

## Honorary Secretary's Report 2011

Reported by: *Iris Lee, Honorary Secretary*

The year started with a focus on community development strategies – strategies and partnership, leadership development – remodeling, our need for rebranding and the focus on our core values, and preparation for the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Girls' Brigade (GB) Singapore in 2012.

We continue to keep our eyes on the theme “Living with Understanding & Compassion” which resonate deeply in the hearts of the Brigade as we seek to bless communities locally and overseas.

### 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011

#### 1.1 Chingay 2011

GB Singapore was one of the six Uniformed Youth Groups invited by the Peoples' Association, the organiser of the Chingay Parade, to participate in the Grand Finale – “Passing on the Lamp” in Chingay on 11 and 12 Feb. Mr Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of Singapore was the Guest-of-Honour. The theme with its never-dying flames burning strongly was inspired by nature and the indomitable human spirit of civilisations spreading their culture and traditions.

Mrs Tay Poh Luan (86 years old), former Brigade Commissioner of GB Singapore and the Girls' Brigade International Vice-Patron, represented the most elderly in GB, and Ms Andrea Chong (9 years old, 1<sup>st</sup> P Company), the youngest member. Ms Esther Lim (2<sup>nd</sup> S Company) and Ms Navasakhti d/o Sundra Moorthi (1<sup>st</sup> S Company) were escorts for Mrs Tay and Andrea respectively. It was truly a significant event being part of the passing on the lamp ceremony.

#### 1.2 GB Flag Day

Some 2,000 GB girls and officers participated in the GB Flag Day on 5 March. High-spirited participants walked the streets with the distinctive blue sling bags. Thanks to the commitment of the participants and the generosity of the public, the island wide fund-raising event successfully raised \$96,191.93. Everyone worked extremely hard both in soliciting and counting until late into the night. It was truly a clear demonstration of the community spirit among girls, officers, volunteers and GBHQ staff. This project saw friendship built, team spirit evidenced and GB alumni members reconnected.

#### 1.3 National Drill Competition

The National Drill Competition was held on 12 and 19 March at Nee Soon Camp with participation from 32 teams under the Pioneer Category, 12 teams in the Senior Category, and 29 teams in the Junior Category. The Guests-of-Honour of the two days were Ms Evelyn Yip Sook Lai, Brigade Commissioner, and Mrs Tay Poh Imm, Brigade President respectively. Held biennially, the National Drill Competition hopes to raise the overall standard of drill in GB Singapore and also to inculcate a strong sense of discipline and a spirit of excellence in all GB girls. This competition consisted of Creative Drill for all categories, with the Seniors and Pioneers having an additional component of Impromptu Drill.

The Challenge Shield for the Junior Section went to 4<sup>th</sup> P Company. 1<sup>st</sup> S and 2<sup>nd</sup> S came out top in the Senior and Pioneer sections respectively. The Best Commander trophies went to Sgt Tan Si Min (4<sup>th</sup> S) for the Senior section and Sgt Ng Mei Yi Rachel (2<sup>nd</sup> S) for the Pioneer section. Best Newcomers Award went to 30<sup>th</sup> Company for the Junior section, and 44<sup>th</sup> for the Pioneer section. 64 teams were presented with awards (Annex A).

#### 1.4 Awards Ceremony

The Annual Awards Ceremony is held in recognition of excellent administration and achievements of deserving GB Companies. This year it was held at Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) on the 16 April 2011. It was a delight to see many Principals, Vice-Principals and volunteers who took time out of their busy schedule to be with us. The Guest-of-Honour, gracing the occasion was our Honorary Life member and the Girls' Brigade International Vice-Patron, Mrs Tay Poh Luan. Her passion and tireless service for GB all these years inspired all who were present. It was a timely encouragement for us to know that our service in GB Singapore is never in vain.

A total of 682 girls, officers and Council members, and 50 guests attended the event. The Council comprising faithful volunteers, captains and officers was also dedicated. Special thanks for the generosity of many who contributed to the special offering for the Myanmar earthquake. The amount collected was \$4,010.

Awards for GB Fortnight 2010's top 10 companies and top three individual collectors were presented (Annex B). Company Colours were presented to 30<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> Companies (Annex C). A total of 73 companies received the Company Awards for 2010 (Annex D). 2<sup>nd</sup>S and 34<sup>th</sup> Company received the Sustained Gold Awards in recognition of their attainment of Gold Awards for ten consecutive years, and 1<sup>st</sup>P, 1<sup>st</sup>S, 4<sup>th</sup>S, 5<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> P, 28<sup>th</sup> S, 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Company received the Sustained Gold Awards for five consecutive years, while 31<sup>st</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Company received the Sustained Achievement Awards for their achievement of five Gold Awards in seven years.

