



...reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Philippians 3:13b

In loving memory of

Elijah Thomas Chacko, 67,

who was ushered into the eternal rest in the
bosom of the Lord Jesus Christ
at 7:07 pm on 4 April 2020 AD


“And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.”

Ezekiel 33:33

The wake is held at Singapore Casket
Topaz Hall Level 4
131 Lavender Street
Singapore 338737



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“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

2 Timothy 4:1-2

Mr Elijah Thomas Chacko, whom we affectionately call our presiding pastor, peacefully departed to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on 4 April AD 2020 at 7:07pm on the Sabbath day. He had been prepared to go home to be with the Lord for some time. In 1998 AD, after suffering a stroke, he felt that he was ready to be taken home. Quoting Paul the apostle, *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”* (Philippians 1:21). But, God chose to extend his life for another 22 years. A period he called ‘borrowed time’.

Anyone who knew him knew that he loved numbers especially biblical numerology. Departing at 7:07 would have been significant to him because scripturally speaking, it signifies ‘perfection’.

Further, he departed on his favourite day of the week. He lived for the Sabbath day because he loved and revered the place of worship. He was an ardent worshipper who used to comment, “If you can’t worship on earth, how are you able to worship in heaven forever?” He loved David of the Bible because David championed the acceptable and specified way of approaching God. Pastor restored the exclusive singing of the psalms at the place of public worship, a practice that the prominent Protestant Reformers and the Separatist Puritans held, pushing for the completion of the metrication of the unabridged psalms. Since

then it has been translated into several languages. Harkening back to the psalmist, he wanted everyone in the journey to sing with him, *“Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage”* (Psalm 119:54).

God called him to be a preacher in his late twenties. Although he was shy and timid at first, pastor lived by the belief that *“the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power”* (I Corinthians 4:20). God brought the spiritually hungry and thirsty to cross his path and he started giving Bible Studies to these youths. He expounded Scripture to Scripture – from the acrostic psalms to the Proverbs of Solomon to Paul’s epistles. Many were convicted of their sins and their need for redemption.

His preaching was the fruit of his meditation in the Word of God. As his signatory psalm, Psalm 1:1-3 exhorts, he delighted in the law of the LORD day and night. Not only the Gospel but the Law. In an age when the Law (especially the Moral Law) is disdained, he reestablished the place and esteem for the Law of God.

In his life we witnessed that *“the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day”* (Proverbs 4:18). He not only expounded ‘precept upon precept, line upon line’ (Isaiah 28:10,13); towards the last 10 years of his life, he gave overviews of each of the 66 books of the Bible. He delved into biblical hermeneutics including the four strains of prophetic interpretation: Historical, Messianic, Gospelic and Eschatological. The gospelic and eschatological interpretations were especially brought home to our times. When pastor preached, it was life and spirit to the hearers.

Central to preaching the Gospel, pastor often emphasised on Justification by Faith, one of the three tenets of the Protestant Reformation, arguably the largest revival after Pentecost. It is a

highly experimental doctrine that emphasises the experience of justification in the life of the elect at a specific point in time – like Abraham in Genesis 15:6 and Jacob at Peniel in Genesis 32:24-30. Even the intellectual assent to the doctrine and the attaining to some authentic spiritual experiences cannot be presumed to be regeneration (Hebrews 6:4-5). Instead, we are to give all diligence to seek the sovereign God for saving faith and assurance (2 Peter 1:10) and to continue to believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:35-39). Aligned to our godly forebears, pastor entreated us to allow the Holy Spirit to prepare our souls, through the preaching of the Law, reproof and personal dealings of providence, to direct us to Christ for justification (Galatians 3:24).

Pastor also did not cease to show us that we are living in the height of the final apostasy, engaging in the twin battles of Armageddon and Gog and Magog against Satan, the Antichrist (and Babylon the Great) and the False Prophet. Even as the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ is imminent, the rage of apostasy has come in like a flood. Yet, it is of God's immense mercy that *"when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him"* (Isaiah 59:19b).

Despite being a teacher, he was always a student of the Scriptures. That extended to his knowledge of the secular realm – he liked to keep up to date with world events. Like Moses of old, he was never satisfied with a glimpse of God's glory, so he always sought to view all things in faith, from the perspective of the Word of God.

Pastor was a relentless preacher, rallying people to the place of preaching and prayer. The maxim of his life was *"I die daily"* (1 Corinthians 15:31b), a verse he hung on the post of his bed. Even with his physical ailments, he travelled extensively to

conduct conferences to minister to the churches. Just before he slept in the Lord, he conducted a marathon of conferences from India to Malaysia to the Philippines and back to Malaysia.

Like all the true servants of God and like his Master, he was reviled, misrepresented, reproached and maligned for his uncompromising stand. But now he sleeps in the bosom of Christ, joining the great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1). As his hero Paul the apostle once said, pastor can also now affirm, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8). We are grieved, lost and unprepared. Or are we? For pastor has constantly prepared us for this moment. To follow him is to follow his doctrines, spirit and mandate to preach. *“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27). We are now to *“run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith”* (Hebrews 12:1b-2a).

