

## **2010 Q1 Quarterly Newsletter**

Dear Elders, Pastors, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Here is a summary of what happened in the first Quarter of 2010 and our prayer items for the months ahead.

### **Launch and adoption of The Story of Early Christianity – The First 500 Years**

- This book has been 2 and a half years in development
- The objective of the book is to give a basic education on Church History.
- The Book covers topics such as:
  - How Christianity spread from AD 30 to AD 500
  - How the Bible was formed
  - How the Creed was developed
  - Who were the heretics
  - How Christianity survived the persecution of the Roman Empire
  - What are the lessons for us today

### **Translation of the Children's Bible Explorer – The Gospel Story into the Myanmar Common Language**

- Pastor Stephen Bawi Tung is on a one-month-visa assignment to Pristine World's office to translate the above title into the Myanmar Common Language. Pray for wisdom for him.
- He is supported by two other Myanmar workers who are residing in Malaysia. One is a pastor of the Myanmar congregation in K.L. Baptist Church.
- Please pray that the completed books will be a blessing to the Myanmar people in Malaysia as well as in Myanmar
- The project is sponsored by individuals from the Myanmar Mission team of SS Methodist Church.

# THE STORY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

## THE FIRST 500 YEARS

The Family Church History Series

THE STORY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

THE FIRST 500 YEARS





# THE STORY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

## THE FIRST 500 YEARS

"The vision and intention of the writers of this book have been captivatingly and most effectively conveyed by a method that is substantive yet interesting ... The facts are made alive by the real-life touches of biographies and vignettes woven into the text, making it most readable and informative. The book has excellent visuals and is intentionally designed to be an easy-to-read book which can be a 'primer' that could lead to further investigations and research."

*Excerpt from the Foreword by Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik,  
President of TRAC Methodist Church in Malaysia.*

Take a journey through the first 500 years of the New Testament Church. Inside this book you will find out about the people and the events that shaped the church to be what it is today. When, why and how was the Bible formed? How did the church get its structure and its creed? Who were the heroes and heretics of the faith in those early years? How did the church survive and eventually outlive the Roman Empire?



The story is told in simple jargon-free language, visualized with colourful photos, humorous caricatures, detailed illustrations and informative maps. This is a book for the whole family and anyone with an interest to find out more about the early years of the Christian faith.



© Pristine World Sdn Bhd  
Issachar Publications  
All Rights Reserved 2010

**Writer:** Goh Kim Guat

**Editors:** Rev. Wong Fong Yang  
Peter C. T. Lim

**Foreword:** Rev. Dr Ong Hwai Teik

Visit us at [www.pristine-world.com](http://www.pristine-world.com)  
For inquires e-mail us at [pristineworld@gmail.com](mailto:pristineworld@gmail.com)

# Take a Journey Through the First 500 Years of Christianity

## The Story of Early Christianity Contents

General Introduction	8
<b>Section 1 - The Birth of Christianity (c. AD 30-70)</b>	
Introduction and Timeline for Section 1	13
Chapter 1      The Beginnings	14
Chapter 2      Birth of the New Testament Church	28
<b>Section 2 - The Struggle of the Church for Survival (AD 70-311)</b>	
Introduction and Timeline for Section 2	42
Chapter 3      Persecution Begins	44
Chapter 4      The Church Defends Itself	62
Chapter 5      The Battle for Truth	75
Chapter 6      The End of Roman Persecution	92
Chapter 7      Church Life in the Early Centuries	104
<b>Section 3 - The Triumph of the Church in the Empire (AD 312-500)</b>	
Introduction and Timeline for Section 3	122
Chapter 8      The Church Comes to Power	124
Chapter 9      The Coming of the Monastics	139
Chapter 10     The Crises and the Councils	151
Chapter 11     Christianity Spreads Eastwards	166
Chapter 12     The Church Survives the Empire	184
Key Events of the First Five Centuries	200
Glossary of Names	201
Glossary of Terms	205
Bibliography	208



# Read about the Heroes and Martyrs of Christianity

## Persecutor's Daily Mirror

Giving you the Latest Torture Stories

### Bishop Eaten by Wild Beasts!

Rome, AD 110

Ignatius, the Bishop of Antioch and defender of the Christian faith, was thrown to the wild beasts today.