Besides the traditional presentation of awards to the GB companies, the energetic junior girls from 72<sup>nd</sup> Company also brought much cheer to the audience and hyped up the mood in the hall. The post-service celebrations carried on with the Challenge Shield winners of the National Drill Competition 2011 wowing the crowd with their unique formations and interesting creative drill routines.

### 1.5 GB Friendship Day

This year the focus to reach out to the community culminated on 9 July. Over 800 girls and officers from 47 companies worked seamlessly to play host to 1,000 needy elderly friends in celebration of the first GB Friendship Day. The inaugural GB Friendship Day marked the start of GB Singapore's initiative to connect GB girls and officers to special segments of the Singapore community and to serve and befriend these people: the **L**onely, **E**lderly, **N**eedy and those with **S**pecial needs (LENS).

In partnership with Willing Hearts, a charity in Singapore that cooks and distributes meals to the needy, some girls whipped up lunch for the elderly friends, while others put up performances, cleaned, served and mingled. GB Friendship Day was graced by Mrs S R Nathan, the wife of Singapore's immediate past President, Mr SR Nathan. The event then concluded with a nostalgic Chinese Opera performance and heart-warming lunch.

This project hopes to equip GB girls with skills through specially designed curriculum and for them to put into practice their learning through service. In the process, GB Singapore hopes the girls will also be able to demonstrate the values inculcated in the GB programme – values of humility, compassion, responsibility and service.

## 2. **OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

### 2.1 President's Committee

The annual International President's Committee meeting was hosted by GB England & Wales on 13-18 June at Central Office, Didcot, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom. Mrs Sally Chew, immediate past International-Vice President (IVP) of GB Asia Fellowship, together with Ms Tnay Yong Hua, IVP of GB Asia Fellowship, attended the event. The conference theme adopted for 2011 was "*Cross Over, Break Camp and Move on*", derived from Deuteronomy 1: 6-7. A strategic plan for 2011 to 2015 was drafted for goal setting to achieve the new GB Vision "Girls' Lives Transformed, God's World Enriched." The next ICGB will be held in Australia on 9 - 16 July 2014.

### 2.2 GB Asia Fellowship

GB Asia Fellowship was held on 9-10 December 2011 at Kuala Lumpur, West Malaysia. Delegates from GB Hong Kong, GB Malaysia, GB Philippines and GB Singapore was represented by Ms Evelyn Yip, Mrs Tay Poh Imm and Mrs Sally Chew, came together to share the fruit of the ministry and the challenges each country faced.

### 2.3 GB in Asia

GB Singapore continues to develop T-houses in Cambodia's villages for women and children.

### 3. OUR NATIONAL EVENTS

#### 3.1 Chaplains' Tea

The combined Chaplains' Tea with the Boys' Brigade was held on 18 February. Both Brigades jointly organised an afternoon tea reception to thank our Chaplains for their support and to dialogue about current affairs and future plans for the brigades.

#### 3.2 Creative Food Fest & Dr Low Guat Tin Challenge

The national event, Creative Food Fest, held in conjunction with Dr Low Guat Tin (LGT) Challenge on 28 May at Zhangde Primary School. A total of 33 companies comprising four to five girls per team came together on 28 May 2011 for a time of Sandwich Competition. Girls were given basic ingredients and bread tags (representing money) to purchase ingredients to accomplish the task. The competition taught the girls to use their creativity as well as planning which included the use of "money". Congratulations! The first three positions went to 72<sup>nd</sup>, 76<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Companies respectively.

Concurrently, Dr LGT Challenge was held to provide 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. The theme for this year's Dr LGT Challenge 2011 was "*Celebrate our family*" - a time where officers, girls and their families came together to have fun and fellowship. Companies formed teams of 10 members consisting of eight GB girls and two family members. The teams from 33 companies were to complete a total of five stations based on our fourfold programme of SPES (Spiritual, Physical, Educational & Social) and a bonus station. The Dr LGT Challenge Trophy went to 72<sup>nd</sup> Company. The trophy would be kept by the company till the next LGT event. The amount raised was approximately \$1,000. The funds raised are being used to support the education of 15 Cambodian children from the slum area for schoolbooks, uniform, shoes and tuition.

#### 3.3 Fast Food & Fuzz

Three Fast Food & Fuzz camps were held at GB Centre during the year on 2-3 July, 6-7 August and 17-18 September. This camp was first introduced in 2006. It is a camp enjoyed by many junior GB girls. These overnight camps were held at the GB Centre. Instead of sleeping in the bunk beds in the air-conditioned dormitories, the girls slept in self-constructed cardboard "houses" and partook in simple meals of porridge with preserved vegetables and peanuts. The girls learnt about fasting and fasted from elaborate food and all "fussing" from their parents and domestic helpers. This allowed them to experience through simulations, the conditions that children from third world countries face daily. A total of 175 girls from 28 primary companies participated this year and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Girls learnt to appreciate and not take for granted the things they have, giving thanks in all circumstances and praying for people in need.

