

Arise!

Newsletter of the Rise Up Men of God Ministry
OCTOBER 2023 • ISSUE 5



**RISE UP
MEN OF GOD
MINISTRY**

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Online Archives

Missed a recent issue of Arise! or want to revisit a previous RMG article? The digital editions can be accessed at <https://calvarypandan.sg/fellowship-groups/rmg>



Editorial



Rememberance

By the grace and providence of God, the Rise Up Men of God (RMG) ministry was raised and sustained by the LORD since her inception on 20th July 2021 at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On that particular Tuesday Public Holiday morning on 20th July 2021, over 120 men gathered in church and in groups of 5 at various homes in the face of the rapid rise of the Covid-19 Delta variant. The LORD richly rewarded the faith of these men that day.

As the men returned home from various cafes and homes after fellowship lunch in groups of 5 that afternoon, they received the government announcement that Singapore will revert to Covid-19 Phase 2 Heightened Alert measures on 22nd July 2021.

Phase 2 Heightened Alert meant a reduction in congregational gathering in churches, a limit of home visitors to 2 per day and no dining-in at F&B establishments. The inaugural RMG meeting would not have been possible under the Phase 2 Heightened Alert. Indeed, the RMG could only have been inaugurated by the all-providential hand of God.

“ Remembrance is the hallmark of gratitude.

In the words of our late founding pastor, Dr. Tow Siang Hwa “Remembrance is the hallmark of gratitude”. As the RMG recently celebrated her 2nd thanksgiving anniversary on 29th July 2023, it is fitting that the Hand of God in raising this ministry is recounted and retold, lest we forget.

For such a time as this

The 21st century that we live in today is the last of the last days. Since the start of the last days that was heralded by the 1st coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the global signs of natural calamities, political unrest, economic turmoil, wars and the moral decay of societies around the world have continued to take place rapidly before our very eyes.

The average man today can be suitably described as “*lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers*

of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” (2 Tim 3:2-5). These last of the last days are the perilous times that the Bible has forewarn us about. (2 Tim 3:1)

The RMG is a new ministry raised in these last days for such a time as this because “*iniquity shall abound, [and] the love of many shall wax cold.”* (Matt 24:12)

The mission of the RMG is to wake slumbering spirits, revive hearts that have grown cold, and rescue men (and their families) languishing and perishing in their sin and carnality. Her mission is to build up godly and spiritual Christian men, husbands, and fathers in the Lord.

Men of God

It is not too far fetched to compare the spiritual declension of Judah culminating in their captivity in Babylon during the days of Ezekiel with the church of God today. The world has crept into Christian families and the church. Christian homes and churches battle falsehood, worldliness, human philosophies, and carnality on all fronts.

“*And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”* (Ezek 22:30)

Ezekiel’s conclusion was a sad indictment of the Jewish men of God in his day. There was none who rose up to be counted. There was none who would stand in the gap to intercede for himself, his family,

and his nation before the LORD. There was none who was willing to make up the hedge and avert the judgement of God against sin by godly sincere repentance, earnest prayer and reformation of his life, his home and his nation.

Alas! In the dark days of Ezekiel, there was no such man of God to be found. The judgement of God was swiftly delivered.

On the other hand, there were men of God aplenty during the dark ages of the Roman Catholic church in the 15th Century. These faithful and courageous men of God ignited the flame of the 16th Century Reformation, and whose fruits and spiritual legacy we inherit and enjoy up till this day.

How about today? Is there any hope left for the 21st Century Reformation that our spiritual forefathers of the Bible-Presbyterian movement started about 50 years ago? Are there men of God to be found amongst us today? Or are there none? I pray and hope there are.

It is my prayer that the Word of God and the various articles in this 5th issue of Arise! would stir the flame of love toward God in your heart. May men of God Arise! May they be found aplenty today and be counted in these perilous times of the last days! ❀

As usual, if you have a testimony to share or any feedback on how we can improve to cater to you or your family's spiritual needs, please do not hesitate to email Dn. Adrian (hiswayisperfectforme@gmail.com) or Dn. Simon (chuahan-yong@gmail.com)



RISE UP MEN OF GOD MINISTRY

*"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
Let all your things be done with charity."*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

MISSION

Building up godly and spiritual Christian men, husbands, and fathers in the Lord

OBJECTIVES

A Bible-based and Christ-centered ministry to help Christian men, husbands, and fathers to:

1. Be skillful in the Word of God and strong in their faith
2. Be godly heads of homes to lead their wives and children to follow Christ
3. Encourage, sharpen, and provoke one another unto love and good works

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9 am - 12.30pm

Calvary Pandan B-P Church, Main Sanctuary

OUR SANCTIFICATION:

Renewing minds, Reforming hearts and Transforming lives

2023

13 November (PH)

Our Sanctification - the work of Scripture

John 17 : 6-19

2024

1 Jan (PH)

Our Sanctification - the will of God

1 Thessalonians 4 : 1-12

10 April (PH)

Be ye holy; for I am holy

1 Peter 1 : 13-21

31 August

Meet for the Master's use

2 Timothy 2 : 14-26

31 October (PH)

Ready always to give an answer

1 Peter 3 : 8-22



In Understanding Be Men

(1 Timothy 4:16)

The Light of Scripture and Creation

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” Rom 1:20

God speaks to man directly through His revealed Word – the Holy Scriptures – as well as indirectly through the work of creation. The Bible is the full and final revelation of God to man.

God’s revelation through creation manifestly demonstrates His existence, wisdom, and power so that men are without excuse.

Light without sight

However, light without sight cannot still be perceived. There is no lack of clarity

in God’s natural revelation of creation. It is clearly seen and understood. It is man who is blind and cannot perceive.

