



**THE BOYS' BRIGADE
ASIA**

Bringing You BB News From **Across Asia**

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Issue: 2014/2 (May – August 2014)



Some 1,400 Boys and Girls from various companies throughout Malaysia were in Kampar, Malaysia for five days of good fun and togetherness during the 21st Boys' Brigade National Pesta and Convention, organized by The Boys' Brigade Malaysia! Also present were members from Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Indonesia.

In this issue

- Back To The Future
- 21st Boys' Brigade National Pesta And Convention (Malaysia)
- BN Hong Kong's Sabah Exchange Program 2014
- Why I Stayed In BB – Richard Phoon

WHO'S YOUR BUILDER?

(Adapted from: <https://youthministry360.com/blog/youth-worker-boost-whos-your-builder>)

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.—Psalm 127:1

If you've ever bought a house, you may sometimes wonder about the identity of the builder. Why? In many cases, who the builder was may very well determine how well the house is constructed! You certainly don't want to live in a house made by a poor-quality builder.

Similarly, in Psalm 127, King Solomon reminds us about the importance of having the right builder for our "house" – in our case, the BB ministry. Solomon's excellent advice applies to whether you're building a community, families, a ministry, or even individual relationships. He said the only way to insure whatever it is you're building is right and true is to let God be the builder.

God's plan calls for us to do the work required to "build" the different areas of our lives. But we are builders working under the guiding hand of the Master Builder. If we forget that, our buildings are destined to fail.

Our prayer for you: Our prayer for you today is that you would commit to the "building," but surrender the "blueprints" to God.

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Submit content or volunteer with Across Asia! We welcome comments, news, prayer items, articles, photographs & more. We are always in need of editors, field reporters and layout designers. BB Asia reserves the right to edit or not to publish any contribution deemed unsuitable.

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



BB Asia Updates

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SCHEDULE: MAY-AUGUST 2014

- **May 1, 4:** On leave
- **June 6:** BB Asia EXCO meeting in Malaysia
- **June 27-30:** BB Extension to India
- **August 4-6:** Swatow, China working visit
- **August 7-13:** Hong Kong & Macau working visit
- **August 15:** On leave

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S WORKING DESK



27-30 June 2014 – BB Introductory Seminar in Marthandam, Tamil Nadu, India; with 60 pastors and youth pastors.



7-9 August 2014 – NCOs Leadership Training for 50th Hong Kong & 2nd Macau companies



4-6 August 2014 – Working visit to Swatow, China where the first BB Company in Asia located.



9 August 2014 – BB Cambodia Ministry Introductory Seminar in Hong Kong

HAVE YOU JOINED THE BB ASIA CIRCLE FACEBOOK GROUP?



Are you on Facebook? Want to fellowship with over 6,000 BB Members from across Asia? Want to see the latest pictures and activities of the Boys Brigade in other countries? Well, come and join us in the BB Asia Circle Facebook Group!

Log in to your Facebook account, go to: www.facebook.com/groups/BBAsiaCircle and request to join. If you are a BB (current or former) member, you will be added to the group.

BACK TO THE FUTURE – FRANCIS CHIONG, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, BB ASIA

Many of us may not be aware that the BB was once established in the world's two largest countries by population, India and China.



In India, the BB was established as early as the 19th century. It was recorded that the BB in Calcutta (Kolkata, West Bengal) was active during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and the BB in Dichpalli (Dichpalle, Telangana) was established in 1928. Unfortunately they did not survive the turbulence of India's early days of independence.

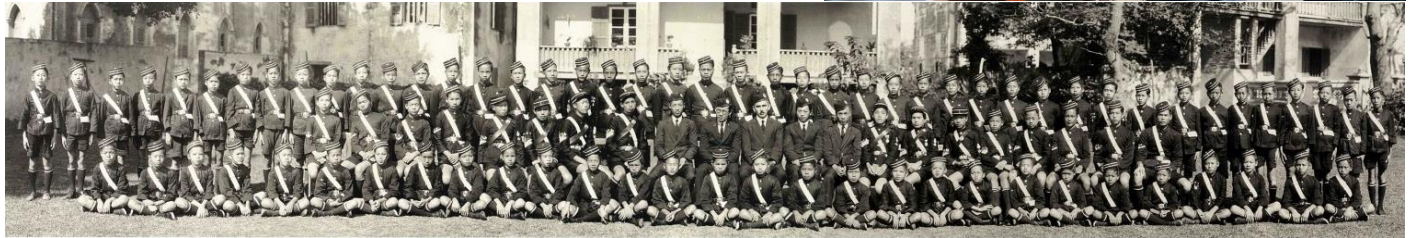
In China, it was recorded that the BB was first established in 1915 by Rev Guthrie Gamble, a missionary from United Kingdom when he landed in Swatow (Shantou) in the province of Guangdong.

