

# BETHESDA NEWSLETTER

MICA (P) 026/11/2007

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*Our Newly-Baptised members*

## OUR NEWLY- BAPTISED SAINTS

28/10/2007 — **Ellice Fan Ai Li, Dawn Sng Pei Shan, Rowena Tugob & Sherman Sim Jianwei**

We witnessed with thanksgiving to our Lord the obedience of the above brethren through the waters of baptism. We received them into our fellowship on the Sunday following their baptism and regard them as our family members in the service of the Lord.

## BIRTH

9/10/2007 — **Reginald & Angela Tan** on God's gift of a baby boy, **Aaron** (*their 2nd child*)

We are grateful to the Lord for His care to the mother and her baby. Pray that the Lord will enable the couple to bring up their children in the affection and admonition of the Lord.

## FAREWELL

14/10/2007 — **Allen Tan** who left us for USA in connection with his work there for 2 years.

23/11/2007 — **Aaron Khoo** who left us for Australia to take up employment there for 3 years.

We bid farewell to above brothers who left us to work overseas. Pray that the Lord will help them to settle well in their stay and service while overseas.

## WEDDINGS

29/9/2007 – **Tan Wee Siang & Ng Sin Lay** at Bethesda Hall (*Ang Mo Kio*)

10/11/2007 – **Yeo Peck Choon & Suzanne Tan** at Bethesda Hall (*Ang Mo Kio*)

We bless the Lord for His reality at the two weddings and His rejoicing in the bridal couples who pledged their love for each other before Him, their loved ones and friends. Pray for the Lord's enablement for the couples to live according to God's Word in unity, understanding and upliftment of each other in the new Christian homes they set up.

## CALLED HOME TO GLORY

### **LOUISE HENRIETTE BAPTIST, 70 yrs**

(9/12/1936 – 27/9/2007)

27/9/2007 – *Ronald & Bonnie Tessensohn, David & Keyna Goh & family* on the home-calling of Bonnie & Keyna's mother.

### **ANDREW YEOH EWE CHYE, 75 yrs**

(24/9/1932 – 10/11/2007)

10/11/2007 – *Mrs Yeoh Mui Meng & family* on the home-calling of her husband.

### **CECILIA LIM TECK CHIN, 51 yrs**

(9/5/1956 – 10/11/2007)

10/11/2007 – *Catherine Lim & Maureen Leong & family* on the home-calling of their sister.



*Andrew Yeoh Ewe Chye*

The Lord count it fit to take three of our beloved saints to be with Him in glory. Many of us have shared through these passing years a wonderful companionship and fellowship with them. We will always cherish those blessed memories with each of them. Their faithfulness, ferventness, and consecrated life will continue their radiance and testimony in our lives and assembly. They are now at a better place in heaven with Christ. Let's remember the bereaved ones during this time of their bereavement.

## BERAVENTMENT

30/9/2007 – *Juline Soh & Qiuxia* on the home-calling of their grandmother

8/10/2007 – *Sim Chear Wah & Mee Foong* on the home-calling of Mee Foong's brother

30/10/2007 – *John & Ann Chua, Johnson & Pik Yee and Jonathan* on the passing away of John's mother

7/11/2007 – *Kok Weng Chong & Kelly* on the home-calling of Weng Chong's father

8/11/2007 – *Lilian Tan* on the home-calling of her sister

11/11/2007 – *Eric & Dora Chia, Jeffrey & Betty Jee* on the home-calling of Dora & Betty's brother-in-law

Please remember the bereaved family members in your prayers that the Lord will assure them of His sympathy and sustenance during their bereavement.

## COPA TALK (DEPOT WALK)

**Date:** 6 Oct 2007, 7.30 to 8.30 pm

**Venue:** Bethesda Hall (Depot Walk), SS Hall

**Speaker:** Freddie Kang Sing Fong (Bethesda Bukit Arang Church)

**Topic:** Are you financially savvy enough to protect yourself

**Chairman:** Sum Siew Tak

75 attended.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** 9 Oct 2007, 9.15 pm

**Venue:** BAMK, Hall 4B

**New**

**Chairman:** Khoo Oon Soo

## New

**Secretary:** Sum Siew Tak



*More than 100 attended the AGM chaired by Oon Soo*

The meeting was attended by 101 saints, comprising 10 elders, 4 associates and 87 members. The meeting went through the Council's annual report and the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2007. The meeting was well chaired by our new Chairman, Khoo Oon Soo. He further highlighted the two challenges facing the assembly: the need for leadership renewal and the expiry of the Ang Mo Kio lease in 2013. There was a need to raise the necessary funds for the lease renewal and A & A works. Chairman also thanked the office bearers for the last two years, namely, Harry Tan (Chairman), Tan Chee Hwee (Secretary), Chong Kim Chow (Asst. Secretary), Kan Shik Lum (Treasurer), Stephen Chang (Asst. Treasurer) and also Mary Yeo for keeping the assembly accounts. Prayers were requested by the Chairman for the office bearers for the next two years namely, Khoo Oon Soo (Chairman), Harry Tan (Dy Chairman), Sum Siew Tak (Secretary), Chong Kim Chow (Asst. Secretary), Stephen Chang (Treasurer) and George Varughese (Asst. Treasurer). The meeting ended at 9.40 pm with prayer by Tay Kim Swee.

