

bethesda

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NEWSLETTER

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It's better to believe

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee." (Prov. 3:1-2)

A. Better to Believe

An interesting phenomenon is occurring in the medical science community. After years of rejecting the role of God and religion in favor of "objective" scientific approach to medicine, many in the medical community, especially in the US, is accepting, albeit reluctantly, that there is more to health and wellness than meets the scientific eye.

In 1995, Dr. Kenneth Cooper, named the father of the Aerobics for his work on wellness and the aerobics movement, authored a book, "It's better to believe" in which he argues, among other things, that faith in God and "religion" helps promote a longer, healthier, better quality and more meaningful life.

Since then, over 1,200 papers have been published on the link of health, wellness and religion. While the debate rages in the medical community on mixing religion with medicine, there is a growing awareness that religion and "god" can play a part in health and wellness.

Today over 70 of the 125 (56%+) medical schools in the US, including major names like Harvard and Stanford, offers courses on spirituality and health as part of their curriculum.

B. Discovering simple truths – after all this while

"That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." (Eph 6:3)

Lynda Powell, epidemiologist at Rush Presbyterian Medical Center, Chicago in her research on faith and health found something that, as she puts it, "blew my socks off". She observed, "People who regularly attend church have a 25 percent reduction in mortality - that is, they live longer - than people who are not churchgoers. . ."

Other research indicates that "churchgoers" tends to be less depressed, more able to quit unhealthy habits like smoking and smoking and live healthier lives. Still other studies found that evidences of improve chances of recovery from acute illness for those who are being prayed for.

With advanced imaging technology such as MRI, researchers have been able to study our internal organs and their impact on health more accurately. For example, researchers have found that prayer can change brain activity, reduce stress, anxiety and improve our immune response system. Also prayers tend to reduce the activity of the part of our brain that focus on self and improve the part of our brain that improves on concentration.

While others may marvel with the finding that "it's better to believe", the Christian sees this as another confirmation of the practical truth in the Word. Apostle Paul have long reminded us that ". . . bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." (1 Tim 4:8)

C. God won't go away

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (Matt 22:37)

For centuries, atheist and critics tried to deny and remove the concept of god from civilization either force of might or force of reason. All attempts ultimately failed and failed miserably.

The Lord, on the contrary, reminded us that the mind plays an important part in our relationship with God. As we learn more about creation and the human body, the more we see the power of God and His mark on creation.

In the arena of neuroscience and nuclear medicine, we can see God's creative work in the human brain. Our brain performs two critical functions throughout our lives: self-maintenance and self-transcendence.

Self maintenance refers to the functioning of the brain to keep us alive. It includes helping us gain control over the environment, control anxiety so that we can perform necessary task; promote life-sustaining behaviors and also allow us to relate to others in building social networks.

Self transcendence refers to the function of our brain that enables us to move from one stage of life to another. This allows us to adapt, to change, and see beyond our immediate reality to a higher reality or spirituality.

"Coincidentally", religion performs the same functions in human beings. That is, our relationship with God



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and His word helps in building life-sustaining behaviors as well as allow us to transcend from the mundane to the spiritual and find meaning even in the most mundane task.

In other words, our brain is set up in such as way that God and religion are among the most powerful stimuli for it to perform its basic functions of self maintenance and self transcendence. It is therefore no surprise that, unless our brain changes fundamentally how it functions, God would remain part of Man's consciousness and life in spite of his effort to remove God from his consciousness and life.

D. What does it mean to me?

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Tim 3:5)

In their journey pass Edom to the Promised Land, the children of Israel were afflicted by serpents that killed many of their kinsmen. Under God's command, Moses set up a brass serpent on which anyone bitten by the serpents can look and be healed. Years later, this brass serpent became "Nehushtan", an object of idolatry. Rather than acknowledge God, they chose to worship and pay homage to an object they can comprehend and control. This tendency to pervert the truth and replace the "image of incorruptible God" with images of corruptible creation continues on up to this day.

