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Website: [www.berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com) Email address:beritabethelung@gmail.com **ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ**

*My* ***F****aithful prayer partner/s in the* ***F****aith and in the defence of the Gospel* (Phil. 1:5, 7)

The last time I wrote was on 20th January. Since then, time had shot past so fast that one hardly noticed that so many days have gone by. Challenges to our life and living have come and gone and new ones now face us.

Even as I write today, tomorrow may bring about a change in life style for the worse or for the better for their respective state citizens. No one will know until tomorrow midnight dawns or earlier, and a new day ushers in a new era. Why and what will the day bring? This is because tomorrow (12th August) is Polling Day for the six states (Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Kelantan, Pahang, Kedah and Penang) in Malaysia. Though the election be just for the six states, its results will somehow mirror the trend the country is heading into the future. Are we going to have a divided country based on our religious status and racial standing or a multi-racial, multi-religious, multi-cultural and progressive government that will move us forward to meet the very bold challenges of future development and progress free of corruption, cheats, nepotism and prejudice. All these we shall know probably when you read this Berita if you receive it late.

In the meanwhile, let us pray for our people in Malaysia and the government that they will rule the individual states in cooperation with the federal government in the country well – that there will be fair treatment for all citizens sans race, religion or riches. prejudices with help and assistance extended to all in need.

Going on to another aspect of life, today, as I look back, I am both sad and glad. Sad because I have lost a few of my comrades-in-arms in the service of His Majesty the King, and yet glad because they have gone to their rest in their heavenly home with some, I am sure, receiving their well-deserved rewards from their Master. This year alone I saw the loss of over fifteen of those whom I know in the faith, some as young as in their twenties with others having reached their eighties. Yes, they all have gone on ahead perhaps to form the Welcome Home Party for me and others who have yet to join them later.

I would like to make mention of a few whom I knew well and had worked with me in the service of the King. I refer to sis. Ding Ling Sing, who introduced me to the Nurses’ Christian Fellowship which she and a few of her compatriots founded. She was instrumental in introducing me to the other nurses who became close colleagues in His Majesty’s Service. She was called home at the age of 99 on 26th March, this year.

Dr. Hooi Siew Hua went home on 7 April this year at the age of 88. I could remember her well as she opened her clinic and home to me to host me temporarily when I was first transferred to Mentakab and Temerloh in Pahang. Separated from wife and my two infants at their early age, she and her mother offered me a home away from home until I found a new one to stay on my own. Even then she and her mother were a constant support for me when I served the Lord in Temerloh Gospel Chapel in 1968 till end of April, 1969 and before May 13!

Bro. Peter Ferry was another brother whom I missed very much when he was called home on 19th July, just a few days after his 89th birthday on 28th June as his heart weakened on earth and he was summoned to heaven to live with His Master with a new heart that will never fail. Even then, his earthly heart had functioned well for all the 89 years he was on earth serving the Lord as a National Service Soldier in his early years and later as the Lord’s Servant in His Majesty’s Army. That’s how I was introduced to him when he returned to Malaya as a missionary after serving his national service for his country, Scotland in Malaya. When he was called home, I recalled my memories of him as I walked my daily rounds in the Botanic Gardens in the early morning. I exercised my arms and legs by performing the actions of the two choruses he taught the Butterworth Sunday School children when first I introduced him to them. Yes, I sang then in memory of him these two choruses:

1. *I may never march in the Infantry, Ride in the Cavalry,*

*Shoot with the Artillery;*

*I may never zoom over the enemy,*

*I’m in the Lord’s Army!* (x3)

1. *I’m in His Majesty’s Army, His Majesty, the King of kings,*

*I’m in His Majesty’s Army, His praises I will shout and sing,*

*Oh Glory!*

*I’m in the fight against evil, like David with his stone and sling;*

*I will never fear the foe; wherever I may go,*

*For His Majesty’s the King of kings*

Yes, I do miss my beloved brother, whom I always regarded as one strong and courageous soldier of Christ with a lion’s heart, but never expected him to go before me. He had finished his work more efficiently and had been called home to rest while I have to wait longer.

But I am not the only one among our company to be left behind like this. There is still another more elderly compatriot of mine whom I respect very much for his long years of faithfulness in the Lord’s service. He is none other than Mr. Daniel Jevaraj whose beloved wife had left for her heavenly home much earlier. Now at the age of 93 he just but longs to be with her too. Still, as I contemplate all these issues, I can only conclude that the Lord knows best when to take any one of his children home to be with Him, In the meanwhile we just need to have this hope always in Him, that His timing is always best. Even so come Lord Jesus! There are others whom I missed but it will take a long story to name them all.

Lately I started a series on the History and Heritage of Burmah Road Hall giving the history of how the church moved from its first **Building** at Farquhar Street Mission House and Chapel to the present Burmah Road Gospel Hall on 28th May as my home assembly celebrated the 85th Anniversary of Burmah Road Hall (its original building) and the 10th Anniversary of Burmah Road Gospel Hall (the new and present building). I shall continue this series of study on its history with Part 2 on **The Builders** who built up the assembly at Burmah Road Gospel Hall on 28th August. If I cannot finish this study, I hope to continue it as Part 3 on 26th November, this year. If you are interested you can read about its complete study on my website at [www.berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com) then.

I was hoping that with the new ferry service from Penang island to Butterworh, starting 7th August this year, I would be able to drive over to the mainland to have fellowship with Butterworth Gospel Hall and Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre which I have not visited since the Covid-19 pandemic, as the journey by land would be too far distant for me with my hypotension problem to drive all the way there. But alas, the new ferries would only take passengers and motorcyclists. I wonder when I can cross over to the mainland to have fellowship with the saints there again!

With the above, I shall keep this issue of my Berita short and sweet.

I thank you all for your fellowship of love and concern for my wife and me. I shall update you concerning us hopefully in the next issue.

The Lord’s Blessings be with you all.