## **COPA (OAR): LUNCH FOR THE ELDERLY**

**Date:** 13 Oct 2007, 12 noon to 2.00 pm

As part of the COPA-OAR, the committee organized the 2nd bi-monthly lunch for the residents of the one-room flat in Block 257 Ang Mo Kio Street 21.

**Venue:** BAMK Classroom Area





**Chairmen:** Alex Mathews & Matthew Tang (Mandarin Interpreter)

**Programme:** Singing, Song item & Games

We thank the Lord for having enabled the COPA-OAR committee to hold the second lunch for the elderly. A total of 30 attended out of which 15 were from the residents of the block. It was another blessed time for our members to get to know the AMK residents who attended through the lunch, singing and games.



## ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** 13 Oct 2007, 5.00 pm

**Speaker:** Eric Choa

**Chairman:** Tan Jing Poi

We thank the Lord for being the Lord of the assembly for the year under review. The Lord was pleased to add another 29 saints to our fellowship. The meeting was attended by 200





*Eric Choa, speaker for the Annual Meeting*

members with Tan Jing Poi chairing, Sum Siew Tak reviewing the Annual report and message given by Eric Choa. There was a slide presentation showing the past assembly's and activity groups' events from July 2006 to June 2007. It was indeed a day of thanksgiving acknowledging the Lord's faithfulness and blessings to the assembly. With the launching of the various COPA initiatives this year, let's look to the Lord for a good harvest of precious souls.

### **BETHESDA (DEPOT WALK) KINDERGARTEN 3RD GRADUATION CONCERT**

**Date:** 31 Oct 2007

**Theme:** God bless our Homeland

**Speaker:** Andrew Kwan

**Chairman:** Wong Tuck Keong

19 K2 children graduated for Primary School education next year.

More than 200 attended.



*Andrew Kwan gave the message at the Bethesda (DW) Kindergarten 3rd Graduation Concert*

### **BETHESDA (ANG MO KIO) KINDERGARTEN 21st GRADUATION CONCERT**

**Dates:** 31 Oct & 1 Nov 2007

**Theme:** God is Faithful

**Speaker:** Kenneth Wong



*Kenneth Wong gave the message at the Bethesda (AMK) Kindergarten 21st Graduation Concert*

**Chairman:** Wong Tuck Keong  
89 K2 children graduated for Primary School education next year.  
More than 300 attended for the two nights.



*Doris Wong, our guest of honour, presented the certificate to one of the graduands*

We rejoice in the Lord for the two kindergartens' graduation celebrations. We thank the Lord for the hard work done by the staff and children to make the two concert celebrations a joyous one for many. Participants at the concerts were well rewarded with excellent performances by the children through dramas, singing, action songs and gospel messages delivered by Andrew Kwan and Kenneth Wong. Pray that the Lord will enable our graduands to apply what they have learnt from our kindergartens especially the Christian values, as they enter Primary School in 2008.

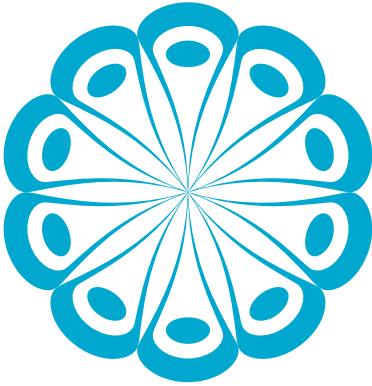


*Bethesda (AMK) Kindergarten 21st Graduation Concert*



LESSONS FROM THE UPPER ROOM:

# The Knowledge & Love Of Christ



**Throughout the Lord's Upper Room discourse, He demonstrates His deity. Perfect knowledge and perfect love are two of the most frequently displayed divine attributes in this section of God's Word. As one reads His final teaching to the disciples before the Cross, one realizes that He is in total control of the circumstances, and is working all things together for their (and our) good. Christ's all-encompassing knowledge and unlimited love provides the assurance of the Almighty's ability to channel all events for the accomplishment of His will and the believer's eternal blessing.**

## **The Introductory Statement Reveals His Complete Knowledge**

John 13:1 reads: "Now

before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." The impending betrayal, arrest, trials, and crucifixion did not take the Lord Jesus by surprise. He knew that His hour had come. Previously, He had evaded unwanted attention and life-threatening danger, because His time had not yet come (Jn. 2:4; 7:6, 30; 8:20.) Now it is upon Him, and He approaches the hour with calm determination, knowing that these events will accomplish the divine mission of redemption, eventually leading Him back to eternal glory with the Father (Jn. 13:1; 17:5.)