In response to the finding that "religion and prayer" help in the recovery process and lengthens life, there is a growing movement in medical circles to incorporate religious practices as part of the treatment. In some North American hospitals, staffs are now holding prayer meetings for their patients. Patients themselves are encouraged to practice prayer, meditation, yoga and other practices to improve their chances and speed of recovery.

While the benefits of practices that flows from "religious" practices are real, God cannot be limited to the contraptions of Man. Practices that flow from faith in the living God can be degraded into mere formulas for the convenience and benefit of the individual.

The believer had been warned against such practices. In fact, we are told to turn away from such practices. The believer knows that the life in Christ is superior to all other form of life. Ultimately a life of submission to Christ is a much better life than any the world has to offer. It is not only a life of blessings, but also one that glorify God. The blessing of this eternal life starts the moment we believe. As we live a life in fear of God and in accordance to His word, we receive blessing that extends beyond the spiritual, to the emotional as well as the physical.

If you are not a believer, why not make the decision to accept the Lordship of Christ and believe on Him? Why not start this eternal life of blessings and, more importantly, fellowship with God?

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life... (Deut 30:19)

Chang Chew Kient ■

AssemblyNews

OUR NEWLY-BAPTIZED SAINTS

25/4/2004 – Chang Li Ling, Constance Chong, Choy Weng Yin, Esther Hmar, Valerie Kwan, June Lee, Tan Hui Xin, Hilda Toh, Poh Shu Fen, Amy Toke, Melissa Wee, Lois Choa, Matthew Chia, Han Ming Yan, Sean Koh, Poh Wei Hao, Mervyn Tan & Daniel Ting.

We witnessed with thanksgiving to the Lord for the above saints who obeyed the Lord through the waters of baptism. We welcomed them with joy into our fellowship. Let us associate with them in fulfilment of God's purpose for the assembly of His family. ■

BIRTH

16/4/2004 – God's gift of a baby boy, Jared (1st child) to Gary & Jessica Goh.

We are grateful to the Lord for His care of the mother and baby. Please pray for the Lord's grace and guidance for Gary and Jessica as they bring up their child in the wisdom and way of the Lord. ■

BEREAVEMENT

27/3/2004 – Home-calling of Louise Baptist's father-in-law & grandfather of Bonnie & Keyna Goh

25th May 2004 - Father of Jeya Madasamy (older brother of SV Ramalingam, uncle of Ravi Chandran) passed away.

We thank the Lord for having comforted those who are in bereavement. Please remember the bereaved family members in our prayers that the Lord will assure them of His sympathy, support and strength during their bereavement. ■

140TH SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY & PRIZE-GIVING (14 Mar, 7.30 pm)

Theme: "Learn and Do" (Phil 4:9)

Speaker: David Goh

Chairman: Ho Kuang Cheng (Gen. Superintendent)

Song Leader: David Kwan

The Junior and Senior Sunday School scholars presented Song items. Keyna Goh presented prizes to 241 scholars of these 62 received Roll of Honour awards.

We bless the Lord for His reality at the service attended by more than 400. The message based on the theme: "Learn and Do" (Phil 4:9) was faithfully presented by David Goh. We are thankful to the Lord for the faithfulness of the teachers in instructing and influencing the scholars weekly with God's Word. Pray that the precious seed of God's Word planted in the hearts of the scholars will lead the unsaved to a saving knowledge of Christ and the saved to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ. ■





Youth Choir

ASSEMBLY YOUTH GOSPEL NITE (21 Mar, 6 pm)

Theme: "Do You Know?" (Isa 40:28)

Speaker: Samuel Wee

Chairman: Tan Jin Song

Song items were presented by the Youth Group.