#### 3.4 GB Fortnight

GB Fortnight was held on 10 – 24 July. We are very thankful to all who donated and contributed to the collection of \$641,285.62 to support the work of the GB Singapore. Though we did not achieve our target of \$700,000, we broke last year's record by 9.66%. We continue to look forward to more fervent support.

#### 3.5 Promotion & Dedication Service

At the Promotion & Dedication Service held on 23 July at Presbyterian High School, girls and officers from GB companies gathered to celebrate promotions and recommit ourselves to the work of GB. The Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Tay Poh Imm, the Brigade President, gave a refreshing insight on how to serve God wholeheartedly in even the smallest things. Some 855 chevrons were given out to NCOs. Advanced Officers Training Course Awards and Officers' Service Awards were also presented (Annex E & F). The highest award for GB girls—the Pioneer Brigadier Brooch (PBB) was presented to 15 girls (Annex G). The service was organised and managed by this year's awardees of PBB who took part as emcee, led in worship and assisted to usher the guests in cheerfully.

#### 3.6 National Day Parade

National Day Parade 2011 '*Majulah! The Singapore Spirit*' saw participation of 56 girls from 1<sup>st</sup> S, 2<sup>nd</sup> S, 3<sup>rd</sup> S, 4<sup>th</sup> S, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> S, 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 56<sup>th</sup>, 61<sup>st</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, 69<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 71<sup>st</sup>, 73<sup>rd</sup>, 79<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> Company. We celebrated with the nation sharing a culture and heritage of uniquely Singapore and the spirit of competence and confidence to

reach beyond our boundaries and to constantly seek new heights. Our girls did us proud at the National Day Parade held at The Float @ Marina Bay. There was a full parade march-past, followed by a City March-past segment. The contingent was led by Contingent Commander Ms Arlene Pang (71<sup>st</sup> Company) and Reserve Contingent Commander Ms Pua Ai Ling Irene (Eleora) (18<sup>th</sup> Company).

### 3.7 Officers' Retreat

A total of 201 participants comprising Exco members, officers, volunteers and staff had a fruitful weekend at Pulai Springs Golf Resort, Johor on 3 – 4 September. The theme of the retreat was 'Go Forth with Joy'. GB leaders participated in various sessions to share the plans for 2012. Dr Low Guat Tin's inspiring message on serving with joy drove home the point on the reality of serving where joy and heartaches exist and that positive mindset is important. Mrs Sally Chew shared the excitement of the local community work through GB Friendship Day. Ms Evelyn Yip encouraged all through GB Heartbeat, with Mrs Lau Ai Lan and Mrs Evangeline Chong sharing the Primary and Secondary programmes. Our special guest speaker, Mrs Esther Tzer-Wong led the retreat in deep reflections and discerning the voice of God. Mrs Tay Poh Imm gave all the challenge to go forth and serve.

Through hilarious laughter and fun, officers of the four zones presented a creative item each which also served as take-home points to use for company activities. Officers bonded through exciting discussions and brainstorming sessions as we look forward to the year ahead with a paradigm shift to meet the needs of our girls.

### 3.8 Remembrance Day

On 13 November, members of the SAF Veterans' League, the Ex-Services Association of Singapore, Uniformed Groups and the public paid homage to those who sacrificed themselves during the World Wars. A total of 33 girls from 48<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Company, accompanied by Ms Grace Yao (Captain, 14<sup>th</sup> Company), Ms Ng Shihui (Officer, 32<sup>nd</sup> Company) and Ms Esther Ong (Programmes Officer (Secondary), GBHQ) attended the ceremonies at the Kranji War Memorial and the Kranji Beach Battle Site in remembrance of the war heroes.

## 4. OUR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

### 4.1 GB Core Programmes – focussing on fourfold objectives

LEVEL	AGE GROUP	CORE PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVES
Officers	21 & above	BOTC, I&I, AOTC	Servant Leadership
Tertiary	17 - 21	Model after NYAA (Gold) with unique GB Core Programmes	To intentionally mentor & mobilise leaders impacting the destiny of the nations
Secondary	13 - 17	Senior & Pioneer	Learning to Lead, Leading to Serve
Junior	8 - 12	STAR	To Shine like Star (Philippines 2: 15-16)

### 4.2 GB Special Programmes - focusing on leadership, character & values development

COMMITTEES	UNIQUE PROGRAMMES
Programme (Primary)	Junior Leadership Training Camp
	Fast Food & Fuzz
	Dr Low Guat Tin Challenge
Programme (Secondary)	Leadership Conferences
	Corporals' Camp
	Sergeants' Weekend
	PBB Selection Camp
Community Development	Leadership Across Borders
	GB Friendship Day
Leadership Development	Lead Like Jesus
	EQUIP
	Drill