Several times the Lord informs His disciples of coming events in order that

they may look back on that dark night, and realize that it all unfolded “according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23.) He openly tells them this in John 13:23: “Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He.” In preparing them for His physical departure, Christ identifies His betrayer, clearly predicts the persecution that the disciples will face in the world, and details the coming of the Holy Spirit, as well as other future events (Jn. 13:10-11, 21, 25; 16:1-4; 14:16-17.) If He had not mentioned these things, after they occurred the disciples might wonder if the Lord was ignorant of the happenings that led Him to the Cross. With His perfect foreknowledge, however, the Lord Jesus displays compassion for them. Now they could look back and say, “The Lord knew it all the time! It all took place according to His will. He went willingly to Calvary.”

### The Introductory Statement Reveals His Unlimited Love

10 The second half of John

13:1 says that the Lord “having loved His own who were in the world loved them to the end.” Some scholars translate the last phrase: “to the uttermost” or “to the fullest extent possible.” His love not only encompassed all of His dealings with the disciples, it also surpasses anything else in its quality. This type of love is humble (as seen in the feet-washing, Jn. 13:4-11), faithful in the face of the disciples’ unfaithfulness (Jn. 13:26-14:3; 16:31-33), and makes provision for their ongoing instruction, protection, and comfort (Jn. 14:16-27.)

The caliber of this love is evidenced by our Lord’s own description of the greatest demonstration of love: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13.) In thinking of the Lord’s sacrificial death for them, His disciples could not deny that His love transcends anything else in the world. Romans 5:8 reminds us that “...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” We could not even say that we were His friends in our natural, lost

state. He loved us when we were unlovely, and brought us freely into the fellowship of His love by grace. Indeed, this is a love that goes beyond the world’s usual trite usage of the word.

### Love: The Believer’s Natural Habitat

Christ’s love has a powerful impact on the life of a believer. He describes the practical significance of love in the Upper Room teaching. His doctrine may be outlined thus:

- 1. Love’s Standard:** Jn. 13:34 – “...as I have loved you” – It humbly imitates Christ’s selfless love.
- 2. Love’s Requirement:** Jn. 14:21 – “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me...” – It obeys Christ’s Word. Compare 14:31 where Christ shows the world His love for the Father through obedience to the latter’s command, which will lead Him to the death of the Cross.
- 3. Love’s Result:** Jn. 15:9-10, 13, 16 – “...ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should

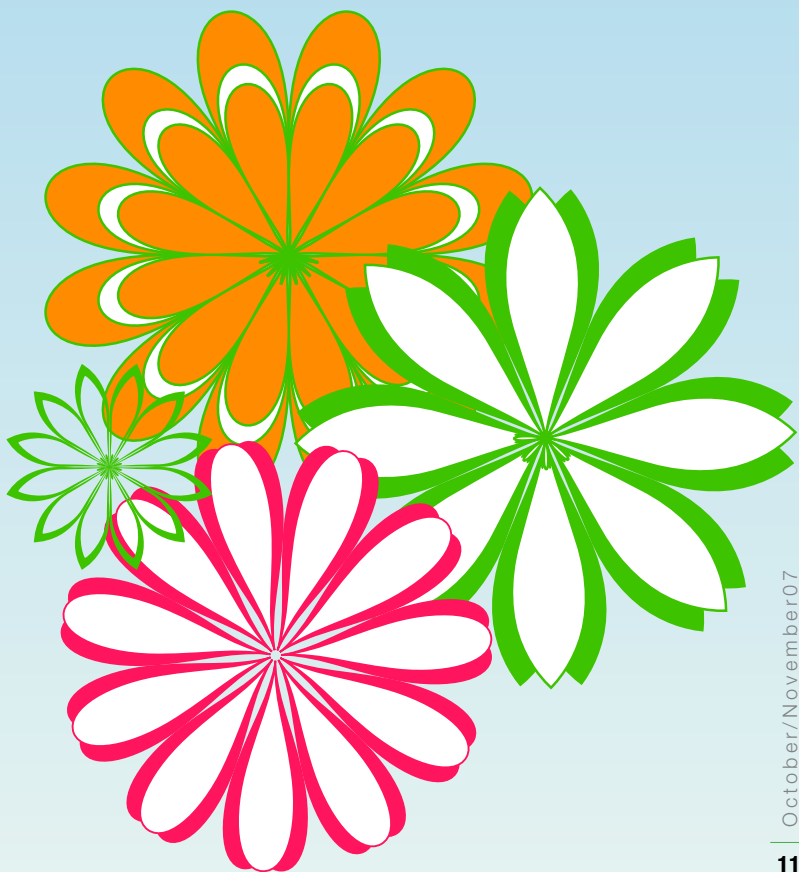
remain...” – It produces the Vine’s fruit in the believers’ lives, while they lay down their lives for each other.

**4. Love’s Completion:** Jn. 17:26 – “...that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them” – It unites them with the love of the Father and the Son.

Therefore, love has a dramatic practical effect on the believer by leaving an example of humility, obedience, and fruitfulness. Manifesting the love of Christ towards one another is the mark of true discipleship (Jn. 13:35.)