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.” (Romans 1:21-23)

Evolution

Evolution is a vile lie that changes the design of creation, and the order of the universe and of life.

“ In viewing the world around us, we must also exercise faith and have our spiritual senses likewise exercised.

Evolution is a term used rather interchangeably with Darwinism, named after Charles Darwin. Charles Darwin, in his original formulation of the first edition of “On the Origin of Species” written in 1859, designates a distinctive form of evolutionary explanation for the history and diversity of life on earth. Amongst the 5 major philosophical themes, he proposes ‘probability and chance’, ‘nature, power and scope of selection’, and ‘adaptation and teleology’, amongst others.

In Genesis 1, God said “*Let us make man in our image.*” In rejecting God and professing themselves to be wise (and wiser than God), wicked sinners now say “let us make God in our own image or the image of other creatures”.

Evolutionists have surreptitiously disrupted the order of creation, and made it intellectually acceptable for men to have “*changed the glory of the uncorruptible God*

into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” and reduce the glory of God into a mere image – which is idolatry! Evolutionists have subtly suggested a reversal of the creation process. Such a distortion will eventually produce idolatry and it has indeed happened!

In viewing the world around us, we must also exercise faith and have our spiritual senses likewise exercised. It is only “*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*” (Hebrews 11:3)

Our study of theology must be mixed with faith, for without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Excerpt from 'Fundamentals of the Christian Faith'

Note: Portions of the text have been edited for clarity and doctrinal accuracy.

Theology Proper IV: The Creative Work of God

WCF IV:1

It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.



Creation of the Physical World

WLC QUESTION 15

Q | What is the work of creation?

A | The work of creation is that wherein God did in the beginning, by the word of his power, make of nothing the world and all things therein for himself, within the space of six days, and all very good.

God created the whole universe *ex nihilo*—out of nothing (Gen 1:1, John 1:3, Col 1:16, Heb 11:3, Amos 4:13, Ps 104:24-26, Rev 4:11), by divine *fiat*—the power of His word (“And God said . . .,” Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26; Ps 33:6, 148:5), in six literal 24-hour days (see John C Whitcomb, *The Early Earth: An Introduction to Biblical Creationism*, 28-32).

Why should the days in Genesis be seen as literal twenty-four-hour days? The reasons are these:

- i) The *numerical adjective* (first, second, third . . .) connected to the word “day” defines what kind of day it is—not figurative as in “day of the Lord,” but

a literal 24-hour day (Gen 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; cf Exod 20:11).

- ii) The qualifying phrase “*evening and morning*” suggests the beginning and suggests the beginning and ending of a day within a 24-hour period (cf Dan 8:26).
- iii) The *fourth commandment* of the Decalogue suggests a 7-day creation of the Decalogue suggests a 7-day creation week (Exod 20:11).
- iv) The word “*days*” is used with the word is used with the word “*years*” in Gen 1:14. For the text in Gen 1:14 to make sense, the words “*days*” and “*years*” must refer to well-defined units of time.

Creation of the Spiritual World

WLC QUESTION 16

Q | How did God create angels?

A | God created all the angels, spirits, immortal, holy, excelling in knowledge, mighty in power, to execute his commandments, and to praise his name, yet subject to change.

Creation of Angels. The Bible does not indicate precisely when the angels were created. However, we know that:

- i) they were not created before the first day (Col 1:16),
- ii) they could not have been created after the 6th day (Gen 1:31), and
- iii) they appear to have been created on the first day (Gen 1:1, Job 38:6-7).

They number in the hundreds of millions (Dan 7:10, Rev 5:11, 9:16).

Nature of Angels. Angels are spiritual, incorporeal creatures (Heb 1:14, Luke 24:39, Matt 22:30, Col 1:16). They are not to be worshipped (Col 2:18-19). They are ministering spirits (Heb 1:14) serving both God (Isa 6, Rev 5:11-12) and man (Ps 91:10-12, Heb 1:14, 1 Kings 19:5-8). They are [masculine in gender] and do not marry (Luke 20:34-36; cf Matt 22:29-30, Mark 12:24-25).

Fall of Angels. The angels were created good and morally perfect (Gen 1:31). Since everything was good and had not turned bad after God had created the whole universe, it is reasonable to conclude that the fall of some angels happened sometime after creation [and before the Fall of man]. It began with an

archangel by the name of Lucifer (Isa 14:12-15, Ezek 28:12-19). Pride was the cause of his downfall (1 Tim 3:6). He became the devil (Matt 13:39, John 8:44, Rev 12:9). Other angels joined him and became demons (Matt 25:41, Jude 6, Rev 12:4). They sinned without remedy (2 Pet 2:4, Jude 6). They are in a state of *confirmed unholiness* and will be cast into the [L]ake of [F]ire to suffer eternal conscious torment (Matt 25:41, Rev 20:10). ❧



Excerpted from *Fundamentals of the Christian Faith. A Reformed and Premillennial Study of Christian Basics* by Jeffrey Khoo. Published by FEBC Bookroom © 1997, 1999 & 2005

Calvary Pandan Bible Presbyterian Church

CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"
(Rom 10:17)

Every 1st Saturday
of every month at 5pm

Current Theme:

Christ's Family, We Are!



Testimonies

The following testimonies were shared at the RMG 2nd Anniversary Thanksgiving Meeting held on 29th July 2023

Bro. Edmund Tan

Good morning brethren, I thank God for the opportunity to share a few words during the 2nd anniversary of our Rise Up Men of God ministry. My name is Edmund and I'm married to Liling. We have [two] boys - Daryl, the older brother, is 18 while Dylan is 17 years old. Both my kids grew up in church and were already in their mid-teens when the RMG ministry was started back in July 2021. As many of you are aware, it's a totally different challenge bringing up children in their teenage years. I was constantly praying for God's guidance for my wife and myself to be good Christian parents and to bring our children up to be faithful, God-loving, and God-fearing men. For me, the RMG ministry has provided me with a constant source of counsel and encouragement through the many messages,

pastoral sessions, discussions, and lunch fellowship. Through these, I have grown much and have learnt more of bringing up children as God has instructed us in the Bible.

