

## BB Asia Climb2009

We gathered from March 21 to 24, 2009 for BB Asia's Mount Kinabalu Climb, to raise funds for BB Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Cambodia – a tradition initiated by Paul "Robokop" Juby in 1999. Paul, age 78, with two artificial hips, had trained hard for this, his fourth and last climb.

Reported by  
PANG SENG HOCK  
April 2009

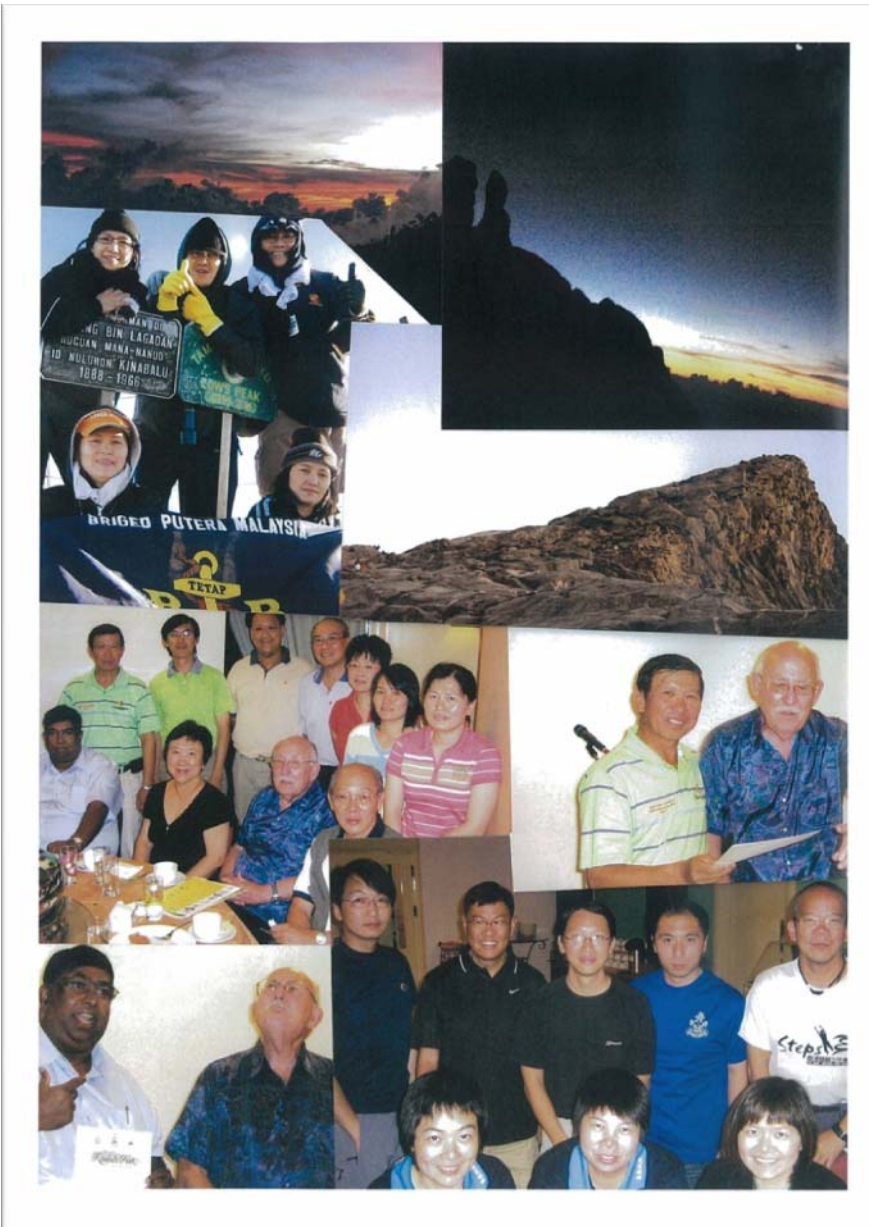
Stephen Liew, our attentive host, warmly welcomed us to a hearty fellowship dinner at Kinabalu Park. Paul noted: "this is *more* than just about raising funds – we are a fellowship of friends from U.K., Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore – to encourage our fellow Brigaders around Asia."

It had all started with a challenge ten years ago from Paul's former BB Boy, Michael Moorthy – now BB Malaysia and BB Asia President. Michael spoke of BB Asia's pioneering work and how BB Malaysia's Girls' Wing now produces a steady crop of lady officers. For me, I was especially happy to have my wife, Carol join in the climb.