The Lord’s perfect knowledge and love repeatedly appear in John 13-17, showing their essential part in the accomplishment of God’s will. As Christ sends forth His followers into the world as witnesses, they go forth accompanied by the Triune God, Who knows all. There are no obstacles that He is unaware of, nor any problems that He cannot solve. What is more, His love ensures their protection, provision, and

empowerment. The love that led the Savior to Calvary and the tomb will surely not spare anything in working for their good. The love that conquered death through resurrection will ultimately take believers to the Father’s house, where they will eternally behold the Christ’s glory (Jn. 14:1-3; 17:24.) Nothing can defeat the Lord Jesus Christ, nor thwart His purposes. As Romans 8:37 says: “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”



## In Loving Memory Of Our Dear Sister

### **Cecilia Lim Teck Chin** (9/5/1956 – 10/11/2007)



#### **My grace is sufficient for thee... (2 Corinthians 12:9a)**

This is the verse that Cecilia often used to encourage herself in the Lord during the last days of her sojourn here. Her life is surely a testimony of how God's grace was indeed sufficient for her, and we trust she would want us to experience that personally as well.

Cecilia will always be remembered as an exemplary bible student – her thirst for learning was unquenchable, and she did not stop at that. She would apply the lessons to her daily life, and go on to share with anyone interested to listen, be they believers, non-believers, colleagues, family or friends. Her goal was to pattern her life after Christ Jesus our Lord.

One of her favourite songs

was “In the Garden”, and it gives us an insight into her personal walk with God.

#### **IN THE GARDEN**

*I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the  
roses;*

*And the voice I hear, falling  
on my ear,*

*The Son of God discloses.*

*And He walks with me and  
He talks with me,*

*And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we  
tarry there,*

*None other has ever known.*

In the 2 Sundays before her home-calling, Cecilia was “with us” during our morning worship services. She wanted so much to be present at the Lord's Supper that she would SMS a sister-in-Christ at 8:30am with a simple “R u in church? I am ready.” Then, via SMS, she would ponder over the songs being sung, and the

scriptures being read. Indeed we thank God for her deep desire to fellowship with God's people even in this manner.

Cecilia will also be remembered as a Barnabas: she was always encouraging anyone who came into her life. For the times when she found herself unable to help directly, she would direct that person to someone else without hesitation. Her love and care is something that many of us have experienced.

She was also a prayer warrior. In her last weeks, she continued to uphold many through her prayers as she rested. Even in her frailty and breathlessness, she would still ask: "How are you today?" May we give thanks to God for her faithfulness in prayer, and her genuine concern for those around her.

There is a song that moved her to tears during the last 2 months. Even as this song comforted her during her last weeks on earth, it is also her dearest wish that everyone would know this love that she cherishes. In particular, it is her deepest desire for every member in her family

to believe and to receive the gift of salvation from our God. May we continue to pray for her family members whenever our thoughts turn to Cecilia.

### **THE WAY THAT HE LOVES**

*The way that He loves is as fair as the day*

*That blesses my way with light*

*The way that He loves is as soft as the breeze*

*Caressing the trees at night*

*So tender and precious is*

*He, contented with Jesus I'll be*

*The way that He loves is so thrilling because*

*His love reaches even me.*

It would not be true to say that Cecilia knew no problems. She had her fair share of life's issues and struggles, and she would want us to remember her as someone who overcame by the strength of our Lord. She knows she is not perfect, and if by any chance, she has failed to make peace with anyone before going Home, please know that she would want to ask for your forgiveness.

And for those who are grieved and saddened by her home-calling, please know that Cecilia would

want us to know that she is where she has always wanted to be. Two years ago she said that if it be God's will, she would want to be in His presence soon after her 50th birthday. This was not a wish from a despondent person, for she had plans for an active schedule even into the year 2008. This was a wish coming from one who knew that for her to live is Christ, and to die is gain. So, now she has reached her Home. She has said that she will be there waiting to welcome us when our time comes too that we may all rejoice with her.

May God give us peace and joy as we continue our lives here on earth, until we meet her again when we too enter into the presence of our Saviour and Lord Christ Jesus. Amen.

November 21, 2007

*Our dear sister has also left us with some of her thoughts at <http://cecilia-ltc.livejournal.com/3863.html>*



# The Lord's Faithfulness

## in Manipur



We thank the Lord for the fruitful time granted to us (SV Ramalingam, Rose and Robert Hmar) during our recent trip to Manipur from 12 Oct to 17 Oct 2007. The state of Manipur is located in the North-East of India. China lies to its north and Myanmar to its east. The North East India is quite autonomous in itself—the people are physically and linguistically distinct from mainstream Indians and belong instead to a Tibeto-Burmese race. North-east India is recognized to consist of seven sister states: Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya. Their distinctiveness has been one of factors that have led to significant socio-political unrest in the region. Manipur is one of the state in India where an Assembly Testimony has just started. We would like

to thank the Lord for the prayers and the support of the saints gathered at BAMK and BDW. In this trip, the Lord has enabled us to see His continuing mercies and faithfulness among the local brethren at Bethesda Gospel Hall (Lamboikhongnangkhang) in their witness and labour for the Lord inspite of the many challenges they face.

