

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE SINGAPORE
(UEN NO. S61SS0001A)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010
(ABRIDGE)

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE SINGAPORE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

2010 has been a great year of reorganising ourselves within the Executive Committee (Exco) and GB Headquarters (GBHQ) to deliver our vision and goals, our programme and our purpose! This is a year of restructuring the committees – a year of reviewing the work of each committee to focus on the essentials. A record-breaking number of four Exco retreats were held to spar with one another to seek wisdom and direction for dealing with the Brigade issues facing our officers and companies. The Exco pondered on the good things we were doing that we should do more of, and things that we need to improve, and things that we should stop doing. The desire to bring GB back to the heartland was birthed, giving rise to the theme “Living with Purpose”.

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010

1.1 Awards Ceremony

The Awards Parade and Ceremony and Council Dedication were held on 17 April at Methodist Girls' School. The Guest-of-Honour was our Brigade Patron, Mrs S R Nathan. A total of 1,116 girls, officers and Council members, and 30 guests attended the event. Awards for Brigade Fortnight 2009's top 10 companies and three top individual collectors were presented. A total of 67 companies received the Company Awards for 2009. 2ndS and 34th Company received the Sustained Gold Awards (Ten years) in recognition of their attainment of Gold Awards for ten consecutive years, and 1stP, 1stS, 4thS, 5th, 28thS, 42nd, 53rd and 57th Company received the Sustained Gold Awards (Five years) for five consecutive years, while 31st and 40th Company received the Sustained Achievement Awards for their achievement of five Gold Awards in seven years.

Our heartiest congratulations to Ms Hee Piang Chin, our Immediate Past Brigade Commissioner who was conferred Honorary Life Membership during the service.

1.2 FUN Challenge

The national competition “FUN Challenge” was held on 5 June at Zhangde Primary School. A total of 70 teams participated, with 31 teams from primary companies and 39 from secondary. In the Primary Challenge, the girls were enthusiastic and independent with minimal help from their officers. The secondary scene was appetising as aroma of food filled the air. Our lady chefs cooked

some delicious and well-decorated dishes with the ingredients provided within the limited time given. The overall champion was 3rd P and 48th Company.

Concurrently, a total of 18 flea stalls were set up for selling of merchandise for fund-raising towards Dr Low Guat Tin Challenge and One-Chance Project for the third world countries. The Flea market created a buzz as each stall proudly displayed some very nice and creative self-made art crafts for sale.

2. OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

2.1 Presidents' Committee

The annual International Presidents' Committee meeting was hosted by GB Singapore on 19-22 July. GBS Exco hosted a special dinner on 20 July 2010 introducing the local Peranakan culture to our International counterparts.

2.2 ICGB 2010 & International Competition

The 10th International Conference of The Girls' Brigade (ICGB) was held in Kuching, Malaysia from 24-31 July 2010. The conference is held once every four years and is a gathering of key leaders of The Girls' Brigade from different countries to review the work and to map out future directions. More than 260 delegates representing over 26 countries attended this international conference. A team comprising seven GBS Exco members and five officers represented Singapore.

It was a time to meet up with delegates from the various fellowships as well as electing the Asia Fellowship International Vice President (IVP) as well as the election of the International President (IP) of The Girls' Brigade. A special resolution for the IP to run a second term was passed at ICGB. Mrs Ruth Chikasa (Zambia) was re-elected International President. The newly elected IVP of Asia Fellowship is Ms Tnay Yong Hua from GB Malaysia.

The Conference culminated with an International President's Dinner to bring a closure to ICGB. GB Singapore won the International Competition with the submission of a video clip (by 1stP Company and two art pieces (by 1stP and 3rdP Company). Certificates were presented and the two companies (1stP and 3rdP) will take turns to keep the shield for two years each respectively.

We thank all companies for their effort and enthusiastic participation in this international event.

