Outline

One way to know a church better is to look back at:

- a) Its founding history
- b) The pastors or shepherds who had led the church
- c) The leaders and people who were active from time to time and influenced the congregation's life
- d) The story of its physical expansion in the premises
- e) The story of its efforts in mission work

## Transformation since the Founding

We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 20 August 1989. After half a century, our church had transformed from a primarily Hokkien Congregation to one ministering in a few Worship Services each Sunday. By 1989, we had Hokkien, Mandarin and English Services. The economic background in 1939 and 1989 were different. The congregations 50 years apart comprised of people brought up in two different generations. The church activities and programs in 1989 and 1939 will understandably be different.

Our church's official history began in 1939 when Sunday Services were held in the new Sanctuary of Paya Lebar Methodist Church.

Ms Tan Phek Geok was officially appointed as full-time pastor of the church from 1 Jan 1939. Two years before that, our church began as a gospel chapel outpost situated at the fringe of the Singapore City boundary. The chapel Services in February 1937 were in classrooms of the then Paya Lebar English School. The retired pastors, Rev Lim Poh Chin and Rev Lim Hong Ban, provided the pulpit ministry. The stewards from Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church assisted as Worship Leaders.

In world history, 1937 and 1939 were times of instability. The

second Sino-Japanese War started on 7 July 1937. Germany invaded Poland on 1 Sep 1939, and that sparked off the Second World War. Japan invaded the Malay Peninsula at the end of 1941. When aerial bombing of the town in Singapore started, many town folks migrated to the rubber and coconut estates around Paya Lebar and Hougang.

Paya Lebar English School was then where the old Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School was situated. Paya Lebar Methodist Church and Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School shared the same site. They were at the junction of the old Boundary Road and Upper Serangoon Road. The old Boundary Road was just a short stretch of unpaved road leading into a kampong. It was different from the present Boundary Road that links Upper Paya Lebar Road to Ang Mo Kio Avenue I. It was opposite the former Paya Lebar Police Station. The town tram services ended just a little farther, where Surin Avenue is. The old Hougang was a "back port".

The Hougang area was by 1989 a developed HDB New Town. The catchment areas for our church comprise Ang Mo Kio New Town, Toa Payoh New Town, Lorong Ah Soo, Macpherson Estate, Aljunied Estate, Serangoon Central and Tampines New Town.

The previous kampong dwellers around the Church had resettled into HDB New Towns. Although many moved miles away, they still attend services in our church.

The children of the first generation congregation are now mostly English educated and are professionals rather than fish mongers, farmers or factory helpers in the old days.

Below is a short snippet of what happened each year since 1989.

**1989**

The church celebrated its 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service at 5pm on 20 Aug 1989. Thereafter a banquet was held at the World Trade Centre Golden Phoenix Restaurant for 1000 guests. The church held a family camp at Merlin Hotel in Fraser's Hill. Other 50th Anniversary events were a Gospel Rally featuring Rev Fang Chao Hsi as Speaker, an English Gospel Rally with Mr Tan Kok Beng as Speaker, an Evening of Praise under the baton of Miss Mary Gan, a church-wide Car Rally organized in the church for the first time, and a year-end dinner on 31 December 1989.

The English Congregation had 7 cell groups meeting regularly.

**1990**

Membership reached 792. The English Worship Service held its 10th Anniversary Service on 26 August 1990. Mr Seet Keng Tat was posted to Cebu by his company and Mr Jeffrey Lim took over as Chairman of the English Congregation Working Committee.

On 5 April 1990, the CAC Executive Board was informed that the ministry at 19 Brighton Avenue would come under the charge of PLCMC. Rev Esther Ding was appointed to care for the 50 or so members there.

**1991**

Church membership reached 868 (including 56 members in True Word Chapel). We had four worship services — Mandarin at 8.30 am, Hokkien at 10 am, English at 11.15am and the Chapel (Brighton Avenue) at 10.30 am. Lay Leader was Mr Ong Heng Kok, and Associate Lay Leaders were Mdm Ang Geok Kie, Mr Lim Soo Chin and Mr Tan Lian Huat, with Mr Lee Yan Kok representing the Chapel.