Samuel Wee

We praised the Lord for the special gospel effort organised by the young people to reach out to their friends and relatives. The meeting was attended by more than 300. Pray for the follow-up by the young people with the seekers and those contacts made at the meeting. ■

EASTER CONFERENCE 2004

(9 Apr, 9 am)

Speakers: Harry Tan & SV Ramalingam

Message 1: "The Cross & the Believer"

Message 2: "The Resurrection & the Believer": The meaning, miracle & mission of Resurrection

Chairman: Adrin Loi

The Bethesda Choir presented the Easter Musical "Rise Again" (arranged & orchestrated by Russell Mauldin) conducted by our choir director, Lee Chong Kiat.

We were enriched and edified by the ministry of God's Word in songs and sermons at the half-day conference. It was indeed a fruitful time spent together around God's Word and fellowship among His people. Truly the message of the cross of Christ and His resurrection should demand our hearts, lives and all. Lunch was served after the meeting. A special note of thanks to those who laboured behind the scene to make this conference a fruitful one. About 450 attended. ■



Harry Tan



SV Ramalingam



Adrin Loi



Lee Chong Kiat



About 450 attended





Bethesda Choir

EASTER GOSPEL SERVICE (11 Apr, 6 pm)

Speaker: Tan Jing Poi

Chairman: Robert Hmar

We were privileged by the Lord to hold the Easter Gospel service attended by about 300 people.

The Bethesda Choir presented the Easter Musical "Rise Again". It was assuring and convincing to hear the "old, old gospel story yet ever new" preached and sung at the meeting. Let's continue to give priority to the preaching of the gospel and invite our friends and relatives to our weekly gospel meeting, which of late is poorly attended. ■



Tan Jing Poi

Outreach Work at 10 Depot Walk

Bethesda (Depot Walk) Kindergarten

We were encouraged by the Lord to witness the labour of love of His people in organising/helping the Road Show at Spring Singapore on 27th March '04 at 2.30 pm to promote the new Kindergarten at 10 Depot Walk commence in 2005. Talk on "How to manage your Toddlers effectively" & "Brain Food for children and How to make meal time fun" was ably given by Chua Yen Ching.

Amy Lee gave a presentation on the features and facilities of the new Bethesda (Depot Walk) Kindergarten. The seminar was very well chaired by Andrew Kwan. Even though the response from the public around Depot Walk was poor, many parents from Bethesda (AMK) Kindergarten responded to our invitation to attend. The whole seminar was found very helpful as shown in the Q & A session being very well participated by the audience with Peter Wong, Amy Lee and Chua Yen Ching forming the panel. The K2 children from Bethesda (AMK) Kindergarten were invited to present two items. While the seminar was ongoing, a children's programme in the form of a Puppet show co-ordinated by Louise Baptist, Tan Chee Hwee and team was held with closing message given by Tan Chee Hwee. Lee Chong Kiat led the children in the lively singspiration. Light refreshments were served after the meeting. Please continue to pray much for the 2005

intake of Kindergarten children for Nursery to K2 and the Kindergarten Management Committee in setting up the new kindergarten there. ■

Children's Corner Programme

We delighted in the Lord for Andrew Sng and his team of helpers in organising the Easter Party at the Club House, Gillman Heights Condominium on 4th April at 2 pm. The three-hour programme was filled with puppet show, games, singing, Easter message by Anna Leong, small group activities and refreshments. 55 children attended.

A reunion gathering attended by 13 children was organised on 1st May at the home of Harry Tan & Lie Leng as a follow-up from the Easter party. In this connection, since May, the Children's outreach committee held every fortnight a Good News Club meeting on Saturdays at the home of Harry Tan, 1K Gillman Heights #01-91 from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm. Upon obtaining the Certificate of Statutory Completion from Building Control Authority any time after 3rd quarter of this year, they would hold their Children's Corner meeting at 10 Depot Walk every Saturday which, Lord willing, would commence from 3.30 pm to 5 pm. Please remember them in our prayers. ■



BETHESDA (AMK) KINDERGARTEN EASTER SPECIAL (12 Apr, 9 am)

