

March-April 2010

Blessed Easter



from
 The Executive Committee
 and Secretariat
 of BB Asia

With OUR EYES we see
 The beauty of Easter
 as the earth awakens once
 more...

With OUR EARS we hear
 The birds sing sweetly
 to tell us Spring again is
 here...

With OUR HANDS we pick
 the golden daffodils
 and the fragrant hyacinths...

But only with OUR HEARTS
 can we feel the MIRACLE of
 GOD'S LOVE
 which redeems all men...

And only with OUR SOUL
 can we make our 'pilgrimage
 to God'
 and inherit His Easter Gift of
 ETERNAL LIFE.

'Easter Reflections'
 by Helen Steiner Rice.



JULIE

reports on one of BBS'
 80th Anniversary
 celebration events.

Party At The Padang

A BB volunteer's
 appreciation dinner

The Boys' Brigade in Singapore celebrates its 80th Anniversary in 2010. We begin our anniversary celebration with an appreciation dinner for our volunteers. Mr Desmond Koh, Executive Director of the BBS said, *"Our volunteers actually give up a lot of their personal time and energy to get involved with our youths. Our BB Officers undergo at least 40 hours of training at the start of their volunteering journey with us. We are very grateful for them and this evening is just a small gesture of our thanks."*



About 300 volunteers were at our first celebrative event held at Padang. Guests were treated to performances by Vernon Cornelius Band, a guitar repertoire by Mr Royce Lee as well as our very own BB combined Pipes & Drums Band.

The evening also saw an old Boy making a SGD100,000 contribution to The BB to create a First for Boys Fund to help needy BB Boys with their school fees and other academic related needs. Our Guest-of-Honour, President S R Nathan, received the cheque on behalf of the BB.



The evening ended with a special performance by our old Boys who had specially formed up a Bugle Band just for this evening.



To commemorate our 80th Anniversary, a series of exciting events such as Youth Leadership Conference and Camp Temasek has been lined up throughout the year. More information can be found on www.bb.org.sg



Editor's Note: **JULIE ONG** is the Senior Executive (Development) with The Boys' Brigade in Singapore HQ.

Bringing you BB News

across ASIA



March-April 2010



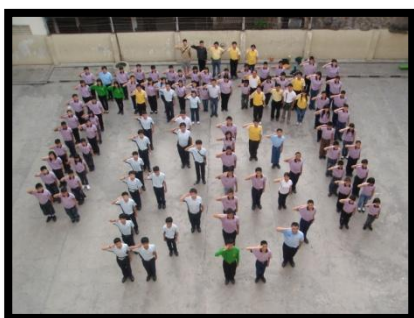
JIAN XIN

shares about his trip
to Medan

About 20 Boys, Primers and Officers from 40th Singapore Company visited Medan, 3rd largest city in Indonesia, on 13-18 December 2009 for an exchange program. The purpose is to expose our Boys to the BB work and culture in Indonesia and to widen their horizon.



On the first day we received a warm welcome by Cabang 12 Jati. "Cabang" means Company. We joined their parade and exchanged pointers in drill. Our Boys were surprised to see female members but also inspired by their discipline displayed when executing their drill movements.



In the evening, we were treated to a sumptuous dinner hosted by the BBI. Coincidentally, it was

also their thanksgiving dinner so we thank God for the good timing.

In the subsequent days, we travelled to Permatang Siantar, Perdagangan and Kabanjahe where we visited the 9th, 13th and 14th Companies whose warm hospitality touched our hearts very much. We also managed to visit some interesting sites such as Lake Toba, the largest volcanic lake in the world which has an island in it called Samosir Island. The scenery is spectacular and magnificent. It was an eye opener for our Boys who have never seen such scenery before.

We visited a social home, Panti Asuhan Pondok Mercy Medan. It is a refuge home for the orphans of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The children put up a song item for us that give praise to God. Their voices melt our hearts and we returned an item to them.



The highlight was the hike on an active volcano, Mount Sibayak. The 5th, 12th and 15th companies joined us purposely to assist and join us. They are good hikers! We started off very early in the morning in order to catch the sunrise. It was very cold but a good experience for our Boys. Most of us managed to reach the summit just in time for the sunrise. After the hike, we treated ourselves to the hot spring at the foot of the volcano which was great fun.