Average attendance in the Methodist Youth Fellowship meeting once a week was 20. There was also a Chinese Junior MYF and an English Junior MYF. Mrs Tan Sin Kian became the Children Centre's Superintendent after Mdm Tan Chye Hong left in December 1990.

On 13 May 1991, the proposed 4th Storey sanctuary was approved by the Ministry of National Development.

The 16th World Methodist Conference was held in Westin Singapore on 24-31 July 1991. Our church contributed the hosting of 18 of the 400 dinner tables on the evening of 28 July 1991 in the PSA Exhibition Hall at \$400 per table.

**1992**

The Church Missions Committee recommended that the church adopt Selat Panjang as its mission project. Participation was to come from the three church congregations - Hokkien, Mandarin and English. The church bought a Toyota Hiace van for \$44,500 to be used by Rev Chong.

Rev Daniel Lee Kuan Yong took charge of the English Congregation. The English Congregation held a retreat on June 15-19 in Fraser's Hill Pine Resort with Rev Victor Goh as speaker.

The church took pride in the fact that we owned five vehicles (two gospel passenger commuter buses) and three church cars (a Honda, a Toyota and a Peugeot). The Peugeot car was bought for the use of Ms Grace Toh, our missionary in Cameroon.

The Teochew Worship Service started its first service on 23 August at 2 pm. Rev Fajar Lim from Indonesia was attached to PLCMC.

**1993**

Rev Chong left in August 1993 to pursue his theological studies in Duke University (Divinity School), Durham, North Carolina, USA under our church Study Grant.

A Carnival cum Warehouse Sale was held on 26 & 27 June 1993. Everyone worked hard to raise money for the church extension fund. A total of \$23,074 was raised from this warehouse sale.

In the Combined Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, \$69,482 was received and at the Dinner \$71,123 was collected, adding to the Church Building Fund. In the few years preparing to carry out the Church Extension, church records show we were very attentive in trying to expand the House of the Lord.

**1994**

The church organized a retreat on board Star Cruise from 15-17 June. Rev Chong Chin Chung was the main speaker for the 122-person retreat. The Mandarin Congregation held their retreat in Rosa Pasadena at Cameron Highlands from 6-9 June.

Work on addition and alterations began on 15 June. After 3 months, the super structure reached the 4th storey level. We continued to raise funds, and Ms Stella Zhou, our Music



Director, organized a Vocal Recital on the evening of 13 September which raised \$40,000.

### 1995

Mr Koh Kok Hua, one of our active church leaders for many years, passed away. He was elected Lay Leader in 1977. Six couples were married in church this year. The English Congregation organized an Israel Pilgrimage Tour from 24 November to 6 December. Weekly attendance in the English congregation cell groups averaged 170 to 190. Preacher Mdm Goh Aik Huang was attached to PLCMC as Christian Education Director.

### 1996

Rev Esther Ding went on sabbatical study leave in Central Taiwan Theological College from 16 September, sponsored by the CAC Board of Ministry. In 1996, the English Congregation resolved to establish Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School as a mission field for the youths. We had an energetic youth group who could interact with the students.

In August, 10 air-conditioner split units were installed at the church Social Hall on the ground level at a cost of \$54,000.

The English Congregation studied the cell group church concept. Sunday School teachers went to Alor Star to attend Clarine Chun's training on the "Superkids" program.

### 1997

On 1 January the Church Planning Retreat was held at Seletar Country Club. Two young persons, Peter Pan Seng Tai and Peter Wong Yuan-Xiu, were recommended for study at Trinity Theological College. The church Senior Citizens organized an 8-day tour of Fujian, China, where they visited a few Chinese Churches. The 44-person group also climbed Wuyi Shan in Fujian.

The English Congregation had 13 cell groups and 13 Zone Servants. Average Sunday attendance in worship service was 177. King's Kids ministry was started.

The True Word Chapel had an average Sunday attendance of 70. Many of the members lived in the Yishun area and some were taxi drivers. This was a closely knitted group. Their Sunday program included Sunday School, Andrew's (Youth) Fellowship and home gatherings. URA wrote to the church informing us that the Brighton Avenue premises could not be

used for religious purposes and gave the church till October to cease our meetings. In November, 108 members agreed to join our 8.30 am Mandarin Service, while the rest would join the other church services.

