

Warm greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

I write this latest prayer letter with much excitement and humbling because the Lord has tremendously blessed Southland Baptist Press these past few weeks!

In my previous letter, I made an appeal for prayer and finances regarding a second-hand printing press that we were looking at acquiring. A few days after posting that letter, the Lord set the wheels in motion in such a miraculous way. Kindly allow me to chronologically unfold how God blessed.

For a few years now, we have been praying about replacing our ageing Itek printing

press. The machine had a number of faults, parts were scarce, servicemen difficult to engage. It really is a miracle that Bro Dieter, our printer, could nurse the Itek to function to an acceptable standard all these years!

Late into the night, I would surf the internet searching the trade classified ads, email used machinery brokers, look through print industry magazine ads, etc. It was discouraging as most used presses were located interstate and priced beyond our reach.

I thought the Lord was going to answer our prayers in September when an auction that presented a number of

Itek presses was held right here in Brisbane. What a rare event! We inspected the presses, they were in good condition, I focused on one, we had sufficient money put aside to buy the long-anticipated replacement... but come auction day, the Lord didn't give me the peace to put a bid in.

Disappointed, I felt like throwing the

towel in, but Bro Peter, a church brother who works for a print company, reminded me about the decommissioned press at his workplace, and said he will again ask his manager for a sale price.

I was well aware of this press. It was a Heidelberg GTO52, a press known as the industry benchmark for single-colour presses. We passed the opportunity to purchase this press some 20 months ago. A price of \$16,500 was placed on it - Bro Peter tried to negotiate the price down to something we could afford, but had no success. Undeterred, Peter kept an eye on it, but I never imagined that the Lord was keeping this particular press for us.

With my little faith, I didn't give Bro Peter any chance of coming back to me with good news. I then proceeded to write my previous prayer letter - maybe someone or some church out there would have a spare \$15,000! Again with my little faith, I didn't expect any response to that appeal, but I felt the Lord said, "Just ask my people."

Then, things fell into place, and only after I prayed on my knees, "God, I don't understand... please forgive my little faith... if you want us to have that press, please give it to us... spare me the shame of having to go begging... You know how many churches and missionaries are dependent on us for tracts... if You wish for Southland Baptist Press to continue serving these needy people, please give this press to us. Thank you, Lord!"

The next day, Pastor John Williamson of Victory Baptist Church called to say he was touched by my plea and enquired how we were going. After I told him all I knew, Ps Williamson said he will speak to his church family about this need. The next day, Bro Peter called and asked if I was sitting down. His boss said he'll sell the GTO to us for \$6,000! That's 36% of the

original asking price! A couple of days later, Ps Williamson called again to inform me of Victory's pledge amount, and I joyfully told him that we had, in faith, purchased the press, for we knew that the Lord had given it. I next approached Pastor Lloyd to ask the Good Shepherd Baptist Church family to raise several more thousand for the relocating costs and some necessary repairs. Praise God for such a giving family!

The photos on this letter show the press being moved into our print shop. Once the repairs and re-conditioning of rollers are completed, we will commission the press into service.

A final tale before I end: A month ago, I received a letter from Pastor Marvin Donnell of the Redlands Community Baptist Chapel informing me that a church member who had returned home to be with the Lord left a memorial gift to a ministry involved in the printing and distribution of tracts, and he chose SBP to be the recipient. It was an obvious choice to allocate the gift towards the acquisition of the press. This late brother has left a legacy that, Lord willing, will be instrumental in saving many souls in the Asia Pacific region to eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ!

How great our God is! Despite little faith, despite the odds, the Lord loves to answer when we plead and pray in His will. God always works through His people to meet the needs of others. Thank you Pastor Lloyd, Pastor Williamson, Pastor Donnell, for being sensitive to the Holy Spirit! Thank you, all of you who prayed when I appealed for prayer! Please continue to pray as we carry out the necessary work before we commission this press for the Lord's service.

Till the next edition...

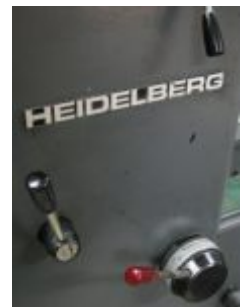
God's blessings on you!
Sylvester Chong



The GTO arrives at the print shop...



Finally in place!



...the Mercedes-Benz of printing presses!



Peter guides it in...