

Newsletter

Girls' Brigade International

No. 34, December 2009



Hello Everyone,

This morning as I left home to drive to the office – it was bitterly cold and a heavy frost covered the ground – strange to think that for many of you summer is approaching! I can't imagine spending Christmas in a hot climate!

However wherever we are – whether its hot or cold our hearts should be warmed by God's great love for us in that He sent His son as a baby and that son grew into the man of Calvary – the Saviour of the world.

On behalf of the International President's Committee may I wish you all God's richest blessing this Christmas.

Ann

ICGB 2010

ICGB 2010 is being held in Eastern Malaysia in the city of **Kuching, Sarawak**.

Dates: 24-31 July 2010.

Outstanding balances must be paid by 31 January 2010

www.gbmalaysia.org

ICGB blog: <http://icgb2010.blogspot.com/>

Fees for 2010

The Fee levels remain the same as 2009.

	Per Company	Per Member
Level 1	£0.80	£0.25
Level 2	£0.56	£0.15
Level 3	£0.30	£0.05

From our International President

Dear friends,

As we draw to the end of the year, I want to say congratulations to you all for all that has been achieved in 2009! More especially, I want to salute our Asia Fellowship members, whose focus this newsletter is, on all the hard work they have put into preparations for the 2010 ICGB. I am aware that you have engaged in various activities to be able to plan and host a successful conference and I am sure we are all looking forward to being together in July 2010.

From the youngest to the oldest person involved in the preparation work, I want you to know that the rest of the GB members appreciate and are praying for you for strength, resources, open doors and God's favour on all you do. We are coming to Asia to share in the ministry of young people and to sharpen one another to be effective witnesses for Jesus. We are coming to congregate in Asia, to look at how best we can be GBs and how we can change our image to meet the challenges of today's youth. We are also coming to Asia to have fun, interact and learn from each others' cultures and traditions.

So, dear friends, we pray for a **double dosage** of the fruits of the spirit (love, joy, **patience**, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness and self control) for all of you as you continue to give yourselves to this momentous event.

Merry Christmas and a fruitful and glorious 2010!!!!!!

Love and blessing,
Ruth M Chikasa

ASIA FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

News from Hong Kong

From December 2009 to February 2010 GB Hong Kong will participate in a fund raising programme. The main theme of this programme aims "at preaching the mutual service among people and glorifying our God".

Hong Kong society has encountered rapid changes in political, social and cultural aspects - all of which impact on the development of the GB movement. Recently GB headquarters received an approach from a "non-religious" school to discuss the possibility of starting a new company to provide their students with another "learning experience". Pray that we will be ready for such an opportunity so that our God will be glorified.

GB Hong Kong will celebrate her 50th Anniversary in 2012 and as we plan for our future direction pray that we will stand firm and act on our GB mission and vision.

Grace Liang
GB Hong Kong

News from Singapore

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE SINGAPORE (OVERSEAS EXTENSION WORK 2009)

Since 1993, GBS has initiated extension into Asia as part of our vision of bringing GB presence to every country in Asia.

On the home front, 2009 was a year whereby we challenged our officers to cross over to the other side, to consider adopting countries and providing training overseas. We conducted the first Overseas Extension training workshop at the Officers' Retreat, which was an informative and inspiring time as officers who have participated in our overseas work shared their experiences and testimonies.

The Girls' Brigade in Cambodia

Work continues in Cambodia where T-houses have been set up in various locations in the Toul Kork slum, the Stung Meanchey Dumpsite, the Widows' Island and Baray Village. The ladies are trained in life skills like weaving, sewing and cooking, while the girls join a version of the GB Four-Fold programme known as the Life+Plus Club focusing on literacy skills.

One Chance Project

Into its third year, the "One Chance Project" hopes to help girls, women and children in Cambodia by providing them with life skills training to secure gainful employment and to promote literacy among the children. Up to end of September 2009, the total amount of funds raised by GB companies and partners in Singapore was about S\$120,000.

The T-Houses are adopted by GB International as part of the One Chance Project. We are thankful for the donations from GB in different countries, and also the active participation of GB Malaysia and GB Brunei.

At Widows' Island, we completed training for one batch of 11 trainees in sewing. At the Stung Meanchey Dumpsite T-House, we

partnered a church to conduct literacy programmes for children and young adults. On average we have had about 13 children for the morning Khmer class, 15 for the afternoon Khmer class and 8 young adults learning English and now simple accounting as well. The T-House at Baray continues to train and employ women from nearby villagers to do weaving, sewing and most recently natural dyeing. In the pipeline are expansion plans for the building to offer other skills training like soap making, culinary skills and basic computer skills. At the Toul Kork Slum area, GBC runs the Life+Plus Club programme at a learning centre on a weekly basis. In addition, since 2009, funds raised from the Low Guat Tin Challenge by the primary companies were used to start a sponsorship programme covering the tuition fees, shoes and uniforms of 15 girls from the slums.

In total, about 60 women and 160 girls participate in our programmes in Cambodia.

Service learning Trips

GBS has been co-organising "mission" trips to Cambodia for students who do projects at the T-Houses as part of their service learning in school. A total of 25 teams from Singapore, including school teams, GB companies and other partners visited or rendered services at our GB ministries in Cambodia in 2009.