### 1998

The Church Planning Retreat was held at Garden Hotel, Balmoral Road on 1 January. The church decided to commence discussion with PLMGSS to explore working among the Lorong Ah Soo residents where many of the school's 2000 students come from.

108 True Word Chapel members transferred their membership to PLCMC.

On 20 February, Mrs Ong Eng Leng, one of our founding members, was called home to the Lord.

TRAC PLMC stopped using PLMGSS as their temporary worship place on completion of their new sanctuary in Boundary Road in October 1998. PLCMC could then start the PLMGSS Preaching Point. A Committee headed by Pastor Alex Chng Peng Lian, Mr Ong Eng Keong and Mr Seet Keng Tat was tasked to start work on this pioneering project.

The church organized a Church Retreat cum sightseeing tour to Perth, Australia. 61 members attended with Rev Seow Choon Seng and Rev Chong Chin Chung leading the devotions.

### 1999

The church held a food fair on 16 January to help raise part of the \$30,000 fund for the church's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. We raised \$25,785. January of 1999 also saw the start of the PLCMC Mission Point with Mr Seet Keng Tat as Chairman and Mr Ong Eng Keong as Vice Chairman. The first prayer fellowship met in the PLMGSS premises on 10 February afternoon to pray for the preaching point work. Thereafter the prayer fellowship met each Sunday afternoon till 18 July, when it became a Bilingual Worship Service. CAC President Rev Fong Mow Hee opened the renovated multi-purpose hall on 18 July 1999. It was converted from the previous PLMGSS Rifle Range at a cost of \$120,000. PLMGSS named the hall Emmanuel Hall.

The Liturgical Service was inaugurated on 7 Feb 1999. At a survey conducted on 16 May 1999, 53 worshippers indicated their preference to be listed in the Liturgical Worship Service

Roll. Initially the worship service had Mr Ong Po Poe volunteering to play the violin as accompaniment each week. Rev Yeo Lay Suan was Associate Pastor in charge of the Liturgical Service.

35 persons went on a mission trip to South Africa from 11 - 21 March at the invitation of Rev Cecil Begbie, a Methodist minister of the South Africa Methodist Church who was seconded to HELP Ministries International Trust. The group was in Cape Town, South Africa, for a week-long city wide evangelistic campaign at three Methodist Churches in Raithby, Cloeteville and Bellville. Before embarking on the trip they went through a 6-week evangelism training program in Singapore.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Revival and Gospel Rally was held in Mandarin on 18-21 August. The Speaker was Rev Caleb Tong of Indonesia. On the third and fourth evening the sanctuary was full. Thanks be to God!

The ECWC and PLCMM held a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Healing and Blessing Rally from 8-11 July in the PLMGSS School Hall. Rev Cecil Begbie and Rev Daniel Lee were the speakers.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Banquet was held in the Raffles Ballroom of Westin Plaza.

## 2000

Rev Chong Chin Chung was re-appointed as Pastor in Charge. Rev Victor Goh and Rev Niam Kai Huay were appointed as Associate pastors. Rev Daniel Lee went on study leave to Wilmore, Kentucky, USA from 31 July 2000. A Korean Missionary, Rev Song Byung Kwan, was attached to the church.

Mandarin Work Committee adopted the "Purpose Driven Church" five growth target areas as its strategy for gospel work.

Mrs Jasmine Sim joined PLCMM as students' ministry worker and tuition coordinator.

## 2001

Rev Lim Chong Heng attached part time to PLCMM from July 2001 and full-time from January 2002 till December 2002 when he moved to mission work in Thailand. Mr Jasper Sim and Mrs Jasmine Sim assisted as full-time staff workers.

Pastor Peter Wong Ngian Chay joined PLCMC. Pastor Susan Lim joined the Liturgical Service as Local Pastor from 4 June.

Our neighbouring church at 301 Upper Paya Lebar Road notified us in August that our existing boundary fence had protruded about 200 to 400 mm into their property. They were rebuilding their church and we discovered some cracks were developing in our building. As good neighbours, these matters were resolved to mutual satisfaction.