Speaker: Sum Siew Tak

Chairman: Lee Chin Ghee

We were indebted to the Lord for the kindergarten staff in organising the Easter Special. It was a good opportunity for Sum Siew Tak to give the Easter gospel message. Various Bible song items were presented by the kindergarten children witnessed by a crowd of more than 300 parents and friends. Please remember the kindergarten teachers in their education and evangelistic programme among the children. ■

COMBINED BOYS' & GIRLS' BRIGADE ENROLMENT SERVICE

(9 Apr, 2 pm)

Speaker: Harry Tan

Chairman: Steven Lee

Venue: Main Hall

We rejoiced with the GB and BB officers in holding their annual enrolment service at our hall. The occasion was attended by parents of the GB, BB and some assembly members. The guest of honour was Mr Goh Choon Leng, Principal of Yishun Secondary School. At the service, the GB & BB officers, together with their girls and boys, took turns to rededicate their calling and commitment to

BB & GB



the Lord's work through GB and BB. Dr Harry Tan gave the gospel message. Special item was presented by the Girls' Brigade. About 200 attended. Continue to pray for this outreach programme in the three schools that many boys and girls will come to a saving knowledge of Christ. Pray also for the Lord's raising up of new workers to involve in this outreach ministry. ■



Tent-making in Phnom Penh

It was with trepidation that I followed the leading of the Spirit, but now it is with joy and gladness that I pen this report that you also may know of the work that has began in Cambodia and rejoice with me.

I arrived in the hot season and the torrid weather was difficult to adjust to. The heat was so searing that even under the shade, the thermometer sometimes read 40°C. Walking in and out of air-conditioned rooms and into the intense heat quickly made me sick. Phnom Penh is quite polluted and it is difficult to get well once you fall sick. I was placed on the drip twice to ensure a speedy recovery – still I took three weeks to recover from what I thought was a simple flu. By the grace of the Lord, and the prayers of many of you, I have fully recovered.

Lessons



Class conducted by Wei Hong.

I am in charge of the Elementary English class and the Computer class. (However, the latter will commence only in July.) In the first term, I taught the 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. shift. In the second term, I will teach the 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. shift.

About 25 – 30 students are enrolled in each class. Even though we have “officially” closed registration, students continue to trickle in and we admitted them because of their great zeal and insistence. The class lasts four hours and it is a challenge to teach language to a big class for a sustained period. Their abilities and mistakes vary greatly. It takes a lot of effort to “unlearn” them erroneous concepts that

have somehow eluded the detection of their previous teachers.

Marking their homework is often a vexing exercise. By spending a mere three minutes on each page correcting what they write (and making notes of mistakes so that I may inform them of their errors), I will have to spend three hours a day clearing their homework. After that, I have to do lesson planning and prepare for tomorrow’s lessons. Teaching is tiring work indeed!

However, they have a zeal for learning which makes teaching them enjoyable. From time to time, I am able to sing them some hymns and share with them the reason for my constant joy. I thank God that I have left a positive impression on my students. That has worked to the advantage of the gospel as I invited them to come for the Saturday Bible Teaching.

Saturday Bible Lessons

Besides teaching hymns on Saturday mornings, I also teach on the Gospel of John in English. There is no interpretation into Khmer – the entire lesson is in English. Students from the Elementary and Intermediate English class were invited to attend. The brothers and sisters from the Boeng Trabek assembly were also invited to come.

Sunday Youth Group

I am also serving in the Youth Group of the Boeng Trabek assembly. On Sunday mornings, I teach the youths on the book of Genesis. The time that I have spent in the Ang Mo Kio assembly, learning the Word of God (in YP, CEP, etc.), discussing it with other brothers and sisters, has proved to be most profitable and because of that, I am better able to help the youths understand the richness of God’s Word. Brother Vuthea has been interpreting for me and has been an indispensable help.