It has not been easy dealing with teenage angst so please allow me to share with you two verses that have been my constant guide:

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
(Ephesians 6:4)

“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”
(Colossians 3:21)

In both of these verses, the instruction for fathers to “provoke not your children” is there and frequently resonates in my mind.

I grew up in a home with traditional Asian parents who are not believers. From young, we were taught to respect our elders and their authority through harsh punishments. I never knew how my parents established their “rule book” and without God’s word to guide me, I simply responded in whatever way I felt was right, oftentimes creating much disharmony with my parents. I have lost count on the number of times I disagreed with my father and got really angry because of hurtful words. Yet as a father and a believer, I, too, had made many such mistakes on numerous occasions and provoked my own children rather than bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This is probably because I had lived a large part of my life in a home with no believers and so it has not been easy to do as our Lord has instructed. However, thank God for His Word, His salvation grace and work in my life. By God’s grace and with His help, I believe that I’m improving, and besides constant prayers, the frequent reminders through the messages at RMG have definitely helped me change.

I thank God also for our brethren for their labour of love on the RMG Telegram group and I encourage those who have not subscribed to do so soon as it is not only a channel to receive RMG activities, it is also a valuable source of messages and articles for our own spiritual feeding as Christian men, husbands, and fathers in the Lord.

Before I end off, I would like to share another verse:

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

I pray that God will continue to prosper the RMG ministry, to help us grow spiritually as men of God and provide a godly environment to enable us to help and encourage one another at various stages of our lives.

God bless! ✝

Bro. Dylan Tan

Good morning, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Before I begin my sharing, I would like to thank God for giving me this opportunity to share my testimony. Thank God for also guiding me throughout the preparation of this testimony.

Now, I would like to begin by sharing the precious blessings that I have received from the LORD through the RMG ministry. I started attending RMG at the beginning of 2023, and therefore I have been blessed with the preaching of God’s word with regards to this year’s theme— Our Sanctification. From these messages, I have learnt more about how important sanctification is to grow spiritually stronger. I have also learnt about the heavy but necessary work of sanctification in our lives and other important doctrines. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to learn and understand these doctrines, and I believe they will help me to be a better Christian son to my parents as I seek to

sanctify myself continually to grow spiritually stronger.

“**As men of God, may we first strive to run far away from sin and always pursue after what God wants us to follow.**

I also found the activities after the messages to be edifying for me. Two activities I attended were an activity on apologetics named “ready to give an answer”, and also pastoral counsel, which was something like a QnA. Both of these really edified me as they led me to consider topics that I might not have considered in enough detail, and understand the correct biblical perspective of these topics. In addition to the activities I have mentioned so far, I also enjoyed the fellowship lunch that was held as I was able to spend more time with Christian brethren. On one occasion, I spent the time during fellowship lunch eating with some friends from the Youth Fellowship, and it was indeed enjoyable to talk about what was going on in each other’s lives so that we may bear one another’s burdens.

Before I end my sharing, I would like to share a few verses of encouragement, taken from 1 Timothy 6:9-12. Verses 9 and 10 will be more for context, while verses 11 and 12 will be the main focus.

“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. [emphasis added]”
(1 Timothy 6:9-12)

As men of God, may we first strive to run far away from sin and always pursue after what God wants us to follow. Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Fleeing sin and pursuing after what God wants us to follow always comes together. It is impossible for us to escape sin if we do not flee in the direction God has given. Neither is it possible for us to run on the path God wants us to follow but hold on to sin. Secondly, let our focus be upon fighting the good fight of faith, for this fight has a good cause. It is not a fight focused on the temporal and carnal, but focused on the furtherance of God’s eternal kingdom and the edification of the saints. Therefore, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with

patience the race that is set before us. God bless. ✨

Bro. Jaylen Ong

Thank God for the opportunity to share my testimony about how RMG Ministry has been a great blessing to me. Firstly, I thank God for His grace and mercy in saving me through Jesus Christ, who calls me to be a man of God. I am thankful for the establishment of the RMG Ministry, as it provides a platform for Christian men to come together, learn God's Word, and share in fellowship. Through this ministry, we are able to gain a deeper understanding of what it truly means to be Men of God.

“**The challenge is the living - applying what I know into my own life.**”

In RMG, I have learned the significance of being a man of God. It involves standing up for Christ and being a witness for Him in all aspects of my life. This is particularly important within my own home, where I am the only Christian. It

is crucial for my unbelieving parents and loved ones to witness Christ in me. I must strive to live a holy life in accordance with Scripture, and I am grateful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who helps me understand spiritual truths.

However, knowing is only the first part. The challenge is the living - applying what I know into my own life. There are times when I often find myself struggling with sins and moments of doubt, failing to pray without ceasing and relying on my own strength and wisdom instead of seeking God's help.

I thank God for the RMG messages that have rebuked me, highlighting that without repentance and the forsaking of sin, I cannot expect God to use me to be a holy witness to my loved ones. I acknowledge my failures before God and my unsaved loved ones. I realize how spiritually weak I am and it impresses upon me the importance of constantly feeding my soul by maintaining my daily quiet time with God to be spiritually strong. I hope and pray that I can be a holy vessel fit for God's use, to be the salt and light in this world, so that my loved ones can be saved as soon as possible according to God's timing and that I can be a blessing to God's people.

My prayer is that more brethren, Men of God, would join us in studying God's Word together, so that they too may

SERMON for the **DAY**

Listen to a sermon a day and be spiritually nourished! Subscribers will receive a link to an audio sermon each weekday, Monday to Friday.