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BACK TO THE FUTURE

(Continued from previous page)

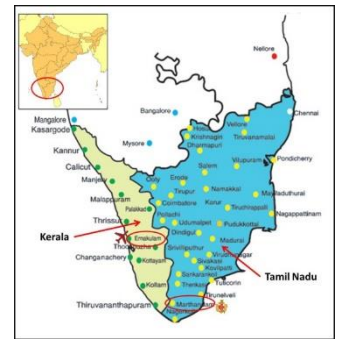
After China came under communist rule, some members of the 1st Swatow Company fled to Southeast Asia. Among them, were two Quek brothers. They met Mr. James Milner Fraser from the United Kingdom and together they started the 1st Singapore Company. The younger brother, who is now 92 years old (photo on the right) lives to tell his story at the opening ceremony of the International Brigade School in Singapore, on 5 November 2013.



It was his story that encouraged us at BB Asia to “Pray Until Something Happens” (P.U.S.H.) so that we can bring the BB ministry back to India and China one day.

With that in mind, on 27 June 2014, I took a flight and landed early morning at 7am in the city of Kochi, Ernakulam, in the state of Kerala, India. I am thankful that, through our Malaysian contact, I was able to connect with a local Indian pastor, Rev Raja Ravi Selvin. He was my chaperone throughout my 4-day stay in India.

With his help, I was able to conduct the first BB Introductory seminar on 28 June 2014 in the town of Marthandam, on the far south of Tamil Nadu state, which is an 8-hour driving from where my flight landed. It is our hope and prayer that the seed sown will bring about the revival of the BB ministry in India one day.



Two months after my trip to India, I was honoured to join three BB officers from 50th Hong Kong Company to visit the city of Shantou (Swatow) in Guangdong province, China on 4-6 August 2014. The visit was made possible with the cooperation from the Christian Church in Shantou West, the church where the former 1st Swatow Company was based. I was also able to visit two important locations of historical significance to the BB: the Parade ground of 1st Swatow Company, which is now occupied by a school; and the Salt Rock Christian Church, with which the 1st Swatow Company Boys were involved in the relief and rescue work in the aftermath of a tsunami and a strong typhoon. A write-up mentioning the BB's involvement in the relief work remains on the stone wall in the church premises. Let us continue to pray that the BB will be re-established in Swatow again one day!



1st Swatow's former Parade Ground, now a school field

1st Swatow's meeting place, now a school teachers' flat

Once 1st Swatow's sponsoring church

Inscription mentioning 1st Swatow's help in relief work



News From Across Asia

MALAYSIA: 21ST BOYS' BRIGADE NATIONAL PESTA AND CONVENTION



Photo credit: *Tim Hui*

The 21st Boys' Brigade National Pesta and Convention took off on a great start with march-pasts and band performances at the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman sports complex in Kampar. Hundreds of Boys and Girls from various companies throughout Malaysia and also from neighbouring countries gave their best despite the scorching sun.

The event opening was graced by Malaysian Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and marked the start of five days of good fun and togetherness for those who had arrived at the former tin mining town in Perak from as far as Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Indonesian participant Rachel Ayu Putri Jauhari, 14, said she was most excited to meet new friends. "This is the first time we are attending such a huge gathering," she said, adding that the Indonesian entourage comprised 56 members from Malang and Jakarta.

Themed "Dream High" to encourage all members to dare realise their dreams through active participation and moving forward in the Boys' Brigade, the event was held at various locations in Kampar, including Utar, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College and Westlake International School. The event also included a city tour of Kampar and Ipoh.

Story adapted from *The Star* (<http://goo.gl/mHTbDT>). For pictures, news, competition results and more, check out the Facebook page here: [facebook.com/bbPesta2014](https://www.facebook.com/bbPesta2014).

THAILAND: NATIONAL TRAINING COURSES



BB Thailand conducted its Basic ("BOTC") and Advance ("AOTC") Officers Training Courses in Apr and May respectively. The training courses equipped both new and seasoned officers with essential ministry skills through interactive classroom sessions as well as outdoor activities. One of the highlights for our AOTC trainees was to use the skills they had acquired to share the BB ministry with parents of potential members on the final day of the training.

MALAYSIA: BB MALAYSIA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – GEORGE LOONG



BB Malaysia has a new Executive Secretary, George Loong - a former BB Boy from 1st Sibul Company which is based in Sarawak, East Malaysia. Prior to his appointment he was working as an Engineer in Kuala Lumpur.

