

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Rev Dr Patrick Lau Kim Thiam

1949-2024



Remembering His Ministry and Service

Assemblies of God of Singapore Executive Committee – 35 years of leadership in the Assemblies of God of Singapore



1968-2010 – Senior Pastor, Calvary Assembly

2013-2024 – Senior Pastor, Faith Fellowship International

Represented The Assemblies of God of Singapore in World AG Fellowship (WAGF), Pentecostal World Conferences and many others in Asia.

Other positions held:

- Host Chairman of the 15th Pentecostal World Conference held in Singapore in 1989
- 23 years of the Chairman of the Management Board of Assemblies of God Bible College (AGBC now known as ACTS College)
- 2 years as Acting Principal of BIS (now known as ACTS College)
- 20 years as President of Teen Challenge Singapore
- 7 years as a Chairman of the Asia Pacific Assemblies of God Fellowship
- 10 years in the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches Singapore.
- 15 years as an advisory committee member of the Military Christian Fellowship
- 16 years in Singapore Bible Society
- 19 years in Evangelical Fellowship of Singapore Board of Reference (Global Day of Prayer Advisory Board)
- 3 years in the Board of Directors of Celebrate Christmas in Singapore
- Advisor to Teen Challenge Cebu
- Advisor to Teen Challenge Singapore
- Served in Festival of Praise



Remembering His Life of Service

An official AG Singapore tribute.

Dear Ministers,

On April 16, 2024, Heaven welcomed Rev Dr Patrick Lau Kim Thiam, a faithful member and son of the Assemblies of God Singapore, who has passed away peacefully. He was surrounded by his loved ones, Dr Rina, Rev Daphne June, and Dwayne, and his favorite gospel hymn, *'Because He Lives'*. The Assemblies of God Singapore expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family of Rev Dr Lau. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Rev Dr Lau's life was a testament to his unwavering dedication and passion for serving God and the Assemblies of God Singapore. His unfailing leadership and tenacity in service were truly inspiring, and they bear true testimony to the assurance he found in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (KJV): "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

For over 42 years, Rev Dr Lau dedicated himself to his role as Senior Pastor of Calvary Assembly, providing unwavering care and concern for his congregation. His spirit of service extended to his position as General Superintendent for 32 years, where he nurtured and guided the Assemblies of God Bible College (now known as ACTS College) and Teen Challenge Singapore. His exemplary leadership has been instrumental in our journey, and we owe our current position to his hard work and dedication.

Rev Dr Lau was not only an active member of our community but also served as the Chair of the Asia Pacific Assemblies of God Fellowship for seven good years. He was instrumental in organizing the 15th Pentecostal World Conference, a global event held in Singapore. At the national level, he represented Assemblies of God Singapore by serving on various boards, including the Evangelical Fellowship of Singapore, the National Council of Churches Singapore, and the Military Christian Fellowship, among others. Rev Dr Lau's contributions have left an indelible mark on the Singapore Christian community.

Rev Dr Lau's unwavering dedication to God is truly inspiring. He never turned back after entering full-time ministry in 1967, and his service to God grew beyond its humble beginnings. As we remember him, let us take heart in the assurances he found in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 and in his inspiring words: "No turning back. Don't start if you don't plan to go on for good. If He calls, He provides, He opens the door, He teaches you." Rev Dr Lau's life is a powerful reminder that with faith and commitment, we, too, can accomplish great things.

Rev Dr Lau will be dearly missed. Let's honor his extraordinary life and accomplishments by continuing his legacy of striving toward kingdom transformation. Together, we can make a difference and impact the world for Christ.



Rev Dominic Yeo
General Superintendent



Rev Jason Tan
General Secretary

Remembering His Heart to Serve

Here is an interview AG Times did with Rev Dr Patrick Lau previously.

Tell us about your call into full-time ministry.

I answered the call to full-time ministry on a watchnight service at Bethel Assembly on Dec 31, 1966 (the year I completed my GCE O-Levels).

In January 1967, I entered full-time ministry by enrolling in Berean Bible Training Institute, the only Pentecostal Bible school in Singapore. The institute was pioneered by Rev and Mrs Fred Seaward.

At that time, I thanked God that there was such a Pentecostal institute in Singapore. It would have been impossible to go to Malaya Bible Institute, and my mother would never have given me permission to do so.

My mother was my biggest obstacle. There was no way she could understand the nature of my training. As the youngest in the family of 10, her expectations of me were high.

