



Celebrating

65 years of

**65th Anniversary Dinner
30 July 2022 (Saturday)**



God's Faithfulness

Devotion Message by Elder Bryan Lee at the Anniversary Dinner

65 years is a long time. It serves us well to know our history for without a history, there is no heritage. And without a heritage from the past, there can be no legacy for the future.

Our church was established in June 1957 as First Baptist Church, (or FBC) the first English-speaking Baptist church in Petaling Jaya. It grew out of worship services and Sunday school classes started by Ms Jessie Green, and Harold and Ann Clark (Southern Baptist Convention missionaries from USA) at the Baptist Clinic building in Jalan Dispensary, PJ Old Town. The land in Jalan Pantai on which our church stands today was purchased in 1957 with funds from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of Southern Baptist Convention. Thus Southern Baptist Convention has played a pivotal role in our founding, providing not only financial resources but also missionaries who served as pastors of our church from 1958 to 1969.

We are forever grateful to our pioneering missionary-pastors who toiled and laboured to set up our church. Their sacrificial living and giving will always remain dear to our hearts, and will always inspire us to endure when the hand of God is difficult to trace especially in challenging circumstances that we have to face from time to time.

From the 1970s onwards, FBC has been ably led through the years by the many local pastors whom God called to shepherd His flock. They gave their utmost best in the past 5 decades to build up God's church to what it is today. Thanks to their dedication and faithful preaching and teaching, FBC congregation has been well instructed and continues to be soundly instructed in God's Word which reveals His character, and how He relates to His children and how He wants His children to live. Indeed, FBC has all through the years sought to be Bible-saturated and Christ-exalting, thanks to solid grounding in the Word by our dedicated pool of anointed pastors and lay preachers.

Clinging onto God's Word for the last 65 years enables us to soldier on when the going gets tough, and to have an unshaken faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who alone can still the storm. It has certainly not been completely smooth sailing throughout the 65 years. There were ups and downs and mistakes have been made because of our human frailty. Despite our frailties, imperfections and weaknesses, our God has been faithful and has blessed our church immensely. The lands He gave us (both along Jalan Pantai and Subang Jaya) have been redeveloped into 2 big churches with expanding memberships, increased tithings and active ministries serving their respective communities and beyond.

It was on 27 June 2010 that FBC voted by a majority to have separate self-governing congregations with greater autonomy to reach out to their own communities. Thus Pantai Baptist Church (PBC) was formed on 10 August 2010. Subang Centre carried on the Lord's work under the name of First Baptist Church, Subang Jaya.

There is indeed great joy in celebrating what God has done for and through His church, FBC, in the last 65 years. As we move forward through 2022 and beyond, we are grateful for those who planted and watered the seeds of faith in our lives. We are also reminded that we are called to bear fruit in the lives of others by inviting them to know Christ and discipling them so that they in turn can do the same for others. Just as our Lord Jesus did, we must celebrate the changes made in the life of our people as our greatest accomplishment. Yes, we should be proud of the many tangible contributions we have made to our community over the last 65 years. But as Jesus did, let us claim as our lasting legacy the souls we lead to God, the families we encourage and the lives we touch in a positive way.

Into our hands has been entrusted the sacred privilege to uphold and shine the light of Christ to our generation. May we accept the challenge and the promise expressed by apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."

We note that the foundations of our glorious spiritual heritage were laid in 1957 when we were called First Baptist Church. In comparison, Pantai Baptist Church has only 12 years of spiritual heritage. Arising from this, and in a bid to better reflect the true history and sentiments, **the Elders of PBC would be recommending to the church to retain the use of "First Baptist Church, Petaling Jaya" as this was the original name of our church and it better reflects 65 years of blessed history, marked every step of the way by God's faithfulness, goodness and lovingkindness.**

Being FBC rather than PBC will prompt us to better understand the vital necessity of valuing, maintaining and passing on our glorious spiritual heritage to our future generations. Just as those who came before us were faithful to pass onto us a spiritual heritage, we want to be faithful to pass on that blessed heritage to the generations who will come after us.

The original name, "First Baptist Church, Petaling Jaya" well encapsulates our strong heritage and propels us to courageously leave a legacy of honouring our Almighty God, and blessing our congregation, our city, our nation and the world!

Our great and mighty God, has blessed this church for the last 65 years and will continue to keep His arms around us, as we march forward into the future, we extol Him and give Him all thanks and praise!

To our faithful and everlasting God be all glory, power and majesty, now and for ever, Amen!

History compilation and text credit: Sis Cecilia Tan