Next day came the challenge: a mountain to climb! After breakfast and worship, Michael flagged us off, with Robokop leading the way. We had a sunny start, and were soon blessed with drizzles, light and heavy rain – our wettest climb so far! BB Hong Kong's team of mountaineering Auxiliaries accompanied Paul all the way to Gunting Lagadan hostel. Said a very tired but happy Paul: "I sang *Walking with Jesus* along the way!" After dinner we retired to rest for the evening.

We assembled at 3 a.m., forming two teams: Team 1 aimed to reach the summit for sunrise, while Team 2 accompanied Paul. After a prayer, we set off into the cold, pitch dark. Our guide led the way and our head lamps lit our path. Step by careful step, we negotiated the upward trails; altitude effects; and challenging rope climbs up and round a steep bend. Eventually, I slowed down to a crawl and fell behind my team.

I observed a father comforting his son, who was bent over, overcome by altitude sickness. Said father to son: "It's ok, we can turn back and go down, son." I sat down too, to rest my pounding heart and catch my breath. As the crescent moon sank, dawn broke. Early morning light lifted my spirits. I remembered that the Brigade flag was in my satchel! My team members must be anxiously waiting for me at the summit. With renewed strength, I continued slowly up the seemingly unending uphill plain, taking very small steps – a very long journey. Then came the last hurdle: an exhausting crawl up rocks and boulders to the summit at Low's peak - 4,095 M above sea level. I was overjoyed to meet my team members. We unfurled our BB flag at the summit. *Lord, we ask Thy blessings, on the Boys' Brigade!*



Below the wind and above the clouds, we admired panoramic views of the mountain peaks and valleys of beautiful Sabah. After this exhilarating experience, we made our way down to Gunting Lagadan for sumptuous meals, wonderful naps, great fellowship and sweet sleep.

Next day, we began our journey down. I was in awe of clouds gently rolling into the serene mountain forest and admired some pitcher plants. Paul remarked: "God said to me: 'don't forget to thank Me when you get down!'" And he did, after a very carefully guided and exhausting effort, with the expert help of the local guides, Stephen and Lois. Well done Robokop!

Back at Kota Kinabalu, we celebrated with a thanksgiving dinner. Our Chaplain, Rev. Richard Tok reflected: "This climb is like our journey of faith. We meet problems along the way. We need encouragement and help. When I looked up at the many little head lamps winding up to the summit, it looked so far away I wondered if I would make it down alive! But thanks to support from my teammates, I made it to the summit and back!" Jokes and fond memories were shared between Paul and Michael - a friendship which began as BB Officer and Boy some forty over years ago!

We had each persevered to reach for our goals. And then, we said our goodbyes - until we meet again, God willing - to challenge this magnificent mountain. Thank you, Robokop, for showing us that with God's help, nothing is impossible if we persist to scale the heights!

*Editor's Note: Seng Hock was a former 12<sup>th</sup> Singapore Company Boy. Currently serving as a Counselor at Baker Road Methodist ACS School. He and his wife, Carol are definitely supporters of BB Asia work!*

## A Visit To Aceh

On 6 May, our BB Team comprising of Richard, Kusno, Clement, Mario and Lawrence were invited by the Aceh Methodist Church to make a presentation on BB.



*With the School Heads*

We were able to meet with the principals and teachers of the school in the morning and later in the late afternoon. Also we had the opportunity to visit the many tsunami affected areas in Aceh. It is a now a new Aceh as many areas were being rebuilt.



*This ship was blown 5km inland by the Tsunami*



*The ocean which was once hit by the Tsunami.*



*With the School Board*

We met with the School Board over dinner. The discussion was very fruitful and overall the response to our presentation was very positive.

## BBHK 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Calendar of Events

**7th November 2009 (Sat)**

50th Anniversary Thanks Giving and Joint Dinner

**8th November 2009 (Sun)**

50th Anniversary Founder's Day Parade & Thanks Giving Service

**30th December 2009 (Wed)- 2nd**

**January 2010 (Sat)**

International Camp and Closing Ceremony of 50th Anniversary Activities

**1st January 2010 (Fri)**

New Pioneering Work on Guinness World Records

**1st January 2010 (Fri)**

Charity Service

(Proceeds go to International Camp)

For more details, visit:

<http://www.bbhk.org.hk>

### Special Offer!

To mark their Anniversary, BBHK is waiving the camp fees of US\$ 100 for deserving BB applicants 21 years and below from BB Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Macau. Limited places available only.

Apply to [secretariat@bbasia.org](mailto:secretariat@bbasia.org)

before 30 June 2009.