One most decisive moment was when she came to the institute to persuade me to return home, continue my secular education and get a job. That morning, I saw her crying and I was crying for fear of hurting her more. In that emotional struggle, I looked up and saw Jesus bidding me with His hand, saying, "Follow me." It was then I turned to my mother, and said gently and lovingly, "Mum, I must follow Jesus." Since then, I have not turned back! God miraculously worked it out. The whole story can be found in my book, 'The Pastor'.



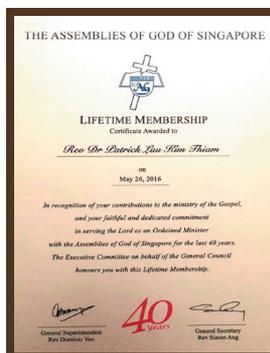
The institute's emphasis was on the Word and practical ministry. In the first year I had the opportunity to travel to Batu Pahat, Malaysia, together with the principal and fellowship students, to pioneer a work there. I had the chance to preach at a tent crusade one night because the speaker (the principal) had an urgent matter to attend in Singapore.

Towards the end of 1967, as a first-year student, I was asked to be a student- pastor of Calvary.

What do you think are your major contributions to the Assemblies of God here in Singapore?

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee for 35 years: two years as a committee member, two years as treasurer and 32 years as General Superintendent. It was a season of churches being started and young ministers launching into the ministry. I am glad to have played a part in seeing a whole new generation of pastors and ministers rise up to take on leadership.

I also feel privileged to have been involved in the formation of the Assemblies of God Bible School. The school became recognized by the Ministry of Education and I was able to apply for student pass. It was really through the kind help of Rev James Wong, a Canon with the Anglican Church.



Teen Challenge is another area of ministry I have enjoyed. I was involved when it first started, serving as the President for over 18 years. I am blessed to see some residents rise up to be staff workers and leaders. Teen Challenge became a role model for other halfway houses.



I am grateful to serve as an executive member of the National Council of Churches, Singapore. Through the years of interacting with the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Lutheran denominations, Assemblies of God was well respected. I had the joy of being one of the seven leaders to meet with the leadership in China.

It was a fruitful seven-day visit. I enjoyed beautiful bonding with leaders of the bigger denominations, and I learned so much from them.

What is keeping you busy these days?

I pastor a pioneering fellowship that I started. I am still preaching in several churches. I have offered myself as a Spiritual Advisor to several pastors. I have dialysis three evenings each week from 6 to 10pm. That place has been like my 'office as a counsellor.'

Share with us a principle that you abide by that you feel has helped you in your ministerial journey.

When you sense God's call for full-time service, go all the way and trust Him all the time. No turning back. Don't start if you don't plan to go on for good. If He calls, He provides, He opens the door, He teaches you.

One thing I have learned in my ministry journey is that God never fails.

The verse that helps me is 1 Thessalonians 5:24, KJV, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

It was tough at the beginning. In Bible school days, we have no support financially. I gave tuition to pay for Bible school fees. I was given a small allowance when I started as a student- pastor. God never fails. He provided even up to now. My encouragement is that you trust Him wholeheartedly.



Remembering One of His Many Articles

'Three Reasons Why I Love the Assemblies of God' which reflects his heart for AG Singapore.

My Association with the AG Singapore

I gave my heart to Jesus in 1965 through the ministry of Truth for Youth Movement, under Bethel Assembly. I had no idea then about denominations. All I knew was this church—Bethel Assembly. Through the years I discovered that Bethel Assembly was one of the churches under the umbrella of the AG Singapore. Later, I also learned that this is part of a worldwide AG Movement.

I grew spiritually in Bethel Assembly, learned the doctrines of AG (Singapore), and began to love this church, the people, and the leaders. I decided that this was where I would stay and embrace all the teachings of the AG.

Soon, I got deeper into this movement. I served as a pastor for over 43 years, and as the General Superintendent of this movement for 31 years. This is how much I have loved this movement, and still do.

Why Do I Love This Movement?

1. The Doctrines of the AG (Singapore)

The AG Singapore, and worldwide, has a set of doctrines that we call the *16 Fundamental Truths or 16 Tenets of Faith*. It covers the basic teachings of the Bible. The AG doctrines are practical. They unify us as a movement, identify who we are, and build Christians to be strong and powerful witnesses for the Lord.

As a Christian and a pastor, I find the fundamental truths beneficial. They help me know where I stand. The doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues, has been a powerful instrument in the growth of the AG Churches. The empowerment from the Holy Spirit gives believers the boldness to be witnesses for Jesus. The Holy Spirit also enables believers to experience freedom in worship expression.

