

BE BORN AGAIN!

(Revival Sermon by Dr. John Sung)

I. What It Is to be Born Again.

V.1. "There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews." What kind of man? A Pharisee. Pharisees were very religious people, who delighted to pray and to make their prayers long. They knew their Bible and could repeat Scripture by heart. They had Bible verses written on their garments and wore them. They diligently kept the Sabbath and never missed Church. They occupied the first seats. This man, being a Pharisee, did all that has been mentioned - going to Church, studying the Bible, making frequent prayers. But he was not born again. 1) To be born again is not praying or worshipping. You may practise all these, but you may not be born again.

2) To be born again is not trying to do good. His name is Nicodemus which means a "good person." Indeed, he is a good person, not a bad one. Often when the world praises a man, it regards him to be a good person. Once when I went to a village they said to me, "You are a good person." Often we hear people say, "So-and-so, he really is a good fellow." The world respects a good person, but merely being good is not to be equated with being saved.

This man is a ruler of the Jews. Only a good great man could be a ruler of the Jews. No doubt he is good, but he is not born again. Let us not be mistaken. A good man is not necessarily born again.

Vs. 2. "The same came to Jesus by night, and said to him, Rabbi, we know thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

3) To be born again is not believing there is a God. Nicodemus was truly humble, coming at night to see the Lord. Though a ruler, he knocked on the teacher's door to seek enlightenment, not an easy thing to do. He came up to see Jesus, knowing He was one sent from God. Though Nicodemus believed in God and knew of God, yet he did not know what it was to be born again.

4) To be born again is not imitating Jesus. There are many who preach the good character of Jesus and the high example He sets us, like Nicodemus who said of Jesus, "You are a teacher come from God."

5) To be born again is not to recover from illness. Once I asked a little village girl, "Are you born again?" She said, "I had a stomachache once. I prayed and I got well again." To be born again is not to be cured.

Nicodemus was a good man on every count. He read the Bible, he prayed, he believed in God. He followed Christ's example. He even believed in Jesus' miracles. Now there are many Nicodemuses in the Church. They can pray and believe it is Jesus who heals them of their sicknesses. Brothers and sisters, I hope you don't make this mistake that to perform religious actions means to be born again. Nicodemus had the abovementioned five items to his credit, but he was not born again.

II. The Need of Being Born Again.

It is utterly necessary that a Christian be born again!

Vs. 3. "Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Will you repeat this verse after me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Whether you are man, woman, old, young, everyone in this world needs to be born again if he wants to see God's kingdom.

1) An unborn again person is blind. If I am not born again and preach to you, I am blind. A theological student not born again becomes a blind leader of the blind when he graduates. Will not both of them fall into the ditch? Jesus says, "A man not born again is a blind man!"

Vs. 4. "Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Nicodemus said, "Alas, I'm old. I'm quite toothless and my hair is white. How can I be born again? What talk is this? A joke?" He heard but he did not understand. How many sermon tasters are also unintelligible like him.

2) Not to be born again is to be deaf. So many sermon hearers find no interest because the words they hear do not enter their ear. So they leave. Why? Because they are deaf.

3) Not to be born again is to come to a dead end. Nicodemus said, "I'm old!" Old temper, old bad mouth, old pilferer, old critic, old liar. All these old stuffs can never change till death. How pitiful! They cannot change. They cannot improve. They cannot be rejuvenated. But the Lord can!

Vs. 5. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Has an unborn again person any hope of seeing God's kingdom?

4) Not to be born again is to be shut outside the door. How many are outside-the-door novices. They know not God. They know not the doctrine.

5) Not to be born again is to be lame. Imagine such a man - he has a big head and five big organs inside a fat body, but with limping legs. Can he walk well? How does he look? So, you may be attending Church for years. But you are lame. Jesus says, "You must be born again be born again." (To be continued).

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 5:1-10).

Barnabas was one man who rendered great service to the early Church by his generosity and the exercise of his counselling gifts particularly his encouragement of others. He was undoubtedly an influential man. He used his influence for good. It was he who influenced the suspicious disciples to accept Saul as a true brother in Christ (9:27). May we use our influence for good! Barnabas is one person cited for our emulation. Now Luke gives us an example of hypocrisy we should avoid.

B. A BAD EXAMPLE TO SHUN (5:1-10). Chapter 5:1 begins with a big BUT! This is a BUT of contrast. Luke shows the contrast between the character of Barnabas and that of Ananias Surprisingly both Ananias and his wife Sapphira had good names. Ananias means "Yahweh has been gracious," while Sapphira means "Beautiful." What a pity that they did not live to their good names. Christians ought to bear in mind that they bear the name of Christ. Let us be careful to live up to our name as disciples of Christ.

What exactly was this couples' sin? Verses 1 and 2 state that Ananias sold a possession and kept back part of the price with the wife's connivance. In the first place Peter said that they were not compelled to sell their property; and having sold it, they could have kept the proceeds if they had wished (4:a). Peter recognised the right of private property. It was no sin for Ananias to contribute part of the proceeds from their sale of property. The sin was Ananias' desire to give the impression that he had given all when he did not. He lied about it. A Bible teacher has observed that Ananias wanted the reputation Barnabas enjoyed but he did not have Barnabas' devotion. It is important that couples agree to do the right than connive to do the wrong. "We must never suppose that the element of good in our actions can counterbalance the element of evil therein. Be straight. Hate hypocrisy as you would the devil" (Scroggie). This was the first sin in and against the community of believers. The judgement upon the couple was swift and severe because the Holy Spirit is a Spirit of Holiness. God hates lies because they are of the devil (cf. Prov. 6:16-19; John 8:44).

Two effects were produced by this disciplinary action. It halts as well as hastens the growth of the Church (vv. 13,14). Besides, among the believers there was harmony (12b), fear of them and respect for them by unbelievers (vv. 5,11,13), and addition of more believers to the Lord (v. 14). "Subtraction is sometimes strength. Only a pure church is powerful" (Scroggie).

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Rev. Tow lectures on Revelation.
TUE 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
THUR 7.15 pm Westminster Confession: Mr. Tan.
FRI 8.00 pm Family Worship at the Parsonage.
Replay of Life Church over Radio S'pore.
SAT 3.30 pm LCYF: Rev. Tow on "DISCIPLESHIP".
4.00 pm YAF.

Lord's Day 10.00 am Rev. Tow (LCSS Annual Covenant).

3.30 pm Rev. Tow at Jurong B-P Elections.

4.00 pm Rev. Tai Po-fu.

Last Week's Offering \$924.12 + \$200 + \$25.
\$600 for Gospel Boat. \$50 for Kelapa Sawit.
\$25 for Galilee BP Church.

New Address of Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Tan, 17
Toh Tuck Rise, S'pore 21. Tel: 4681803.
Pray for Peter Eng's speedy recovery from
an operation this week. He is at the new
ENT Ward.

Congratulations to Grace B-P Church which
celebrates 2nd Anniversary Thanksgiving
this Lord's Day. Pastor Tow is the Lord's
messenger.

FEBC Lectures on Revelation, every Mon.
night 7.15 to 9.15 pm open to public!
Blessing promised in Rev. 1:3!

Piling on the 6-acre car park behind FEBC
is half-finished. 4-storey HUDC blocks and
a 14-storey tower will rise in a matter of
months. Lifers, buy a flat next to the
Church!

Our offerings in good investments! \$5,000
loaned to Kelapa Sawit B.F., \$1,000 gift to
help little Jurong Church. Student pastor is

Burt Subramaniam.

Bro. Teo Gim Thong, now SIA-training with
Boeing, Seattle is expected back Jan. 15.

Five New students at FEBC

1. Stanley Tan (Zion); 2. Elina Tan (Calvary)
3. Lau Chin Kwee (GLTD); 4. Cheong Yoke Fun (Life)
5. Kim Kah Teck (Malaysia). Dohar who has
been preaching in Medan since his return is
now planning to leave for West Kalimantan
to teach at the Mt. of Olives Bible School.
"Pioneering in Dyak Borneo" by Jason Linn,
the book that moved Bro. Sng Jin Seng to
seek God after 15 years of rejection. Get
your copy from the pastor, \$2/-, 250 pages!
Why not give books to non-Christian friends?
Rev. Goh Seng Fong may be contacted at
Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, Blk. 82, 141-G,
Commonwealth Close, S'pore 3.
S.U. Notes Those who have placed their orders
please see Dn. Peter Wang to get your copy.

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

There's no joy on earth
Quite so precious to me,
My heart has no greater reward,
Than the wonderful joy
That comes into my heart
When I go to the house of the Lord.

No happier hours
Could be spent anywhere
Or offer a sweeter reward
Than those beautiful hours
That await me each time
I go to the house of the Lord.

- Amanda Bradley

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III. How To Be Born Again

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit ..."

The first step in the rebirth is "of water." What does this mean? Suppose here's a brother who comes to listen to the Gospel. In his heart are many devils - gambling devil, opium devil, concubine devil, bad-temper devil ... He weeps, "O Lord, I have committed all these sins. I deserve to die. O Lord, have mercy on me!" He repents. He weeps. He is baptised, signifying his willingness to wash his sins away. This is the first step.

The second step: "and of the Spirit." When a man receives the Holy Spirit, the devil is cast away. When the devil departs, the Holy Spirit comes into the heart to stay. He becomes the Lord of his heart. Thank the Lord! When you are born again the Holy Spirit dwells in your heart like a bell. And when you sin that bell immediately rings a-ting-tin.

In the third step, you must obey the Holy Spirit. You're not only born again by the Holy Spirit. You're to obey and be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Vs. 6. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." A person not born again is under control of the flesh. For example, here is an opium smoker. Without opium, he's flesh cannot keep up. It falls apart under the crush of opium. Or, suppose here is a sister under the grip of gambling. She becomes a slave to the evil habit. The drunkard is under the power of alcohol - how terrible! These are all under control of the flesh. And how about those gripped by a bad temper, by tobacco, etc.? These often come to me and say, "Mr. Sung, I want to get rid of smoking, now and forever!" But in no time those with bad temper lose their temper as before, the smokers return to smoking - slaves terribly held by their own sins.

However, when they become born again, the devil will leave them and the Holy Spirit will come in. Who is now in control? The Holy Spirit. Once you fall into sin the Holy Spirit in your heart will ring "ting-ling, ting-ling, you deserve to die!"

Once when I was preaching in Peking there was a sister who despised to come to my meetings because she said my sermons were too shallow, fit only for children. At last she came under the pressure of her family. She sat in the back row. When the Holy Spirit moved at the meeting, her heart became troubled until she repented of her sins and signed her name to the fact of her being born again. From that hour, she came without a break to the meetings. She bought a Bible and requested my autograph.

Later some one took her to the cinema. The Holy Spirit like a bell ting-linged in her heart. She stopped cinema going. No matter how they enticed her, she dared not go. Before her new birth she could well afford to lose her temper and go to the cinema. After her new birth, to lose temper and go to the cinema would set her heart "pili-polo." Before her new birth she would happily not read the Bible. After her new birth, not to read Bible would find her heart "pili-polo!" Before the new birth the devil was king in her heart. After the new birth, the Holy Spirit became Lord and ruled over her. Now she lived not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Vs. 7 & 8. "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind oweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound of it, but canst not tell from where it cometh, and where it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." Jesus says, "Ye must be born again." Every one must, must! This is not to be marvelled at. Have you seen the wind? What is its shape? No one has seen the wind, but everyone has felt it. Similarly after a person is born-again, he knows of a certainty, not haphazardly, the control of the Holy Spirit. The steps of being born again are 1) of water 2) of the Holy Spirit 3) in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Every Christian must know what it is to be born again.

IV. To Be Born Again is of Greatest Importance.

Vs. 9. "Nicodemus answered, and said unto him, How can these things be?" Nicodemus could not take it in. "Who are you?" he questioned. "I'm an old man. I've never heard of such a thing." Nicodemus wondered immensely. Was there really such a thing as the new birth?

Vs. 10. "Jesus answered, and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things." You are a teacher of Israel, a ruler, a preacher, a leader, and you still do not know what it is to be born again. How sad! To be born again is of the greatest importance. 1) Everyone must know 2) Everyone must experience. To be born again is not something that can be slurred over but something that must be vividly experienced.

Vs. 11. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, we speak that which we do know, and testify to that which we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. Jesus said, "What I said I have seen and experienced." Let us all say together, "To be born again is to be understood, to be experienced by all!" Not only to be experienced, but it is the foundation of doctrine.

Vs. 12. "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you heavenly things?" Aya! 3) The new birth is the foundation of doctrine! You don't understand when I tell you earthly things. If you don't know your primary school lessons how can you understand if I lecture you on the university level? If you don't know what it is to be born again what other doctrine can you understand?

Vs. 13. "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man who is in heaven."

(4) The New birth is passport to heaven. Jesus says to you, "To enter heaven, you must have a passport." To go to Southeast Asia, one must first get a passport. Recently I went to Indo-China. I had to have my passport. To enter heaven we must also obtain a passport. Moreover the door to heaven is a narrow one. If a pastor wants to enter heaven and he knocks on heaven's door and there sounds a voice asking, "Who are you?" And the pastor answers, "I am a pastor, I, I", and he carries no passport. "No!" comes the reply! Suddenly there comes a little child knocking and the same voice asks, "Who are you? Are you born again?" The little child replies, "I can sing, Jesus loves me this I know. I don't know if I'm born again!" Then an evangelist comes knocking to which the voice questions, "Are you born again? Have you a passport?" He answers, "I'm an evangelist. I can read the Bible. But I have no passport!" Then comes a theological student, "I can read the Bible. I'm half born again." A church worker comes up sheepishly, "I did confess my sins once before." The voice from inside asks, "Have you a passport?" "Passport? Passport is it?" A university student comes rushing up and knocks, "I want to enter heaven. I am a specialist in chemistry!" The voice inside asks, "Who are you? I don't know you! Do you have the passport to enter heaven?" Aya, these all have not got the passport, and yet they want to get into heaven. One by one gets dropped into hell! Finally a little girl comes smartly to heaven's door. She knocks, "I heard the Gospel on such and such a day, I was moved and confessed my sins. Praise the Lord, I was born again. He gave me the new birth. After I was born again I would not get angry when Mother chided me. When I got angry the Holy Spirit in my heart rebuked me with a ting-a-ling-ting." She was born again for sure. She entered heaven. The new birth requires 1) understanding 2) experience and is 3) the foundation of doctrine, 4) passport to heaven. Have you been born again? If not, how sad! (To be continued).

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 5:11-21a).

Last week we saw the effects the disciplinary action on Ananias and Sapphira produced. It stopped as well as sped up Church growth (vv.13,14). "It is abidingly true that that in the Gospel which attracts some, repels others; but not on this account should the Church lower her standards, or widen her doors" (Scroggie). God always tempers His judgement with mercy. In one act of judgement there were many acts of mercy: "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people" (vv.12, 15,16). When a church is pure, it becomes powerful, earns respect from unbelievers (v. 13), and the Lord adds to her believers: "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women" (v. 14; cf. 2:47).

A. IMPRISONMENT AND LIBERATION (vv. 17;21a). As soon as the church began to enjoy "showers of blessings," the Devil began his mischief again. The knocks against the apostles became harder each time. Having overcome opposition previously (4:1-21), they now faced imprisonment. The high priest and "all they that were with him," (i.e. the Sadducees) were filled with indignation" (or jealousy), arrested all the apostles and threw them into the public jail. Notice, this time the authorities took action against the whole band of apostles (cf. v. 29). The authorities have thought that by jailing them, the apostles could be stopped from continuing with their good work. But:

"Stone walls do not a prison make,

Nor iron bars a cage ..." (Lovelace).

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31b). Through an angel of the Lord, the apostles were released from prison and commissioned to continue with their ministry of preaching and teaching in the temple "to the people all the words of this life"; which thing they did the first thing the next morning (vv. 20,21a).

LIFE CHURCH AND FEBC APPOINTMENTS

Mon. 7.15 pm Revelation (Rev. Tow).

Tues. 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.

Thurs. 7.15 pm Westminster Confession (Mr. Tan).

Fri. 4.00 pm FEBC to Kulai Besar.

Sat. 3.30 pm LCYF. 4 pm YAF.

5.30 pm Judy Heng - Dennis Kong Engagement.

7.30 pm Mr. Tan at Jurong Gospel Mtg. (Bible Study postponed).

Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow.

4 pm Rev. Tow.

3.30 pm Mr. Tan at Jurong.

7.00 pm Calvin, Peter Eng at Tampoi.

Last Week's Offering \$562.59.

Catechism Class for Easter Baptism begins this Lord's Day after service at classroom next to the Book Centre, Mr. Tan instructing. Pastor Tow is at Jurong Church this Lord's Day 3.45 pm to supervise Elections.

Birth Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Khoh on the gift of a son, Jeremy Beng Lee. We extend a cordial welcome to Mr. Stephen Hyun of Gideons International as he brings a report this Lord's Day on Bible distribution in Burma.

A Warm Welcome to the Chinese Sunday School to be incorporated in our Sunday School as from today. Miss Cheong Yoke Fun is the Superintendent for this department. The Pastors' Prayer Meeting at 64 Andrew Rd. every Saturday morning is advanced to 8 a.m. from next week.

Dr. Allan Adams of the Logos is now in Singapore. The ship is due in March. The Conference in June preparing young people for further training in Europe will be held at Gilstead Road.

Lim Florist. Tel: 376471/2353292.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.

BE BORN AGAIN!
(Revival Sermon by Dr. John Sung)

V. The Way to Being Born Again

A person is born again not by his own prowess or merit, nor by any effort he can exert. It is the work and seal of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Vs. 14, 15. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

1) Trusting in the Son, in the merit of His shed blood, in the grace of redemption in His bearing all our sins. When the Israelites sinned in the wilderness and were bitten by fiery serpents, Moses made a brazen serpent and hanged it high on a pole. All who were bitten were told to look upon that brazen serpent for healing. We also deserve to die by our sins of speaking evil of others, of theft, lying, jealousy, gambling, yes, sins of all description. We deserve doubly to die. Thanks be to Jesus. He died in our place. By His death we are saved alive. As Moses lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, to die for us. We deserve to die by what we have done with our hands and mouth. Christ was nailed for us on the cross, shedding His precious blood - for us, for us. For the waywardness of our feet, Christ's feet were crucified. For the evil and malacious thoughts of our mind, Christ had to wear the crown of thorns - that we might fearlessly stand before God's throne of grace. We deserve to die by our covetous hearts, but Christ sorrowed in His heart for us even to be beaten and pierced in bitter suffering for all the sins of our bodies.

Once there was a mother who braved a blazing fire to save her son. In so doing she was burned beyond recognition. She gave her life to save her son. Even so, our Lord Jesus was crucified that by His stripes we might be healed. By His death, we are saved alive.

Vs. 16. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Our new birth is not only by virtue of the Son but also 2) of the Father. It is by the Father's love that His son is freely given us. Who loved us? God the Father whose love made Him to give us His only begotten son to die our death on the cross to save us.

Vs. 17 to 21. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." Our new birth depends not only on the Son and the Father but 3) also on the Holy Spirit. The light of the Holy Spirit shines upon us and shows up all our filth. God does not condemn us but sends the Holy Spirit to shine into us that we might know our sins. I myself never knew I could become a preacher. Often I have been reviled for my preaching. But I'm not afraid. Is there sin in preaching? The Holy Spirit illumines me and I know how to judge between right and wrong, no matter how I am reviled and hated. The world hates the light because their deeds are evil. They hate the light without realising it. So they need the light of the Holy Spirit to show up their darkness. Only then will they confess to their own evil.

When I was a child, Mother said, "When your father was a student at the theological college, he was born again." So I asked Father, "How can one be born again?" Father said, "First you must confess your sins. Second, you must believe in Jesus." So, I knelt down and prayed, "O Lord, save me. Forgive me of my sins." Was I born again? Afterwards I went to USA to study. On one occasion I heard an American pastor speak on the doctrine of the New birth. He asked me, "Are you born again? I thought to myself, 'I'm a pastor's son. Surely, I'm born again. But I did not see my many sins until 1927 when the Holy Spirit illumined me. So I said, 'Man's work is only half, but God's work is to the uttermost.' When I was being born again, it was a process of bitterness in the knowledge of my sins. My heart was heavy, I wept. I knelt and confessed my sins, 'I have stolen father's money. I have talked evil of others. I have been full of pride. Lord, forgive me of my sins.' It was after confessing these many sins that peace came to my heart. I got up, and yet I felt there were other sins. I knelt, 'O God, O Jesus, I deserve to die. Please forgive me of my sins.' I got up and felt peace. But human work is half-work. The Holy Spirit's work is to the uttermost. As I felt troubled with more sins unconfessed, I knelt again, 'O Lord, Forgive, I'm a hypocrite. At worship time I read other literature. Lord, forgive!' I got up, I felt peace. Man's work is half-work, but the Holy Spirit works to the uttermost. Any more sins? When the Holy Spirit worked, I felt troubled and my heart rang like a bell. I knelt down at once, 'O Lord, forgive my sins. I trust in your precious shed blood to forgive my sins. Then all my sins were taken out and forgiven of the Lord. Now I got up and found real peace.

When I was in Amoy 1934 there was a sister name Tan Boon Seng whose father lived in Nanyang and she was studying in a Christian school in Amoy. She did not believe the Word

nor did she attend Church. She stayed at home to study on the Lord's Day. She refused to come to my meetings, being highly prejudiced. Finally she came under her friend's coercion. Though she writhed under my preaching, the Holy Spirit moved in her heart. She confessed her sins and was born again.

In 1935 she was seriously struck down with meningitis. The doctor said there was no cure. She said to her mother, "Though my illness is serious, my heart is not troubled. What I worry about is Father in faraway Nanyang, without Christ. When he returns please exhort him." Mother said, "All right!" Seeing that her illness had got worse, the doctor wanted to give her an injection to allay her pains. She refused. When the principal came to see her, she said, "Principal, I'm happy and I thank the Lord Jesus. He has given me the new birth. Though I'm leaving the world soon, I have everlasting life." So saying, she departed this earth.

Once she was seen in a vision by her classmate. Her classmate was rather affrighted. But she said, "Don't be afraid! I have specially asked the Lord Jesus to come and see you. Thank the Lord Jesus! I repented and was born again. Now I have everlasting life. But my father is in Nanyang, unbelieving. He is soon returning from Nanyang. I beg of you to exhort him to believe in Jesus. And I hope while you are on earth you'll labour for the Lord. That's all!

Brothers and sisters! Should God take your soul tonight, are you born again? Aya! You who are ignorant, are you born again? Do you know what it is to be born again? The Steps of being born again? And how to be born again? If you are not born again, then you do not have the everlasting life.

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 5:21-28)

B. SURPRISE AND SUSPENSE (vv. 21b-26). Of course the high priest and all the other members of the Sanhedrin were unaware of all that had transpired the day before. They were all set to try the apostles, whom they thought were still inside their prison cells. The officers were sent there to fetch them for their trial. They came and found "the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors" (v. 23, NIV). BUT when the jail was opened, they "found no one inside." What a shock! No wonder they were in suspense (v. 24).

Scroggie's remarks are of great interest here: "This bit of narrative is not wanting in humor. See those self-conscious and self-important soldiers guarding something that was not there! What a sell to be protecting so empty a cell! Omnipotence can make earthly powers look ridiculous. The O.T. liken godless potentates to 'grasshoppers.' All over the world today are proud grasshoppers, but God will keep them on the hop."

When someone reported to the Sanhedrin the whereabouts of the apostles, the captain and his officers accordingly rearrested them; only this time they did it more gently. Previously they must have manhandled the apostles (cf. v. 18). No thanks to them anyway. They were more gentle not because they had a change of heart, but because "they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned" (v. 26). Obviously, those who have witnessed remarkable healings among their friends and loved ones would be well-disposed toward the apostles who were their benefactors.

C. CHIDING AND CHARGING (vv. 27-28). It appeared that the high priest was on the defensive when he prosecuted the apostles with the question: "Did we not straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us" (v. 28). "To have filled Jerusalem" is a natural hyperbole (i.e. a statement exaggerated foreffect); meaning that the apostles have propagated the doctrine of Christ in all parts of Jerusalem. If only Life Church is accused of doing the same all over Singapore! What a compliment it would be! "To bring blood upon the head" is a typical Hebrew idiom, meaning to make one answer for the death or murder of another. Did they not claim that responsibility in Matt. 27:25 when they cried: "His blood be on us and on our children!"?

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

Mon 7.15 pm "Revelation": Rev. Tow.
Tues 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
Wed 3.30 pm Pastors Meeting at Life Church.
Thurs 7.15 pm West. Confession: Mr. Tan.
Sat 3.30 pm LCYF 4.00 pm YAF.
Lord's Day 10.00 am Mr. Tan.
11.30 am Catechism Class.
10.00 am Rev. Tow at Nazareth.
1.30 pm Westminster class.
4.00 pm Mr. George Kutty (Chinese Service) interpreted by Rev. Tow.

Last Week's Offering \$804.00.

Pray for Mr. Sng Jin Seng at Alexandra Hospital, Ward 10. Mr. Kim, father of Korean FEBC student, at T.T.S.H.

Women's Fellowship Survey forms are available from Mrs. Tan Wai Choon.

FEBC Library Lifers who borrow books must

check out with the Librarian, Mrs. Tan.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR OMF MISSIONARIES KILLED

IN THAILAND In a tragic road accident near the Manorom Christian Hospital five OMF missionaries and seven children were killed, while two adults and three children were injured. A Memorial Service will be held this Lord's Day, Jan. 22, 8.00 pm at the Bible House Chapel, 7 Armenian St. We express our deepest sympathies to OMF and the bereaved.

Kapuas Gospel Boat to be launched after

Chinese New Year! Rev. Djunaidi sends colour photos now displayed on Notice Board. Praise the Lord! It is suggested that we offer one angpow each, big or small, for the Gospel Boat at Chinese New Year.

"Thailand prints tracts on Life of Christ for her citizens," says Mr. Stephen Hyun. Thailand welcomes George Kutty to preach for 1 yr. production of his FEBC Cert.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

"Nearer Than You Think!"

While we are very cautious about date-setting, 1977 (which is already past) and now 1986 in respect of our Saviour's Return, we should not fall into the trap of complacency and unpreparedness of our own making. "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:31). Often we have experienced embarrassment of speaking about someone behind his back, when, lo and behold, he stands right in front of us from nowhere! This is how many Christians are going to be caught unawares when Jesus comes again!

Our study of the Book of Revelation on Monday night should awaken some at least to the urgency of the hour. We have seen sign after sign of His Return fulfilled before our very eyes during the last 30 years - the regathering of Israel as a nation (1948), the victory of the 1967 6-Day War (read Isaiah 11), the part-emancipation of Jerusalem (Lk. 21:24), and now the Peace-making between Israel and Egypt. He is nearer than you think. Heed the warning: "For yet a little while, and he that shall come, will come!"

The Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ

The "Blessed Hope" refers to the "Redemption of our Body," when Christ will first "catch us up" to space as the Great Tribulation begins to rage on earth. This is the glorious expectation of those who are daily watching and waiting, but the dread of carnal Christians who must answer before the Judgment Seat of Christ. We must give account how we have lived our lives on earth. "And that servant, which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes" (Luke 12:47). But the wise servants will trade the five and two talents entrusted them by their Lord and return Him with 100% profit. Conscientious Christians must use their time, energy and money wisely, profitably, with one intensive purpose - to advance Christ's Kingdom before He returns.

Gospel Boat on Schedule!

Even I have been surprised by the speed with which Rev. Djunaidi is going about making the Gospel Boat! What a whale of a sampan you have already seen from last week's photo display of the 50-footer! The hull, constructed with timber hewn practically from the shipyard's own jungle compound costs only 2 million rupiahs (\$1=179). (Djunaidi has got us a good bargain!) What costs more is the mechanical part - the engine! However, should the whole project total \$30,000, that would still be fractional of one made in Singapore.

So far \$21,000 has been offered for the Gospel Boat. Let us, while enjoying another peaceful and prosperous Chinese New Year, forget not to return an angpow to our Lord! Let us deem it a high honour to be "put in trust with the Gospel (boat)" (I Thess. 2:4), for who of us could have conceived such a wonderful idea? But the Lord knew it all, and He has moved our brother Djunaidi to this one powerful thrust to the Gospel into West Borneo's riverine settlements, hitherto untouched.

Tanjung Pinang-Pemangkat Sea-Shuttle

In the working out of God's deep purposes for Life Church, He has led us to Tanjung Pinang, where we can more economically reach out by a direct cargo boat sea-shuttle to Pemangkat. Killing two birds with one stone, we have also been assigned a moderatorship over the Chinese Presbyterian Church there since Aug. 1973, through Rev. Tan Peng Koen. For since Rev. Tan's migrating to Taiwan, I have stood in for him for a dozen times. A request has come again for me to visit Tg. Pinang to baptise and administer the Lord's Supper. If I could work out an extended visit to the Gospel Boat the last week of February, that would be ideal. I should like to bring one session member along, but he must rough it out with me for at least one week. O Lord, if this be Thy will?!

"Kong Hee Fatt Choy" in the Lord - T.T.

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 5:29-42)

D. THE COURAGE OF THE APOSTLES (vv. 29-33).

One outstanding characteristic of the Apostles was their God-given courage. This quality always shone forth whenever they faced threats to their lives. They could not be silenced. Whereas previously their reply was, "... whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God;" now it is, "We must obey God rather than men!" To Peter and the Apostles, the most important thing in life was to obey God. It was even more important than preserving their lives! Martin Luther had this spirit of indifference to personal safety when he wrote, "Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;

The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His Kingdom is forever."

If we are to be powerful, we must be obedient. God must ever be first! Once again Peter repeated his charges that the Sanhedrin was responsible for Jesus' death and crucifixion (v. 30). There was no minxing of words with Peter and the Apostles. The

Sanhedrin slew and hanged Jesus; but God raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to His right hand to be a "Prince and a Saviour." This was done in order that "He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel" (v. 31).

Peter, on behalf of the apostles declared: "We are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (v. 32). "What is a witness? Not a person who talks merely. Many people will talk, who are not witnesses; and many people will witness, who do not talk. A witness is a martyr. A martyr is a confessor, not with the lip only, but with the life; a martyr is an evidence, a credential, a demonstration" (G. C. Morgan). The marvel and power of it all was the fact that the Holy Spirit was their joint witness without Him, we witness in vain. With Him we witness in victory. Truth hurts. In this case, it hurts deeply (v. 33). "Resist the truth and it will cut you; yield to it and it will crown you" (Scroggie).

G. CAUTION OF GAMALIEL (vv. 34-39).

Probably Gamaliel a Pharisee was Paul's teacher (cf. Acts 22:3). He was a man held in high esteem among the Jews. Understandably so, for he kept his cool while the Sadducees were fuming. Being levelheaded, he gave sensible counsel which God used to protect His own. "His view - that if this movement were not of God, it would come to naught, and if it were, naught could be done against it - shows the religious character of pharisaic thinking ... that the antagonism between Sadducee and Pharisee should work together for good to the Church is a dramatic instance of God's making the wrath of men to praise Him" (J. H. Gerstner).

F. FLOGGING AND REJOICING OF THE APOSTLES (vv. 40; 42).

With Gamaliel, the Sanhedrin agreed (v. 40). Nevertheless, the apostles were beaten (i.e. flogged), ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released. The flogging was "the usual Jewish penalty 'forty stripes save one', and it must have been a painful experience" (Scroggie). Their reaction to their flogging was unusually, if not strange. Of all the people gathered, none departed rejoicing but the apostles.

"One is almost ashamed to speak of suffering for Christ today, there is so little of it. We see these men scarred, bruised, and battered; carrying in their bodies the stigmata of Jesus, the actual brutal scars and bruises in the flesh as the result of stones and stripes; when we put against all that, the suffering we have to endure today, one is almost ashamed to speak of it as suffering" (Morgan).

Did the pains inflicted on the apostles silence them? Far from it! For we read: "Day after day in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ" (v. 42, NIV). They had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

| | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| Mon. | 7.15 pm | Revelation (Rev. Tow). |
| Tues | 8.00 pm | Prayer Meeting. |
| Thurs | 7.15 pm | West. Confession (Mr. Tan). |
| Fri | 4.00 pm | To Kulai Besar. |
| | 8.00 pm | Family Worship (Home of Eld. Mrs. Seow, 7 Lily Ave. S. 10). |
| Sat | 2.00 pm | Rev. Tow at Chin Lien Mtg. |
| | 3.30 pm | LCYP |
| | 6.30 pm | YAF 4th Anni. Thanksgiving. |
| Lord's Day | 10 am | Rev. Tow (Lord's Supper). |
| | 11.30 am | Catechism Class. |
| | 4 pm | Mr. Teo Siau Hua (Lord's Supper). |

Mon. Feb. 6 being the eve of Chinese New Year, FEBC will suspend classes, incl. of "Revelation."

Last Week's Offering \$640 + \$40 (BPM).

Obituary Madam Ng Chui Sian 39, and Mr. Richard Giang her husband both received the Lord one day before she was taken home, Jan. 25. Funeral Fri. Jan. 27 was officiated by Rev. Tow assisted by Elder Khoo Peng Kiat. We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Giang and his only daughter at this Lord's Day's service. "Now is the accepted time" (II Cor. 6:2).

Gospel Boat This Chinese New Year's Angpows are to speed the completion of the Gospel Boat! "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass" (Isa. 32:20).

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand is scheduled to speak in Singapore Mar. 9.

Guest at FEBC Hostel: Rev. & Mrs. Clarence Griffin; Miss Thelma Alfson; Rev. & Mrs. Pardede. (All from Indonesia).

Film Show: The YAF presents "The Miracle Goes On," based on the life of song writer, J.W. Peterson, Sun. 5 Feb., 12.30 pm at the FEBC Hall.

Calling Young Marrieds The Sunday School is planning a class for you using the Manual, How To Develop Unity in the Marriage Relationship. Included in this manual are Biblical Principles on the roles of husbands and wives and how to raise children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. See Asst. Pastor or Mrs. Tan if interested.

Pray for Mr. Khoo Wah Ann studying for his examinations in Australia.

STATISTICS IN REVERSE

Latest report on the United Presbyterian Church USA:

During the last 10 years, the Church gained 914 ministers, but lost 202 churches. Now there are 13,846 ministers to serve on 8675 churches. Membership has declined from 3,268,761 to 2,615,662, a loss of 653,099.

The UP-USA is an apostate church which has repudiated the Westminster Confession and substituted it with what is known as the "Confession of 1967."

The pastor's job seems no more a sacred calling but a profession. Let us pray that our Church will stand guard against professionals, "Whose God is their belly" (Phil. 3:19).

Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.



My dear Readers,

1. Year of the Horse

As the Year of the Snake slithers to make way for the Horse, we see him prancing in like a fiery dragon - on many a newspaper ad. "Lung-ma Ching Shen," which reads "Dragon-horse Spirit," means "A Vigorous spirit like the dragon and horse despite old age." In this spirit Rolex sends Chinese New Year greetings to her patrons in maroon columns over-written with characters of gold. Yes, Chinese New Year is a time to say kind words and good wishes to one another. Everybody wishes everybody a prosperous New Year, even in the year of the Snake!

2. White Horse, Red Horse.

Talking of the Year of the Horse, let me share with you the mysteries revealed to our Revelation. Class last Monday night when we came to Rev. 6:1-8. When the Lamb, i.e. Jesus, opened the first seal, we saw "a White Horse, and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer." Many Bible expositors think the white horse and its rider represent the Antichrist. In the light of Zechariah 1:8-10; 6:1-8 we rather conclude the same to be "one of the four spirits of the heavens" (Zech. 6:5) sent forth by the Lord to do his bidding. This heavenly vision reveals to us a higher power at work in the affairs of men. When the White Horse is riding high, then the world is at peace. For, when the White Horse is succeeded by the Horse at the opening of the second seal, which is Red, and a sword is given to its rider, peace (vs.4) is taken from the earth.

3. Which Horse?

Year of the Horse - which Horse? In the light of prophecy, there is going to be a period of seven years of world-shaking events before Jesus returns. The second half of the seven years will see the world plunged into a flaming war of cosmic proportions. Before this awful climax of history, like the lull before the storm, there will arise a peace movement. The White Horse will ride on triumphant. In the light of this prophetic order of events, we therefore view the present Sadat-Begin peace overtures with favour. We believe a Peace Treaty under American patronage will be signed. A deep sigh of relief is heard from every quarter of the world!

How long this peace will last, we don't know. But we know it will be brief. Some calculate it to last there-and-a-half years. Be it longer or shorter, Christians should not let these days of peace slip through their fingers by default. Peace is not an opportunity for more air-tours and pleasure-seeking, but to be utilised for "The saving of all men" (II Tim. 2:4) even as our Lord has commanded that "this gospel ... shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

4. Last Gospel Outreach in the Twilight of Peace.

In this connections I'm happy to note that Life Church Sunday School is redoubling her efforts to "bring them in" by running a charter-bus service from Toa Payoh. I'm happy to report the maintaining of an English Service at Tampoi, Johore Bahru through teachers mainly from Life Church, FEBC, and now Grace Church has also chimed in. Kulai Besar continues to be ministered unto, while Kelapa Sawit's new Church and Kindergarten are 95% completed. There is an outreach in obedience to the Great Commission in the twilight of this peace.

Beyond our shores, the Lord has led to Tanjung Pinang in the Riau Islands. Across the South China Sea to West Kalimantan, we are supporting a slum children's work at Siantan, Pontianak (Sinin and Johanna Heng); a Dyak jungle church at Konyo through Margaretha. The most recent development is the Gospel Boat for the Kapuas River now almost completed (insofar as the hull is concerned).

All these Gospel missions need our prayerful support which we give as a Church every Tuesday night. Very logically, our material support too, which is concrete proof of our concern.

But the Lord is coming soon. The world will become a vast battlefield, wherein millions will be destroyed in a day, a week and a month. There will be no escape on earth, but Christians are promised a secret hope - in the twinkling of an eye, those who are His children will be whisked up into space by Christ's Resurrection power! (I Thess.: 4:13-18)

When we consider all these things, very soon to come to pass, we must decide what to do in the days that remain. What is your response to the Lord's call in the Year of the Horse? - T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 6:1-6)

Chapter 6:1-6 introduces us to a Church Business Meeting. It has to do with Church Administration, which incidentally came about through complaint about a maladministration. A. A COMPLAINT (v.1). "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration." The Church of Jerusalem was made up of "Hebrews" (Aramaic - speaking Jews, mostly natives of Palestine) and "Grecians" (Greek-speaking Jews).

mostly Jews from other parts of the Roman Empire.) A close analogy would be the Chinese of China and the overseas Chinese, many of whom no longer speak Chinese. The Church of Jerusalem was growing. This was an indication of a growing pain among the community of believers. There was tension between the "Grecians" and "Hebrews" in the Jewish world as a whole. Unfortunately this tension was carried over even after their members became Christians. This tension came to a head when the widows of the "Grecians" were overlooked in the daily distribution of food. This sparked off a complaint which drew the attention of the apostles. A commentator remarks: "It is remarkable that both the internal disorders - the hypocrisy recorded in chapter 5, and the murmurings recorded in chapter 6 - sprang from the open-handed charity exercised towards the poor.... One root of bitterness grew in the givers, and another in the receivers." Human nature is such that instead of being grateful for what we receive, we complain of what we do not receive. This is not to say that the murmuring of the Grecian was wrong. An inequity needed to be made right.

B. A COUNSEL (vv.2-4). The apostles did a wise and right thing when they "called the multitude of the disciples unto them." It would have been a tragedy if the apostles had diverted their energies from their God-appointed tasks of devoting themselves "to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word" (vv.2,4). Thank God they did not. Instead they called a church business meeting to create a new office to handle the physical affairs while they continued to concentrate on the spirituals. The apostles did not totally ignore the problem, though it was a physical one. They, however, relegated it to its proper place. They knew their priorities and that was to "labour (i.e. hard toil) in the word and doctrine" (I Tim. 5:17, cf. 2 Tim. 4:2). Woe betide a minister of the Gospel who gets diverted from his primary task of the ministry of the word and prayer!

Peter made it clear, however, that even the physical affair of "serving tables" must be handled by spiritual men. The men to be elected to this new office must be:

- 1) Disciples or Christians ("look ye out among you"). Those appointed to church office must be of the member of the disciples. The church has no business to bring to its committee a man who is not definitely and distinctively a Christian man.
- 2) Honest Men ("men of honest report"). These men must enjoy an honourable reputation. Their honesty must be apparent so that confidence could be commended. Money is a touchy thing and much murmuring has been over this "filthy lucre." Honest men are needed for the proper administration of church funds.
- 3) Wise Men ("full of ... wisdom"). "In this word 'wisdom' there is a moral quality, but infinitely more; it is word that suggests the reaching of the best ends by the best means. They were to be men of sanctified common sense The men who holds office in the Church needs tact, and, if he lacks it, he may have many other things and be of very little use" (G.C. Morgan).
- 4) Spiritual Men ("full of the Holy Ghost"). These are men who are living a normal Christian life. These are men whose 'home, business, profession, and all life, are touched by a hand which is Christ's hand; dealt with by heart and soul and will, under the dominion of the Christ." (Morgan).

C. A CHOICE (vv. 5,6). Unanimity in the Church was a good indication of the Lord's leading. The congregation approved of the apostles' proposal and seven men, fully qualified were duly selected by the congregation and ordained by the apostles who laid their hands upon the seven and prayed for them. The chosen seven bore Greek names. Probably they were Greek-speaking Jewish Christians. Heading the list was Stephen, whose name means "Crown"; and Philip, whose name means "Lover of Horses."

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

Mon. Revelation Class postponed.
 Tues. 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
 Thurs. 7.15 pm West. Confession (Mr. Tan).
 Fri. 8.00 pm Family Worship at Braddell View, Blk. C Apt. C1812, 10, Braddell Hill, (20), new home of Dn. & Mrs. William Teo.
 Sat. 3.30 pm LCYF; 4.00 YAF.
 7.30 pm Bible Study (Mr. Tan).
 Lord's Day 10.00 am Rev. Tow.
 11.30 am Catechism Class.
 4.00 pm Mr. Lin Tah Mon.
Last Week's Offerings \$880.55 + \$200/-.
Family Worship angpow for Gospel Boat \$200.
New Addresses: 1. Deacon & Mrs. William Teo, Braddell View, Blk. C, Apt. C1812, 10, Braddell Hill, Singapore 20. 2. Mr. & Mrs. Sivaraj Prasad, 471-H Toa Payoh Blk. 12, Lorong 7, Singapore 12.
Interest growing for Gospel Boat! At a luncheon given by Rev. K.C. Quek to Mr. Ronald A. Young of the Scripture Gift Mission, London our guest inquired

particularly about the Gospel Boat, and offered Scripture portions in Indonesian for distribution along the Kapuas! We can help launch the "Kapuas Kourier" with this years angpows for our own prosperity and peace! Recommended Personal Bible handy and elegant! Brevier Ref. Bible, India Paper, Rexine, semi-yapp, gilt edges, Vinyl Lining, \$19.25. See Stephen Kuan at our Book Centre, Excellent as a gift.
Pastor's Prayer Meeting, next Saturday, Jan. 14, postponed!
Mr. Tan Wai Choon preaches at Calvary Church Sunday Feb. 12, 10.30 am.
Pastor Tow visits Kelapa Sawit and Tampoi next Lord's Day, 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm respectively. Any who would have a part in Kelapa Sawit's new Church Building? Mr. T.C. Eng, phone: 806574.
Lim Florist, phone: 376471/2353292.
In view of Chinese New Year Session Meeting is postponed to Feb. 14.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11, Tel: 513676/50617.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

Promised Blessing from Revelation

Not a few have testified to the blessings they are receiving as promised in Rev. 1:3. A Deacon disclosed how his understanding of the mysteries of this Prophecy has been enlightened through the Monday night lectures. As for me, my vision of our Church's role in evangelism, in anticipation of Christ's Return, has been doubly widened. Even so, let Him quicken our footsteps.

A New Chinese Service at Shalom House, (Bedok).

Yes, the White Horse of Evangelism (as interpreted by Lenski) is doubling up on the East Coast Express Way. Under Dr. Patrick Tan's leadership, a new Chinese Service is to be inaugurated Sunday Mar. 19. Mr. Lin Tah Mon of Faith B-P Church has enthusiastically responded to pastor this new congregation. Dear Reader, if you stay near Shalom House (Grace B-P Church) which is located at 5 Jalan Haji Salam, 9th mile Bedok we exhort you to bring your Chinese-speaking spouses, parents or relatives to this Chinese (Mandarin) Service. (Perhaps interpretation into Hokkien is needed). The worship hour is 4 p.m.

A Permanent Building for the Paauwes and their students.

Do you know that when the Paauwes left us last August to take Dr. Malsbary's place (Dr. Malsbary was killed in a traffic accident), they landed in a theological school that was the exact opposite of FEBC, insofar as premises were concerned. Perched in a rented upstairs flat in downtown Seoul, they have recently been obliged to hop to another temporary shelter in an old little Church. Since this Church has no ancillary building except for a basement that floods in a downpour, the students have to sleep on the pews at night.

As it was Dr. Malsbary's wish to acquire a more permanent place, viz., a three-storey building in a quiet locality, there has now arisen a movement to procure this property to relieve the situation. In response to this movement a seminary student gave 50,000 Won (U.S.\$103), all that he has saved through years of collecting and selling old bottles! He said, "This is all the money I have in the world. Maybe it will cause others to give also."

I believe the aforesaid three-storey building will soon be acquired. We can surely play a part to hasten 50 homeless Korean theological students into more permanent quarters. We have a moral interest in this matter, inasmuch as the Paauwes' ministry in Korea is in part an extension from Singapore.

Kelapa Sawit Dedication

The new auditorium, parsonage and kindergarten of Kelapa Sawit Bible-Presbyterian Church are practically completed! This is our third new edifice of God's House in Malaysia, after Rawang and Kulai Besar. The cost is over \$100,000, but God is able! Our new church with an 8-foot cross above the rooftop makes it the tallest building in this oil-palm village. Henceforth, we will see a doubled kindergarten to whom the Gospel is imparted daily. Henceforth, we will see an increasing number of young people attracted to the Gospel through this new "community" centre. Henceforth Kelapa Sawit will play host to our Singapore youth groups who find difficulty looking for a campsite.

This Lord's Day I'm visiting Kelapa Sawit on my bi-monthly circuit (including Tampoi). We shall finalise plans with Deacon John Ling on Kelapa Sawit's Red Letter Day.

DOHAR WRITES FROM WEST KALIMANTAN

Dear Rev. Tow,

February 2nd 1978.

I arrived at Sibetung (West Kalimantan) on the 23rd of last month. I believe it was God's guidance and protection upon me that brought me through the stormy sea.

I am happy to meet the Dyaks as well as the Chinese at Sibetung. I think, I have come at the right time, because at present they do not have a pastor in their church. Pastor Djumaidi is no longer pastoring the Church at Sibetung. The people of Sibetung have appointed me their student-pastor. I take this pastoral job as from the Lord.

I need your prayers for the work at Sibetung. As for me, I find problems with the weather. It is very cold at night. There are many mosquitoes. Pray that God will help me to overcome these problems. As you know that Sibetung is very far from the main roads, so I find difficulty going to market and the post office I have to walk three miles. I do not think it is good for my health. I think you have seen the work at Sibetung, and I trust you will pray for me. My desire is that God's light will shine in the jungle of Kalimantan, especially at Sibetung.

I feel quite lonely here, because I do not have my guitar with me. I regret that I did not bring one guitar from Singapore last time. In Singapore the price is cheap. In Indonesia a guitar is very expensive. We do not have music at Sibetung. The old organ can not be used. It is already spoiled.

But my greatest desire now is how that church will grow spiritually, and also in numbers.

I have promised to the session of Sibetung to serve the Church for one year. And I intend to finish up my course at FEBC. It will be next year in January. So I tell people that I am still your student.

I miss a lot FEBC. Please send my regards to the FEBC family. I pray that God will bless all the students and the faculty members.

Note: Perhaps you have a guitar to spare! Or an angpow for Dohar. I shall most gladly bring them along when I visit West Kalimantan soon! - T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF - HOUR (ACTS 6 : 7 - 15)

Last week we saw the whole church in Jerusalem selecting seven deacons "to serve tables," so that the apostles could give their full attention "to prayer and the ministry of the Word." In the Apostolic Church the office-bearers were chosen by the people. This is a principle we uphold and practise in our Bible-Presbyterian Churches. The seven were presented to the apostles who appointed them to their office by their prayer and the laying on of their hands. This process we call ordination. It "formally associated the seven with the twelve, as their deputies to discharge a special duty" (F.F.Bruce).

D. MANY CONVERSIONS (v. 7). God has His way of doing things in His Church. When the right persons do the right things at the right time, blessings will overflow from God. First things first. When the apostles knew their priorities, the outcome was "... the Word of God increased" (v. 7). The ministry of the word of God must ever be the pastor's primary task because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom.10:17). What resulted when the word of God increased in Jerusalem? "... the number of the disciples multiplied ... greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" (v.7). Notice, the number of disciples multiplied, not simply added; and greatly too.