@SERMON4DAY

become spiritually strong and useful to God in their homes, churches, and every aspect of their lives.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank God for the privilege of serving in RMG. I remember the first RMG meeting when I first started serving as an usher, and subsequently also in the F&B committee in subsequent meetings.

In the F&B team, we assist in sourcing for caterers and ensuring that the brethren are well-fed physically after their spiritual feeding. We are delighted and grateful to God to see many brethren being able to come together to fellowship and share the spiritual lessons we learned over lunch.

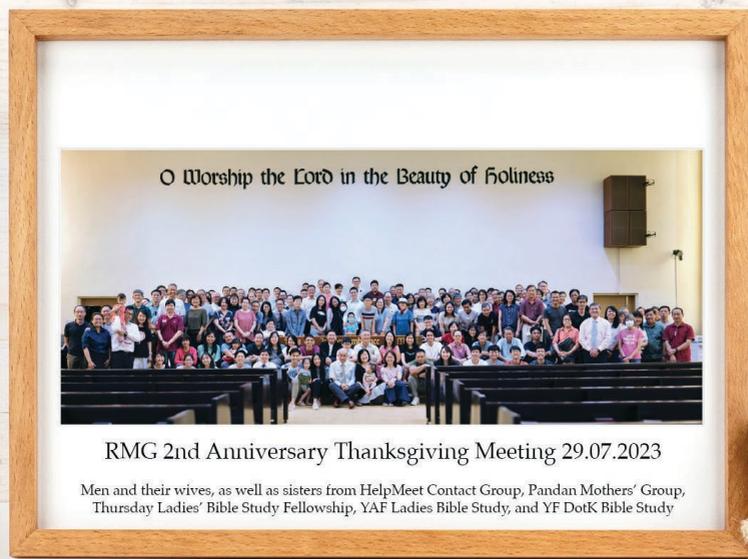
It is always a joy to serve with like-minded brethren in unity and with one mind in Christ, giving the best of our ability to serve God. I encourage more

brethren to be willing to step up and serve God in any capacity wherever God has called you in the various church ministries, because after salvation, God will give us at least one spiritual gift to serve Him and be a blessing to God's people.

I always resonate with our church verse,

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
(Matthew 20:28)

On this blessed 2nd anniversary, I pray that God will continue to bless the RMG Ministry and empower it to be a channel of blessing to Christian men and their families, as well as the church family. Thank you. ✝



Fellowship Outing to Kelong Acheh

With much expectancy,
27 men and 2 children
from RMG assembled at
church on 11 Aug 2023 at
0715hrs...



chill

fellowship

... We shared all kinds
of experiences such
as our past military
training and incidents,
our jobs, families, and
interests; I got to know
some of my brothers-
in-Christ better...



makan



fishing



bonding



skill



singspiration



thrill

... Singspiration
ended at around
2115hrs, and we
were told to have
a good night rest.
And so, we did...
through more
fellowship and
fishing!

We had a smooth and
safe journey throughout,
and totally enjoyed
the activities including
fishing, Singspiration, both
physical and spiritual
food from Gods Word, and
also the sweet Christian
fellowship that we had.



wish
you were
here!

Read the
whole story
by Bro Allan
Seah at RMG's
Telegram
Community.



©RISEUPMENOF GOD



Christian Friendship and Fellowship

(Proverbs 18:24)

Dr. Arthur Edward Steele and Rev. (Dr.) Timothy Tow Siang Hui were both born in 1920. They were Bible-Presbyterian ministers since the 1950s till they were called home to glory in 2011 and 2009 respectively. Both had been the objects of their parent's (and mother's in the case of Rev. Tow) dedication to the Lord's service when they were a child.

Dr. Steele and Rev. Tow received their theological training at Faith Theological seminary, and were classmates in 1958-1959 when they graduated with the Masters of Divinity and Masters of Sacred Theology respectively.

Counted amongst the other notable stalwarts of the 20th Century Reformation such as Dr. John Gresham Machen, Dr. Carl McIntire, Dr. James Oliver Buswell, Dr. Allan MacRae who went before them,

these 2 men courageously and faithfully led the fundamentalist separatist stand in America and Singapore under the Bible-Presbyterian movement that was first raised by the LORD in 1937 in America.

It was the LORD's providence that He prepared 2 kindred spirits who were like-minded in heart and doctrine to meet and study His Word at Faith Theological Seminary in 1958.

Dr. Steele was a trained chemical engineer who served in the Corps of Engineers Research and Development Board in the United States army during the Second World War before he was enrolled in Faith Theological Seminary in 1956. Meanwhile, Rev. Tow returned to his alma mater in 1958 for further training after having been earlier trained there and ordained as a minister of the Gospel in 1950.

“ In the case of Dr. Steele and Rev. Tow, these two men could walk together because they were agreed on the Bible.

In the words of Dr. Steele “The companionship I developed when Timothy Tow arrived was of a great help to me in stabilising my own commitment to the Lord. We talked often. My wife and I brought him to our home in Philadelphia for dinner and fellowship with our family. Our fellowship was precious and more valuable than any could ever know.”

In his memoirs also published in *The Burning Bush*, Dr. Steele also commented, “The Lord used Dr. Timothy Tow so often through the years to encourage me in my ministry.”

In life, a man finds a good thing if he finds a wife, and obtains favour of the

LORD. (Proverbs 18:22) A man is also blessed indeed if the LORD provides a godly Christian friend in his life just like David and Jonathan were to each other. (1 Samuel 18:3)

The strength of friendships are frequently tried and tested by geographical and physical separation. This brings to mind the Chinese proverb “海内存知己，天涯若比邻”. In other words, the bonds of bosom friendship are strong enough to bring distant lands near. This is the strength of friendship in the eyes of man – strong enough to bring distant lands together. What more a threefold cord, for it is not quickly broken! (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Indeed, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” (Amos 3:3) The Chinese have another saying which conveys the meaning of this verse well “道不同，不相为谋”. In other words, men of different principles and convictions cannot work together.

