

News from Singapore

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Dear Friends,

It's late Saturday night here in Singapore. Deb and I just got back home from the first of three wake services to be held for sister Lee Ah Ngi who died this past Thursday night after a struggle with leukemia. The final service and cremation will be on Tuesday morning. Sister Lee had been a faithful Christian for over fifty years. Three of her four sons and her daughter are all faithful members of the Geylang Church of Christ. About twenty members of the Moulmein church went to the wake tonight to be with Phebe Yankaya, sister Lee's grand daughter who is a member of the Moulmein congregation. Many of us are close to this great Christian family who have served so well for so long. Sister Lee's son Paul is the long-serving fulltime minister of the Geylang congregation. *(photo left: Danny Han preaches at sister Lee's wake)*



One major preoccupation this month has been completing many tasks required by the government of Singapore's Registry of Societies. Last year we were instructed to revise our constitution and come into compliance with new government guidelines for the governance of "charities" (the category in which churches are listed by the ROS). Together with our leaders Edwin and I have been working on this all year and, among other things, finalized the constitution update in time for our AGM (annual general meeting – also required by law) which we held on April 26th. In our AGM the church also agreed to a few more tasks to help spruce up our building (repaint the front, add some awnings along the side near the restrooms to mention two). It is a relief to have this tedious paper-work behind us!

Last Sunday the men of Moulmein planned a special event honoring our mothers. They organized and paid for a catered tea/lunch which was served after worship. The children were given roses to give to their mothers at the end of worship. A video of messages from many of the children that one of our brothers had compiled was supposed to have been shown but at the last minute had to be abandoned when the electronic gadgetry failed us. Ban Haw Leong *(photo right)*, whose mother had just died the previous Friday, gave a very moving eulogy of his mother who had raised him and his eight siblings as a single parent. She was widowed at the age of thirtyeight. She lived to be ninetyeight. *(below left, flowers for moms, right, food for all)*



Next Saturday night our young adults will be hosting an event for young adults from all our sister congregations. Robert Reagan will be coming to Singapore from Chiangmai, Thailand and will be the guest speaker. Our young adults have been reaching out to some young men and women from People's Republic of China and India. Some are very near the kingdom.

I have finally managed to restore our family computer to full working order and I'm especially thrilled to have recovered all my data after the last crash. The one that crashed served us very well for almost seven years so we cannot complain! Tommy Chia (digital photographer par excellence) helped me "build" a "duo quad core" with over a terabyte of memory – ideal for digital photography. Tommy has been a very generous teacher and guide since he first dragged me (kicking and screaming) into digital photography world. I have so much more to learn! One photography project I have been working on for quite some time is digitizing some of my film archives that preserve important moments in the history of the church in Singapore and Malaysia (early seventies up through the early eighties). So far I have digitized over 200 rolls of film, many in black and white. There are many more to go and then I have to plug them into the the story (also to be completed)!

Debbie flies to Manila this coming Tuesday to speak in a large conference for over 500 counsellors and then to conduct training for a small group until she flies home on Saturday. Breda is studying for final exams and finishing a term paper. We are finalizing our travel plans for the summer and look forward to seeing as many of you as we can.

Grateful and eager,

Dave, Deb & Breda

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