Do check out this youtube link (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-M4G5evFRE>) for a video made by a group of officers who visited our projects in Cambodia in 2007

The Girls' Brigade in Indonesia

Since 2002, GBS has started projects in Indonesia. These are platforms for GB Officers and girls to serve in, and Officers from GBS have been volunteering as trainers at the schools and T-Houses. GBS has started the GB programme in schools in Surabaya and West Kalimantan. This year, teams of officers went to the schools to provide

training in running the GB Programme. In Aceh we have collaborated with a partner to set up a T-House providing training in ginger tea and bag making. In Malang, a team was sent from GBS to train the local leaders. The Life+Plus Club is being run on a weekly basis with 40 children/teenagers, as well as the 40 mothers of these children/teenagers who are from the slum and village areas.

**Submitted by: Mrs Sally Chew
Ms Ng Xiao Jia, Overseas Extension**

Two key programmes from The Girls' Brigade Singapore that we would like to share are our Officers' Retreat 2009 and Lead Like Jesus Leadership Encounter.

Officers' Retreat 2009

A total of 147 participants comprising Exco members, officers, volunteers and staff had a fruitful weekend at Sofitel Palm Resort, Senai, Johore on 5 and 6 September.

The theme of the retreat was 'Come Together, Looking Up, Reaching Out'. Various EXCO members led in different segments of the programme. Rev Sng led the devotion. The Team building session was led by Mr Kenneth Kwan from Deep Impact. Officers were given four electives for the workshops, namely Understanding Diversity, Power of Words, Making Choices and Crossing over with GB into Asia.

Quotes:

"The GB officers' retreat was a wonderful experience! The presence of the Lord was evident and I was reminded of His faithfulness and His goodness....Thank you too for sharing the vision."

"The heart warming gathering and close friendship were indeed inspiring especially for people who are new to GB."

"I took away deeper friendship with my fellow officers from my company and forging friendship with others. It's amazing to be in the presence of so many senior and committed ladies in GB. I picked up many ideas to bring back to the girls, and most of all had a personal time with the Lord too."

"I enjoyed the sessions (devotions, team building, workshops) as they were very informative, and engaging...."

“...throughout this retreat, I am reminded of the fundamentals of the existence of GB. We are an influence yet so many times due to our personal live and work, we forget about it...”

Lead Like Jesus Leadership Encounter

The Girls' Brigade Singapore was given the privilege of hosting the Lead Like Jesus Asia Pacific Centre. The Centre was launched on 2 – 3 October 2009 with 140 participants from GB, Churches and Market place leaders. This well attended event drew people from all walks of life who desired to impact their worlds with a new leadership model that elevates service and relationships to an equal importance with tasks. Participants had travelled from Australia, India, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and New Zealand as well as those living in Singapore.

Following this event, 45 people were trained as Lead Like Jesus facilitators. These new facilitators have been equipped with the tools and materials needed to spread the Lead Like Jesus message throughout their spheres of influence in the Asia/Pacific Rim.

What's Lead Like Jesus? It is a two day highly interactive, participant-centred workshop that unpacks the Lead Like Jesus framework of the Heart, Head, Hands and Habits of leadership in a collegial environment. Originally designed by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges and recently updated with content from Lead Like Jesus: Lessons from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of All Time, The Encounter experience is transformational. It's a great experience provided by trained and certified Lead Like Jesus facilitators.

The Girls' Brigade Singapore has included the Lead Like Jesus Encounter as part of it's officer's training process for new officers. The training manuals are now available at the GB Shoppe.

Quotes:

“Very powerful, very impacted, conducted with a beautiful spirit.”

“This is an extremely powerful training resource that will transform nation – not just an individual/organisation but if we train Parents to train their kids/journey together as families, we would be able to disciple the Future (our youth, children)...This programme has a “sweet simplicity” – so simple yet profound and complete.”

“Best programme I have ever attended. Beats Harvard, London Business School Leadership Conferences I have attended.”

“This was an important stop on my journey of transformation from a leader focused on results

over relationships to a balance in both. Thank you Jesus!”

“I was moved to tears almost every hour as God spoke to me through the various themes, principles and stories/illustrations covered in this program. Excellent! Life changing!”

“Among many things I experienced at the Encounter, one which I wanted to share is this: two things I had wanted my parents to say to me growing up were, a) “you did well”, b) “I'm proud of you”. God used the people who went round us who were seated to say those two statements to me. Five people said “you did well” and four people said “I'm proud of you”. That's nine out of eleven!”

**Submitted by: Ms Chan Swee Pheng and
Ms Mae Ang, Volunteer Management**

News from GB England & Wales

The wonder of the web

This winter saw the launch of the new Girls' Brigade England & Wales website – complete with a brand new web address www.girlsb.org.uk.

‘When we were thinking through the aims and audiences of the website we came to the conclusion that a web is a huge window to the world (guess that's why it's called the world-wide web!),’ says Ruth Gilson, National Director, GB England & Wales.

‘This meant we asked questions like “what do we want the world to see about GB on the home page?” and we decided the best glimpse to give is about the life of GB and the great things that are happening.

‘So we're committed to the web being a place that anyone – whether it's the general public, churches, other organisations, girls, parents, or GB leaders - can visit and hopefully be welcomed, encouraged and interested in all that's occurring in and through this amazing movement called GB!’

In GB there's lots of ‘leader speak’ that's really only helpful for people like GB leaders, such as information and downloadable forms, so there's also a very special area on the website that is JUST for GB leaders.

‘Only commissioned leaders in GB England & Wales will be able to access this area fully, because it is a GB leadership toolkit and exclusive to GB members,’ says Ruth.

'Part of this leaders' only web area is a resources zone that will grow and develop over the coming months and years and, instead of just giving away our great resources to everyone who looks at the web, only those who've subscribed to GB will be able to receive these resources. Commissioned leaders will be automatically subscribed into this zone, as part of their annual membership contribution.'