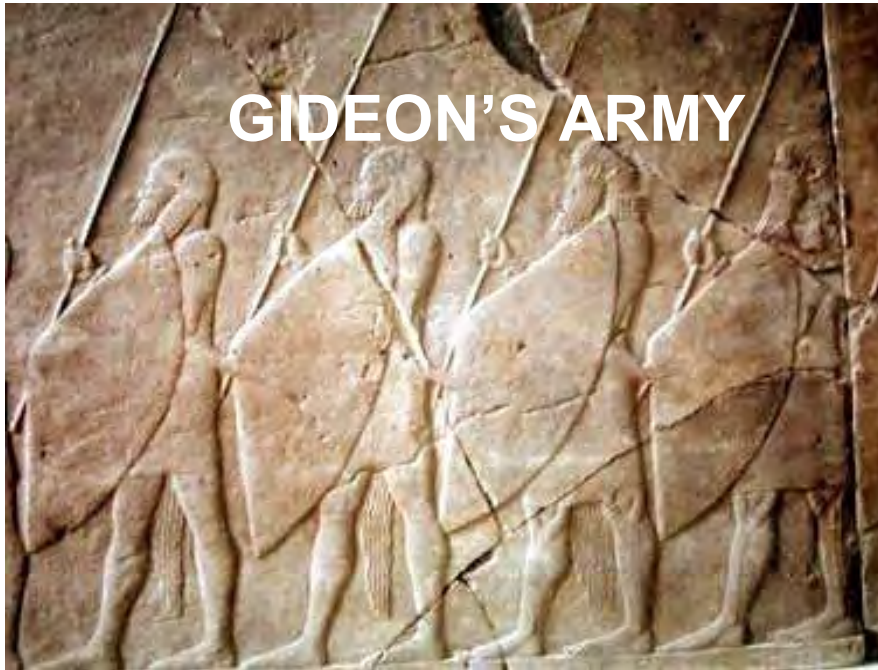


The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men . . . I will save you” (Judges 7:7).



Dear Christian Brother/Sister

It gives me great pleasure as Principal of the Biblical Graduate School of Theology (BGST) to write to you on behalf of the Gideon's Army Appeal. It is now a number of years since the Gideon's Army Appeal was first launched. The original concept of the Appeal was to raise 300 'soldiers' who would pledge to support BGST by giving a fixed amount monthly for three years. The number 300 was, of course, based on the narrative of Judges 7, where the LORD reduced Gideon's army from its original size of 32,000 to a core of 300 reliable soldiers through whom he defeated the huge Midianite army. We are grateful to those who have responded to the Appeal in past years.

In a previous Appeal letter, Dr Quek, Founding Principal Emeritus of BGST, wrote of how BGST has established itself as a 'credible, quality theological institution in Singapore'. That remains true: if anything BGST's reputation has increased since he wrote those words. One indication of this is that BGST Faculty are much in demand as speakers in churches and in para-church organizations.

In other ways, too, BGST's situation has changed since the Appeal was first launched:

- In May 2010 we moved from Tanjong Pagar Road to our current rented premises in Jalan Pemimpin.
- There have been changes in the Personnel. We are thankful to God for those who have served at BGST in the past, and for those serving now. I am confident that the present Faculty, Admin and Library staff have the energy, commitment and imagination to take the work of BGST forward.
- In 2010 we started the Church-Based Lay Training programme in two churches in Singapore. The aim of this programme is to offer Christians a number of short courses which will give them a taste of theological studies.
- We are planning a number of other short, church-based courses for 2012, as well as a series of publicity initiatives which will introduce the work of BGST to people who do not yet know about us.

All in all, as I consider BGST's future, I am encouraged. But there remain challenges:

- We need to find permanent premises of our own. We have a financial reserve which will help towards the purchase of such premises, but we may need to raise a further sum to cover the purchase costs.
- We would like to be able to establish a fund for bringing in from overseas internationally established guest lecturers who complement the training offered by our resident faculty.
- We will never be able to cover BGST's running costs from course fees alone. That may seem to be a rather sweeping statement, and one which perhaps even shows a lack of faith, but I believe that it reflects the realities of theological education in Singapore today. We have reduced our running costs considerably and increased the amount of revenue we derive from course fees. But it is virtually certain that no matter how much our income goes up there will always be a shortfall. For the foreseeable future it is likely that each year we will need to appeal to our supporters to help us meet this shortfall.

OUR APPEAL

Will you consider supporting the Gideon's Army Appeal? You will see below that, unlike in past years, there is now no minimum sum for joining Gideon's Army, nor any minimum 'length of service'. If you are able to commit yourself only for a few months and only for what may seem to you a relatively small sum, I assure that you that we will still welcome your contribution.

Yours in Christ,
Philip Satterthwaite
Principal, BGST

BIBLICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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Singapore 577177

GIDEON'S ARMY

Yes, I/we will pray for the BGST ministry and be part of the Gideon's Army. I/We will pledge to give:

- [] \$50 monthly for _____ months
[] \$100 monthly for _____ months
[] \$_____ monthly (*any amount to which you wish to commit yourself*) for _____ months

☞ Please tick accordingly, complete this form and send with cheque issued to "BGST" to the address shown above. Please call us at Tel: 62276815 x 220 if you wish to give via GIRO or internet banking

For Individual Donation

Rev/Pastor/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address: _____ Singapore _____
Tel: _____ (Hp/Home/Office) Email: _____
Church: _____

For Group Donation

Name of Group: _____
Name of Church/Organization: _____
Name of contact person for this gift: Rev/Pastor/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address: _____ Singapore _____
Tel: _____ (Hp/Home/Office) Email: _____