## 2002

Pastor Susan Lim moved to help in PLCMM from 1 May. Mr Jasper Sim entered full-time study in TTC from July. PLCMM was run along the concept of a cell-based church. Its activities comprised two services (Mandarin and English), school cum tuition ministry, and community work amongst others.

Pastor Ng Beng Keow joined PLCMC as MOT on 1 July. The King's Kids ministry moved its gathering from Sunday to Saturday afternoons from 5 January.

## 2003

The church records showed it was contributing to the support of six theological students in TTC: Ms Ting Ai Nguak, Ms Loh Chee Yen, Mr Yeo Eng Cheng, Mr Leow Hui Ann Wilfred, Mr Jasper Sim and Mr Seet Keng Tat. This amounted to approximately \$55,000 per annum.

The Contemporary Service launched a Community Outreach Program in Tai Keng Gardens Housing Estate.

## 2004

The 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service was held in Paya Lebar Methodist Church, Boundary Road, on 22 August from 2-4 pm, followed by a banquet at Suntec Ballroom 1-3 from 7-11 pm. The church hosted 111 tables for the occasion.

Contemporary Service held a retreat in Sevana Cove in June for about 200 people. CS held a parenting seminar on 6 March, and a maths workshop on 17 and 24 April. Tai Keng residents and King's Kids parents were invited.

PLCMM reported a shift of focus from the school ministry to community outreach via tuition service to children in the Lorong Ah Soo area. This enabled MM to make wider and deeper inroads into the community.

**2005**

Pastor Louis Chai joined PLCMC and Ms Cynthia Choo was preacher assigned to PLCMC.

Pastor Louis Chai led an 8-member mission to Inner Mongolia from 2-12 September. They ministered to the Chinese youths and children.

**2006**

Rev Victor Goh retired as pastor. Mr Leung Num Wing became Chairman LCEC and Mr Jeffrey Lim, Vice Chairman. The Hokkien Working Committee was formed taking over what was previously run directly by the LCEC.

11 people from PLCMM made a trip to Inner Mongolia in August led by Mr Henry Eng. The Liturgical Service and MM held a retreat in Bukit Tinggi, Malaysia.

MM rented a shophouse in Block 124 Hougang Ave 1, #01-1444, for its ministry work. Ms Priscilla Law was employed as Ministry / Admin Staff to man the shophouse.

**2007**

Rev Wilfred Leow appointed pastor of Contemporary Service. Work started on “reverse missions” program, which was to invite foreign workers from China to meet in our church on Saturday afternoons to learn the English language.

The church held a Family day in PLMGPS on 31 May.

Pastor Peter Wong was employed as LMS from 1 February to help in the Hokkien and Teochew Services, and Pastor Pan Seng Tai from 1 July to help in the Mandarin Service.

**2008**

Rev Ng Beng Keow went over to lead the Hokkien Service. Pastor Albert Ong joined to take charge of the Liturgical Service, which was also overseen by Rev Leow.

PLCMC Kindergarten, which started in 1983, was closed by the end of the year. After 27 years the neighbourhood had changed and better equipped kindergartens had sprung up such that the church may now consider other ministries like caring for the elderly.

Rev Dr Chong Chin Chung received his doctorate in December 2008, and the whole church rejoiced with him. He was elected CAC President in November 2008. Rev Louis Chai took over as PIC in 2009.

**2009**

In celebration of our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the church completed the Naomi Hall project and blessed PLMGPS with a Multi-Purpose Hall valued at \$500,000. CAC President Rev Khoo Cheng Hoot led the Dedication Service on 28 Dec 2008. An MOU was signed in September 2009 allowing our church to use the hall for 20 years, subject to further extensions. The Voices of Praise raised \$130,000 to help PLMGPS build its indoor Sports Hall.

PLCMC, as part of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, in wanting to bless others outside our church provided \$72,903 as seed fund to the Methodist School Foundation Walkathon 2009, which was held on 28 March. \$907,000 was raised for MSF.

On 11 January, a second Mandarin Service was started to cater to the youths. The main Mandarin Service met at 8.30 am while the second Mandarin Service met at 12 noon. Church membership reached 1438 as at 31 July.