In the case of Dr. Steele and Rev. Tow, these two men could walk together because they were agreed on the Bible. They walked by the same rule and minded the same thing. In fact, they were each so consumed in their ministries for the LORD in America and Singapore respectively that they had not kept contact for 27 years from 1961 till 1988. Yet, they continued to have the same heart and mind even after 27 years when they reconnected. They had the mind of Christ that can only be produced by the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

After handing over the presidency of Clearwater Christian College to Dr.



Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC)

“ The foundation of Christian friendships and fellowship is the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.

George Youstra at the end of 1986, Dr. Steele retired from his duties in America from 1987 but still had much fire in his [bones] for the Lord’s work. The Lord sent Rev. Tow into his life again at this juncture. Rev. Tow invited Dr. Steele in 1988 to teach Modern Religious Issues, which was renamed Contemporary Theology, at Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC).

How do we view our friends and friendships in our lives? Are we of any spiritual good and help to our friends or

are our so-called Christian friendships and fellowships merely primarily and solely built around all things physical and material e.g. food, exercise, games, outings, social classes, educational background, work industries, children and other common interests. If that is the case, they are no different from the friendships and fellowships of the world.

The foundation of Christian friendships and fellowship is the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. We share a common love for the Saviour and His Word. The unity we have in Christ does not mean we cannot have differences in ideology about education or politics, or preferences in food and recreation. In life, there will always be diversity because all of us are created unique and different. Yet, we are united in Christ and His Word, and have Christian fellowship with one another in Christ.

This is why while it is perfectly fine to enjoy a meal or an outing with like-minded believers, Christians do not have to build or strengthen their ties of friendship merely through such common interests or preferences.

The unity in the Gospel of Christ does not refer to a mere outward form of uniformity. There can be diversities in many ways, but unity in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Holy Scriptures.

Read on from the memoirs of Dr. Arthur Steele (The Burning Bush January 2008) and in the The Burning Bush (July 2000) dedicated to Rev. Tow on his 50th year as founding pastor of Life B-P church and 80th year of life. Here, we catch a glimpse of this contemporary David-Jonathan friendship, and how used them to be a blessing to each other and to many of God's people up till this day!

was, I knew that the Lord had sent him also to minister to me during that particularly critical time in my ministry.

Timothy Tow started in law. I started out in engineering. When I was near death as a little boy, my parents prayed and promised to dedicate me to the Lord's service if the Lord restored my health. Timothy Tow is also the object of his mother's prayer of dedication.

“ The companionship I developed when Timothy Tow arrived was of a great help to me in stabilising my own commitment to the Lord.

Back in those days, while a student at seminary seated alongside younger students, most freshly out of college, I wondered what right I had at age 36 to be in the same company as those young men and women who so obviously seemed called to the Lord's service. The companionship I developed when Timothy Tow arrived was of a great help to me in stabilising my own commitment to the Lord. We talked often. My wife and I brought him to our home in Philadelphia for dinner and fellowship with our family. Our fellowship was precious and more valuable than any could ever know.

Excerpts from

'The Burning Bush, Vol 6 No. 2' and 'The Burning Bush, Vol 14 No.1'

Note: Portions of the text have been edited for clarity and doctrinal accuracy

In 1958 I was a third-year student at Faith Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. I was then 38 years old and so was Timothy Tow. Timothy Tow had already graduated from the Seminary in 1948 when it was located in Wilmington, Delaware. The Lord directed him to return to Faith Seminary in 1958 for graduate work for further preparation for the pastoral, teaching, and administrative ministry the Lord had given him. True as that

In 1961, I had the privilege of visiting Singapore with the General Secretary of the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions. We were en route as observers to the 1961 General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, India. Again, this visit in Singapore was in the providence of the Lord. Timothy Tow expressed his heart's desire with a sense of urgency during that visit. His heart's desire was to spread the Gospel in the Far East. He saw the need for preachers and missionaries to carry the Gospel to the wide-open field in that part of the world. He expressed his burden and desire to the General Secretary of the mission board who promised to help by providing interim faculty for a proposed training college in Singapore. I was there only as a visitor, but I assure you, I was an observer and taking it all in, again in the Lord's providence. ...

“ When Timothy Tow heard of my retirement, he wrote me a timely letter, again in the providence of the Lord.

Over the next 27 years from 1961 to 1988, my contacts with Timothy Tow in person were almost non-existent. However, we kept in touch in spirit. I continued to receive the weekly reports from his church with the accounts

of his church ministry and its outreach. Of particular interest was the beginning of the Far Eastern Bible College, which enrolled its first class on September 17, 1962. Clearwater Christian College began four years later with our opening date also September 17. Our first class was small and could not fill one row in the classroom. I can state that I did not receive a great deal of encouragement from very many friends in those beginning days. I thought of Timothy Tow who also started with a very small enrolment, but he kept going. How faithful the Lord is. Both FEBC and CCC have continued and have grown with graduates in many parts of the world.

For me, 1987 seemed like a year in the desert. I had retired at the end of 1986. The full schedule of speaking engagements, such as conferences, summer camps, commencements, and pulpit supply, seemed to evaporate, again, all in the Lord's providence. It was important for the school and church groups to hear from the new president the Lord called to Clearwater. I was 67 years old, again the same age as Timothy Tow.