### 4.3 Leadership Development 2011

Theme: Living with Understanding & Compassion

<b>Primary</b>
- Junior Leadership Training Camp (12-13 Mar)
<b>Secondary</b>
- Leadership Conference (19 Feb)
- Corporals' Camp (28-30 May, 11-13 Jun)
- Sergeants' Weekend (3 & 4 Jun)
- PBB Selection Camp (16-19 Jun)
<b>Officers</b>
- I&I and BOTC (19 & 26 Feb, 20 & 27 Aug)
- Lead Like Jesus Encounter (26 & 27 Feb & 20 & 21 Aug)
- AOTC/ Officers' Training Day (9 Apr)
- Badgework 101 (14 May)

## 5. OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

### 5.1 Pioneer Brigader Brooch

A total of 63 girls from 17 companies attended the 2011 Pioneer Brigader Brooch (PBB) Selection Camp in June. The PBB Award is the highest national award for any GB girl in Singapore to attain. Hence it is an honour to be present at the selection camp. Girls have to obtain at least 75% in the Brigade Knowledge Test before they qualify to attend the Selection Camp. Throughout the camp, the girls were assessed on their conduct and leadership skills. The cream of the crop finally emerged – a total of 15 girls were awarded the Pioneer Brigader Brooch among which, four girls attained distinction! (Annex G).

### 5.2 National Youth Achievement Award

Under the guidance of the officers, our awardees of National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) emerged! This year we saw an encouraging number of girls from various companies namely 3<sup>rd</sup> S, 48<sup>th</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 69<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 71<sup>st</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> received the NYAA Silver and Bronze Award. Well done, Girls and Officers! (Annex H).

Comapny	NYAA Silver Award	NYAA Bronze Award
3 <sup>rd</sup> S	-	1
48 <sup>th</sup>	6	13
54 <sup>th</sup>	-	6
69 <sup>th</sup>	12	-
70 <sup>th</sup>	4	-
71 <sup>st</sup>	-	7
79 <sup>th</sup>	-	4

## 6. FORMATION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

During the course of the year, the Audit Committee was established with Ms Mok Lai Lai as chairperson and Ms Pearl Pang as member.

## 7. WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS!

- We extend our welcome to 11 newly appointed chaplains to two companies.
- We congratulate eight officers who were given appointments as captains during the year
- Congratulations to 30<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> Company on being presented their Company Colours
- We welcome three new Executive Committee (Exco) members, Ms Chow Mei Yin - Assistant Honorary Secretary, Ms Mok Lai Lai - chairperson of Audit Committee and Ms Vivien Huan Swee Leng - chairperson of Tertiary Committee.
- We welcome Ms Joan Sum, Ms Brenda Chua, Ms Esther Ong and Ms Lydia Fong who joined GBHQ as new members to our staff team. Special thanks to Ms Navasakhti d/o Sundra Moorthi and Ms Choy Wai Fann who joined us during the interim period and served wholeheartedly to

form a seamless team. At the same time, we wish to thank staff who have moved on - Ms Seah Poh Gek and Ms Pamela Lee for their faithful service in the GB ministry. Pamela who is also an officer with 4<sup>th</sup> S Company will continue actively in her company and at national level as a GB volunteer. We want to appreciate Ms Hannah Hong who joined GBHQ as the Executive Director from April to August 2011 and spent four enriching months serving at GBHQ, organising several activities and events. We appreciated her contributions to the ministry in that short season and wished her God's blessings as she moved on.

## 8. 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.

## 9. MEMBERSHIP

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Girls	3,558	3,810	3,861	3,877
Officers, Chaplains, Teachers & Helpers	<u>547</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>557</u>	<u>583</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>4,105</u></b>	<b><u>4,353</u></b>	<b><u>4,418</u></b>	<b><u>4,460</u></b>

<b>No. of Companies</b>	79	80	80	81
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We welcome a new company that started in January – 84<sup>th</sup> Company in Singapore Chinese Girls' School sponsored by Barker Road Methodist Church.

## 10. MEETINGS

The following meetings were held during the year:

Executive Committee Meeting	10
Council Meeting	4
Officers' Retreat	1
Executive Committee Retreat	3

## CONCLUSION

Approaching year end, it became obvious that GB could move on a higher plane if we looked beyond what we are doing now. Time was set aside to review our vision and mission. What makes GB different? What are we doing that is worth keeping? We could not help but unanimously came to the conclusion that there are five major areas that make us distinctive: Christian character of core values, holistic development of our fourfold programme, leadership development that encompasses mentoring, coaching, influencing lives and support, encouragement and bonding, our service to the communities and our gender-specific ministry. We look forward to an exciting year ahead especially celebrating the 85 years of God's faithfulness and goodness in the Brigade.