**Honour Roll of Pastors**

The pastors help church members in maintaining a healthy spiritual life. Many of them through their years of working in close contact with members have endeared themselves to the church. Each of them has left his or her mark like a specific character of a shepherd.

Rev Lim Hing Ban (retired pastor)	1937	1938
Rev Tan Phek Geok	1939	1945
	1969	1976
Rev Fang Chao Hsi	1941	1950
Rev Timothy M T Hwang		1950
Rev Wu Chao Chi	1951	1980
Rev Tan Lye Keng	1980	1987
Rev See Ping Eik	1981	1986
Rev Fong Mow Hee	1982	1983
Mr Wyle Tan	1983	1984
Rev A J Williamson	1984	1987



Mr Justin Tsan	1984	1986
Rev Victor Goh Chong Cheng	1986	1991
	2000	2006
Rev Chua Ooi Suah	1987	1988
Rev Chong Chin Chung	1987	1993
	2000	2008
Rev Koh Keok Nguang	1992	1996
Rev Yong Chin Thong		1994
Pastor Wong Yeow Lin		1996
Rev Esther Ding Ai Mooi	1990	2002
	Since 2005	
Rev Daniel Lee Kuan Yong	1992	2000
Rev Seow Choon Seng	1997	1999
Pastor Alex Chng Peng Lian	1997	1999
	Since 2009	
Rev Yeo Lay Suan		1999
Rev Niam Kai Huey	2000	2006
Rev Lim Chong Heng	2001	2002
Pastor Susan Lim	2001	2002
Pastor Peter Wong	2001	2003
Pastor Jasper Sim	2005	2006
Pastor Cynthia Choo Bee Lay	2005	2007
Rev Ng Beng Keow	Since 2002	
Rev Louis Chai Shung Chee	Since 2005	
Rev Wilfred Leow	2007	2009
Pastor Christopher Kong	Since 2008	

A few of the pastors rose from our own local church.

Rev Tan Lye Keng retired from CAC in 2007. He was one of our earliest PLCMC “boys” whom we sponsored for theological education. He entered TTC in 1974 and graduated in 1978. He, together with Rev Wu Chao Chi, began the Sunday Mandarin Hokkien Service in August 1979 in Rev Wong Hoon Hee’s House in 25 Mayflower Rise.

Rev Victor Goh was President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship for a number of years in PLCMC in the 1960s. He and his wife Jennie together mentored many youths. After their theological training in New Zealand and TTC in Singapore, Rev Goh returned to PLCMC to serve. The church was fortunate to have them back for a second time before they retired.

Rev Seow Choon Seng grew up as a boy in the Mandarin MYF.

We came to know him as someone from Pulau Ubin who took boat rides to study at Changkat Changi Secondary School. He felt the Lord’s call in 1977 for full time theological study. He entered Trinity Theological College and thereafter served in various CAC churches. In 1997 he returned to PLCMC as PIC. He went on to win a National Day award for ministering to prisoners’ families in 2008.

Others who went full-time in God’s Service include Rev Chua Ooi Suah, Rev Koh Keok Nguang, Rev Thomas Koh, Rev Wilfred Leow, Rev Jasper Sim, Pastor Peter Wong, Pastor Peter Pan, Rev Wong Yeow Lin, Ms Ting Ai Nguak and Ms Low Chee Yan.

Three ladies who became Missionaries are worthy of mention.

Ms Grace Toh Seok Hwa, who grew up in our Church Sunday School and Methodist Youth Fellowship decided to enter missionary life. In March 1987, she resigned after 20 years in government service in Singapore to join Wycliffe Bible Translators. She served in Wycliffe Bible Translators / Summer Institute of Linguistics (WBT/SIL) from 1987-1997. In Wycliffe she served in Cameroon, Sudan and New Zealand.

Grace Toh became Missionary school principal commissioned by the Methodist Mission Society to lay the foundation for the Methodist School of Cambodia in Phnom Penh. The school began its first classes in October 1997.

After Wycliffe, Grace studied theology in Trinity Theological College and Fuller Theological Seminary from 1999 to 2005. From February 2004 to June 2007 she taught at Trinity Theological College.