E. A CONFRONTATION (vv. 4,8-15). Among the seven chosen the two heading the list were also well-equipped for other forms of service. Stephen turned out also to be an "apologist" to defend the faith; while Philip turned out also to be an "evangelist" to propagate the faith. The former was appropriately called Stephen (meaning Crown), for he was early to wear a martyr's crown. He was also described as "a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost" (v. 5) and "full of God's grace and power" (v. 8. NIV).

It was by God's grace and power that Stephen did great wonders and miracles among the people. Naturally such activities brought Stephen and the apostles into great favour with the people. But the same sun which melts wax also hardens clay. Not all were able to respond favourably to the grace of God. Truth calls for a decision as well as a division. "Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) - Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or by the Spirit by which he spoke" (vv. 9,10, NIV).

This new wave of persecution was directed, first of all, against Stephen. "The brunt of the battle falls upon its leaders; it is the front line which feels the full force of the attack" (Scroggie). To argue with one who is possessed by the Spirit is utter foolishness. The Holy Spirit is also a Spirit of wisdom (cf. Isa. 11:12). Little wonder that the enemies "were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke."

Having lost by fair means, the enemies resorted to foul means to silence Stephen. They "suborned" (i.e. to procure person/s to commit prejury) men against Stephen and accused him of the crime of blasphemy! "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God" (v. 11). Poor Stephen was manhandled and placed before the Sanhedrin to face trial before his accusers. The false witnesses did as they were bribed to do, accusing Stephen falsely of having spoken blasphemous word against "this holy place and this law" (vv. 13,14).

In response to the fiery false charges, Stephen stood "before the Sanhedrin with face aglow, as one who stood in the presence of God" (F.F.Bruce). Luke, our human author, describes Stephen's face "as it has been the face of an angel" (v.15). This was "not the mild, gentle look that is so often seen in paintings of angels; not the fierce look of an avenging angel; but a look that told of inspiration within, clear eyes burning with the inner light. We can hardly doubt that it was Saul who remembered that look, a look which burnt into his soul until he too was turned to accept Jesus as his master and learnt in his own life to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit" (L.E. Browne).

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Revelation (Rev. Tow).
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
9.15 pm Session Meeting.
THUR 7.15 pm Westm. Conf. (Mr. Tan).
FRI 4.00 pm To Kulai Besar.
SAT 3.30 pm YF 4.00 pm YAF.
Lord's Day 10.00 am Rev. Tow.
11.30 am Catechism Class.
1.30 pm Westm. Conf. (Mr. Tan).
4.00 pm Rev. Tai Po-fu.
Last Week's Offerings \$1,359.05 + \$60/- +
\$25/- + BPM \$40/- + Gospel Boat \$100/- +

\$300/- + Galilee BP Church \$25/-.

Proposed Women's Fellowship. Please hand in your questionnaires by next Lord's Day to either Mrs. Tan Wai Choon or Mrs. Channing.
Wedding Bells! The holy matrimony between Mr. Samuel Lie Oei Min and Miss Esther Djunaidi will be solemnised on Mon. Feb. 20, 10 a.m. at the West Kalimantan Christian Church, Pontianak, the Rev. Dr. Philip Teng officiating.

Lt. Col. Dr. Patrick Tan is in training in New Zealand till Mar. 9, 1978.

Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, Tel: 513676/50617.

BIBLE STUDY HALF - HOUR (ACTS 7:1-53)

I. THE CHARGES. The Sanhedrin had brought two main charges against Stephen. The charges were that he was against the law of Moses and the temple. These charges were not new. Our Lord Jesus was similarly charged. In Stephen's case however, he was given the opportunity to answer them. Here, Luke the human author gives us quite a detailed resume of Stephen's "apology," (i.e. defence).

A. THE PATRIARCAL PERIOD (vv. 2-16). It must be borne in mind that the Sanhedrin were made up of people proud of their Jewish heritage. For Stephen to open his defence with, "Men, brethren and fathers, hearken: The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, ..." (7:1), must have surely gained their sympathetic hearing. Scroggie's summary of this Patriarcal Period (vv. 2-16) is succinct and interesting: "Two figures stand out in the scene. ABRAHAM, the father of the Hebrews (2-8), and JOSEPH, the saviour of his people (9-16). The former illustrates divine election, and the latter, divine providence. Both these run through all history, and give to it its real significance and worth; for what matters in history is what God is doing in it. 'Through the ages one increasing purpose runs.' In heaven's light much success is seen to be failure, and much failure is seen to be success."

B. THE MOSAIC PERIOD (vv. 17-43). Practically the entire life of Moses is reviewed here. For convenience the life of Moses may be divided into three forty-year periods: 1. The First forty years in Egypt (vv. 17-28); 2. The Second forty years in Midian (vv. 29-35); and 3. The Final forty years in The Wilderness (vv. 36-43).

1. Moses' First Forty Years. Of particular interest in this first forty years of Moses' life is Stephen's mention of Moses' accomplishments in v. 22: "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds." This verse is revealing on several counts. First it is only here we are told of Moses' achievements in his youth in Egypt. The Old Testament is practically silent about Moses' first forty years in Egypt except for the mention of his failure in his first attempt to prove himself a saviour of his fellow Israelites (Ex. 2:11-15). Man's disappointment is God's appointment. Through the failure, God led him to the wilderness in Midian for further preparation.

Some non-biblical Jewish historians credit Moses to be Egypt's commander-in-chief. He was also proficient in arithmetic, geometry, poetry, music, philosophy, astrology, and all branches of education. These historians might very well be accurate in view of Stephen's statement in v. 22, but we cannot be certain since the writings of these Jewish historians are not Scripture.

2. Moses' Second Forty Years. Moses, with all his brilliance in the Egyptian Court was of no use to God. God had first to show him that he was nobody before He could make him into a somebody. For this great lesson God sent him to His "school" in the desert in Midian. It is said by the Chinese that it takes a hundred years to prepare a man. God took eighty years to prepare Moses for the great task of leading two million Israelites in and through the wilderness to the Promised Land. "Youth is in too much a hurry, and generally is impatient of training days. Remember Moses: and also that for three and a half years' service, Christ had over thirty years of preparation. Training days are tremendous days, and once past they do not come again; so be patient and diligent" (Scroggie).

3. Moses' Final Forty Years. The task of leading the Israelites was anything but easy. Stephen was concerned to emphasize the rebellious, ungrateful and idolatrous attitude of their ancestors (vv. 39-43). God judged their sins accordingly and "gave them up to worship the host of heaven" (v. 42). At every stage of God's dealing with the Israelites their attitude was wrong and sinful.

II. THE COUNTER-CHARGES. Nobody in the Sanhedrin questioned the accuracy of Stephen's account of Israelite history. In Stephen's quotation of Isa. 66:1,2 that the Most High (i.e. God) did not dwell in temples made with hands, he seemed to imply that the Jewish authorities were placing undue emphasis on the magnificent temple built by Herod for them.

So far, Stephen's review of Israel's history is more of a lecture; but when he applied the lecture to his hearers it became a sermon. Stephen made counter-charges. He did not mince his words. He was courageous and blunt. He called them "stiff-necked" and "uncircumcised in heart." They were no different from their wicked ancestors. Just like their ancestors, they were resisting the Holy Spirit. With vv. 52-53, the scathing attack against the wicked authorities came to a climax: "Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him - you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it." (NIV).

Next week we shall see the reactions of the Sanhedrin to Stephen's sermon and subsequent events.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

"Hasting Unto The Coming Of The Day Of God."


The study of Revelation has sharpened the sensitivity of Session members to the imminent Return of our Saviour. What must we do in the light of Jesus' Coming? The Apostle Peter says we must make haste to prepare ourselves to meet Him:

- 1) We must repent of our sins and live a holy life.
- 2) We must rescue the perishing everywhere as time is fast running out!

Are your sins forgiven? Are you on your way to heaven? Do you contribute a part of yourself to the work of soul-saving?

Call To INDIA!

As we prayed and meditated on how we might advance God's Kingdom, God has manifested His approval by calling me to India again!



Dr. Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches, is scheduled to speak to the Annual Convention of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church, Kerala, South India, Feb. 22-26. Owing to unforeseen circumstances that hinder this appointment, he has wired me to go in his stead. Taking this assignment as from the Lord, with the Session's concurrence and further support from Rev. Quek Kiok Chiang, I shall leave Tuesday morning, Feb. 21 for Madras. From Madras I'll catch a local flight to Trivandrum on the Southernmost tip of the Indian continent.

In an Indian Church convention, easily between one and three thousand will be gathered. Like Philip before the feeding of the 5,000, I'd despair of any adequacy to feed so many at such short notice! I covet your prayers, for except the Lord works a miracle for His own name's sake, I'm at a loss as to what a frail vessel like me can provide.

Our Privilege to Help Support Korea

In last week's report there was the mention of a genuine need in Korea. The seminary wherein the Pauwes are teaching at present has need of more permanent quarters. Since we in Singapore live in such luxurious comfort, it is felt we owe our Korean brethren a Gospel debt. Our Session has therefore decided to send a gift to their Building Fund Appeal, (which in fact originated from Dr. Malsbary before his death). Whatever the local Koreans contribute for the use of our classroom every Saturday morning will henceforth be channelled back to Korea. We believe such reciprocity from Singapore will encourage the Pauwes and the Korean people to give more of themselves. Lifers, it is our privilege to be of some help in the extension of the Gospel to Korea! - T.T.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Revelation (Rev. Tow).

TUE 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.

THUR 7.15 pm West. Conf. (Mr. Tan).

SAT 3.00 pm Chin - Siew Wedding.

3.30 pm YF 4.00 pm YAF.

Lord's Day 10 am Mr. Tan Wai Choon.

4 pm Miss Thelma Alfsen.

Last Week's Offering \$2,062.60 + \$100 for FEBC.

We welcome to our pulpit this Lord's Day Miss Thelma Alfsen, American missionary to Indonesia. Miss Alfsen is known to us since 1960 when she served for a season with her parents Dr. & Mrs. Alfsen at Batu Gajah, Perak.

Obituary Mr. Ho Gim Tin, 55, went home peacefully to be with the Lord, Feb. 13. Funeral on Wed. Feb. 15 was officiated by the pastor, with the assist. pastor.

Wedding Bells! The holy matrimony between 1) Mr. Chin Kim Sen and Miss Siew Teok See of Galilee Church will be solemnised Sat. Feb. 25, 3 pm, Rev. Philip Hong officiating. Reception at FEBC Hall. 2) Mr. Ng Tian Geok and Miss Lim Bing Tung of Fishermen of Christ on Sat. Mar. 4, 2.30 pm, Mr. Huang Ee Yuan officiating.

Lifers on FEBC Scholarships: Peter Eng, Cheong Yoke Fun, Stanley Tan. On Chin Lien Scholarship: David Wong of Kulai Besar. Foreign scholarships at FEBC: Wilson Wong, Sahat Siregar.

George Kutty has left for Thailand on a 5-year visa (to preach the Gospel). Joseph

Tang, another FEBC graduate, is returning to serve with OM in India for another term.

Daniel Rouillard is back from India.

Rev. Tow's visit to Tanjung Pinang is postponed to Easter, and visit to West Kalimantan to May.

Recommended Campsite: The new Kelapa Sawit Church has two big classrooms, parsonage with 4 rooms, 2 vestry rooms in Church. Big field for games. Please contact Pastor Tow. (Kelapa Sawit is only 40 miles from Gilstead Road.)

Proposed Women's Fellowship. Please hand in your questionnaires by this Lord's Day to either Mrs. Tan Wai Choon or Mrs. Channing.

World Day of Prayer. to be held at Zion and Faith Churches, Serangoon Garden, Fri. Mar. 3, 8.00 pm should be attended by all Lifers! Rev. Tow will be the Lord's messenger.

"Earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Welcome Rev. & Mrs. Michael McCarty to our Hostel, Mar. 20-25!

L.C.S.S. Angpow for Gospel Boat is \$624.30. Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.

Christian Life Book Centre: 2541223. Carries a good stock of Bibles. Come and see. Order the Bible you like thru' Book Centre. Rev. Tow is expected to return to Singapore by Tuesday Feb. 28 evening.

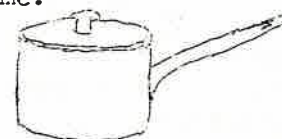
Congregational Meeting will be held on Sun. Mar. 5, 11.15 am. Every member is expected to be present.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.

THE SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
By Elder Khoo Peng Kiat



"Come and dine," the Master calleth,
"Come and dine."
You may feast at Jesus' table all the time:
He who fed the multitude,
Turned the water into wine;
To the hungry now He calleth,
"Come and dine."



Pastor Tow is the initiator of this fellowship lunch which was launched five years ago. The aim of the Sunday Fellowship lunch is to foster closer fellowship with God and with one another. Furthermore, it is also a means whereby members can invite new-comers and visitors for fellowship around the tables. To the busy housewives, it is a break from their household chores - a good break which they well deserve at least once a week. The secular meaning of fellowship is association of a friendly character; comradeship; friendly companionship. Christian fellowship, however, is much deeper, sweeter and more meaningful than secular fellowship.

The menu is quite varied, comprising the following: 1. Mee Siam, 2. Mee Rebus, 3. Mee Goreng, 4. Nasi Lemak, 5. Curry chicken, mutton, beef, 6. Stewed Pork, 7. Hokkien Mee, 8. Towyu Bak, 9. Fried rice, 10. Fried Bee Hoon, 11. Lontong 12. Laksa. It is, of course, not possible to plan the menu to suit every palate, but as far as possible, the Committee will do their best to cater for a varied one and at the same time providing members with a square meal at a reasonable charge. Earners: \$1 and non-earners: 60 cts. As not a few of our members are non-earners, the margin of profit is negligible, sometimes even running at a loss, especially when meat is served. By the grace of God, we manage to break even. The weekly collection averages \$75, out of which \$15 is paid to the Malay cook. Other helpers are the Marthas of our Church. They perform their tasks faithfully "not with eye service, as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing God" (Col. 3:22). It has been said that "humble work becomes holy work when it is done for God!"

"No task is degrading if done for the Lord,
Yea, let it be ever so small;
The smile of the Saviour proveth the deed,
As though it were the greatest of all!" (Anon)

The spiritual needs of those working in the kitchen are not overlooked either, for there is a loudspeaker in the kitchen to feed them with spiritual manna while working! (The whole worship service is piped from the pulpit to the kitchen).

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the young people of our Church for helping in washing up, cleaning tables and tidying up the kitchen each Sunday. They are indeed putting into practice: "Use Your Hands!" To the Marthas of our Church: Many grateful thanks from the innermost recesses of my heart. May this poem written by a 19-year old servant girl whose household chores kept her occupied 12 to 15 hours a day be a source of inspiration to you all: and be your prayer, too.

"Lord of all pots and pans and things - since I've not time to be a saint by doing lovely deeds or watching late with Thee, or dreaming in the dawn-light or storming Heaven's gate, make me a saint by getting meals and washing up the plates! Although I may have Martha's hands, I have a Mary's mind; so when I black the boots and shoes, Thy sandals, Lord, I find! I think of how they trod the earth each time I scrub the floor. Accept this meditation, Lord; I haven't time for more. Warm all the kitchen with Thy love, and light it with Thy peace. Forgive me all my worrying and make all grumbling cease. Thou who didst love to give men food in room or by the sea, accept this service that I do - I do it unto Thee."

Yes, if you engage in what others deem as something mundane, such as kitchen work, yet if you are going about your labour of love joyfully, doing it as unto the Lord Himself, you will be richly blessed of Him.

Ladies now in the kitchen work

1. Mrs. Ivy Tow.
2. Mrs. Khoo Peng Kiat.
3. Mrs. Lily Poon.
4. Mrs. Kam.
5. Mrs. Lim Hong Hock.
6. Mrs. Phang Guek Im.
7. Mrs. Edmund Tay.
8. Mrs. Lim Giok Khim.

Others who have helped

1. Mrs. Francis Sng.
2. Mrs. Tan Peng Koon.
3. Mrs. Kwek Sin Chin.

III. THE REACTIONS

A. THE SANHEDRIN'S MORAL DEPRAVITY. The counter charges hurled by Stephen against his accusers came to a climax in vv. 52-53. Truth hurts and cuts. This time the members of the Sanhedrin "were cut to the heart" (v. 54). A British commentator's remarks on the reaction of the Sanhedrin to Stephen's sermon is most descriptive:

"The effect of Stephen's accusation was electric. Anger rose to fever pitch. Hostility showed in the baring of teeth. Responsible officials were reducing themselves to uncontrolled behaviour like animals. Their animosity showed up all the more violently against the calm statement of Stephen that he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Men in a fury are not impartial judges. There was no question of calm deliberation to determine the truth of the words they heard. On the contrary the audience became an uncontrolled mob which took into its own hands the responsibility of executing judgment. They resorted to "lynch law" by stoning, a highly irregular procedure, but angry mobs never stop to submit to normal procedures. Stephen died as stones hailed upon him, the first martyr in a long succession of men and women who have died for their faith. Before he died he uttered a prayer which was loud enough for all his accusers to hear - "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." There must have been some who heard that prayer who remembered that Jesus had uttered a similar prayer when men were crucifying Him. Indeed Stephen may have learned it from such a source" (D. Guthrie).

B. STEPHEN'S MORAL NOBILITY. While the reactions of the officials to Stephen's sermon may be described as beastly; Stephen's reaction to their "lynch law" must be described as godly. For himself he prayed to the Lord Jesus that his spirit be received (v.59), for his murderers he prayed that they may be pardoned (v.60).

It is interesting to note that Stephen saw "the Son of man standing on the right hand of God (vv.55,56). In the book of Hebrews we read that Jesus Christ, "after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" (10:12). The suggestion may be right that the Lord Jesus rose to welcome the first Christian martyr. Precious in God's sight is the death of His saints!

"This is the third death recorded in the Christian community, and what a contrast (chapter 5:5)! Ananias and Sapphira died for a lie; Stephen died for the truth. The two were condemned by the Holy Spirit; the third was welcomed by the Son of Man" (Scroggie).

C. SAUL'S MORAL ACCOUNTABILITY. Saul is here introduced to us for the first time (v.58). Obviously Saul saw Stephen die as well as heard him preach. The spirit with which Stephen die must have deeply impressed Saul, who is described as "a young man." This is a very loose term in both the Greek and Hebrew languages. It could denote a man upto forty years old. Saul's exact age here is impossible to compute. It is certain, however, that he was no longer an adolescent in view of his having some official authority or dignity by his being a custodian of the witnesses' clothes. Although not directly involved in stoning Stephen to death, he was nonetheless morally accountable for he gave consent to Stephen's death (8:1). Saul recognised his part in the evil deed (Acts 22:20). He did not exonerate himself. Indeed he was humbled by that fact. Believe it or not, this same Saul who made havock of the church, entering into every house, and "baling men and women committed them to prison" (8:3), was later to become the Lord's persecuted servant and martyr.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON Mid-Semester Break (No Rev. Class).
 TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting (Rev. Tow returns).
 FRI 4.00 pm To Kulai Besar.
 8.00 pm World Day of Prayer at Zion.
 (Rev. Tow speaking).
 SAT 2.30 pm Ng - Lim Wedding.
 Mr. Huang Ee Yuan officiating.
 Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow (Lord Supper).
 11.15 am Congregational Meeting.
 4.00 pm Mr. Teo Siau Hua (Lord's Supper).

Last Week's Offerings: \$916.40 + Gospel

Boat \$50 + Logos (2nd ship) \$200.

Kelapa Sawit B.F.: \$165.60 (Life Chinese Service) \$200 (Gracean).

Wedding Bells! The Holy Matrimony between Mr. Sam Kong Choy and Miss Chong Cheng Wang will be solemnised on Sat. Mar. 11, 2.30 pm, Rev. Philip Heng and David Wong officiating. Recommended: Concord Ref. Bible, (big bold print) with metrical psalms, concordance, maps. India paper, roxine, semi-yapp, gilt

edges, duplex lining, (with discount. Ask from Stephen Kuan (Every Lifer should own the best possible Bible - to last a lifetime).

ATTEND WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at Zion Church, Serangoon Gardens, Friday, March 3, 8.00 pm. Speaker: Rev. Tow.

Welcome to Rev. & Mrs. Jim Turner of CIE! Philip (Hassan Jawabreh) sends Chinese New Year greetings to Lifers from Israel. Will YAF return with an angpow?

Rev. Pauwe. Brother John Chew is visiting you in April!

Mr. Tan Wai Choon will preach at Sharon B-P Church next Lord's Day, 11.45 a.m.

Rev. T. Tow is scheduled to return at 7.50 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28 on Flight 3Q 580.

FEBC will resume classes on Monday, March 6 with Chapel at 8.00 a.m.

Lost and Found A door key with Thai International key chain. Owner, please claim it at church office during office hours.

ONE WEEK WITH ST. THOMAS CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH INDIA.

When I first came in contact with leaders of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India in 1961, who had just then seceded from the Mar Thoma Church to preserve the faith of their fathers, I was amazed to find Indian Christians with an ancient tradition that traced to the Apostle Thomas. According to this tradition, Thomas the doubting one became the doughty - to land in South India in A.D. 52. Through him seven churches were established on the Southwest Indian coast. St. Thomas is said to have advanced also to China, but when he returned to India he was martyred at Madras. There is a cave on a hillock, in sight of Madras airport, said to be the Apostle's hideout before his martyrdom.

In 1964, I visited the St. Thomas Evangelical Church at Tiruvella, and have since spoken at two of their Annual Conventions. Thus, when I was requested at short notice by Dr. McIntire to go in his behalf for this year's Convention, I was on familiar ground. In spite of lack of communication with the local brethren in the hurried circumstances, I made it to Trivandrum in the nick of time. What mutual relief it was to have Rev. F.C. Zachariah and his doctor son and Professor M.K. Koshy come to the airport to receive me.

From Trivandrum I was whisked away to Ayroor, 85 miles north, where the Convention was to open the same night. Bishop K.N. Oommen, an old friend, welcomed me with outstretched arms. So did newly-consecrated Bishop P.S. Varughese with whom I had had precious fellowship in earlier years. Incidentally, the day after my arrival was Bishop Oommen's 78th birthday. What a triple happiness!

Ayroor was the most appropriate venue for this Convention. This was held from Feb. 22-26. A huge pandal erected on the Church grounds, which was none other than a gigantic coconut "attap" shed, was our Indian version of the Keswick tent. The Church hall, carpeted wall to wall with finer woven coconut fibre, served as the men's dorm. Faithfuls from other parishes, far and near, who found no lodging with relatives in Ayroor, were thus accommodated. A bookstore displaying a good stock of Bibles and Gospel literature, principally in Malayalam, was a colourful hive of attraction to browsing-bees.

But the cynosure of all eyes was the choir. This was made up of a score of singing young men and women. This time the range of supporting musical instruments used was noticeably increased. The basic ones in a South Indian setting are the French harmonium, a tandem of well-tuned Indian drums and a tambourine. Now two guitars were added and a queer Indian gadget that kept time with a chick-a-chick-chick.

With the distractions and disruptions of a changing day, no more came the thousands as in former years. Nevertheless, the faithful support of several hundred with a fervent praying spirit warmed the speaker's heart.

The Lord gave me a series of ten messages from Revelation Chapter One to Ten. These were delivered morning and evening. Each sermon lasted one-and-a-half hours (with interpretation). "To be forewarned is to be forearmed" was the main theme. "The redemption of the body" is also a message of comfort for such perilous end-times as these. Hence the joy of having a preview of the Rapture unfolded from Rev. 7:9-17. According to Rev. 7:1-3 we are now living in a period of enforced world peace - 33 years since the end of World War II - but how much longer? This lull before the Third World War must be exploited to the fullest by every Church "to bring them in," like fishermen keeping up a relentless catch before the monsoon breaks. Was it not a joy to see the brown sons and daughters of this sub-continent respond, hand after hand, for the salvation of their souls?

A hundred copies of various books published by Far Eastern Bible College Press were further distributed to edify believers. A scholarship to some deserving young man or woman to study at FEBC was also offered, in hope of adding to the leadership of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church.

"The Kings business required haste" (1 Sam. 21:8). Even so, let us hasten with our Lord in His unfinished task of world evangelisation before He returns (Matt. 24:14). "I must work the work of him that sent me while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work" (Jn. 9:4). This is one lesson the speaker himself has learnt in being sent to the St. Thomas Christians of South India at such short notice! - T.T.

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 8:1-4)

IV. RESULTS OF STEPHEN'S MARTYRDOM.

A. WIDESPREAD PERSECUTION. The martyrdom of Stephen inaugurated the first organized and widespread persecution of the whole Church. This didn't seem to have occurred before. To be sure, the key leaders of the Church had been opposed (4:1-22); manhandled and beaten (5:17-42) and one was murdered (7:54-60); but it appears that this was the first time that opposition to the whole movement was so intense that whoever was found to be a believer of Christ whether male or female was persecuted (v.3). Many were mercilessly dragged to prison. The leader of the all-out onslaught against the believers was Saul.

1. SAUL'S FURY. "Saul's fury is described by Luke as "laying waste." He uses a word which was especially used of the ravaging of a victim by a wild beast. Although he knew when he wrote that the same man was to become the apostle to the Gentiles, he did not spare to describe the crude nature of his persecuting zeal. His faithfulness in doing so has

enabled his readers to form a truer assessment of the remarkable transformation effected at Saul's conversion. The idea seems to be that he was like a wild beast tearing apart the Church as a body until nothing recognizable would remain of it" (D.Guthrie). The constant remembrance by Paul of his relentless attack against the Church was to humble him for the rest of his life (cf. Acts 22:4,19,20; 26:10,11; Gal. 1:13; I Cor. 15:9; I Tim. 1:13).

2. STEPHEN'S FAREWELL. Stephen died as stones hailed upon him. Before he died he uttered a prayer: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (7:60). "Only a godlike soul can pray as Stephen did" (Scroggie). Such a gracious and godly reaction to his violent death must have made a lasting impression upon all the witnesses, including Saul himself. Stephen was a man held in high esteem among the brethren. "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him" (v.2). This is understandable. His loss was a great blow to the young Church. They could ill afford to lose a man so greatly used of God. But God, in his wisdom, chose to take Stephen home and gave him rest from his labours. God, whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts; and whose ways higher than our ways (Isa. 55:9,10), must always be praised for "his ways are past finding out" (Rom. 11:33).

Luke describes Stephen's death as falling asleep. This does not and cannot mean that Stephen's soul slept in view of Jesus' teaching in Luke 23:43 and Paul's teaching in 2 Cor. 5:6-8. It simply means that Stephen died a peaceful death, notwithstanding the fury of his murderers and the violent means by which he lost his life. The same figure of speech occurs in I Cor. 15:18 and I Thess. 4:14.

B. WIDESPREAD EVANGELISM. If the Jewish authorities thought that by murdering Stephen and persecuting the saints, Christianity would have been rendered ineffective, then they were mistaken. Little did they realize that their hostility was to be the means of the Church's more rapid expansion. For the persecuted saints "were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria except the apostles Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (vv. 1b,4). "The devil's breath has fanned the flames of the Gospel. The bruised tree has filled the air with perfume" (Scroggie).

It is interesting to note that all the believers were scattered except the apostles. The exception is surprising. It is probable that the Jewish official "decided as a matter of policy to refrain from arresting the apostles again in view, of the earlier failure to silence them by this means. They presumably thought that a more effective method would be the scattering of the rank and file members. Leaders without followers could be reduced to ineffectiveness" (D.Guthrie). They were sadly mistaken. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psalm 76:10).

Stephen's martyrdom answers the very common question: "Why does God allow such a useful servant like Stephen to die prematurely?" In this case God in His grace gives us at least two reasons. Stephen's sacrifice was instrumental in bringing Saul to salvation; and the persecution of the Church was the means of its scattering so that the Great Commission may be obeyed. Many times the Lord in His wisdom does not give us reasons for taking His servants home. We can rest assured that our God who is all wisdom, knows the end from the beginning, makes no mistakes. Jesus doeth all things well! If He has allowed it, then it must be the best that was done.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Revelation Ch. 11 & 12!
TUE 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
9.15 pm Session Meeting.
THUR 7.15 pm West. Conf. Mr. Tan.
FRI 4.00 pm To Kulai Besar.
SAT 2.30 pm Sam-Chong Wedding.
3.30 pm YF 4.00 pm YAF.
7.30 pm Bible Study (Mr. Tan).

LORD'S DAY 10.00 am Rev. Tow.
11.30 am Catechism Class.
4.00 pm Mr. Lin Tah Mon.

Last Week's Offering: \$946.41 + \$200.00 + \$100.00 for Galilee.

Wedding Bells! The holy matrimony between Mr. Raymond Lee Kee Jui and Miss Hong Min Nguk of Fisherman of Christ will be solemnised Sat. Mar. 18, 1978, 2.30 pm, Mr. Huang Ee Yuan officiating.

Hear Pastor Wurmbrand at ACS Hall, Bakar Road, Thurs. Mar. 9, 7.15 pm.

Revelation Class Resumes after mid-semester break. Who are the Two Witnesses? Who is the Woman of Ch. 12? Come Mon. 7.15 pm!

Hear Rev. David Wong of Mt. Carmel this Lord's Day evening 6.05 pm and 10 pm over Radio S'pore!

Miss Debora Lukito, B.Th. is back at FEBC Hostel to attend more Child Evangelism courses. Rev. & Mrs. Jim Turner are conducting a series of lectures at the Malacca Bible Institute. C.E. will hold a conference at Gilstead Road June 15-24, 1978.

The Logos Conference will be held June 12-18 using the Church and Balcony.

Kelana Sawit sends final statement of Accounts showing debt of \$20,000. Rev. & Mrs. Tow visit K.S. today to finalise on the Dedication.

Mr. Tan Wai Choon preaches at Tampoi this Lord's Day evening 7 pm. Any coming?

Miss Alfien praises the Lord for approval of visa. She is lodging at Life Church at present.

Mr. Stephen Hyun of Gideons will transfer to Guam end of March. We thank them for several boxes of theological books donated to FEBC.

Easter is Coming! Rev. Tow will hold Good Friday Eve Service at Tg. Pinang Thurs. Mar. 23, returning on 24 in time for Good Friday Service (Mr. Tan preaching). Attend Easter Sunrise Service Mar. 26, 6.30 am at MacRitchie!

Rev. Djunaidi: Your drums are sent on the Enggano!

LIFE CHURCH REPORT FOR 1977

The parable of the talents, five, two and one, teaches that God's work should be run like a business enterprise to the utmost profit to the Lord. Life Church, being endowed with such spacious buildings in a most central position, with mutual blessings from the Bible College, is like that servant who receives five talents. Much has been given to Lifers and of Lifers much shall be required (Lk. 12).

Physically, our Gilstead Road properties have been put to the maximal use, so that not an hour of the day goes by without some part of the premises being used for the promotion of God's Kingdom. Apart from the mother Church enjoying first preference, the premises are shared with the Sunday afternoon Chinese Service, Galilee and Sharon congregation. The Far Eastern Bible College and Far Eastern Kindergarten are two affiliated institutions with particular privileges. The Christian Life Book Centre established since Jan. 1976 now has exclusive use of the whole L-corner unit of three rooms. The Gospel Letters & Tract Dept. which left us in May 1976 to form their own church still occupies the balcony room. As a labour of love, the parsonage assumes management of our Sunday lunch and a ministry of hospitality to missionaries and Christian workers passing through. Since Jan. 1977 the College and Kindergarten premises have opened to the running of a Saturday morning school by the Korean community, at the recommendation of Mr. Stephen Hyun. Almost every other Saturday afternoon the wedding bell rings! Weekends see our premises teaming not only with young people from our YF and YAF but also from ISCF groups, and there meet frequently young Galileans and Sharonites. During College vacations our property is open to Bible camps. Gilstead Road is perennially open to the Logos, and Child Evangelism, whenever they meet in Singapore.

As every business enterprise cannot grow without venturing abroad, so must the Gospel be extended beyond our Church compound to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). In this respect we are happy to report a regular Sunday School maintained at Sarimbun (19th mile Lim Chu Kang) by Deacon Sng Teck Leong, and a regular Friday Gospel meeting at Kulai Besar with the help of FEBC graduates and students. The pastor visits Kelapa Sawit bi-monthly and Rawang, Muar quarterly. A latest addition to our Malaysia outreach is Tampoi, Johore Bahru (with the assistant pastor and young people helping). Beyond our shores the Lord continues to send us to Tanjung Pinang two to three times a year. Our farthest outreaches are in West Kalimantan - the slum work at Siantan, Pontianak (Simin and Johanna Heng), Konyo jungle Dyak Church (Margaretha), and the Kapuas Gospel Boat (Djunaidi and son).

With strict, economical management of funds, members have given cheerfully to a no-budget budget. As the need arises, e.g. the building of Kelapa Sawit Church and the launching of a Kapuas Gospel Boat, so have Lifers responded. The offerings by the Korean Saturday School are to be entirely channelled back to God's work in Korea. With many praises to God, it is the Treasurer's joy to report an increase of about 20% over the previous year.

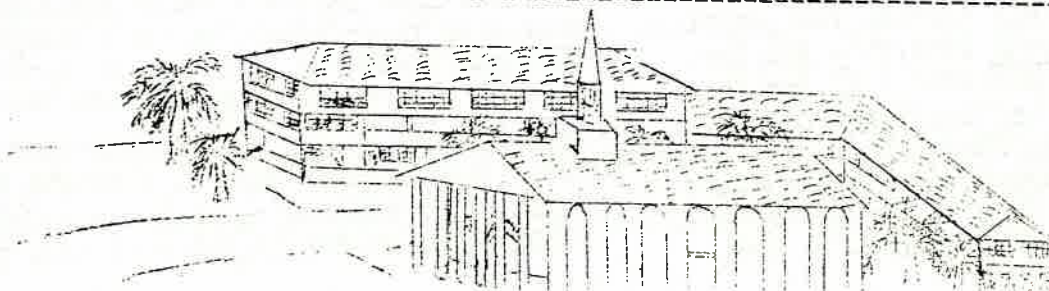
Spiritually the Lord has blessed the Church, significantly in the reviving of our Tuesday night Prayer Meeting. The half hour Bible Study by the Assistant Pastor dispenses added spiritual food to the hungry. The FEBC Monday and Thursday night lectures are open to Lifers, with a great increase attending the Revelation class, this year.*

Rev. and Mrs. Paauwe, missionaries of the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions with the FEBC staying on our premises have been a blessing to Life Church and the Sunday School. We were sorry to part with them when they were called to Korea in August 1977 at the sudden home-going of Dr. Malsbary. But the Lord's timing was perfect. For meanwhile He was preparing Tan Wai Choon, now our Assistant Pastor, to return to fill the gap. We welcomed back Mr. Tan with his new bride Ruby at the end of August, 1977. Since then he has fitted into his place of work not only as assistant pastor but also as lecturer at FEBC. His zeal for the extension of the Gospel has helped to release the pastor to the outreaches mentioned above - to congregations that speak only the Chinese dialects and Indonesian.

It is with joy to report on two projects our Church has been deeply involved with which are coming to fruition. The new Kelapa Sawit Church and Kindergarten, built at a cost of \$115,000, of which about a third has come through Life Church, is ready for dedication. The Kapuas Gospel Boat is also completing soon, but needs our continued prayer and support.

Let us occupy till He comes and be ready to do His bidding at any moment's notice.

*30 new members have been added to the Church by baptism.



Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 8:5-13)

Beginning in Acts 8:5 we enter into the second period of the Church's history. This may be called the Transition Period, during which God prepares the key leaders, Philip, Saul, and Peter individually; the apostles corporately; and the Church unitedly to break loose from its Jewish parochialism to its universal outreach, officially launched in Antioch by the Holy Spirit Himself and through the Church there (Acts 13:1-4). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not only for the Jews, but for the Gentiles as well (cf. Rom. 1:16).

The Jewish Period of the Church ended with a mass scattering of the believers from Jerusalem, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word" (8:4). This must not be taken to mean that only preachers were scattered; but it does mean that every one who was scattered became a preacher of the word. The word "preach" is not in the technical or formal sense of preaching from the pulpit. The meaning is rather that joyful and spontaneous diffusion of the truth, which is permitted and expected of all believers. In other words, every scattered believer became a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, both by his lips and by his life.

A. IN SAMARIA WITH PHILIP (vv. 5-13).

1. MANY POSSESS CHRIST. Luke, our inspired author now gives us an account of one of those who were scattered. He is Philip, previously introduced to us as one of the elected deacons (cf. 6:5). His special task of serving tables came to an abrupt halt with the scattering of the disciples. Like Stephen, Philip discovered that he had the gift to preach. Notice the subject of his preaching; he preached "Christ unto them" (v. 5b). This reminds us of Paul's words to the Corinthian Christians: "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:23, 24). Christ Jesus must ever be the sum and substance of a preacher's message! The Lord blessed his ministry and: "When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in the city" (vv. 6-8 NIV).

2. ONE PROFESS CHRIST. Verse 9 begins with a big "But." It is a disappointment of an otherwise successful work. Here is Christianity's first recorded confrontation with the occult and superstition represented by a man called Simon. He is described as a sorcerer who had a large following; a self-proclaimer (v. 9), whose followers regarded as the "power of God which is called Great." Simon was skilful enough to deceive the masses into thinking that his power was of divine origin. So gullible were the Samaritans that "they followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic" (v. 11, NIV). "But when they listened to Philip's preaching and saw his signs they recognized a superior power operating through him. They heard him explain the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. When they compared it with Simon's magic, they believed the Gospel" (D. Guthrie).

Luke tells us that "Simon himself believed also, and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done" (v. 13). What Simon believed we are not told. Obviously his faith was not a saving faith. The Shorter Catechism tells us what saving faith is: "Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the Gospel" (Q86).

It is not enough to have faith. Faith must be placed in a trustworthy object. The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true object of our faith (Acts 20:21). A person may believe all that the Bible says about Christ and yet have not faith in Him. You may believe that a certain plane will leave the airport at 5 A.M. and that it will arrive at a certain city at 5 P.M. You may believe all the facts about the plane; yet you do not really believe in the plane, until you get on board, and trust the plane to take you to your destination. You have not really put your faith in Christ until you trust Him and Him alone to save you from your sins and take you to heaven.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Revelation: "666".
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
WED 8.00 pm FEK Comm. Meeting at parsonage.
THURS 7.15 pm West. Confession.
SAT 2.30 pm Lee - Hong Wedding (Mr. Huang).
Lord's Day 10.00 am Mr. Tan Wai Choon.
11.30 am Catechism Class.
4.00 pm Miss Alfsen.
4.00 pm Rev. Tow at Grace
Mandarin Service Inauguration.
Last Week's Offering \$952.94 + \$25 for
Galilee. Chinese Service: \$121 for Gospel B.
Hear Miss Alfsen on "Courtship" 17/3 7.30 pm/
Obituary. Mr. Tan Khoo Liang of City/Mr Tan's
Casket Co., Serangoon Road, was called home
Friday Mar. 10. Funeral on Sunday Mar. 12
will be officiated by Rev. K. C. Quek.

BE THOU MY VISION, O Lord of my heart,
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, Sun!
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's/
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all. GHF NO33/4

Palm Sunday
19th March, 1978

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Reader,

Rawang, Muar.

Rawang is 133 miles north of Singapore on the otherside of the Muar River. Here is a Teochew congregation which we have succoured since 1966. In 1972 we helped them rebuild their Church. As they have no pastor, the Church has voted to affiliate with us. Since they have joined our fellowship, we are obliged to help them, whenever we can.

Last Lord's Day, after the morning worship, we left immediately for Rawang. This was in order to get there in time to speak at their 4 p.m. service and administer the Lord's Supper. With Mrs. Teo Chiam Seng the pastor's wife staying on to look after the congregation after her husband's death, the Lord continues to bless the congregation. There were 55 who partook of the Lord's Supper. In response to our Gospel Boat Appeal, a sum of \$299.35 was collected in Church. Plus \$120 from an elder and \$40 from a deacon, this totals \$459.35. This is not a small sum, seeing that the people there have recently spent several thousand for the fencing of their Church.

Kelapa Sawit. (26th m. Kulai Road)

On our return from Rawang the next morning, we dropped in at Kelapa Sawit to visit Deacon John Ling. Deacon Ling is Treasurer. As the Church is in urgent need of money to pay off standing debts amounting to \$20,000, I therefore loaned the \$459.35 Boat offering to the Treasurer to give him some relief. As the Chinese saying goes, "A drop to a thirsty man sweetens like dew."

To help them save \$2,000 in the painting of the new Church buildings, the Lord gave me this idea; Instead of the usual three coats of emulsion paint, use ordinary white lime! Since the wall surface is rough and raw, two coats of white-wash will be fully absorbed. Emulsion paint could come on later when the local congregation is able to pay for it. "Economy makes it easy."

Gospel Boat Latest!

Rev. Djunaidi reports this week that the hull's superstructure is completing end of this month. Then the boat is ready for installation of the engine. Since we've advised him to put in more horse power, it means we have to support with more rupiahs! A 60 h.p. Chinese engine costs about 4 million! This is equivalent to \$22,000. Since the hull costs 2 million or \$11,000 the total cost of the Gospel Boat is \$33,000. This higher price is partly due to the shrinking of the rupiah, but Session has wisely advised putting in a bigger and costlier engine. "Rather build a strong body now than try to cure a sickly one later on."

Our offerings for the Gospel Boat have exceeded \$22,000. Rawang has given a windfall of \$459.35. The Chinese Service gives their Lord's Supper offering every month. Last week a young lady gave me \$65. The previous week an elder's wife gave \$200 in thanksgiving for her daughter's exam success. So, the Fund is steadily growing!

"Hosanna to the Son of David Hosanna in the highest!"

"Hosanna" is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew "Hoshia'na" which literally means: "Save, I pray." It is a Jewish exclamation of praise to God "Hosanna" when shouted by the children in the Temple in praise of Jesus displeased the chief priests and scribes, because "Hosanna" is praise given only to God. Here is another testimony to Jesus' deity.

Dear Reader, Today is Palm Sunday! How swiftly returns another Holy Week when our Lord is commemorated for His death to save us from hell, and for His resurrection, because, thus is our hope of eternal life assured.

Let us sing Hosanna this Palm Sunday with gladsome fervour! Let us fellowship with Him in His suffering at the Good Friday Night Service, Mar. 24, 8.00 p.m. Let us worship the Risen Saviour at McRitchie Reservoir, Easter Sunday, 6.30 a.m. Let us come to Church and eat our usual Fellowship Breakfast by the Galilee Sea Fountain! In this connection, may I remind Elder Lau to spread the tables with the help of the deacons. As many as love the Lord and His children, let them offer pau and yuchakway, hot tea and coffee, Easter eggs and hot cross buns! Let there be no lack!

With the concurrence of the elders, our worship offerings this Holy Week will go to further the Lord's cause - at Kelapa Sawit and in West Kalimantan. - T.T.

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 8:14-25)

B. IN SAMARIA WITH PETER AND JOHN (vv. 14-25).

1. MANY REPENTED News soon reached Jerusalem that the Samaritans had been responding favourably to the word of God. The apostles sent two of their number, Peter and John to confirm the reports. On arrival they learned that many had been baptized but had not yet received the Holy Spirit. ("Though the Samaritans had been baptized in water (v.12), the gift of the Holy Spirit was delayed until Peter and John came and laid their hands on them. Normally the Spirit is given at the moment of faith (10:44; 19:2; Eph. 1:13). In this instance, however, it was imperative that the Samaritans be identified with the apostles and the Jerusalem church so that there would be no rival Samaritan Christian

Church" C.C. Ryrie). This lack became a special burden for prayer. In answer to their prayer, God granted the believers the gift of the Holy Spirit. This reception was symbolized by the placing of the apostles' hands (cf. 19:6).

2. ONE RESENTED. It is after this incident that Simon showed his unbelieving heart. He did profess faith (v.13), but did not possess saving faith. Peter and John were horrified when Simon offered them money to purchase the authority to bestow the Holy Spirit. It was a high point of wickedness to imagine that spiritual authority could be bought with money.

Peter, with his gift of discernment saw that Simon's heart was not right before God. He urged Simon to repent. There was still hope for him if he acknowledged his wickedness and repented. Thereafter he could pray for forgiveness. Simon provides us with a classic example of a baptized but still unsaved person.

Simon's response was pathetic. He asked Peter to pray for him; but no one can repent for another. Simon must pray the prayer for repentance himself. Apparently, he did not. Church history tells us that Simon became a heretic and adversary of the Apostle Peter. Simon's love of power proved greater than his desire for repentance.

Scroggie's remarks are worth quoting: "You ask-but was Simon not truly saved?(13). Certainly not (21-23). Every professor is not a possessor; every Church member is not a Christian; every communicant is not 'born again.' Are you? Hypocrites should be spoken to as Peter spoke to Simon. Such occasions are not for 'bated breath, and whispering humbleness,' but for courage and firmness, not unmingled with hope (22). Pretence can never pass for power."

HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Thru pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
'Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving,
And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of men and angels
Rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav'n, our King;
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

GHF NO 107

ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR

All glory, laud and honor,
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring;
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed One!

The company of angels
Are praising Thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply:
The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present.

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise:
Thou didst accept their praises
Accept the praise we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King!

GHF NO 108

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Revelation Class.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
THURS 8.00 pm Sharon & Galilee Services.
FRI 8.00 pm Good Friday Service. ing).
(Mr. Tan speaking, Rev. Tow interpret/
SAT 7.30 pm Film: "Silent Witness" (YF).
Easter Sunday 5.45 am Pre-Service Prayer.
6.30 am Sunrise Service at
McRitchie.
8.00 am "Galilee Sea" Break-
fast.
10.00 am Easter Baptismal
Service.
4.00 pm Chinese Service
(Rev. Tow).

Last Week's Offerings: \$743.11 (thru
pastor's hand \$65 for Gospel Boat.)

Attend Grace B-P Mandarin Service Inaugurat-
ion at 5 Jln. Haji Salam, Bedok this Lord's

Day afternoon, 4 p.m. Rev. Tow will be the
Lord's message.

Child Evangelism. We extend a warm welcome
to Rev. & Mrs. Jim Turner, Misses Marilyn
Hutchinson, Debora Lukito, Lucie Gunawan,
as they stay with us to further Child
Evangelism in Singapore and Malaysia. A
course on Child Evangelism is specially
prepared for FEBC at the morning chapel hour
Tues - Fri., ending the first week of April.
Rev. Tow and Rev. Patrick Tan are visiting
Tg. Pinang to hold Maundy Thurs. Service,
returning Fri. evening 6 p.m.

We Thank The Korean School for a mammoth
bouquet for Palm Sunday.

Welcome Logos to Singapore March 23 - April
10.

Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead
Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.

"HOW I BECAME A CHRISTIAN."

By Ng Han Lim

I have always believed there is a God. But I thought it quite unbelievable that Christ was the only way to God. I thought it rather narrow-minded. After all, I have known a lot of 'Christians' and their lives and attitudes were not far different from those of others. I have been 12 years in a missionary school, and we used to have chapel service once a week and a compulsory semi-religious "thought for the morning" broadcast in class every day. But the Christian message drummed into our ears was - sterile!

I began to think that Jesus might have just been a fable, or if He really did exist, perhaps a good philosopher whose teachings have been exaggerated beyond all proportions by His zealous followers. And I began to form all kinds of preconception about Christianity - being influenced by many anti-Christian books and people. How else could I reconcile what He was supposed to have done - wasn't Jesus just a prophet of God, as I was somehow led to believe?

Five years after I left school, I finally had the opportunity to go abroad to England to study Engineering at a University there. It was a three-year course. By the end of the second year, feeling somewhat homesick, I decided to return to Singapore for a vacation before resuming the final year of my course. In my two years at campus so far, I have only been really approached once by an English student who invited me to his room and tried to share the gospel. I was however prepared, and gave him an avalanche of questions which I knew he couldn't possibly answer to my satisfaction. In the dining hall, I noticed that some Christian students were really going out of their way to make friends, especially with the foreign students who were quite often left to themselves, due to communication difficulties and cultural differences. I had the impression that to be seen in the company of Christians was an open admission of a person's lack of friends and company.

Such was my attitude toward the faith when I returned to Singapore for my vacation. Then one day I went with my parents to Yaohan, and as I waited for them, went into a books bookstore to pass the time. A book with a rather ridiculous title caught my eye: "Satan Is Alive And Well On Planet Earth." I picked up the paperback to get a chuckle out of it, and as I read the first two pages there and then in the shop, I became absorbed. There was no mention of Christianity at all in those two pages or I would have said, "Ahh ... so that's it!" and put it back. I thought it was worth buying, but as I was due to return to England in a few weeks time, why not get it there, I thought. After all, book prices here are exorbitant! I put the book down, walked a few paces away, turned around and picked it up again. A nagging feeling came from within, "Buy it, you may not have a second chance again." So there I was, a final-year engineering student, trying to rationalise why I should not buy. As reason prevailed and I walked away, that indescribable feeling would bring me back again. This happened a few times until at last I bought the book for some peace of mind.