Emperor Trajan wanted him torn apart by the animals to discourage people from becoming Christians. But Trajan didn't count on the fiery passion of Ignatius for his Lord. Ignatius was so determined to die for his faith in Jesus that he wrote to the Christians in Rome not to prevent his execution.

He told the Roman Christians,

"I am dying willingly for God's sake, if only you do not prevent it.

Allow me to be eaten by the beasts, which are my way of reaching to God. I am God's wheat, and I am to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, so that I may become the pure bread of Christ." As Ignatius journeyed to his death, many Christians flocked to meet him and he encouraged them. When he arrived at the amphitheatre in Rome, Ignatius was thrown to two fierce lions which immediately devoured him. The death of Bishop Ignatius is a great loss to the church.



**Ignatius**

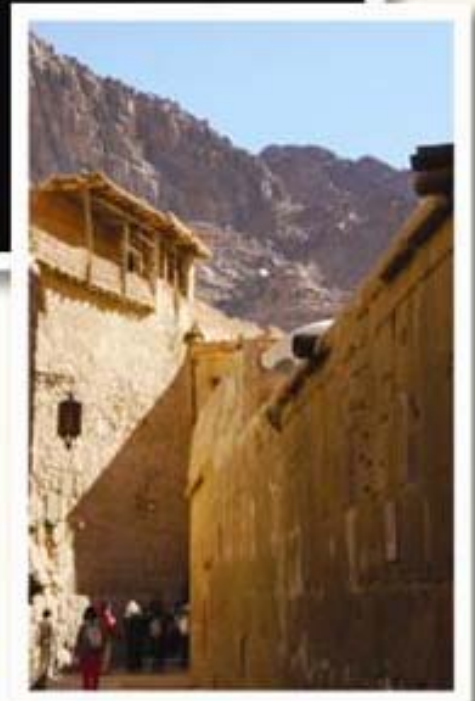


Roman Associated Press Picture  
Ignatius was killed by wild beasts  
for his faith.

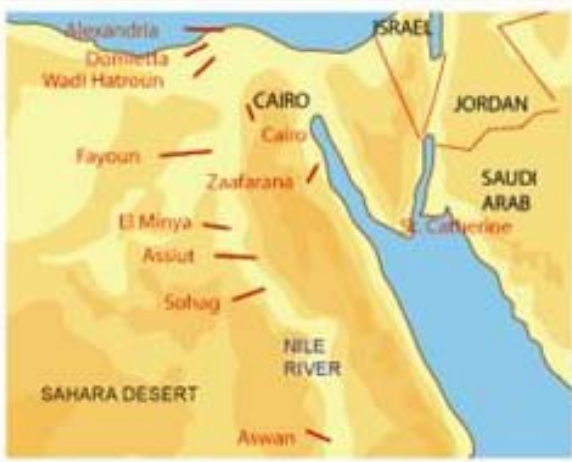
# Read about the Monastics and Take a Tour of their Homes



▲ St. Catherine's Monastery, built in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, still operates today at the base of Mt. Sinai. It was built at the site where Moses was believed to have seen the burning bush.



▲ View of Mt Sinai from inside St. Catherine's Monastery.  
*Photos by: Peter C. T. Lim*



▲ Map of the sites of Christian monasteries of Egypt, most of which are among the oldest in the world.