We spent our last evening with Cabang 5 who hosted us to a night of fellowship and dinner. Both the 5th and 40th has a long history that goes back to the 1980s. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves that even our Officers opened their vocals and sang.

Before departing for home we visited Cabang 4 Markoni where we shared with them on how God rebuilt and strengthened the 40th these past few years encouraging them not to be disheartened in doing BB work but wait upon Him and He will strengthen our hearts as in Psalm 27:13-14.

This trip truly opened our eyes to the BB work in Indonesia. Indeed the harvest is plentiful but laborers are few. BB has no borders and we have to pray for our fellow BB brothers and sisters in other countries. We want to thank our Indonesians hosts for their great and warm hospitalities!



Editor's Note: **JIAN XIN** is currently the Captain of 40th Singapore Company.

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The Revival of the BB work in the Philippines

After more than ten years of praying and waiting, we thank God that He has given us an opportunity to revive our BB work in the Philippines. The BB was first introduced back in the early nineties but due to some unforeseen circumstances the work could not be realized.

So now with the interest of two Christian Schools, MGC New Life Academy (MGC) and Grace Christian College (GCC), both in Manila, the opportunity is here once again for us.



On Saturday, 23 January 2010, 40 persons from 19 Christian schools, churches and organizations came together for an Introductory Seminar on The BB Ministry. The venue of the seminar was co-organized and co-hosted by MGC New Life Academy and Grace Christian College in Manila.

Mr Michael Moorthy, Francis and I spent the first half of the day introducing the BB ministry which was received by all.



Later in the afternoon, the school directors, the chosen BB leaders of GCC and MGC and BB Asia representatives met to form a protem committee. This committee will be responsible to form and commence to grow this ministry. Congratulations to Mr Paul Tiu of MGC who was unanimously elected to be the chairman.

Annual Officers Retreat for BB Thailand

Amidst some almost 40 degrees of heat wave and the country's current political turmoil, thirty Officers from eight BB companies and four Exco members from as far as the North-East assembled at the Baptist Conference Center in Pattaya on 22-24 March for this annual event.



This time their main discussion was develop further the BB by standardizing their uniform & drill, awards system and how to increase their income to support the BB work.

At the closing worship, the holy communion was held and an enrolment service of new officers, chaplain and captains was conducted.



The Brigade Council met on Wednesday, 24 March 2010 (immediate after the closing). Several standing committees were formed to enhance the BB's growth. Committees formed were for pre-junior, junior, & senior sections, uniform & drill, training, fund-raising & new building. The council also agreed to increase the members' annual national subscription fees.

BBT has still a distant to go in development but they decided to persevere in the quest to grow the BB. Let us continue to uphold them in prayer.

Editor's Note: **LAWRENCE** is currently the Executive Secretary of BB Asia.

Bringing you BB News

across ASIA



THE BOYS' BRIGADE
ASIA

March-April 2010



In conjunction with their 80th Anniversary BB Singapore would like to specially invite the BB member countries in Asia to participate in their

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Date:
18, 19 and 20 June 2010

Venue:
The National University of Singapore

Registration fee:
\$60.00
(excludes optional tour on 18 June)

Age group:
15 to 19 years old (BB Youths)

Closing Date:
16 April 2010

**Officers are welcome to company their Boys / Girls for this conference; do note that the ratio is capped at 1 BB Officer to 10 BB Youths*

There are many exciting and interesting activities at this conference so encourage your Boys and Girls to attend.

For registration and more details please visit the following websites www.bb.org.sg, www.bbasia.org or email grace_cheong@bb.org.sg

INTERNATIONAL CAMPS

coming your way

2010

BB MALAYSIA - 11-15 June
19th National Pesta, Penang

BB ASIA - 18-22 August

Staff Conference
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

(Only opened to all full-time staff of BB Asia Member countries.)

BB SINGAPORE - 8-12 December

80th Anniversary Camp Temasek V

2011

BB AUSTRALIA - 6-15 January

17th Pan Australian Camp

"Catch The Spirit" - Tasmania

For more details visit

<http://boys.brigadeaustralia.org>.