Remember... Only successful applicants will be awarded.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is our **THIRD** area of our 3-year development plan. This area is vital because it keeps everyone updated on the goings-on of our work in Asia.

#### Website

Our website has already been established. Please visit [www.bbasia.org](http://www.bbasia.org). We welcome suggestions for improvement.

#### Newsletter

"Across Asia" is our bi-monthly newsletter which is now into its 9<sup>th</sup> issue.

#### Corporate Brochure

It is presently at the drawing board.

We believe that the BB ministry is worthwhile and God-inspired for our young people in Asia. Let's be a blessing to them and make a difference to their lives **TODAY!**

Therefore we would like to appeal to the generosity of each and every one of you reading this newsletter to

**support** our cause by...

...**making** a personal pledge or contribution.

...**encouraging** as many friends as possible to support.

...**speaking** to your church leadership to consider BB as one of their mission pledges.

...**introducing** corporate or commercial companies who might give regularly as part of their social commitment.

To make our plans a reality

WE NEED TO RAISE

**SGD 491,000**

For more details, please visit our website at [www.bbasia.org](http://www.bbasia.org) or contact the BB Asia Secretariat. We will be most happy to hear from you.

**Breaking News!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> BB Asia ACADEMY**

**POSTPONED TO 2011!**

**Congratulations,  
 Welson & Rita!**



On 9 May 2009, Welson (Exco Member of BB Indonesia) and Rita (BB Officer of Permatang Siangtar) tied the knot in holy matrimony.

**Congratulations,  
 MR PRESIDENT**

Mr Michael Moorthy was re-elected at Brigade President of BB Malaysia at their recent 45<sup>th</sup> Brigade Council Meeting held on 24-26 April 2009 at Holiday Villa in Subang Jaya, Malaysia. Wishing him and his newly elected executive members God's blessings as they lead the BBM to greater height.

### INTERNATIONAL CAMPS

*coming your way*

**2009**

**BB HONG KONG**

**50th Anniversary International Camp**

Date: 30/12/09-02/01/10

Venue: Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village & Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp

Cost: USD100 per person (excluding external transfer)

For more details, visit:

<http://www.bbhk.org.hk/367/?L=0>

**2010**

**BB MALAYSIA**

**June - 18<sup>th</sup> National Pesta, Penang**

**BB SINGAPORE**

**December - 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Temasik Camp**

**BB ASIA**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Academy**

**2011**

**BB AUSTRALIA**

*Catch The Spirit*

**17<sup>th</sup> Pan Australian Camp** will be held at Ulverstone in Tasmania from 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011. For more details visit their website at

<http://boys.brigadeaustralia.org>.

### Next BB Asia Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of BB Asia's Executive Committee 2009-2010 will be held in Hong Kong on Friday, 6 November 2009. The committee will also be attending BBHK's Celebration Dinner and Founder's Parade.



**PRAYER  
 POINTS**

**Pray for BB Asia  
 that God will bless**

- the office-bearers 2009-2010 with wisdom as they stir the entire ministry to a greater height.
- the 3-year development plan of the BB Asia.
- continue to unite and strengthen the bond of the Member Countries.
- our ministry with generous financial contribution to support work that being done.
- their endeavors to raise SGD491,000 to support the ministry for the next three years.
- the preparation of Executive Committee 2009-2010 Meeting to be held in Hong Kong on 6 November 2009.
- the work of the Secretariat in fulfilling its responsibilities.
- for the travels of ES with protection, good health and fruitful effort.

**Suitable Full Time Staff**

**PRAY** that God will provide suitable persons passionate for the BB ministry for Indonesia, Malaysia & Thailand.

**Pray for our BB Asia  
 Member Countries.**

**Brunei**

**PRAY** for sustenance and continuing support from their church because of the political structure, they are only allowed to form one company.

**Hong Kong**

- **THANK GOD** for the establishment of 16 new companies in 2008-2009
- **PRAY** for the exchange program with Sichuan students this coming summer holiday.
- **PRAY** for their target to reach 10,000 BB members by the end of 2009.
- **PRAY** for the final preparation of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program which consists of mainly the International Camp, Founder's Day Parade and Thanksgiving Service.

**Indonesia**

- **PRAY** for BBI's Annual Officers Retreat & General Council Meeting as the BB leaders from Sumatra & Jawa meet for the first time on 20-22 June 2009 at Lake Toba. They will meet to discuss national issues and elect their new National Executive members.
- **PRAY** for the success of the registration of BB Indonesia as an organisation which is now in the final stages.
- **PRAY** for the new companies that have opened this year – 7<sup>th</sup> Jakarta & 1<sup>st</sup> Semarang.
- **PRAY** for also for the nation's coming elections.