# By the Makers of the Children's Bible Explorer Series and Youth Aflame Series



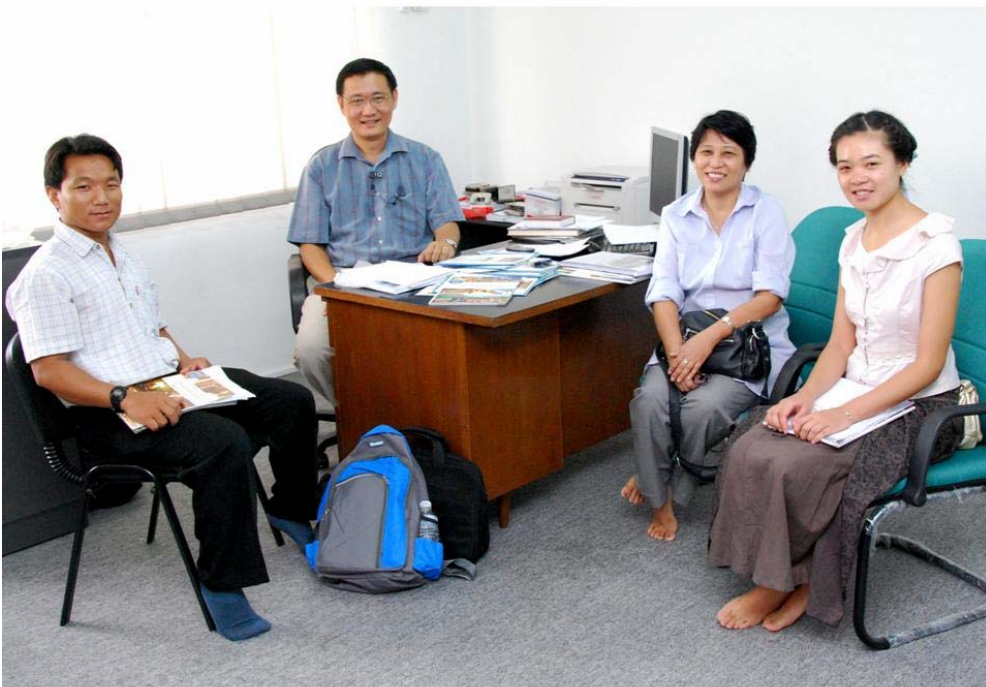
**Available on the 10th of April 2010**

- 208 Page Book
- Full colour and filled with Visuals
- Useful Resource for Teaching Church History
- Joint Effort with Issachar Publications
- Development Team
  - **Writer – Goh Kim Guat**
  - **Content Editor – Rev Wong Fong Yang & Mr Allen Bryan McClymont (B.D. MA Theology)**
  - **General Editor – Peter C.T. Lim**
  - **Illustrator – Yeo Li Yin**
  - **Graphic Layout – Leslie Kee**



# Translating the Children's Bible Explorer Series – The Gospel Story into the Myanmar Common Language

Initial planning with  
Mr Leong  
and Pastor Lemuel



Translation team from left to right  
Pastor Stephen Bawi Tung – Principal Translator,  
Publisher, Editors and Proof Readers - Pr Winnie and Volunteer Staff Zhe Lan





# ခရစ်ဝင်ကျမ်းမှသခင်ယေရှု၏သက်တော်စဉ်အတွဲ(၁)

သခင်ယေရှု - မွေးဖွားခြင်းမှအဆင်းသဏ္ဌာန်ပြောင်းလဲခြင်း



ပိတာ ဇီတီလင်း  
(Peter C. T. Lim)  
အတိုင်ပင်ခံအယ်ဒီတာ  
ဒေါက်တာဟာဘာကီတန်  
(Rev Dr Herbert Tan)

- Summary of Prayer items:
  - **Launch of The Story of Early Christianity – The First 500 Years**
  - **Translation of The Gospel Story into the Myanmar Common Language**
  - **If you are interested or know anyone interested to support the Myanmar translation work, please email us at [pristineworld@gmail.com](mailto:pristineworld@gmail.com)**
- Our books are currently available from the following Retail Outlets
  - **Glad Sounds**
  - **Evangel Book Centre**
  - **CanaanLand**
  - **Bible Society of Malaysia,**
  - **Burning Bush Bookshop – Dream Centre**
- Any re-sellers who wish to represent our books can email to [pristineworld@gmail.com](mailto:pristineworld@gmail.com) or if in Singapore, contact Christina Lim of Armour Publishing in Singapore (+65-6276-9976)

We also hope that you will view our website, and see if any of our materials can be used by your congregation.

The website is [www.pristine-world.com](http://www.pristine-world.com) . If you have any feedback for us, we can be contacted at [pristineworld@gmail.com](mailto:pristineworld@gmail.com) .

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to your friends who are:

- Interested to review products for their Church children's ministry
- Parents looking for resources to help teach their children
- Non-Christian friends who are open to the Gospel

Once again, thank you for your prayers and support.

Wishing you a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year ahead.

The Lord bless and keep you.