3rd BB Asia Academy

It is proposed that the academy to be held end December. This academy is opened to all BB members and officers 18 years and above.

BB INDONESIA

International Camp Bersama

In celebration of BBI's 25th Anniversary.

("Bersama" means *together*.)

Registration Closed!



Please be informed that due to the overwhelming response, registration for BB Malaysia's National Pesta is no closed.

BE PARTNERS

in The BB Ministry

We believe that the BB ministry is worthwhile and God-inspired for our young people in Asia. Let's be a blessing to them and make a **difference** to their lives **TODAY!**

Therefore we would like to appeal to the generosity of each and every one of you reading this newsletter to

support our cause by...

...**making** a personal pledge or contribution.

...**encouraging** as many friends as possible to support.

...**speaking** to your church leadership to consider BB as one of their mission pledges.

...**introducing** corporate or commercial companies who might give regularly as part of their social commitment.

For more details, please visit our website at www.bbasia.org or contact the BB Asia Secretariat. We will be most happy to hear from you.

Mr Francis Khong

where are you?

Mr John Khoo is trying to locate this former Corporal from 13th Singapore Company. If anybody knows where he is, please email to bb.across.asia@gmail.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

March-April 2010



**PRAYER
 POINTS**

**Pray for BB Asia
 that God will bless**

- the office-bearers 2009-2010 with wisdom as they stir the entire ministry to a greater height.
- the 3-year development plan of the BB Asia.
- the coming 3rd Executive Committee meeting in Penang, Malaysia on 12 June 2010.
- continue to unite and strengthen the bond of the Member Countries.
- our ministry with generous financial contribution to support work that being done.
- their endeavors to raise funds to support the ministry for the next three years.
- the work of the Secretariat in fulfilling its responsibilities.
- for the travels of the staff with protection, good health and fruitful effort.

**Pray for our BB Asia
 Member Countries.**

Brunei

- **PRAY** for sustenance and continuing support from their church because of the political structure, they are only allowed to form one company. Also for their coming Enrolment Service on

Singapore

- **PRAY** that God will continue to bless the BB work and that He will grant them strength as they face many challenges ahead.

- **PRAY** for them as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary.

Hong Kong

- **PRAY** for the exchange program with Sichuan students this coming summer holiday.
- **PRAY** for their target to reach 10,000 BB members .

Indonesia

- **PRAY** for the success of the registration of BB Indonesia as an organisation which is now in the final stages.
- **PRAY** for a new company that will be opened this year – 1st Bandung.
- **PRAY** for their employment of new staff for Jawa.

Macau

- **PRAY** that God will continue to bless the BB work and for their new leadership.

Malaysia

- **PRAY** that God will continue to bless the BB work carried out by the newly elected executive. That there will be cooperation and team spirit.
- **PRAY** the preparation of their 19th National Pesta in Penang. Praise God that they have reached 1500 campers from local and abroad.

Philippines (not a member country yet.)

- **PRAY** for the newly appointed protem committee led by Mr Paul Tiu that God will give reveal His plans for them and direct them accordingly.
- **PRAY** for their second introductory Seminar and also their first BOTC which will take place in April.
- **PRAY** for the two companies that have been formed in Manila. They are totally new to the BB ministry.

Thailand

- **THANK GOD** for successful Annual Officers Retreat held on 22-

24 March attended by 28 participants from 8 Companies.

- **PRAY** for the Officers who have come forward to lead in the various committees that through them the BB programme will be more effective and meaningful.
- **PRAY** also for their plans to raise funds to be more self-sufficient and also for their own building.
- **PRAY** that God will continue to grant the National Executive wisdom and guidance as they take steps to develop the ministry and to improve relationships.
- **PRAY** for every company that they will produce capable leaders with the right heart and spirit to lead the company. Also that they will continue to work well with other companies and with the national executive.
- **PRAY** for Tum and May, as they serve as full-time staff.

Cambodia (not a member country yet.)

- **PRAY** for our full-time team at the BB Learning Centre in Siem Reap.
- **PRAY** for the BB company started in the Methodist School in Phnom Penh. The group is already meeting but lack experienced leaders. 97th Singapore has volunteered to assist them.