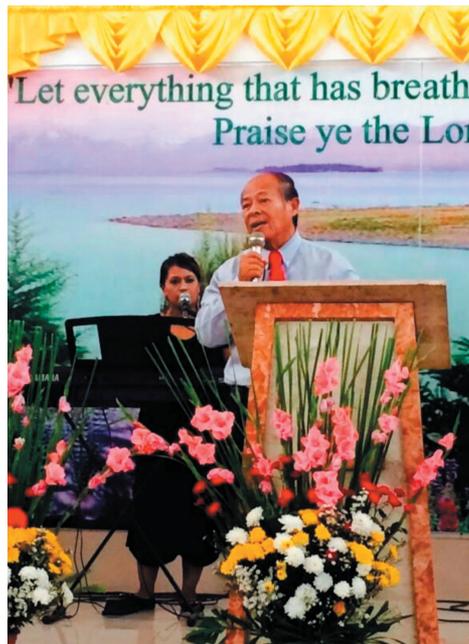
2. The All-Embracing Character of the AG (Singapore)

Though we have a set of fundamental doctrines to let people know where we come from and who we are as a movement, the AG is not exclusive. We do not behave that we are the only ones who have answers and are favored by God. We are not proud and arrogant but are very accommodating to other denominations. Let me elaborate on what I mean.

When serving as the General Superintendent, I was asked to sit on several interdenominational committees. I sat in the National Council of Churches (Singapore), Evangelical Fellowship of Singapore, Bible Society (Singapore) Advisory Council, Billy Graham Crusade planning committee, and the Military Christian Fellowship Advisory Council.

Though the committee members were from different denominations, we all worked well together. The other denominational leaders happily embraced me as an AG leader. I became a good friend to the leaders of the other denominations. That is why I love this movement. We work together to build God's Kingdom, not just our own kingdoms.

I recall another very amazing account about how the Lord granted us a favor. When our Bible school, Assemblies of God Bible College (the present ACTS College), needed to be registered with the Ministry of Education, it looked impossible. Without that recognition, overseas students could not study in our Bible School. It was the Late Canon James Wong, an Anglican Canon, who helped us to be registered with the Ministry of Education. He was then the Chairman of all Anglican Schools. It was then that we could accept overseas students. Over the years we have developed great friendships and fellowship with all denominations.



3. Passionate in Missions and Evangelism

I can say that the growth of this movement is due to its passion for missions and evangelism endeavors. When I was a young pastor, I was blessed to see how few churches (there were only about five AG churches in the 1960s) would always gather to plan for youth rallies, crusades, door-to-door evangelism, and other events. When I came into leadership, the fire for missions and passion for evangelism were still burning hot. I am glad to have witnessed many AG churches being pioneered in this period.

I cannot forget the youth rallies back then. Lorries carrying loads of believers and friends who were enthusiastically waving their own church flags would pull up at rally venues like Victoria Memorial Hall or Victoria Concert Hall. The halls would easily pack more than a thousand youths. There was so much excitement in evangelism and reaching people for Jesus.

The passion for missions was also strong. Most churches participated in the Mission Faith Pledge, introduced by Rev Dr Fred Seaward. I was amazed by how far churches engaged in missions. Even small churches were sending missionaries, supporting missionaries, and planting churches overseas. When the churches take care of God's business in missions and evangelism, He takes care of building the local churches. I love the cooperation among the AG churches. We move like a live movement. We are united. We move like a mighty army.

Dependence on the Holy Spirit to take the AG movement into powerful encounters continues to this day. We shall move forward till Jesus comes to take His Church. I am so glad to be part of the AG movement in Singapore.

Remembering Our Dad

Excerpts from the original eulogies.

Dad walked with me through a very dark season of my life where I thought I would never be able to face the world again or continue on in the ministry. He constantly reminded me of God's call on my life, prayed for me, and stood by me. When I finally received my ordination, Dad was overjoyed and, after the ceremony, came to my house and handed me a bouquet of flowers, a ministerial handbook and a card. He told me he was so proud of me. Dad celebrated all my achievements.

Dad always believed in trusting the Lord and taught me to be resilient in the face of opposition. Dad would not retaliate, even though people wanted him to do so, but trusted God to vindicate him and come through for him. It was not easy as I would see a lot of things happening. When I was five, I remember Dad coming to the bedroom where I was hanging out with my mother. He had just finished a long board meeting downstairs. He came up and put his head on my mother's lap and sobbed like a baby. Being only five, I did not know what had happened, but I knew that Dad was sad after a church board meeting, and it broke my heart. I got to see that over and over again, but I also got to see Dad still love and be the pastor God had called him to be.