So, brethren, we *“sorrow not, even as others which have no hope”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13b),

Zephaniah Soh, Zechariah Tan, Elisha Yee, Philologus Eio, Deborah Thomas, Rhoda Soh, Joy Pradhan, Zipporah Lee, Hannah Grace Thomas and Ruth Thomas Lovelace

5 April 2020 AD

Excerpt from pastor's birthday thanksgiving 2018 AD:

...We live in climatic and critical times but if our perception is of faith, we would decipher the tokens of God's purposes spiritually. Christ Jesus sits at the right hand of the Majesty on High and rules and reigns with absolute sovereignty in the affairs of all men and all nations. His people are the Apple of His eyes, even as we behold the culmination of the twin battles of Armageddon and Gog and Magog. I could complain of my increasing unsettling ways and continual sense of disorientation as I engage more and more in travelling even as I age. Conferences, preaching assignments and visa requirements, whatever the reason, they take their toll as they lead you almost to a helter-skelter lifestyle... I tell myself I am a nomad for Christ trying to emulate the greatest men who ever lived, such as Abraham, Moses, David and Paul. And most of all, Jesus Christ Himself! They all lived a pilgrim's life. Christ averred, *"foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head"* (Luke 9:58). Paul testified, 'even unto this present hour...we have no certain dwellingplace' (I Corinthians 4:11). David was a fugitive for Christ on many occasions. Abraham was a wanderer for Christ, dwelling in tabernacles (see Hebrews 11:9), looking for a better country, that is, an heavenly. Indeed as Moses affirmed, *"Jehovah, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations"* (Psalm 90:1)...

Excerpt from pastor's birthday thanksgiving 2019 AD:

...The holy brethren scattered in the 127 provinces are becoming more and more dear and precious to me. Most of all, the three blessed Persons of the Godhead are the all in all of my life. I really feel that this world is not my home, I am just a passing through. Now I am traversing the 67th year of my life. Given my infirmities, limitations and awareness of the scope and challenge of the mandate that God has commissioned us, I pray that I may experience that Christ's grace is sufficient. May His strength be made perfect in my weakness. Given the enlightenment of truth we received from the Holy Spirit in such staggering depth and clarity, I pray that by the mercies of God it may be the saving health among all nations. The prayer in Psalm 67 is apt for the 67th year of my pilgrimage of faith. To Jehovah God of Israel be all the glory!

Excerpt from pastor's preface to the Psalmody:

Amid an acutely hostile environment saturated with treacherous contemporaries, the psalmist found it immensely difficult to practice faith in Jehovah God. When the deluge of evil surged upon him and ominously threatened to utterly overwhelm him, the psalmist withstood them not only to survive but to triumph gloriously. The secret of the psalmist's success can be attributed to his constant and reverential esteem towards the Word of God; he resorted to it continually, dwelling upon and delving into its precepts, statutes, testimonies, commandments, law and words; therein he found and imbibed strength, resolve, courage, comfort and vision. Like his Saviour and Lord, the psalmist could testify, through the deep spiritual experiences he had undergone, of the words of our Lord: "*They are spirit, and they are life*" (John 6:63b). And in this particular verse of the acrostic psalm (Psalm 119:54), he intimates one of the modes by which facilitation was made for the contemplation and delight of the Word of God: through the singing of songs! Indeed, the psalmist reckons himself as a singing pilgrim, the sum and substance of his songs being the Word of God. It could be that by this means, the psalmist would have reminded himself that "*for here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come*" (Hebrews 13:14).

Excerpt from pastor's exhortation to strive on in this pilgrimage of faith:

...Given our specific ministry and mandate, our global missionaries live like nomads. For more than half a year, they are abroad engaged in missionary itineraries. They traversed across vast continents, over great oceans but they complain not, neither do they murmur. Such is the stuff of faith... soon I may have to move again, a man virtually limping from one continent to another, reeling to and fro, hopping from one place to the other, yea, season after season, year after year, literally from one hemisphere to the other; rather any hemisphere depending on which perspective you take, above equator, below equator; west or east; north or south; tropical climate or temperate climate; hot or humid weather, wintry or chilly conditions, I hobble on and on so that I could be in the US, and then in Europe, and next in the Indian sub-continent, and after that in the Himalayas, and perhaps in the Australian sub-continent, and next in Cameron Highlands, and back in Johor Baru; yea, a globetrotter am I for Christ Jesus... be not overcome nor overwhelmed; play the pilgrim, let us move on in faith, finish our course; let us confess that we are but strangers and pilgrims in this world and flee from resting on our lees in the cities of destruction! Do not draw back for *"we are not of them who draw back unto perdition"* (Hebrews 10:39a).

Psalm 1

[Alternative Tune:
In The Sweet By And By]

- 1 Bllelsleld is the man that walketh not
in the consel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners,
nor sitt'th in the seat of the scornful.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD;
and in His law doth he meditate day and night.
- 3 And he shall be like a tree
planted by the rivers of water,
that bring'th forth his fruit in his season;
his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoe-ver he doeth shall prosper.
- 4 The ungodly 're not so: but are like th' chaff
which th' wind driv'th away.
- 5 Therefore the ungodly
shall not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation
-congregation of the righteos.
- 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteos:
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.