As I read the book, I eventually realised that it was a Christian book, and was not a little regretful at having bought it. Yet, as I read on, I began to see that a lot of my conceptions about Christianity were untrue. By this time I wanted to check upon the Bible. My family-members are all non-Christians, but they have been through mission schools too and studied Scripture, so I thought perchance a simplified school Bible could be found somewhere at home. As I searched through the old, dusty books, I came across a perfectly new, unused Good News Bible (N.T.). It transpired that this Bible was a gift by a Jesuit priest to my Roman Catholic sister-in-law who had by then emigrated to England and left it behind.

I began by reading the Book of Revelation, and undaunted, went on to the Gospel of Matthew. Well do I remember the force with which the Word in Matthew struck me, words which in J.B. Phillips' own expression, "bear the hall-mark of reality and the ring of truth."

Eventually two-thirds through the New Testament, I asked myself the question "What's to prevent me from trying Christianity?" I could not think of any reason why I should not "taste, and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8a). Yet the devil never gives up without a fight, and it was with some effort that I invited the Lord Jesus in prove the truth of that verse.

I have never looked back since at having taken that step of faith. I was born again, filled with the Holy Spirit, changed into a "new creature" before my own eyes - and that truly not of my own doing. Today one-and-a-half years later, I have a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ and can confidently, truthfully and with all sincerity rejoin with the psalmist - "How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!" (Ps. 34:8b).

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 8:26-40).

C. IN GAZA WITH PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH. Philip's ministry was an astounding success in Samaria. The reason for his success was not so much his ability, but his availability. He was a man always sensitive to the Spirit's leading. He was ready for further directions from the Lord. This time through an angel, the Lord said: "Arise, and

go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert" (v.26b). "And he arose and went"(27a). Whoever who obeys the Lord will not be unblest.

Scroggie's comments are instructive: "A man in the midst of a flourishing mission in a city, is commanded to leave it and go to a desert road to talk to a single soul. Was that worth while? The Lord thought so (26), and so it proved to be, for by leaving the city he reached a continent; through the eunuch Philip gave the Gospel to Africa. Was it worth while for a simple preacher to have delivered his brief message in a little chapel in Colchester one snowy day? A thousand times worth while, for there and then Charles Haddon Spurgeon was saved, and he became the greatest Gospel preacher of the Christian Age. May the Lord deliver us from counting heads in such matters; from measuring success by the arithmetic table."

With God, nothing is coincidental. God had appointed the meeting between this important "finance minister" from Africa and Philip. This court official was the keeper of the Queen's treasure. Although he had position, power and possessions, he realized that these alone could not provide satisfaction. That was why he went to Jerusalem to worship. It is amazing how the apostles could have missed so eminent a visitor. In any case he possessed a scroll of Isaiah which he was reading on his way home. Probably he was reading aloud. Providentially, not coincidentally, he had come to Isaiah 53 when the Spirit instructed Philip to go near the chariot(v.29). The official had a genuine interest in the Word of God. This provided an excellent example of what Paul said in Rom. 10:17 that, "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." When the official was politely asked by Philip if he understood what he was reading; he did not regard the question as an insult, but welcomed Philip's guidance. This speaks well for the official who possessed child-like humility. It also speaks well for Philip who did not disdain a one-man audience.

The eunuch was reading Isa. 53:7,8 (vv.32,33). He was interested to know the person mentioned therein by the prophet Isaiah. He asked Philip for an explanation. Philip expounded the passage on the spot and "told him the good news about Jesus"(v.35b,NIV). Obviously Philip regarded Isa. 53:7,8 as a direct prediction of Jesus' substitutionary death. Isaiah's lamb was none other than Jesus the Messiah. It is possible that the Ethiopian official had already heard of Jesus while in Jerusalem. In any case he now saw the real meaning of Christianity and truly believed to the saving of his soul. He expressed the desire for baptism at the first opportunity. Arriving at available water, the Ethiopian official ordered the chariot to stop. "Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him" (v.39,NIV.)

Those who believe that baptism must be by immersion often use this as an example to support their contention. The fact is that "The text does not prove that Philip immersed the eunuch. Such an inference may seem to be contradicted by the express term of the passage. Is it not said that both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and that they came up out of the water? Is not immersion implied in the prepositions "into" and "out of"? The fact is that immersion cannot be established by such expressions. It should be noted that Philip as well as the eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water. If such expressions imply or prove immersion, then they mean that Philip immersed himself as well as the eunuch. But such a supposition is quite unreasonable. Why should Philip have immersed himself, and why would Luke be so anxious to inform us that Philip immersed himself as well as the eunuch? ... The expressions, "they both went down into the water" and "they came up out of the water" are satisfied by the thought that they both went down to the water, stood on the brink or stepped into the edge, and that Philip baptised the eunuch by scooping up the water and pouring it or sprinkling it on him. This is all that can be shown to have occurred. As far as the going into, and coming up out of, the water are concerned nothing is stated in respect of the eunuch that is not also in respect of Philip himself. Hence there is no proof of immersion in this passage. What the actual mode was we simply do not know, and this text does not support the Baptist contention" (John Murray)

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Revelation Ch. 17!
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
WED 3.30 pm Pastors' Meeting at Zion.
THURS 7.15 pm Westminster Conf.
FRI 7.30 pm Galilee Film nite, Conference Hall.
SAT 3.30 pm YF, Rev. Tow preaching.
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow (Lord's Supper).
4 pm Mr. Teo Siau Hua (Lord's Sup)
Last Week's Offering \$828.10.
Wedding Bells! The holy matrimony between Mr. Tan Yong Kwang and Miss Chee Chew Kim of Galilee will be solemnised on Sat. Apr. 1, 3 p.m., Rev. Heng officiating.
Easter Baptisms Added to the Church role this Easter are 22 by baptism and 9 by Reaffirmat-

ion of Faith. Two thirds of these are sec. students, 3 are U. students and the rest are housewives, clerks, teacher, nurse, engineer, mechanic etc. The Chinese Service has 7 baptisms, including Samuel Sng Keng Yeow, (8-8-77) 2nd son of Dn. & Mrs. Sng Teck Leong.

Lost & Found. Chinese Bible and Lady's handbag belonging to Lee Leh Liong.

In loving memory of Mrs. Nancy Tow and Le Anne (departed Easter Mon. 1965) is a bouquet of white flowers presented by her daughter and sister. Lehia Paaue. Lim Florist 376471/2353292.

Praise the Lord for 50 who partook the Lord's Supper at Tg. Pinang and for two baptisms!
COME TO MANDARIN-TEOWHCEW-HOKKIEN SERVICE.
Sun. 4 pm.

FROM BUDDHA TO CHRIST

By Charlie Chan & Susan Teo.

We were devoted Buddhists and we never missed praying three times a day, and on the 1st and 15th of the Chinese Moon. We visited the temple and burned incense and joss papers. We were governed by superstitions in many things, such as funerals and weddings. We consulted the temple medium who went into a trance. The medium would tell us that our troubles were due either to bad luck or evil spirits. In order to get rid of our bad luck the medium would make us drink some talisman water.

Though we were Buddhists we were shocked to find other devotees who did not have the heart to pray. These would ask for lottery numbers, hoping thereby to get rich fast.

At last we decided to give up Buddhism and to accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Long before we receive the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, my ten-year-old son Kenneth who has been attending Sunday School together with Mrs. Irene Tan has been telling us the Gospel, but we turned them down. It was only some months back when our five-year-old daughter Cleophina was admitted to the Middleton Hospital with little hope of life that we made a vow that if she would recover with the Lord's help, we would definitely convert to Christianity. When the Lord heard our prayers and restored her, we made a firm decision to receive Jesus Christ. We are now a happy family.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Reader,

First Rain in 28 Years!

Last Easter morning, for the first time in 28 years, the rains came! Although we were caught unawares, the Lord was gracious beyond measure to withhold the dark clouds from pouring down in torrents. The Lord restrained the raindrops until all were safely in at the Canteen. Even then, it fell only in a steady drizzle.

Lest we forget, this rain has come to remind us of the one that broke loose in a thunder storm five minutes after we left McRitchie on the Easter morning of 1977. Two are a witness, and a confirmation of what seems more foreboding on the international horizon each year. The dark stormy clouds that bring the rain are an omen of things to come. Are we prepared?

Fortunately, there was the Canteen for shelter. We will need Jesus our Saviour as never before, should the storm clouds of international tension break loose in a Third World War! We will have no way of escape from a burning earth except by the Way up - to meet the Lord in the air. Dear Reader, let us awake now and watch, and "pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (1k 21:36). "And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain" (Isaiah 4:6).

The First Shall be the Last?

One sign of our Lord's Return insofar as the Christian Church is concerned, is the extensive preaching of the Gospel to all nations (Matt 24:14). In this connection, we have seen a great awakening in many Singapore Churches to do their bit. We note with praise to God the holding of a Missions Month by Zion and Faith Churches in April and June respectively. It is a wellknown fact that two Singapore Churches, the Chen Li Presbyterian and Cantonese Grace Church at Queen Street are each giving \$80,000 a year for the support of missionaries in many lands. Shall Life Church, the first among Singapore Churches to launch out in missions (1952), with the taking over of Kelapa Sawit in 1954, now become the last? God forbid.

The recent resurgence through LCMS to launch out to Toa Payoh "to bring them in" is a commendable effort in home missions. The construction of the Gospel Boat and the offering of \$1,000 this Easter earmarked for the Boat should console the devout that Life Church is not too far behind our younger churches in "hasting unto the coming of the day of God." This one verse we can recite from Paul's letter to the Philippians, "Being confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." - T.T.

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 9:1-9).

After leading the Ethiopian court official to Christ, Philip, ever available to God, was led by the Spirit to evangelize in Azotus and in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea (8:40). What happened to the Ethiopian after his conversion we are not told. It is more than probable that he was responsible for introducing Christianity into Ethiopia. At any rate, with Christ in his heart, "he went on his way rejoicing" (8:39). There is no doubt that the joy that filled his heart was a part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).

A. THE CONVERSION OF SAUL.

1. SAUL, THE BITTER MAN (vv. 1,2). It is not an exaggeration to say that: "Of all the remarkable events in the history of the soul, probably the most remarkable is the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. So important was the event that in Acts alone, it is mentioned three times (22:1-21; 26:2-23). Saul was positively hostile towards the Christian message. Having been introduced to us earlier as the man who "made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison" (8:3); now Luke tells us that "Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem" (9:1,2, NIV). It appears that Saul was the head of a persecution campaign, and with crusading zeal, was determined to extend his sphere of operation right up to Damascus from Jerusalem. Clearly, Saul was a bitter man.
2. SAUL, THE BROKEN MAN (vv. 3-6). As he approached Damascus, something unusual happened: a light flashed around him; and a voice spoke to him. So sudden did the two phenomena come upon Saul that he fell to the ground. The voice came from none other than the Lord Jesus himself, whose body (the church), Saul was mercilessly persecuting. The words of the Lord to Saul were: First, a question, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" It was a merciful question put to a merciless persecutor. In the language of ineffable love, Christ overcame Saul's enmity by making him a friend. In that question was also the remarkable identification of the Lord and His Church. The Lord regarded any persecution of His body, the Church as a persecution of Himself; Second, an 'identification', "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." This was given in answer to Saul's perplexing question: "Who are you, Lord?" Third, a commission, "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." At this point of conversion, Saul surrendered his will to Christ. He saw a real Person, the Risen Christ to whom he surrendered his life, and from whom he never turned away. Saul was told all he needed to know until he arrived at Damascus where further instructions awaited him. Saul was now a broken man.
3. SAUL, THE BLIND MAN (vv. 7-9). Saul's companions were speechless; "... they heard the sound but did not see anyone." Probably they were unaware of the spiritual revolution taking place in Saul's mind. They must have concluded that he had some form of sunstroke. At last Saul got up from the ground, and remained blind even when he opened his eyes. He had to be led by the hand through the gate of Damascus into the house of Judas, one of Saul's contacts in Damascus. Not only was Saul sightless, but he could not even eat or drink. It was most humiliating for Saul, the proud Pharisee to have been reduced to this. It was a real crisis for him. These three sightless and foodless days must have been days of terrible stress and strain. He could only pray for more light to enlighten his mind on the Lord Jesus Christ (cf. v. 11).

LIFE CHURCH & FEBEC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm More about the Harlot!
 TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
 9.15 pm Session Meeting.
 THURS 7.15 pm Westminster Confession.
 SAT 3.30 pm YF (Rev. Tow on Trinity).
 Lord's Day 10 am Mr. George Miley.
 11.45 am Mr. Tan at Sharon B-P.
 3pm Rev. Tow at K.S. 4pm Mr. Lin.
 Easter Offerings: Good Friday \$1,021.65 + \$500; Easter Service \$1,246.05 + \$500.
 A Warm Welcome to Mr. Jordan Khan, "pastor" to the Logos crew, to our pulpit this morning.

Registration for FEB, 1979 beings Mon. Apr. 3, 8.30 a.m. Lifers are reminded not to delay! First come first served!

In view of the fact that the Chinese Sunday School is founded on the remnants that come from the afternoon Service, it is decided that the same shall henceforth reaffiliate with its parent body commencing this Lord's Day April 2. Praise the Lord that two thirds are newcomers from the outside.

Sunday School Attendance reached 200 last week! Operation Obti will start bringing the Toa Payohites by charter bus in May!

We Extend a Warm Welcome in advance also to Mr. George Miley the Lord's messenger next week. Bro. Miley, in command of Doulos the second ship, has flown into S'pore to help out with the Logos while in port. Location of the Logos: PSA Godown 40/41. Enter by Fire Brigade Gate (From Gate 2). Pass collected at Gate.

A PILGRIM WAS I, AND A WAND'RING.

In the cold night of sin I did roam,
 When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me,
 And now I am on my way home.

Ch: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 All the days, all the days of my life;
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 All the days, all the days of my life.

He restoreth my soul when I'm weary,
 He giveth me strength day by day;
 He leads me beside the still waters,
 He guards me each step of the way.

When I walk thru the dark lonesome valley,
 My Saviour walk with me there;
 And safely His great hand will lead me
 To the mansions He's gone to prepare.

Ch: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 All the days, all the days of my life;
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 All the days, all the days of my life.
 And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
 forever,
 And I shall feast at the table spread for
 me;

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 All the days, all the days of my life,
 All the days, all the days of my life.

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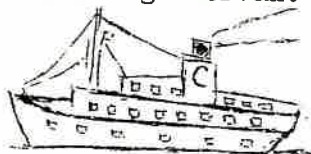
Sunrise Service Offering: \$1,614 (divided bet. Kelapa Sawit and Ormeo's Philippines ministr.)
 Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.
 Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, Tel: 513676/506

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

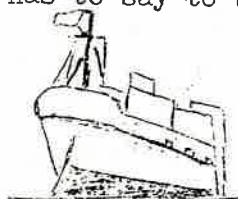
Ship Ahoy!

What ship? It's the Logos, first Gospel Ship in the world that has sailed the seven seas, and is now back after two years in Europe and Africa. When I say she is the first ship, I imply a second. Yes, and one three times the size of Logos, called Doulos (meaning "Servant"), has joined her company!



The man whom God has raised to evangelise the world by ship is George Verwer. The man after him whom God has used to run the Logos, and now the Doulos, is George Miley.

This Lord's Day Bro. Miley is at our pulpit again. It is a rare privilege for us to have him in our midst. Let us hear what the Lord has to say to us through him.



Welcome Logos Conference at Life Church June 12-18, 1978.

Since the Logos first visited Singapore in 1971, Life Church and FEBC have opened their doors to her crew. We welcome the Logos Conference to be held on our premises again June 12-18. It is a conference to enlist young Singaporeans and Malaysians for a 14-month evangelistic service abroad. I understand the target this year is 100! No doubt this is with a view also to supplying Doulos the second ship. Life Church and FEBC have fielded not a few young men and women with Operation Mobilisation, (The Organisation that operates the ships). If there is any young Lifer called to OM, let him or her speak to the Session about it.

We Marvel How God Has Launched Us Out On a Mini-Logos!

When we first received the Logos in 1971, little did we realise God would one day launch us out on a mini-Logos! I refer to our Gospel Boat now under construction in West Kalimantan, Rev. Djunaide in charge. Our Gospel Boat is named "Kapuas Kourier." "Kourier" is adapted from Rev. Jason Linn's Gospel Boat in the 1930's, which was called "Courier," meaning "messenger." "Kapuas" signifies the River on which our boat will sail, yes, through literally hundreds of miles of virgin territory.



To Kalimantan, on to Kalimantan,
Beyond dark Kapuas River in West Kalimantan
There're countless little rivers in West Kalimantan.

"One Boat Better Than Ten Churches"

This saying from Elder Tow Siang Hwa, being vividly portrayed by the Logos, has been applied to the "Kapuas Kourier." Since the mobile capability of a boat enables us to go a hundred places impossible to visit were our missionaries land-based, we have left no stone unturned to put the best into the construction of the new boat. To see to the completion of a good job, we are therefore requesting Rev. Djunaide to come over for a final briefing. Many are interested in what is the latest about our Gospel Boat.

In comparison with the Logos, the cost of our Gospel Boat would be a drop in a bucket. Yet, it is a boat built to last for years, a 50 ft. boat, as long as the width of Life Church! Our offerings so far have reached roughly two-thirds of the estimated cost. Let us pray that the Lord will supply the rest in His own mysterious way. We look only to Him.

FEBCers in West Kalimantan

It is a joy to hear of Dohar preaching in the place of Djunaide at the Dyak Church and Bible School at Sebetung. Esther, who is now married and settled in Pontianak, holds regularly twice-weekly Bible Classes with the Chinese Church School in town. The love gift from a Reader to Dohar will soon be remitted. - T.T.

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 9:10-19a)

Someone wrote: "God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform." This is certainly true of Saul's conversion. Saul began his journey to Damascus leading a group to apprehend the followers of Jesus in Damascus; but before he could reach his destination, the Lord Jesus apprehended him, and Saul being broken and blinded, had to be led to Damascus instead.

B. THE CONSECRATION OF SAUL.

1. THE LORD INSTRUCTED ANANIAS (vv. 10-16). Saul's evil reputation had gone before him into Damascus. The Church there had heard of his coming and must have been apprehensive. One of the church members there whom Luke terms as "a certain disciple . . . named Ananias" was a Jew of considerable repute in Damascus as a devout man (cf. 22:12). It was to this man that the Lord appeared in a vision with further instructions to be conveyed to Saul. The Lord could have personally instructed Saul; but He was pleased to use Ananias for the job. Ananias held no official position. He was neither an apostle nor a deacon. Yet he it was that the Lord made an instrument through whom the fulness of spiritual blessing came to the man, who was to be God's greatest pioneer missionary, church theologian and

author of at least 13 books of our New Testament. It is a very great blessing to be a blessing to someone more influential and outstanding than we are.

When the Lord called him, his response was quick and immediate. The Lord further told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight" (vv. 11,12, NIV). Naturally Ananias objected. Reverently he gave his reasons for his objection: "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name" (vv. 13,14, NIV). It seemed incredible to Ananias that Saul was no longer hostile to Jesus and was instead praying.

The Lord patiently listened to him. Then he said again, "Go!" But this time the Lord revealed the secret of His own heart to Ananias about Saul: "This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name" (vv. 15,16). This sums up Saul's career: to witness and to suffer. So Ananias was sent.

2. ANANIAS BLESSED SAUL (vv. 17-19a). The fact that Ananias obeyed without further protests speaks much for his spiritual maturity. He went to the house and entered it. He saw Saul exactly as the vision has said, i.e. praying. He laid his hands upon him and said, "Brother Saul." What a great heart Ananias was to address the erstwhile persecutor as a brother in Christ. He immediately recognized a new relationship between them. Then, proceeding he referred to "the Lord." By now, Saul knew who the Lord was. He was not only Ananias' Lord. He had also become Saul's Lord since three days ago. Ananias concluded, this Lord Jesus "who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." That message was faithfully delivered while Ananias' hands lay upon Saul.

A scaly substance fell from Saul's eyes, and his sight was restored again as the vision had earlier revealed. Ananias had the joy of seeing Saul filled with the Holy Spirit. He got up and was baptized. Ananias saw to it that Saul had a good meal. "He fasted until he received the Spirit, but the first thing he did after he received The Spirit was to eat a meal. Do not let us imagine that we demonstrate the fact that we are full of the Spirit when we trifle with our physical life. He ate his meal, and then in the strength of the fulness of The Spirit and a meal, he left for Arabia. That is the whole philosophy of common-sense Christianity" (G. Campbell Morgan).

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm The Millennium!
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
THURS 7.15 pm West. Confession.
SAT 3.30 pm YF.
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow.

4 pm Rev. Tai Po-fu (Tel: 2615216)

Last Week's Offerings. \$859.00 + \$200.00 + \$80 BPM + \$25 Galilee BP Church + \$120 Paaues work in Korea + \$100 Belated Easter Offering.
Kelapa Sawit B.F. (thru pastor's hand) Sunrise Service \$807; Life \$1,500; Faith \$200; Mt. Carmel \$513. (To be delivered this Lord's Day).

Rev. Orneo, Philippines. \$300 worth of books at trade discount, with 3 boxes of surplus clothing are despatched through the Logos arriving Manila April 27.

Hear Rev. Philip Heng over Radio Singapore Sun. April 23, 6.05 pm and 10 pm!

We extend a warm welcome to Major Long, guest at our Church-College Hostel.

Presbytery will meet at Life Church Sun. April 16, 8.00 pm.

Life B-P Church Women's Fellowship will be inaugurated on April 21, 1978 at 7.15 pm, at the flat of Assistant Pastor Tan Wai Choon who will be speaking on "THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH". All ladies are welcome to join this fellowship.

FEBE FINAL EXAMINATIONS will be held Fri. April 21-Fri 28. The last class on Revelation will be held Mon. April 17, at which a colourful "map" on the Tri. will be given. Christ is the Answer records at \$1/- and BP Silver Jubilee stereo tapes at \$1.50. See Bro. Pong Sen at Church office.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Go into the world, into all the wide world,
And tell the joyful news to ev'ry perishing soul,
And tell the joyful news to ev'ry perishing soul.

For you I have sent into all the wide world,
And you shall be my witnesses from Jerusalem,
And you shall be my witnesses from Jerusalem.

But first receive power, the Spirit of God,
And you'll go through Judea, Samaria, all the earth,
And you'll go through Judea, Samaria, all the earth.

Go ye into all, into all nations,
And make them My disciples, and baptise them for Me,
And teach them all My Word, for I'm with you to the end.

Far Easter Kindergarten Register your child for 1979 now to avoid disappointment! See Mrs. Lange, principal.

Rev. Paaue writes of their coming furlough (after 5 years service overseas) when they will return to USA via S'pore. They'll spend about a month here from June 12. Why not book him for meetings?

George Kutty writes of many opportunities to preach the Gospel in Thailand. His address: 99 Naret Road, Bangkok 5, Thailand. Joseph Tang another FEBCer is working with OM and may be sent to Europe.

Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road Singapore 11, Tel: 513676/50617.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 9:19b-22)

Great men are grateful men. Saul was a grateful man. He never forgot what Ananias did for him and meant to him. Ananias took care of him not only spiritually, but also physically. Through Ananias the Lord restored his sight and filled him with the Holy Spirit. Ananias also performed on him the sacrament of baptism and saw to it that he ate a good meal. Perhaps the act that meant most to him was Ananias' acceptance of him as a Christian brother and introduced him as such to the brethren there. Thus Ananias also met Saul's social need at a time when he needed it most. Little wonder that Paul still thought thankfully of him some twenty years later (22:12,13).

C. THE CONFESSION OF SAUL

1. SAUL'S MESSAGE (vv. 19b,20). Luke, our inspired author tells us that "Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus" (19b). In verse 20, Luke continues: "At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God." There seems to be an interval of at least two years between v. 19 and v.20 during which time Saul spent a period of solemn solitude in Arabia thinking out the theological implication of his conversion experience. He must have gone through the Old Testament Scriptures again, this time with spiritual eyes open. With the Holy Spirit's illumination as he studied the O.T. Scriptures, he came to the inevitable conclusion that Jesus was not merely a man, but was indeed the long awaited Messiah. He it was who had been foretold in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms (cf. Luke 24:44). Until and unless the Lord opens a man's mind, he will not be able to understand spiritual truths (Luke 24:45; I Cor. 2:14).

This period of reflection in Arabia Paul himself tells us in his letter to the Galatian churches: "... I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days" (Gal. 1:17,18). If that be the case, which it probably was, then Paul's preaching in the Damascus synagogues must have followed his return from Arabia. "With every new spiritual experience we come into possession of a more wonderful Bible" (Scroggie).

Notice Saul's subject of preaching - "Jesus is the Son of God." "It is the full statement of the mystery of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and straightway this man commenced to preach that. What a wonderful contrast between this proclamation of Saul in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God, and the intention with which he had come there: He started, a sincere man, to persecute those who differed from him. He stood in the synagogues, a sincere man, but with no thought of persecuting those who differed from him now. He would preach to them, persuade them, argue with them, but there was no persecution" (Morgan).

2. THE PEOPLE'S MARVEL (vv. 21,22). The Jewish community in Damascus must be fairly large as there were several synagogues. It was in these synagogues that Saul began preaching his newly discovered message. Luke describes the reaction of the hearers: "All those who heard him were astonished and asked, 'Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them prisoners to the chief priests?' This reaction is not surprising. Many of them debated with him. Saul had himself used the arguments the Jews were now using only this time he thought out the answers to his own former position so effectively that no opponent could rebut.

"Christ, the dynamo of spiritual energy, was now pouring power (Acts 1:8) into Paul who is already filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:17) (A.T. Robertson). He baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. "Proving" is the Greek word meaning to "put-together." Saul "put-together" Old Testament Messianic passages, exegeted them, and applied them to Jesus of Nazareth. No wonder the Jews were baffled. The Christian Church had gained in Saul an intellect of the greatest magnitude.

MY TRIP TO KELAPA SAWIT

By Yiew Pong Sen

Kelapa Sawit - that's the name of the village situated at the 26th mile Kulai Road, Johore, where we see another Gospel witness. This Gospel witness, which was planted by the Evangelical China Fellowship of Dr. Andrew Gih in 1952, came under the joint mandate of the Singapore Evangelistic League and the Malaysia Pioneer Mission (now Bible-Presbyterian Missions) in Jan. 1954. Ever since, the Lord has seen fit to bless our labour of love in bringing the Gospel message to the 7,000 Hakkas living in the oil palm village.



Today, after 26 years of toil and labour, this mission station housed in a two-storey shophouse will be shifted to a ½-acre land situated on high ground in the centre of the village, on which a sizeable church auditorium, parsonage and kindergarten classrooms have been built. This house raised "for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" will be a new landmark in the Kelapa Sawit district.

My recent trip to Kelapa Sawit with Rev. Tow has enabled me to witness the planting of another house of God. It was only six months back that the foundation stone was laid. Today, the Church is near completion and is looking forward to her Dedication Service on June 3rd.

Our hearts rejoiced with the four elderly ladies of Kelapa Sawit who were baptised last Sunday. Among them was a lady in her seventies who testified boldly and joyously before the congregation of about forty of the joy and peace she has found in Jesus.

At Kelapa Sawit, we found true Christian hospitality and fellowship. We were first given a warm welcome with ice-cold drinks which we badly needed after a one-and-a-half hour journey in the hot afternoon sun.

The message delivered that afternoon by Rev. Tow was sharp, clear-cut and timely. There must be no compromise in the work of God as truth and righteousness must prevail, and selfishness, idolatry and other cursed things must be removed and destroyed if we want the blessings of God. He illustrated this by pointing to Jacob who, when he was commanded to "arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there and make an altar unto God" (Gen. 35:1), obeyed and called his "household and all that were with him to put away the strange gods that were among them, and be clean, and change their garments ... and go up to Bethel ... and make there an altar unto God" (Gen. 35:2,3). God blessed this household for their obedience and out of it came forth a great nation. The Kelapa Sawit brethren were exhorted to discard the old habits of sin and be regenerated by the Spirit of God as they prepared to move from their old shophouse to the new house of worship.

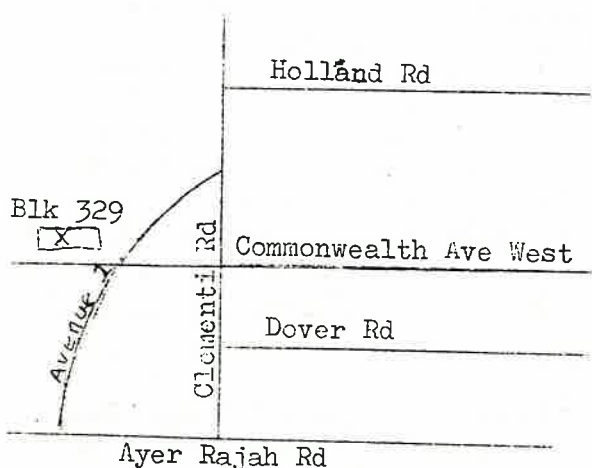
To round up our visit, we had splendid dinner served us at the new house of Deacon John Ling, the leading deacon in the Kelapa Sawit Church Building Project. Our special thanks must go to Mrs. John Ling for her service to the Lord in serving us the sumptuous dinner.

The new Kelapa Sawit Church, besides beaming the Gospel to her neighbourhood, also offers Singapore brethren a good camp site. Equipped with an auditorium for worship, a parsonage, guestrooms and two classrooms... she is surrounded by green vegetation. Her tranquil atmosphere makes her a beautiful sanctuary for Singapore brethren seeking a place of relaxation from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Finally, let us ever look far beyond the four walls of our Church to hasten the Gospel, even as we think of Kelapa Sawit. May our prayers go with our offerings to the needy ones in Kelapa Sawit who have never heard the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ. May we in Singapore praise the Lord and join with our brethren in Kelapa Sawit as they look forward to June 3rd the red letter day of the Dedication of their Church!

LIFE CHURCH AND FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.15 pm Last Revelation Class.
Giving of Tribulation "Maps!"
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
THURS FEBC Sabbath Day.
FRI 8.30 am FEBC Exams Commence.
House-blessing of Bro. Peter Sim's new flat, on Friday May 5th, 232G Blk 329 Clementi Ave 2.



SAT 3.30 pm YF.
Lord's Day 10.00 am Rev. Tow.
11.45 am Rev. Tow at Sharon.
4.00 pm Rev. Djunaidi (D.V.)
5.00 pm Mr. Tan at Bible Church, Soo Chow Centre.

Last Week's Offering: \$798.04 + \$50 + \$50 (GB)
Welcome to Presbytery Meeting tonight at FEBC Hall, 8 pm.

Attend 22nd Annual Conference of the Singapore and Malaysia Council of Christian Churches, Sat. April 29, '78

SONG TO THE NEW JERUSALEM

(To the tune of "The Old Kentucky Home")

The summer sun shines o'er new Jerusalem:
Golden days of peace so divine! Heaven,
Messiah has come to this war-torn earth from/
Bestowing rest to weary mankind.

Ch: Weep no more, O Israel! O weep no more today.
We will sing this song to the new Jerusalem,
To the new Jerusalem for aye.

The autumn showers freshen new Jerusalem,
Happy feasts are held o'er the Land.
We worship Messiah the Prince of Peaceful Realm,
Whomakes roses bloom across the sand.

The spring rains drive winter's biting cold away,
Wheat and barley, olive and grain.
Ten thousand flowers in the balmy breezes sway,
While young men and maidens praise His Name.

The Sun of Righteousness shines o'er earth's Night:
No more war, nor hunger, nor pain! Dark/
Messiah shall reign till Right triumphs over Might,
All-resplendent in Jerusalem.

2.30 pm at Life Church, Gilstead Road.

Welcome Miss Norma Bagamasbad of Philippines, guest at the Assistant Pastor's, to our worship service this Lord's Day. May the Lord bless your testimony.

FAR EASTERN KINDERGARTEN! Register now for 1979!

Ring 513676 for Mrs. Lange, Mon to Fri.

Life Church Women's Fellowship will be inaugurated at the FEBC Hall, Fri. April 21, 7.15 pm. Mr. Tan Wai Choon speaking.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow 9A Gilstead Road,
Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 9:23-31)

Suffering was one outstanding characteristic of Paul's ministry. Indeed this was specifically what the Lord told Ananias when He commanded him to visit Saul. The Lord said: "This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name" (9:15). Knowing suffering to be the Lord's will for him, he submitted to his lot joyfully. Indeed it became one of his goals in life. He wrote to the Philippian Christians: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" (Phil. 3:10 NIV: cf. Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12).

D. THE CONSPIRACIES AGAINST SAUL.1. SAUL'S CONSPIRATORS IN DAMASCUS (vv. 23-25).

Saul was not the kind of man to keep quiet about his new-found faith. Upon his return from his retreat in Arabia (cf. Gal. 1:17,18), where he reflected on the Lord Jesus Christ, he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. Luke tells us that this preaching became a matter of habit with Saul. He increased in boldness as well as effectiveness in his preaching (v.22) and before long the Jews conspired to kill him. Providentially, this plot was discovered and Saul escaped in spite of a 24-hour watch on the city gates to arrest him. The Lord used the ingenuity of other Christians to effect Saul's escape. Saul was taken by the disciples by night and lowered in a large basket through an opening in the wall, which was the window of a house built on to it. Paul later mentioned this incident in his second letter to the Corinthians: "In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands" (2 Cor. 11:32,33,NIV).

It is evident in our study of Paul's life, that his ministry of suffering began almost simultaneously with his ministry of witnessing. For the sake of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul wrote: "I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers" (2Cor. 11:26,NIV).

Thank God, along with these dangers, there was also the assurance of the presence and protection of the Lord: "For I am with you, and no one is going to attack you and harm you ..." (Acts 18:10 NIV). This was also Paul's experience throughout his ministry.

2. SAUL'S CONSPIRATORS IN JERUSALEM (vv. 26-30).

Escaping from Damascus, Saul came to Jerusalem where he attempted to join the Christian community as one of them. Naturally the Jerusalem disciples were still suspicious and fearful of him. It was too short a time for them to have forgotten his campaign of persecution against them. Their doubt about Saul's conversion should not be a surprise. God, however, has his way of allaying fears and giving assurances. This time He used Barnabas for this dual role. "It was Barnabas who, true to his name, proved himself a 'son of encouragement' and acted as Saul's sponsor. It seems likely that Barnabas was already acquainted with Saul, knew his integrity of character and was convinced of the genuineness of his conversion. When Saul desperately needed a true friend in Damascus, Ananias played that part to him; now, when he stood in equal need of one in Jerusalem, he found a friend in Barnabas. And Barnabas's prestige with the apostles and other Jerusalem Christians was such that, when he gave them his guarantee that Saul was now a true disciple of Jesus, they were reassured" (F.F.Bruce).

In v. 27, it is stated that Barnabas took Saul "to the Apostles." But in view of Paul's statement in Gal. 1:18,19 that he saw only Peter and James, that word "apostles" must be taken as a "generalizing plural," as grammarians call it. There is no contradiction between Luke's report and Paul's testimony. "Thus, while Luke may generalize and say that he saw the apostles, it is important for Paul to particularize and say which apostles he saw" (F.F.Bruce). During this time, Saul stayed 15 days with Peter (v. 28; Gal. 1:18). As usual, Saul could not keep his new found faith to himself. "He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him" (v. 29NIV). Once more, the Lord providentially protected Saul and saved his life. The Lord used other Christian brothers to help him escape (v. 30). Indeed, God's servant cannot be killed until his job is done! For Saul, his ministry of witnessing and suffering has barely begun. - T.W.C.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

The Women's Fellowship

Our Women's Fellowship was inaugurated last Friday with a good turnout of mostly young ladies of the Church. Mrs. Tan Wai Choon chaired the meeting and Mr. Tan brought the message. The meeting was opened with a prayer from the pastor.

Now, what is the purpose of a Women's Fellowship? Let us learn from one that is found in the Bible, one that came into being naturally and logically to render service to the Lord Jesus. This Women's Fellowship is described in Luke 8:1-3:

"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him. And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance."

There is a service women can render to the Lord that we men cannot! For example, the already existing women's fellowship of the kitchen, cooking for the last five years, to feed over 100 people each week. This is highly commendable.

Let the Women's Fellowship think of ways and means to further add their strength to the Church, in order that God's Kingdom might be further expedited. In America, one strong emphasis of a WF is missions!

A Junior Youth Fellowship

There is a proposal to form a Junior Y.F. by members of the Y.F. This proposal has received the blessing of the Session. Mrs. Tow is appointed advisor. Mr. Peter Eng, YF President is sending out a letter to introduce this movement. The Pastor is requested to preach a message on the subject. We believe a Junior YF can do a lot of good to our growing-up children. But the young must be properly guided!

F E B C

The College being closely linked to the Church, it is good that I report a little on the latest. Right now, final exams have commenced. A period of three days grace is granted to extend the exams to Wed. May 3. So the end of term dinner is also postponed - to Wed. May 3, 6.30 p.m. (Sharp).

The 10th Graduation will be held Sunday July 30, 1978, 8 p.m. Dr. Tow Siang Hwa our new president of the Board of Directors will bring the message. There should be at least a dozen graduating this time.

Rev. Djunaidi Reports On The Gospel Boat

The Gospel Boat is nearly completed (insofar as the hull is concerned). The last part to be constructed is the kitchen and W.C. and some other interior work. We can say we have done our best to make the boat of superior quality and for utility. It will be some boat to sail the Kapuas! This boat has also begun to open the eyes of the Church in West Kalimantan. It is a silent yet effective witness for the Lord. May all glory redound to our Saviour! (Ed. note. Djunaidi should arrive any day from W. Kalimantan with full range of photos and slides to report to our churches.) - T.T.



LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON - FRI FEBC Exams.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
SAT 2.00 pm SMCCC Annual Conference.
3.30 pm YF
7.30 pm Galilee Musicale at Conference Hall. Admission Free.
Lord's Day 9.30 am Rev. Tow at Calvary (FEBC Sunday).
10.00 am Mr. Tan Wai Choon.
4.00 pm Rev. Djunaidi.
5.00 pm Mr. Tan at Bible Church, Soo Chow Centre.
7.30 pm Galilee Musicale.

Last Week's Offerings: \$871.65 + \$200 for Gospel Boat + \$500 for Jurong B.F.
100 red-cushioned, chrome-plated steel chairs have been offered by a Deacon, adding much comfort and beauty to office, library, bookroom, dorms, etc.

Wedding Bells! The holy matrimony between Miss Tan Hui Guat and Mr. Ernest Thivy will be solemnised on Monday May 1, 11 a.m., Rev. Philip Heng officiating. Reception at FEBC Hall.

The Sunday School will hold an outing on May 1.

The Camp is now fixed to be held at the new Kelapa Sawit Church June 19-23.

The Far Eastern Kindergarten has a total enrolment of 193 children in the two sessions. We can take in a few students in the new term.
Lim Florist: 376471/2352292.

WHEN HE COMETH

When He cometh, when He cometh
To make up His jewels,
All His jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own,
Refrain: Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty,
Bright gems for His crown.
He will gather, He will gather,
The gems for His kingdom,
All the pure ones, all the bright ones,
His loved and His own.
Little children, little children
Who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own.

(Church Hymnal No: 418)

GALILEE B - P - CHURCH PRESENTS

GOD'S PEOPLE

by Kurt Kaiser & Charles F. Brown

WHEN? Sat 29 Apr '78 - S'pore Conf. Hall
Sun 30 Apr '78 - Life Church

ADMISSION FREE ALL WELCOME NIGHTLY 7.30

Saturday 29th April, 1978

IT'S HARVEST TIME IN WEST KALIMANTAN!

By Rev. Djunaidi



In recent years there has arisen a special phenomenon over West Kalimantan. It is that she has come under the simultaneous attention of many churches abroad. This phenomenon is reflected in various church publications and in the visits made by pastors and evangelists, elders and deacons. Not a few missionary societies and local churches have come, directly or indirectly, to aid the native church. For example, several churches in Singapore have come one after the other to share in the work. Should you inquire what are the motives and reasons behind these activities, we have only one simple answer to give: West Kalimantan is one field where the crop is ripe for harvest! So those workers whom the Lord has raised and sent forth cannot but look on this field! Those servants of God who have visited West Kalimantan have been impressed by this one fact: Whenever a call is issued to the Church, in town or country, invariably a sizeable congregation will be gathered, rain or shine.

From my observations, the needs of West Kalimantan are both within and without the Church. No doubt evangelising those outside the pale of the Church is our urgent duty, there is the equally needy counterpart of nurturing the Church within, that it might take root and bear fruit. To concentrate on one to the neglect of the other would be an unwise policy.

Let me relate briefly the story of the West Kalimantan Pioneer Mission. From 1972 to 1977, with the support of Faith and Zion Bible-Presbyterian Churches, she has completed a first five-year plan. During this period we have established a Bible School, an orphanage and primary school and seven churches. We have launched welfare projects like cultivation of fruit trees, cattle rearing and fish ponds. These projects have received recognition and subsidy from the Government, though there is much more ground to be cultivated.

Now, the Kapuas Gospel Mission: Under the spontaneous support of the pastor, session and congregation of Life Church, the needs of West Kalimantan are being met in another fashion. I mention particularly the construction of our Gospel Boat, the "Kapuas Kourier." This is a "first" for West Kalimantan! It has a double use - to meet the needs of the people both within and without the Church - a cradle to nurture young believers, and a vehicle to take the Gospel far and out. This boat will be open to the use of Churches for holding retreats and Bible study and for Gospel meetings. It can serve as a mobile depot for the dissemination of Christian Literature. Those who come aboard to browse (from our book shelves) can praise the Lord together with us! No wonder a Christian doctor has remarked: "One boat is better than ten churches."

Let me tell you a little more of the situation in West Kalimantan. During this period while I have been busily engaged in the building of our Gospel Boat, I was called to hold a series of youth meetings under the auspices of the Church at Sungai Duri and thereafter to conduct revival meetings at the Baptist Hospital at Serukam. In these two series of meetings I have come to see more deeply the needs of the Church in West Kalimantan. I have seen how new converts have been moved by the love of the crucified Christ and how they raised their hands publicly to confess Him. I have also seen the revival of several scores of nurses and hospital staff from years of daily grind, whose weary hands and feeble knees have been lifted up (Heb. 12:12). How my heart was moved to hear their vibrant and tearful testimonies at the close of the meetings. This was the work of the Holy Spirit - a manifestation of God's call today and the onerous task confronting us. We have come to see the dire needs of the Church both within and without.

Bro. Yang Shi Ann and I have made this trip to Singapore at the invitation of Faith and Life Churches. We have come to discuss the work ahead of us. For me, the Gospel Boat. We have been blessed of the Lord in this fellowship with you, praise His Name! We say good-bye to you after this Lord's Day, as we sail first to Tanjung Pinang to take the cargo boat home. Pray for us in our mutual work for the extension of the Gospel. Amen!

DOHAR WRITES

"I am now giving the Word of God to the people of Sebetung. Besides preaching on Sunday, I give a night class for them to learn how to witness. At times I feel discouraged, but that makes me stronger to do God's work.

Now I realise that my training is not enough, because there are things along the way that have surprised me, and those things were never discussed in the class. As you know, the background of the people at Sebetung is heathen. Many of the things they do are still according to heathen custom.

Please pray for me that I may serve the Lord faithfully. May the full Gospel be preached to change many lives at Sebetung. I need your prayer especially for my health. Many a time I have a headache and cold. May be it is due to the meals at Sebetung which are far poorer than usual. I am now planting some vegetables and taking care of two hens. Many a time I remember FEBC and I feel lonely. But God always comforts me."

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (Acts 9:31)

In last week's study we saw other Christians in Jerusalem helping Saul to escape another assassination attempt (v. 30). He was sent to his native Tarsus where he spent another period in obscurity. He was not to be heard of again until eight years later (cf. 11:25,26), when he officially began his work as the "Apostle to the Gentiles" in the Church at Antioch. Apparently Saul was not ready to be used extensively yet. The Lord found it necessary to prepare him further. During this period in Tarsus, Saul did mention of his visits to Syria and Cilicia (Gal. 1:21). Obviously it was during this period that he came to a better grasp of the Christian faith. His further meditation on Christian theology was part of his preparation for more extensive work ahead of him. Great tasks truly require long preparations!

A. THE CHURCH ENJOYED PEACE (9:31a). "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord" (v.31 NIV). With the conversion of the church's chief persecutor, the persecution ceased. Although the King James Version (KJV) translates v.31 "Then had the churches rest ..." the NIV's rendering of the Greek word *ekklesia* as a singular "church" is more accurate. Here Luke employs the term *ekklesia* in a collective sense covering all of Palestine. That there were already churches scattered throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria is quite obvious (cf. Gal. 1:22).

There is another sense in which the word *ekklesia* (church) is used in the Bible. This is found in Matt. 16:18 when our Lord said: "... I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (NIV). Thus in the N.T. the word "church" is used in a three-fold aspect: 1) the Church, Universal and Invisible (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22 ff); 2) the Church, Universal and Visible (Acts 5:11; 8:3; Rom. 16:23); 3) the Church, Local (Matt. 18:17; Acts 2:47; 8:1).

The Lord removed the hostility against the church in the whole of Palestine by converting Saul the opposition leader to Himself. Peace was enjoyed for the first time in many years. This peace was an opportunity for growth.

B. THE CHURCH ENJOYED PROGRESS (v. 31b). Scroggie describes the growth of the church thus: "... within it was upbuilt, and without it was multiplied, and this must always be the course of the Church's growth, from within outward." The growth was first "downward," i.e. "it was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit." It is just like a plant growing roots deeply into the soil. Yes, the church must be grounded in the faith if it is to be strong or strengthened. Then, the growth was "upward," i.e. the Christian lived in the fear of the Lord. This speaks about their spirituality. A strong Christians is a spiritual Christian. Finally, the growth is "outward," i.e. the church grew in numbers. A spiritual church is a missionary church. It will reach out to the non-Christians with the Good News of Jesus Christ. May this three-fold growth characterize our church! - T.W.C.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENT

MON 8.00 am Sunday School leaves for Loyang.

11.00 am Ernest-Tan Wedding.

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.

9.15 pm Session Meeting.

WED 6.30 pm FEBC End of Term Dinner.

FRI 8.00 pm House Blessing at Bro. Peter Sim's, 232G Blk 329 Clementi Ave 2.

SAT 3.30 pm YF

4.00 pm Inauguration of Junior Fellowship, Rev. Turner speaking.

Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow (Lord's Sup.)
4 pm Mr. Teo Siau Hua (" ").

Last Week's Offerings \$620.20 + \$100 for Gospel Boat.

Gospel Boat \$1,000 from an Elder; \$5,000 from a Deacon; \$100 from Chinese Service.

Rev. Djunaidi preaches this Lord's Day at Grace B-P Church 10 am and at Life Chinese Service 4 pm. He sails back to Pemangkat, West Kalimantan Monday morning. Dedication of the Gospel Boat is scheduled to be held the last week of June. Pastor Tow intends to sail via Tanjung Pinang, on 9-day round trip, ministering also in the Riau Islands.

FEBC students who wish to stay in during the long vacation are requested to register. Renovation of the dorms by Mr. T.C. Eng begins after May 3rd!

Congratulations to Rev. Patrick Tan on his appointment to Solemniser of Marriage.

Nursery is now available at the room next to worship hour.

The Session had decided to present Kelapa Sawit the Black Pearl River piano pending Kindergarten's purchase of a new one. Any useful article of surplus furniture or utensils you might stack away can be added to the transportation without extra cost, particularly as we think of our camp to be held at K.S. in June. (Come to K.S. Sat. Jun. 3, 3 p.m. for the Dedication!)

Deep condolence to Bro. Chua Kim Soo on the home-going of his eldest brother Kim Hai (70) and to Sis. Veronica Lim on the passing away of her grandfather Mr. Yong Loon Chong (74).

Logos Preliminary one-night Conference is to be held at Gilstead Road, May 7.

Mr. Tan Wai Choon is the Lord's messenger at the AFC Camp, Ponggol, May 2-5.

Available! Full "lantern" lecture on West Kalimantan, including the Gospel Boat, for your missionary conference. Rev. Tow who has been on this field three times will tell the story! Ring 50617.

Galilee B-P Church Presents "GOD'S PEOPLE" Sunday 30th April at 7.30 pm at Life Church. All are Welcome!

Mr. Tan at Bible Church, Soo Chow Centre at 5.00 pm, 30th April.

Women's Fellowship Rev. & Mrs. James Turner will speak on "The Parents' Role in Bringing Up Our Children" on May 12 at 7.30 pm at the FEBC Hall.

the Book Room for infants and toddlers during

Saturday 6th May, 1978

NEWS OF FEBCers FROM AFAR

1. Daniel Rouillard writes from India:

"We have been in India for a month already, and just finished, this afternoon, our 4th week of language study. It is amazing the amount of Hindi that we have been able to assimilate in such a short period of time. Yet there is still plenty to learn before we ever come near to fluency. We should spend another 5 months in the school this year, but this is still in the praying stage. At the same time we are praying that God will open an area of service for us in India in the near future. There are thousands of opportunities to do good in India since there are so many people, but not all these opportunities provide a visa. We should actually very much value the prayers of many in Singapore in this respect.

