

The Reverend Chin Ming Li
Minister
Barker Road Methodist Church
Singapore

820 Richards Crescent, NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6R 1B3
Canada April 19, 2016

Dear Rev. Chin Ming Li,

On the occasion of the Barker Road Methodist Church's 70th Anniversary, I wish to convey my love and supporting ministers and staff, to members of the Official Board and other Church organisations, including the 12th Singapore Company of the Boys' Brigade, and to every church member from the oldest to the youngest, my warmest congratulations, and prayers that God Almighty will continue to grant the Church many more years of service to Him and continued witness and effort to make disciples of people in Singapore in obedience to the commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank the Lord God for his manifold blessings to me and for giving me the glorious opportunity to start the Barker Road Methodist Church when I was serving essentially as the Vice-Principal of the Anglo-Chinese School on Barker Road. One day in my prayers the thought came to me that I should start a new church in the school premises as I did in 1946 after World War II at Fairfield Methodist Girls' School. In fact it was more than a thought; it was to me God's direction that I do it. I discussed this matter with two of my closest colleagues at ACS, Rev. T. R. Doraisamy and Mr. Chew Kia Seng and a fair number of my students. They supported the concept and one Sunday in May 1956 a rather large group met at the old Oldham Hall to worship God. Soon after the 12th Company of the Boys' Brigade which I started and of which I was its Chaplain came to worship and to hold its Bible Classes.

In time with the requisite number of members attending worship, it organised its first Quarterly Conference which applied to the Malaya Annual Conference. The following year I went to Union Theological Seminary, New York, for my Master's Degree which I managed to do in one year. Meanwhile, Rev. Robert Foster who acted for me in the Church, got the Church acknowledged as a Church in the Malaya Annual Conference.

When I returned to Singapore I returned to minister at Barker Road, but on January 1, 1961 I was posted to Seremban, Malaysia, as Pastor of Wesley Church and as Principal at Anglo-Chinese Secondary School there. Worship services at Oldham Hall went on until the Hall was demolished to make way for an olympic-size swimming pool. Then the Church worshipped in the School Hall. And whenever the Hall was used for examinations, services were conducted in the foyer of the Hall. The Church had the advantage of using classrooms for Sunday School and Bible Class.

God has richly blessed Barker Road Church and to-day it has a huge membership with services for worship for different constituencies of worshippers. I thank God I had the opportunity of visiting, worshipping and preaching at the Church in 2016.

I truly wish I could be with you all at your celebration on May 15, but at almost 94 years of age I am somewhat frail and dare not travel alone. For this reason I did not attend the 100th Anniversary last year of Wesley Church, Seremban, where I served for about five years. In fact, it was my niece, Dr. Celane Cheng, who came to fetch me to Singapore and sent me home to Edmonton in 2011. Imagine me for not joining you; but my spirit, thoughts and prayers are with you on this occasion.

I pray for the Triune God's abundant blessings to abide with the Church and all its ministers and members, and with its worship and ministry.

Your loving elder brother,
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Rev. Peter Lim, Minister Emeritus

P.S. I have been living in Edmonton, Canada since 1978, although I have been in Singapore very often. Since coming to Canada I have been ministering and worshipping in Highlands United Church in Edmonton and was made Minister Emeritus in 1996. I still preach at Highlands at least once a month. There is no Methodist Church in Canada. In 1925 it united with the Congregational Church and part of the Presbyterian Church to form the United Church of Canada.

cc. Mr. Pang Seng Hock