

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

I'm currently preparing to attend the *National Baptist Fellowship* meetings at Gospel Baptist Church, Ps. Larry Nelson, in Perth with my pastor and a number of my church folk, at which I will showcase the Southland Baptist Press ministry. Although these prayer letters serve to update pastors all over Australia with our latest news, I believe it will be the first time that SBP will have a physical presence in Western Australia. I'm looking forward to being a blessing there!

Financial Support

I am often asked who supports Southland Baptist Press and whether we are adequately supported. I, for one, am not at ease writing about money, especially in economic uncertain times. However, I do want to write what God has laid on my heart.

If you ask any missionary or missions ministry, the answer would invariably be, "I wish we had **more** support, to do **more** for the Lord". SBP is currently supported by a handful of churches and individuals in Australia and America on a regular basis. From our modest budget, we set about doing what we can for the Lord.

Much of the administrative cost of running this ministry is funded by Good Shepherd Baptist Church. We operate out of a debt-free building on the church property. We outright-own all of our equipment. This means almost all the support that comes in is used to print and ship tracts to Independent Baptist works in Third World nations, at no cost to them.

We undertake printing projects for churches in Australia and New Zealand at cost. What this means is, support that is meant for the Third World goes to the Third World.

Our team of volunteers are not paid a remuneration; they serve out of love for the Lord. As the ministry leader, although I am on the leadership team at Good Shepherd Baptist, I am a volunteer and am not paid a salary to lead this ministry.

I write all these to clearly explain that we are a credible ministry with a proven track record of doing something for God in our part of the world. Our prayer is to do more for God. Our production is limited by our modest budget. We don't like to halt printing because there isn't funds in the account to purchase paper.

Rather than starting up a similar ministry, please consider becoming partners with Southland Baptist Press by taking us on for regular support. Every bit counts!

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Please allow me to give a couple of examples of how we proactively stretch our support dollar to the max.

During the last school holidays, two of my children went to Hong Kong on their own to visit family. A good part of their luggage allowance was taken up by the weight of tracts for an American missionary with a ministry to Filipino domestic workers (maids). Saving on the cost of shipping those tracts helped us print more tracts for another project. And, my children get to play their part in missions work.

Secondly, in order to maximise our print output, we recently re-typeset our

foreign language and some English tracts to fill up an entire A3 sheet of paper. By reducing the physical size of each tract, we now print 6 tracts on an A3 sheet, instead of the usual 4, and we automatically gain a 50% increase in production.

Our standard tract was designed to fit into an Australian shirt-pocket, but we were told that shirt-pockets in Asian countries were smaller. So... going to a 6-up print layout was a win-win situation for all.

I'm sure ladies' handbags would be able to accommodate any size tract, if a spot could be found for them... just kidding!

Please pray for...

A replacement printing press. Our ageing Itek 975 press is quickly fading and we wish to replace it, Lord willing, as soon as possible.

I recently attended an auction at which a number of Itek presses were available, but the Lord prevented me from putting in a bid. As mentioned in a previous letter, we have our eyes on a Heidelberg GTO that is up for private sale. A GTO has low running costs, is built to last decades, and it's not difficult to locate parts and servicemen.

For some time now, I have put some money aside to acquire a press, but we're still short of several thousand dollars. Preacher, would you please pray and ask if the Lord would have you respond to this appeal? Perhaps you have someone in your church who has a passion to see many in the Asia Pacific come to Christ through the printed Word. Is there one?

Till the next edition...

God's blessings on you!
Sylvester Chong