2.3 GB Asia Fellowship 2010

GB Asia Fellowship (GBAF) was held on 13-14 November at GB Centre, Singapore. Delegates from GB Hong Kong, GB Malaysia, and some GBS Exco members attended the meeting. A special dinner was organised where Exco/Council members and captains were invited to get to know our GB Asia leaders.

3. **OUR NATIONAL EVENTS**

3.1 Dr Low Guat Tin Challenge (LGT Challenge)

The LGT Challenge allows our primary girls the opportunity to participate in projects that will give them the chance to serve the community and those who are less fortunate than them. LGT Challenge 2010 was based on the theme “5 loaves and 2 fishes – God’s multiplying effect”. A total of 28 companies participated with the 25th Company winning the LGT Challenge Shield for 2010.

The companies took on this challenge in school and churches as well as during GB National Event (FUN Challenge) to help raise funds for the children in third world countries. Projects and activities undertaken for fund-raising include making and selling of scrapbooks, mobile phone accessories, bookmarks, cookies, washing cars and others. The funds raised would be used to support the education of 15 Cambodian children from the slum area for schoolbooks, uniforms, shoes and tuition fees.

3.2 Fast – Food & Fuzz

Three Fast-Food & Fuzz camps were held at GB Centre during the year on 3 – 4 July, 28 – 29 August and 18 – 19 September. The girls slept in self-constructed cardboard “houses” and partook in simple meals of porridge with preserved vegetables. They learned about fasting from elaborate food and all fuzz from their parents and domestic helpers, especially the luxuries in life. A total of 187 girls from 30 primary companies participated and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

3.3 Promotion and Dedication Service

The Promotion & Dedication Service was held on 17 July at GB Centre. The Guest-of-Honour was Mrs Tay Poh Imm, the Brigade President. Some 803 chevrons were given out to NCOs.

Advanced Officers Training Course Awards and Officers' Service Awards were also presented. The highest award for GB girls—the Pioneer Brigaders Brooch was presented to 12 girls. The service was run by the PBB girls – took part as emcee, led in worship and did ushering, together with the 3rd Company girls and Post-Secondary girls.

3.4 Singapore Youth Festival

The Singapore Youth Festival Opening Ceremony Parade 2010 was held on 3 July at the National Indoor Stadium. Themed '*Torch of Friendship*', it saw the participation of 39 girls from 17 GB Companies. The Contingent Commander was SSgt Rachel Ng Mei Yi (2ndS Company) and the flag bearer was SSgt Christine Ng Pei Ru (10th Company).

3.5 Brigade Fortnight

Brigade Fortnight was held on 11 – 25 July. We are very thankful to all who donated and contributed to the collection of \$571,481 to support the work of the GBS.

3.6 National Day Parade

National Day Parade 2010 with the theme '*Live Our Dreams, Fly Our Flag*' held on 9 August saw a participation of 88 girls representing GB in the national event. Our girls did us proud again at the Parade held at the Padang. It was a year with full parade march-past, followed by a City march-past segment. The contingent was led by Contingent Commander Ms Gerine Sng (74th Company) and Reserve Contingent Commander Ms Heng Ci Pei (4thS Company).

3.7 Youth Olympic Games

The inaugural Youth Olympic Games (14-26 August) was hosted by Singapore and two of our GB girls were involved in the Closing Ceremony of the Games. SSgt Bianca Nikkita Ignaties (4thS Company) and SSgt Tay Hui Ping Jolene (54th Company) were part of the Flag Party.

3.8 Officers' Retreat

A total of 190 participants comprising Exco members, officers, volunteers and staff had a fruitful weekend at Changi Village Hotel on 4 – 5 September. The theme of the retreat was '*Living with*

Understanding'. Officers were offered five electives for the workshops (led by various facilitators), namely: - Five Languages of Love (Ms Gillian Koh), Gifted for Community (Mrs Sally Chew), Skating on Thin Ice – Influencing Adolescent Girls (Ms Vivien Huan), Practising Solitude (Ms Lois Siew) and The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership® (Ms Pearl Pang).