Mussoorie is a most beautiful place at the foot of the Himalayas, and on clear days we can see the eternal snows of Tibet, only 50 miles away as the crow flies. Daily we can watch the eagles fly. They never flap their wings; they only spread them. This reminds us of the teaching of the Bible in Isaiah 40:31. "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up like eagles, they will run and not be tired, they will walk and not become weary." Indeed this is what we are experiencing within our laborious language course.

Please send greetings to all that we might know in the college."

2. George Kutty Writes From Thailand

"It is very encouraging what the Lord is doing up here in Thailand. I formed a team. Just like O.M. team. There are 19 members in the team. Most of the members are from Thailand except 2 from Malaysia. Now I see the hand of God in sending me to Thailand from IBC.

Last week we had 10 church meetings. 42 people confessed their sins publicly and committed their lives to the Lord. (Many sick people were healed. This is my first experience praying for the sick).

One girl, I think she is 10 years old, gave up her smoking and accepted the Lord.

We had many open air meetings (Indian style). We had to preach 3 sermons in one shot. Even then people were waiting to hear more sermons and songs. They said that this was the first time they heard people preach about Jesus Christ.

I went to get permission from the Police. The Inspector said that we can do anything in the name of God.

The team went to preach at Mae Sai (Burma border) and Cheng San (Laos border). Many heard the Word of God and received the gospel literature.

Please pray for the 42 new-born believers that they may grow into maturity.

I personally desire to see many Brothers and sisters from S'pore come up to Thailand to serve the Lord. May I urge FEBC once again by the spirit to face this challenge.

Much tears I have shed within these few days. The Lord says in Ps. 126:5-6 that if we sow the seed in tears we will reap with joy. Truly I rejoice over the wonderful harvest. Now I know leadership is a Cross. Please pray that God may give me patience, grace, love, wisdom and fullness of the Holy Spirit to handle the team members, and to use them as an army for the LORD.

We are learning many things within the Team. Please pray that God may make them leaders for Thailand.

Rev. Tow, you are always remembered. My warm and humble greetings to LIFE CHURCH and FEBC."

3. Esther Writes From West Kalimantan

"Starting from last Saturday I have been involved in a Christian school in Pontianak. Every Saturday morning 10.00 and afternoon 2.00 o'clock I have to preach to the students in primary five and six (200 students). I am going to start a Bible class for the students too. Please pray for me."

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 9:32-43)

When Saul returned to his native Tarsus (9:30), he was not to be heard of again until eight years later (11:25,26).

Now Peter returns to the scene. He was last mentioned in ch. 8:25 when both he and John returned to Jerusalem from Samaria. The apostle Peter was not one to engage in idleness. With the Lord granting peace (i.e. cessation of persecution) to the Church, Peter "redeemed the time" by visiting the believers in order to strengthen them in the faith. Among the places he made pastoral visits were Lydda and Joppa. Lydda was an inland town about ten miles southeast of the harbour town of Joppa, the modern Jaffa (Have you seen this word on your oranges?). Luke tells us what the Lord did through Peter in these two places.

A. PETER HEALED AENEAS IN LYDDA (vv. 32-35).

"As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. There here he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and arrange your things." Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord" (NIV).

How did the saints come about in Lydda? Who preached to them the Gospel? The answer is not hard to find. In Acts 8:40 we read: "Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea"(NIV). It is fair to conclude that Philip preached in Lydda because from Azotus to Caesarea, the direct road went through Lydda. These saints at Lydda were the result (harvest) of Philip's preaching (reaping).

The most notable event in Lydda was the healing of Aeneas, a paralytic and bed-ridden for eight years. The cure of an otherwise incurable invalid in the name of Jesus Christ was obviously miraculous. News of it spread far and wide and as a result, considerable numbers of people became Christians.

B. PETER RAISED DORCAS IN JOPPA (vv. 36-43).

Joppa (modern Jaffa) is on the Mediterranean coast. Here one of the best loved Christians became sick and died. Many in the place were greatly blessed by her life and ministry. Her name was Tabitha (Dorcas in the Greek). Both mean "gazelle". Her body had been prepared for burial. When the disciples heard that Peter was in nearby Lydda, they sent two men there and begged him to come quickly to Joppa. Peter responded promptly just like a good pastor would.

Upon arrival with the two men, he was taken to a room upstairs where a group of widows were weeping. They paused in their weeping and showed the apostle the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made for them while alive. Peter, gently sent them all out of the room. Then he uttered a short sentence differing only in one letter from the words of Jesus to Jairus' daughter. Jesus had said: "Talitha gumi" (Mark 5:41). Now Peter says: "Tabitha gumi," meaning "Tabitha arise." She opened her eyes and seeing Peter she sat up. "He took her by the hand and helped to her feet. Then he called the believers and widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa and many believed in the Lord" (vv. 41,42 NIV).

"Dorcas is delivered from death. She was missed and mourned because she had been merciful. The people would not have grieved if Dorcas had not been good; the wicked are not wailed, or should not be. Back of this woman's labour was her love. If she came back to earth to-day, imagine her surprise to find everywhere Dorcas Societies. From a little seed well sown comes a rich harvest. Surprises await many an unselfish woman. God sees what is obscure, and will reward all that is done for Him. I was going to say that Dorcas deserved to live again, but, upon reflection, was it not a sad thing that she should come back into such a world as this? Not for her own sake was she brought back, but for the Gospel's, and the Church's. The Bible tells us of nine persons who were raised from the dead, but not one of them has told us of his or her experience in the other world" (W. G. Scroggie). T.W.C.

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.

SAT 3.30 pm YF.

8.00 pm FEBC Faculty and Board Meeting
at 64 Andrew Road.

Lord's Day 10 am Mr. Tan Wai Choon.

4.00 pm Mr. Lin Tah Mon.

4.00 pm Rev. Tow at Grace (Lord's Sup).

7.30 pm Rev. Tow at Chin Lien Grad.

Tonite the Logos has a special meeting in
Church 7 p.m. All Welcome.

We welcome Rev. Tai Po-fu of Taiwan to our
pulpit this Lord's Day. Rev. Tai will soon
leave S'pore for good in order to give him-
self more fully to the evangelistic ministry.
Last Week's Offerings \$1,392.77 + \$200.

Gospel Boat \$50+\$50+\$100+\$100 in memory of
Chua Kim Hye.

Camp! Camp! Camp! 1) Have you registered for
Life Church Camp at Kelapa Sawit, June 19-23?
Visit mission stations and churches at
Tampoi, Kulai Besar, Sedenak, Kota Tinggi
and the Waterfalls! Time to receive God's
Word and give out the Gospel. 2) In case the
date above does not suit you, you can join
the Calvary-Galilee Camp at Changi Conference
Center, June 5-10 (Rev. Tow will be speaking
from Philippians). Ring 50617.

Mr. T.C. Eng begins renovation of College
premises Mon. May 8.

Dr. & Mrs. Tow Siang Hwa and family are
taking a one-month vacation in Europe and
USA from June 1st. They will visit with
relatives in USA.

Rev. Jason Linn is coming in July with Mrs.
Linn for treatment of his cataract. They
will be guests at our Hostel.

Women's Fellowship Rev. & Mrs. James Turner
will speak on "The Parents' Role in Bringing
Up Our Children"

Tampoi Any coming? Mr. Tan leaves 9A
Gilstead Road at 6.00 p.m. and returns be-
fore 9.30 p.m.

Ahmad our old kebun has left us. Admadilli
is our new kebun.

New Address Misses Seah Seow Poh and Seah
Siow Gek, 218-J Blk 67, Telok Blangah Drive,
Singapore 4, Tel: 2724850.
Lim Florist 376471/2352292.

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS,

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back!

Tho no one join me, still I will follow,
Tho no one join me, still I will follow,
Tho no one join me, still I will follow,
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back.

GHF No: 397

(Attributed to an Indian prince, as sung
in Garo, Assam. Folk melody from India.)

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead
Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.

Mother's Day, 14th May, 1978

THROUGH ONE MOTHER'S PRAYERS

An old woman with a halo of silvered hair - the hot tears flowing down her furrowed cheeks - her worn hands busy over a washboard in a room of poverty - praying - for her son John - John who ran away from home in his teens to become a sailor - John of whom it was now reported that he had become a very wicked man - praying, praying, always, that her son might be of service to God. The mother believed in two things, the power of prayer and the reformation of her son. God answered the prayer by working a miracle in the heart of John Newton. John Newton, the drunken sailor became John Newton, the sailor - preacher.

Among the thousands of men and women he brought to Christ was Thomas Scott, cultured, selfish, and self-satisfied. Because of the washtub prayer another miracle was worked, and Thomas Scott used both his pen and voice to lead thousands of unbelieving hearts to Christ, among them a dyspeptic, melancholic young man, William Cowper by name. He, too, was washed in the cleansing blood and in a moment of inspiration wrote "There is a Fountain Filled With Blood." And this song has brought countless thousands to the Man who died on Calvary. All this resulted because a mother took God at His Word and prayed that her son's heart might become as white as the soapsuds in the washtub. - by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman.

BOUQUETS!

John Quincy Adams said: "All that I am my mother made me."

Abraham Lincoln said: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

D. L. Moody declared: "All that I have ever accomplished in life, I owe to my mother."

Napoleon was a sage when he said: "Let France have good mothers, and she will have good sons."

Andrew Carnegie frequently acknowledged the tender interest and influence of his mother.

Benjamin West declared: "A kiss from my mother made me a painter."

Henry Ward Beecher once said: "The memory of my sainted mother is the brightest recollection of my early years."

President McKinley provided in his will that, first of all, his mother should be made comfortable for life.

Garfield's first act, after being inaugurated President of the United States, was to stoop and kiss his aged mother, who sat near him.

Julia Ward Howe, when ninety-one years of age, said: "We talk of forty horse-power. If we had forty mother-power it would be the most wonderful force in the world." - Selected.

DOHAR (FEBC student serving in Djunaidi's place) WRITES AGAIN!

"I am thankful to the Lord for all your prayers and support. I am very sure, if not so, I will not be able to serve the Lord at Sebetung. I have received some amount of money through Rev. Djunaidi. Rp 20,000 - and a very nice tie - I thank you very much for them.

I heard that you will not be able to visit Kalimantan this month. But I will pray that you would have a good journey next month.

FEBC is still in my mind, I always dream about it. I am longing to complete my studies here. Now I understand the need of training for a pastor.

This practical work makes me more matured and more understanding, so I am very thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to serve Him.

My health is getting better, and I believe by next year I will be able to come over to Singapore to complete my studies.

I am very happy that the Gospel Boat is almost completed. When I finish my studies, I am ready to serve the Lord along the Kapuas River. Truly the fields are wide and they are ready to harvest. But where are the reapers - they are very few!

There are many big mosquitoes in Kalimantan, but they are very tame, not wild to the servant of the Lord. Please tell the students that Kalimantan is waiting for them. The big mosquitoes are not wild, but tame.

Now we have an organised Sunday School at Sebetung. Many children come every Sunday. I believe they are the next generation to continue the Church there. If we teach them now, when they grow up, they will not depart from the truth. I am happy to see the children love the Lord, they are very keen to learn the stories from the Bible. My CEF training now is very useful."

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 10:1-8)

This chapter is totally occupied with one great subject, the formal reception of converted Gentiles to the Church, without having to pass through the intermediate state of becoming Jews. Peter, the apostle of the circumcision (i.e. Jews), preached the Gospel to a Roman army officer and his family at the latter's house which resulted in their salvation. But before a faithful Jew like Peter could enter Cornelius' (a Gentile's) house, God prepared both of them, one to announce the Gospel and the other to accept it.

A. CORNELIUS' VISION IN CAESAREA (vv.1-8).

1. CORNELIUS' DEVOTION AND COMPASSION (vv. 1,2). Cornelius is pictured to us in a most favourable light. "At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need, and prayed to God regularly" (vv. 1,2 NIV).

Socially, Cornelius was a member of an important and respectable profession in the Roman Empire. He was a centurion in the Roman army. "A centurion was normally in command of a hundred men; his responsibilities corresponded to those of a modern army captain, his status was that of a non-commissioned officer. Centurions were the backbone of the Roman army" (F. F. Bruce). They were good leaders, and men of character. Besides, Cornelius enjoyed good reputation. He was highly regarded both by his subordinates and the Jewish people. Indeed his servants described him as "a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people" (v. 22a).

Religiously, Cornelius was a man of devotion. His piety was evidenced by his prayer life. Luke tells us that he "prayed to God regularly." Indeed his whole family was so influenced by his godliness that they "were devout and God-fearing" too. Cornelius was also a man of compassion. "... he gave generously to those in need." His faith was shown by his works (cf. James 2:18).

Cornelius with all his virtues was not yet a saved man. He also needed Christ. Only He can save. "Just as Jesus said, 'Ye must be born anew' not to a man vile and contemptible and notorious in vulgar sin; but to Nicodemus, the highest product of Judaism, the man who, sincere and true and devout and enquiring, was seeking the teaching of every messenger from heaven; so also here, the first Gentile admitted into the recognized fellowship of the Christian Church was a Gentile who had come as far as he could, apart from the evangel" (Morgan).

2. THE ANGEL'S COMMENDATION AND INSTRUCTION (vv. 3-8). It was to this man Cornelius that an angel of God appeared in a vision. He was praying, when the angel called him. He replied with characteristic reverence: "What is it, Lord?" The angel answered with a commendation: "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a remembrance before God" (v. 4); and an instruction: "Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea" (v.5).

The fact that should amaze us is that the angel did not preach the Gospel to Cornelius and his household. He did not because he was not authorized to do so. God, in His grace and condescension has commissioned human beings, i.e. us, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All the angel could do for Cornelius was to instruct him to invite the messenger so that he could hear the message and be saved (cf. 11:14). The messenger was to be the apostle Peter. Although it is true that the word "angel" means a messenger, it appears that angels may carry any other message except the Gospel message. Hence the warning by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians in chapter one, verses eight and nine.

When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius, with characteristic military promptness" called two of his servants and one of his military aides who was a devout man. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa" (vv.7,8).

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.30 pm Wedding Rehearsal.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Mtg.
WED 3.30 pm Pastors Meeting at Calvary.
SAT 3.30 pm YF. 4 pm YAF Meeting.
4.00 pm Chiang - Cheng Wedding.
Lord's Day 10 am Mr. Norman Martin.
4 pm Rev. Tai Po-fu (Farewell).

Last Week's Offering: \$879.90.
Gospel Boat: \$100+\$100+\$103.70 (Chinese Ser)
+\$30 (Dohar).

Wedding Bells! 1) The holy matrimony between: Billy Chiang Hock Loo & Ruth Cheng Fong Leng will be solemnised Sat. May 20, 4 p.m., Rev. Peter Hsieh officiating. 2) Check Ai Ming & Lim Poh Tin of New Bridge Rd Chapel, Mon. May 22 11 a.m. Elder Richard Chia officiating. 3) Kiew Thai Sing and Anne Tay of Sembawang, Sat. May 27, 2 p.m. Rev. Philip Heng officiating.

The Hwa Chong YFC will camp in May 29 - 31, through Bro. Tan Lay Hean.
New Address Mrs. Quek Hon Yan, 58 Watten Dr, (11).

Do You Have Colour Slides of any phase of our Church life from 1950 to 1978? Please send them to the pastor who is composing a 240-slide series for our 28th Anniversary. Many thanks to Sharon Church for gift of 2 big tables.

A CHRISTIAN HOME

O give us homes built firm upon the Saviour,
Where Christ is Head and Counsellor and Guide;
Where ev'ry child is taught His love and favor
And gives his heart to Christ, the crucified;
How sweet to know that tho his footsteps waver
His faithful Lord is walking by his side!

O give us home with godly fathers, mothers,
Who always place their hope and trust in Him;
Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers,
Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim;
A home where each finds joy in serving others,
And love still shines, tho days be dark and grim.

O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master,
The Bible read, the precious hymns still sung;
Where pray'r comes first in peace or in disaster,
And praise is naturla speech to ev'ry tongue;
Where mountains move before a faith that's
vaster,

And Christ sufficient is for old and young.

O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine forever!
We trust to Thee their problems, toil, and care;
Their bonds of love no enemy can sever
If Thou art always Lord and Master there:
Be Thou the center of our least endeavor
Be Thou our Guest, our hearts and homes to share.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead
Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 50617/513676.

21st May, 1978

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Reader,

"MAIN PROPOSES, GOD DISPOSES"

This saying is said to be ascribed to Plato. Some say it is derived from the Wisdom of Solomon according to Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps."

We have proposed from the beginning of this year to go camping at St. John's Island. As the Island was not available, we were obliged to change to Kelapa Sawit. But it was announced at the pulpit last week that Kelapa Sawit also fell through. This must have terribly disappointed the Camp Committee. Perhaps you have been planning something big too, only to find it folded up at the last minute. Don't be discouraged! God has spoiled it to give you something better. I dare say it is a blessing in disguise we're not going to Kelapa Sawit after all. For, though the new Church auditorium and ancillary buildings are all polished up, campers will find them only halls of majestic emptiness! The best sleeping accommodation would be no more than the new wooden pews. Not a stick of other furniture is on hand to help out.

Meanwhile, God has been preparing a wonderful site in Singapore for us. It's the Christian Conference Centre at Fairy Point, Changi. And the time factor is also ideal - June 5 - 10. I'm referring to the Calvary-Galilee Camp under the direction of Elder Joshua Lim. Incidentally I am scheduled one of the main speakers, so Life Church has been incorporated from the beginning. It seems so clear the Lord's will for Life Church is to go to Changi. There's the sea. There's first class accommodation. There's the greater company of other B-Pers. Above all, there's the enlightenment of our lazy minds from the adage, "Man Proposes, God Disposes." Elder Joshua Lim has further extended through we (he spoke first to Elder Edmund Tay) a very warm welcome to all Lifers, for he was and still is a Lifer!

Introducing Rev. Norman Meeten

Rev. Norman Meeten of Gt. Britain has been introduced to our pulpit by Bro. Kenneth Wong. Since my hour-long meeting with him, I've found him to be a man of God.

Rev. Meeten (sorry, he was called Martin last week through a slip of the typist) was once an ordained Anglican priest. But while he knew his theology, that knowledge lodged, as Calvin says, in the head, but never sank into the heart. Some years after, he experienced mightily the power of the new birth. Since then his ministry of the Word has taken on a new turn. He resigned from the Church of England, but God has now enlarged his ministry to take him to India and the Far East. We welcome him to our pulpit this Lord's Day.

Have You Considered To Serve The Lord For A Lifetime?

There is a short-term (14 months) service with Operation Mobilisation, and it seems an exciting one riding from port to port on the high seas - Logos and Doulos.

While we are all for such an unusual way of propagating the Gospel, we see no other way of carrying on with it to an effective end than through a lifetime ministry - like Paul's, a bondsman of Jesus Christ.

Dear Reader, whether you're young or old (life begins at 55!), here comes the pleading voice of the Lord Jesus to you, "Lovest thou me more than these? Feed my sheep!"

Perhaps, you have the desire but not the know-how. That's all right. There's a place to prepare and train you, as the Lord with the Twelve Apostles, that you may become effective ministers of God. The place is right before you - Far Eastern Bible College where students from eight nations are being disciplined today! Here the Word of God, which we hold inerrant and infallible, is reverently taught. The College reopens July 24, 1978, and the 10th Graduation with a dozen passing out will be held on July 30. Why not speak to me personally about it?

God The Almighty Has A Need?

But we do not want to disappoint those of you who hold some secular appointment, such as that of a teacher or nurse, businessman or clerk, who love the Lord. And you also want to see the Word of God preached to the lost. Well, you can help out with your substance. The blessing God has for you is the same, even as King David rewarded his soldiers equally, who either fought at the front or guarded the rear.

The stream of gifts that has been flowing steadily in for the Gospel Boat, for example, is a great encouragement to the Lord! This is seen in the Weekly record. The Lord bless you bountifully who have been so mindful of His needs! His needs? God the Almighty has a need? Yes. He purposely limits Himself so that you and I might become His partners in the task. Because He loves us, and He desires our participation. What mighty condescension!

Yours faithfully,

T.T.

Bible Study Half-Hour(Acts 10:9-16)

That Peter was still very Jewish in his thinking, this passage tells us. To Peter, Gentile homes were ritually unclean and therefore may not be entered. Cornelius, though a God-fearer, was still a Gentile. God had already prepared him to receive Peter. But Peter had to be prepared to drop his ingrained Jewish prejudices against Gentiles. In this regard, the Lord was very gentle and patient. The lesson taught to Peter was by means of a special revelation. There was a vision as well as a voice. The vision was clear and the voice was distinct. Peter could not possibly miss the message conveyed.

B. PETER'S VISION IN JOPPA (vv.9-16).

1. THE VISION AND THE VOICE.

About noon the following day as they were approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven open and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven (vv. 9-16, NIV).

a) GOD'S TIMING. Peter, as usual, was not one to waste his time. While his hosts were getting his meal ready he went up on the roof to pray. It was while Peter was hungry and praying and Cornelius' messengers were approaching that the vision came. God's timing was perfect. The messengers solved Peter's perplexity over the vision and voice.

b) GOD'S MESSAGE. What did God intend to convey by the vision and the voice? Peter had a strong Jewish prejudice against eating with Gentiles because the latter ate food which he considered to be ritually unclean. This prejudice must be removed. The message was simply this: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." The same Lord who once made the distinction between Jew and Gentile had obliterated it. Paul, gave the same message in his letter to the Galatians: "You are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ, for all you who were united with Christ in baptism have been clothed with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"(3:26-28).

Peter correctly applied the message to his relationship with Cornelius the Gentile. But how about the subject of clean and unclean animals? The S.D.A.(Seventh Day Adventists) seem to make this distinction still.

G.C.Morgan's remarks are worth quoting: "We are no longer to speak of animals as unclean, and put them into a place of degradation, if God has cleansed them. We may naturally enquire if the Divine commandments regarding certain foods have been abrogated. So far as the commandments against certain forms of animal life were ceremonial, they are swept away; but so far as they were laws of health, they abide. It should, however, be remembered that the laws of health in that land and in this may be different. The general health law of Hebraism is that of Christianity; that the body must be cared for as the property of God, and nothing be eaten or drunk which harms it, and makes it an unfit instrument of the Spirit. That tabulation of clean and unclean has now passed away forever; but the law of health abides. This is what astonished Peter. He had no right to call them unclean, for they were cleansed." T.W.C.

*Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON 8.00 am S.S. picnickers meet in Church.
11.00 am Chek-Lim Wedding, Elder Richard Chia officiating.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
SAT 2.00 pm Kiew-Tay Wedding, Rev.Heng officiating.
3.30 pm Leum-Chan Wedding, Rev.Heng officiating.
3.30 pm YF, J.F.
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Norman Meeten.
4 pm Rev. Stephen Seow of Indo.
5 pm Mr. Tan at Bible Church, Soo Chow.
7 pm Logos meeting in Church.
8 pm Presbytery meeting at FEBC Hall.

Last Week's Offerings \$653.06 + \$40 for BPM + \$50 for Dohar.

Gospel Boat: \$100 + \$100 in memory of Yong Loon Chong + \$100 + \$130 + \$150 + \$120(Dohar).

Every Sunday at 1.00 pm A study at Mr. Tan's apt. on The Fruit of the Spirit by J.W.Sanderson.

We extend our deepest condolence to Bro. Ng Han Lim and Bro. and Mrs. Ho Kum Tong on the death of their sister and sister-in-law Mrs. Doreen Chia Kheng Huay, 31 in a hotel fire in Sydney. Mrs. Doreen Chia, a Social Affairs Ministry officer, left S'pore on Mar. 14 for an 8-week course at the Australian Dept of Social Security from Mar. 28 to May 13. She died at 3.30 am, 15½ hours after she completed her course at noon on Saturday. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"(Job 1:21).
Wedding Bells! The holy matrimony between Jimmy Leum and Angela Chan will be solemnised Sat. May 27, 3.30 pm, Rev. Heng officiating.
Attend Kelapa Sawit Dedication Service of the new Church, Sat. June 3, 3 p.m. Motorists, get your car permit! Give a lift to the younger brethren and sisters. Rev. Tow will deliver the message. Buffet dinner and meeting old friends!

New Address: Misses Wong Poh Peng & Poh Ying, 2560J Blk 426, Ang Mo Kio Ave. 3, (20).

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

Kelapa Sawit's Red Letter Day!



It is with hearts overflowing with praise that our brothers and sisters of Kelapa Sawit invite us to the Dedication of their new Church, parsonage and kindergarten, Saturday June 3rd, 1978, 3.00pm. And why not? Their new edifice, built at a very moderate cost of \$120,000, is fully completed and furnished. Their members request us to join them in thanksgiving and praise. They hope 200 from Singapore will go. They have prepared a mountain of food to welcome us.

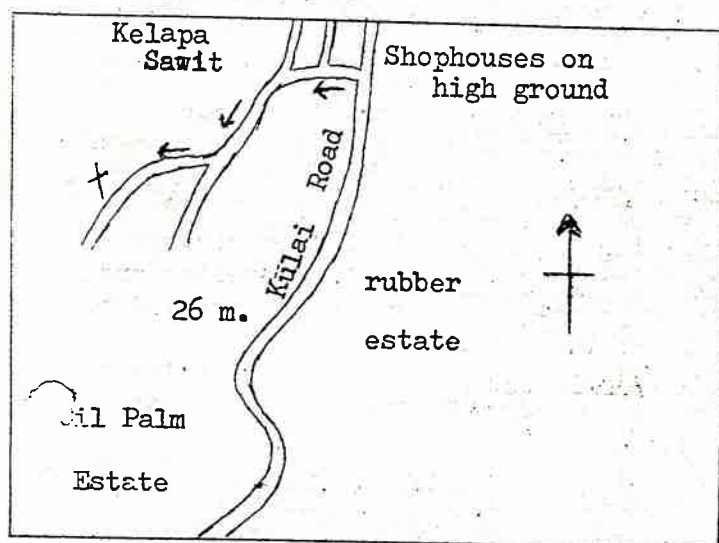
I am duty bound to report to you this latest about Kelapa Sawit. Many of you, Lifers especially, have contributed liberally through the years to make the raising of this new Church (tallest in Kelapa Sawit) a success. You will want to see it for yourself, that your money has been put to concrete use.

With the completion of this new church, their kindergarten enrolment has spurt up to near the three-figure mark. Henceforth we can be assured of a steady stream of young people coming under the Gospel sound and teaching of the Church. Henceforth we can expect many greater things to happen, such as the holding of evangelistic campaigns and conferences.

Our Church has voted for this happy occasion a congratulatory gift of \$500. This sum, however, I've used to purchase a \$425 Yamaha reed organ. This is because our original idea of presenting the black Pearl River piano has not worked. Pearl River being China-made is not allowed entry into Malaysia.

Those of you interested in going to Kelapa Sawit but have no accommodation should get a lift from motorists. Failing which, please phone me at 50617. Be sure your passport is still valid! Be sure, motorists, to get your car permit.

Here's a sketch map to show the entrance to Kelapa Sawit village leading to the new church.



Our Chinese Sunday School

Do you know that we are running a Chinese Sunday School same time as the English under the auspices of Life Church Chinese Service? It is held at the parsonage under the superintendence of Mrs. Ivy Tow. Our teachers are three Bible College students - Miss Pauline Wong and Kim Kah Teck of FEBC and David Wong of Chin Lien Bible Seminary. Miss Yongke Harlim of Indonesia also comes and help.

Truly it is the Lord who has started this Chinese Sunday School as its steady growth testifies. Commencing with half a dozen, it has grown to 15 - 20 in three months. Half of these are purely Chinese-speaking. They have been channelled by Operation Bring Them In. These new scholars, who have never

enjoyed Sunday School, are most enthusiastic. Our Chinese Sunday School is Life Church's latest outreach!

Conferences International at Gilstead Road

The Life Church - FEBC Complex at Gilstead Road, is a centre for International Conferences. June will see the holding of the OM Conference preparing young people to join the main body in Europe. The date is June 12 - 18. Young people from several countries - Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Australia, etc. will be billeted on the Church balcony and certain FEK classrooms, etc. If you have surplus beds and mattresses, household and kitchen articles these will be gratefully received.

From June 15 - 24 will be held the Child Evangelism Conference for the Pacific Region. Rev. and Mrs. Jim Turner are the organisers. Delegates (26 of them) to CEF will be housed in the FEBC dorms. - T.T.

Bible Study Half-Hour (Acts 10:17-23a)

2. THE MEN AND THE MESSAGE.

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. They called out asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs.

Do not hesitate to go with them for I have sent them."

Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests (vv. 17-23a, NIV).

a) THE HEAVENLY MESSAGE. The identity of the voice which commanded Peter to "Get, up... Kill and eat" was not disclosed. We only know that it was spoken from heaven as Peter reported (11:9). But this time, Luke tells us that it was the Spirit who informed Peter of the messengers' arrival, and directed him to go downstairs and accompany them on their return journey. The Spirit assured Peter that it was He who had sent them.

b) THE EARTHLY MESSENGERS. Peter promptly obeyed the Spirit's instructions. Upon meeting Cornelius' messengers, Peter asked the reason of their visit. In their reply they showed the high esteem Cornelius enjoyed among them as well as the Jews. Peter must be favourably inclined towards Cornelius after hearing this.

By now the meal which Peter's hosts were preparing was ready. Peter invited them into his house, doubtless to share his meal and spend the night. He practised Christian hospitality. When he taught this virtue later in his letter: "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Pet. 4:9), his words must have carried a good deal of weight. He taught by precept and example. "An ounce of example is worth a pound of advice."

If there is anything profound this passage teaches, it teaches that God is sovereign over men. He directs events and acts in the minds and hearts of men.

Cornelius and Peter were thirty-six miles apart. They must be brought together. God brought them together by natural and supernatural agencies. He used an angel, a vision, a voice and men to bring about the all-important meeting between the Gentile and the Jew. God timed the events in such a way that Cornelius should receive God's instruction before Peter received his. Also, Peter became perplexed about his vision only when Cornelius' servants arrived at Simon's house. In other words, God had his solution ready for Peter's perplexity. His timing was perfect. He always meets our needs at the right time. With God, there is no such a thing as chance or accident. Concerning our lives, the Apostle Paul wrote: "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will" (Eph. 1:11, NIV). Hallelujah! - TWC

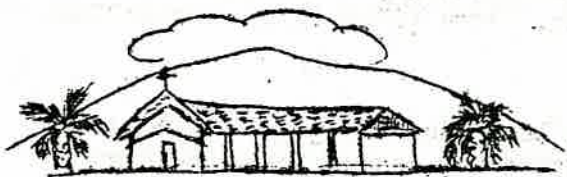
LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON - WED Hwa Chong Camp-in.
MON 8.00 pm Wedding Rehearsal.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
FRI 8.00 pm SMCCC Meeting.
SAT 3.00 pm Kelapa Sawit Dedication
Rev. Tow preaching.
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow (Lord's Supper).
4 pm Mr. Teo Siau Hua.
This Sunday, 5 pm Mr. Tan at Bible Church,
Soo Chow.
This Sunday, 6.15 pm Mr. Tan leaves Life
Church for Tampoi. Any coming?
Last Week's offerings \$700.93 + \$50 for
Galilee B-F + \$100 for Kelapa Sawit.
Wedding Bells! The holy matrimony between
1) Philip Yeo and Tay Siew Mui will be
solemnised Sat. June 3, 6 pm, Rev. Tan Kai
Oon officiating; 2) Denis Kong and Judy
Heng, Sat. June 10, 10 am, Rev. Tow
officiating.
Calvary - Galilee Camp at Christian Con-
ference Centre, Changi, will be held Mon
June 5 to Sat, 10. Rev. Tow will be the
main speaker. Any more Lifers coming?
In view of the Camp and Mr. Tan being away
speaking at the Bible Church Camp, Pangkor
Island June 4-10 and at TCF Fraser's Hill
June 11-17, it is suggested June's Session
Meeting be postponed. Prayer Meeting on
Tuesday night, June 6 to be in charge of
Elder Edmund Tay.
Elder and Mrs. Seow are on a five-week
vacation to Canada to attend Lina's
Graduation.

Mrs. Jeanette Packer, Australia! Your
letter by hand of Lech received with thanks.
Congratulations to Jennie Tay Swee Keong
of 681-K Blk 221, Lor. 8, Toa Payoh, 12 on
your passing the Bachelor of Accountancy.
Two ceramic elephants, one brick-yellow and
the other glaze-brown have been presented to
our Galilee Sea garden.
Ladies Fellowship, help! to sew curtains for
FEBC dorms, now freshly renovated! Please
see Mrs. Tow.
With Prompt and Efficient Service Mr. Stephen
Kuan of Christian Life Book Centre will order
any book from any corner in the world for
you! Phone 2541223.
Guests at Life-FEBC Hostel Mr. Enoch
Anthony of Gospel Recordings, India; Janice
and friend, Christian medical students from
New Zealand.
New Address Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kuan Kong
Weng, 44U Blk 338, Clementi Ave 2, (5), Tel:
7761470.
Motorists! The side road leading out to
Chancery Lane is well paved and reopened for
your use!
"Shiokari Pass," a Christian novel (2
million copies sold in Japan) is available
from Miss Kimiko for borrowing. The Film
(in English) will be shown at FEBC Hall
Aug. 4. Watch for further announcement!
A First Printed Prospectus of FEBC 1978-80
will be out on day of 10th Graduation Sun.
July 30, 1978. FEBC alumni, be sure to
get your copy!
Lim Florist 376471/2353292.

THE LORD OUR INHERITANCE

(Message delivered by Rev. Timothy Tow at the Dedication of Kelapa Sawit Church, June 3, 1978)



Today is Kelapa Sawit's red letter day. This is a day of rejoicing not only to Kelapa Sawit, but also to the whole Church, to the many from Singapore and elsewhere gathered here who have given to advance God's Kingdom in this growing district of South Johore. It is a day of especial rejoicing to me, in that the Lord has given me a trust from the beginning. It is a day when our honorary architect Miss Tay Siew Mui can

hear the Lord's commendation as she sees her drawings on paper take concrete shape.

The desire to build this House of God was felt more than a decade ago. The steps taken since then have been long and tedious, sometimes running into blind alleys. But praise be to God, we have been confident that He who had begun a good work in us would perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6).

For our mutual edification today, the Lord has given me three verses from Psalm 16:5-7. Verse 5 reads:

"The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot."

May this testimony of King David be that of Kelapa Sawit, and of every Christian in this congregation.

When David says that the Lord is the portion of his inheritance, he is claiming the priestly blessing apportioned to the tribe of Levi and Aaron, to whom the Lord spoke thus, "Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land; neither shalt thou have any part among them. I am thy part and thy inheritance among the children of Israel" (Num. 18:20). Though David was king and had ruled over all Israel and a host of satellite nations, he desired rather the priestly portion, the spiritual over the physical kingdom. He expressed this holy desire by offering to build God a House. The Lord was deeply touched by such devotion. As the king was desirous of building God a house, so did the Lord reciprocate by building him an everlasting one, the House of David.

Many of you gathered here today have prayed and given towards the building of this House. Surely He has reciprocally blessed you by building up your house, even a happy home, loving wife, filial children, health that wealth cannot buy. One example of God's blessing on his faithful servants is the new house He has lately given to Deacon and Mrs. John Ling. Yes, while Deacon Ling was striving to build Kelapa Sawit Church, God prospered his hand also to build his own. No more does he live under a zinc roof and behind flimsy wooden partitions, but in the cool-sheltered comfort of solid tile and brick. Another wonderful example of God's blessing upon those who diligently seek Him is Deacon Chou. From the day the foundations of this building were laid, Deacon Chou has volunteered to be its jaga. By serving God day and night in this compound, he has been cured automatically of a chronic sickness. Now he can snore soundly like a real Sikh watchman and polish off three bowls of rice at one sitting! Literally he can also say with David, "The Lord is the portion of my cup." And those whom God has blessed, He keeps on blessing, without fail. So everyone of His children can say with David, "Thou maintainest my lot." Not so with earthly possessions acquired merely by human prowess and effort. Just look what happens at the share market. Today you may make a thousand. Tomorrow, lose ten thousand! But the Lord's portion remains secure with us forever, for "Thou maintainest my lot."

II

Secondly, David talks in the next verse of the lines that "are fallen unto me in pleasant places. Yea, I have a goodly heritage." David here is referring to the measuring lines or tapes builders use to mark out piece of a land. Perhaps he is thinking of Mount Zion in Jerusalem where his palace was built.

As we ascended Kelapa Sawit village to this hilltop site this afternoon, I wonder if you were impressed by the commanding position of this new Church? It is the highest point of the village and right behind us are the blue Pulai mountains climbing up the clouds. A quarter-century ago, when this village was hacked out of the wild country around and barb-wired for a garrison against Communist terrorists, the authorities had reserved this very piece of land for a Church. I don't think they were particularly favourable to Christianity, but I'm sure the Lord had a hand in their town-planning. The Lord reserves always the best for His children.

Whether it be the delineation of such an ideal location for the House of God or determining our times and fortunes, we know God has mapped out everything that transpires in our life for our good. Thus David testifies further in Ps. 37:23-25, "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord: and he delights in his ways. Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young and now I am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken and his seed begging bread." But David also warns the hypocrites of the Church, "For yet a little while and the wicked

shall not be: yea thou shalt diligently consider his place and it shall not be" (Ps.37:10). A modern translation puts it thus, "Soon the wicked will disappear; you may look for them, but you won't find them." Furthermore he instructs those who ascend into the hill of the Lord and stand in his holy place to have clean hands and pure hearts (Ps. 24:4). So we cannot take God's blessing for granted. Unless this Church be preserved a holy place of worship, the Lord will not bless us. May I exhort members of Kelapa Sawit like Jacob his children be sure to put away the strange gods, and be clean. Yes, Wash away all the evil practices of the heathen around you: Idols, fornication, Toto, Four Digits, pai kow, mahjong, cheating, feuds, quarrels, drinking, smoking, Samsu (illicit wine distilling) and every hidden thing of darkness.

III

Finally, in vs. 7 David declares, "I will bless the Lord who hath given me counsel." "My reins also instruct me in the night seasons." While David has chosen that good part like Mary, which shall not be taken away from her (Luke 10:42), he testifies such wisdom has come not from himself but from God - "the Lord who hath given me counsel." How did you decide to believe in Christ? Not by your intelligence or goodness. We have come "to serve the living and true God" (I Thess. 1:9) because He has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light. Jesus says, "No man can come to me except the Father which has sent me draw him" (Jn. 6:44). And as we are drawn together here from far and near by His Spirit, let us realise that the purpose of our coming is "to bless the Lord." We are come, I hope, not on a picnic wherein our hosts have prepared a sumptuous meal, but because we are thrilled by the completion of God's House and we are come for a witness to the heathen. We are come to praise the Name of the Lord. This should always be the motivation of whatever we do - to praise the Name of the Lord. The Shorter Catechism has taught us, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." That precisely is David's testimony as he declares, "I will bless the Lord who hath given me counsel" and he goes on to say that this will still be his innermost thought in the seasons of the night. Yes, in the bright sunshine of day or the deepest darkness of night, in whatever vicissitude of life Kelapa Sawit might go through, let us bless the Lord who hath given us counsel. And may the voices of praise to our God now and always draw many in this village and beyond to come to our Saviour Jesus Christ. That these may also say as David, "The Lord is our inheritance."

(Owing to the lack of space, the Bible Study Half-Hour will resume next week).

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENT

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting (Elder Khoo).
SAT 10.00 am Kong - Heng Wedding.
3.30 pm YF, JF.
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow.
3 pm Rev. Tow at Kelapa Sawit.
4 pm Mr. Lin Tah Mon.
7 pm Rev. Tow at Tampoi.

Last Week's Offerings \$1,134.31 + \$200 + \$300 for FEBC + \$100 for Galilee.
Gospel Boat \$150 from Grace BP Church.
Congratulations to Bro. & Mrs. Eio Eng Hua on the gift of a son Tze Liang, June 1, '78.
The Paaues are due back in Singapore by CAL Sunday June 11. They will put up at 64 Andrew Rd. till June 30. Phone 552829.
Rev. Paaue is scheduled to speak at Sharon B-P Church, June 18, 11.45 a.m., Life Church June 25.

The Pastor and Family will be ministering at the Calvary-Galilee Camp, Singapore Christian Conference Centre, Changi, June 5-9. To contact them, ring 445-0054, best at tea time 10.15 am and 3.30 pm.

Gifts to Kelapa Sawit Dedication thru Rev. Tow's Hand. Bethany \$50; Elder Heng Yow Tong \$50; Kulai Besar \$50; Presbytery \$500; Tekong \$20.

Miss Thelma Alfsen, Gereja Angerah, Jl. P. Diponegoro 59, Tulungagung, East Java, Indonesia.

Congratulations to Bro. Michael Chung, FEBCer now pastoring Hebron B-P Church on his marriage to Miss Koh Yin Peng at Zion Church June 3, 1978, officiated by Rev. Quek Swee Hwa.

Rev. & Mrs. Quek Kiok Chiang will be away from Singapore, June 8 - Sept. 6. En route

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in-a my heart.

Ch. In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord I want to be a Christian
in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving
in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy
in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy
in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in-a my heart.

to USA to assist at the ICCO office, the Queks will minister at Rangoon to certain Christian groups. Pray for journey mercies. Far Eastern Kindergarten has still a few vacancies for 1979. Please see Mrs. Mary Lange early.

The B-P Banner is out today! Be sure to read "Our Precious Heritage" to know why we are called B-Presbyterians!

* GOSPEL BROADCAST *
* Hear Rev. Patrick Tan *
* Radio Singapore *
* Sunday 18 June 1978 *
* 6.05 pm and 10.00 pm. *

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore. Tel: 513676/50617.

BIBLE STUDY HALF - HOUR (ACTS 10:23b - 29)

3. PETER AT CORNELIUS' HOUSE (I).

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of brothers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" (vv. 23b-29, NIV).

a) CORNELIUS' EXPECTATION (vv. 23b-26). If ever there was an exemplary father, leader and soldier worthy of our admiration, surely Cornelius was one. His life was characterized by a sincerity that was totally transparent. Jesus' complimentary remark of Nathaniel may well be given to him, a true worshipper of God "... in whom is no guile" (John 1:47b).

i) CORNELIUS' PREPARATION. It appears that Cornelius had calculated the time of Peter's arrival. He had expectation of Peter coming. He showed his expectation by his preparation all in advance when he extended his invitation to his relatives and close friends to hear God's message from His messenger's mouth (cf. v. 33b). He was a man who wielded considerable influence over his relatives and friends. At his bidding, they all came.

ii) CORNELIUS' VENERATION. So highly did Cornelius regard God's servant that upon Peter's entering the house, he "fell at his feet in reverence." The KJV (King James Version) translates the same verse "... and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him" (v. 25b). Although the word prosekunesen can and does mean worship (cf. Matt. 8:2; Luke 5:8), in this particular instance, the NIV has correctly rendered it "fell at his feet in reverence." Thus the word prosekunesen is used of an act of reverence whether paid to the Creator or a creature (of either angelic or human nature). "Cornelius was not an idolator and would not have honoured Peter as a god" (Furneaur). In any case, Peter, probably never had such reverence paid to him before; was embarrassed by it and promptly refused such obeisance. Helping his host to rise, he said: "Stand up, I am only a man myself." In that word in which he refused the obeisance, he recognized the manhood of Cornelius. How unlike the Pope, Peter was.

b) PETER'S EXPLANATION (vv. 27-29). Peter must have been surprised to see "a large gathering of people" expecting him in Cornelius house. He was surprised at the size and nature of the company of Cornelius' house. The company was great as well as Gentile. Peter then proceeded to explain his unusual behaviour. It was unusual for Jews to enter a Gentile home because it was unlawful to do so. A commentator remarks: "... of all forms of intercourse with Gentiles, to accept their hospitality and sit at table with them was the most intolerable" (F.F.Bruce). Why? "It was largely because of their carelessness in food matters that Gentiles was ritually unsafe people for a pious Jew to meet socially" (F.F.Bruce).

But Peter had learnt his lesson on the house top of Simon's house. He accompanied Cornelius' messengers without delay nor demur. Through the vision of the "unclean" creatures and the heavenly voice, God has shown Peter that he should no longer call any man impure or unclean. Convinced of God's message, he acted on it. Let us courageously act on what we are convinced to be God's will. T.W.C.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Reader,

SINGAPORE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

Situated on Fairy Point Hill, Changi, overlooking the Straits of Johore, is the former RAF Officers Mess and Quarters, while spreading on the slopes of the hill are seven dormitory buildings. These give comfortable accommodation to 250 campers. The Main Building houses a Conference Hall seating 200 and a Dining Hall for the same number. This former RAF establishment has now been leased by a Christian organisation known as Singapore Christian Conference Center.

CALVARY - GALILEE CAMP

Under the leadership of Elder Joshua Lim, a combined Calvary-Galilee Camp, numbering 158, has been held here, June 5-10. This number is made up of 115 Calvarians, 30 odd Galileans and 7 Lifers (my family and the 3 children of Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Heng).

The reason why we were here is that I was invited the chief speaker. Rev. & Mrs. Jim Turner of Child Evangelism were also here for three days, during which they gave a

S.S. Teachers Seminar. Other speakers were Rev. Philip Heng, Lawyer Francis Lee and Rev. John Ting. A Film Night with Ken Anderson and John Peterson (World Apart) added more colour to this delightful camp.

Afternoons were given to recreation: Swimming, soccer, squash, scrabble and drawing competition.

Cost: \$45 for adults; \$30 for children.

Purpose of Christian Camping

The purpose of Christian Camping is to provide, at least annually, an organised vacation to our members at a reasonable cost, instead of your going on a trip to Malaysia or elsewhere at a much higher price.

But such a vacation has this great difference from a secular one - the enrichment of your spiritual life with the Word of God. For this Camp, the Messages were taken from the Book of Philippians. The Theme: "To live is Christ." And why not? Since, as the Chinese saying goes, "To live is a problem," therefore, when Christ is introduced as our Saviour and Lord, and furthermore as the Goal of our life, our chaotic living can be changed and lifted to Paul's victorious plane. Christians do not merely exist. They live an exuberant life in Christ and for Christ.

Whither Life Church Family Camp?

As for our Church, we had planned one for June, but it has fallen through. One was planned for end of the year to be held at Mersing, as last year. From experience gained at the Calvary-Galilee Camp, may I suggest that we hold it in Singapore to allow twice the number acceptable by Mersing. We want as many of our members as possible to benefit. If held in Singapore 120 can come, and at a cheaper price too.

Where shall we camp? Not at Changi, as it is already booked. Rather at the new Calvary-Pandan Youth Centre. The B-P 28th Anniversary is slated to be convened there Oct 29, 1978. So the premises, which will be equipped a first class hostel, should be ready by early December. Let us pray that if it is the Lord's will, a 120 - member Lifers camp be held at Pandan. Incidentally, opposite the Youth Centre is a new swimming pool! And within sight are the Japanese and Chinese Gardens! - T.T.

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON 8.00 am OM Conference begins.

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting (Rev. Tow).

SAT 3.30 pm YF, JF.

Lord's Day 10.00 am Mr. Allen George, CEF.

11.45 am Rev. Paauwe at Sharon.

4.00 pm Rev. Tow.

Last Week's Offerings: \$991.00 + \$100
thanksgiving + \$200 + \$77.50 from Chinese
Service for Gospel Boat.

Life Church Y.F. is showing a film
"Journey to the Sky" tonight 7.30 pm at
FEBC Hall.

The Paaupes are scheduled to arrive this
Sunday night 10.30 p.m., flight C1819 from
Taipei.

Zion B-P Church invites two representatives
from Life Church to her 21st Anniversary
Thanksgiving to be held Sat. June 17 at the
Church premises. Thanksgiving Service
6.00 pm. Rev. Charlie Tan preaching. 7.00 pm
Dinner 8.30 pm. Film on John Bunyan's
"Pilgrim's Progress." An offering will be
taken for Emmanuel B-P Church.

Hear Dr. Patrick Tan over Radio Singapore
Sun. June 18, 6.05 and 10 p.m.

Congratulations to Bro. and Mrs. Tan Toh
Kern on the gift of a son, Stephen Tan
Thong Soon, May 11, 1978. The Tans are now
at 65 Florence Road, 19.

We extend a cordial welcome to the OM
Conference held at Life Church and FEK,
June 12-18. Overseas recruits are
"billeted" on the balcony and FEK classrooms.

We extend a cordial welcome to the CEF
Conference which is held at FEBC Hall and
Hostels. The Library is reserved for their
daily sessions. 27 are in attendance.

Lim Florist 376471/2353292.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Rd.
Singapore 11, Tel: 513676/50617.

OH, TO BE LIKE THEE!

Oh, to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer,
Pure as Thou art;
Come in Thy sweetness,
Come in Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image
Deep in my heart.

200 Revival Choruses No 52

The Premiere Showing by AVL Evangelism of
"SHIOKARI PASS" from the Japanese Christian
bestseller is confirmed for Aug. 4, 7.30 pm
at FEBC Hall.

Singapore Christian Conference may be
reached through Changi P. O. Box 14 or
phone 4450054.

Kim Ah-Sung, FEBCer, is now located at
13 Tong 1 Ban, 281-48 Gal hyun dong,
Sur dae mun gu, Seoul, Korea.