Ms Chua Geok Lian was another lady who served God full-time. She was supported by PLCMC to be a missionary in Youth For Christ beginning about 1990. She resigned from teaching full-time to become a youth worker. She has been counselling youths in schools and in our church since serving full-time.

Dr Teresa Tan Geok Swee from Contemporary Service went on an exploration trip from 10 September 2003 to 16 January 2004 to Afghanistan. She was attached to an international TB eradication organization. She continued to work there for a few years thereafter.

## The Smooth Transition of Church Leadership

PLCMC officially started in August 1939. The Official Board then comprised the four founding members: Mrs Lim Teck Boo from Lim Teck Boo Road, Mdm Aw Leong Geok of Lorong Tai Seng, Mdm Tan Goon Pan of Kim Chuan Avenue and Mrs Ong Eng Leng of Lorong Ah Soo.

Mr Ong Heng Kok, the son of Mrs Ong Eng Leng, was a boy in 1939 and he saw the Church grow. He saw the completion of the church building in 299 Upper Paya Lebar Road in 1968, the completion of the 4 storey education block in March 1987, and the completion of the 4<sup>th</sup> storey sanctuary in August 1995.

Mr Ong was MYF Chairman, then Church Treasurer in 1962 for 15 years. He was LCEC Chairman from 1977 to 2006, and also served concurrently as Lay Leader and PPRSC Chairman for a number of years. He stepped down and was elected as an Honorary Steward in 2007, the year of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, for a group of new leaders to take over.

## Building Projects

In the early years after our founding, we could not afford to build our own sanctuary. To hold worship services, we had to borrow from Paya Lebar Methodist Church and could only worship at 2.30 pm. In those days without air-conditioning, afternoons were not the best time of the day for worship. A Building Committee was formed in 1956 to erect our own sanctuary. The congregation always had a strong desire to build a sanctuary for God as thanksgiving.

Our first project was in 1947 to build a parsonage cum social hall for \$16,000. The Methodist Mission in Singapore presented to us a 7000 sq ft land in Boundary Road for this purpose. A 26,000 sq ft land at 299 Upper Paya Lebar was purchased for \$40,985 in 1956. The 2-storey church building was constructed at \$296,669 including furnishings and dedicated to God on 24 Aug 1968. The 4-storey addition and alteration, called the Christian Education Centre, was completed in May 1987 for \$603,164. The 4-storey addition to the main building was carried out at a cost of \$3,033,022 and dedicated on 20 Aug 1995.

Due to road widening of Upper Paya Lebar Road, our church lost 170 sq metres of land as gazetted on 7 Dec 1998, with LTA taking possession in September 2008. This resulted in us losing 10 out of 27 car park lots.

Now, 14 years after 1995, we have to consider strategically whether we need to build further or to expand through some other ways.

To meet our continuous growth, we have resorted to renting the auditorium of Amalgamated Union of Public Employees to accommodate our Sunday requirement of meeting space.

For expansion we participated in assisting the beginnings of neighbouring CAC Churches. When Toa Payoh Methodist Church was built in 1977, our church donated \$10,000 and transferred 25 members there. In 1979, following up on our Ang Mo Kio pioneering work, we donated \$55,000 towards the Ang Mo Kio Church Building Fund. When the Ang Mo Kio Local Conference under Rev Wesley Yong was started in 1981, 35 of our members joined them.

Mr Ong Heng Kok spearheaded the \$15 mil Seng Kang Building Project as CAC Property Development Chairman. PLCMC contributed \$2,200,000 in total to support the project. 19 Brighton Avenue, which was donated by Miss Lim Soon Teck, was also sold to pay for part of the construction cost. About 20 PLCMC members transferred their membership to Seng Kang to help start the ministry there.

## Mission Work

Our Church Leadership has emphasized mission work as priority. In addition to the financial support provided to missionaries Church members undertake these ongoing mission trips.

### 1. East Asia Church Project

PLCMC signed an MOU with MMS on the 25th of December 2007 as partners to adopt the church in East Asia, Henan as part of our mission programme for the next 5 years.