Other Church Meetings

The Boeng Trabek assembly has bible readings on Wednesday evenings and prayer meetings on Friday evenings (and of course the worship on Sundays). When there are brothers who have the gift of





Kim Han Sik.

Toh Wei Hong.



GB-CTS Registration Day.



Briefing at the GB CTS Registration Day.



Sewing Class at Canaan Technical School.

interpretation around, they will interpret for me; otherwise, I hold my silence. (1Co 14:27 – 28) I am still trying to pick up as much Khmer as I can, but I still have a long way to go.

Life in Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh is a city in transition. Its metamorphosis is however, uncertain. There seems much hope, but at the same time, there seems much despair also. The disparity between the rich and poor is stark – it is a common sight to see posh multi-storied bungalows beside dilapidated zinc-roofed wooden houses. Many things in Phnom Penh are not cheap, and I always wonder how it is that so many locals can afford to live it up. If not for the generosity of many saints, I would have found it difficult to afford many things here. A 2-litre bottle of Coke costs S\$2.10. A 1-litre pack of fresh orange juice costs S\$4. A bar of chocolate costs S\$3. Regular petrol costs S\$1.20 per litre. Electricity is a whopping S\$0.27 per KWH. There is only one Christian bookstore here, and the cheapest NASB bible I could find cost me S\$34. Computer products are generally 10% more expensive than they are in Singapore, and they are old models. Ironically, it is not cheaper to live in Phnom Penh (if you still want to maintain a certain standard of living). While some can afford to pay for all these, the great majority are barely making ends meet.

Black-outs are part and parcel of living here. They are more frequent in the hot season, lasting anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. However, as the rainy season approaches, they seem to have faded away.

Roads in Cambodia are dangerous. It is common to travel against the traffic. You never know when a motorcycle is going to dart out of some hidden small street. People cut into your lane without signaling and often no regard for their lives, much less yours. One motorcycle can move an entire family, and even an entire wagonload of people and goods. There are numerous potholes on the road, and you always have to be alert. The air pollution is heavy and you can be sure you need to wash your face after a ride outside.

Thankfully, there are certain pleasures here too. On Sundays, I will usually join Brother Kim to fish at a nearby “fishing center”. The school is located within a village and the rustic surroundings is balm for the soul. I also have more time to dedicate myself to reading God’s Word and prayer.

Prayer

There are many things to pray for! Please pray that God may:





Assembly in Siep Reap.



Canaan Technical School.

- *Incline the hearts of the students towards Him, that the students may not only desire to seek knowledge, but that they may also desire to seek the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life*
- *Fill the local believers with His Spirit that they may be an excellent testimony for His Son*
- *Grant Vuthea good health (for his health is less than perfect) and give him wisdom to interpret*
- *Keep me in good health that none of the work be hindered*
- *Provide me with more opportunities to witness and testify of the Lord Jesus Christ*
- *Grant me patience and wisdom that I may instruct the students well, in both language and His Word*
- *Watch over my comings and goings that no evil should befall me*
- *Bless my brother – that he may learn to walk with Him closely and to abide in His Word. That even in my absence, he shall become a greater testimony to my unbelieving parents.*
- *Have mercy on my parents even as I labor – that they should come to know God's love and power – that our God is truly a God who provides for all things for those who labor for His sake*

Toh Wei Hong ■



Outeach through Football between the 2 assemblies in Sien Reap.

The Disciples' Prayer & The Temptations of Jesus

When Jesus gave His disciples their prayer (Mt 6:9-13, Lk 11:2-4) it was not a lofty prayer having nothing to do with our earthly existence, rather it was a prayer that was born out of personal experience. During His earthly journey the incarnate Logos learned things that He did not know prior to His incarnation. He did not know what it was to be tired (John 4:6), to be thirsty (John 4:9,19:25), to cry (John 11:25), to sleep (Lk 8:23), even to walk in a human body. He never had to contend with the devil in a wilderness. He was now confined to the limitations of time and space as He had taken to Himself human flesh.