Over the years, I'd seen Dad at his lowest, both in the ministry and in his physical health. Even though he had experienced deep hurt and fear, his resilience in life and rock-solid stubborn faith in God never failed to inspire me. He reminded me of a "bùdǎowēng" (tilting doll). No matter how many punches are thrown at it, it always manages to get back on its feet. That's Dad. His trust in God anchored him through all the strong and bitter winds that the different seasons brought. Dad would always say: "Focus on Jesus! Keep your eyes on Jesus!" He was a firm believer in knowing the Scripture, worshiping and praying in tongues.



Rev Daphne June Lau
*Worship Pastor/Missions Pastor,
Eternal Life Assembly*

Dad always told me how much he loves me and how much he is proud of me. He sends me messages throughout the week to check in with me to say, "Have a good day son." "I love you" "Thinking of you" "God is with you." After watching my performances, he would, without fail, text me to say, "Daddy is proud of you and your show! Well done, boy!"

Every birthday or Christmas, he would write me cards affirming his love and how he was proud of me and the work that I was doing. Before I left the house, he would pray for me, especially if I was going to lead worship in church or heading to do something significant. Anytime I needed prayer, he would text me a prayer and get me through the momentary challenge I was facing.

In fact, in the ICU, with the little voice and articulation he had, he was able to minister to me through songs. A night prior to visiting him, I was in bed crying out to God telling Him how afraid I was and lonely at the thought of losing my father.

The next evening when I visited dad, he whispered and asked me to play three songs for him. I figured that he wanted songs to comfort him in his time of suffering. I googled and played these songs 'God leads his dear children along', 'No, never alone' and 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus'.

As these songs played, tears welled up in his eyes while I was bawling my eyes out. I suddenly realized that as I listened to the lyrics of the songs, Dad actually meant to affirm ME with these reassuring words to trust in Jesus and that I will never be alone. Even on his deathbed, Dad found ways to communicate his love to me.



Mr Dwayne Lau

(For full eulogies, please refer to Rev Daphne June Lau and Mr Dwayne Lau)

Remembering Our Spiritual Giant

Rev Dr Patrick Lau was God's servant who fully deserves what 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 NLT says, "Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work."

He was a faithful, dedicated and humble leader who had served in the AG Singapore Executive Committee for over 35 years including 32 years as the General Superintendent. What he wrote about his years of ministry and leadership reflects his heart for God. "Yes, I have nothing to boast about. I can do nothing on my own. All that I have, all that I have done, all that I have experienced are all that He has given to me." (The Pastor, Ordinary Man, Extraordinary Journey, by Rev Dr Patrick Lau, 2017)

Rev Dr Patrick may appear to be a stern, austere and even intimidating leader. However, when a person knows him, he will be touched by his warm, loving, kind, fun and generous manner. I thank God for the privilege of serving with him in the AG EXCO. I witnessed his huge pastoral heart for people, especially ministers and pastors and their families. His genuine love reached out to them in their time of need.

He is completely devoted to God and the ministry. Despite his health challenges, Rev Dr Patrick Lau continued to preach locally and regionally. Apart from God, he loved his family wholeheartedly. He encouraged and supported them in pursuing God's plan for their lives. Anyone who has met him would be touched by his love.

Rev Dr Patrick Lau is a "spiritual giant" who deserves our honor, respect and love. As Paul says, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Let us follow in the footsteps of God's faithful servant.



Rev Robert Lum
Senior Pastor, Eternal Life Assembly

Today, the Assemblies of God of Singapore come together to remember and celebrate the life and ministry of Rev Dr Patrick Lau. Dr Lau served as General Superintendent of our movement for 32 years.

These were not ordinary years. Dr Lau came into ministry during the turbulent transitional years of Singapore and Malaysia separating, and Singapore becoming independent. Suddenly, the AG churches in Singapore had to step up and establish themselves as a national movement, separate from Malaysia.

These were years of struggle that had a great impact on everyone during that period. Shifting from a colonial era into a time of independence was naturally a time of unstable identity, uncertain future, and unclear styles of leadership needed to navigate and lead the churches forward.

Although Dr Lau was not our first AG General Superintendent, it was into this environment that Dr Lau was elected to lead the Assemblies of God of Singapore. The weight of overseeing, restructuring, and charting a clear path forward, without prior preparation or training, was a daunting task for him at a young age.

It was during the years that I served with him as a member of the AG Executive Committee, that found when he set his mind on something, right or wrong, no one could change his views. He was a fighter for things he believed in.

This was often unseen by outsiders, as he was basically a shy person, who preferred to stay in the background and have others handle things.

However, I have found him to be especially devoted to his children and his church members. He focused his time on winning young people to the Lord and then mentoring them to serve, full time. In this you could say, his love for God, people and the ministry was unshakable.



Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy
Founder/Chancellor TCA College

Remembering His Life

Ordinary Man, Extraordinary Journey