On the 12th of October we took an hour flight from Kolkata to Imphal (capital town of Manipur) and straight away proceeded for a gospel meeting arranged at the Youth Hostel. About 50 people attended the meeting and 10 people responded to the Lord and were counselled.

The next day, we proceed to Churachandpur another town in Manipur, to attend a believers meeting arranged by the Bethesda Assembly.

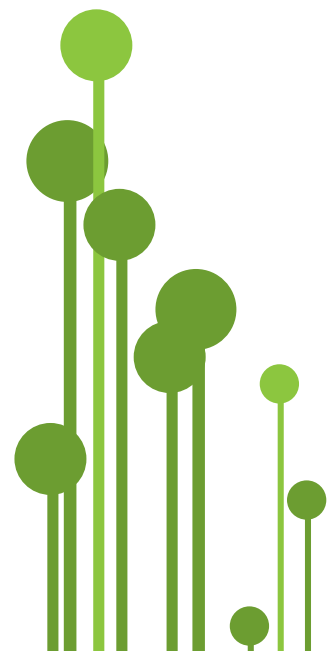
The Bethesda Assembly is a newly started assembly and the only assembly in the town. Every Lord's Day about 15 people gather to break bread. Brother Jeffrey, a local evangelist, was our interpreter. In the evening, we were invited to take a gospel meeting at a Christian drug rehabilitation centre called "Alpha and Omega". 12 inmates responded and committed their lives to the Lord. Pray for the follow up as the local brethren follow them up. On the 14th of October 07 we returned to Imphal to attend the worship service at Bethesda Gospel Hall (LK Khong). It is a new assembly in Imphal where about 10 families meet regularly to break bread. They arranged 2 ministry meetings in the morning where both of us had the privilege of sharing God's word with them. We too had the privilege of conducting a baptism service for 2 sisters namely Ms Rebecca and Ms Tabitha. We had the joy of witnessing to a crowd which were mainly of Meitei Hindu background. Do remember them with regards to their spiritual growth and their studies. A sumptuous lunch was arranged for all

the believers and we had a good time of getting to know the believers. Towards the evening it started raining and all were worried that the open-air evening gospel rally service would have to be postponed, however, the Lord was provident in answering our prayers for the rain to be withheld for just enough time for the crowd to gather and for a good 2 hours in which we preached his word. The Lord moved 700 people and 45 people came forward for salvation and recommitment respectively. Do up hold the local brethren in your prayers as they continue in their follow up work. May the Lord grant much joy and wisdom in their labour for the lost souls.

From 15 to 16 Oct 07 we went to two villages (1) Charangpat and (2) Nongpok Sekmai. At Charangpat about 10 families showed interest in studying NT principles. Pray for Jeffrey and Nungshi Babu as they visit them every week, studying the Emmaus course "Christ Loved the Church" with them. At Nongpok Sekmai, a gospel meeting was arranged and 25 people came forward for salvation

and some to enquire about Christianity. We thank the Lord for what He is doing in and through His people in Manipur.

Bethesda Gospel Hall (LK Khong) in Imphal have asked us to specially pray for them in their need to acquire a piece of land for their new assembly as the government requires them to move from their current location. The projected land (not so far away from main town) plus the cost of building may cost around SGD22, 000. Do remember them for the Lord's provision. Also remember local responsible brothers –Jeffrey D. Hmar, Manga, Surjit, Joy, Joyson and Muana— as they lead the assembly in shepherding and labouring for the Lord.



# Beware of Pride and Prejudice



**Acts 17:11 - Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the word with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.**

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away

from the truth...

Mark 7:13 - You nullify the Word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.

Galatians 1:8 - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

“Pride and Prejudice” is not just the title of a well-known historical novel. Pride and prejudice are two problems at the root of many areas of human conflict - even in the Christian community! One



*David Reid gave a review on the Pastoral Epistles at our CEP combined session on 2nd Dec 07*

place where we would least expect pride and prejudice to rear their ugly heads is in biblical interpretation. Because the interpretation of Scripture follows well-established rules and principles, one would think that there would be no room for pride and prejudice. Unfortunately, this is not the case! Pride and prejudice make their insidious way even into the area of biblical studies and interpretation. In fact, the intrusion of pride and prejudice here can be so subtle that an additional principle of biblical hermeneutics (interpretation of Scripture) must always be kept in mind - "Beware of Pride and Prejudice"!

### Perils of Pre-Judging

As we read the book of Acts we see that the apostle Paul confronted the pride and prejudice of the Jewish interpreters of Scripture. The missionary strategy of the great apostle usually involved starting with the Jewish synagogues in the various cities he hoped to evangelize. (See Acts 17:1-3, for example). In the synagogues, the Jews and the Gentile proselytes

were both familiar with the Scriptures, and this was a starting point from which to preach the gospel of Christ. Sadly, most of the Jews did not respond positively to Paul's interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures. (See Acts 17:5-8, for example.) Why? They rejected the message because of pride and prejudice! They had already made up their minds! They had pre-judged the Scriptures. They had preconceived ideas of the Messiah and His coming, and in their pride they were not open to reconsidering the Scriptures and evaluating the true interpretation.

