

The Salem Chapel Story

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OUR BEGINNINGS

Founded by the Finnish Free Foreign Mission in 1967.

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SALEM CHAPEL AT 50

Celebrated 50 years of God's faithfulness in 2017.

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BEYOND SC50

The process of renewal has started and is underway.

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THE FIRST SC FAMILY AT JALAN RABU



THE SC FAMILY AT THOMSON HILLS





OUR BEGINNINGS

1960 THE LATE K JOEL IKONEN FIRST CAME TO SINGAPORE FROM FINLAND

God led Rev Kaarlo Joel Ikonen, then a young missionary from the Finnish Free Foreign Mission to Singapore to share the gospel with the people in this country. The following year his fiancée Pirkko, who later became his wife, joined him in Singapore. They were based in Zion Church (presently Zion Full Gospel Church), and went about in parts of Singapore such as Kampong San Teng (presently Bishan), Hylam Sua (presently Shunfu Estate) and Kim Chuan Road to share the Gospel. They conducted open-air meetings and to draw people to these meetings, simple and lively songs were sung accompanied with music on the accordion played by Rev Joel Ikonen.

Apart from these, "big-top" tent meetings (which could seat more than 100 people) were set up for up to a week at different locations. Nightly gospel sharing meetings and day time bible stories sessions would be held at these tent meetings.

1967 STARTED A HOUSE-CHURCH AT NO 2. JALAN RABU

In response to God's leading, the late Rev and Mrs K Joel Ikonen rented a 2-storey semi-detached house at No. 2 Jalan Rabu and started its first service with a handful of local Christians.

1971 MOVED TO A SHOP-HOUSE AT NO. 9 KALIDASA AVE

By late 1971, it was obvious that the home-church was not large enough to accommodate a growing congregation. A search for new premises culminated in a move to a shop house No. 9 Kalidasa Avenue (in Teacher's Estate) that had a seating capacity of about 70.



1981 MOVED TO A FORMER SUPERMARKET AT NO.1-7 THOMSON HILLS DRIVE

As the membership grew steadily to more than 100 people, the church had to move once again. This time, it is to our current premises which God had graciously provided at No. 1-7 Thomson Hills Drive. Formerly a supermarket, the premise has 4 connecting shop-house units. The church could now seat more than 200 people.

INDEPENDENT CHURCH

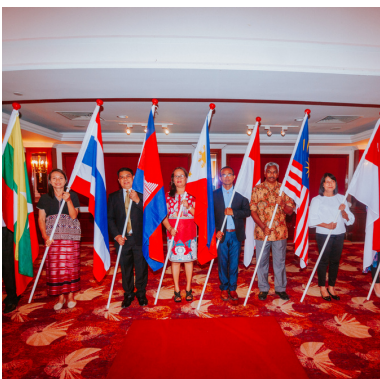
With God's grace and mercy, Salem Chapel grew in size gradually and steadily. Originally founded and supported by the Finnish Free Foreign Mission, Salem Chapel became an independent church, wholly financed by the locally grown congregation and served by its appointed pastors.