The temptations of Jesus were probably the beginning of the war between Him and Satan that ended with Jesus' shout of triumph at the cross; Finished! (John 19:30). The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil Mk 1:12, Mt 4:1, Lk 4:1). Satan's first salvo was aimed at a number of levels. Firstly, it was aimed at the physical condition of Jesus, who, after forty days of fasting, was hungry (Mt 4:2, Lk 4:2). Secondly, it was questioning His Sonship (If thou be the Son of God ...). Thirdly, it was questioning the goodness of the Father. Was the Father going to give His Son a stone for bread (Mt 7:9)? If Jesus had turned stones into bread He would not have proved His Sonship: He would have denied it. He would have no longer been dependant on the Father for all things. He would have become independent of the Father. The very thing that Adam did. It would have shown that the Son did not fully trust the Father for all things.

Within the context of our rubric our minds must be taken to the line in the disciple's prayer: give us this day our daily bread. The sense of this is that the disciples were to pray for the daily needs. This shows a dependence on a Father who looks after His children and does not give them a stone for bread. The One who provided the Children of Israel manna in the wilderness will also provide our daily needs. Jesus can tell His disciples to pray in this fashion because He has experienced it Himself. He has demonstrated His daily reliance on the Father to provide His daily needs, even in the midst of temptation.

The second salvo in the on-going war between Jesus and Satan was Jesus being taken to Jerusalem and set on the pinnacle of the temple. Here Satan tempted Jesus to throw Himself off to see if God would keep His promise and care for His son (Mt 4:5-7). This temptation again questioned Jesus sonship, His obedience to the Father and reliance upon the Father. This was a recurring temptation, not only here but also at the cross. The Son proved His sonship by the way of humiliation, walking the path of perfect obedience that led to the cross. He did not come down off the cross to prove His sonship. He rose from the grave to prove it! (Rom 1:4). The Father's will was for His Son to be the servant-king. In the disciples' prayer the line, Thy will be done in earth

... is exactly what the Lord Jesus did. He did the Father's will on earth. He spoke from a life of doing the Father's will on earth. He could say, My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me and finish His work (Jn 4:34). And I have finished the work thou gavest me to do (Jn 17:4). The words as it is in heaven are also words spoken from His personal experience and knowledge of Heaven.

Satan's third salvo, was one of offering Jesus power and authority over the kingdoms of the earth on condition that Jesus would worship him (Mt 4:8-10). Here there is no subtlety in the temptation. It was a brazen offer of power over the kingdoms of the earth. The One who had come proclaiming the Kingdom of God is at hand (Mk 1:15) was also the one who went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return (Lk 19:12). The kingdoms of earth were a poor exchange for the Kingdom of God. Satan was offering a way for the designated King of the Kingdom of God to have a kingdom without the cross. It was by the way of the cross that Jesus was given a name above every name (Phil 2:9). Now, Jesus, the exalted one, is King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 17:14, 19:16, 1Tim 6:15).

The condition was to offer Satan worship. To this Jesus replied, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve (Matt 4:7). No created being is worthy of worship.

The opening lines of the disciples' prayer reminds us who is being addressed and where He is, Our Father ... in heaven. By using the words hallowed be thy Name, Jesus was teaching His disciples that it is God who is to be worshipped and God alone. This should be clear from the ten commandments, the first four of which have to do with the character and person of God (Ex 20:1ff).

In dealing with the offer of power and influence the disciples are taught to pray for the Father's Kingdom - Thy kingdom come. This is clearly an antidote for any disciple who may be attracted by thoughts of power and influence in place of God's kingdom. In God's kingdom it is the servants who are the greatest (cf Luke 22:26).

As Jesus had as a priority the Kingdom of God, He tells us, His disciples, to seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness (Matt 6:33). God's kingdom is to be our priority as well.