Commenting about his appointment, George said, "Thanks everyone for the support! I will give my very best to serve God and The Boys' Brigade in Malaysia! Please share your advice with me along the way. I'm looking forward to serving with this great big family."

We welcome him to the full-time service of the Brigade and to the BB HQ! Please pray for his ministry with BBM that it will be meaningful and fruitful.

More info: bbmalaysia.org & facebook.com/bbmalyasia.

SINGAPORE: BEST OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE RECOGNISED



Taking a selfie with Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam!

Six recipients were awarded the Boys' Brigade Singapore's highest accolade – The President's Award – by Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam on 14 July.

One winner is Pang Lon Kai from Raffles Institution, who mentors younger Boys. "For me, the most important part is really just creating a meaningful experience for the BB Boys," he said.

Via Channel News Asia: <http://goo.gl/VX7dAU>

MALAYSIA: 4TH MIRI ENROLMENT SUNDAY - ARE WE ON THE LORD'S SIDE OR AGAINST HIM?

It is not uncommon that Christians encounter many confrontations emotionally and spiritually in their daily living. When that happens, it is important to make sure that they are on The Lord's side in their battles, emphasized Rev. Lisa Ting in opening her sermon during the 4th Miri Enrolment Sunday.

The event was held at 4th Miri's Sponsoring Church Grace Methodist, amidst a congregation comprising parents, SIB Rev. Stephen Upai and Rev. Loter Sakai, SIB Miri District Youth Workers Ervina Wong and Fiona Peter, the Boys' Brigade Sarawak State Commissioner Hon. Capt. Lo Hoi Fook and the Boys' Brigade Officers from 5th and 6th Miri.

Using *Joshua 5:13-6:21*, Rev. Lisa preached on Spiritual Victory with three key points: 1) The battle is won by remembering who is in charge, 2) God's methods are always right and 3) Victory is ours if we do not quit. "Today as we learn about the principle of spiritual victory, we need to understand that all of us are in spiritual battle and no one can be exempted. And if we want to win the battle, we need to remember who is in charge," said the pastor-in-charge.

Rev. Lisa pointed out that through his unwavering loyalty and faith in God, Joshua had successfully conquered the Land of Canaan. Joshua had also faithfully followed God's strange instruction for the Battle of Jericho. "In this incident, it really shows us that God's methods are not man's methods but God's methods are always right," explained Rev. Lisa.

"We may have been doing the right things, but simply stop. What about you? Do you just stop one round short in your conquest of your personal Jericho? Or have you walked many rounds? Do not quit or give up. The spiritual victory is coming," encouraged the good Chaplain.

A special award was also given that day. In saving a friend's life, a special award 'The Certificate of Heroism' from The Boys' Brigade In Malaysia was presented to Pte. Jonah Lau by the BB Sarawak State Commissioner Hon. Capt. Lo Hoi Fook in the presence of the applauding congregation. The 14-year-old had performed an act of service deserving of national recognition when he pulled out his drowned friend from a pool and applied CPR on him at a local clubhouse in Miri on Nov 3, 2013.

Lau Buong Hoo and Wong Ngie Ping, proud parents of Pte. Jonah, were visibly humbled and elated with their son's award. "We thank and glorify God for the BB. Years ago in Sib, after we saw the amazing transformation of our mischievous nephew to becoming a church youth leader because he was a BB, we were fully convinced Jonah should join as soon as he was of eligible age," said Wong. "I want to encourage all parents to send their children to BB without any hesitation or reservation."



To Rev. Stephen Upai of SIB, the Enrolment Sunday Service was an eye-opener for the good shepherd. "I'm so glad to be here today. For the first time, I get a better overview of what the BB and GB ministries are about. The Boys and Girls have performed splendidly in their creative skits, bringing across good Christian messages. The personal testimony on character-building by the BB Officer was so heart-warming and inspiring, thank God," Rev. Stephen praised.

Story by James Wong. Photos by Aaron Wong & Abel Wong. First published: <http://gmc.org.my/?p=7323>

HONG KONG: BB SABAH EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2014



From 25th July to 31st July, the BBHK's 37th Company celebrated its 30th Anniversary with an exchange trip to Sabah, Malaysia. In partnership with the Sabah State Council of BB Malaysia, they visited to local BB companies, churches, and places of interests; joining the 2nd Kota Kinabalu Company's 40th anniversary celebrations; and more!

INDONESIA: BOTC & LDC 2014

BB Indonesia recently concluded their Basic Officers Training Course (BOTC) and Leadership Development Course (LDC) District 2014. The BOTC took place at Cinta Alam, Pancur Batu, 27-29 June with 26 participants while the LDC was held on 3-5 July with 80 participants.