Is it possible that we too, because of pride and prejudice, are blinded to the proper interpretation of some Scriptures? Have we pre-judged any Scripture because of a traditional interpretation? Have we been "pressured" into an improper interpretation of some Scriptures? Have we refused to reconsider any of our particular "set-in-stone" interpretations of certain Scriptures because our pride in our knowledge of Scripture

would be threatened? Have we the audacity to behave as though we are 100% failure-free in all of our interpretations?! Let us beware of pride and prejudice - even in our interpretation of Scripture. We need to be constantly reminded of the Bereans, who "examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul taught was true." The Jews of Thessalonica were filled with pride because of their Jewish background and heritage. They were blinded by their prejudice against any interpretation other than the "tradition which was handed down" (Mark 7:13). This not only closed their minds to proper interpretation of Scripture, but actually drove them to do whatever they could to undermine the ministry of the one who had the right interpretation of Scripture! (See Acts 17:13.) As growing Christians, we must make sure that this same sinful spirit does not affect any of us! The best safeguard against pride and prejudice in interpretation is the Berean mindset: honest and open-minded examination of the Scriptures. Let's beware of

pride and prejudice!

## Our Pleasant Interpretations

Let's look at a few areas where Christians are vulnerable. First, pride and prejudice affect our interpretation of Scripture when we choose to believe the more pleasant interpretation. Of course it's easier to go with the more pleasant interpretation of any Scripture, but unfortunately that "pleasant" interpretation could be the wrong interpretation! The false doctrines of the universal salvation of all mankind and no eternal punishment for the unbeliever are obvious examples of "more pleasant" interpretations which have been improperly forced upon the clear text of Scripture.

But some cases are not so clear-cut! Many Christians, for example, believe that all true believers will be taken home to heaven by the Lord Himself before the Tribulation, or the "hour that is to try the earth" (Revelation 3:10). Why do we believe this doctrine? Let's make sure we believe it because we have interpreted

Scripture carefully, and not because it is more "pleasant" to believe that believers will escape the wrath of God that is to come on this earth! What is the destiny of babies who die before they have a chance to respond to the Lord? Are they part of the "elect company of believers"? It is certainly more "pleasant" to believe that these "innocent" children will be forever in heaven. But have we who believe this more pleasant doctrine been prejudiced in our interpretation of Scripture simply because this doctrine is more "pleasant"? Few Scriptures, if any, touch directly on the subject of babies or children who die before an "age of responsibility," that is, a time when they are able to understand and respond to God's offer of salvation. (See 2 Samuel 12:23, Matthew 18:10, and Mark 10:14, for example.) We know for sure from Scripture that babies are not born "innocent"! (See Psalm 51:5 and Romans 5:12, for example.) We also know for sure, however, that God is a loving and gracious God (2 Peter 3:9), and that our Lord Jesus demonstrated a particular

love for children. (See Matthew 18:2-6 and Mark 10:14-16).

In 2 Timothy 2:13 we read, "If we are faithless He will remain faithful, because He cannot disown Himself." How should we interpret this verse, which is addressed to believers? Is this a promise of eternal security for all believers, whether or not a believer lives a faithful life? Or is it an unpleasant warning to the believer that God must be faithful to His principles, and the unfaithful believer will not receive much reward? For God to reward an unfaithful believer would be to deny His own character! When we interpret this text, we must be careful not to choose the more "pleasant" interpretation. The Bible certainly teaches the eternal security of the believer, but this text is not necessarily dealing with that subject. In fact, the context seems to indicate that the "unpleasant" interpretation is probably the correct interpretation in this case! And when the proper interpretation is not especially "pleasant," we must accept and endure sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3).



## Our Traditional Interpretations

Pride and prejudice can influence our interpretation when we choose to believe the more traditional interpretation. The traditional interpretation of 1 Peter 3:18-20, for example, is that between Christ's death and resurrection He descended into Hades and proclaimed His victory over sin and Satan. This is the view that is included in the Apostle's Creed. But this traditional interpretation may not be the proper interpretation - in fact, it's difficult to support this interpretation from the rest of Scripture! Another interpretation of this passage is that the Lord Himself spoke through Noah to the disobedient and unbelieving people of Noah's day. Because of their unbelief and rejection of the way of salvation, their spirits are now in prison awaiting the final judgment. This interpretation, while not the traditional interpretation, is more hermeneutically sound because it fits what the gospel record apparently indicates - that the Lord went directly into the Father's presence when He died (see

Luke 23:46). And very little scriptural support can be found for the "traditional" interpretation of 1 Peter 3:18-20.