With my speaking engagements quickly coming to a halt in 1987, I prepared myself for the “retired life” which is so evident in this part of Florida. I was not exactly looking forward to that lifestyle. When Timothy Tow heard of my retirement, he wrote me a timely letter, again in the providence of the Lord. After a lonely year in 1987, I was ready to receive it. It was an invitation to come and teach at the Far Eastern Bible College in the fall of 1988. Timothy Tow knew of the course on Modern Religious Issues, which I had taught for so many years at Clearwater. He renamed the course Contemporary Theology, and put me

on the schedule. When my wife and I arrived in Singapore with a royal welcome, we knew the Lord had called us to this special ministry. How gracious He is. After our arrival, Timothy Tow asked me to speak at the Christian workers conference to be held in Malaysia to the north. I told him I had not held many weeklong meetings, but did have one series on Elijah the Prophet. Without any hesitation, he stated, “You will speak on Elijah the Prophet of fire and I will speak on Elisha the Prophet of water.” We had a tremendous time of fellowship at the conference and fell in love with those dear Chinese people and the many others in those Asian countries. ...

“ ... my wife Dolores and I have especially enjoyed the many times of fellowship with Timothy and his dear wife Ivy.

Dolores [Dr. Steele’ wife] also had a ministry in Singapore. First of all, the students were anxious to talk to Dolores about anything. She was a profitable counsellor always focused on the student’s personal relationship with the Lord. She taught English in a unique way to Marilyn Nanta, a native from Borneo. Marilyn had a Bible in her own language and she had studied it well. Dolores, knowing the KJV well, was able to teach her some English using the two Bibles.

In 1993, Dr. Timothy Tow again invited us to visit Singapore and our many friends there, without any teaching assignments, even if that would have been a possibility. We both liked the idea and booked a flight, which did not take place. Dolores suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. ...

Timothy Tow and I approach age 80 this year 2000. We are one year closer to being with the Lord. When my teaching and preaching schedule seems a bit heavy, I often think of Timothy Tow and his schedule and his zeal. I read each message that he continues to publish in his weekly church bulletins. I will always be grateful to the Lord, as Paul said to Timothy, “*that he counted me faithful putting me into the ministry*” (1 Tim 1:12). I am also grateful to the Lord for His faithful servants who have been such an encouragement to me along the way. I would like to add that the wife the Lord gave me would say Amen to all that I have said. It is important to add that during our memorable and precious days in Singapore, my wife Dolores and I have especially enjoyed the many times of fellowship with Timothy and his dear wife Ivy. We were privileged to have their daughter Jemima stay in our home when she attended Clearwater Christian College.

We were further honoured when our home in Clearwater, Florida, became the headquarters for the Tows when Jemima and Jeffrey Khoo were married. The Lord is good. ...

When in 2004 I received an invitation to speak at the commencement of the Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore, I was greatly moved to be asked. This was the first year when the college would award the learned Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) degree. I



Das Koshy conferred Th.D.



Suan-Yew Quek conferred Th.D.

knew well the two candidates for the degrees. I prayed much for the right message. I decided to write out my message to avoid leaving out some part of my three points emphasized in the Call of Moses.

Here are the three points:

- i) The call of Moses as God’s prophet and servant as well as our call to the ministry comes from the highest possible source, from the very Designer and Creator of the heavens and the earth and all of life.
- ii) God means what He says, irrespective of the short-lived criteria in the logic of Moses and Aaron.
- iii) God is always right, as Moses eventually realized and declared. ...

Dr. Timothy Tow, founder of the Far Eastern Bible College, asked if I, at my age and health, could deliver the commencement address on May 8, 2005. Timothy Tow and I are exactly the same age, right now, as I write this, both at 86. We were both at age [38] when we were students at Faith Theological

Seminary; Timothy working on his advanced degree and I working on my Master of Divinity (M.Div.). I readily agreed to come and with that I agreed to many speaking engagements, including a very special one for the entire student body of the College to be held at the resort town of Mersing in Malaysia. It was here that I found many opportunities to give a testimony of the Lord’s care and faithfulness over the years. The examples were a blessing each time I told them. At the day’s end, the devotional times were especially precious. ☞



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Christian Counselling

(2 Corinthians 2:3-4)

Christian men are frequently called to take on many different roles and callings in our lives. One of them is to be a counsellor – to counsel our wives, our children, our friends, our co-labourers in the ministries, and even strangers who may pour out their heart and burdens to us.

We do not know when we may be called upon to counsel. But we must be ready in season and out of season to explain the Scriptures. This is because Christian counselling always involves the prescription of Scripture, for the Scriptures are applicable to every aspect of life and are able to satisfy every need.

Simply put, Christian counselling is to give the wise counsel of the LORD, and the counsel of the LORD is found in the Holy Scriptures.

The qualification of a Christian counsellor is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Scriptures. This means all born-again believers qualify as Christian counsellors since all believers have both the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and also the power Word of God in our hearts and hands!

However, to be ready to counsel and dispense God's Word necessitates that the counsellor (us) be found in God's Word daily.

In many aspects, the practice of medicine is like counselling. The difference is that the practice of medicine treats the physical body, while biblical counselling treats both the body and spirit!

Like patients who can present with ailments of all sorts at any and every hour of the day, people with a myriad of needs and burdens can also present themselves anytime and in various situations and circumstances with all manner of problems!