**Macau**

- **PRAY** for that God will continue to bless the BB work and for their new leadership.

**Malaysia**

- **PRAY** for the Brigade Council Meeting which will be held on 23-25 April 2009 in Selangor. This year is the election year for the National Executive 2009/2010.

**Philippines**

- **PRAY** that the Brigade work will started in the Methodist church.

**Singapore**

- **PRAY** for that God will continue to bless the BB work.

**Thailand**

- **PRAY** that God will continue to grant the National Executive wisdom and guidance as they take steps to develop the ministry and to improve relationships.
- **PRAY** for every company that they will produce capable leaders with the right heart and spirit to lead the company. Also that they will continue to work well with other companies and with the national executive.
- **PRAY** for their coming Officers Training Course in July 2009

**Cambodia** (not a member country yet.)

- **PRAY** for our full-time team at the BB Learning Centre.
- **PRAY** for a potential BB company in a Methodist School. The group is already meeting but lack experienced leaders.



*...pray for each other...  
 (James 5:16)*

**Our greatest  
 weakness may be  
 our failure to ask  
 for God's strength.**

## Our Tomorrows

*“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, nor about the body, what you will put on.”*  
 Luke 12-22-31

While we wouldn't want to argue with Jesus, we may sometimes wonder if His words about worry are realistic (Luke 12 12-22). After all, shouldn't we be concerned about tomorrow? Suppose we get laid off from work? What if we get sick? Isn't fear that we won't have bread and threads and shelter one of the strongest fears we have?

No words in any language can produce more anxiety than the question, "What if?" As we mutter them, we begin to imagine one bad possibility, then another, and then both bad possibilities together. We don't think about the fact that our needs have always been met in the past and that we have enough for today. There is always that uneasy dread that tomorrow our well may run dry.

While it is certainly wise to plan for the future, the imagined thirst of tomorrow, even though our well is full today, in one thirst that is unquenchable. Jesus taught that worrying about the future is futile. We shouldn't be traumatized by what might happen or by what might be required of us. The imaginary need of tomorrow is one need that God cannot meet.

If God has given us food and drink enough for today, why not let Him worry about our tomorrows?

**Worry is interest  
 paid on trouble  
 before it becomes  
 due**

*(Taken from Our Daily Bread, June 2001.)*

## Executive Secretary's DIARY



### May 2009

- 06-14 - Sumatra, Indonesia**
- BB promotion in Aceh & Medan
- 14-17 - Singapore**
- BB Asia 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee 2009/2010 Meeting

### June 2009

- 04-05 - Singapore**
- Task Force Groups Meeting
- 17-22 - Sumatra, Indonesia**
- BBI Annual Officers Retreat and General Council Meeting in Parapat

### July 2009

- 1-24 - Bangkok, Thailand**
- Officers Training Course
  - BB Promotion Work Up North
  - Training New Companies

### August 2009

- 19-29 - Sumatra, Indonesia**
- Camp Bersama
  - BOTC in Aceh

### September 2009

- 14/09-4/10 - ES on 2009 Annual Leave**

### November 2009

- 04-10 - Hong Kong**
- BB Asia 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Meeting
  - BBHK's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner & Parade
- 17-29 - Jakarta, Indonesia**
- BOTC
  - Enrolment of 1<sup>st</sup> Bandung
  - Junior Section Camp

## THIS IS BB ASIA

### Purpose

BB Asia has been formed out of a desire to maintain the unity, purpose and specific character of The Boys' Brigade everywhere. It came into being to give The Boys' Brigade an international organisation which would advance its growth, interest and cause.

### Objects

The objects of BB Asia are:

- to promote the development and extension of The Boys' Brigade to new fields and territories.
- to strengthen the work of The Boys' Brigade internationally and within each member country
- to help its members to develop and adapt their respective programmes to the needs arising out of the conditions in which young people live and work
- to develop sympathy, understanding, and cooperation among all its members.

### CONTACT US

If you wish to receive or send Across Asia to a friend or friends, just drop us an email stating the individual's name and email address to

[bb.across.asia@gmail.com](mailto:bb.across.asia@gmail.com).

We welcome comments, news, announcements, prayer items, articles, photographs etc. Please send them to [bb.across.asia@gmail.com](mailto:bb.across.asia@gmail.com).

*(Kindly note that we reserve the right to edit or not to publish any contribution deemed unsuitable.)*