



Canon Guok and family.



Canon Guok with the church bus and Sunday School children.



Canon Guok and Mrs Guok Koh Muo

The First Seed (1900s)

As a young Christian in Fujian, China, in the 1900s, Mr. (later Revd. Canon) Guok Koh Muo was educated in a village missionary school. Life then was hard and there were no jobs available. He decided to seek his destiny overseas and set off for Singapore where he found work as a freelance writer, contributing to the Chinese newspapers.

In 1911, at age 21, God led Canon Guok to start the Church of The True Light in the barber shop next to his own home. Preaching in Hing-Hwa and Hock-Chia, he formed a congregation consisting of impoverished rickshaw pullers and labourers.

The first seed was sown.

When Canon Guok was in his late sixties and in ailing health, God gave him a vision to build a church in the Holland Village district. In his mind, this task was practically impossible to achieve. Even if by some miracle, his children could afford to buy a piece of land in this prime area, how would they find the funds to build a church?

But God rewarded Canon Guok's faith and paved the way. The Guok family unexpectedly received a windfall. They donated generously, raising enough capital to buy a piece of land. This piece of land was Number 1 Leedon Road, upon which St. James' Church was built in 1977 and still stands today.

".... And on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18