Presbytery Statement on the Singapore
Billy Graham Crusade. "A number of our
ministers and elders have been invited to
be members of the General Advisory Council
of the forthcoming Singapore Billy Graham
Crusade. This matter was referred to our
Presbytery and it was decided that the
Bible-Presbyterian Church of Singapore and
Malaysia is unable to support that Crusade
as a church because of our stand on Bibli-
cal Separation."

Offerings received at Kelapa Sawit
Dedication Service totalled \$4,810.00.
The buffet dinner cost \$1,875.20.
Tax on Yamaha organ offered \$ 150.00
by Life Church.

The set of books ordered by Dr. Tow Siang
Hwa through Stephen Kuan is available for
distribution to our pastors. Please get yours
at Life Church office.

18th June, 1978

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 10:30-33)

3. PETER AT CORNELIUS' HOUSE (II).

Cornelius answered: "Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, "Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea." So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

c) CORNELIUS' RECOLLECTION OF THE ANGELIC VISITOR. Four days have already passed by since Cornelius was visited by a heavenly messenger. It was an angel of God (v.3) who appeared to Cornelius as "a man in shining clothes" (v.30). Very often in the Bible angels appear as men in shining clothes (cf. Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10). The angel came to inform him that God had heard his prayers and remembered his gifts to the poor. Who says God doesn't hear prayers? He even takes note of our kind deeds. But prayers and generosity do not and cannot merit salvation otherwise salvation can be earned. Salvation is by grace. Just as a remnant of Israel was chosen by grace, so Cornelius was among a remnant chosen by grace. "And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace" (Rom. 11:5,6). Salvation is also a gift. Paul told the Ephesian Christians: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast" (2:8,9). We are no different. Neither was Cornelius. We have been chosen for "salvation by grace through faith."

The angel not only informed Cornelius of what God thought of his prayers and generosity, he also instructed Cornelius to invite Peter over in order to hear the message of salvation. Verse 33 speaks well for Cornelius. It speaks of his promptness, thankfulness and God-consciousness.

"It was not before Peter ... that they considered themselves now assembled, but before his Master; it was not Peter's own views and opinions that they waited and desired to hear, but his inspired instructions and communications, whatever they might prove to be, even all the things enjoined upon him, or entrusted to him, as a messenger from God. His claim to be such does not seem to have been questioned by Cornelius for a moment, because amply attested by the angelic message to himself. Both these divine communications carried with them their own evidence, excluding all doubt as to their infallible authority, on the part of those to whom they were addressed" (J.A. Alexander).
-----T.W.C.

Letter From Rev. & Mrs. Burton Toms, (Box 148, Apollo, Pa 15613) To Life Church And FEBC.

"With the chill of winter still with us, as all through the long winter, our hearts are warmed by your good "Weekly", giving us information for praise and prayer. We praise God for all the vision and energy and blessed out-reach you all make, Southward as well as East and North. We rejoice in Patrick Tan's advance, and now Wai Choon, - along with your faithful elders and people.

God has made possible our sharing a bit, by the enclosed check, which we want to go equally for the church and FEBC. Inflation is raising costs here so that the US dollar is fast being "deflated". May it not be so with you in Singapore, until our Lord says, - of your missions work especially - "It is enough". We thank our "Lord of the harvest" for your true missionary outreach, especially through the present students of the college.

We give especial thanks to you for the shipment of those excellent books (yours, of Calvin, and Jason Linn, and Lim Puay Hian) - which have been an inspiration to me, through the winter, and now can be to a brother minister in eastern New York state.

God has given us a small, faithful group of believers, of various old church background, who faithfully support - not only us (living in the old Baptist building they are buying), but also agencies of our ICCF fellowship. We praise God for their love of the Bible Word, while they admit ignorance of much of it, for ability in personal work with souls. The ground-work is being laid, and our young people maturing rapidly, while we go forth "weeping" at heart, to find so much apostasy and worldly (TV) hardness in this area! Twelve old line "churches" are within a few blocks of us in this town, and Romanism is strong. It is a true mission field, in this valley, with people of 6 ethnic origins. We see our utter dependence on our Lord's Spirit, over all! I often read in prayer-meeting your poem, "Christian, seek not yet repose ..." Our intercessions are indeed for Ed and Leahia with the language problem and threat at the North!

We were sorry not to get in touch with your niece, Betty, when in the US last year! We had no address or phone number, even of your folks in Ohio! Betty just wrote of the

time and areas. The Lord willing, it will be different another time; when you come too! - not just for the ICCC congress.

Our love and greetings, for you and Ivy, and your dear children."

JESUS IS MY HONOURED FRIEND,

He knows me through and through.
His love is sure and full of grace,
Makes me love Him anew.
When I leave Him, I cannot stand,
O let me turn to Him!
I must seek Him now and always,
He is my Friend.

When I feel weak and weary,
Sunk in the depths of woe,
He lifts me up to run the Race
Through Danger's gate and toll.
He keeps me straight with rod and staff:
Love descended from Heaven.
With Him my Guide, what more to ask?
He is my Friend.

I love Him and He loves me.
He is my bosom Friend.
He shares my joys and my sorrows,
And helps me to contend.
He teaches me to cling to good,
But flee from lust and sin,
Like Him in all-holy living.
He is my Friend.

My Lord's Command I'll obey.
How dare I fall behind?
To save the sheep awandering,
Redeem a lost mankind.
The love of Christ they've never heard,
His blood that's shed for sin.
My hand in his, I must advance!
He is my Friend. - Jason Linn

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.30 pm CEF Conference in Church.

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.

THURS 7.30 pm OM Conference in Church.

SAT 3.30 pm YF: 4.00 pm JF.

Lord's Day 9.00 am The Paaupes at S.S.

10.00 am Rev. Edward Paauwe.

4.00 pm Rev. Edward Paauwe
(Chinese Service).

7.30 pm OM Farewell Service
(Rev. Tow).

Last Week's Offerings: \$634.49 + \$50 +
\$100 from member of Chinese Service to
Gospel Boat.

We Extend A Cordial Welcome to the Child
Evangelism Conference held at Gilstead Rd.,
June 15-24. 27 delegates are gathered here
from Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, N.
Zealand, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Thailand,
Sri Lanka, India, USA. Mr. Allen George
our speaker this morning is Vice-president
of CEF International.

Another Idol Destroyed! This time it is a
shrine to the Chinese god of wealth removed
from SAF Seletar Base and burnt at our
rubbish heap at the instance of Lt. Wong
Leong Jeam, assisted by Rev. Tow.

Read The Far Eastern Beacon on the Singapore
Billy Graham Crusade.

Repairs is now a daily work carried out on
our buildings, after 16 years! At present,
the steel window frames on the Bell Tower

I HAVE LEFT THE WORLD BEHIND ME: Calvin Chao

In His steps, bearing my cross.
All the glitters and the pleasures
Now to me are but a loss.
Nor has Jesus failed me, wronged me,
What is sweeter than His love?
Trembling soul, what fear arrests thee,
When thy hands are on the plough?

The past is gone, there's a morrow,
All sufficient is His grace.
He raised me from Death Vale's sorrow,
Saved my life for better days.
Had the Lord my spirit taken,
Death in Christ were not in vain.
Or there be widow and orphans,
He will provide to the end.

The way 'fore me's strewn with thistles,
While dark clouds round me enfold.
The Way of the Cross more bristles,
With heel lifted 'gainst the Lord.
Who but Christ can stay the weeping?
Seekest thou the praise of men?
Our Lord hoped from this world nothing,
He walked lonesome to the end.

The sheep are lost in their wanderings,
Who'll find them with compassion?
Soul's are drowned in tens of thousands,
And God's House - desolation.
O Lord, cleanse me, try me, use me.
For a brighter day beyond.
Help me with all my strength serve Thee,
Till we all stand 'fore Thy throne.

are being scraped and painted with anti-
rust. Repairs is on for several pews.
Repairs is now on everywhere!

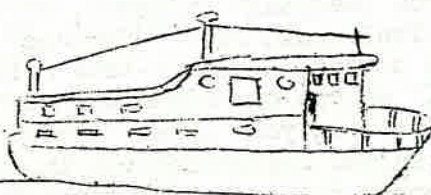
DJUNAIDI LETTER EXPRESS ON THE GOSPEL BOAT

The work on the hull is completed, and
now we are fixing the engine. But we have
to pay the workmen and contractors!

In respect of the Dedication of the Gospel
Boat, we estimate that July 3rd would be a
suitable day, as the "Enggano" should sail
into Pemangkat about July 2. Please inform
us of your coming.

Ed. Note. Pastor Tow and Rev. Andrew Bo
leave Mon. June 26 for Tanjung Pinang to
board the cargo boat "Enggano" to Pemangkat
(where the Boat is berthed). This trip
kills two birds as they will also minister
at Tg. Pinang. We will return by the
"Enggano" on the round trip.

That we have been put in trust with a
Gospel Boat (16x4.5 metres) with a 60 h.p.
engine, is a high honour from the Lord. Your
love gifts to launch the Boat are appreciated!
(Just received \$500!).



The "Kapuas Kourier" Our Gospel Boat.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

"Perceived That This Work Was Wrought Of Our God" (Nehemiah 6:16).

One evidence of God's approval on any Church work is the speed with which it is carried out. Such was the case with the rebuilding of the Wall of Jerusalem by Nehemiah. The project took only 52 days (Neh. 6:15). This so astounded the people that even the enemies of the Jews could not help but "perceive that this work was wrought of God."

In my 28 years of service with you, I have also been surprised by the speed whereby God's projects are accomplished. The completion of Kelapa Sawit Church and Kindergarten recently was the latest instance. And now the Gospel Boat. In barely seven months the Lord has effected through Rev. Djunaidi the building of a handsome, 20-ton double-decked 50-footer. This river boat can sail the open sea to Singapore!

How was it that Nehemiah could restore the Wall of Jerusalem in 52 days? "The people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6). What further evidence is there that God has been prospering our Gospel Boat Project? The people have a mind to give! Giving, giving, giving, as you can see it weekly, out of a spontaneous, cheerful heart. What a privilege it is to be labourers together with God (I Cor. 3:9). "And every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour" (I Cor. 3:8). "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (II Cor. 9:8).



To Pemangkat via Tanjung Pinang

According to schedule I am setting out Monday June 26 with Rev. Bo to the dedication of the Gospel Boat. We take a "local" first to Tanjung Pinang. Here is the Zion Presbyterian Church with which we have been linked since 1973. We shall hold Gospel meetings while waiting for the "Enggano." Perhaps in two days we shall board this cargo boat. After another two nights and a day on sea, we shall land at the port of Pemangkat,

about 90 miles north of the mouth of the Kapuas River. It is at Pemangkat that our Gospel Boat is now in the final stages of construction. By taking the sea route, we not only save a few hundred dollars each in travel, but also kill two birds - ministering the Word at Tg. Pinang en route. The found trip by boat takes 9-10 days. (We stay three days in Kalimantan).

Let Us Equip The Boat As We Furnish Our Own House!

The \$45,000 estimated for our Gospel Boat is spent only on the empty hull and engine. Like paying for a new house - in stately emptiness! Moreover, many items we do not use on land are required on water. Life-buoys, life-jackets, hurricane lamps, oil cloth, water tank, high-powered search lights, first aid box, fishing gear (for self support) etc., etc. are essentials for a boat. Another equipment equally important is a refrigerator. As you know, to sail and live in a boat is to be exposed to the sun. The boat-dweller is under constant dehydration. How good it is to have ice-cold water to drink. And how delighted would guests visiting on board be when served with chilled Adam's ale! Whether it be a refrigerator or a gasstove (there are a hundred and one items we can list up), let us renew our giving for the furnishing of the Gospel Boat. "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matt. 10:42). Perhaps someone would give \$1,000 for a refrigerator? Yours faithfully,
T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF - HOUR (ACTS 10:34-43)

3. PETER AT CORNELIUS' HOUSE (III)

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. This is the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen - by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

d) PETER'S EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

i) THE GOSPEL PREMISE: GOD IS JUST. Peter, for the first time in his life saw an old truth that "God is no respecter of persons" (v. 34, KJV; cf. Deut. 10:17), but "accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right" (v. 35, NIV). The technical term, "respect of persons," is of Hebrew origin and refers only to discrimination on unjust grounds. "What is here denied is not a sovereign and discriminating choice, but one founded on mere national distinction" (J.A. Alexander). Verse 35 has often been misinterpreted. Let us first state what it does not say: a) It does not say that the knowledge of the Gospel is not necessary to the salvation of the heathen; b) It does not say that all religions are alike in God's sight, but all nations.

It does say however: that whatever is acceptable to God in one race is acceptable in any other. In short, God accepts a person not because of his race but because of His grace, whatever his race. It is as if Peter is saying: "Now I see that we have no right to require more than God himself; if he is satisfied with piety and good works in a Gentile, we are bound to be contented with the same" (J.A. Alexander).

ii) THE GOSPEL PROMISE: GOD IS GRACIOUS. Someone has said: "Christianity is Christ." It is just as true to say: "The Gospel is Christ." Peter's Gospel message was Christocentric, i.e. Christ-centred. In Peter's sermon, there were the following Christocentric elements: First, the ministry of Christ (vv. 36,38); second, the death of Christ (v. 39b); third, the resurrection of Christ (v. 40); fourth, the manifestation of Christ (40,41); fifth, the commission of Christ (v. 42); sixth, the judgeship of Christ; seventh, the witnesses of Christ (39,41); and eighth, the offer of the salvation of Christ (43).

THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST (vv. 36,38). The ministry of Christ is essentially a ministry of peace-making through his death on the cross. The Lord Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6). He came to make peace between God and men, whose sin has separated himself from God. There is no other way to have real peace between individuals and God, between races and nations than by Jesus Christ. The truth of the matter is that only in Jesus can one have peace with God (Romans 5:1); and peace of God (Phil. 4:7); because he has the God of peace (Heb. 13:20). Yes, Jesus Christ came and "preached peace to you who were far away (i.e. Gentiles) and peace to those who were near (i.e. Jews) (Eph. 2:17).

"This is the first trumpet-sound of the Gospel in the heathen world, and its great notes are: the personal Redeemer, the witnessing Church, and the Universal invitation. Jesus is more than a philanthropist. He is a Propitiation. He is more than a reformer, He is a Redeemer. Never let these facts go, for if you do, everything else that matters will go with them. There is no use of any one preaching to anybody at home or abroad, who cannot preach - the Christ who lived, the Christ who died, the Christ who lives again, and the Christ who can save any one and every one from sin now and for ever" (W.G. Scroggie).

- TWC

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON 11.00 am Pastor Tow & Rev. Bo to Tg. Pinang.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
FRI 8.00 pm Family worship at Parsonage. Paauwe showing of Korea slides.
SAT 3.30 pm YF 4 pm JF.
Lord's Day 9.30 am Mr. Tan at Calvary.
10.00 am Rev. Paauwe (Lord's Sup).
4.00 pm Mr. Teo Siau Hua.
Rev. Paauwe (Lord's Supper).
Revs Tow & Bo preaching at Kalimantan Churches.

This Lord's Day 10.00 am Mr. Tan at Grace B-P; 1.00 pm Study of Fruit of the Spirit at Mr. Tan's; 3.45 pm Mr. Tan at Jurong B-P; 7.30 pm Mr. Tan at Tampoi Church. Any coming? Transport leaves Life Church at 6.30 pm.

Hear Rev. Tow at the O.M. Valedictory Service tonight in Church (60 have been chosen to fly to Europe).

Last Week's Offerings \$982.52 + \$100 for Galilee B-P Church + (\$100 + \$100 + \$10 for Gospel Boat).

Another Lifer to give his life for full-time service and study at FEBC is Paul Wong. Paul has a good job with an accounting firm.

George Kutty writes: "Now I'm ministering to 91 refugees from Vietnam. God is also burdening me to reach my Indian community. I'm witnessing to an Indian Muslim and his family. Next week I will be preaching in a big Church in Bangkok. Pray for me."

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Go into the world, into all the wide world,
And tell the joyful news to ev'ry perishing soul,
And tell the joyful news to ev'ry perishing soul.

To Kalimantan, on to Kalimantan
O send the Gospel Light into West Kalimantan
Along dark Kapuas River in West Kalimantan.

To Kalimantan, on to Kalimantan
Beyond dark Kapuas River in West Kalimantan
There's countless little rivers in West Kalimantan.

Go ye into all, into all nations,
And make them My disciples, and baptise them for Me,
And teach them all My Word, for I'm with you to the end.

Lim Florist: 376471/2353292.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.

"ONE BOAT BETTER THAN TEN CHURCHES"

(Message delivered by Rev. Timothy Tow at Pemangkat, West Kalimantan, July 3rd, 1978)

TEXT: Luke 5:1-10

Today, the 3rd of July, in the 1978th year of our Lord, a new epoch in Gospel work is opened in West Kalimantan. It is the launching of this Gospel Boat, "Kapuas Kourier," captained by Rev. Andreas Djunaidi. The fact that the whole port of Pemangkat where this Boat is constructed has been talking about it, and the fact that so many of us are gathered here from far and near shows that something unique has shaped up for the extension of the Gospel in West Kalimantan. Indeed the construction of such a superb Gospel Boat is a first for West Kalimantan. The using of boats to take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth seems of quite recent fashion. For, it was not until 1971 that a first ocean-going vessel was launched by our Western Brethren, which has now become a household word in the Christian world. It is called "Logos." In early 1978 a second ship called "Doulos," three times the size of "Logos," was added to this ministry. Then, for the last two decades there is another, a 250-ton yacht called "Ebeneser." This boat is operated by Rev. Yrjole of Finland and is now anchored at Kuching, Sarawak. Apart from these, and now the "Kapuas Kourier," I have heard of no other Gospel Boat. So we take pride in being the first to pioneer boat-evangelism in West Kalimantan!

If we think we are among the first, we are miserably mistaken! Two thousand years ago, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, our Saviour was He who ever thought of using a boat to preach the Gospel. Does not St. Luke tell us that "He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship"? How did we ever come up with this idea of a Gospel Boat for the West Kalimantan? None of us could have dreamed such a dream. This idea, this vision, came to Rev. Djunaidi from the Lord one night as he stayed with us in Singapore at Far Eastern Bible College. This idea, this vision dawned, bright and clear on the Session of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. This idea, this vision fired the imagination of an elder of a sister church, who gave the first \$2,000 with the remark "One boat is better than ten churches." As gifts came in one after the other, though many were small and widow's mites, our hands have been strengthened to build this Boat without delay. Praise the Lord, this Boat has taken only seven months, from start to finish, to complete. It costs 8 million rupiahs, not counting the furnishings.

In the Gospel story, we see a miracle performed by our Lord after preaching from Simon's boat. He told the disciples "to launch out into the deep." Though Peter seemed reluctant from a night's fruitless toil, they nevertheless caught two shiploads of fish. How many hundred rupiahs is one kilo of ikan parang? Two shiploads were worth easily 2 million rupiahs by today's calculation! When God takes us into His service, He is the best paymaster! "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits" (Ps. 68:19). Our thanks are due to God for richly supplying us so that this Gospel Boat is built without hindrance and adequately equipped. And all who daily receive of His Hand the higher things of life which money cannot buy - viz; health, strength, a good appetite and sound sleep, the fresh air and sea of West Kalimantan, a good wife and dutiful children, peace of mind and joy of salvation - should return thanks to Him always and always.

But our Lord would rather His disciples take their eyes off the material and set them on the spiritual. "Labour not for the meat which perisheth," He cried after feeding the Five Thousand, "but for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you" (Jn. 6:27). So while Peter marvelled at the miracle catch, Jesus turned him to the spiritual, "Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men." What a promotion-leap - from fishes to men! How many fishes is a man worth? All the fish in the Kapuas River cannot buy one soul this Gospel Boat will win for Christ.

In what sense is "One boat better than 10 churches"? When it is dutifully manned by consecrated hands and lovingly directed by dedicated hearts. Then will it live up to its name of a Gospel Boat. When it is not afraid of hard work, and is launched out into the deep, into the hinterland of the Kapuas - "to seek and to save that which was lost." Earlier I mentioned the fame of the first ocean-going Gospel Boat called "Logos." A great work of evangelism has been accomplished during the last seven years through this boat. But it is possible for young people to climb aboard the "Logos" merely for adventure, and it is possible for the hands operating this vessel to become lax. Peter, however, did not fail the Lord. At Pentecost, through his preaching, 3,000 fishes of men were hauled in a day. We do not require Bro. Djunaidi to repeat this miracle, but if he and his associates will "launch out into the deep" they will reap many souls for hire.

Finally, let this Gospel Boat be a first for West Kalimantan in this respect. Let this Boat built with loving gifts from Christians in Singapore become the messenger of the Church in West Kalimantan. This Boat belongs to you and not to us. It is our principle and practice to nurture sons and daughters and get them married off at the

earliest opportunity. While we shall do our best to see this Boat chug up and down the Kapuas with the Gospel, you will miss the blessing if you Christians of West Kalimantan have no part in it. It is my personal desire to see this Gospel Boat become self-propelling in a year's time! I have full confidence in Captain Djunaidi at the helm. With God's help, the sailing of this Boat on Indonesia's mightiest river should do the work of 10 churches. Even so, let us support it with our prayers and love gifts, till Jesus comes. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY HALF - HOUR (ACTS 10:44-48)

4. PETER AT CORNELIUS' HOUSE (IV).

e. THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED DURING PETER'S MESSAGE.

CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED SALVATION AND BAPTISM. The reception of the Holy Spirit by Cornelius and his household was unusual. It took place while Peter was still speaking (cf. "starting th speak" in 11:15). It appears that Peter was interrupted in his sermon by this remarkable event. Notice that Peter did not pray for them that they might receive the Spirit nor did he lay hands upon them. Neither did Cornelius pray for this experience. In all probability Cornelius was totally ignorant of the phenomenon of speaking in tongues.

Several important conclusions may be made from this important passage. First, Cornelius and his household received the Holy Spirit at the moment they believed in Christ for salvation. Prior to this reception Cornelius was not a saved man although "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing" (10:20). He was told by the angel to send for Peter who "will bring you a message through which you and your household will be saved" (11:14). Note again v. 44: "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message." The central core of the gospel message is found in v. 43: "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." When Peter mentioned belief in Christ, the spiritually prepared hearts of Cornelius and his household responded in saving faith and it was at that moment the Holy Spirit fell upon them. This experience is contrary to the basic thesis of the modern tongues movement" (R.G. Gromacki). What is the thesis of the modern tongues movement? It is that believers do not receive the infilling or baptism in the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion. The experience of Cornelius and his household disproves this thesis.

Second, their speaking in tongues was evidence of their reception of the Spirit. This tongue-speaking was definitely in a known language, recognized and understood by the observers. The observers "heard them speaking in tongues and praising God" (v. 46; cf. 2:11, where the tongue-speakers were "declaring the wonders of God").

Peter related this experience to the Jerusalem Church and compared it to his experience at Pentecost when he said: "... the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come us at the beginning" (11:15). Pentecost occurred about eight years before. It would appear that the phenomenon of speaking in tongues had not occurred since then; or else Peter could have referred to the events of Acts 3-9.

Third, Cornelius was baptized in water after he had received the Spirit and spoken in tongues, different from the experiences of the apostles (Acts 2) and of the Samaritans (Acts 8). Speaking in tongues played a major part in this introduction of the gospel message to the Gentiles. Today's tongues movement is radically different from the Biblical pattern. "Biblical tongues was not ecstatic speech and modern ecstatic speech is not Biblical tongues" (G. Gardiner). Pray that the Lord will keep us from getting into the charismatic movement. TWC.

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study (Acts 16).

(Session meeting postponed to July 11).

FRI 6.00 pm Rev. Tow & Bo return from Kalimantan (D.V.).

SAT 3.30 pm YF; 4.00 pm JF.

Lord's Day 10 am Mr. Tan.

10 am Rev. Tow in Muar.

1 pm Study of Fruit of The Spirit at Mr. Tan's.

4 pm Mr. Lin Tah Mon.

4 pm Rev. Tow at Rawang.

This Lord's Day

9.45 am Mr. Tan at Calvary B-P Church.

6.30 pm Mr. Tan leaves for Tampoi. Any coming? Last Sunday two cars with six Lifers went. The "Tampoians" were encouraged.

Last Week's Offerings: \$760.35 + (\$50 + \$100 + \$1,000 (refrigerator) for Gospel Boat) + \$5 for Galilee.

What About Tongues-Speaking? Two excellent papers entitled "The Modern Tongues Movement, Where Is It Headed?" and "Practical Scriptural Tests For Tongues" presented by Stan Motherwell of Australia now available at church entrance for only 50¢. Mr. Motherwell, an authority on the movement has himself tested a number of tongues-speakers and delivered them from their bondage. "... do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Help yourselves and your loved ones by being informed. "... the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

Far Eastern Kindergarten. Vacancies still available. Contact Mrs. Lange at 513676 from 9.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Rev. Edward Paauwe and family leave Monday, July 3 for West Malaysia on a ten day visit to relatives and friends.

ESCAPE FROM VIETNAM!

(By Timothy Tow from Tanjung Pinang)

This was the third time he tried to escape. He made it!

Lam is one of 136 Vietnamese, mostly of Chinese origin, who landed at Tanjung Pinang a week before Rev. Andrew Bo and I came here on our way to West Kalimantan. He introduced himself as "representative" of the refugees when the local Church visited them on a mercy mission. How he managed to escape is told to me as follows:

With the South China Sea becoming calm before the onset of the Southwest monsoon, the atmosphere in Saigon began to grow more intense with rumours. More and more were slipping out of the city by boat. And the way of escape was to pay enough money to some clandestine syndicate "doing the job."

Lam paid his share. He said good-bye to his aged parents. He took with him only one change of clothes (as regulated) and all the money in the world he could ferret - U.S. \$120 - tucked into a secret trouser pocket. Under cover of darkness, he and another escapee took a sampan from some riverside jetty, like others being ferried across the water. The sampan rowed off, however, to some rendezvous with a fishing boat downstream. One by one the fugitives gathered, like little chicks around their mother hen, to the fishing boat, waiting, waiting. They arrived at calculated intervals in the moonless night. Finally, all the 136 made it. There were whole families. There were old people and the very young, babies in their mothers' embrace. There were handsome and robust young men and girls in the bloom of life, full of hope for a bright future. The master of this fishing boat and his family formed the nucleus of this planned escape. Lam, their "representative," is a young dentist, unmarried. He had worked for the US Army, and was imprisoned for it.

The fishing boat had a lower deck. To escape notice all had to go down into the hold where the fish were wont to be kept. There was only sitting space, since the vessel measured no more than forty feet.

The next evening, after the sun was gone down well below the horizon, the escape boat had to pass a check point before gaining the freedom of the open sea. Since it was a fishing boat, the sentry let it go. But then he became suspicious. Suddenly the roar of a speedboat was heard. Immediately the boat master switched off his lights. He opened the throttle for all its worth. After a race with death that seemed an eternity, the fishing boat managed to shake off its captor in the pitch darkness of the night.

The next three days were days of more bitter trials. Once the boat ran into a gulf stream. Helplessly, it was carried about, like a leaf on a whirlpool, in a vicious circle. On another occasion the boat was lashed from side to side by the pounding waves of a sudden rainstorm. On the third day, when drinking water was fast running dry, their engine developed trouble. It coughed and pattered. Buddhist, Confucianist or Christian, prayers went up in unison to heaven.

"They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man,
And are at their wit's end.

Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble,

And He bringeth them out of their distresses." (Ps. 107:27,28).

Suddenly the boat master spotted some black object on the skyline. Yes, something standing out of the water! As he made towards it, they soon discovered to their delight the legs of an American oil rig. The engineers working on the oil rig kindly came to their rescue. They reloaded their boat with water and food. They spent hours to repair their faulty engine. But dark clouds gathered, and in no time another tropical storm arose. To save the "boat people," the Americans requested their Indonesian supply vessel, which had now come on the scene, to give them temporary shelter. The transfer of 136 old and young between two bobbing vessels on a heaving sea was fraught with utmost danger. But when the 136 were safely transferred aboard the rescue ship, the little fishing boat which was now following in tow, sprang a leak. In a matter of minutes it had to be abandoned as it soon disappeared below its watery grave. What bitter-sweet parting between boat and people, as tears rolled down their cheeks.

There was no alternative now for the Indonesian supply boat but to land them at the nearest home port. This is how the "Escape from Vietnam" ended for these 136 at Tanjung Pinang. This is how we, en route from Singapore to West Kalimantan via Tanjung Pinang, came in contact for the first time with the "boat people."

These refugees from a human hell have escaped with their bare bodies, leaving everything behind. They want to find a new living, wherever they can go. They are in need of food and clothing, medicine and baby food. But what they need most is food and medicine for their souls. They need the Gospel. They need the Word of God.

Therefore the local Church, while we were here, made two trips to the refugee camp. While we gave them some money, bread, tea and clothes for some immediate relief, we spent our time preaching the Word to them. We taught them four Gospel songs. We gave them a Chinese Bible and only 3 Gospels of John (in Chinese), the whole possession

of the local Church. (Chinese Bibles are not allowed into Indonesia.)

A spontaneous prayer from our hearts has gone up to God, "Lord, help us to bring them into the salvation of Jesus Christ Thy Son!" Meanwhile, let us also do our utmost to bring them physical relief. Dear Reader, what can you do, for Jesus' sake? P.S. Bro. Linus Lai Teck Hock of the Church at Tanjung Pinang will come to Life Church, Lord's Day, July 9 to take delivery of your surplus clothing. You can also contribute towards \$3,000 which is needed to buy medicine, baby food, and other essentials for the refugees of whom about a dozen are Christians.

BIBLE STUDY HALF - HOUR (ACTS 11:1-18)

PETER EXPLAINS HIS ACTIONS

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' "Just as I was starting to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has even granted the Gentiles repentance unto life" (NIV).

PETER RECEIVED CRITICISM, RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES, AND CONVINCED CRITICS. Cornelius and his large household had received the word of God. The news spread like wildfire and soon it reached the apostles and brothers in Jerusalem, even before Peter himself did. Some of the Jewish believers criticised Peter, not because he preached to Gentiles, but because he entered Cornelius' house and ate with them, violating his supposed obligation as a Jew (cf. 10:28). Peter's reaction to this criticism was cool and calm. He simply narrated the facts of chapter 10:5-17, stating that he had done all under Divine direction (vv. 5,9,12,15,16). Scroggie remarks: "A fact is a great argument (see iv. 14); it is more than abuse ever can be, though this too often is resorted to in debate. But remember, abuse is the refuge of the weak, Peter just tells the story. He does not go behind the facts and try to explain them; he is content to affirm them, and to point to the result of his so-called lawless action (10:28). He considers that if an angel could stand in the house of a Gentile, an apostle might well do so (13)."

It was wise of Peter to bring with him six Jewish believers (v. 12). Peter's subjective experience of a vision (vv. 5-9) was corroborated by the objective observation of those six. No wonder Peter's rhetorical question: "So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" (v. 17). Criticism was silenced when conviction was reached. Conviction led to the sound conclusion that "repentance unto life" is a gift of God too (v. 18).

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
9.00 pm Session Meeting.
FRI 7.30 pm Ladies' F. with Mrs. Paauwe speaking on "A Woman after God's own Heart."
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow.
4 pm Mr. Chia Hock Pin of Faith Church.
7.15 pm FEBC Faculty Meeting.
8.00 pm FEBC Board Meeting at Library.

Last Week's Offerings \$794.85 + \$200 + \$200(Doulos/Logos) + \$40(BP Missions) +

\$100(Galilee) + \$200 (Gospel Boat).

In Response To The Vietnam Refugees Appeal
B-P Banner has donated \$1,000, and an elder \$110. Calvary Church is taking an offering. This Appeal will be made to Muar and Rawang. (Rev. Andrew Bo is baptising at Tg. Pinang this Lord's Day).

A Second Telegram has been received from Dr. McIntire requesting Rev. Tow to teach at Faith Seminary this September. Rev. K.C. Quek has reinforced with a letter. This is one item on the Agenda of Session's Meeting next Tuesday!

1.00 pm Lord's Day. Fruit of the Spirit at Mr. Tan's.

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,



Another Escape From Vietnam!

My story last week about the 136 Viet-Chinese refugees is only in part. There is another batch of 280, all pure Vietnamese, pining away for the last six months in an unused Government Rice Godown. What a paradox - subsisting on a starvation diet in a warehouse where mountains of rice were wont to be stacked (The ration handed them by the U.N. Administration in Tanjung Pinang is 2 kilos of rice, 3 eggs and one small tin of sardines per person per week.)

The Church also paid a visit to these 280. Life in this situation is at a much lower ebb than that of the newly-arrived 136. These 280 have been "warded" here for nearly six months. The reason why our Church at Tanjung Pinang has done less for them is the language barrier. Being pure Vietnamese, they cannot understand Teochew or Mandarin. Some can speak French. Only their leader is English-speaking. He is a middle-aged, American-trained fighter pilot.

On the day we paid a visit to these 280, this American-trained pilot, their leader, appealed to me not to forget them. So, we have 416 and not merely 136!

How these 280 subsist I have observed as follows. Sleeping platforms are made for them in rows like a Dyak longhouse. Families stay together in their own pockets. Singles live also in groups according to their affiliations, the sexes are separated. Cooking is done separately, family by family, group by group. I saw a mother cooking. All the family had for lunch was rice bubor and kang-kong soup with a sprinkle of coconut oil floating on the surface. The three-egg-and-sardine ration had long disappeared beneath the bottomless pit!

But what these Vietnamese need, like their 136 Chinese counterparts, is Jesus Christ. Since their fighter-pilot "captain" is English-speaking, and in fact he was teaching an English class to the young people, we can give them the Gospel by distributing English Bibles and Gospel portions. This is the main thrust of our relief programme - injecting God's Word into their thought-life on top of giving them physical relief.

A Rising Tide of Response.

Ever since the publication of "Escape from Vietnam" last week, there has arisen a tide of response. First is \$1,000 from B-P Banner! Then \$110 from a Calvary elder. Lifers: \$40; \$100. Grace Church \$330.

In my quarterly circuit last week to Muar and Rawang, Trinity Church of Muar voted \$500 and the S.S. \$100 and Rawang \$200. As I write, Dr. Quek Swee Hwa phones in to say two Zion members have given \$125. Total: \$2,505! In regard to the surplus clothing, we always have plenty and surplus of the surplus!

Viet-Chinese Refugees Find A Spiritual Home In Tg. Pinang

A result of our two preaching trips to the 136 is the commencement of church attendance by 28 of them. They come in the Church's chartered bus. So, the Tanjung Pinang Church, according to a sister just come to Singapore on business, was filled to capacity at last week's service. Spontaneous testimonies of God's grace welled from the hearts of the new-comers. Instead of tears there was laughter now. These 28 who came to Church were also treated to Sunday lunch - one packet of chicken rice each!

How Relief Fund is to be Administered

Apart from clothes, Bibles, gospel portions and medicines to be despatched through Deacon Linus Lai Teck Hock, all our monetary offerings will be converted into rupiahs (\$1=Rp 180) and sent through the same person. This sum is to be handled by the Church Finance Committee who will decide on how the rupiahs are to be most profitably used. Babyfood is one item. Rice supplement is another (We shall not forget the 280).

Here's a blessing to every cheerful giver to the Vietnamese Relief:

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor

The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." Ps. 43:1.

O Lord, keep us safe in Singapore, and let not your children be cast adrift in this hostile world! Yours in the cause of humanity. T.T. P.S. Report on the Gospel Boat next week!

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 11:19-24).

THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good

news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord (NIV).

I PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH.

A. MEN FROM CYPRUS AND CYRENE EVANGELISED THE NON-CHRISTIANS (vv. 19-21). Verse 19 here connects directly with 8:1-4. The persecuted Christians in Jerusalem were scattered far and wide, as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. "The devil's breath has fanned the flames of the Gospel. The bruised tree has filled the air with perfume" (Scroggie). Antioch came up for special mention. It was to become an important centre of early Christianity. While most of the scattered Christians spoke the message only to Jews, thank God there were the men from Cyprus and Cyrene who "went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus" (v. 20). The Gospel was not meant for the Jews only, it was meant for all creation (Mark 16:15), or all nations (Matt. 28:19). Let us bear that in mind.

Two essential elements must be present if converts are to come about. First the Gospel message must be proclaimed. Here is an illustration of what Paul wrote in Romans 10:17, "... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ." The Gospel message is God's chosen means to win converts to Himself. "... God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe" (I Cor. 1:21, NIV). Second, the Lord must bless our efforts, or else we labour in vain. These two elements were present in Antioch. The Christians who were scattered there proclaimed the Gospel message (v. 20) and the Lord blessed their efforts. As a result, "a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord" (v. 21).

B. BARNABAS ENCOURAGED THE CHRISTIANS (vv. 22-24). News of this work of grace soon reached the church at Jerusalem and Barnabas was sent there to investigate and confirm the reports. No better man could have been chosen. A Cypriot himself (4:36), he was a man generous with his possessions (cf. 4:37) and gentle with people. Clearly he was a man of great spiritual perception. When others were sceptical of Paul's claim to conversion, Barnabas became his sponsor and introduced him to the apostles (9:27a). Barnabas saw the potential in Mark (15:37-39; cf. 2 Tim. 4:11). In short, Barnabas was a good discernor of human character. Luke describes him as "a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith" (v. 24a). Barnabas may be described as a good, gracious, generous and gentle-man.

In Antioch, Barnabas with his spiritual insight, saw the evidence of a genuine work of God. Here was a man who exercised his spiritual gift of encouraging others (cf. Rom. 12:8). Not only had he spiritual gifts, he also manifested the spiritual fruit of goodness (v. 24; cf. Gal. 5:22). Only one man like Barnabas is needed for God to bless a church bountifully. With the presence of Barnabas in Antioch, "a great number of people were brought to the Lord" (v. 24b).

As a spiritual-minded man, nothing gave him more joy than to see the evidence of the grace of God. Luke tells us that when Barnabas saw God working in the lives of the Antiochians he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts" (v. 23). Lord, give us Barnabases. We need them in our church. Perhaps we should also pray, Lord make me a Barnabas in our church. TWC

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
 WED 3.00 pm Pastors Mtg. at Sembawang.
 FRI 7.00 pm Kulai Besar Y. F.
 SAT 3.30 pm LCYF.
 Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow.
 4 pm Rev. Tow.
 Last Week's Offerings: \$748.53 + HK\$100 +
 \$100 for FEBC + \$100 for Vietnam Refugees.
Vietnamese Relief Total gift from Zion
 Church: \$200.
 Rev. Tow preaches this Lord's Day at
 Sharon, 11.45 am.
 1.00 pm Lord's Day Fruit of the Spirit at
 Mr. Tan's.
 The Paaues fly Mon. July, 17, 8.00 p.m.
 for Amsterdam. Godspeed!
 Catechism Class for Oct. Baptism commences
 Aug. 6 with Mr. Tan.
 FEBC re-opens Mon. July 24, 8.30 am.
In Response to the Lord's Call Session has
 released the pastor for a year to teach at
 Faith Seminary, USA. Mr. Tan will take over the
 pulpit. Rev. KC Quek has kindly consented to be
 Hon. Advisory Pastor.

1) YE MARINERS ON HIGH SEAS STEEP

That toil amid the foaming deep,
 Behold the mighty works of God,
 And His great wonders as you plod.
 O that all men would bow to Thee,
 Thou God of heaven and earth and sea.

2) By thy command the breeze so mild
 Becomes a storm and tempest wild,
 While oceans writhe with billows high,
 And wave upon wave mounts up the sky!
 O that all men would pray to Thee,
 Thou God of heaven and earth and sea.

3) Like drunken men they stagger on,
 And at their wit's end they are thrown,
 They reel and roll, and to and fro
 The fearful lot of men below.
 O that all men would cry to Thee.
 Thou God of heaven and earth and sea. Lord,
 4) "Peace be thou still," spoke Christ the/
 And wind and wave obeyed His Word.
 Today the God of Galilee
 Still saves His own from sea to sea,
 O that all men would praise Thy Name
 Thy mercies mild endure the same.

★
OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

The last two weeks we have been so deeply involved telling the story of the 136 and 280 Vietnamese Refugees that World Vision has come to know about them, and has made some inquiries. World Vision is operating a 350-ton sort of supply ship outside Vietnam territorial waters to help the "boat people" escape. They've rescued one small boat with twenty souls, but I understand they have difficulty bringing them in.

Now back to our Gospel Boat. After we had spoken two days to the 136 Refugees the "Enggano" arrived. We're glad we were not over-delayed. After two nights and a day sailing at 9 knots, we arrived Pemangkat in the nick of time for the Gospel Boat launching July 3.

As the feeder launch took us in to land along a canal somewhat like our Singapore River, we could see the maiden vessel all decked with red and white pennants, fluttering in the morning breeze. What a handsome young lady! She looked comparable to our Tanjung Pinang - Singapore launches, now lengthened by another two metres, making her a sleek sixty-footer. Far from our original concept, the "Kapuas Kourier," according to Captain Martin of Pelni, can make it to Singapore, if we would. (She is equipped with a 60 h.p. Chinese engine.)

200 gathered from Djunaidi's former "colony," from the Church at Pemangkat and Singkawang. Simin came all the way from Pontianak. Representatives of the Indonesian Government, from the Military, Police, Immigration and Customs witnessed the Dedication.

The Lord had moved Debora Lukito to translate my English message into Indonesian, I was enabled to present the Word in the language of the populace, tinged with some Chinese and English accents. Yes, the Lord had intended this, because in its written form, it got to the authorities concerned to tell them that the Gospel Boat is a universal Christian project. In Indonesia we do not have the way of doing things as we would matter-of-factly in Singapore.

Although the Gospel Boat is made to sail the Kapuas, there are many other rivers flowing through the land. One is called the Sambas where Djunaidi has lived and grown up. I have therefore requested Djunaidi to sail the Sambas first, just around the corner from Pemangkat harbour. After this the Boat must make it to the open sea for 70 miles before entering the Kapuas. Djunaidi has taken his seamanship test. He passed with flying colours, with a "95." Henceforth, you can call him "Kapten," though his crew members number only two - wife and son David! David has studied a year or two at MTEBC. He is making wonderful good in a practical way, helping father to sail the Gospel Boat.

The Boat, like a mini-minor Noah's Ark has been a witness to the whole town. Even Muslim women would come in to inspect and congratulate Mrs. Djunaidi. Yes she has two cabins, running tap water (collected from the roof) and modern sanitation. Rev. Bo and I spent three nights in the Boat, which saved us no little hotel expense. During the interval, we had a one-night Gospel Meeting with Simin's Church at which 130 (by count) came to hear the Word. Dohar was there and so was Esther. Both are teaching Bible classes and preaching the Word regularly.

Last Sunday Deacon Lai Teck Hock came to Life Church not only to take delivery of the surplus clothing and offerings, but also to request me to visit Tanjung Pinang again - to baptise 9 Vietnamese converts. So, to Tg. Pinang on Wednesday we went. We brought along \$4,000 Relief money, three gunny sacks of clothes, two dozen Bibles and Testaments (English and Chinese) 50 Chinese Gospels of John and 200 Chinese tracts. We couldn't bring more because of the ban on Chinese literature. Praise the Lord, these spiritual food items went through Customs together with the sacks safely - thanks to Deacon Teck Hock's adept handling.

I examined the 9 Vietnamese, all young men in their late teens and early twenties. Most of them are students. Several are technical apprentices. Nearly everyone of them had studied in a mission school, Protestant or Catholic. Hence their knowledge of the Gospel. They have decided to baptise after having come further under the Gospel sound the last one month in Tg. Pinang. Each one of them has acquired a Bible name - Luke, Peter, Mark and Timothy! These firstfruits from the Vietnamese Refugees show how important Sunday School and mission school teaching is. In this respect we thank God for Tg. Pinang Church which runs a Primary School of 400. Daily, the children are taught the Word and to pray. Hence the increase of the YF to 60 at every Saturday meeting.

At the Baptismal Service I spoke on the Bread that takes away hunger above the material we have given them. The Bibles and Gospels are all distributed.

The Relief money we give is a drop in the bucket. It will buy the most essential items at wholesale price. If we increase our giving to \$5,500, this will equal R1 million.

- T.T.

THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

During this time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul (NIV).

C. BARNABAS AND SAUL TAUGHT THE CHRISTIANS (vv. 25-30). Barnabas (the name means Son of Encouragement, cf. Acts 4:36) truly lived up to his name. What a great blessing he must have been to the Antiochenes. His presence in Antioch caused the church there to grow by "leaps and bounds" (v. 24).

Barnabas was also a man who possessed sanctified common sense. There is no doubt that he was led of the Holy Spirit to do all that he did. But God expects us to use our common sense too. Barnabas did use his when he saw that the phenomenal growth of the church needed extra help. He saw a need and did something positive to meet that need. Too often church members see a need in church but do nothing about it, or worse still do something negative like complaining about it and blaming others for it. Barnabas saw the need to instruct the new believers in the Christian faith. "... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded" (Matt. 28:20a), Jesus said. For this "Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch." One reason for Barnabas' going to Tarsus must be geographical. The distance from Antioch to Tarsus is only about ¼ that of Antioch to Jerusalem. Another reason, doubtless, must be Saul's gift of teaching which Barnabas discerned during their initial acquaintance in Jerusalem (9:26-30). In other words Barnabas saw Saul as the man who could meet the need in Antioch.

"This new center of Christianity needed an adequate leader. Just as Andrew had brought his brother, Peter, the greater person, to the Lord and His work; just as Farel persuaded Calvin to do the great work at Geneva which Farel had begun but could not finish; so Barnabas went to Tarsus to "look up" Saul. ... and Barnabas was intelligent enough to see it and humble enough to admit it" (J. Gerstner).

Together as a team, they taught and ministered to the church for a whole year. So frequently was the name of Christ upon the lips of these Antiochians that they earned the nickname "Christians" for themselves. "Little did the people of Antioch know that their nickname for believers would survive throughout history and become the commonly accepted term to describe adherents of Jesus Christ" (D. Guthrie). Let's talk more about the Lord Jesus Christ and less about others.

The Antioch Church was greatly blessed of the Lord. Having enjoyed the persons and teaching of Paul and Barnabas, they were further blessed with the arrival of "some prophets" from the mother church in Jerusalem. Agabus was singled out for mention. He predicted famine upon the entire Roman world. Luke mentioned that Agabus' prediction was of the Spirit and therefore authentic. He further added that the famine did take place in the reign of Claudius (A.D. 44-54) which experienced a succession of bad harvests in many parts of the empire.

The response of the church to Agabus' prediction was most commendable. It was as evidence of the grace of God working in their lives. Each gave according to his ability to the famine relief fund which was sent to the elders by Barnabas and Saul, their highly respected and trusted teachers. What the Antioch brothers did for the church in Jerusalem then, the Lord is giving us the privilege to do for the Vietnamese refugees in Tanjung Pinang today. TWC.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 8.30 a.m. FEBC reopens.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
THURS 7.30 pm System. Theo. (Mr. Tan).
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow.
4 pm Rev. Djunaidi.
5 pm Rev. Tow at CNEC, Brighton Avenue.
8 pm FEBC Graduation (Dr. Tow Siang Hwa).

Last Week's Offerings \$1,132.50 + \$35 + \$50 for Vietnam Refugees.

Lost and Found Two Bibles, one has the name Mrs. S.L. Chua; the other rebound with leather, but nameless. Please see Mr. Tan.

Nine New Students Are Entering FEBC

Taiwan: Misses Choo and Hou; Indonesia: Mr. Lee; Malaysia: Mr. Yap K.S., Thailand: Sea Fountain).

Mr. H. D. Prechakul; Singapore Misses Ng and T. Tay; Messrs Albert Ong and Paul Wong. Tampoi Mr. Tan leaves 6.30 pm, 9A Gilstead Road for Tampoi. Any coming?

Deacon William Teo left Friday night for a business visit to the U.S. and Europe. He is expected back in early Oct. Meanwhile Elder Seow Chong Pin acts as Treasurer. Rev. T. Tow preaches this Lord's Day afternoon at Galilee Church.

FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE

cordially invite you
to

The 10th Graduation Service at Life Church, Gilstead Road, on Sun. July 30, '78 at 8 pm. Dr. Tow Siang Hwa will be the Lord's messenger (Refreshments by Galilee Sea Fountain).

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

Where Will You Spend Your Evening Tonight?

I mean this Sunday Night, July 30, 1978, 8.00 p.m. Let me invite you to a most important and interesting function of Far Eastern Bible College - the 10th Graduation Service. Our Church Hall, I predict, will be packed to capacity! Some might have to go up the Balcony. This night of nights will witness the graduation of the biggest batch of students. An eye-opening Prospectus of the College artistically printed will be distributed. After service cold Canada Dry and cakes will be served around the Galilee Sea Fountain. Enjoy a happy evening in the Lord's House with the Lord's people!