PLCMC, together with MMS, seeks to achieve the following:

- To train and disciple the people of church in East Asia and its surrounding villages and communities.
- To train, impart and develop evangelist(s) at the church in East Asia.
- To help develop organization structure, policies, governances, systems and processes to strengthen the church in East Asia and its ministries.
- To support national pastors and workers to minister to the surrounding area around the church in East Asia.
- To encourage the church to reach out to and multiply churches in the other areas of East Asia.

- To provide financial resources for the ministry needs identified by PLCMC and MMS.

A task force was set up at the end of February 2008 to work out the various stages of programmes and activities in order to achieve the above goals. Two trips per year, one in April and one in August will be made in the next 5 years to implement the programmes.

## 2. Akha Gospel Training Centre

PLCMC supports the work among the hill tribe people of Akha through the Akha Gospel Training Centre.

Our support for the centre includes the following:

- Monthly financial support for the operation of the centre.
- Education Fund support for two students to pursue further education in Bangkok Bible College and for two students in Chiang Rai Technical School.
- Funding for the building of drainage system for the centre.

## 3. Tg Balai, Indonesia

PLCMC supports the work in community outreach in Tg Balai (Telok Sitimbuk). The WSCS joins Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church in sending visiting teams fortnightly to minister to 60-70 children there.

## 4. Tg. Buru, Indonesia

Since 2008 our Mandarin Youths have adopted Tg. Buru as their mission program. They visit Buru fortnightly teaching the children there as part of their outreach program.

## Conclusion

PLCMC likes to sing as its Anniversary theme song these words from Psalm 103:

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting  
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,  
and his righteousness with their children's children-

<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant  
and remember to obey his precepts.

Leading a life that is right with God is paramount. We will then surely see His blessings from generation to generation in our church. In that light, we humbly submit ourselves in thanksgiving to further God's Kingdom in every aspect of our church activities. Our history as a church is a testimony of God's kindness and favour to us. All Glory goes to Him. Amen.

## Addendum: 2009-2014

### By Mr Shawn Koh

Some of the significant events from 2009 to 2014 that occurred after the article above was written in 2009 are included here to bring our church history up to date for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### 2009

Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church was the host church for the Chinese Annual Conference in November.

### 2010

Mr Leung Num Wing retired from LCEC and was elected as an Honorary Steward. Mr Jeffrey Lim took over the chairmanship together with 2 vice-chairmen, Mr Loh Boon Kee and Mr Stephen Lim

The second Mandarin Service was renamed to Bilingual Service.

### 2013

Hokkien Service Praise Dance was started as a bridge to bring the gospel to pre-believers.

Methodist Mission started their 2<sup>nd</sup> Service in July. This 2<sup>nd</sup> service was in English while the 1<sup>st</sup> service reverted back to being a Mandarin Service from a Bilingual Service.

### 2014

Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As part of the anniversary celebrations, we hosted and organised the MWS Golf tournament.



## 与兄弟堂会配搭 栽植开拓三牧区

我堂多年来与兄弟堂会配搭，一同出资出力先后在三个地区耕耘、栽植，开拓发展了以下三个牧区：

大巴窑堂	1972	奉献	\$10,000
宏茂桥堂	1979	奉献	\$50,000
盛港堂	1999 - 2009	奉献	\$2,520,000

# 卫理公会 大巴窑礼拜堂 TOA PAYOH METHODIST CHURCH



# 卫理公会 宏茂桥堂 ANG MO KIO METHODIST CHURCH



卫理公会  
盛港礼拜堂  
CAC  
Sengkang  
Methodist  
Church

卫理公会盛港礼拜堂  
CAC  
Sengkang  
Methodist  
Church







卫理公会  
盛港礼拜堂  
SENGKANG  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

# Reflections of my ministry as Pastor-in-Charge

Rev Louis Chai Shung Chee



Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, there is indeed so much to praise the Lord for as we celebrate our church's 75th anniversary! PLCMC is a church full of talent, resources and passion for Christ. Our diverse community continues to shine for the Lord through our services and projects.

It is amazing to see how our church is growing and journeying with God! As I look back at the ten years when I was serving in PLCMC, my heart rejoices at how the church has been blessed and been a blessing to others.

