

BCBC 30th Anniversary Edition

Count the Blessings – Celebration of 30 Year Anniversary

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- 1980 A year of significance of our life. We moved to our first house on June 13, 1980 and we called Brampton our home town. Ming and I were baptized Christmas of the same year and become members of East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church (ETCBC). At that time, McLaughlin Road was only a single lane gravel road. Charolais Boulevard was not yet connected to Shopper's World. Brampton was only a small town.
- 1981 Bible study group in our house on Sunday started in the summer of 1981. Brothers and sisters from ETCBC helped with city wide door to door visitation and the Bible Study Group grow in numbers.
- 1982 Through the connection of CBOQ our Baptist family, we met the leaders of First Baptist Church (Hwy 10 and Wellington). We shared our vision of planting a Chinese Church in Brampton. They welcome our group to use their church building for Sunday afternoon worship.
- 1983 After prayer and discussion, Pastor and leaders of ETCBC responded to our request to adopt the group as their church Plant in Brampton. Inauguration ceremony was held Easter of 1983 as a church plant. Pastor John Fung responded to our invitation to be our Preaching Pastor.
- 1986 With clear vision, Rev. Fung, our Founding Pastor led our group to maturity. Brampton Chinese Baptist Church was established. Inauguration ceremony held Easter of 1986. We are grateful for the hospitality of First Baptist Church to use their church facility for Sunday worship. It was our desire and our dream to have our own church building. We searched throughout the city and found a vacant church building on Queen Street near HWY 10 owned by The Salvation Army. We submitted an offer to purchase but lost to a higher bid by another party. We were disappointed at the time. We continue to pray and wait on the Lord to lead us in our search a church building. Shortly afterwards, it was brought to our attention of a vacant church building in Snelgrove owned by CBOQ, our Baptist Convention. We visited the building and found that it was too small for our needs. Brampton is a growing city and real estate price goes up quickly. We were wondering if we could ever afford our own church building. Rev. Fung found out from the City of Brampton that there were a few available church building lots in the huge subdivision along North Park Drive. We decided to purchase the land at the corner of Jordan Boulevard and North Park Drive. We could not believe that the Bramalea Limited, the developer only asked for \$75,000 for the one acre building lot. It was company policy that the price for church building lots was set a few years ago and would not increase with the market. \$75,000 an acre was much below the market price. The offer to purchase was

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accepted September of 1986. Because we did not have enough cash and we offered to close after six months. Truly a miracle!

1987 Praise the Lord! By the closing date March 19, 1987, we were able to pay for the land in cash. One of the conditions in the land deal was that we must start construction within five years. If we could not start building after five years, the Developer would buy back the land at the original price. A building committee was set up to lead the building project. We adopted a two-year plan for the members to raise a total of \$200,000 to start construction in 1989. Our church was very small and we wondered if this target was reachable?

1988 Anticipation, prayer, planning...

1989 Construction started in spring 1989. Our dream come true and we say good bye to First Baptist Church after seven years of using their church building for Sunday Worship Service in the afternoon. Celebration of Sunday Worship Service in the morning started September 1989. As our children are growing up and there are definitely needs for English Worship Service. In the past we have been conducting Sunday Worship Service in Cantonese with English translation. With the new building facility, we add English Worship Service at 9:30 am. led by Rev. Metz

Through the building project, there are three aspects that we should give thanks to our Lord:

1. Our target offering from our members was \$200,000. Instead of fancy fund raising, we relied on the free-will offerings of our members. A few Chinese Baptist Churches in Toronto area also contributed towards the building fund.
2. Financing. The total cost of the building, including design fees and furniture was \$700,000. With \$200,000 from our members, we had to finance with \$500,000 mortgage. We discussed with the banks and they had very strict conditions for church mortgage. Praise the Lord for His provision, we were able to borrow from our Baptist Family: McMaster Divinity College, CBOQ, Toronto Association of Baptist Churches and Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. No mortgage from the bank. Amazing!
3. Construction. The total building area is over 9,000 sq. ft. Construction costs quotation submitted by general contractors were all very high. We decided to retain Mr. Don Hawkey as our project manager. We achieved significant savings in construction costs by being our own general contractor and by contributing voluntary labor. Construction was smooth, safe and within budget.

Praise God that He has called us to build the church. We have all experienced the joy of building God's house. With limited budget, the target for our first phase is a big sanctuary

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and limited classrooms. After five years, we experienced real shortage of classrooms and we decided to start second phase of construction to expand 4,000 sq. ft.

1994 Church building expansion

Fast forward to 2016, this year we celebrate 30 year anniversary. Thirty years is a long time and more than one generation. We have witnessed many changes. Are we in war time? Spiritual warfare? How is society changing? How is family changing? How is the school teaching our children? Do we have moral standards? What is our value? Do we understand the time?

In the first 10 years of our church, mostly Cantonese family. (1986-1996)

In the next 10 years, increasing number of Mandarin speaking family. (1996-2006)

For the last 10 years, English speaking second generation family emerging. (2006 -2016)

Pastor Ming and I grew up in this Church as new Christian, baptized in 1980, 35 years ago. We have served in this Church all of our strong years and came to know many fellow brothers and sisters at a deep spiritual level. Together we have labor to further the kingdom of God. We have fought many spiritual battles and with God's grace, we survived. We have brought up many Godly men and Godly women. So what is my plan for the next five years, ten years? Slow down, take it easy or continue to serve the Lord? (Joshua 24:15) What area of ministry can I make the most impact? What is my spiritual gift? How can I make a difference to another person's life? What kind of legacy should I leave in God's kingdom?

My dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate 30 years of God's faithfulness, may I invite you to partner with God:

For those who have the spiritual gift of teaching, invest your life in teaching Bible, especially children to bring up another generation of God fearing men and women.

For those who are not ready to teach yet, invest your time to learn the Bible, come to Sunday school. Together we learn and support the teaching ministry. Time will come that you will be ready to teach. There is a saying, either you are Sunday school student or Sunday school teacher.

With the diversity of language, culture and age group in our church, let us care for one or more person in a deeper level, one-on-one mentoring, i.e. discipleship. There are many of us among the congregation who are facing many life challenges. We need one another for support of prayer and caring. I hope to see the church community engage in cross generation, cross language and cross culture mentoring ministry. The church is a faith community that cares for one another.

May the Lord bless all of us!