*...pray for each other...
 (James 5:16)*

*Prayer should
 become as natural as
 breathing.*



March-April 2010

Don't Be Discouraged

*"Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."
Galatians 6:9*

"Why are you throwing away those nice potatoes, Grandpa?" asked my young grandson. I was planting potatoes in my garden, and he thought it was a waste to bury them. So I had an opportunity to explain to him that only as we give the seed away can we receive harvest.

A few days later, my grandson was in the garden again, looking at the ground. He complained, "Grandpa, they're not coming up," So I spoke to him about patience.

We too can become impatient when our service for the Lord doesn't appear to bear fruit. Sometimes we may feel like giving up because we do not see immediate results.

A dying soldier asked a chaplain to write to his former Sunday school teacher: "Tell her that I'm a Christian because of what she taught me in Sunday school." He sent the message and received the following reply: "Last month I resigned my Sunday school class, for I felt my teaching had been fruitless. And then came the message from my former pupil. May God forgive me for my impatience and lack of faith. I will ask my pastor to let me teach again, and I promise by God's grace not to quit."

Let's faithfully serve the Lord – depending on His power and strength – and leave the results to Him.

Discouragement is one of the Devil's most effective weapons.

(Taken from Our Daily Bread, April 2000.)

Executive Secretaries' DIARY

March 2010

04-11 - Bangkok, Thailand (LT)

- BBT Exco meeting
- BB Promotion in Bangkok
- Training the HQ Staff
- 10th Company Awards Day

15-17 – Medan, Indonesia (LT)

- BBI Exco meeting
- BOTC for School in Medan
- 12th Company 15th Anniversary

17-21 – Singapore (FC & LT)

- BB Asia Office Bearer's Meeting
- 40th & 97th Companies' Enrolment Service

21-25 - Bangkok, Thailand (LT)

- Annual Officers Retreat & Brigade Council Meeting

April 2010

05-15 - Bangkok, Thailand (LT)

- Basic Officers Training Course
- Standing Committee Chairmen briefing & planning

07-10 – Manila, Philippines (FC)

- Introductory Seminar
- Basic Officers Training Course
- Protom Committee Meeting

30-3/5 – Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei (LT)

- Enrolment of 1st Brunei
- Leadership Training Course

June 2010

10-15 – Penang Malaysia (FC & LT)

- BBM's 19th National Pesta
- BB Asia Executive Committee

26-2/7 – Medan, Indonesia (FC)

- Leadership Training Course
- Basic Officers' Training Course

28-6/7 – Medan, Indonesia (LT)

- Basic Officers' Training Course
- BBI General Council Meeting & Officers Retreat

BB ASIA

Purpose

BB Asia has been formed out of a desire to maintain the unity, purpose and specific character of The Boys' Brigade everywhere. It came into being to give The Boys' Brigade an international organisation which would advance its growth, interest and cause.

Objects

The objects of BB Asia are:

- to promote the development and extension of The Boys' Brigade to new fields and territories.
- to strengthen the work of The Boys' Brigade internationally and within each member country
- to help its members to develop and adapt their respective programmes to the needs arising out of the conditions in which young people live and work
- to develop sympathy, understanding, and cooperation among all its members.

BB Asia Executive Committee 2009-2010

Mr Michael Moorthy (President)
Mr Sunny Wu (Vice-President I)
Mr Tan Kok Heng (Vice-President II)
Mr Lim K Tham (General Secretary)
Mr Albert Ching (Asst. General Secretary)
Mr Tye Yew Meng (Treasurer)
Ms Eva Kong (Executive Member)
Ms Resien Chiu (Executive Member)
Mr Ong Teong Hoon (Executive Member)
Rev Dr Li Ping-Kwong (Chaplain)
Rev Richard Tok (Asst. Chaplain)

BB Asia Secretariat

Mr Francis Chiong (Executive Secretary)
Mr Lawrence Tay (Executive Secretary)

Disclamation:

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of The Boys' Brigade Asia.

CONTACT US

If you wish to receive or send Across Asia to a friend or friends, just drop us an email stating the individual's name and email address.

We gladly welcome comments, news, announcements, prayer items, articles, photographs etc.

(Kindly note that we reserve the right to edit or not to publish any contribution deemed unsuitable.)