

AN INTERVIEW WITH GOSPEL LIGHT'S FOUNDING PASTOR

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In 1995, Pastor Paul Choo sold his medical practice and went into full-time service as Pastor of Gospel Light, the church he founded in 1987. In 2007, he retired from his role as the Senior Pastor to focus on missionary work in numerous Asian countries. Amongst his many exploits, Pastor Paul founded APIBS (Asia-Pacific Institute of Biblical Studies) and Goducate, a non-profit organization helping the poor and training leaders in Asia. In this interview, we asked Pastor Paul some important questions about his ministry and the church in Asia.

1. Describe your call to ministry. When did you know it was God's calling for you to be a Pastor?

I was called to ministry almost from the moment I got saved in April 1980. I immediately shared the Gospel with my wife and then to my friends and patients.

I am not clear when God called me to be a pastor (in the traditional sense of being a full-time “clergy”) but I

believe I was called to shepherd my converts almost from the start of my Christian journey.

I guess I realized that I was called to be pastor (in the traditional sense of the pastor leading an organized church) when my pastor (Dr Peter Ng, Jesus Saves Mission) decided that, since I was already doing the work of pastoring/teaching in the church, that I should be officially examined and ordained into the pastoral ministry on Oct 23, 1984.

2. If you could spend a day with any theologian, missionary or pastor from history, who would that be and why?

No one favourite - probably the following: Apostle Paul, Apostle Thomas who brought Gospel to India, Robert Morrison who brought the Gospel to southern China and Hudson Taylor who brought the Gospel to inland China.

3. What can you tell us about the state of the church in South East Asia? What are some encouragements and concerns you see?

There are two “bright spots” in Southeast Asia - the Philippines and Indonesia.

80% of Filipinos (80+ million) are still Roman Catholic by identity, but the influence of the Roman Catholic Church has waned greatly in the past decade. Filipinos are still God-fearing and know almost everything they

need to know about the Good News, except that they are not aware that salvation is a gift from God, and not from the Roman Catholic Church.

10% of Indonesians (28 million) are Christians by identity. The majority of these Christians still attend church faithfully and believe they are Christians by birth (not regeneration). Therefore, the topic of “you must be born-again” is seldom clearly preached in most of the churches.

It is exciting to know that if the Gospel is clearly preached in these two countries, it will eternally impact the lives of 110 million Filipinos and Indonesians. The other Southeast Asian countries do not present such large numbers of people who are “ripe” for the Gospel.

My main concern for Southeast Asian churches is that they are unaware and unconcerned about the great Gospel opportunities around them.



4. Looking back at your decades of ministry, what has been some of the greatest challenges?

The greatest challenge is to wake Christians to realize that they have the greatest future ever (so they don't need to be too concerned about their present lives) and the greatest privilege of giving the greatest future to thousands/millions of others by sharing the Good News.

This spiritual blindness is a consequence of the intense spiritual battle that is unseen by and “unknown” to most believers!

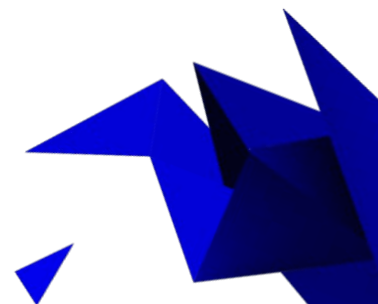
The next challenge is help Christians know that the main thing is to make the main thing the main thing. Jesus commanded us to make disciples, who will make disciples, who will make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). Satan successfully distracts Christians with many good things (including endless bible-studies, interesting church programs)!



5. What in your view is the most pressing issue facing the church in Singapore today?

The Singapore “success story” infects Singapore Christians more than they realize. They are proud to be Singaporeans, and so are unknowingly Singaporeans first and Christians second. Decisions and plans are made to fit the Singaporean-model - highly organized, impressive, compliant. The Christian model is often messy, apparently dis-organized, unimpressive and not compliant to the “letter of the law.” Singaporean Christians cannot impact the wicked corrupt world around them because they believe that everyone else should behave like law-abiding Singaporeans.

