

The Journey of English Ministry

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:17, 23, 24

The resignation of Pastor Jason Quah in June, 2005 is a wake up call for many of us. Are we doing church or are we living as members of the body of Jesus? God has called Pastor Jason to lead another smaller church and He has His own plan for us. As we reflect upon the journey on which we had traveled through the last 18 months, we realize that we have, to our surprise, experienced much fruitfulness and joy in our ministries that we had never planned for. We can only contribute to the perfect plan of our God and with a heart of gratitude and appreciation we want to give Him all the glory that belongs to Him.

At that time, Brother Michael Leong was the only fulltime staff member but he was studying part-time in Bible College of Malaysia (BCM). He had to hold the fort as brother Eric Tan had just gone through a triple-heart by-pass and was not able to work anymore.

Brother Anand, William Goh and myself, without knowing the extent of what we were getting into, had on 15 May, 2005 asked the church board to appoint us as the core transition team to take charge of the English Ministry while looking for a suitable pastor to lead.

On 21 May, 2005 Brothers Vincent Low, Steve Lam, David Yong and Michael Leong joined the core team. We spent two week-ends in Brother Anand's office to pray for the future of English Ministry. Subsequently, English Leaders Breakfast Meetings (LBM then, now called English Leaders Meetings or ELM) were initiated so that we could meet to discuss and address the various issues and challenges faced.

In August, 2005 Brother William Goh took sabbatical leave to come into the church office to help for 3 weeks as a volunteer. Later Sister Christine Lee with the support of her husband, Brother Viknas, volunteered to come to the church office to help in the administration of the English ministry for half a day since 29 August, 2005. At the same time, Sister Evelyn Lai offered to help on Saturday afternoons. Meantime, Brother Eric Tan returned to the church office to help initially for half a day each week, and then on alternate half days and now every morning. At the beginning of this year, Sister Priscilla Yong with the support of her husband David Lee volunteered to join the volunteer team to help in administration too. Meantime, Brother Michael Leong is able to study fulltime in BCM and will complete his course next year.

Let us not forget Brother See Chor Bill, Sister Elaine Wang, Sister Jessica Teh and others who have worked quietly and provided the leadership and support in the children ministry. Brother Phoon Yew Sang and Sister Audrey Siow together with