Another example where tradition may easily affect our interpretation of Scripture is the manner and mode of baptism. Most of us simply go along with the teaching and tradition of baptism of the church in which we were raised, rather than reaching a personal conviction of baptism through a honest and careful study of Scripture. Beware of pride and prejudice here! Decisions regarding infant versus adult baptism, and decisions concerning immersion or sprinkling as the mode of baptism should be based on Scripture alone, and not on tradition. Can you back up your position on baptism, including the mode, on sound biblical hermeneutics? Or has your church tradition determined your position? Remember, our Lord Jesus denounced the Pharisees for their pride and prejudice in making their traditions more important than the Word of God (Mark 7:13)!

## Our Favorite Interpretations

Another dangerous area, where pride and prejudice affect our interpretation, is when we always believe "our favorite" interpretation. There is always a tendency for us to pre-judge the interpretation of some passage based on what our favorite preacher or writer says, or what our favorite church or denomination teaches. For example, take the "Lordship Salvation" debate. Our favorite preacher or writer may teach that a person's salvation is in question, because "if Jesus isn't Lord of all, then He isn't Lord at all." On the other hand, our favorite preacher or writer may teach that making Christ Lord of all is certainly a desirable goal but is not necessary for salvation. After all, there are many examples in Scripture of believers who were not 100% committed! Well, what's the answer? The answer is: Don't assume that your favorite preacher or writer has the last word! That would be letting prejudice affect your interpretation! Don't form your opinion until you dig out all the facts

- from Scripture! Be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11), and search the Scriptures for yourself. Examine God's Word, especially on controversial subjects, and be convinced from Scripture, apart from your favorite speakers or authors!

What about the whole premillennial versus amillennial debate as another example? Is it possible that your interpretation of the Scriptures on this subject has been affected by pride or prejudice? Do you believe what your favorite church or denomination teaches, or have you based your conclusions on your own careful and honest study of Scripture?

The apostle Paul told the Galatians that they should not believe him - or even an angel from heaven - if either one of them should give a "different interpretation" of the gospel of Christ! That's pretty strong language, but it shows the importance of this principle. Remember that most cults are based on the teachings of a favorite preacher! Even true believers can be sucked into dangerous interpretational

waters when they blindly follow the teachings of a favorite Christian personality - and there are plenty of them around these days! Let's be very careful in our selection of favorite preachers and teachers! Don't be gullible! Beware of pride and prejudice when listening to the teachings of your most favorite preachers, Christian music or sports "personalities," television ministries, "TV churches" or favorite authors!

We could mention other areas where pride and prejudice could subtly creep in and influence our interpretation of Scripture. The examples we have mentioned should motivate us to be like the believers in the town of Berea, who "examined the Scriptures every day" to see whether Paul's teachings were true. Let's remember the intransigence of the Jews who wouldn't listen to the apostle Paul, and beware - be aware-of how our pride in traditions or background can influence our interpretation of Scripture! Let's not allow our own personal prejudices to comfortably lead us to believe what's

more pleasant, or to blithely accept what a favorite preacher or writer says without carefully examining the Scriptures. And let's make up our minds that nothing will prevent us from reconsidering our interpretations and correcting possible errors! Let's determine what we believe by careful and honest personal examination and study of God's Word!



# Louise Henriette Baptist

(9/12/1936 – 27/9/2007)



**Thank you for being here to remember our mum's life as we lay her to rest today. There is so much to share about her that words cannot completely capture her life and how much we feel for her.**

Born in Ipoh, she was the eleventh of thirteen siblings. Called into the teaching profession at the tender age of 18, she followed the footsteps of her father who was the headmaster of a school.

Mum was a loving daughter and sister. She enjoyed the company of her family and was often flying out of town to attend weddings, spend Christmas or just to catch up. She looked after her parents and as a child I remember spending most Sundays at their Haig Road home.

She was fond of her in-laws and also had good times

with them. Her nephews and nieces were special to her, and Auntie Lou will long be remembered.

My mother used to love nicknames and each one of us has a name that she used affectionately. Each one of her grandchildren has a special one – rubber, dandan, jon-jon, abi, pippy and my little school girl (Hannah).

Mum enjoyed singing jazz, cooking for her family and friends and making gifts of her well-loved fruit and love cake. She had a unique and unassuming way of rapidly becoming a part of people's lives – like the time she first met Ronald, who later became her eldest son-in-law. Mum promptly set Ronald to work, to screw light bulbs for our new home. This embarrassed me greatly as I had only recently met him then. In similar fashion, David, her second son-in-

law ended up moving pots in the garden on his first visit to our house.

My sister Celeste's fondest memory of Mum was flopping down next to her after Mum got home from work, smelling and kissing her cheek. Our home was often filled with her beautiful humming as she cooked delicious meals for us.

Mum could best be described as having a strong yet soft spirit which showed itself in her independent, thoughtful and empathetic way. She was truly able to feel the sorrows and joy that her family and friends were going through.