Singaporean Christians have the responsibility to reach the nations around us, as we are blessed with the training, resources, credibility and connections, to do so. However, unless we know that Jesus told us “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16) we will be the beautifully self-centered, organized, impressive, compliant church of Singapore, and enjoy the praises of men, but fail to go and make disciples of the many millions of “ripe” people around us and face the judgment of God!





•SEEKERS CLASS

Have you been seeking after God and He feels far away? Have you wondered if God really cares about you? Don't all religions teach you to do good to get to heaven? Perhaps these questions and others have been bugging you. Why not discuss this in a group setting by enrolling in the Seekers class?

Start date: Sun, 25 Aug
Time: 12.15pm – 2.15pm
Course duration: 6 Sundays
Venue: TBC

Register at <https://bit.ly/3SZlihy>.
Registration closes on Sun, 11 Aug.

• EXPOSITORY BIBLE STUDY – GOSPEL OF JOHN

This Tuesday, 30 Jul, we will study John 11:45-57 and learn about the plot to kill Jesus. The Zoom dial-in details for our session are as follows:

Date: Tue, 30 Jul
Time: 8.00pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/3pd7C7T>
Meeting ID: 851 8603 0760
Passcode: 211761

•BAPTISM

Those who have believed in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are encouraged to be baptized. Attendance at Baptism Class is a prerequisite. Submission of written testimonies with completed application forms is a must. Classes are conducted on-site. Register and download application forms via our website at <https://bit.ly/3Ft6DEw>.
Registration closes Sun, 18 Aug.

Baptism Class (English)

Date: Sun, 29 Sep
Time: 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Venue: Hall 2 (L2)

Baptism Class (Chinese)

Date: Sun, 29 Sep
Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm
Venue: Hall 2 (L2)

Baptism Date: Sun, 10 Nov

Venue: Shine Auditorium (L4)

•SILVERJOY (SENIORS) MINISTRY

Every chapter of life is a gift from God. And our ministry for seniors celebrates that gift. SilverJoy isn't just a place for seniors to gather, it's a spiritual community of friendship and support.

Invite your pre-believing friends, neighbours or family members.

Date: 1st & 3rd Wed of the month
Time: 9.45am – 12.30pm
Venue: Connections Corner (L1)

Upcoming events coming your way. Join us!

Contact CE at 9753 7964 for enquiries

Date	Programme
7 th August	Steps in Estate Planning Talk
21 st August	Mid-Autumn Lantern making





CHURCH HAPPENINGS

• CHIT CHAT! (NEWCOMERS EVENT)

Are you new to Gospel Light? Did you discover us through a friend, our online services or social media? We'd love for you to get to know us better! Chit Chat is an informal social session onsite where you get to mingle with our Pastor, Elders and leaders. Ever wondered what kind of church we are and where are our roots? What does our mission and vision statement mean? Save the date and we look forward to a great time of chit chat!

Date: Sun, 18 Aug 2024

Time: 11.45am to 1.15pm

Venue: Gospel Auditorium (L2)

Lunch is provided.

To register, please visit this link <https://bit.ly/3Sa2viF>.

Registration closes Sun, 11 Aug.

If you want to find out more, please write to sue.choo@gospellight.sg.

• EXPLORE CHRISTIANITY

Are you a seeker with doubts or skeptical about the claims of Christianity?

Exploring the faith may seem daunting, but we're here to help! We want you to know the hope of the bible in a broken world.

Explore the truths of the bible in a 4-part 1-to-1 series with a personal facilitator. Be part of a series that has helped many come to understand the message of the bible better.

For more information, email: sue.choo@gospellight.sg or call 9776 1377.