THAILAND: COMBINED AWARDS PRESENTATION

The 2nd and 3rd Nakhon Ratchasima Companies held a combined awards presentation at the Korat Phisut Logos Centre on 29 Jun 2014. All the parents and guests present were impressed by the outstanding performances of the members!

More pics: <http://goo.gl/QHxIKu>





WHY I STAYED IN BB – RICHARD PHOON OF THE 12TH KUALA LUMPUR COMPANY, BB MALAYSIA



Oh, it's Friday again! It's time to polish my metal parts and boots again. As I was applying my Brasso, a thought suddenly came into my mind: "Why am I still staying in BB after turning 13?" I thought to myself, "Why all these hassles of polishing uniform parts on a Friday evening? Don't I have better things to do?" After thinking for a while, I finally found why I stayed in BB after my first year.

My name is Richard, and I'm now in my second year in the BB as a Private. Being new to secondary school, I wondered what the Boys' Brigade was all about. As I recalled, we needed to stay back after school during the first and second weekends to attend the Boot Camp. At first, I was confused and felt lonely during the Boot Camp – I just couldn't understand why I should join BB and waste my time on all these camps! During the Boot Camp, I just couldn't find someone to talk to and I felt neglected and almost cried when I went to sleep. All that was in my mind then was that I wanted to just go home. Instead, I gave it another try – though I couldn't really give a reason why I did so. Well, I soon found that reason.

After several parades, I began to understand why. The reason was simple - The BB teaches us self-discipline. As a uniformed organization, we are taught to take care of our uniform properly. This is where discipline comes in. Our NCOs remind us repeatedly that we are required to polish our metal parts and boots every week, otherwise, there we will be disciplined. I stayed in the BB because I found it fun and it reminded me about maintaining discipline in my daily life.

This year, 2014, I came close to forgetting about the BB and what I learned. I really considered quitting BB once and for all, but I found that I just couldn't let BB go. So, why did I stay back and not leave? The reason is because of the bond between my fellow members and I.



You won't realise this, but you actually get to know a lot of people in The Boys' Brigade and you will be famous among the new Form Ones if you are an NCO or a squad leader! This year, I am an Assistant Squad Leader. I thank the Company for giving me this opportunity to serve on board. All my squad members like to talk with each other and the bonding between them and me is very strong. That is why I choose to stay on because I love to interact with other people. I no longer feel lonely. I have made many new friends.

I even volunteered myself to serve in the Awards Department to help the award classes to run smoothly. I really enjoyed my time in The Boys' Brigade and I will stay as long as I could. I would like to encourage every BB Member who is reading this article to not quit BB. Continue to stay on and grow with your Company! I choose to stay on in BB not because I HAVE to, but because I WANT to stay on. BB has helped me to build my self-esteem and confidence!

Adapted from original publication: <http://goo.gl/HmO3dV>. Photo credits: [facebook.com/jacklimphoto](https://www.facebook.com/jacklimphoto)



Pray For Us

ASIA

- Continued support for the BB work in the region.

BRUNEI

- More members to serve as leaders in BB Brunei.

CAMBODIA

- God's provision for the BB Learning Centre.

HONG KONG

- God's continued blessing, having just celebrated a milestone anniversary!

INDONESIA

- More leaders to expand the work in Banten, Jakarta, Solo, Blora, Semarang, Bandung, Malang and Surabaya.

MACAU

- Continuous growth and development in the existing companies

MALAYSIA

- Thanksgiving for new BB Malaysia Executive Secretary. May God bless him in his ministry.

PHILIPPINES

- Churches and schools leaders to organize and implement the BB program.

SINGAPORE

- To provide leadership and manpower for the expansion work in the Asia region.

THAILAND

- Thanksgiving for "Camp Sawasdee III" – 27 prayed to receive Christ for the first time, 65 reaffirmed their conviction to follow Christ and 80 wanted to know more about Jesus Christ.
- Preparation for the annual Leadership Training School, 14-17 October.

Coming Up Next



BB ASIA 8TH GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 30 December 2014

To register, please contact Mr. Francis Chiong, francis.chiong@bbasia.org

If you would like to attend, please register with BB Asia through Mr. Francis Chiong. The meeting will be held in Hong Kong.



BB HONG KONG 55TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CAMP

Date: 30 December 2014 - 2 January 2015

For more info, please contact Mr. Kelvin Tsang, tszfung_tsang@bbhk.org.hk

Registration is now open and costs only US\$120 per person. Closing date for registration is 1 August 2014. Register early before seats run out.

To highlight your event, please send details to AcrossAsia@bbasia.org, including an image with the event title, date, and contact details for more information. Your event details should reach us by 15 February, 15 June, or 15 October.