3.9 Volunteers' Appreciation Lunch

This joyful event, celebrated on 30 October, was attended by some 200 officers, teachers, helpers and chaplains. The programme based on the theme "Make a Joyful noise", included energisers, games and a harmonica item, and not forgetting a sumptuous lunch. Officers literally made a joyful noise with party shakers, clappers and whistles. They were invited to write thanksgiving notes on the notepads and hang them up on the five strings of scores to make a symphony of music together. The Past International President's Badge was presented to Mrs Tay Poh Luan, for her faithful service in the Brigade. Our GB volunteers were given a reversible tote bag as an appreciation of their ministry at company levels and in national projects.

3.10 Remembrance Day

On 14 November, members of the Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League, the Ex-Services Association of Singapore, Uniformed Groups and members of the public paid homage to those who sacrificed themselves during the World Wars. Eleven girls from 26th Company and four officers/teachers attended the ceremonies at Kranji War Memorial and the Civilian Memorial in remembrance of the war heroes.

3.11 Celebrate Christmas

On 18 December, GB Exco members, officers and GBHQ staff went caroling to celebrate the love of Jesus. This 13-member strong group brought warmth of Christmas into the homes of the Rev TC Nga, Dr Low Guat Tin, Mrs Lim Soo Ngoi and Mdm Tan Hwa Yong. At each home, the Christmas story was read and a medley of Christmas carols was sung, accompanied by the cheerful strains of the ukulele and guitar.

4. OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

4.1 Greenleaf Servant Leadership Conference

The leadership conference: *'Leadership: Engaging Hearts and Minds'* was organised by the Greenleaf Centre for Servant Leadership (Asia) on 14 – 15 April at Furama Riverfront Singapore. GB officers set aside time to attend the conference and some also served as ushers for the event.

4.2 GB In Asia

GB Singapore continues to develop community projects for Cambodia women and children. We are challenged by opportunities to extend the GB ministry to other parts of Asia.

5. OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

5.1 National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA)

Five girls from 31st Company received their NYAA Silver Awards. Four girls from 7th Company, six from 64th Company and seven from 79th Company – received their NYAA Bronze Awards. Well done!

5.2 Pioneer Brigader Brooch (PBB)

A total of 44 girls from six companies were tested on their abilities to take on leadership roles and to perform their best within constraints. Of these, 12 girls were awarded the PBB, our highest award.

6. WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS!

- We extend our welcome to eleven newly appointed chaplains to 11 companies.
- We congratulate the 13 officers who were given appointments as captains during the year.
- We welcome Ms Jayce Pang, Ms Grace Lim and Ms Siu Yuen Man who joined GBHQ as new members to our staff team. We express deep appreciation to Ms Thio Lay Hoon for her faithfulness and love serving at GBHQ for the past four years. We also thank Ms Mae Ang, Ms Ng Xiao Jia, Ms Wendy Chan and Ms Siu Yuen Man for their faithful service in the GB ministry.

7. GRANTS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are grateful to the Ministry of Education for the Uniformed Group Training and Capitation Grants. We also thank GB supporters, partnering churches, parents of our members, well-wishers and members of the public for their kind donations. Special thanks to the many who contributed to the work, giving off their time and talent and also to all who have supported the work in one way or another.

8. MEMBERSHIP

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Girls	3661	3,558	3,810	3861
Officers, Chaplains, Teachers & Helpers	<u>456</u>	<u>547</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>557</u>
TOTAL	<u>4117</u>	<u>4,105</u>	<u>4,353</u>	<u>4418</u>
<hr/> No. of Companies	81	80	81	81

9. MEETINGS

The following meetings were held during the year:

Executive Committee Meeting	8
Council Meeting	4
Officers' Retreat	1
Executive Committee Retreat	4

CONCLUSION

We seek to remind ourselves of our calling and our core values. How GBS lives with understanding and compassion can only be seen in the way we love one and serve one another wholeheartedly with the love of God.

1 Mar 2011