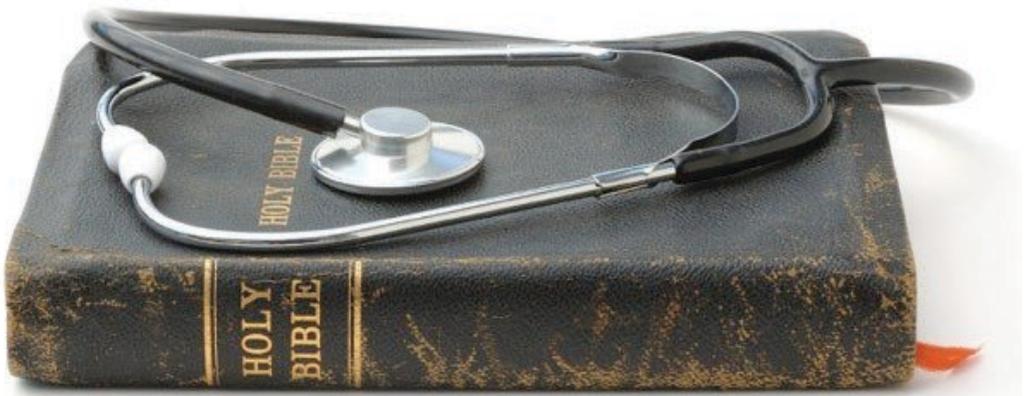
Similar to physicians who prescribe medications and do surgery, the counsellor is the one who must correctly diagnose and prescribe the correct spiritual tonic from God's Word for every different situation. But both in the prescription of medication and of God's Word, God is the One that does the healing and restoration!

To be of any use to his patient, the good physician must first and foremost be able to arrive at the correct diagnosis. Arriving at the correct diagnosis is probably the most important aspect of medical practice, because a wrong diagnosis will

lead to wrong treatment. In the case of misdiagnosis, the patient will continue to suffer because he is unable to receive the right treatment for his ailment. Worse still, he may suffer complications and even die from the wrong treatment. The attending doctor cannot plead ignorance. He is responsible, and liable for malpractice and negligence.

It is the author's view that the Christian counsellor must also get his diagnosis correct. The counsellor ought not to be hasty and presumptuous to arrive at a diagnosis before carefully hearing the complaints and understanding the situation in each case, lest he misdiagnose to the hurt of those who seek and are in need of his counsel.

The physician must have his physical senses exercised in order to discern and diagnose. His powers of observation – sight, hearing, smell and touch – must all be sharp to pick up every available clue that will aid him in his diagnosis. His heart must be tuned to detect sorrow,



melancholy or grief, and his mind must also be alert and perceptive to harmonise and synthesise all his findings in order to arrive at a reasonable diagnosis.

The good physician will proceed to consider the available treatment options, and prescribe what he thinks is most suitable for the particular patient sitting opposite his table.

“ Counselling is a spiritual work and exercise that can only be done with a good knowledge and understanding of Scriptures, directed by the work of the Holy Spirit.

In similar fashion, the Christian counsellor's spiritual senses must be sharpened like the physician's physical senses. His spiritual sensitivity, sight, hearing, appetite and touch must first be heightened through a close walk with the LORD by studying the Bible diligently and unceasing prayer in order to grow spiritually himself. Counselling is a spiritual work and exercise that can only be done with a good knowledge and understanding of Scriptures, directed by the work of the Holy Spirit.

The counsellor, like the good physician, must dispense the right tonic for the right ailment. God's Word is pluripotent and has infinite power to cure, heal and strengthen all manner of maladies, melancholies and madness. Just like Paracetamol for fever and chemotherapy for cancer - it must be prescribed accordingly!

However, it must be said that the medical doctor undergoes a mere 5 years of medical training, and perhaps several more years of advanced training. On the other hand, the Christian undergoes a lifetime of training in the holy school of sanctification! In his daily rigour of Bible reading, prayer and in his engagement of holy service, he is built up and strengthened in the faith. He draws closer to God and his sensitivity to sin and standard of personal holiness is heightened.

When Christian men are able to counsel, encourage and aid their wives, children, family and friends from the Word of God, how useful we will be in the work of the LORD here on earth!

Biblical counselling is unlike the humanistic psychological counselling methods employed by the world today. But it is readily available to God's children who would seek Him in His Word and in prayer.

Rev. Timothy Tow shares pearls of wisdom in his experience of counselling as pastor. He shares God's mighty working amongst the brethren, and reminds us how the Bible is wonderfully practical and relevant in every problem and every opportunity of our lives.

Read on!

**Excerpt from 'Counselling Recipes
Through 40 Years Pastoring'**

*Note: Portions of the text have been
edited for clarity and doctrinal accuracy.*

With the study of theology that is key to Bible knowledge, a seminary (Bible college) graduate, if he now makes the Bible his lifelong Book, should be able to counsel better than those who use humanistic principles or try to “integrate” those principles with the Bible. In order to counsel well he must read his Bible regularly and meditate in His Law day and night (Psalm 1). Let us who are in the counselling ministry read the Bible through at least once every year! (As the Bible has 1189 chapters we must read over three chapters daily to achieve this.) In the words of Melchior Wolmar, teacher of the Greek Testament to Calvin, “In this book is the answer to every problem, the remedy for every abuse, the rest of every laden soul.”

For the last 44 years as pastor of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church (membership 1,300) I have [had] to counsel countless cases of men and women, old and young, not only with members of my Church but also as many as would seek me for deliverance from the Lord. I do not claim to have an answer for every problem nor the power to cure the soul's diseases. I merely point every client to the Counsellor of counsellors (Isaiah 9:6), even our Saviour Jesus Christ and to His Holy Spirit, the Comforter (John 14:16), who is also called Counsellor (Isaiah 9:6) speaking through the Book. ...

I am on call 24 hours of the day and seven days of the week. But there is a weekly prayer

meeting where members of the church gather on a Tuesday night[, e]specially devout and troubled members. Here they come to meet with the Lord and the elders and deacons pray for them together with the pastor. Lay leaders are also called to pray. As Protestants we need not any priest as in the old Romish system, for Christ is our High Priest, our “*new and living way*” (Hebrews 10:20). Best of all, every member is urged to pray to the Lord by “the new and living way” which is open to one and all. And when the Lord has answered our prayers the persons prayed for would come forward to witness to the same. This is after the good tradition from Dr John Sung during the Great Revival in Singapore, 1935. “*By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name*” (Hebrews 13:15).