Finally, in the disciples' prayer there is the supplication, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil (or the evil one). Clearly, Jesus, through His personal experience, knew the force of temptation. He knew the subtlety of the Tempter. He faced the Tempter and temptation squarely, and was triumphant. From the words of the disciples' prayer we can see that we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Heb 4:15).

Ernie Abbott ■

Developing Leadership Capabilities in Christian Youths



It is best to begin developing leadership capabilities in believers when they are young. By the time they reach their late teens and early adulthood, the many undesirable traits they picked up along the way could have sunk deep into their character. As such, youth leaders in our Young People and Children Corner Ministries, and Sunday School Teachers play a central role in the leadership development of those under their charge.

What are some key character traits that youth leaders and Sunday School teachers ought to emphasize repeatedly to young people?

1. Honesty and integrity.

Jacob learned honesty the hard way. He stole his brother's birthright (Gen 25) and blessing (Gen 27). Years later, he himself was cheated by his father-in-law (Gen 29). In his declining years, having understood the importance of honesty, he reminded his children to deal with people honestly (Gen 43:12).

Honesty and integrity mean Christian leaders must deal with others truthfully and keep promises. Their word must be absolutely trustworthy. And their actions must be aligned with their words. They must not claim credit for work that they did not do but give it to those who did. In short, honesty prevents leaders from taking what is not theirs (money, recognition, rewards, etc) and thus helps them gain the respect of their followers.

All believers have to be honest. But those in positions of leadership have to embrace much higher greater standards of honest and integrity so that their conscience will be clear before God and men (Acts 24:16).

2. Humility (I Cor 15:10).

We have often been told that in order for our Lord Jesus to come to earth to die for us, He took many steps toward humanity which required extreme humility (Phil 2: 7).

Humility prevents leaders from being arrogant in the

way they deal with others. Many leaders start off being humble. But as they climb the ranks, success makes them proud, and pride makes it difficult for them to listen to the kind advice of others. This often sets the motion for them to turn ineffective in the Lord's service.

Humility helps Christian leaders to remember that all that they have come from God: their talents and abilities; their knowledge, skills and wisdom. This keeps pride out of their life and makes them go on their knees, praying for strength and wisdom from Him in service, instead of relying on human intellect and earthly wisdom.

Our Lord set the perfect example of humble service by washing the disciples' feet (John 13) and praying to the Father often (Matt 14:23; 26:36) Like Him, the Christian leader should be a servant leader, humble and dependent on our heavenly Father.

“Humility helps Christian leaders to remember that all that they have come from God: their talents and abilities; their knowledge, skills and wisdom. This keeps pride out of their life and makes them go on their knees, praying for strength and wisdom from Him in service, instead of relying on human intellect and earthly wisdom.”

3. Love those you serve.

Love is a hallmark of every Christian (John 15:12). But here again, the Christian leader must be exemplary. The intensity with which the Christian leader displays love must far exceed that of ordinary Christians.

The principle of love reminds Christian leaders to think of others (1 Cor 13). Christian leaders should first and foremost love God (e.g., by loving the Word of God, trusting the Word of God; worshipping Him, etc). Next, they should love their fellow men (thinking about others, caring for others, etc.).

If we teach young people the principle of love in their youth, they will learn to pray for others, care for others, sacrifice for others, thus building a strong foundation for leadership in years to come.

4. Forgiveness (Matt 5:7; 18:21-22).

Forgiveness helps young people deal with the hurt and pain they will suffer in their life. It helps restore broken relationships. And in the workplace, forgiveness helps a leader let others learn from mistakes and encourage followers to be creative, innovative and take chances in life.

Finally, God forgave us our sins, and set the perfect example in the way we should deal with others. Our Lord Jesus Christ specifically commanded us to forgive others (Mark 11: 25).

Leaders are imperfect people living in an imperfect world. If they want others to forgive them when they err, they should take the lead by forgiving others their mistakes.