SALEM CHAPEL AT 50

2017 50TH ANNIVERSARY

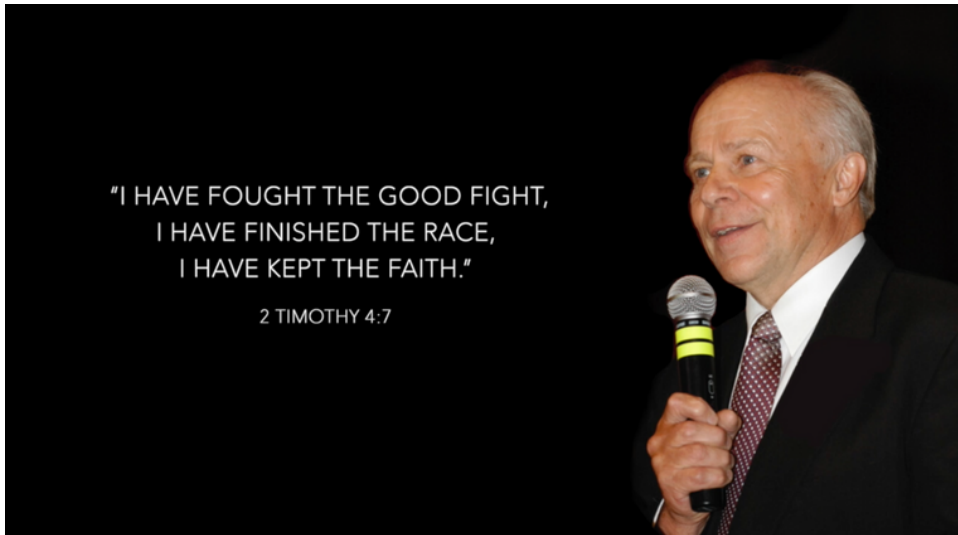
Salem Chapel celebrated 50 years of God's faithfulness with a celebration dinner on 16 September 2017 at Orchid Country Club. Members, friends and supporters came together to commemorate and rejoice in God's grace and mercy and to proclaim our gratitude for His faithfulness and goodness.



LOOKING BEYOND SC50

"As we look to the next 50 years, may the works that we are doing for the Lord be truly the works of His kingdom and not of men. We praise the Lord for His grace and faithfulness of His kingdom.

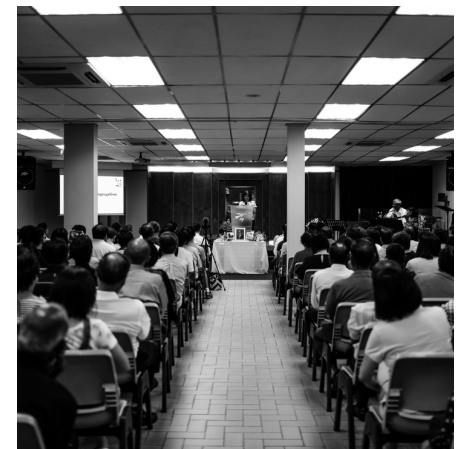
We experienced His wonderful workings both in Singapore and South-East Asia. We are privileged to be a part of the journey of seeing lives changed and communities transformed by the love of God and gospel of Jesus Christ." by Lead Pastor Neo Ban Hui



BEYOND SC50

2018 PASSING OF K JOEL IKONEN

Salem Chapel mourned the passing of our founding pastor. Rev. K Joel Ikonen on 22 February 2018 in his home country, Finland. A Memorial Service which celebrated his life and ministry was held on 11 March 2018 in Salem Chapel Singapore.



2020/1 SALEM RENEWAL PROJECT (SRP)

The Salem Renewal Project (SRP) was conceived and carefully planned over the course of 2 years. The RENEWAL project – it is a juxtaposition of the external and the internal; the natural and spiritual. It began as a spiritual renewal when the Elders, Pastors and Leaders of Salem Chapel looked at the health of the church and sought the Lord for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the next generation. Even as plans were put in place for the training of Next Generation leaders, it was acknowledged that the physical premises of the church also needed a renewal.

The SRP project was completed by Oct 2021 . On 21 November 2021, we had our first Sunday Worship Service at the renovated church premises.



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
Isaiah 43:19

JOURNEY & BEYOND

THE SALEM CHAPEL JOURNEY CONTINUES...

"It is truly by God's grace and mercy that we have progressed with a good measure of success from very humble beginnings to where we are today... It is our prayer and hope that all within Salem Chapel, from every generation, will continue to be faithful and obedient to the Great Command and the Great Commission so that when Jesus returns, He will find us to be faithful servants." by Elder Timothy Ng, Chairman Salem Chapel & founding member.