Psalm 23

[Recommended Tune:
Crimond]

A Psalm of David.

1 The LORD's my Shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures: He leadeth me
beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me
in the paths of righteousness
for His Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I'll fear no evil: for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou prepar'st a table before me
in th' presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days
of my life: and I will dwell in the house
of the LORD for ever.



1 Corinthians 15:50-58

[Modified Tune:
Hudson
(At The Cross)]

- 50 Now this I say, brethren,
that flesh and blood cannot
inherit the kingdom of God;
neither doth corruption
inherit incorruption.
- 51 Behold, I shew you
a mystery; We shall not all sleep,
but we shall all be changed,
- 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
- 53 For this corruptible must
put on incorruption,
and this mortal must put on
immortality.
- 54 So when this corrupt'ble shall have
put on incorruption,
and this mortal shall have put on
immortality,
then shall be brought to pass the saying
that is written,
Death is swallowed up in victory.
- 55 O death, where is thy sting?
O grave, where is thy victory?
- 56 The sting of death is sin;
and the strength of sin
-the strength of sin is the law.
- 57 But thanks be to God,
which giveth us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be ye steadfast,
unmoveable, always abounding
in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labour
is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[Recommended Tune:
Roll Call
(When The Roll
Is Called Up Yonder)]

- 13 But I would not have you
 to be ignorant, brethren,
 concerning them which are asleep,
 that ye sorrow not, even as others
 -even as others which have no hope.
- 14 For if we believe that Jesus
 died and rose again,
 even so them also
 which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.
- 15 For this we say unto you
 by the Word of the Lord,
 that we which are alive and remain unto
 the coming of the Lord shall not prevent
 them which are asleep.
- 16 For the Lord Himself shall descend
 from heaven with a shout,
 with the voice of the archangel,
 and with the trump of God:
 and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
- 17 Then we which are alive and remain
 shall be caught up together
 -shall be caught up together with
 them in the clouds,
 to meet the Lord in the air:
 and so shall we ever
 -e-ver be with the Lord.
- 18 Wherefore comfort one another
 -comfort one another with these words.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

[Recommended Tune:
Sound The Battle Cry]

- 1 I charge thee therefore before God,
and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who shall judge the quick and the dead
at His appearing and His Kingdom;
- 2 Preach the Word; be instant
in season, out of season;
reprove, rebuke, exhort with
all longsuffering and doctrine.
- 3 For the time will come when they will not
endure sound doctrine;
but after their own lusts
shall they heap to themselves teachers,
having itching ears;
- 4 And they shall turn a-way
their ears from the truth,
and shall be turned unto fables.
- 5 But watch thou in all things,
endure afflictions,
do the work of an evangelist,
make full proof of thy ministry.
- 6 For I am now ready to be offered,
-For I'm now ready to be offered,
and the time of my departure
-my departure is at hand.
- 7 I have fought a good fight,
I've finished my course, I've kept the faith:
- 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me
a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,
the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day:
and not to me only,
but unto all them also
that love His appearing.



By the rivers of water at Livingston Manor, pastor's favourite route to Andes, NY, USA.

Pastor asked Ruth Thomas Lovelace to take this photo of him in his garden at John Bunyan House, Johor Baru, Malaysia.



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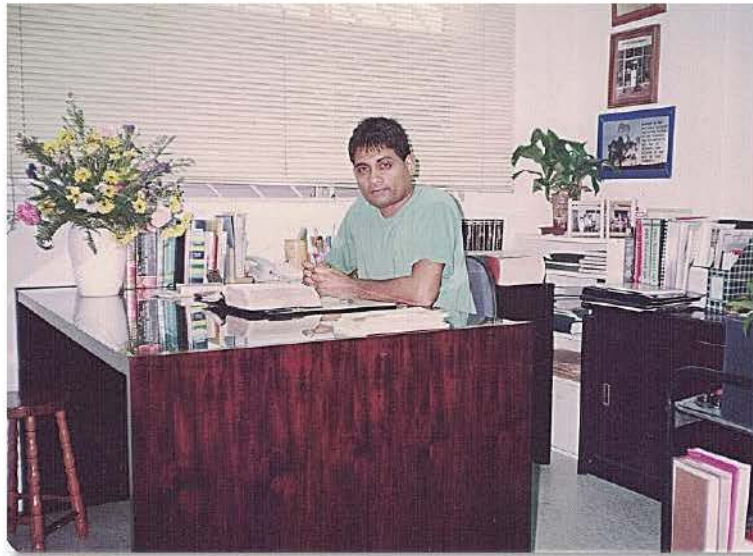
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Pastor at the parsonage in Block 173,
Yishun Ave 7, Singapore, in 1989 AD



Pastor at the parsonage in John Bunyan House, Johor Baru,
Malaysia, during the December Conference 2019 AD

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the law of the LORD;
and in His law doth he meditate day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3