13 Graduands

These comprise:-

| <u>Bachelor of Theology</u> | <u>Diploma in Theology</u> | <u>Cert. of Rel. Knowledge</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Esther Djunaidei (Indo.) | Joseph Tang (S'pore) | George O. Kutty (India) |
| Tan Wylie (S'pore) | Ian Heng (") | Kam Siew Eng (S'pore) |
| Michael Chung (") | Teow Ah Eng (") | |
| Tan Choon Seng (") | Tan Eng Boo (") | |
| Sahat Siregar (Indo.) | Kwan Mei Fung (") | |
| Brutus Balan (Mal.) | | |

What Has Become of Them?

1. ESTHER is married. But she is teaching Bible lessons to hundreds of children in a Chinese Christian School in Pontianak, West Kalimantan.
2. TAN WYLIE is in National Service and helping at the Bible Church, Singapore.
3. MICHAEL CHUNG is married. He is Assistant pastor to Rev. David Wong at Hebron B-P Church.
4. TAN CHOON SENG will enter National Service after graduation, but continues working with Grace B-P Church under Dr. Patrick Tan.
5. SAHAT SIREGAR will return to teach in Medan, Indonesia.
6. BRUTUS BALAN is now with the Evangelical Free Church, Woodlands.
7. JOSEPH TANG is leading an OM Team in India.
8. IAN HENG is Church worker at Sembawang.
9. TEOW AH ENG is with Galilee.
10. TAN ENG BOO is Assistant pastor at Grace.
11. KWAN MEI FUNG ministers to Christian Servicewomen in the Singapore Armed Forces.
12. GEORGE KUTTY is evangelist in Thailand.
13. KAM SIEW ENG is Nurses Christian Fellowship staff worker, Singapore.

Praise the Lord, all are engaged in His Vineyard. Come and encourage them, and speak to them after service.

Dr. Tow Siang Hwa the Lord's Messenger.

The speaker at the 10th Graduation is Dr. Tow Siang Hwa, new president of the Board of Directors. Please pray for him that he might speak with unction from above.

Under Dr. Tow's dynamic leadership, the College should grow from strength to strength. Though Mr. Bobby Phee is leaving Aug. 10 for further studies in USA and I am called to Faith Seminary (tentatively leaving Aug. 13, 8.00 p.m.), the teaching capacity of FEBC is replenished by increasing the load on certain lecturers and by the coming into the picture of Rev. Quek Kiok Chiang as Acting Principal and of Rev. David Wong B.Th., M.A. (Theol), as lecturer in Greek. Mr. Han Soon Juan's expert teaching of English has been a real boon to the whole College.

Nine New Students

The student body is also adequately replenished. The nine new students come from Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia. Special mention must be made of three graduate students taking Hebrew (FEBC's speciality). They are Mr. Johnson Lim B.Th., pastor Baptist Church, Changi, Miss Ng Sang Chin, B.Th., Fisherman of Christ, Miss Kwan Mei Fung, Dip. Th., Christian Servicewoman, SAF.

Campus With a Rustic Charm

One unique feature of FEBC is its central location, so close to the City and yet so far. Surrounded on all sides by royal palms and tropical trees with an evergreen canopy, the rustic charm that pervades the campus is further enhanced by our Holy Land Garden, the centre of which is the Sea of Galilee Fountain. Behind the College, peeping from the banana glades is a red-brick "playhouse". On the land bordering the Family Planning, an ancient wall is erected over a new glazed pulpit adjoining the airwell between the L-Block and Kindergarten. An openair theaterette, or rather what I would call

an openair miniature cathedral is presently taking shape. This cool, breezy, natural air-con stone-benched mini-cathedral is predictably a favourite meeting place of our young people. It has normal seating for forty. Another forty can be comfortably accommodated on the wings.

Remarked a visitor from another theological institution, "This beautiful setting that is FEBC's is one sign of the Lord's blessing upon your school."

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth" (Ps. 96:9). Yours faithfully, T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 12:1-4)

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover (NIV).

THE EXECUTION OF JAMES. While the Church at Antioch was enjoying progress, the Church at Jerusalem was encountering persecution. The persecution was headed by King Herod, a grandson of Herod the Great (cf. Matt. 2:1) and directed against the leaders of the Christian movement. The reason appears to be political for Herod was very popular with the Jews. Politicians care more for their position than justice and mercy for their people. Thus far the main opposition had come from the religious quarter, particularly the Sanhedrin or The Jewish Council. Now it comes from a political quarter. Among the leaders arrested by Herod, James was singled out for mention. He was "put to death with the sword." James belonged to the Lord's inner circle of three including Peter and John. He was an apostle, brother of John, both sons of Zebedee. He was the first of the apostles to suffer martyrdom, though not the first martyr. Stephen was first (7:59). "Blessed are the dead who die, not only "in" but "for" the Lord.

Scroggie's remarks on chapter 12 are striking: "This is a chapter of sharp contrasts. Over against the love of the Gentiles (xi. 29,30) is the hate of the Jews (3); over against the death of one apostle is the deliverance of another; over against a king's power is his subjects' weakness; over against armed security is angelic salvation; and over against cruel purpose (4) is Divine protection."

Why did not God save James as He did Peter? Definitely it was not because God could not. He is omnipotent. Neither did God make a mistake in not delivering James. He is all wisdom. He did not because in His wisdom He chose to take James home and leave Peter to labour on.

If we believe that God is wise, then the death of James will benefit the Church. If He is loving, then it is unthinkable that He would allow it to happen if it will not work for good. If He is omnipotent, then no other power stronger than He has overcome Him and is now in control of the universe. Hence, in His wisdom and love, He is still in command. TWC.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
9.00 pm Session Meeting (Pastor's Farewell instructions).
THURS 7.30 pm Systematic Theo (Mr. Tan).
FRI 7.30 pm Film Night "Shiokari Pass," from a Japanese Christian best-seller. Family Worship at Deacon Wang's postponed to Aug. 11.
SAT 3.30 pm JF (Rev. Tow speaking).
Lord's Day 10 am Rev. Tow (Lord's Supper).
4 pm Mr. Teo Siau Hua (Lord's S).
Last Week's Offering: \$636.80.

Congratulations to Bro. & Mrs. Ron Loh on the gift of a son Bernard Loh Pui Heng, July 21, 1978.

Gospel Boat in Action! Pictures of the launching of the "Kapuas Kourier" and her maiden voyage up to Sambas River under the helm of "Kapten" Djunaide are in full display today! (The boat measures 55 feet.)

Hear Rev. Djunaide (who has come to attend Esther's graduation) at the Chinese Service this Lord's Day afternoon. Rev. Djunaide has also come in response to an invitation from Tanjung Pinang.

Congratulations to Bro. Philip (Hassan) Jawabreh on his recent wedding. He sends greetings to Lifers.

Rev. K. C. Quek sends greetings from the Christian Beacon Office, USA to Life Church Session and congregation.

Dohar thanks Lifers for gift through Pastor's hand when he visited W. Kalimantan recently. Vietnamese Relief The \$4,000 delivered to Tg. Pinang has equitably apportioned to the 136 (Djunaide news).

Hear Dr. Tow Siang Hwa over Radio Singapore Sunday Aug. 13, 1978, 6.05 pm and 10.00 pm. "His Wonderful Name" and "Abide with Me."

Deacon William Teo writes of journeying mercies to USA. During his absence till early October, Elder Seow Chong Pin is Acting Treasurer.

Ladies Fellowship. Mrs. Khoo Peng Kiat will give a cooking demonstration Aug. 11, 7.30 pm. Election of officers will also be held. Forty John Sung Revival Sermons (Vol. I), translated by T. Tow with Foreword by Dr. Tow Siang Hwa, (about 150 pages) is now in the press!

Major Long, who has been a guest at the Church-College Hostel will leave Aug. 3 to stay at the Mission House at Kulai Besar. 1.00 pm Lord's Day "Fruit of the Spirit" at Mr. Tan's.

Edited by Rev. Timothy Tow, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676/50617.

6th August, 1978

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

Gospel Boat's First Big Catch - 136 Vietnam Refugees at Tanjung Pinang

As you will recall, it was our going to West Kalimantan to launch the Gospel Boat that led to our appointed meeting with the 136 Vietnam Refugees at Tanjung Pinang. This has resulted in our visit again mid-July to catechise the Refugees and baptise nine of them. We also brought \$4,000 of the Relief money, which sum has since been distributed.

These 136 Vietnam Refugees found at Tanjung Pinang can be said to be our Gospel Boat's first big catch. For Rev. Djunaidi, our Gospel Boat "Kapten," who came last week to attend his daughter's FEBC Graduation, is also called to preach to the Vietnamese. On his return to West Kalimantan next week, he will minister to their needs. The remaining part of the offerings to the Refugees will be sent by his hand. I should like to conclude this work of mercy before I leave.

In this respect, Lifers have been foremost in giving. Since last Sunday, there have come in another \$100, \$50, \$10 and \$150, all earmarked for the Refugees. This brings up our total to \$4,582.50. This, however, does not include a Sunday offering taken at Calvary. If we can add up to \$5,400, then we would have given one million rupiahs! Today is the last chance to do good to the Vietnamese via Djunaidi's hand!

★ CALLED TO TEACH AT MY ALMA MATER

As you know, the recent turn of events has resulted in my taking a year's sabbatical to teach in my alma mater, Faith Seminary. We are both happy and sorry to leave you. Happy is the assurance that God has called us to a new assignment. Sorry in the process of severing ties with you after so many years of mutual service. Tentatively we are booked to fly KLM Aug. 13, 8.00 p.m. for Amsterdam. The reason why we are making Amsterdam our half-way stop is to attend the 30th Anniversary Conference of the International Council of Christian Churches, with which I have been associated from the beginning. Rev. & Mrs. K. C. Quek will also be there.

★ Sunday Lunch Suspended

Coinciding with our sabbatical is the Malay cook's resignation. With the dispersal of a faithful team including the Ladies, Session has deemed it wise to suspend the Sunday Lunch for the time being.

However, we are not leaving you in the lurch. We have found another cook, Ah Eng of our afternoon Chinese Service, for the Bible College. In one way or another, she is an asset to Life Church. We can restart the Sunday Lunch when the Spirit will raise up another Manageress.

Jobs Evenly Distributed

Mr. Tan becomes Acting Pastor in my absence. Funds handled by me should be passed on to the Church Treasurer, but in the Treasurer's absence, care of Mr. Tan (Elder Seow Chong Pin acts for Deacon William Teo till October).

Mr. Yiew Pong Sen is appointed Hon. Church Warden. Rev. Andrew Bo continues as Superintendent of the grounds. Elder Lau King Hong and Deacon Roland Wong are in charge of preparation of the Lord's Supper, while Elder and Mrs. Khoo are to bring in the bread and wine. The parsonage is under care of Rev. Bo. It is open on the Lord's Day to the Chinese Sunday School, and to the "Westminster Class" under Mr. Tan.

My VW Station wagon is entrusted to Calvin Channing for the use of both Church and College. However, patrons of the station wagon should pay a reasonable charge to keep the vehicle going, without further burdening the Lord. The car, just overhauled, purrs sweetly to your gentle touch. Please service it regularly!

Ministry of Hospitality Continues

All residents at our Church-College Hostels shall remain under our hospitable roof. Those who have or who will have outlived their terms of residence are being waited upon to find alternative accommodation. The Logos has again applied to use our premises for Conference next year (June 1979). Warm welcome! Wu Hong the big old man is given the back-garden cabin. Be kind to him. Public utilities are not to be abused. "Economy is the mother of prosperity." T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 12:5-11)

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he

said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating" (NIV).

THE ESCAPE OF PETER The execution of James gave pleasure to the Jews (v. 3). It is characteristic of politicians to persecute the minority if that should generate support from the majority for him. So Herod had Peter seized and imprisoned. At this feast time Jerusalem would have been crowded with pilgrims. Therefore "Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover" (v. 4). It would have been quite a spectacle to have the Christian movement's leading figure tried publicly. Extra precautions were taken to prevent Peter's escape. Four sets of four soldiers each took turns to guard him round the clock. Obviously Herod did not realize that all these were exercises in futility. If God is for us, nothing can successfully go against us.

"... but the church was earnestly praying to God for him" (v. 5). The church was wise to take the matter to the Lord in prayer. Several characteristics of the church's prayer may be observed. First, it was a united prayer (v. 5, "the church"; v. 12, "many people"). Did not Jesus say: "... I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven!" (Matt. 18:19). How much more will the Lord delight in our request when we are united in purpose!

Second, it was an earnest prayer. Earnestness implies fervency, sincerity and seriousness. How we need to pray like that. Third, it was specific prayer - "unto God for him." The subject they prayed for was Peter; the object they prayed to was God. Let us be specific in our prayers.

God answered the prayers of the saints. Though uncomfortably chained between two tough Roman soldiers, God granted Peter peace so that he slept like a baby. So soundly did Peter sleep that even the bright light of the angel's appearance failed to awaken him. The angel had to struck and shout at him to wake him up. God was never too late nor too early in his timing. He rescued Peter just the night before Herod was to bring him to trial. The angel overcame gates, men, chains and walls. Peter was probably only half awake and still half asleep for the angel had still to instruct him to put on his clothes and sandals, wrap his cloak around him and follow him out. Upon completion of his mission, the angel left him. The writer to the Hebrews makes a very interesting remark about the role of angels: "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" (Heb. 1:14). Yes, God rescued Peter from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating (v. 11). Peter's God is our God. Daniel's God is our God. Daniel said of our God: "... all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him what doest thou?" (Dan. 4:35). TWC

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

S I N G A P U R A !

Lord's Day - Wed. YAF Camp.
 MON 8.00 pm FEK Com. Mtg. at Parsonage!
 TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
 THURS 7.30 pm Theology: Mr. Tan.
 FRI 8.00 pm Family Worship at Blk B, B-408 Braddell Hill (10), Dn. Peter Wang.
 SAT 3.30 YF & JYF.
 Lord's Day 9 am Gospel of John: Mr. Tan.
 10.00 am Rev. Tow.
 11.30 am Catechism Class at church office.
 4.00 pm Rev. Tow.
 4.00 pm Mr. Tan at Living Water Ch.
 Last Week's Offerings \$1,074.30; \$300; \$200.
 Galilee B.F. \$200; \$150.
 Vietnam Refugees: \$100; \$50 (cheque); \$10; \$150. (Calvary: \$1,700/-).
 Gospel Boat: \$50. FEBC Graduation: \$556.30.
 In view of Rev. Tow's farewell lunch with the S.S., "Fruit of the Spirit" is postponed to next Sunday.
 Hear Dr. Tow Siang Hwa over the air, Sun. Aug. 13, 605 pm & 10 pm!
 George Kutty: The church has sent a gift to you thru Preeda!

O fairest Isle of southern seas,
 Thy waters are so blue;
 Waft by a balmy ocean breeze,
 Thy land is decked with dew;
 Singapore! Singapore!
 Thou favoured Isle of ease.
 God bless thee yet with thine increase
 And peace from year to year.
 Our fathers come to this green shore
 From many climes and lands;
 They found a richer life in store
 Beneath just ruling hands.
 Singapore! Singapore!
 Thou Haven of the free.
 God bless thee yet with thine increase
 And peace from year to year.
 Today we sail as one nation;
 Our flag is flying high.
 May our Captain by wise action
 Steer us with Compass nigh.
 Singapore! Singapore!
 Lightship of liberty.
 Sail on unto prosperity
 And peace a thousand years!

OUR WEEKLY CHAT

My dear Readers,

Vietnam Refugees Fund Tops \$6,482.50!

With the receipt this week of \$100 from Trinity Church Sunday School, Muar and another \$100 from Bethany B-P Church, our Vietnam Refugees Fund tops \$6,482.50. After deducting \$4,000 which was handed by me to the Deacons of Tanjung Pinang Church, there's a credit balance of \$2,482.50. We did not send this sum through Rev. Djunaidi because Calvary's \$1,700 has yet to come in. Be that as it may, I understand Deacon Lai Tech Hock is visiting Singapore this week. Without ado, we can transmit this balance to the Vietnamese through his hand. We hope he could transport the remaining gunny sacks of surplus clothing.

The 136 batch of Vietnam Refugees of Chinese origin we are ministering to are most fortunate. Some of them have already been given entry to Australia, subject to screening in Jakarta.

Gift of Black Pearl River Piano to Tg. Pinang

The black Pearl River Piano in FEBC Hall has been decided by Session to be given to our sister Church at Tanjung Pinang. "For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance" (Matt. 25:29). Now a flourishing Church, all the more they deserve our support! The time and talents we have invested in this nearby Indonesian Church is not in vain. (With my absence for the next year, Rev. Djunaidi has been appointed Moderating Pastor).

Our Schedule

Our tentative booking to fly this Lord's Day Aug. 13, 8.05 p.m. by KLM 836 is confirmed. We are headed for Amsterdam to attend a historic meeting of the International Council of Christian Churches, Aug. 15 - 17. It is the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the ICCC.

In the spirit and tradition of the Pilgrim Fathers who worshipped at the English Reformed Church prior to sailing in the Mayflower for the New World (1620), the ICCC met at the same Church Aug. 12 - 19, 1948. Thirty years after, we're going to worship there to reaffirm our faith. The Chinese proverb, "Think of the fountain when you drink its water" applies. It is good not only to examine our faith (II Cor. 13:5), but to re-examine it, especially those who are in the forefront fighting the Lord's battles. The need of continuing the Reformation has never been greater than today!

Rev. and Mrs. K. C. Quek who have been at Collingswood N. J. the last two months to prepare for the ICCC 10th World Congress to meet in USA June 1979 will also come to Amsterdam. From there they'll hop over to London to see their son before returning to Singapore. Rev. Quek has been requested to act as Principal of FEBC and Advisory pastor to Life Church. Let us give them our love.

"Americourier" from next Lord's Day

In keeping with a good tradition, I shall substitute this Weekly Chat with a weekly "Americourier." This is a must between pastor and people, to keep the home fire burning. I intend by this American weekly newsletter to be as informative as possible, that our members might profit from our overseas experiences.

My mailing address in USA, if you'll write me is: Faith Theological Seminary, Elkins Park, Pa. 19117, USA. With this I say "God be with you till we meet again."

Yours, T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 12:12-19).

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place. In the morning, there was a great commotion among the soldiers. "What could have happened to Peter?" they asked. After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. (NIV).

PETER AND THE PRAYING CHURCH Peter finally became fully awake and realized that all that had taken place was not fancy but fact. Now Peter exercised his prudence and went directly to a familiar house where the believers had gathered frequently to pray. This was the house of Mary, a sister of Barnabas and mother of John Mark. It appears that she was a woman of means as well as of zeal. Her house was large enough to accommodate many saints and she was zealous enough to open it to God's people to meet and to pray. Certainly the Lord blessed the home for that (cf. Matt. 10:40-42).

Probably the prayer meeting continued through the night. Apart from the prayer being united, earnest and specific, it was surprisingly, also a doubting one. This is not to say that everybody at the prayer meeting prayed doubtfully. Many did doubt Peter's miraculous escape. They responded to Rhoda's joyful report with remarks like: "You're out of your mind," ... "It must be his angel." At least Rhoda (her name means a rose-bush) believed and she believed for joy. It was not until the rest saw Peter personally (v. 16) that they believed. Let us not be quick to criticize them for their doubt. Is it not the way we often pray? This passage should rather encourage our hearts. We pray and sometimes we wonder if God would answer our prayers. "Let us frankly acknowledge that the answers we get to our prayers are not of our merit, but of His mercy. God does better for us than we deserve" (Scroggie).

The next morning, the guards were baffled to find Peter no longer in his cell. What on earth could have happened to him? Of course they were totally ignorant of all that had happened to Peter. God had helped him to escape and now He had him hidden. No wonder Peter could not be found even though Herod had a thorough search made for him, using all the state machinery at his command. Who can find what God has hidden? In any case Herod held the guards responsible for Peter's escape and had them mercilessly executed. He who serves the devil never earns his praise; he who serves God will always have His grace! TWC

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
THURS 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology
Mr. Tan.
SAT 3.30 pm YF & JYF.
Lord's Day 10 am Mr. Tan. (Catechism Class).
4 pm Mr. Lin Tah Mon.

Last Week's Offerings \$1,317.40 + \$50 + \$50 + \$100 (FEBC). (Film night collection: \$102.65).

Guests at the Church-College Hostel. Rev. and Mrs. Pardede of Medan (en route to Israel and US).

Ladies Fellowship Election will be held this Friday Aug. 18. Mrs. Khoo's demonstration postponed to next month.

Change of Address: Miss Edith Lok Yuet Lin, Blk 103 1461-L Ave 3, Singapore 20.

September (8th Moon) Wedding Bells!

The holy matrimony will be solemnised bet.

1. Florence Leong Chui Har and Lawrence Yeo Teong Hean of Mt. Carmel by Rev. David Wong and Philip Heng, Sept. 2, 2.30 pm. (FEBC Hall Reception).

2. Mary Koh and Tay Keng Leng of Mt. Carmel by Revs. Heng and Wong, Sept. 9, 2.00 p.m.

3. Kenneth Tan and Linda Theo of Galilee by Rev. Philip Heng, Sept. 9, 3.30 p.m.

4. David Lee Hoon Pong and Judy Tan Jih Ching of Life Church Rev. Dr. Patrick Tan. Sept. 16, 2.30 p.m.

5. Dr. Edmund Lee and Dr. Judy Lim of Calvary by Rev. Philip Heng, Sept. 23, 5.00 p.m.

6. Ong Soon Leong and Malini Krishnan of Galilee by Rev. Philip Heng Sept. 30, 4 pm. (FEBC Hall Reception).

Wedding Bells in November and December

1. Walter Wong Boon Whatt and Linda Ong Kin Lian of Mt. Carmel, to be solemnised by Revs. David Wong and Quek Swee Hwa, Nov. 4, 3 pm. (FEBC Hall Reception).

2. Lum Ian Kong and Kuah Lee Joo of Bible Church, by Rev. Tan Kai Oon, (FEBC Hall Reception).

3. Lim Ah Hock and Tay Chew Ker of New Bridge Rd. Gospel Hall, by Elder Richard Chia, Dec. 16, 3 pm. (FEBC Hall Reception).

The Korean School Concert will be held at FEBC Hall, Sat. Dec. 9, 9 to 5 p.m. Please take note of all the abovementioned dates!

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Phee of Sembawang B-P Church left last Thurs. Aug 10 for USA to study at Covenant Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. A big crowd was at the airport to wish them Godspeed.

Living Hymns the latest and best with 800 pieces! Life Church Session has voted to present 200 copies each to Calvary and Galilee for use in their new auditorium and Church at Pandan. If other churches are interested in this new hymnal (at a lower price than if you're to order yourself) please ring 2541-223 for Stephen Kuan.

"40 John Sung Sermons," Volume I, translated by T. Tow, with 20 John Sung theme songs (music notation) has 156 pages. Price: \$2/- Published by Alice Doo, its sole distributor is Christian Life Book Centre. The pastor has promised 300 to be presented as a farewell gift to Lifers.

The Fruit of the Spirit class will resume today at 1.00 p.m. at Mr. Tan's flat.

Rawang Church requests Rev. K. C. Quek to administer the Lord's Supper some time in September or October!

Eileen Tow, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Tow Siang Yeow our members at J.B., has been accepted by Shelton College, USA, for Sept. 1978. Betty Tow will leave Aug. 20 for U.S. to study at Miami Christian College, Florida.

Renovations and repairs in and around the Church are being carried on by Mr. T.C. Eng. Far Eastern Kindergarten. During the pastor's absence Elder Seow Chong Pin is elected Acting Supervisor. FEK has been appointed by Government a centre for the training of teachers of Pre-primary classes next year. Another honour conferred!

My dear Readers,

In the air approaching Vienna
Aug. 14, 1978Thank You Very Much For Your Precious Gifts And Good Wishes.

As we awake approaching Vienna (Austria) after a much needed restful sleep, we give thanks to the Father Almighty for His safe keeping, and for so many of you who came to see us off. We thank each one of you for your precious gift and good wishes. Borne on the wings of your continuing prayers, we will do our utmost for the Lord.

First Missionaries From Life Church - to America!

At the Farewell Service Aug. 13, I requested Mr. Tan our Acting Pastor to commend us to the Lord in the pastoral prayer. He read the passage on the commissioning of Barnabas and Saul by the Antioch Church (Acts 13:2) and commented we are your first missionaries - to America! Then he asked our four elders - Tay, Seow, Khoo, Lau to lay their hands on me as I knelt before the Lord. This was a sudden and spontaneous gesture, Biblical and well-pleasing to God and man. A similar laying on of hands took place at the same pulpit in 1965 when the Church sent Rev. Philip Heng and me on a special mission to Sabah. That we are designated Life Church's first missionaries to America has further humbled us. In a similar light of observation, Mr. Tan is Life Church's first American - returned son (with added blessing of a daughter-in-law) among FEBC's first generation of graduates.

Tanjung Pinang at the Airport too!

What moved me deeply was Deacon Lai Teck Hock's last minute rush from Tanjung Pinang to bring me a gift from the Church. Deacon Lai reports of a wonderful three-day Gospel campaign by Djunaidi to the Church on the Riau Island, especially to the Vietnam Refugees. Several more publicly received the Lord as the Evangelist appealed with tears. Deacon Lai also delivered to Elder Seow our Treasurer the signed receipts of money distributed to the Refugees. Praise the Lord, we have a credit balance of over \$2,600/= to be distributed in Christ's Name to our Vietnamese brothers. The Lord bless each one of you who have given to the charity (Acts 11:29).

A Warm Reception, Amsterdam, Aug. 15, 1978.

Someone at the Airport remarked, "Often we have a warm sendoff from home but no one to receive us at the other end" I must record my thanks to God for the wonderful reception we got in Amsterdam. We arrived a few hours before the U.S. party. Dr. J. C. Maris our General Secretary paid his fullest attention to us. In no time he had settled us in a cosy Christian hospice. After 18 hours in the air Ivy and the children were all tired out. So they went off to bed. As for me I had further fellowship with Dr. Maris, accompanying him back to the airport to await Dr. McIntire's arrival. As for Rev & Mrs Quek, they came by a later evening flight. We were all in good hands.

U.S. Visa caught up with us here, as scheduled.

When we left Singapore we were still short of our U.S. visa, though word had been received it was approved in Philadelphia. With assurance from the U. S. Embassy that our visa would be telegraphed to Amsterdam, we left therefore as scheduled. Praise the Lord, I'm just informed that the visa has arrived. Tomorrow morning, we'll get it from the U.S. Consulate in Amsterdam.

ICCC 30th Anniversary Commemoration.

This is held at the Kranaspolski Hotel, culminating with a Thanksgiving Service at the English Reformed Church. This old English Church was the place of worship of English Puritans under persecution in the early 17th Century. In this Church worshipped the Pilgrim Fathers before they sailed in the Mayflower 1620 for the New World. In the tradition of the English Puritans is the faith of Bible-believing churches of the 20th Century. Many wonderful testimonies, I'm sure, will be recounted tomorrow night at this historic meeting place.

We fly Aug. 18 for London to take the trans-Atlantic crossing to New York. Rev. and Mrs. Quek will visit their son in London, returning early September. Let us uphold one another with our prayers. Yours affectionately, T. T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 12:19b-24)HEROD'S DEATH

Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while. He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. Having secured the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply. On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not a man." Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down,

and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to increase and spread (NIV).

The miraculous escape of Peter must have embarrassed and infuriated Herod Agrippa. The Jews whom he had intended to gratify by Peter's execution were disappointed. Herod's pride was deeply hurt by his inability to do to Peter what he had planned; so "he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while," perhaps to cool down his temper and to escape from it all.

Besides being proud, Herod was also cruel. He quarrelled with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and for that political crisis, king Herod imposed a food embargo on them. Evidently Herod did not hesitate to use food as a weapon against his enemies. When Herod's presence in Caesarea was known, the people of Tyre and Sidon seized the opportunity to petition for peace so that the food embargo might be lifted. They secured the service of Blastus, the king's chamberlain, who made arrangements for Herod to meet and address the delegation from those two cities.

On the day appointed, Herod with characteristic pomp, "wearing royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people." This was an opportunity to bolster his wounded pride. "The rays of the sun shone on this brilliant apparel and the vast crowd in the open amphitheatre became excited as Herod began to speak" (A.T. Robertson). In order to inflate Herod's ego and gain his favour, the heathen crowd shouted repeatedly, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." Such an exclamation was pleasing to Herod's vanity but most displeasing to the Lord of glory. As a result God judged him and he died. Thus the cause of Herod's death was twofold: 1) The visible, immediate cause was a violent distemper of the bowels which Luke describes as "eaten by worms." 2) The invisible ultimate cause was the hand of God which Luke describes thus: "An angel of the Lord struck him down."

Luke also tells us the reason for Herod's death. Herod robbed God of His glory when Herod did not give praise to God. Through the prophet Isaiah God has said: "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another; neither my praise to graven images" (Isa. 42:8).

The miserable death of Herod is contrasted with the continual progress of the word of God. It continued to increase and spread in spite of opposition and persecution. God continued to overrule the adverse designs of men. "The progress of the Church has been, and will continue to be, like a river which runs vigorously to the sea, meeting with many obstacles in the way, but over-leaping them and rushing on; slowing down at times, and winding about, but still set for the sea" (Scroggie). TWC

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.
THURS 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology.
SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF & YAF.
Lord's Day 10.00 am Dr. Tow Siang Hwa.
11.30 am Catechism Class for
Anniversary Baptism (FEBC Library)
1.30 pm Study of "Fruit of The
Spirit" with Mr. Tan at Rev. T.
Tow's parsonage.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at
FEBC Hall.
5.00 pm Mr. Tan at Bible Church,
Soo Chow.

Last Week's Offerings: \$710.35 + \$1,768
from Calvary B-P for Vietnamese refugees.

Deacon and Mrs. Paul Tsao's new address:
34Q Pacific Mansion, Blk C River Valley
Close, Singapore 9, Tel: 376663.

Sharon B-P Church celebrates 7th Anniversary
next Lord's Day with slide show cum buffet
dinner. Place: FEBC Hall. Time: 6.30 pm.
The Acting Pastor, Elders and Deacons have
been cordially invited.

General Staff Meeting of the Sunday School
will be held today at the FEBC Library at
12.00 noon.

Evangelism and Leadership Conference to be
held at Golden Sands, Port Dickson from
Sept. 18 - 22 has a few vacancies left.
See Wee Chin Kam or Paul Wong for details.
Prepare yourselves to serve the Lord
effectively.

Rev & Mrs Timothy Tow's address in the USA
is: Faith Theological Seminary, 920 Spring
Avenue, Elkins Park, Pa. 19117, USA.

SON OF MAN

Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, he shed more light on things human and divine than all the philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of the school, he spoke words of life such as were never spoken before, nor since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, he has set more pens in motion and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, works of art, learned volumes, and sweet songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. Born in a manger and crucified as a malefactor, he now controls the destinies of the civilized world, and rules a spiritual empire which embraces one third of the inhabitants of the globe.

PHILIP SCHAFF

Shorter Catechism

Q.21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?
A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be God, and man, in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.
Q.22. How did Christ, being the Son of God become man?
A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

AMERICOURIER II

My dear Readers,

Heathrow Airport London, Aug. 18.

ICCC 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving

The highlight and climax of our gathering in Amsterdam was the evening Thanksgiving Service held at the English Reformed Church. In this Church where the Pilgrim Fathers had worshipped before they sailed in the May Flower for the New World in 1620, the ICCC was inaugurated August 1948. 30 years after, the ICCC is become a worldwide Church movement under the vigorous leadership of Dr. Carl McIntire. But many who gathered here 30 years ago have been promoted above, while others have left the ranks in the course of many battles.

Although participants from abroad at this Conference and Thanksgiving were not many, we had representation from every Continent. The words of testimony given by each regional representative wove into a perfect pattern of praise and thanks. The Lord's Spirit was deeply felt. It moved the audience, which was mainly Dutch, in the spontaneity of giving that followed. A sizeable one that came in the next day doubly confirmed His mercies upon us.

Dr. J. C. Maris

The reports and write-up by the press on the testimony of the ICCC further vindicated Dr. J. C. Maris our General Secretary. Dr. J. C. Maris has been maligned by the Judases of his staff, and further smeared by enemies of the Reformation Movement, but the biggest public auditor in Holland has given him a clean bill of health. Our public meetings with him in the chair have also accorded him honour and dignity. Dr. Maris is editor of the ICCC Dutch paper "Getrouw" with a circulation of 20,000. This paper is supported by a good section of the Christian population in Holland and is a powerful means for the Gospel and Missions.

Economical to be Hitched to the ICCC Return Flight to USA

In view of our participation in the Amsterdam Conference, we requested to be booked with the ICCC return flight to USA. Since they come as a party they were given a good discount. This privilege we also enjoy.

Being delayed an hour at London Airport, I have taken some time off to write to you. We're flying out via Iran Airlines this afternoon 2.30 pm. We arrive New York before sunset. To make full use of the leisurely hours of travel, I have my Church History with me, to give myself a refresher course. This is one subject assigned me by Faith Seminary.

Living in Singapore Cheapest and Best, Cape May, N.J. Aug. 19, 1978

The rat race we so often hear in Singapore is nothing compared with the West. Amsterdam is an expensive place to live in. Fortunately, our delegates through the local committee were put up in an inexpensive Christian hospice. Still it cost \$25 per person per day, with breakfast. Taxi to the airport cost us \$30.

Our plane landed us at JFK Airport, outside New York. To take a taxi from here to the City to transfer on a Greyhound would seem a cat-and-dog fight (oh, the honking of taximen and the ear-splitting whistle of the traffic cops)! It would be tens of dollars (U.S.) and much time involved just getting a transfer.

Fortunately, Dr. McIntire had his car parked in Airport all this time he was abroad. He kindly took the four of us with our heavy luggage. In four hours under the beaming face of the August moon we covered some 150 miles all the way here to Cape May. Were we to find our way to Faith Seminary, we might have to travel till the wee hours of the next morning. We lift up our hearts and hands to thank God that we are now safely arrived in the New World. Yours faithfully, T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 12:25-13:4)THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT MISSIONARY MOVEMENT

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem taking with them John, also called Mark. In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. (NIV).

Saul and Barnabas had earlier gone on a mission of mercy to the suffering saints in Jerusalem. Having accomplished that, they returned to Antioch. This time they took with them John Mark, a cousin of Barnabas (cf. 11:30).

A. THE CALL OF THE MISSIONARIES. The beginning of the missionary movement is striking because of the simplicity of its birth. A commentator remarks: "There was no general conference or special committee or publicity campaign. It happened when a group of men were worshipping and fasting" (D. Guthrie).

The church at Antioch had been blessed with many prophets and teachers. These men were Christ's gifts to the church, given to "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:11,12). Among the five men mentioned, Barnabas and Saul are familiar. Simeon was known also as Niger, a Latin term meaning "black-skinned," Lucius of Cyrene and Manaen, the last of whom Luke gives some additional information. It was while the church was busy doing the will and work of God that the Holy Spirit provided the impetus for the missionary task. He said, "Set apart for men Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called."

How did the Spirit speak? "I do not for a moment imagine that the assembly heard a voice. That is the mistake we too often make. We try to force ourselves into ecstasies in order to hear the voice, and then we imagine we hear it! That is not the suggestion here. He made known His will to the assembly, probably through one spokesman, whose word produced agreement. We see now the reason of the naming of the prophets and teachers here: Barnabas, Symeon, Lucius, Manaen, Saul. But we are not told through which of them the Spirit spoke. The method of the Spirit is ever that of obscuring the instrument. In those days of worship and of fasting, one of their number probably rose and spoke, and immediately in the whole assembly there was unanimity, absolute conviction that this was the mind of the Spirit" (G.C. Morgan). The Holy Spirit chose, not lazy but busy people. He also chose the ablest workers. The Lord thought it wise that His ablest workers must do pioneer work in unknown fields. Besides, the Antioch church had already enjoyed Saul and Barnabas for more than a year (cf. 11:26).

It must have been painful for the church to release their two most gifted leaders and teachers. The Antioch church, being outward looking and spiritually mature responded readily to the Spirit's proposition.

B. THE COMMISSION OF THE MISSIONARIES. The birth of the missionary movement was simple; so was the commissioning ceremony. The prophets and teachers and possibly the elders laid their hands on them after they had fasted and prayed. In this simple ceremony, the church was pledging its prayer support for the missionaries and identifying itself with their mission to which they had been sent.

It is true that it was the Holy Spirit who called and sent the missionaries (vv. 2b, 4); but it was done with the sanction and blessing of the church. The Holy Spirit works in, with and through the local church to call and send forth His missionaries. "Not like certain workers nowadays independent of church, with no responsibility, or continuity, or authority" (W.H. Griffith Thomas). TWC.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.
(Acts 18 the founding of the Corinthian church).

THURS 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology.

SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF, YAF.

LORD'S DAY 8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.

10.00 am Rev (Dr) Patrick Tan.
(Lord's Supper).

11.30 am Catechism Class.

1.00 pm Study Group begins
study on Paul's epistle to the
Romans with Mr. Tan at Rev. Tow's
parsonage.

4.00 pm Chinese Service at
FEBC Hall.

4.00 pm Mr. Tan at Living Water
Church, Toa Payoh.

Last Week's Offering: \$804.53 + \$50/-.

Correction Sharon B-P Church which worships
at 11.45 am in our premises every Lord's
Day will celebrate her 7th Anniversary on
Saturday, Sept. 9, not today as reported
last week. Time: 6.30 pm. Place: FEBC
Hall. The Acting Pastor, Elders and
Deacons have been invited.

Tampoi Paul Wong and company leave Life
Church at 6.30 pm. Any coming?

We extend our deepest condolence to Bro.
Ng Han Lim and Bro. & Mrs. Ho Kum Tong
on the death of their mother and mother-
in-law Mrs. Ng Liang Chuan, 70 who passed
away peacefully on Aug. 19.

The B-P BANNER is out. Special features
on our Bible College. Help yourselves to
it.

What e'er my God ordains is right:

Holy his will abideth;

I will be still whate'er he doth,

And follow where he guideth;

He is my God; Though dark my road,

He holds me that I shall not fall:

Wherefore to him I leave it all.

Whate'er my God ordains is right:

He never will deceive me;

He leads me by the proper path;

I know he will not leave me:

I take, content, What he hath sent;

His hand can turn my griefs away,

And patiently I wait his day.

Whate'er my God ordains is right:

Though now this cup, in drinking,

May bitter seem to my faith heart;

I take it, all unshrinking:

My God is true; Each morn anew

Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,

And pain and sorrow shall depart.

Whate'er my God ordains is right:

Here shall my stand be taken;

Though sorrow need, or death be mine,

Yet am I not forsaken;

My Father's care Is round me there;

He holds me that I shall not fall:

And so to him I leave it all.

Trinity Hymnal No: 94.

A Warm Welcome to Dr. Tow Siang Hwa to our
pulpit today. Dr. Tow is an elder at
Calvary B-P Church, editor of B-P Banner
and president of the Board of Directors of
Far Eastern Bible College.

CHRIST TO THAILAND!

(Gim Thong, one of our zealous young adult members recently made a two-week missionary trip to Thailand. Here is his short report).

Thailand needs our prayers today. This is a crucial hour when the door is wide open for the preaching of the Gospel. They are beckoning us to go over.

A land that is traditionally Buddhistic is now being gradually infiltrated by the communists. To complete the triangle, Thailand is also known for her equivalents of Sodom and Gomorrah.

By the grace of God, the authorities are sensing the urgency of the hour. The local churches and foreign missionaries are actually invited to minister to hungry souls in schools, hospitals and prisons.

Never before are missionaries and preachers granted such a privilege as 50% discount on public trains. Every assistance is offered towards open air Gospel campaigns, especially in the rural areas.

Truly, Paul's Macedonian vision is now before us, "There stood a man of Macedonia, beseeching him, and saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Who will follow our brother George Kutty into this land?

May the Lord prepare many labourers to go into this land to work while it is yet day

A Testimony by Chan Pui Meng

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

What is the purpose for me down here on this earth? Is life that meaningless - just to eat, sleep, work, or may be some entertainment, that is all. I pondered. There must be a purpose for my being here. I was searching for something but did not know what it was or where to find it. For four years after I left school in 1972, I was still searching. I was selfish, sensitive and nasty. I was at a loss. I felt left out in my family of twelve. In November 1975, I was accepted as a nurse. I was so happy because I could stay in the hostel. My sister objected but I ignored her.

Praise the Lord, there were Christian nurses in the nurses' hostel. They encouraged me to join them in their Bible studies but I refused. After much encouragement I attended but I could not understand. God is gracious. He would not let me live in darkness. In October 1976, I attended a gospel meeting. For the first time I heard the good news. Jesus came to save us and His blood washes our sins as white as snow. There I repented and asked Him to come into my heart as my Lord and Saviour.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

It is true my friends. He gives me a new dimension in life. My outlook on life changed. My heart was filled with joy. When I told my family I was going to church, they could not believe me. God changed their attitudes. Occasionally, my mother even woke me for Sunday School. Praise the Lord! Thanks be to the Lord, I was followed up closely, then, by the Christian nurses. Now I am able to attend church service regularly. My faith is growing gradually as I am fed with His precious Word. The Sunday messages, Bible studies, Christian Nurses' Fellowship meetings and my quiet time, further strengthened my faith. The Lord has called me out of darkness into His marvellous light. Now I have a purpose in life. I can witness for Him in the nursing profession.

As my faith grows, I have a desire to get baptised. I know I must take up His cross and follow Him. The Lord has assured me with these words of comfort:

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:30). Most of all I want to obey Him in baptism. He has commanded us to be baptised (Matt. 28:20).

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 13:5-12)ON CYPRUS

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper. They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said. "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"

Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

A CONFRONTATION AND A CONVERSION. The first stage of the journey took the missionaries to Cyprus, the original home of Barnabas. Obviously Barnabas was well acquainted with the island. Salamis was the main city on the east of the Island while Paphos was the main city in the west. Paphos being also the administrative capital, was the residence of the Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus who was described as an intelligent man. Hearing that the missionaries were in town he sent for them because he wanted to hear the word of God. His attendant, whose proper name was Bar-Jesus, and whose official title was Elymas, "the sorcerer" strongly opposed the missionaries and their message and "tried to turn the proconsul from the faith."

Probably while Paul was speaking the Gospel to Sergius Paulus, Elymas kept interrupting and contradicting him. At this moment when Sergius Paulus was in danger the Holy Spirit intervened. This was a moment when a special and unusual work needed to be done and Paul must be equipped for it. Thus he was "filled with the Holy Spirit." The result of this infilling by God's spirit was that Paul was given special discernment, to enable him to see the very heart of this man who confronted him. Paul described Elymas' character as "a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right!" And Elymas' sin as perverting the right ways of the Lord. For the salvation of Sergius Paulus, the Holy Spirit had to sentence Elymas to temporary blindness. Elymas by his teaching and greed and a desire to continue in the employ of Sergius Paulus would oppose the Word of God and tried to prevent his master from knowing the truth and entering into the fullness of life. The aim of Elymas was to turn a man from the faith; but the aim of the Spirit was to establish a man in the faith.

The confrontation of one led to the conversion of another. The sentence of Elymas led to the salvation of Sergius Paulus. The Holy Spirit, however, tempered his judgement with mercy. The blindness of wicked Elymas was only for a time. The Holy Spirit intervened to vindicate the truth which Paul and Barnabas were preaching. It was the heart that loved Sergius Paulus that spoke in anger to Elymas. "When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching of the Lord."

It is wickedness of the highest order to turn men from the faith. G.C. Morgan correctly observes: "The severest words of the Bible, Old and New Testaments, are reserved for those who stand between men and truth, for those who stand between men and God. Perhaps the supreme chapter in the whole of the Old Testament is that wonderful chapter in the prophecy of Ezekiel, the prophet of the exile, the prophet of light and hope by the river Chebar, seeing visions of God, diagnosing the actual disease of the scattered people to a remnant to whom he was a minister. He described the false prophets as under the severest judgment of God. At the close of our Lord's public ministry He pronounced eight great woes; not one upon sinning men, but all upon those who were false teachers and guides, false interpreters of the will of God. Christ never said anything hard or severe to a sinning man or woman. His severity was reserved for men who failed to guide, when they professed to do so."

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

TUES 7.00 pm Women's Fellowship Choir Practice.
8.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible study. (Acts 18 some key members of the Corinthian Church. Praise the Lord for a good turn out last Tuesday).
9.00 pm Session meeting at FEBC Lib.
THURS 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology.
FRI & SAT 7.30 pm Mr. Tan speaks at Gospel meetings in Toa Payoh.
SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF, YAF.
6.30 pm Sharon BP Church celebrates 7th Anniversary. Place: FEBC Hall.
LORD'S DAY 8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Mr. Tan.
11.30 am Catechism Class.
1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth study of Romans with Mr. Tan at Rev. Tow's parsonage.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.

Last Week's Offerings: \$652.89 + \$200/-.

Tampoi Paul Wong, Peter Eng and company leave Life Church at 6.30 pm. Any coming? Praise God for a good turn out last Sunday.

John Tan, a blind young man requires transportation from 5 Adam's Park, S'pore 11. to Sunday School and Church. Who'll offer? See Paul Wong.

At the time of writing this weekly (Sat. morning), Rev. Tow's AMERICOURIER III has yet to arrive. Hitches with the postal services do occur. Continue to pray for our pastor and his family.

Welcome Back to Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Thio from Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York city. Dr. Thio will return sometime next month to complete his post graduate studies there. Beginning today at 1.00 pm at Rev. Tow's parsonage, our Study Group commences a systematic in-depth study on Paul's epistle to the Roman Christians.

Who May Join the Study Group? Any Lifer who loves the Lord and His Word and who desires to know the Lord more and more through a systematic study of His Word is welcome. The Study Group members are constantly considering how they may spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24). Life is short. Spending it in studying God's Word is wise investment of your life.

My dear Readers,

"A Man's Heart Deviseth His Way: But The Lord Directeth His Steps" (Prov. 16:9).

When it was ascertained that God was calling us to serve a year in U.S., logically I went about inquiring which was the cheapest way to travel here. Instead of flying via the Pacific (S'pore is 180° east or west of Philadelphia) we made a rightabout turn to come via Amsterdam. We were invited to participate at the ICCO 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving. Although this cost a little more than flying eastwards, we have been more than compensated not only in experience but also in expense. Flying out of Amsterdam to New York in a group makes up for the costlier Singapore-Amsterdam itinerary.

After New York we thought we would head straight for Philadelphia where Faith Seminary is. Instead the Lord sent us to Cape May. Here is Dr. McIntire's Christian Admiral Hotel, an eight-storey, 350-room castle dominating the Cape coastline. Adjoining this Christian Hotel is a mammoth auditorium built specially for ICCO Congress. The coming 10th Congress, June 15-28, 1979 will be convened here.

The breeze flowing in from the Atlantic Ocean brings vitality to the occupants. We have thoroughly enjoyed this unexpected provision. And the extra joy of seeing my youngest sister Eunice Tow working in the pantry! Eunice comes to work here from Melton-College during the summer vacation. She is entering the final year in September.

Aug 20, my first Sunday away from S'pore, saw me whisked away to Collingswood (a two-hour ride) to preach in Dr. McIntire's Church. The message went live over the local radio. I spoke on "Son of a Mother's Vow" (Prov. 31:1,2 and I Sam. 1:8-28) from which lessons were drawn from Hannah's 1) Tearful vow; 2) Highest aspirations; 3) Diligent nurture; 4) Grateful Repayment - in respect of Samuel. A challenge was given to mothers to dedicate their children, and to the children themselves to serve the Lord fulltime, since there is such a dearth of pastors and evangelists today. Sunday evening saw us return to Cape May. As the beach is full of people, we held an open air service while Dr. McIntire preached on the Good Shepherd, giving His life for His sheep. A heckler was given a good dose of personal witnessing after the service by our young men. A young Roman Catholic converted at the same spot two months back now became the chief spokesman for the Lord!

Back to the Alma Mater

Rev. and Mrs. James Hanna of Collingswood Church kindly drove us with our luggage from Cape May to Elkins Park, where Faith Seminary is. Elkins Park is an outskirts of Philadelphia. How warmly are we received here by both faculty and students.

Faith Seminary, like FEBC, is composed of equal numbers of nationals and foreign students. This is due to its wide ICCO contact. This presents a real missionary challenge. Since coming I've met three Filipino students and one Taiwanese. Two of these are pastors who have come for further training.

My Friends - the Carlsons

Confucius says, "Is it not a pleasantness to have friends from a distant land?" This may truly be said of Rev. and Mrs. Howard Carlson and their six children. The Carlsons were our next-door friends, staying together in the same Mission House, Bethlehem. This was 1969. Now, the Carlsons are transferred back from Israel to teach at Faith Seminary. How happy they are to see us again and we them. Their warm friendship has taken away some of our loneliness in a new environment.

Dr. Carlson in fact was with us in Amsterdam. But he did not return to US in the same party. Instead, he and a Faith student hired a VW and drove all the way to Turkey. They have been sent by the ICCO Research Commission to make preliminary studies of Jaran, the city where Abraham and his father Terah sojourned for a while (Gen.12). Dr. Carlson is an archaeologist, and he has had the opportunity of joining in excavation during his long years of service in the Holy Land. His scholarship in this field is a contribution to Faith Seminary. Yours for the Faith, T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 13:13-16)

IN PISIDIAN ANTIOCH

From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak." Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!"