• HANDCHIMES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

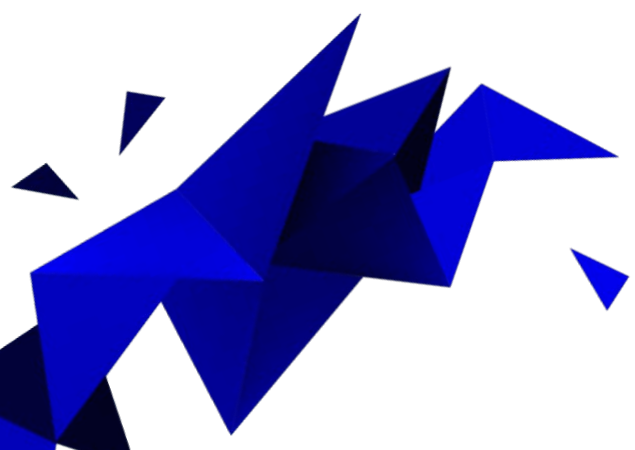
We are looking for volunteers to learn Christmas carols on Handchimes and bless our community with music this Christmas season.

Rehearsals begin on 4 Aug (Sundays)

Time: 12.00pm – 1.30pm

Venue: Light 1 (L3)

Please contact Anne @ 9879 2318 to register and for more details. Registration closes Sun, 11 Aug.





WORSHIP SERVICE

- **Wednesday Prayer Meetings – 8pm**

Venue: Hall 3, Attic

- **Sunday Prayer Meetings – 7:45am**

Venue: Cry Room at Shine Auditorium (L4)

If you are interested to receive our weekly prayer list, please email shine@gospellight.sg

(A)Worship Services

Congregational Service	Day and Time	Livestream Link
English @ Shine Auditorium (L4)	Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am and 12.00pm	https://bit.ly/3SH45uZ (only available at 10.15am)
Chinese @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am	http://bit.ly/2Ng0TXT (only available at 10.15am)
Filipino @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 2.00pm	http://bit.ly/30FjYFU
Youth @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Saturday at 4.30pm No service on 4 th & 5 th week	Subscribe to Youth announcement channel https://t.me/+Yd524QzAjKk2Yzll
Varsity @ Light 1 & 2 (L3)	Sunday at 2.30pm No service on 5 th week	Subscribe to Varsity announcement channel https://t.me/+WDu3myEwijpcxZWU1
Bahasa @ Reception Room (L1)	Alternate Sunday at 10.30am	For more information about our services contact 9628 5061/ 9117 6000
Telugu @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 5.00pm and 7.30pm	http://bit.ly/30G4fXI

(B) Children Services

Children's services are at **8.30am and 10.15am**:

(i) Playgroup (12 months - 35 months): Hall 3 at Attic Level

(ii) Preschool (36 months - 6 years): Eshkol Valley premise at Attic Level

(iii) Primary (Primary 1 to Primary 6): Light Auditorium at Level 3

(iv) Join our Whatsapp community for regular updates: <http://bit.ly/sonshineparents>

(v) Interested to explore serving in in Children's Ministry? Email: children@gospellight.sg



You may give your offerings in the following ways:

1) PayNow

Under the UEN/Bill Reference No. section you can:

- State "NA" - Offering will go towards General Fund
- State "Missions" - To designate the offering

(a) Via "Scan and Pay"

- Open up your bank app and select "Scan and Pay"
- Scan the QR code below:



(b) PayNow UEN

You can also opt to key in the UEN:

S88SS0082AGF1

2) Internet Banking

- Add payee as Gospel Light Christian Church
- Account Number: **033-021695-5**
- Name of Beneficiary Bank: DBS Bank
- Under the Remarks section, you can leave it blank for the offering to go towards the General Fund or indicate Missions if you want to designate the offering.

3) Cheque

- Crossed cheque made payable to "Gospel Light Christian Church"
- On the reverse of the cheque, write **Gospel Light Christian Church** and the respective bank account numbers:
 - General Fund - **033-021695-5**
 - Missions Fund - **001-042653-2**
- Cheques can be deposited at any POSB or DBS bank into the church's accounts.

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