PLC Methodist Mission was my first assignment when I joined PLCMC. When I started pastoring here in 2004, I was deeply encouraged by the leaders and members who were so committed to serving the Lorong Ah Soo Community. God's love was manifestly displayed through the outreach programs, tuition ministry and Sunday service.

In 2004, we began to see a breakthrough in the relationship between the church and the school PLMGS. PLCMM's Sunday services



were initially held at the secondary school; however, the school entered a rebuilding phase and we had to find another location. When we approached the principal of the primary school, she gladly welcomed us to worship there. In order to strengthen our relationship with the primary school, we looked to build a new hall within the school. This project was initially met with many obstacles, but we kept praying and waiting upon the Lord. Eventually, we overcame these difficulties with the support of the entire PLCMC and the help of a contractor who is a brother in Christ and built the Naomi Hall. A few years later, when the primary school went into an expansion phase, PLCMC again came together to raise over \$200,000 to contribute to their Hall and Gym building projects. From its completion until now, PLCMC continues to worship in both the School Hall as well as the Naomi Hall. Furthermore, this has allowed PLCMC to work closely with the school to minister to young PLMGS students through children's camps and chapel services.

When Rev Chong Chin Chung was elected as President of CAC in 2009, I was asked by him to become the Pastor in Charge of PLCMC. It was a challenging step to take as PLCMC is a large church with diverse needs and seven congregations. However, with God's grace and a team of dedicated pastors and leaders, I continued to witness the strength and impact PLCMC had in building the kingdom of God.

Another area of church growth was in evangelism and mission work. Over the years, I witnessed a significant increase in our members' passion and desire to serve in these two ministries. The frequency of Evangelistic Sundays increased and the

Alpha course has spread from CS to other congregations to reach out to our families and friends. Our overseas mission work expanded and we also made a difference locally with our Mainland Chinese and Domestic Helpers ministry. With more pulpit sharing and Kairos courses, our members are inspired and better equipped to share the gospel. We witnessed many souls won for the Lord.

However, we also met with some setbacks. The main road outside of PLCMC was widened and that took away some of our church's land. Through a period of discussion and prayer, our leaders and members have come together to support a church building project. This would provide us with a larger space and more facilities for our seven congregations to worship and grow. I pray that more leaders will rise up and have faith to see this project through.

As we expand, I also pray that congregations will come together more often to achieve common objectives. We have witnessed many times how PLCMC's unity has enabled God's work to be boldly accomplished. If two or three congregations work together on projects more often, this synergy would give rise to much more impactful ministry.

Finally, I pray that all members of PLCMC will strive to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, and to fulfill the Lord's Great Commission as a church. Brothers and sisters in Christ, I am thankful for how the Lord has used me over those ten years. May you and I continue living out our faith both within and outside of church, and make use of all opportunities to bring glory to our Father. Happy 75th Anniversary to PLCMC!

# 抚我育我 巴耶黎峇

许克源牧师  
主理 (8/1993-1996)



感谢上帝，让我在母腹中随同母亲每主日风雨不改，到后港卫理公会(本堂早期名称)参加崇拜，从小到大参加主日学、圣歌团、卫理青年团契，等等。自三一神学院毕业之后即在华人年议会接受试用，1990年底在芽笼堂获按立为长牧，1992年受委派回母堂担任牧职。

面对接任主理牧师，我深感惶恐与不配，感谢众多主内长辈给予我的接纳与支持！那时，我们的教堂正在进行扩建，各音崇拜与纯道堂布道所，都落力奉献，共襄盛举，而准备结婚的弟兄姐妹租用了三一年议会堂会举行婚礼，也丰富了我主持婚礼的经验，留下深刻美好的回忆。

那时，执事会主席王兴国先生和会友领袖已故许国华先生，带领教会回应年会宣教部的呼吁，决定从1992年8月23日开始，增设潮语崇拜，向潮籍人士传福音，引领他们归向上帝。感谢上帝，让我能从1993年8月到1996年，滥竽充数地填补了教会牧职的空缺。

愿上帝继续赐福予抚育栽培我的母堂——巴耶黎峇卫理公会！