“**As we have stated,
our text book for
counselling is
nothing else, but
the Bible.**”

Why do we go only by the book?

As we have stated, our text book for counselling is nothing else, but the Bible. All who use the Bible in counselling are our friends. All who follow puny man, no matter how great he appears to be (Freud was thoroughly exposed in the Straits Times several years ago as a Fraud), we have no truck with them. Nor with

those who try to “integrate”, like mixing oil and water together. The Bible, while being the source book of how man and the world came into being and where he is heading, is primarily the Divine Revelation of his salvation. According to Dr Chia Yu Ming, my teacher in China, the Bible is God’s “All Complete Plan of Salvation” (完全救法). ...

“ As counsellors, our job is simply to bring our patients to Christ the Living Word. It is He who prescribes to us the treatment or recipe given in the Written Word — the Bible.

When a man gets sick, he is not required to study his own case nor to read books on hygiene and nutrition prescribed by the doctor in order to get well. He simply surrenders himself to the doctor’s treatment. As counsellors, our job is simply to bring our patients to Christ the Living Word. It is [H]e who prescribes to us the treatment or recipe given in the Written Word — the Bible. There is no other doctor, there is no other recipe! *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-30). ...

But in order to counsel well from a thorough knowledge of the Bible with good understanding from a proper study of theology, let me emphasise again we must read the Holy Scriptures regularly and meditate in His Law day and night! Like a good pharmacist who knows in and out where all the drugs are stored, and what medicines are good for what diseases.

“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.” (Psalm 119:97-104)

The Bible is *“a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”* (Psalm 119:105)

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet,
A light to my path always,
To guide and to save me from sin
And show me the heavenly way.
Thy Word have I hid in my heart
That I might not sin against Thee
That I might not sin
That I might not sin
Thy Word have I hid in my heart.

In all our counselling, even on mundane things of everyday life where no question of



morality is involved, we can find an answer from the Bible.

Not by the practice of Bibliomancy, that is, opening the Bible at random and blindly pointing to a verse with closed eyes. (This is worse than telling your fortune by means of a pair of green parakeets trained to pick fortune cards by an Indian [man] at the former K.K. Market.) The story is told of one who did this to find out God's will for his life. He hit on the verse that tells of Judas going out to hang himself (Matthew 27:5). The second time he tried his hand he landed on the verse, "That thou doest, do quickly" (John 13:27). No. To be a good counsellor one must read his Bible [every day] and meditate therein day and night. Like a pharmacist as I have said before, he must know his stock of medicine well and be able to find the right medicine at his [fingertips]. We cannot overemphasize this!

To find an answer even for a simple matter, such as choosing what transport to take to a nearby town, we can have perfect guidance from the Book. When I was a student at Faith Seminary years ago, a classmate by the name of Bob Cator asked me which way of travel

from Wilmington, Delaware to Washington DC was the Lord's will — by train or by bus? My answer was whichever was the most efficient and economical in time and money would be it! God's will is that we must make the best of every situation. "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 4:16).

What are we to eat for lunch? What do you want me to buy from the hawker stall at Newton for you? How am I to determine whether God's will is for me to eat *Char Siu Fan* or *Wan Ton Meen*? Whichever is to your taste, that's it! Read Deuteronomy 14:26 "And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth..." 🌿



Excerpted from [*Counseling Recipes Through 40 Years*](#) by Timothy Tow. Published by Far Eastern Bible College Press © 1994

Proverbs for Christian Living

Excerpt from 'Wang Ming Tao on Temptation'

Fearing God is the foundation of life.
Loving neighbour is the way of living.

Be very sincere in dealing with others.
Be very severe in regulating yourself.

When in poverty, do not cringe.
When in prosperity, be not proud.

Never harbour a spirit of jealousy.
Rejoice with them in prosperity.

Rejoice not at the misfortunes of others.
When others are down, share their troubles.

Don't overtake your neighbour where profit lies ahead.
Don't step backward in the face of common danger.

When you are indebted to others, be ready to confess and redress.
When others are indebted to you, be indulgent and forgiving.



王明道 (July 25, 1900 – July 28, 1991)

When doing good to others, regard that your duty.

When others do good to you, recognise it is by their grace.

Let not any wealth that goes through you, whether big or small, soil your palm.

In making friends with members of either sex, be proper and open.

Do not promise easily.
Having promised, be diligent to fulfil.

Do not borrow at random.
Pay back quickly any loan.

Respect your elders, and elders of others.
Love your children, and children of others.

Let the strong points in others become a pattern to you.
Let the weak points in others be a warning.

Control your temper: be not easily provoked to anger.
Guard your lips; and be slow to speak.

Do not spread any unfounded report.
Do not do anything that fears exposure.

Do not covet the wealth you see in others.
Do not look on with folded arms when others fall.

Bow not nor fawn before people.
Speak no evil behind others' backs.

Be diligent and loyal in serving others,
True and straightforward in your transactions.

Hate evil like snakes and scorpions.
Love neighbours like rare treasures.

Rather lose money than trustworthiness.
Rather lose your life than self-control.

Do not cover up your mistakes,
Nor boast at all of your virtues.

Be always courteous in speech and conduct.
Be always neat and tidy in apparel.

Do not provoke others to hate you,
Nor speak words that irk your hearers.

Absolutely no smoking, no drinking,
no gambling,
Taboo to all seductive make-up.

Think always for the good of others.
Wherever you go, seek God's glory.



Excerpted from [*Wang Ming Tao on Temptations*](#) by Timothy Tow (Translator).
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