The initial stage of their work completed, Paul and his companions sailed from Paphos to Perga, a distance of 175 miles. John Mark left them at this stage and returned to Jerusalem. The reasons for his departure are not given for the moment though many guesses have been put forward such as: "homesickness, anxiety for his mother's safety, home duties, the desire to rejoin Peter, the fear of future perils on such a journey, the growing precedence of Paul over Barnabas, and the nature of the mission which had become clearer at Paphos (xiii. 7,12). These suggestions only show that what is not revealed cannot be discovered, and so we must leave the matter where it is, keeping in mind only the fact that Mark defaulted when the first great test came to him" (Scroggie).

From Perga Paul and his team went to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath, they entered the synagogue and after the appropriate prayers had been recited and two Scripture lessons read, the two missionaries were invited to give a word of exhortation. Paul responded and proceeded to the pulpit and began his sermon to the congregation which was made up of two groups of people - "Men of Israel" (a term referring to Jews) and "gentiles who worship God." These Gentiles who worshipped God proved very responsive to the Gospel message as the book of Acts shows. TWC. (Next week, we shall analyse Paul's sermon.)

1. WHAT OR WHO SHOULD SERVE AS THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN THE JUDGMENT OF TONGUES ISSUE?

The obvious answer would seem to be that it should be God speaking in His Word, the Scriptures. This ideal is all too easily short-circuited, for the temptation is ever present to use the Bible to support one's preconceptions. Even more subtle is the tendency to interpret the Bible in the light of one's experience rather than to interpret experience in the light of the Bible. Since both the older and newer Pentecostalism tend to be experience-oriented, this becomes especially crucial on the question of tongues.

A tongues speaker recently wrote the editor of Christianity Today, "You cannot give fair treatment to a gift from God which you neither believe in or have experienced." This person has really said that tongues speaking is not subject to critical examination in the light of Scripture. Yet to say that the one who has spoken in tongues is the only one qualified to comment on the subject is to assume the experience is a gift of God and to put the subjective above the Scripture.

Since what has happened to the glossolalist is no more exempt from the judgment of the Word of God than any other aspect of the Christian life, the tongues speaker should be willing to examine his experience in the light of Scripture. Only in this way can he determine whether or not his experience is the same as that spoken of as tongues in the New Testament.

The tongues encounter is apparently very real to those who have had it. But that is not the question. Rather, what kind of an experience was it; what is Spirit baptism and how does an emphasis on glossolalia square with the priorities of Christian living as carefully spelled out in the New Testament? Is it the same as the phenomenon experienced in the first century Church? These are the real questions and only the New Testament can answer them. (from Facing the Issues in Tongues by Stanley N. Gundry.)

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.30 pm FEBC LECTURE(BIBLE SURVEY).
TUES 7.00 pm Women's F'ship Choir Pract.
8.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (Acts 18).
THURS 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology (Justification).
FRI 7.45 pm Women's Fellowship Meeting. A cooking demonstration by our expert Mrs. Khoo Peng Kiat.
SAT 2.30 pm Wedding Bells for David Lee and Judy Tan. Rev(Dr) Patrick Tan and Mr. Tan officiating.
3.30 pm JF, YF & YAF.

LORD'S DAY 10.00 am Elder Khoo Peng Kiat.
Last Week's Offerings: \$911.69 + \$70 (+ \$100 for Galilee).

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Mr. Tan.
11.30 am Catechism Class.
1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth study of Romans with Mr. Tan.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at the FEBC.

Change Of Telephone No. W.E.F. Sept. 15, '78

3.00 pm the phone no. of Rev. Tow's parsonage 50617 will change to 2560 - 617.

Our Youth Fellowship badly needs a used office typewriter in good working condition. Our Y.F. has a vigorous witness through the printed page. Any offer? Call 513676.

Welcome Back to our advisory pastor Rev. K.C. Quek who returned Friday night. He offers an FEBC course on Bible Survey every Monday.

FEBC Board of Directors will meet on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 8.00 p.m. Place: 64 Andrew Road.

Life Church Session last Tuesday approved the setting up of the Reformed Tract Distributors and Reformed Tape Library of Life Church under the charge of Paul Wong, Wee Chin Kam and Yiew Pong Sen. Co-Operation in Evangelism an article by a leading, godly theologian John Murray and summarized by our sister Seah Seow Gek is this week's Lively Stones lead article. Be sure to get a copy.

Edited by Mr. Tan Wai Choon, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676.

17th September, 1978
Faith Theological Seminary
Elkins Park, Pa. 19117, USA.
August, 29, 1978.

My dear Readers,

Impending Postal Strike

Hearing of an impending Postal Strike, I hasten this morning to keep up our correspondence. Not only a postal strike, but also a teachers' is somewhere brewing. The go-slow at Paris airport had delayed the Paaupes 36 hours.

The Christian School Movement

Talking about teachers brings us to an immediate question affecting us, yes, our children. Since the removal of the Bible and prayer from American public schools, the situation has gone from bad to worse. The spirit of teaching has so deteriorated that even the blacks have looked for a better educational system.

When I was here 30 years ago, there had already arisen a Christian School movement. This movement is today an effective educational force. Christian schools, from kindergarten to high school, are being run by churches, like our FEK by Life Church. Here education is given by dedicated Christian teachers based squarely on the Bible. Chapel is held every morning and the salvation of individual children is a major concern of the school. In fact it is one question asked to the young applicant before he is enrolled.

Enrolled at Cedar Grove Christian Academy

The children of Faith Seminary professors are studying at this Christian school in Philadelphia. Naturally we would want ours to study here. It so worked out that Mima and Jonathan and the three Paaupe children were enrolled on the same day. Each child underwent a two-hour examination for placement.

Since Christian schools are run on a self-support basis without Government subsidy, the fees are necessarily high. For the two of our children the annual amounts total U.S. \$1,600. In the light of what we pay here, parents sending their children to Far Eastern Kindergarten at \$40 or \$30 per month should be extremely thankful. So should we Singaporeans be grateful to God and our Government for paying so little in regard to our children's school fees.

By their dress ye shall know them

Jesus says we can tell whether a tree is good or bad by the fruit it produces (Matt. 7:16-18). So can we know the character of a person by the way he dresses. To inculcate good character, one requirement enforced by the Cedar Grove Christian Academy is "dress." Let me give you the School's regulations:-

Girls Girls are to wear school uniforms with hemlines that do not exceed one inch above the middle of the knee when standing. Shorts, slacks and pant dresses are not to be worn to school. We expect your dress to be fitting a Christian witness ... modest tops are to be worn ... Halter tops, T-shirts with emblems and tube tops are not permitted at anytime.

Boys Boys must wear a dress shirt and tie at all time. Trousers that have a place for a belt are to be worn with one. Sweatshirts and T-shirts are not permitted. Clothes should be clean and hair trimmed so as to give a masculine appearance. Hair must not overlap shirt collar or ears and must be above the eyes

I hope the young people of Life Church, even of our Bible College, will set an example to those outside the Church. During the years gone by, I've observed that as the skirts go shorter our young men's hair has grown longer. Is this natural? Paul asks the Corinthians, "Doth not even nature itself teach you that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame to him?" (I Cor. 11:14).

The Paaupes on Deputation

The Paaupes are lodged at the Missions headquarters at 246 West Walnut Lane, Philadelphia. We had a happy reunion last week eating out. Now they are on deputation, i.e. speaking at those churches which support them. This takes them to three churches in three states - Delaware, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The circuit is easily 1,000 miles! But this is America. We are living on a continent. We are like a drop in a bucket. It is fortunate that all those associated with us live at such close quarters.

Rev. Paaupe has been requested to teach a course in homiletics at Faith Seminary. Another FEBCer here!

Lily and John

Lily my other married daughter lives in Akron, Ohio, 400 miles away. She has phoned me in Singapore and is on the line again with us here. A filial daughter she has sent a welcome gift to her younger sister and brother. John is away in airforce training up Cape Cod, Massachusetts. I expect to see him when he returns to Willow Grove in a day or two. Willow Grove is 20 mins, drive from Faith Seminary.

Interpreter for Taiwanese Wedding

The Elkins Park Bible Presbyterian Church uses Faith Seminary for their worship, and has Rev. Dr. John Battles as their pastor. This evening a Taiwanese couple was married here. As the bride understands little English, I was requested to interpret the marriage vows and give the pastoral prayer. This reminds me of the wedding at Life Church Sept. 16, 2.30 p.m. between Bro. David Lee and Sister Judy Tan, Rev. Patrick Tan officiating. God bless you both! Affectionately, T.T.

2. IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES ALONE SUFFICIENT TO VALIDATE A PERSON'S CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE AND THEOLOGICAL BELIEFS?

The question is raised because there is a tendency to assume that a person who has spoken in tongues must be a Christian and that his basic theology and practice must therefore be regarded as beyond criticism. Some readily accessible facts and sober considerations should bring matters into proper perspective. Common sense recognizes that a tongues experience can be counterfeited; indeed many Pentecostals are among the first to recognize this. Furthermore, instances of ecstatic utterance are not uncommon in non-Christian religions.

In other words, tongues are not a uniquely Christian occurrence. Then what about liberal Protestants and Roman Catholics who have spoken in tongues? Is the fact that a person from a liberal Protestant theological tradition has spoken in tongues reason to ignore the unbelief inherent in that liberal theology?

The same can be asked of Roman Catholic charismatics. In the words of a Catholic parish newspaper, Roman Catholics in the Pentecostal movement are "learning from their experience about effective use of the sacraments" (understood in the Roman Catholic sense). Other Catholic Pentecostals testify that the charismatic experience has deepened their devotion to Mary. Catholic charismatic leaders and members of the hierarchy are appealing to the movement to remain in the Roman Church and "to remain faithful to the leadership of the papacy."

Just as charismatics from liberal Protestantism must face up to the theological aberrations of liberalism, so Catholic charismatics who hope to remain in good standing in their church must be willing to face up to the issues raised by the church's theological deviations in the areas of justification, the sacrifice of the Mass, penance, papal infallibility, the doctrines of Mary and the authority of church and tradition alongside Scripture.

This is not to say that many of these charismatics in both Romanism and liberal Protestantism may not be saved. But the mere fact of their having spoken in tongues is not proof of their salvation, and those who are genuinely saved must be willing to go on and face the serious theological errors of their churches.

As Harold Lindsell wrote in a recent article in Christianity Today, "No matter how many tongues a man speaks or how many times he does it, if his doctrine is defective, his tongues will not sanctify his aberration. The baptism in the Spirit cannot serve as a cover for heterodox belief or sanctify the denial of Scriptural truth." (from Facing the Issues in Tongues by Stanley N. Gundry.)

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.30 am Young Lifers leave 9A
Gilstead Road for Evangelism/Leadership
Conference at Golden Sands, Port Dick-
son, West Malaysia. BRETHREN, PRAY FOR
US.

TUES 7.00 pm Women's F'ship Choir Practice.
8.00 pm Prayer Meeting (Elder Tay in-
charge).

FRI 1.00 pm Young Lifers leave Port
Dickson for Singapore.

SAT Wedding Bells for Dr. Edmund Lee and
Dr. Judy Lim of Calvary B-P. Rev.
Philip Heng officiating at 5.00 pm.
3.30 pm JF, YF & YAF.

LORD'S DAY 10.00 am Rev. Quek Kiok Chiang:
Last Week's Offerings: \$834.15 (\$30 for/
TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS /George Kutty).
8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Elder Khoo Peng Kiat.
11.30 am Catechism Class.
11.45 am Mr. Tan preaches at Sharon Church.
1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth
Study of Romans.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.
8.30 pm FEBC Board of Directors meeting
at 64 Andrew Road.

Far Eastern Bible College began mid-
semester vacation on Friday Sept. 15. Classes
will resume on Mon. Sept. 25.

Women's Fellowship Elections on Friday,
Sept. 15. President: Mrs. Gladys Sng;
Secretary: Miss Choi Lin Fong; Treasurer:
Mrs. Grace Seow; Committee Members: Mrs.
Jennifer Goh, Miss Phua Mui Khim, Mrs.
Ruby Tan.

Owing to lack of space the Bible Study
Half-Hour is postponed till next week.
A Used Office Typewriter is needed by our
Y.F. Who will offer it for our young
people's witness with the printed page?
Call 513676.

Life Church will host this year's B-P
Conference on Oct. 29, evening and Monday,
Oct. 30. Watch out for further details.

AFFLICTION

Affliction comes to all not to make us sad, but
sober; not to make us sorry, but wise; not to
make us despondent, but its darkness to re-
fresh us, as the night refreshes the day; not
to impoverish, but to enrich us, as the plow
enriches the field; to multiply our joy,
as the seed, by planting, is multiplied a
thousandfold. Henry Ward Beecher.

24th September, 1978

Faith Theological Seminary
Elkins Park, Pa. 19117, USA.
Sept. 7, 1978AMERICOURIER V

My dear Readers,

"Day By Day And With Each Passing Moment."

I believe the No. of this hymn is 417 in Inspiring Hymns. Let it describe our livelihood abroad, and let it be the theme of our transient life on earth.

There is the prevailing notion with many of us that once you land in America, you're in a country flowing with milk and honey. Lest we come into such a comfortable situation, like the Israelites settled in the Promised Land and began to forget God, the Lord has dealt with us otherwise.

First, we are not yet fully accommodated. Though we have a palatial lounge and one bedroom in the main building of the Seminary, we have no kitchen. To this day, fine, because the Students Dining Club was not in operation all this while. Now that School has reopened and the Students Dining Club is functioning in a day or two, we shall have to make adjustments. This gives you an uneasy feeling, since we are touching on the most sensitive organ of our body - the stomach. Makan is an important, and a very important part of our earthly life. No wonder the Chinese proverb, "Eating is as great as heaven." The English proverb: "An army marches on its stomach." However, we're here not to burden but to bless. "Day by day, and with each passing moment" we live. Will you not thank God and our government for the provision of an HDB flat? Will you who stay in at Gilstead Road not be grateful to God and Life Church, with such freedom and privileges? Remember to economise - switch it off! Don't waste water! Watch out for leaks! Don't breed mosquitoes!

Second: When we landed in New York on Aug. 18, one of our suitcases did not come off the chute. To this date that suitcase, which contained all my clothing, including a new winter suit and a precious woollen given by a member, etc. are gone. The Airline concerned is not concerned and wards me off every time I phone to inquire. I have therefore committed this matter to Miss Trato, Dr. McIntire's secretary, to deal with through her travel agent. So all I have is two trousers and a jacket. Mrs. Warren, our Seminary secretary, has kindly replenished with some shirts and two old-fashioned jackets that fit me somewhat. What is the lesson from the second experience? That I must live "day by day and with each passing moment," that I may be willing to suffer for Christ in every way, (though there isn't any suffering, but the loss of some essential clothing).

"Be Thankful Unto Him, And Bless His Name" (Ps. 100:4).

This is a bright Christian virtue that we must cultivate at all times. Be positive and not negative. Murmuring, grumbling is a great sin. Do I hear your grumbling against your husband, your wife, children, parents, against God Himself! This is a sin of the Israelites that forfeited their entry into Canaan. Rather, give thanks! for great and for small. One thing we would like to give thanks for is the arrangement for a school bus to take our children to school. This saves me precious hours and minutes which money cannot buy. This surely contributes greatly to my efficiency as a teacher. For the load proportioned me as to my fellow-lecturers is to the full. And I need many hours of self-study and research particularly in Church History.

Faith Seminary, my Seminary.

As I have said, we're here to bless, not to burden. Our desire is to help our alma mater train a new generation of pastors and teachers. The Seminary has about equal numbers of Americans and foreign students. My prayer is that by inculcating the Truth that I know in the hearts and minds of these students there may arise a stronger leadership for the Church of God around the world. Pray for me that I might have His Word richly to impart. What we stress at Faith is the Word of God, infallible, inerrant, but we must release the power that is in this Inspired Word. O that God may deliver every Seminary from degenerating into a "cemetery". May FEBC be a school sending out preachers with a vibrant message.

Pray For Dr. McIntire's Speedy Recovery

Soon after returning from Amsterdam Dr. McIntire fell ill suddenly with abdominal pains. An operation at the Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia revealed an inflamed pancreas, but no gall stones as suspected at first. Every good treatment has been given him, and from the latest bulletin by Mrs. McIntire over the radio, he is slowly recovering. Please pray for him that he might be speedily restored to radiant health.

What is your reaction when you hear of some one fallen sick or in trouble of some sort? Read. Ps. 44 to purify our hearts. Let it comfort the lonely, righteous soul before God. Ps. 41 to read and to be read to comfort your sick friend. This week: My special greetings to Chinese Service through Mrs. Khoo Peng Kiat. Affectionately, T.T.

BIBLE STUDY HALF-HOUR (ACTS 13:16-25)PAUL'S SERMON.

"Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers and made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt. With mighty power he led them out of that country and endured their conduct

forty years in the desert. He overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance. All this took about 450 years. After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie' (NIV).

There are many similarities between Stephen's sermon (Acts 7) and Paul's sermon here. The theme of both sermons is the sovereignty of God in Israel's history. Indeed, history is His Story.

Stephen began with "The God of glory." Paul began with "The God of the people of Israel." This sovereign God reigned supreme over Israel and over the nations of the world. He was sovereign in his election of the ancestors of Israel. He it was who prospered the Israelites though they were oppressed and suppressed in Egypt. "With mighty power he led them out of the country" by judging the Egyptians with ten successive plagues and destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. Paul did not even mention Moses, though a great instrument he was in that great deliverance. Thus far we see God's sovereignty in his election of Israel, his grace in his prospering and preserving of Israel, and his power in his deliverance of Israel and destruction of the Egyptians (v.17).

God showed his patience when he endured Israel's rebellious conduct forty years in the desert (v. 18). It is incredible that God's people could be so forgetful of God's goodness to them and so rebellious towards the God who delivered them. The verdict of Israel's conduct during the 40 year wilderness journey is given by the apostle Paul in I Cor. 10. Paul wrote: "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (I Cor. 10:11, 12 NIV): A timely warning for us!

God, as a just ruler over the universe "overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance" (v.19). In the final analysis God is the rightful owner of the universe (cf. Ps. 50). In grace He gave the land of Canaan to Israel, not because Israel was worthy or deserving but because the Canaanites by their wickedness had defiled the land. The Canaanites were expelled from the land by the Lord because of their wickedness (Lev. 18:24-28). God kept his covenant he made with Abraham when he gave Israel the land of Canaan (Gen. 15:7; 17:8). The Israelites were most undeserving!

Not only did God give Israel a land, He gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet (v. 20). Then He gave Saul who ruled (better, misruled) forty years; so God removed him and appointed David King in his place. God truly ruled in the kingdom of men, and ... he appointed over it whosoever he will (Dan. 5:21). God thought well of David. He described David as a man after His own heart, one who was totally obedient to His will (v. 22). There is nothing that pleases God more than our obedience! The Jews recognized that the Messiah was to be descended from David. Thus Paul pointed out that Jesus was the predicted Messiah and Saviour, whose coming was heralded by the last and greatest of prophets, John the Baptist.

Paul was not through with his sermon yet. In this first part of the sermon, the theme was God's sovereignty in Israel's history. Paul showed God to be sovereign, gracious, omnipotent, patient, just, covenant-keeping and generous. It is truly wonderful to have such a God as ours. Let us worship Him for who He is and what He has done for us. TWC.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| MON | 8.00 am FEBC resumes lectures. | 1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth study of Romans. |
| | 7.30 pm FEBC lecture on Bible Survey (Rev. K. C. Quek). | 4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall. |
| TUES | 7.00 pm Women's F'ship Choir Practice. | <u>B-P CONFERENCE, 1978</u> |
| | 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible study. | <u>THEME: Occupy Till I Come (Luke 19:13).</u> |
| THURS | 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology (Mr. Tan). | <u>DATES: Oct. 29, 7.30 pm. - Oct. 30, 6.00 pm.</u> |
| SAT | 3.30 pm JYF, JF, YAF. | <u>VENUE: 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11.</u> |
| | 4.00 pm Wedding Bells for Ong Soo Leong and Malini Krishnan of Galilee Church. Rev. P. Heng officiating. Reception at FEBC Hall. | <u>PROGRAMME: The following papers will be simultaneously presented:</u> |
| SUN | 10.00 am Mr. Tan. (Holy Communion). | a) Strengthening the church through Christ-centred families. |
| | <u>Last Week's Offerings: \$658.91 + (\$80 for BPM)</u> | b) Deepening the church through the study of God's Word. |
| | <u>TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS</u> | c) Multiplying the churches through church-planting. |
| | 8.45 am Sunday School for all ages. | d) Extending the church through missions. |
| | 10.00 am Rev. K.C. Quek, our advisory pastor. | <u>Tampoi: Paul Wong and company leave Life Church at 6.30 pm. Any coming?</u> |
| | Mr. Tan at Sembawang BP Church. | <u>Edited by Mr. Tan Wai Choon, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676.</u> |
| | 11.30 am Catechism Class (Mr. Tan). | |

1st October, 1978
Faith Theological Seminary
Elkins Park, Pa. 19117, USA.
September, 14 1978

My dear Readers,

America - Land of Free Radios.

If my memory is correct, I had read somewhere, some years ago, there were 25,000 radio stations in this Land of the Free. Around the Philadelphia area there must be several dozens of them, yes, and many a Gospel radio too, competing, as it were, with one another. Dr. McIntire had 600 of them in the peak of his radio ministry.

The Radio ministry is very necessary, as the American automobile is an integral part of American living. By radio, the pastor of a big church can communicate with his members daily, as well as extend the Gospel to every would-be listener. So, it is the fashion of churches here to own radio stations or to rent time on radio stations (while the super pastors and super churches go TV). Now, we in Faith Seminary can hear Dr. McIntire on the radio for an hour everyday at noon.

Dr. McIntire Seriously Ill.

In my last letter I reported on Dr. McIntire's sudden illness. One week after, he is still in a serious condition. His pancreas is still enlarged. He has to be fed intravenously. One little improvement, as Mrs. McIntire said over the radio, is he is given a thimble-cup of ginger-ale at hour-long intervals. We really feel sorry for the man of God. Dr. McIntire's illness, no doubt, has been precipitated by all the pressures put upon him to foreclose the properties he holds at Cape May for U.S. \$491,000 in taxes, though he had won the suit over the Christian Admiral Hotel, which is exempt.

"A Friend in Deed is a Friend in Need."

In this hour of dire distress, a call has gone out over the radio to pray for him. There is also the appeal for funds to lift that \$491,000 burden. So far some \$100,000 has come in. Yes, in this dash slay of trial, he who has been a helper and succourer of thousands in needful of help. I'm sure you will help by earnestly praying to the Father Almighty. But we can also help with our substance.

Mr. Teo Siau Hua, preacher at Life Church Chinese Service, related how visitors to a sick man in hospital each piously mumbled a prayer, and left, satisfied they had performed their duty. But one who came last not only prayed but also left behind an envelope. It was \$100 to help pay the hospital bills. Mr. Teo asked, "Tell me whose prayer of the scores who visited was effective?"

Dr. McIntire is in trouble. We pray for him - good! But we would do better to send him a gift as an expression of our love. Not to talk of his Cape May properties threatened with foreclosure, his hospital bills would run into thousands. Surely you would gladly send him a bouquet to cheer him in his sickbed. May I therefore put this matter before Rev. Quek Kiok Chiang that he may round off a good deed of collecting a love offering from churches and individuals - to wish Dr. McIntire's speedy recovery. Let me kick off from this end with a "bouquet" of U.S. \$45 or roughly S\$100. "A Friend in Deed is a Friend in Need." Prov. 17:17, "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Opportunities at Faith.

This year Faith Seminary reopens with 58 students from as many countries as are represented at FEBC. I have 28 students in my Church History class. 18 are taking Calvin and 20 Hebrew. Considering how Mr. Tan our Acting Pastor had received a good training here, it is a real challenge to be engaged in teaching so many others in these halls of learning. My prayer is that a good percentage of these young men (and women) would become effective ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ when they return. Mrs. Tow also profits by coming. She is taking a course in English under Dr. Dickie and two courses of Greek under Dr. Battle and Dr. Lee. So, we are all kept busy. Rev. Paauwe teaches the Junior class in Homiletics.

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

This verse from Prov. 25:25 is to tell you how much we appreciate news and letters from Life Church and Readers. Mail in U.S. has slowed down, so I understand my Couriers did not arrive in time. To remedy this I shall write 10 days ahead.

Thank you very much Bro. Pong Sen for the Lively Stones, and Kamala for the Weekly. If you both combine to send them weekly, the cost is the same, but we have fresher news. I'm indebted to Mr. Bo also for your letter and colour photo and for taking care of Deacon and Mrs. Lai in my flat. Hospitality is a ministry God will bless, meanwhile Margaret Tan has also written from Brunei. Trinh Huong Linh our Vietnamese FEBC graduate phoned from Wisconsin to say hello. She has got her M.R.E. and is also MRS. to one Vietnamese pastor taking his doctor's degree. Bro. and Mrs. Lawrence Leong called with a nice package of provisions while we were out.

We notice the Leadership Camp under Mr. Tan will soon be held at Port Dickson. We pray God to bless the young people gathering there and grant you journeying mercies.

Yours for the Faith, T.T.

PAUL'S SERMON (cont'd).

Paul's sermon can be divided into three parts. Each part begins with Paul addressing the audience (13:16,26,38). While the theme of the first part is God's sovereignty in Israel's history, the theme of the second is the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ: His death, burial and resurrection - all coming to pass in fulfillment of Old Testament predictions.

Again, Paul called his audience to attention in v. 26. He mentioned that both Jews and Gentiles were privileged to hear and respond to the message of salvation which Paul had been commissioned to proclaim (cf. 9:15). The Jews of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize the Lord Jesus (John 1:11; 8:19). Unwittingly they had fulfilled Scripture when they unjustly condemned him to death (cf. Acts 3:17-18; Isa. 53:3). There was absolutely no proper ground for a death sentence to be passed on Jesus. Pilate repeatedly declared Jesus undeserving of the death sentence. In any case, the Lord Jesus was executed, and buried in a tomb in fulfillment of Scripture. Peter declared the same great truth in his first sermon when he said of Jesus: "This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross" (2:23). The folly and sin of wicked men fulfilled God's purpose! What God has decreed must surely come to pass.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS.

While men killed and buried The Lord Jesus, God raised him from the dead in total reversal of their verdict. After Jesus' resurrection, he was seen by many of his disciples (cf. I Cor. 15:5-8). These personal and public witnesses of the resurrected Christ "are now his witnesses to our people" said Paul (v. 31).

Here is good news indeed - that promise made to the ancestors of the Jews has now been fulfilled by God to the descendants. Paul's sermon was full of O. T. Scriptures. He quoted Psalm 2 in v. 33; Isa. 55 in v. 34 and Psalm 16 in v. 35. The resurrection of Christ was long predicted by the prophets. Paul did not hesitate to apply these passages to the Lord Jesus Christ. He pointed out that Psalm 16:10 could not refer to David because he died, was buried and his body decayed; but the Lord Jesus died, was buried and his body did not undergo decay because God raised him from the dead. Scriptural arguments are powerful arguments! Next, we shall see Paul's application of his sermon. TWC.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Bible Survey
(Rev. K. C. Quek).
TUES 7.00 pm Women's F'ship Choir Practice.
8.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.
9.00 pm Session Meeting.
THURS 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology.
SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF, YAF.
SUN 10.00 am Rev. Peter Chua.
Last Week's Offerings: \$744.96 + \$65 +
(\$100 + \$100 for Dr. McIntire).

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Mr. Tan (Chairman: Dn. Peter Wang).
11.30 am Catechism Class (Mr. Tan).
1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth
study of Romans.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.
Welcome Home to Deacon (Dr) T.C. Lim, mother,
wife and daughters. They praised the Lord
for journey-mercies.
Deepest Condolences to the Leong family:
Lawrence, Michael and Robert whose mother
Mdm. Lee Yin Peng went home to be with the
Lord on 25th Sept. '78. Elders Khoo Peng
Kiat, Lau King Hong, Seow Chong Pin, Edmund
Tay and Deacon Roland Wong visited the
bereaved on Tuesday night. Funeral service
held on Wednesday afternoon was conducted
by Rev. Quek K.C. and Mr. Tan.
(Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection
and the life. He who believes in me will
live, even though he die; and whoever lives
and believes in me will never die" (John 11:
25,26).
YAF Room has been given a new coat of paint
and an "operation clean-up" by Khoo Eng,
Chuay Lai, Siu Sing, Choon Poh, Pat, Angela,

Nee Keng, Gim Thong, Chee Weng, Wee Kim,
Chee Seng and Peter Eng. Praise the Lord
for our zealous young adults!
Port Dickson Leadership/Evangelism Conferees
praised the Lord for His bountiful blessings.
Conferees included Mrs. Charles Tsao (Dn
Paul Tsao's mother) and little Sandra Tsao
who "loved the place very much." The
conferees will present the camp theme song,
this Lord's Day:

DEEPER, DEEPER IN THE LOVE OF JESUS

Deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus
Daily let me go;
Higher, higher in the school of wisdom,
More of grace to know.

Ch: Oh, deeper yet, I pray
And higher every day,
And wiser, blessed Lord.
In Thy precious, Holy Word.

Deeper, deeper! blessed Holy Spirit,
Take me deeper still,
Till my life is wholly lost in Jesus
And His perfect will.

Deeper, higher, every day in Jesus.
Till all conflict past
Finds me conqueror, and in His own image
Perfected at last.

Tampoi Peter Eng, Paul Wong, Gim Thong
leave Life church at 6.30 pm. Any coming?
Gifts from Singapore friends to Dr.
McIntire's Hospital Bill totals US\$2,756,
of which over US\$700 come from Lifers.
THROUGH GATES OF SPLENDOR a moving
missionary film will be shown: Date Oct 14.
Time: 7.30 pm. Place: F.E.B.C. Hall.

8th October, 1978
Faith Theological Seminary
Elkins Park, Pa. 19117
U.S.A.

My dear Readers,

Dr McIntire Improving

Since Dr. McIntire fell ill, there has gone up a great volume of prayer-cries unto the Lord. Radio listeners pray through the radio broadcast, whose earnest entreaties so touch my heart that tears well up my eyes. Members of Collingswood Bible Presbyterian Church gather in mighty prayer. In answer to our prayer the Lord is beginning to restore the doctor. The latest is that he is able to drink a little and walk a little. Nevertheless, he is still far from out of the woods. Let us pray for God's servant, and let us learn to pray at our Tuesday night Prayer Meeting.

In my last letter I retold a little anecdote by Mr. Teo Siau Hua, guest-preacher at our Chinese Service. I recounted how a string of visitors at a hospital sickbed prayed piously for the sick brother. Finally there came up one who not only prayed for his friend, but left behind an envelope. It was \$100. Our preacher asked, "Of the many prayers uttered at the sickbed, which was most effective?"

I told this story to an American gentleman. The next day I heard on the radio that a \$100 came in for Dr. McIntire (from this man). It is our blessing and privilege to do something for one who has helped thousands around the world, and is now in need of our help. Let Life Church respond to this call which is now being relayed by Rev. K.C. Quek.

America a Needy Mission Field!

To the glory of God our coming has been deeply appreciated by the American Church and School of learning. One pastor humbly recognised the mission of our visit. At the Annual Banquet of the Woman's Missionary Soc. of Collingswood BP Church featuring the Paauwes (to which we were invited) we were recognised as missionaries of Life Church to America! As missionaries our high objective is to preach Christ. This we are doing through our appointment at Faith Seminary where 60 students from USA, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Korea are being trained.

That USA is becoming a mission field is due to the breaking down of morals in the nation. When I was here 30 years ago 1 out of 3 marriages ended in divorce. Today the ratio is 1 to 2. Driving out of Seminary to Philadelphia the other day we saw by the main highway a big stone church all boarded up. The dead and the dying church means yielding the good ground to thorns and thistles. That America is losing in spiritual vitality is seen in the decrease of out-going missionaries. This transfers part of responsibility for worldwide missions to the younger churches and we in Singapore are given a part. This underscores the need and urgency of training pastors and teachers in our FEBC programme.

Translation of Djunaidi's Letter on the Gospel Boat, dated Sept. 4.

"On my return to West Kalimantan via Tg. Pinang I held several meetings at Tg. Pinang and at Kijang. I established a closer contact with the Vietnam Refugees, with this wonderful opportunity I delayed going home. Instead of taking the Enggano, I took the next boat "Ende." I landed at Singkawang safely with all my luggage, by His grace. Our Gospel Boat sailed up to Pontianak at the beginning of this month. Immediately I got it dry-docked to give it a coat of paint. No damage was detected. As the tide wasn't high enough, we could not get it all painted. We'll dry-dock after three months to get the unpainted part done up. The engine is excellent, though we need a water pump (Let us send him enough to install this). For the last several days our boat has been endlessly visited by the Church in Pontianak. A chorus of praise has gone up from our friends for the superb workmanship of our boat. Government officers visiting us say the same. The Director of Religions has now taken a favourable view, and has expressed the desire that the Gospel Boat preach to the Navy! Pray for us that this Boat Ministry will bring much glory to God. (DJUNAIDI'S new corresponding address is P.O. Box 55, Pontianak, K.B., Indonesia.)

Rev. Hsu Chiang Tai, my Onesiphorus (II Tim. 1:16).

Onesiphorus is one of Paul's companions in the Gospel. He is highly commended in Paul's letter to Timothy. Onesiphorus helped Paul when he pastored the Church at Ephesus. When Paul was imprisoned in Rome, Onesiphorus "sought me out very diligently and found me." What did Onesiphorus do to Paul? He "oft refreshed me." He's friendship is translated into acts of kindness upon the aged Paul.

Rev. Hsu is my companion in the Gospel since Life Church began in 1950. He also has often cared for my material needs. The triangular shelf at our Church kitchen entrance was the first act of kindness from Rev. Hsu. He brought it to my flat at Tiong Bahru in 1951 because he saw I lacked furniture. Now that I am in US and he thinks I might be watering in the mouth for Chinese food and condiments, he has sent a big box of instant Cantonese noodles and all kinds of Chinese tinned food. He also sends a cheque and the longest letter, he says, he has written in his life, to encourage me! He is a real Onesiphorus.

"To Be A Blessing, Not a Burden."

From the chorus "Every Burden Becomes a Blessing," I have coined the slogan above to meet with every circumstance here. Since we are uprooted from a 28-year ministry in Singapore and transplanted in a foreign land, naturally, there are all kinds of inconveniences, despite US being an affluent country. By taking Paul's advice to Timothy "to be content with godliness," we have not burdened anyone here and thereby become a blessing. We are happy even when my suit case hasn't showed up, trusting the Lord to make up our loss. A life that blesses others is an exciting one that moves in geometrical progression: 1, 3, 9, 27 and so on. Elder Heng Yow Tong who is a great help to missionaries, and helps send my crate here, is another Onesiphorus. Faithfully, T.T.

LETTER FROM THE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA

MODERATOR, Rev. Philip Heng.

"Dearly Beloved Members of the Bible-Presbyterian Church

Greetings in the most precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I write to remind of the Annual Conference of our B-P Church. This Conference with the theme: "Occupy Till I Come" Luke 19:13 will be held on Oct. 29th and 30th at the Life B-P Church.

On Sunday the 29th at 7.30 pm, we shall be celebrating the 28th Anniversary of the entire B-P Church in Singapore. What a blessed time it will be to recall the Lord's blessings upon us throughout all these years. Let us come and join in this praise service which will culminate in the Lord's Supper.

On Monday morning we shall regather at 9 am for a Worship Service which will be followed by the presentation of four papers simultaneously. The four topics are:

- A) Strengthening the church through Christ-centred families.
- B) Deepening the church through the study of God's Word.
- C) Multiplying the churches through Church-planting.
- D) Extending the church through missions.

Following the talks will be discussion on the four topics. After lunch we will hear a feedback on the talks and discussion of all groups.

Later in the afternoon we will have two separate forums, one for the Youth and the other for the Adults. A double panel comprising presbyters and ministers will endeavour to answer whatever questions you may have related to the Conference Theme and papers.

After tea we shall have a closing Service for a time of soul-searching and rededication. We expect the conference to be over by 6 pm.

Please pray and plan to attend this conference which is planned for you. Let us relish such times of Christian fellowship as we may not always have them. We shall be calling for registration the following week. Please look out for the registration forms.

Thank you."

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

- MON 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Bible Survey.
(Interesting slides on Israel will also be shown and commented by Rev. Quek Kiok Chiang).
- TUE 7.00 pm Women's Fellowship Choir Practice.
- 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.
- THUR 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology.
- FRI 7.30 pm WF* Tp: "Working Women".
- SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF, YAF.
- 7.30 pm THROUGH GATES OF SPLENDOR, a touching missionary film of how 5 young missionaries were killed in the jungles of the Amazon. Place FEBC Hall.
- SUN 10.00 am Mr. Tan.

11.30 am Sunday School Ex. Co. emergency meeting at FEBC Hall.

6.05 pm, 10 pm Hear Rev. K.C. Quek on Radio Singapore.

Last Week's Offerings \$1,205.70 + \$350 (pledges offerings) + \$150 (for McIntire) + \$100 (for Rev. A. Ormeo of the Philippines).

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

- 8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
- 10.00 am Rev. Peter Chua, pastor of Sharon BP Church.
- 11.30 am Catechism Class (Mr. Tan).
- 1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth Study of Romans.
- 4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.

MEETING THE SESSION Next Lord's Day (Oct. 15) at 11.30 am the catechumens (i.e. candidates preparing for baptism) will meet the Session members and their families at the FEBC Hall. Elder Edmund Tay will exhort the catechumens.

Our Church's 28th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service will be held on Oct. 22, '78. Sharon B-P Church will be worshipping with us and Rev. K.C. Quek will be the Lord's messenger. A Thanksgiving/Fellowship lunch (earners - \$8.00; non-earners - \$5.00) will follow the Service in the church grounds. Please register with our elders/deacons.

B-P Conference Registration Forms are available at the church entrance. Hand in your registration forms duly filled to Elder Tay, latest Oct. 15, '78.

Welcome Home to Deacon William Teo who was away in the U.S. on company assignment for ten weeks.

A Special Welcome to Joan M. Ross, an Australian missionary on her way home to Melbourne from London, making an unscheduled stopover in Singapore.

Guests at FEBC this week are the relatives of Pauline Wong, our student from Sarawak.

A Directory of our Session members is available to baptised members from our Warden, Mr. Yiew Pong Sen.

Edited by Mr. Tan Wai Choon, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 513676.

*Women's Fellowship.

15th October, 1978
Faith Theo. Seminary
Elkins Park, Pa. 19117
USA

My dear Readers,

"Whose Faith Follow" (Heb. 13:7)

"Whose faith follow" is an exhortation to us to learn from the good example of leaders of the Church. Paul, foremost apostle, called on members of the early church to follow him, as he followed Christ (I Cor. 4:6; 11:1; Phil. 3:17). This injunction has a two-fold effect. It humbles us pastors, elders and deacons to examine our lives if they can become patterns for our congregation? It humbles members of the congregation to be submissive, the younger to learn from the older, to be willing to receive instruction.

Let us all learn from the Apostle Peter 5 steps of following Christ. 1) Follow him to see Jesus, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:37-42). The first time Peter saw the Lord, he believed, and was saved. Dear Reader, you have been to Church so often. Have you seen Jesus? 2) Follow Peter in his fishing experience - no fish by his own effort, two shiploads by the Word of the Lord. After this experience he gave up all to serve Christ (Luke 5:1-11). Perhaps the time has come for some of you to give up your job to take on God's work fulltime! (Life begins at 55!) 3) Follow Peter to die with the Lord, if need be (Matt. 16:21-26). 4) Follow Peter to denounce pay, power and position, which the rich young ruler sorrowfully refrained from doing. (Matt. 19:21-30) The world is evermore an attraction to the flesh, so the lesson of denouncing it has to be learned time and again. If we lose for Christ, we will gain it back 100-fold! True or not? 5) Follow Peter to love the Lord "more than these" (Jn. 21:15-22). Unless it is love that draws us, love for Jesus over all other considerations, somewhere along the way, we will quit. Love is the greatest power. It is Peter who said to the Lord, "To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (Jn. 6:68). If we can follow the Lord with Peter in these five steps, we will have succeeded much in the Kingdom of God. This sermon was delivered today to Faith Seminary, and I share with you.

Little Life Church in America!

Last Lord's Day I counted 12 disciples from S'pore worshipping at Elkins Park B-P Church, inside Faith Seminary. They were comprised of my family, my son John with his two daughters, Lawrence Leong and Lee Lin with their 2 sons and Elder William Seah of Calvary (formerly of Life Church). As Elkins Park Church is small we formed a quarter of the congregation! Elder William Seah was on an annual business trip to U.S. By visiting us, he got 12 Lifers together in one Church. So, we can serve Christ even when travelling. (The Paauwes were away preaching and deputising in another Church).

Lawrence Leong, from Hooper Road Days.

When Life Church was young and we had no building of our own, we held Bible Classes on Sunday morning at Hooper Road, home of Elder and Mrs. Heng Mui Kiah. That was 1954... Lawrence was one of the old-timers. I sent him to Shelton College, with my son John and Roy Lim. Now, they are all settled here. Lawrence having married Lee Lin of Galilee have two sons now. Next Monday Oct. 2 Lifers here will gather at his new house for worship and blessing. Meantime, news has been received of the home-going of his mother Madam Leong Yin Peng of Marine Terrace, Sun. Sept. 24. We send Lawrence and his brothers and sister in S'pore our deepest sympathies, and thank Rev. K.C. Quek who was requested to take care of the funeral. Madam Leong, baptised by me years ago, is in the House of the Lord forever.

Give every support to Mr. & Mrs. Tan.

We've received good report about the FEBC from Bro. & Mrs. Burt Subramaniam of Jurong Church and we do rejoice. We send greetings to Jurong through this Courier. I thank God for Mr. & Mrs. Tan who have so ably taken our place in not only at Life Church but also at FEBC. "The old banana tree must be chopped down for the young shoots to grow." It is our prayer to see many other faithful young men arise to lead the Church and College through the nurture of FEBC. Pray also for me that our work at Faith may bring forth fruit.

US\$1,000 for Dr. McIntire's Illness heard over the radio.

And by none other than William Seah while driving to visit us! This is your sweet-savour sacrifice accepted by the Lord. Praise Him, Dr. McIntire is slowly recovering. A greater work awaits him who is being brought back from the brink of death. God's love on His servant is great, so He has spared him, as He spared King Hezekiah, with another 15 years. Dr. McIntire asks for 20! T.T.

AMERICOURIER IX (Oct. 5, 1978)

My dear Readers,

"Ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:31).

One of the rules of algebra that I remember is that in working out an equation, plus becomes minus when you shift it to the other side. Travel has hazards, its plus becoming minus, such as accidents and loss of baggage.

When the bag containing all my clothes did not arrive with the rest, naturally I became quite disappointed. So, the Lord comforted me with the verse above. If a sparrow cannot fall without God's permission, surely He will keep my lost baggage until it is found.

For 1½ months we've phoned and written IRAN AIR our carrier and prayed with hopes and fears. Praise the Lord, the lost bag has found its way back to S'pore, and Mr. Ee Chin Hock, Head Baggage Unit, SIA, has custody of it. Please ask Bro. Teo Gim Thong to confirm with SIA while I advise Mr. Ee to return the bag to me here at Elkins Park.

"Therefore take no thought Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" (Matt.6:31).

The day the SIA "Lost and Found" advice was received saw also the arrival of my crate of books and other personal belongings. This I had to go with Rev. Paauwe to the Port of Baltimore to take delivery of. When the boxes were opened I found an old suit and underwear which I badly need, since Autumn is here. So, I have enough to wear even during this interval. How adequate is the Father's provision, to the last pair of trousers!

And we want to thank the Lord also for receipt of various items of winter clothing, new ones from Lily and surplus from the Seminary's secretary. Hundreds of dollars are saved, for winter is a hard taskmaster! We who live in Singapore and can get by with a few cotton pieces costing a few dollars are fortunate indeed. Besides winter clothing, there's the other big item - oil for heating. In Singapore, the Sun warms you and cheers you up each morning without your paying a penny.

Another little Life Church in USA!

Mrs. Jacob Huang, the former Miss Loo Keng Eng, is another Lifer in US. Since her marriage she and her husband have felt a burden to witness to Chinese U. students. When I visited her in 1973 she and her husband had bought a house in downtown Baltimore for the students work. Today, that witness, now officially registered as the Baltimore Christian Fellowship at 3118 N. Calvert St, Baltimore, Md. 21218 is a recognised church. Professor Jacob Huang (Physics) is the head of this Church. Rather patterned after the Brethren Assembly, they observe the Lord's Supper every week. Their attendance is 20 including their two children. Someday I've promised to preach to this "little Life Church" in Mandarin to the Chinese students! We want to record our thanks to the Huangs for taking good care of Rev. Paauwe and me for the night when we went to Baltimore to claim our crate. Baltimore is 110 miles south of Philadelphia.

Timely Tape Ministry!

Congratulations to the Reformed Tape Librarian! Let the little Life Church here say how much we all appreciate the sermons you've sent by air - by Mr. Tan, Dr. Patrick Tan, Rev. K.C. Quek and Elder Khoo. How each message has blessed my own heart. These messages are being heard by friends here. So the blessings flow, like a mountain stream.

Life Church 28th Anniversary Thanksgiving.

We don't say "birthday," but we say "thanksgiving." Every Anniversary is appointed for "Thanksgiving" after the Thanksgiving custom in USA. It began with the Pilgrim Fathers of the Mayflower who survived their first winter after arrival in US in 1620. Now, the Lord has blessed each one of you ever since you joined Life Church (1950) and we have survived year by year by His protective hand. Think of the Vietnam refugees. Think of the massacre in Cambodia. Let us give thanks. Let the new candidates for baptism give thanks for their new found salvation. Gratefully, T.T.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MON 7.30 pm FEBC lecture on Bible Survey
by Rev. Quek K.C.
- TUE 7.00 pm Women's F'ship choir practice.
8.00 pm Prayer Meeting, Bible Study.
- THUR 7.30 pm FEBC lecture on Theology
(Mr. Tan).
- SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF, YAF.
- SUN 10.00 am 28th Anniversary Thanksgiving
Service. The Lord's Messenger: Rev.
Quek K.C.
- 12.00 noon Thanksgiving/Fellowship
Lunch with greetings from sister
churches.

Last Week's Offerings: \$811.86 + \$100 plus
\$100 for Rev Tow, + \$100 for Galilee + \$50
for Dr. McIntire + \$20 for George Kutty.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

- 8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
- 10.00 am Mr. Tan (ch. Elder Lau K. H.).
- 11.30 am The Catechumens meet the Session.
Exhortation by Elder E. Tay.
- 1.00 pm Study Group Continues in-depth
Study of Romans.
- 4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.
- 6.05pm, 10pm Hear Rev. Quek K.C. Radio S'pore. Life Church!"

Anniversary Lunch Get tickets from Bro.
Yiew Pon Sen, Dn. William Teo or Dn. Koh
Kim Song. Grace period until Friday Oct.
20 for phone reservations only. Call Dn.
W. Teo 650644 (office), 538217 (home).

We bid Godspeed to Penny Gan, who with a
youth choir left Oct. 8 for the Asean nations,
Japan, Korea and H.K.

Guest at FEBC from Oct. 10 to end of Nov.
is Mrs. Geuer a missionary of the "Go Ye
Fellowship."

Pray for the bereaved of the Greek tanker
Spyros disaster which claimed more than 60
lives and more than 100 injured. Two
similar incidents took place during our Lord's
time: Twice, our Lord replied concerning those
who perished: "... think ye that they were
sinners above all men...? I tell you, Nay;
but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise
perish" (Luke 13:1-5).

Stop Press! A surprise visit from our pastor
in Nov. after the FECCC Conference in Manila?
He writes: "A wonderful item of news is my
ticket costs the same to Manila or S'pore! So,
here's an expected visit from the Pastor to
Life Church!"

22nd October, 1978

PASTORAL LETTER FOR 28TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING

It was another wedding service I was conducting at Life Church. The congregation was singing the opening hymn.

Suddenly, I woke up to the fact I was not standing at the pulpit. I was seated with my family about the third row in the front pews. I was clad only in my open-necked shirt sleeves! Horrified, I dashed out of the Church. Up the staircase to the parsonage I flew. There were a few precious minutes, I thought, to make good - since both Bridegroom and Bride were late in coming.

To my dismay, my bedroom was locked! I pulled out my bunch of keys. But, it took like half-an-hour before I found the right key to open it. I grabbed a tie and jacket. With the help of my wife's dressing mirror, I had my tie on in a second! Down the steps, back to Church, again I flew. As I slowed down to climb up the pulpit and felt for my tie to make sure it was in place, it was gone - as before! Just then the wedding march music stopped. The Bridegroom and Bride stood before me. In this moment of unspeakable agony, I pulled myself out of sleep.

This dream is God's answer to my prayer on what to preach at Elkins Park Bible Presbyterian Church on Oct. 22, 1978, which happens to be Life Church's 28th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service.