5. Faith and trust in God (1 Tim 4: 10).

Christian leaders rely on God. They are aware that even as they lead others, they themselves are being led by the Holy Spirit. This makes them bold, confident and yet humble, so that they can do great things for God. Moses and Joshua were great leaders because they had great faith in a great God!

The Apostle Paul's faith and trust in God led him to make missionary journeys to unknown places to spread the Gospel. His faith and trust in God led him all the way to Rome and his eventual martyrdom. He went where the Holy Spirit led.

William Koh ■



Give me the words, my Lord to speak:
A message that prompts hearts to seek.
Give me the words, for I am weak;
Give me your strength – that makes me meek.

Give me the words, my Lord to pray:
That rise above the skies of gray.
Often I really don't know what to say;
Please search my heart, and guide my way.

Give me the words, my Lord to sing:
A song to make the heavens ring.
From out of feeble offering;
Sweet music for my Lord and King.

Give me the words, my Lord to praise:
The theme of Christ alone to raise.
Until I see You face to face;
And worship You through all my days.

Give me Your words, my Lord to eat:
I cannot live without such meat.
Impart to me Your wisdom sweet,
While I am kneeling at Your feet.

Give me Thy Word, my Lord, to hear:
I need no words when You are near.
Grant to me Lord, Your presence dear,
And banish all my pride and fear.

I give You words, my Lord, I try –
Please make them more than words alone.
In vain the foolish words I cry,
Unless You melt my heart of stone.

Tan Lisheng ■

He took my place

Presenting: Barabbas ~ the musical



“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

(Romans 5:8)

16 – 18 July 2004 (Fri – Sun)

7:30 – 9:15pm

Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio)

Speaker: Mr. Khoo Oon Soo

Interpretation into Mandarin & Tamil

Children's Program for 3 to 8 year-olds

Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio) 2004 Speakers & Chairmen List

Morning Ministry				Tuesday Prayer Meeting		
2004	Speaker	Speaker	Chairman	2004	Bible Text	Speaker
6th Jun	Donald Norbie	Donald Norbie	Ng Lee Peng	1st Jun	Phil 3:12-16	Felix Lim
13th Jun	Donald Norbie	Donald Norbie	Tan Chee Wei	8th Jun	Phil 3:17-21	Tan Ah Lim
20th Jun	Wong Kok Seng	Chang Chew Kient	Ronald Tessensohn	15th Jun	Phil 4:1-3	Peter Chow
27th Jun	Wong Kok Seng	Harry Tan	Kenneth Khong	22nd Jun	Phil 4:4-7	Chua Teck Koon
4th Jul	Tay Kim Swee	Jeffrey Jee	Andrew Prensundar	29th Jun	Phil 4:8-13	Erik Erh
11th Jul	Tay Kim Swee	Chong Kim Chow	Peter Wong	6th Jul	Phil 4:14-23	Lee Poh Heng
18th Jul	Ho Kuang Cheng	Khoo Oon Soo	Samuel Wee	13th Jul	Col Overview	Lim Wee Kiat
25th Jul	Tan Jing Poi	Tan Chee Wei	Andrew Paul	20th Jul	Col 1:1-3	Lim Wee Kiat
1st Aug	Eric Choa	Koh Liang Hwee	Andrew Paul	27th Jul	Col 1:4-8	Tan Jin Song
8th Aug	Sum Siew Tak	Andrew Prensundar	Leong Yuen Haur	3rd Aug	Col 1:9-14	Peter Wong
15th Aug	Kenneth Wong	William Koh	Aloysius Ong	10th Aug	Col 1:15-20	Andrew Kwan
22nd Aug	Kenneth Wong	Collin Leong	William Chew	17th Aug	Col 1:21-23	Tan Li Sheng
29th Aug	Tan Chee Hwee	Patrick Wee	William Chew	24th Aug	Col 1:24-29	Andrew Paul
				31st Aug	Col 2:1-5	Wong Chuan Peng