Mum lived a full life in her seventy years from 1936 to 2007. And seventy years was long enough for her to:-

- a) raise four children and see us form families of our own.
- b) see the birth of her 6 grandchildren and watch them grow.
- c) travel after her retirement to renew relationships with her siblings overseas.
- d) touch the lives of numerous students and youth with her warmth and empathy.
- e) befriend both the young and old.
- f) forge meaningful and lasting relationships that bind for life.
- g) faithfully attend Bible studies as she sought to find out more about her Lord and Saviour.

My mother was not a perfect person and she would be the first to tell you so. She had the wisdom to know that even the free-spirited must find a place for their spirit to rest. She found that place in the precious arms of our loving Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. We are comforted in that knowledge and look to the day when we will be reunited with her in the heavenly realms.

As John 3:15 says, Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life...

# A Life Testimony of Mr Andrew Yeoh Ewe Chye



A life well-lived is what we treasure for ourselves; and a life well-lived is what we can all confidently say about our brother, Mr Yeoh Ewe Chye, who went home to be with the Lord on 10th November 2007. His promotion to glory left behind a good testimony for us to follow. To those closest to him – his family, relatives and close friends – it is both a lost and gain. A lost, because he is no longer with them to chat, fellowship and serve the Lord together. But it is also a gain, because one day they will see Him again in Heaven and rejoice that he had lived and served the Lord well.

Mr Yeoh or Uncle Andrew

Yeoh, as he was known to many, was a loving husband to his dear wife Mui Ming and a devoted and responsible father to his two children, Marcus and Denise. Baptized at Bethesda Gospel Hall, Bras Basah Road in August 1950, brother Ewe Chye was a gifted singer who sang well for the Lord, and regularly chaired and participated in the then “Song Service”. He was a member of the church choir; with a good voice, he added to the beauty of the choir’s presentations and helped the choir sing to the glory of God. His love for singing led him to continue to sing with the choir when the Lord relocated us to Ang Mo Kio in 1986. We continued to hear him sing for the Lord at the Watchnight and Christmas Services.

Brother Ewe Chye was also a good Sunday School Teacher who left behind a shining legacy for his

students to follow. His teaching of the Word of God was simple, illustrative and easy to follow.

The last ten years of brother Ewe Chye’s life was spent closely linked to the Bedok Regional Fellowship Group where he ministered the Word regularly. At times, when he shared the Word, he personalized his experiences in the Lord and brought encouragement to the entire fellowship group. His most recent participation in assembly activity was in the 25th Senior Gathering of the Assembly in 2006 where he shared the Word and sang for the Lord, bringing much encouragement to the senior Christians at the gathering.

We give glory to God for this brother’s life and trust that traces of his shining testimony will help us to aspire to live an exemplary life that is pleasing to our Lord Jesus.



## Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio & Depot Walk) 2007 Speakers & Chairmen List

MORNING MINISTRY			GOSPEL SERVICE	
Date	Speaker (AMK)	Speaker (DW)	Speaker	Chairman
7th Oct	Tan Jing Poi	Ho Kuang Cheng	Daniel Skelton	William Hooi
14th Oct	Ho Kuang Cheng	Andrew Sng	SV Ramalingam	Kelvin Chan
21st Oct	Tan Kian Huat	Daniel Skelton	Lim Wee Kiat	Kelvin Chan
28th Oct	Tan Kian Huat	Eric Ang	Kurien Kurian	Soo Chai Chew
4th Nov	Kenneth Wong	Tan Chee Hwee	Peter Chow	Aloysius Ong
11th Nov	Kenneth Wong	Robert Hmar	Dave Harvey	Tan Li Sheng
18th Nov	Ernest Chew	Khoo Oon Soo	Linus Tan	Tan Li Sheng
25th Nov	Andrew Lim	Khoo Oon Soo	Kenneth Khong	Alex Mathews
2nd Dec	David Reid	Kenneth Wong	David Reid	Edmund Yong
9th Dec	Keith Keyser	Kenneth Wong	Keith Keyser	Robert Hmar
16th Dec	Keith Keyser	Chang Chew Kient	Keith Keyser	
23rd Dec	S V Ramalingam	Tay Kim Swee	Andrew Kwan	Nathaniel Sim
30th Dec	S V Ramalingam	Tay Kim Swee	S V Ramalingam	Nathaniel Sim

### TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Date	Bible Text	Speaker
2nd Oct	3 John 1-4	Daniel Panneersalvam
9th Oct	3 John 5-10	James Yim
16th Oct	3 John 11-14	Tan Soo Hoon
23rd Oct	Jude: Overview	Boey San Fei
30th Oct	Jude 1-4	William Chew
6th Nov	Jude 5-9	Ng Lee Peng
13th Nov	Jude 10-13	Kelvin Ng
20th Nov	Jude 14-19	Alvin Teo
27th Nov	Jude 20-25	Mak Yew Chong
4th Dec	Rev: Overview	Daniel Skelton
11th Dec	Rev 1:1-6	Richard Ting
18th Dec	Rev 1:7-11	Jeffrey Jee
25th Dec	Rev 1:12-20	Tan Li Sheng

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)**