Two morals may be drawn from this dream in the light of God's Word. Let me share them with you:

1) Read Jesus' parable in Matt. 22:1-14. Here is a man who attended the King's wedding party for His Son. He did not come in a wedding garment. He was cast into outer darkness. Have you got your Wedding Garment on, even when you partake of the Lord's Supper?

2) Read Jesus' parable in Matt. 25:1-13. The five foolish virgins who were late in welcoming the Bridegroom were shut out. When they cried to the Lord, He said, "I know you not." There is no second chance after death. "Now is the accepted time" (look at the Church clock!).

The greatest joy at our Church's birthday is one's new birthday. Since I was born again in 1935, I am 43 years old! Can you say how old you are in your new birth? Happy Birthday to Life Church and to you who are born again! Affectionately, T.T.

COURIER - EXPRESS FOR 28th ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING

My dear Readers,

Autumn

A line from Robert Burton says, "Of seasons of the year the autumn is the most melancholy." So echoes the Chinese poet Ouyang Hsiu in his essay on "The Voice of Autumn." Autumn is most melancholy because she is the solemn harbinger of winter. As the days get shorter and the winds blow colder, we have seen in our Seminary park (34 acres) how the squirrels hurry to gather nuts for storage. We have seen the last few mornings flock

ter flock of wild geese propelling clumsily southwards, cackling mournfully as they go. Now I know why my spirits brood sometimes, inspite of all this bountiful supply of good food and warm clothing. Autumn! Last night the mercury in the thermometer plunged into the 30s F. When I got up this morning the whole field outside became frosted white! No wonder I had to put on three layers of clothing, and crawl under two thick blankets of wool. Autumn suddenly let winter in by the back door. We were caught unawares, with no central heating.

Dear Reader, are you approaching the autumn of your life? Jeremiah lamented, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." (Jer. 8:20). How miserable is life's summer past, and autumn is here, with no provision made for winter! O, let us flee, like the geese mentioned above to the south, to where "the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings" (Mal. 4:2). Jesus Christ turns our chilly autumns and winters into the warmth of an eternal summer.

A Peking Proverb (among Christians)

"When your sickness is a small one, call the Taifu (doctor)

When your sickness is a big one, call Yesu" (Jesus).

Dr. McIntire has been completely laid off by acute pancreatitis for over six weeks. The doctors have from the beginning admitted their inability to effect a cure. Only the good Lord, if He is gracious, can heal. Just two days ago, Dr. McIntire seemed to be slipping. But the Lord has heard our cries, and once again brought him out of the horrible pit. Today, he has taken a wonderful step to recovery. So much so he could tell his secretary, "I want to talk to Timothy!" Truly, man's life in God's sight is a vapour. But, if He is gracious to us, He can raise us up. He can uphold us till life's very end. I believe Dr. McIntire will soon be in action again! Thank you S'pore for sending such a magnanimous gift with this precious verse from Jeremiah, "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds" (Jer. 30:17).

Content to be a Timothy

Do you know how I came to be called Timothy? When I was in Faith Seminary 30 years ago there was a Chinese student from Manchuria who got here before me whose name was Paul. Since I was the second Chinese student, the Americans called me Timothy. Simple as that! But I didn't mind. Timothy is a humble name, for a humble person. I have been delighted to be called Timothy, and I have understood God has given me the ministry of Timothy.

Now Timothy was Paul's disciple. And I have told you I am Dr. McIntire's disciple (from the beginning). Timothy's role is to help Paul in the work of the Gospel, to assist even as a standby, an immediate help in Paul's hour of need.

My coming to US is in answer to Dr. McIntire's request. Now the B-P Synod is going to meet Oct. 13-19 at Cape May and I'm asked to speak on behalf of the doctor. And since he cannot make it to Manila where the FECCC is in conference Nov. 14-18, as FECCC President, it is incumbent on me to stand in the gap. So, in Timothy's role, I'll be flying back to the Far East. But here is His extra blessing. I am hopping back to good old S'pore after Manila - because the airline is giving me a free ticket. On a long flight NY-Manila, I'm entitled to this extra leg free of charge. "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it" (Prov. 10:22).

28th Anniversary Thanksgiving

From the beginning, every Anniversary has been a Thanksgiving. This is patterned after the Americans' Thanksgiving from the days of the Pilgrim Fathers. What items have you for Thanksgiving? Greatest of all - the salvation of our souls. As for us this time, we would thank God for radiant health. For a good Christian school for our children. For recovery of the lost bag. For happy days of fruitful service. For wonderful Christian friends here who take good care of us. Let us name them one by one. Though we cannot eat the usual Thanksgiving dinner with you, our spirits are with you there and with the Chinese Service in their 13th year.

Let us thank God for the doctrine of separation and for the spirit of a 20th Century Reformation we've received from the beginning. As the days get darker and "Truth faileth" (Isa. 59:15), the raising up of a standard in Manila Nov. 14-18, 1978, after 27 years, is of multiplied importance. I'd nominate Mr. Tan our Acting Pastor to the Manila Conference. Indonesia needs to be represented, and here, in our Thanksgiving, we can render some help!

I am thankful indeed that God's Spirit is moving strongly amongst our Session and young people and in those who are valiant for the Truth (Jer. 9:3) showing the erroneous steps Dr. Graham has taken in evangelism. But it looks more and more like the end is approaching. Let us give thanks we can labour for a few more years, perhaps, before He comes. Amen. Thankfully, T.T.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

- MON 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Bible Survey
by Rev. Quek K. C.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.
WED 7.30 pm Mr. Tan speaks on: The Bible:
What is the best English Version? at
Galilee Church Training Programme.
THUR 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology
(Mr. Tan).
SAT 3.30 pm YF., YAF.

Last Week's Offerings: \$798.51.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS.

- 8.45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.
Open Sunday:
Junior: Miss Dorothy Tan.
Senior: Rev. Peter Chua.
10.00 a.m. 28th Thanksgiving Service.
The Lord's Messenger: Rev. Quek K.C.
12.00 noon Thanksgiving/Fellowship Lunch.
2.00 p.m. Study Group Continues in-depth
study on Romans.
3.45 p.m. Mr. Tan at Jurong B-P Church.
4.00 p.m. Chinese Service: 13th Anniversary
Thanksgiving.

Dn. William Teo since his return a few weeks ago has resumed duties as our church treasurer.

The Sept./Oct. issue of the BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN BANNER is out. Features excellent and relevant articles like: "What Has Happened to the Prayer Meeting?" "True Discipleship," and "The Modern Tongues Movement, Where is it Headed?" Please take one at the church entrance.

Praise the Lord for Rev. K.C. Quek's speedy recovery from an operation.

Change of Address: Pauline Tan, 1 Eng Kong Gardens (21).

B-P Conference Schedule (For further details, please refer to the notice board at church entrance).

Place: Life B-P Church, Gilstead Road, 11.
Oct. 29 (Sun): Praise Service.

Time: 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.

Speaker: Rev. P. Heng, Pastor of Galilee/Calvary B-P Churches.

Oct. 30 (Mon): Conference.

Time: 9.00 am - 4.00 pm.

Speakers: Rev. K.C. Quek, Elder P. K. Khoo, Rev. C. Tan and Rev. D. Wong.

Please note that the closing service is from 3-4 pm not 5.00 pm as printed in the B-P Banner.

Speaker: Mr. Ronald Young of the Scripture Gift Mission.

Pray for our young people who will be sitting for their GCE (O and A levels) exams.

Pray for health, wisdom and diligence in preparation.

For our 28th Anniversary Thanksgiving

Today, let us say with the Psalmist:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:" (Ps. 103:1,2).

Edited by Mr. Tan Wai Choon, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11, Tel: 513676.

29th October, 1978
Faith Seminary,
Elkins Park Pa 19117
U.S.A.
Oct. 20, 1978

My dear Readers,

At The 42nd Bible Presbyterian Synod, Oct. 13-19.

Every year the BP Church meets for a week. Pastors and Elders and their wives (if possible) convened this year at Cape May, N.J. with excellent hotel facilities provided by the Christian Admiral, Dr. McIntire's Bible Conference Centre. Commissioners come from as far as California and Florida, one even from Canada. Rev. Philip Heng our Moderator sent greetings. Between 100 and 150 met everyday from morning to night, to hear messages and reports, discuss problems, pass resolutions, and not the least to renew friendship with one another. We were delighted to see Rev. & Mrs. Burton Toms, who served with us in S'pore for a year.

The theme of the Synod was "Building and Battling." All messages delivered under this theme were spoken out of the Book of Nehemiah. I was privileged to speak on behalf of Dr. McIntire on Banquet Night. I learnt a great deal from the messages delivered by our American brethren.

Cape May is 100 miles from Philadelphia. As we do not possess a car, we joined the Paauwes in their Ford Country-squire, an 8-seater Station Wagon. Though a 1969 Model, it has an excellent engine and chassis. This gave us not only comfortable but also smooth riding.

Greetings to Our 28th Anniversary B-P Conference.

While we join in the Synod here, we are not unmindful of this great occasion of our whole B-P Church Movement. Please, Life Church Session, bring greetings on behalf of us here, which I've called "Little Life Church." We're glad that Elder Khoo is speaking on the Family; and we also congratulate him for being elected to the FEBC Board of Directors.

We're also delighted to hear from the tape just received that Sharon would join Life Church in our Anniversary Thanksgiving. The messages by Rev. Peter Chua on Jehovah-Jireh and by Mr. Tan on Woman and Marriage have been deeply appreciated. They will circulate to our friends.

Dr. McIntire Gaining Strength.

I visited him at Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia last Thursday for the first time. To this day he is fed by a "hyper-alimentation" machine intravenously. To this day he has not taken any food through his mouth. Yet his spirits are high. Today he sounded strong on the Broadcast, chiming in through the Hospital telephone. Money pledged thus far for the Cape May Taxes is heading towards \$400,000! Those sent in from Singapore exceeded U.S. \$3,200. Though this is a drop in a bucket, nevertheless, it refreshes like ice water to a thirsty traveller.

Gleanings from Gospel Boat Letter.

Djunaidi writes: "Since the Gospel Boat came to Pontianak, we have improved on the steering. With the tide swelling up, we'd drydock the boat again to complete worm-proofing the hull (a type of worm in the Kapuas attacks all wooden hulls). Mid-October we're sailing up the Kapuas to visit Churches and evangelise. Meantime I have been invited to preach around the local churches To help finance the Gospel Boat, we shall henceforth transport oil for the MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship), to the inland town of Kalansam once a month. This will give paid mobility to preach the Gospel on the way and back. As to Rev. Simin, he is willing to teach at the Bible School at Sebetung (under Rev. Quek's mission). Hope Life Church will continue to support him in his new appointment. I shall soon report also to the Life Church Chinese Service."

"A horse's strength is measured in mileage."

This Chinese saying stresses the importance of perseverance if one is to succeed in life. The same is needed in serving the Lord. So to the short-winded and discouraged ones the Apostle to the Hebrews writes, "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed" (Heb. 12:12,13). May these verses be shared, first of all, with my FEBC students as they prepare for final exams. Mrs. Tow and I are mindful of your needs particularly at this hour.

In reference to the FECCC 9th Assembly to be held in the Philippines Nov. 14-18, I had an understanding with Dr. McIntire not to attend, to save time and expense. I'd rather concentrate on my full-time teaching job. But God has willed it otherwise. With Dr. McIntire hospitalised, all the more I am needed in Manila. So, on the road again! This means greater compression and higher tension in the service of the Lord.

The Lord's work is indeed a race requiring the straining of every nerve and muscle. This is more so when it involves "contending for the Faith" (Jude 3). As FECCC president I had suggested postponing the FECCC 9th Assembly in view of the ICC 10th World Congress planned for June 1979. But God has evidently overruled. The Filipino brethren are gathering in strength from all over the archipelago. God has a higher plan. So, we must press on. So, Lifers and every Reader concerned for the defence of the Gospel, let us

stand together with the Lord!

Billy Graham is coming to Singapore!

Why don't we join the crowd to support him? There's the struggle in my heart to support him and gain popularity, or say no, because God's Word forbids it, and be misunderstood. I must take God's side! And I have been with the ICCC testimony the last 30 years. May God help me to witness for him with zeal and courage in the Philippines. Pray for me. Faithfully, T.T.

CHRIST AND COMPROMISE by Timothy Tow.

(SERMON DELIVERED AT THE 4TH PLENARY CONGRESS OF THE ICCC, QUITANDINHA, BRAZIL, AUG. 1958.)

"Then said Jesus unto His disciples. If any man will come after me, let him deny Himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 16:24,25).

On the issue of compromising the separated, sanctified position of the Christian believer and that of the Christian church with the evil forces of unbelief by demanding that we work together with modernists in a new-day "co-operative evangelism", it is a well-known fact that no man has raised greater controversy within the church, throughout the world at this hour, than Dr. Billy Graham.

Billy Graham is coming to Singapore! This "co-operative" position of bringing Bible-believing Christians and modernist infidels together, under any circumstance, has hitherto been condemned by all who love the truth. But since Dr. Graham took this new line of "co-operative evangelism", demanding that all churches in a city, irrespective of their confessions whether they are fundamental or modernistic, should unite to sponsor and pray together for him in any city-wide campaign, resistance to co-operation with modernists in Singapore has all but collapsed.

Ah! Do I hear some brother say that he joins this "co-operative" sponsorship because he cannot help it? And when he has joined, he has done so without compromising his faith? My reply is, "What about the regular preparatory prayer meetings which are a part of the sponsorship? Can a Bible believer pray with a modernist infidel?" However, the consensus of reply to our disapproval of joint sponsorship between Bible believers and modernists for "co-operative evangelism" is: "Dr. Billy Graham is doing a mighty work of soul winning no other has done in our generation. Who should dare to question him? At any rate, soul winning deserves our support, and it is all right for us to set aside the fundamental-modernist controversy for a while."

Thus, one of the strictest Bible-believing churches in our city, as far as I know, momentarily capitulated. But, praise the Lord, I understood afterwards that this church has withdrawn from the joint sponsorship, because one of its leaders has shown the church it should obey the Word of God rather than the word of Dr. Graham. Other than this noble example and a few others, including of course our humble testimony, the churches of Singapore, including nearly all the mission agencies, have joined hands to sponsor the coming of Billy Graham....Nevertheless, I am sure there are God's own within these churches who are grieved at heart over this new-day "co-operative evangelism", who, however, are silenced before they make any attempt to speak - for who should dare to oppose the mighty Dr. Billy Graham? (to be continued).

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 9.00 am B-P Conference begins with
Worship Service. Sp: Rev. Patrick Tan.
9.45 am Presentation of Papers;
10.45 am Tea Break.
11.00 am Presentation of Papers;
12.00 noon Lunch.
1.30 pm Testimony Time;
3.00 pm Closing Service Sp: Mr. Ronald
Young.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.
THUR 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology
(Mr. Tan).
SAT 3.30 pm YF., YAF.
SUN 10.00 am Rev. Patrick Tan (Holy C'union).
Last Week's Offerings: 28th Anniversary/
Thanksgiving \$2,668.31 + \$100 for Tape
Library.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Mr Tan (Chairman: Dn. Lim Teck Chye).
1.30 pm Study Group continues in-depth
study of Romans.
4.00 pm Chinese Service: Mr. Lin Tah Mon.
7.30 pm B-P Praise Service at Life Church.
Holy Communion.

GOOD NEWS Our Pastor will be in S'pore from
Mon. Nov. 20 till Fri. Nov. 24. FEBC end of

term dinner will be held on Mon. Nov. 20 at
6.30 pm instead of Fri. Nov. 17.

Lim Florist has been regularly presenting
Life Church with bouquets. Tel: 376471/
2353292.

CONGRATULATIONS to sisters Sabrina Loi and
Seah Seow Gek who were conferred the B.A.
and B.A.(Hons) degrees respectively at the
U. of S'pore convocation recently.

Change of Address: Mr. Danny Wong, w.e.f.
Nov. '78, 63-Z Blk 26, Dover Crescent,
S'pore 5.

THINK ON YOUR WAY

YOUTH: Too Happy to Think. Plenty of time
left yet.

MANHOOD: Too Busy to Think. Seeking more
gold.

PRIME OF LIFE: Too Anxious to Think.
Worry has taken over.

DECLINING YEARS: Too Old to Think. Life
wasted. Old hearts harder to get.

DYING BED: Too Ill to Think. Weak, now, and
suffering alone.

DEATH: Too Late to Think. The Spirit has
flown. Opportunity is lost now!

ETERNITY: For Ever to Think. God's mercy
is past; into Hell I am for ever cast, for
ever to weep my doom!

5th November, 1978
Faith Seminary,
Elkins Park Pa 19117, USA.
Oct. 26 '78.

My dear Readers,

Parable of the Wise Stewards (Lk. 12:31-48).

Last Lord's Day we commemorated Life Church's 28th Anniversary Thanksgiving by worshipping and preaching at Elkins Park BP Church. I spoke on the parable of the Second Coming. While there is the actual shutting out of 5 foolish virgins in Matt. 25, the rejection of unsaved Church members, here is a warning directed rather to leaders. At least it hit Peter between the eyes, because in vs. 41 Peter asked, "Lord, speakest Thou this parable unto us, or even to all?"

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; and when He cometh and knocketh, they may open unto Him immediately." (Lk. 12:35,36) Now, let me share with you the agonising moments of a dream I had recently, an exasperating situation of my own unpreparedness: It was another wedding service I was conducting at Life Church. Instead of standing at the Communion Table, I found myself sitting with wife and children casually in the third left pew in my shirtsleeves. Horror of horrors, I darted out by the back door. I flew up the stairs to the parsonage. But, to my added dismay, my bedroom was locked. After half an hour of finding the right key, I managed to open it. I grappled a necktie and jacket. Fortunately, they were on in a jiffy. I flew down the stairs. I now relaxed a little, since I thought I had made it. But to my greater horror, as I put my hand to adjust the tie while ascending the Communion platform, my tie was gone! And the Bridal party was there "Let your loins be girded about," i.e. "Be properly attired for service, for my service, who am your Lord!"

Dear Reader, are you unprepared like me?"

Three aspects of everready service: 1) A giving up of one's profession, like Peter's and yielding to the fulltime service. I remember Mr. Tan's testimony when he gave up teaching to study at FEBC. He felt the nearness of Christ's coming, and the shortness of life itself. (Sorry to hear of the deaths of Rev. Phoa Hock Seng and Mr. Lim Eng Siang). 2) While remaining in one's profession, an awakened attitude in the use of one's time for the Lord. Rev. Hsu Chiang Tai, though not having a Church, ministers through his pen (writes to H. Kong Christian magazines) and writes me weekly here "to keep my necktie in place"! 3) While remaining in one's profession, an all-out spending of one's resources (we're not our own, but stewards, servants in trust). For, in connection with Christ's return, Jesus says we should daily seek His Kingdom and "sell that ye have, and give alms" (Lk 12:33). I praise the Lord for the spirit of giving in Life Church, because we realise all will be burnt up very soon as we see things prophetically shaping up. God bless every cheerful giver at our 28th Thanksgiving!

Praise the Lord for Dr. McIntire's Steady Recovery.

He must have chimed into the daily broadcast from his sickbed in Jefferson Hospital for 5 to 10 minutes. He sounded strong. He thanked the Lord (Oct. 24) for being able to drink grape juice (oh, so sweet!) for the first time after 8½ weeks of "hyper-alimentation" (feeding by a tube through the jugular vein). He said the doctors would let him out in two to three weeks. Dr. McIntire has been fed more effectively with God's Word. He has delighted particularly in Ps. 41 which "fits me," he says.

Dr. Lynn Gray Gordon, Acting President, Faith Seminary.

Dr. Gordon, President of the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions is unanimously elected Acting President of Faith Seminary, and so announced at the Synod Banquet. On the spot I tendered him the congratulations of our whole Church in S'pore. At the chapel this week, he gave this testimony to his appointment. He received \$2,000 from outside of USA for Faith Seminary as he started out in his new work. The Lord confirms his ministry with timely encouragement! The fact is, offerings to the Lord's work in this country have not only dipped, but also shrunk in size. The \$408,000 that has come in to offset the foreclosure of Cape May Bible Conference properties has been made up of twenty-five and fifties, hundreds and two hundreds. Thousands are rare to find. The \$3,300 U.S. from S'pore was therefore a shot in the arm.

Health is Wealth (Chinese proverb: No sickness is great gain).

In spite advancing cold and waning sunlight, the Lord has kept us in good health. So we are rich! Health to some might have to be purchased by tens of thousands of dollars. Lately Mima was developing a cold. I heard sneezes on and off. I gave her two cold pills we've been equipped with. Her nose dried the next morning. Let us thank God for good medicine. Doctors are God's gift to the sick!

One secret to good health is proper feeding. In this respect we are in favour of eating western. The abundant supply of fresh milk has added not only to my health but also stopped gastric acids. Eating fresh salads instead of overboiled vegetables gives automatic supply of vitamins. Nor do we pine for rice. Bread and cereals taste just good, though rice is always rice! (Jesus is the Rice of life, if you are not accustomed bread). We've also learnt to eat cold meat, cold sandwiches. This is time saving.

Instant eating is part of the American economy. We can learn much from the West. Eating American has given us good health, praise the Lord. Your healthfully, T.T.
P.S. Dr. Siang Yeow, your telegram has just come in. Booking for Eileen has been secured. T.T.

CHRIST AND COMPROMISE by Timothy Tow - continued.

(SERMON DELIVERED AT THE 4TH PLENARY CONGRESS OF THE ICCO, QUITANDINHA, BRAZIL, AUG. 1958).
SCRIPTURE DEMANDS DEALING WITH THE ISSUE.

Such an attitude of maintaining peace within the church at any price, or popularity for oneself at the expense of truth, is not the testimony of the Apostle Paul. Paul faced up to every church problem and courageously dealt with it. In one of these he was thrown into a dilemma ten times more embarrassing, I should say, than what we are now facing. He had to dispute with a greater than Dr. Graham, the Apostle Peter, the chiefest of the Twelve, over an apparently smaller issue than ours. The issue that Paul dealt with was Peter's cowardice in not eating with the Gentile Christians. Peter did this apparently out of good intention, not to offend the Jewish Christians of James's party, which demanded that Gentile Christians should also become Jews. The controversy is recorded in Galatians 2:11-14: "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not unrightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of the Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"

Paul's whole argument against Peter on this issue is that, by compromising with the legalizers of Jerusalem in refraining from eating with the Gentile Christians, he was actually promoting the cause of erroneous doctrine. Indeed, this was the logical result a salvation by works, a curse to the very Gospel Peter himself was seeking to advance. And men of truth were not afraid to dispute, like skillful surgeons courageously cutting into the cancerous growth of a sick body. The controversy had brought leaders of the primitive church together to the famous Council of Jerusalem, which is recorded for us in Acts, Chapter 15. Tremendous issues are at stake in the behaviour and actions of key men of the church of Jesus Christ. What colossal disasters result when a wrong principle is adopted!

We thank God for many souls brought into the Kingdom through Dr. Graham's labours, so far as preaching the saving grace of Christ is concerned. But, what about our duty to the Lord, to baptize them into sound, Bible-believing churches which is part and parcel of the Great Commission? By bringing Bible-believing pastors into the fellowship of modernist missionaries, which is the peculiar situation in our city, can one guarantee that the lost sheep now brought back to the fold will not stray into the lairs of wolves? Or, as you would have it, the fish are saved from the frying pan and put directly into the fire! To recognize the modernists in this way is to reject the words of Christ. Jesus says, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15). How do we beware of wolves? By fellowshiping with them in their prayer room? (Remember what happened to Little Red Riding Hood's grandma when she welcomed the wolf into her house, It ended in "peaceful coexistence" inside the cunning monster.). (to be continued).

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Bible Survey by Rev. K. C. Quek.
TUES 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
9.00 pm Session Meeting at FEBC Library.
THUR 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on Theology (Mr. Tan).
FRI 8.30 am FEBC exams begin.
5.00 pm FEK Annual Concert.
7.30 pm Women's Fellowship.
Dedicatory Meeting. Place: FEBC Hall.
SAT 3.30 pm YF., YAF.
(Pray for our young people as they prepare for their GCE (O & A level) exams.)

SUN 10.00 am Mr. Tan.

Last Week's Offerings: \$872.69 + \$200 + \$100 (for Dr. McIntire) + \$50 (for Rev. Djunaidi) + \$200 for spotlights.

A VERY CORDIAL WELCOME to Mr. Ronald Young of the Scripture Gift Mission to our pulpit this morning. The SGM is engaged in the world wide distribution of the Word of God.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Mr. Ronald Young (Chairman: Dn. Roland Wong). Mr. Tan at Sembawang BP Church.
1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth study of Romans.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.
8.00 pm Adjourned Presbytery Meeting at FEBC Library.
Tampoi Gim Thong, Peter Eng & Co. leave Life Church at 6.30 pm. Any coming? Remember your passport.

RESULTS OF PRESBYTERY ELECTIONS held on Oct. 28.

Moderator: Rev/ Philip Heng; Vice-Moderator: Rev. Quek Khiok Chiang; Stated Clerk: Rev. David Wong; Assist. stated clerk: Elder Tow Siang Hwa; Treasurer: Elder Seow Chong Pin.

CHRISTIAN LIVING IN THE HOME by Jay E. Adams was the best seller at our booktable during the B-P Conference. Still available at a special discount for Lifers. (Edited by Mr. Tan Wai Choon, 9A Gilstead Road, 11. Tel: 513676).

12th November, 1978
Faith Seminary,
Elkins Park Pa 19117
USA, Nov. 3, 1978.

AMERICOURIER XIII

My dear Readers,

At the Leong's New Home, 3411 Philmont Ave., Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 19006.

The house-blessing we intended to hold with Larry Leong on Oct. 2 was postponed to 27th. Not counting old Lifers, there were 11 of the younger set: Larry's two sons, Roy Lim's two children, the three Paauwe children, John's two girls and ours. Here's enough of young brawn to make up a football team and membership for a Life Church Junior Service (by extension). I spoke on the need of getting ready to meet the Lord any hour at His Second Coming.

To be ready, first of all, means to be saved! To be ready, secondly, means to live a life of constant communion with God. To be ready means, thirdly, to be conscientiously involved in the extension of God's Kingdom with one's time and resources.

A noble example is Rev. Hsu Chiang Tai.

Wellknown to older Lifers, Rev. Hsu is a benefactor to FEBC Library. He is my confidant and counsellor. He devotes his time, after work, to write articles to Chinese Christian magazines, to buy theological books, some of which he has sent are here. He gives to various missionary societies and to a goodly number of individual missionaries. As an American citizen, he is a patriot to the nation of his adoption, both by word and deed. But on himself and his wife, he spends only \$1,000(U.S.) a year on a most frugal livelihood. The rest of his earnings is devoted, literally, to the projects above-mentioned.

But what a tragic contrast of such a fruitful life - the end of an aged couple who burnt themselves to death in a New York Chinatown cubicle. This old Chinese pair had hoarded \$100,000, which, ironically, was salvaged by firemen. So, there are Christians, rich to themselves, but not to God, (Luke 12:13-20) who leave this world to see their God empty-handed, but with houses and estates to be taken over by the Government! (The story of the Chinatown tragedy is told by my son John).

"Preserving Biblical Christianity in the Far East."

This is the theme of the 9th Gen. Assembly of the Far Eastern Council of Christian Churches meeting at the Teachers Camp, Baguio City, Philippines Nov. 14-18, 1978. By the time this Courier comes to you Mr. Tan, Rev. Peter Chua and Rev. Quek will be leaving Singapore for the Conference. 54 Asian delegates and 250 Filipino pastors and Church leaders are signed up. Dr. J. C. Maris, ICCG Gen. Sec., will be there, and Dr. James Shaw, ICR Sec. From USA will proceed Rev. MacDonald who happens to be going to Australia for a nationwide campaign. Dr. Earle White; Assoc. Gen. Sec. of the Independent Board for Presbyterian For. Missions will also be on the programme. As Far Eastern President, I must be there to open and close the Conference. I have also the privilege of carrying a personal message from Dr. McIntire, International President.

Preaching at Tokyo Bible Centre, (Rev. Timothy Pietsch).

By the time this Courier reaches you, I will have just arrived, D.V., at Narita, Tokyo, after a non-stop flight from N. York. It is necessary for me to stopover in Tokyo, but on a self-paying basis, since I'm on a cheap-ticket(\$1,267 roundtrip, plus free trip to S'pore). Fortunately there is my dear brother-in-Christ Rev. Timothy Pietsch of Tokyo Bible Centre to take care of me. And, I also am privileged to preach at his church Sunday night (Nov. 12).

Here is the testimony of Rev. Pietsch, according to excerpts from his latest newsletter (Miss Kimiko can verify this):

"We do not use foreign missionary money to build buildings, but believe it should be used in direct evangelism only. Because the churches of Japan are still so small and weak(Average less than ten) they still cannot widespread the Gospel over radio, television or in newspaper advertisements. We have found that the hardest things we have encountered in the work in this country is the establishment of the true N.T. churches that will not compromise the Gospel, either with Shinto nationalism, communism or false Christianity - either neo-orthodoxy or neo-evangelicalism(Billy Grahamism). One of the most difficult problems for a missionary in Japan is to inform his supporting churches that he will not co-operate in a Billy Graham Crusade because the enemies of the Gospel are honoured and put in positions of leadership and the results are put under these false prophets to a large extent" (Timothy Pietsch has established 2 Japanese Churches, a kindergarten with 200 children and runs a daily Gospel Broadcast - for over 30 years. His Church has an attendance of 50 at Sunday night).

"Lively Stones" Re-affirms "Ancient Landmark."

I want to congratulate the Sunday School for taking the initiative to review our Church's 28 years' history, yea, even tracing her roots to William Burns, to the ICCG and the BP Church in USA, and finally to the Westminster Confession. I'm glad there has arisen in the second generation of our Church a guardianship of our Presbyterian and Reformed Faith. We are proud of our glorious heritage. We tell also those who would

blur the distinctives of the BP Church: "Remove not the ancient landmarks, which thy fathers have set" (Prov. 22:28).

Dr. Anthony Thio is here!

Another Lifer who is here is Dr. Anthony Thio who has kindly responded to my bouquet appeal for Dr. McIntire. Dr. Thio is now in New York. He is returning Nov. 14. Rev. & Mrs. Marvin Dunn, our CNF friends have also kindly written. Do write if you're coming this way. When we get out apartment in a fortnight, we will gladly welcome you!
T.T.

CHRIST AND COMPROMISE by Timothy Tow - continued.
(SERMON DELIVERED AT THE 4TH PLENARY CONGRESS OF THE ICCB, QUITANDINHA, BRAZIL, AUG. 1958).
THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST AND THE SCRIPTURES

With regard to our relations with false Christs and prophets who should arise in the latter days (and we believe we are living in the last days), Christ has explicitly forewarned us: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers: believe it not" (Matt. 24:24-26). Yes, the Bible speaks clearly and abundantly on all matters of church doctrine and discipline and a hundred verses abound to bind us from any unholy fellowship with unbelievers. Suffice me to remind you just on the admonition of the Apostle John: "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever, transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 7-11)...

NOT COMPROMISE BUT SACRIFICE

It seems to me that the hidden roots of compromise reach deep down into the lower stratum of our fallen nature. I am speaking generally, first considering my wretched self, for are we not all prone to selfishness, and to seek the praise of man? "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9) We who have been called to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3) ought, above all, to search our own hearts, lest we also fall (I Cor. 10:12).

When Jesus began to show the disciples at Caesarea Philippi "that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and he killed, and be raised again on the third day, then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Behold if far from thee, Lord; this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan; thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 16:21-25). We, who have erred like Peter, know this passage too well. (to be continued)

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON Mr. Tan and Rev. P. Chua leave for the 9th General Assembly of FECCC conference in Baguio City, Philippines. Revs. Tow, Quek, Chua and Mr. Tan will return on Monday, Nov. 20, '78. Conference Theme: Preserving Biblical Christianity in the Far East. Brethren, Pray for us.

TUE 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting (Eld Khoo i/c).
SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF, YAF.
SUN 10.00 am Dr. Earl White (ch: Elder Tay).
Last Week's Offerings: \$1,335.12.

Dr. Earl White associate gen. secretary of the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions, accompanied by wife and daughter will be our guests from Nov. 17-21. Dr. White is Mrs. Tom's brother.

Today's Appointments

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Mr. Tan (Chairman: Dr. Paul Tsao).
1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth study of Romans.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at the FEBC Hall.
Need a car for PARF? FEBC car on sale.

The Presbytery which met last Sunday decided to publish a more detailed statement on the S'pore Billy Graham Crusade, setting forth the reasons for our non-support. Praise the Lord!

REV. T. TOW'S SCHEDULE IN SINGAPORE (NOV. 20-24).

MON Nov. 20, 6.30 pm FEBC's end of term dinner. 8.00 pm Rally at Life Church (all are welcome to the Rally).
TUES Nov. 21, 6.30 pm Our pastor dines with Session members and families.
8.00 pm Prayer Meeting.
9.00 pm Special Session Meeting with Pastor Tow.

Sunday School Ex-co will meet today at 12.30 p.m. at the library.

Congratulations to Neil and Jenny Geuer for God's gift of a son, Glenn, born Nov. 3 at 6lb. 9oz.. The Geuers are missionaries to Indonesia. They need a pram. Any offer? THE RAPTURE, a gospel film to be shown by the YAF on Sat., Nov. 25 at 7.30 p.m. in the FEBC Hall. Invite a non-Christian friend.

Edited by Mr. Tan Wai Choon, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11, Tel: 513676.

THE TRAGEDY OF MAN

The tragedy of man is not that he was left in the darkness of ignorance to grope his way toward the truth, but quite the opposite, that, though by nature possessing the knowledge of the truth about himself and his Creator, he preferred darkness to light (John 3:19). At first, as the Genesis account of creation teaches, man was blessed with constancy of fellowship with his Creator and rejoiced in the harmony of the universe. But then the temptation came to doubt and to disobey the word of God, and, indeed, to think evil of God from whom he had received nothing but unalloyed goodness. The tempter subtly suggested that God was even threatened by man's presence in the garden, and that in consequence he had placed a prohibition on eating the fruit of one of the trees in order that, like an insecure tyrant, he might restrict man's freedom and hold him in subservience. The tempter persuaded man, further, that the warning that he would certainly die if he should eat the fruit of that tree was an empty warning, since, the tempter implied, God was powerless to enforce such a threat and in any case had no competence to predict what would or would not happen, because the future, being at the mercy of chance and contingency, was completely unpredictable.

And so the truthfulness of God, the source of all truth, was flatly denied - "Of course you will not die. God knows that as soon as you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing both good and evil" (Gen. 3:4f.) - and man was invited to assert himself in defiance of God, to seize freedom for himself by demonstrating his independence of God, to increase the range of his knowledge by embracing evil as well as good, and to be his own god and master. But God remains God. The denial of his existence does not reduce him to nonexistence, nor does man's flaunting of authority render God powerless. The consequence of man's rebellion is not power and liberty but shame and confusion, alienation from his Creator, disharmony within himself and with his environment, and the loss of the meaning and purpose of his existence. The evil that was to liberate him haunts him wherever he turns and pollutes even the good that he wishes to do. Through his own folly he has brought a curse upon his existence, he has experienced disintegration at the very core of his being, and, having wilfully turned his back on Life, he now has Death staring him in the face. Far from being master of the world, or even of himself, he finds himself in bondage to the tempter who so falsely promised him godlike existence (cf. Heb. 2:14f.). By believing the word of Satan instead of the word of God he has allowed that creature who is the enemy of all good to usurp the place of the Creator. This is the primary idolatry, the worship of the creature instead of the Creator, which lies behind all other forms and expressions of idolatry, so much so that the devil is called by Jesus "the prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) and by Paul "the god of this passing age" by whom the minds of men have been blinded with unbelief (II Cor. 4:4). (Adapted from HOPE FOR A DESPAIRING WORLD by Philip E. Hughes).

CHRIST AND COMPROMISE by Timothy Tow - continued.

(SERMON DELIVERED AT THE 4TH PLENARY CONGRESS OF THE ICC, QUITANDINHA, BRAZIL, AUG. 1958).

There is no doubt that when Peter tried to hinder Jesus from taking the death road of the cross, he was doing it out of love for his Master. Yet Jesus rebuked him in the strongest term, calling him Satan. What are the basic reasons Jesus gave for so rebuking him? I can see at least two. First, Peter did it according to his emotional viewpoint. He savoured of the things of men, and not of God. No matter how high our motives are for tolerating modernists for a while, such as in an evangelistic campaign, if God's Word forbids it, we have to obey. Calvin reminds us that all worship from our hearts, no matter how sincere it might be, is an abomination to God if it is not done according to His Word. (Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book I, Chap. XI). Hence, although Cain had brought the best of fruits from the fields, his works were rejected. Abel brought a lamb, in humble obedience, and he was accepted. The second reason Jesus had for rebuking Peter was that deep in his heart there lurked his selfish desire for self-preservation over and above the will of God. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt. 16:25). Now, seeking popularity and the applause of men by compromising the commands of God is another form of self-preservation. Thus, when the disciples were attracted to seek popularity from the crowds, Jesus declared, "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26). We dare not criticise Dr. Graham if he is seeking popularity and the applause of men through this "co-operative evangelism," but the Word of God is salutary to all. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake will find it" (Matt. 16:25).

If the position of "co-operative evangelism" between Bible-believing Christians and modernists is accepted by the majority of the Christians of Singapore, this must not sway those who have hitherto stood firm upon the Word of God. I appeal to those who

heard China's greatest Apostle, Dr. John Sung in the thirties, and were glad. Did this prophet of God compromise for one moment with the modernist missionaries and pastors of his day? Not for one second! The good doctor had tasted the bitterness of unbelief when he studied for a season in Union Theological Seminary, New York City. He almost lost his soul through imbibing the venom of modernistic theology. So, he never ceased to warn his converts with tears against the wiles of modernism. I sat through all his campaigns and I can still hear his shrill cry denouncing all the sins of the church, not the least the sin of modernistic unbelief. My brethren and sisters of the John Sung meetings will bear me out. The Homilies of John Sung, a 500-page book, will show his earnest contending for the faith. If the Word of God was true in Dr. John Sung's day, it is just as true today. Shall we now depart from our former position? The followers of John Sung, yea, every Christian who loves his Master, will stand firm against any compromise, not because one so dear to them had said it, but because his witness was true, for he was not afraid to declare the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27).

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever, will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 16:24,25).

REV. DJUNAIDI WRITES: To Life Church English & Chinese Services, Elder Seow, Mr. Tsao, Brothers and sisters in Christ.

It is sometime since we said good-bye. Trust by the grace of God you are all well. Have received Rev. Tow's letter from US.

"Kapuas Kourier" gospel boat arrived in Pontianak 2 months ago. Apart from installing steering wheel control, the boat was twice slipped for anti-corrosion/worm proofing work to the boat's bottom. The work was completed in the middle of this month (Oct). About 200,000 Rps. were spent. The amount exceeded the 4-month maintenance which Rev. Tow brought here. But these were unavoidable expenses for the sake of keeping the boat in good repairs as well as for safe navigation. In order to continue the gospel work and help towards maintenance of the boat I have made arrangements with the Mission Aviation Fellowship to transport oil for them possibly once or twice monthly to Sintang, upper reach of Kapuas. In this way, I can also preach the gospel along the way up and down the river. In addition to hiring a tongkang for the purpose of transporting the oil (assuming that Kapuas Kourier only does the towing), the boat badly needs a medium size water pump (K.K. has a pump which came with the motor but in raining says, or accidental leaks a spare pump is necessary). Presently such a pump costs 120,000 Rps. Before the price hike prior to September it cost about 90,000 Rps. Please pray that God will supply all our needs. Enclosed are 2 photos of K.K.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

MON 5.30 pm Rev. Tow, Mr. Tan and Rev. Chua arrive from 9th Gen. Assembly of FECCC conference in Baguio City, Philippines.
6.30 pm FEBC's end-of-term Dinner.
Guests are delegates from FECCC and elders of BP church.

8.00 pm Rally at Life Church to follow up on the FECCC's theme "Preserving Christianity in the Far East". Brethren, please pray and come to support.

TUE 6.30 pm Pastor Tow dines with Session members and their families.
7.30 pm Women's Fellowship Choir Practice.
8.00 pm Prayer Meeting. Please come to meet and hear our beloved Pastor. Don't miss this opportunity!!!
9.00 pm Special Session Meeting with Pastor Tow.

FRI Rev. Tow flies back to Faith Seminary U.S.A.

SAT 2.00 pm Wedding Bells! Holy Matrimony between Yeo Thian Chu and Soh Teen to be solemnised by Rev. P. Tan. Reception to follow at FEBC Hall.
3.30 pm JYF, YF, YAF.
7.30 pm THE RAPTURE, a gospel film to be shown by the YAF at FEBC Hall. Invite a non-Christian friend along.

SUN 10.00 am Dr. Tow Siang Hwa (Ch. Mr. Tan).

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00am Dr. Earl White (Elder Khoo as stand-in). Chairman: Elder Tay.
1.00 pm Study Group continues study of Romans.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at the FEBC Hall.
Last Week's Offering \$684.16.
At the time of writing this weekly (Sat. morning), Rev. Tow's AMERICOURIER XIV has yet to arrive.

We welcome back our beloved Pastor Rev. Tow. He is here from Nov. 20-24.

A very warm welcome to Dr. Earl White, his wife and daughter. He is the associate gen. secretary of the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions. They will be our guests from Nov. 18-21.

Need a car for PARF? FEBC car on sale. Contact Dn. William Teo: 650644(0); 538217(H).
CONGRATULATIONS to Linda Pramanawati, a graduate of FEBC on her marriage to Mr. Amin Limantara on Sunday, 12 Nov. '78.
S.U. Notes Those interested please contact Dn. Peter Wang.

THE TAPE MINISTRY, requires about \$600/- for 2 cabinets and blank tapes in order to serve efficiently all church members as soon as possible. Tapes range from messages, Bible expositions, song and music. Those interested please contact Dn. William Teo.

26th November, 1978
Faith Seminary,
Elkins, Pa, USA 19117,
Nov. 10, '78.

My dear Readers,

A glorious weekend in the sun.

Since coming to a temperate country where the four seasons follow hard upon one another's heels, we have often pined for the benign rays of our Singapore sun. Our hearts opened like flowers when the sun returned in full force, while we spent a weekend on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. This outing was arranged by the Paauwes driving the Ford Country Squire. Our "resort" is Ed's parents' new home. We even went sailing in Mr. Jac Paauwe's yacht, which made us think of our Gospel Boat and Djunaiddi.

But our glorious weekend would be empty if we left God out! Our weekend was glorious not so much for basking in the Virginian sun as in the Sun of Righteousness at Bethany Baptist Church where the Paauwes worship. Mr. and Mrs. Jac Paauwe are Dutch Reformed so why in a Baptist Church? Because they have a man of God here who preaches the Truth, Rev. Curtiss Hawks. (It is not so easy to find a Bible-believing Church these days!)

As it turned out, the Sunday service was the 100th Anniversary of the Church, which was also "Homecoming" for a goodly number. After service we were invited to a mammoth makan in the basement.

On our return trip, we stopped at Baltimore where another sumptuous meal awaited us at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Huang. Here is a rendezvous for Singaporeans, and I hope to look up another Lifer-couple Mr. and Mrs. Ah Poh's elder daughter Jenny and her husband. They are also settled in the Baltimore area.

Is your airticket to heaven stamped O.K. or R.Q.? (New York Airport Nov. 11).

Do you know there is a world of difference between O.K. and R.Q. on your airticket? Once when I was returning with Rev. Quek from Bangalore, India, we were held up for three days because our Travel agent got us an RQ which means "Request." So we kept requesting until we got our seats - after 3 days.

This valuable experience has helped me to detect an RQ on my PANAM ticket for the Tokyo-Manila flight. This ticket is booked by our ICCO office. So, I have checked up with the Travel Agent, who admits his "mistake." He has now cabled Tokyo to make sure. Dear Reader, if your airticket to heaven is stamped O.K. then it will be O.K.! What if it is RQ?

Though not owning a car, yet having many cars!

Practically all our students here each own a car. This is no luxury but utter necessity. Since coming to U.S. I have been like a "legless crab." For shopping ½ mile out, we don't mind an invigorating walk. Nevertheless, the Lord has made up with the Paauwes fetching us here and there and with John driving me, 110 miles from Elkins Park to New York. How true our Lord's promise: 100-fold in houses and lands, (and cars)! It's a real joy to have one's family sending one off, rendering help all along the way.

Tokyo, Nov. 13.

This is the first time I fly into notorious Narita. The Airport Bus took 1¼ hours to transport us to the City Terminal. In spite of a wonderful, smooth ride into a peaceful night glittering with lights and neon signs, the plaintive notes of the Japanese samisen could only add to the loneliness of the homeless traveller. This is an hour when temptation comes to the prodigal son wandering to some wayside inn. Praise the Lord, I've found a home always wherever I go. How uplifted in spirit I was to see Rev. Timothy Pietsch's beaming face at the Terminal. We drove back to his church in the nick of time for the Sunday Evening message. Here's Solomon's advice to travelling businessmen: Read Proverbs 6:20-29.

What if it is RQ? (In the air).

Though New York had cabled Tokyo, I had qualms about my Tokyo-Manila ticket. I should fly JAL 9.00 a.m. Since JAL was booked to the last seat, the only alternative was PAL, 2.00 p.m. But PAL would not accept me because I was flying on a "group" ticket. PAL would accept me if I got endorsement from PANAM, my carrier. Though I got PANAM endorsement after much haggling, still I was put on the stand-by! "O Lord, You must help!" Once again, I had to stand like a penalised schoolboy in a corner for 4 anxious hours. Though I was the last to enter the Filipino DC8, with hardly another seat left, I see God's hand leading and overruling in every step of my life. By His grace, I should touch down in Manila in time for the FECCC 9th General Assembly. Praise the Lord!

Yours faithfully, T.T.

AMERICOURIER XV

My dear Reader,

In the air to Singapore, Nov. 20, '78

Baggage lost again!

As if the four hours of anxious stand-by in Tokyo was not enough, my baggage did not show up! Two Japanese delegates and five other passengers also were left stranded like me.

Now, when a thing happens twice, it seems a message from the Lord is reiterated, even as "it is written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true" (Jn. 8:17). What is the message of this double-missing of my baggage? That I might realise "this world is not my home, I'm just a passing through." That I might be prepared to go like a lightly-equipped foot-soldier to fight the Lord's battles. Yes, Lord, send me wherever You want me to go.

Victory at Baguio!

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him to such as keep His covenant..." (Ps.103:17,18), "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Ps. 30:5).

A warm Filipino welcome wonderfully restored my flagging spirits. A meeting with our S'porean brethren was like the parched grass of Jerusalem drinking the dew from Hermon.

a five-hour bus journey up the 5,000 ft. mountains north of Manila took us to Baguio, to what I have named "the Switzerland of the Philippines." Here, at the Teachers' Camp that has catering facilities for 400 were comfortably settled. For five days we heard messages, lectures, reports from morning to night. Here were gathered 60 delegates from 10 Far Eastern countries and 200 Filipino pastors and Church leaders, with as many young people, including 50 Bible students. The lectures were scholarly and well-prepared, the messages convincing and inspiring. A half-dozen Filipino groups joined the Council at end of the Conference.

One advance made by the FECCC is the decision taken to send Rev. Quek to co-ordinate a separate Baptist group in Thailand. This group of Baptist Churches is the fruit of Filipino missionary endeavour. Following this visit to Thailand Rev. Quek is to revisit 3 Burmese Churches (one with 12,000 members) which earlier this year had voted to join the ICCC. These two groups have come out of liberalism and Ecumenism.

Climax in Manila.

The climax of this Conference was reached on Sunday night Nov. 19 when 700-800 thronged the Girl Scouts Auditorium in Manila for a final Rally. The Filipinos are wonderful musicians and singers. They brought the climax to a Climax with the Hallelujah chorus. Dr. Maris our Gen. Sec. preached in power. The hearts of all true-believers were warmed as never before, for the Lord's presence was felt in every contrite heart.

And now we have said good-bye to lovely Philippines. Tonight we shall have another Rally - this time at good old Life Church! Faithfully, T.T.

LIFE CHURCH & FEBC APPOINTMENTS

TUES 7.45 a.m. Our pastor, Rev. Timothy Tow returns to Faith Theological Seminary, USA by PANAM. God speed.
8.00 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting.
SAT Wedding Bells:
1. 1.30 p.m. You Meng & Kwai Yin.
2. 3.00 p.m. Lam Kong & Lee Joo (of Bible Church). Pastors Tan Kai Oon and Mr. Tan W.C. officiating.
3.30 p.m. JYF, YF, YAF.
SUN 10.00 a.m. Mr. Tan Wai Choon.
Holy Communion (Rev. Peter Chua).

Last Week's Offerings \$882.92 + \$100 for Tape Library. FECCC Follow-up Rally \$484.43.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 a.m. Rev. Timothy Tow.
1.00 p.m. Study Group continues in-depth Study of Romans.
4.00 p.m. Rev. Tow.

Sharon B-P Church holds annual camp at St. John's Island from Nov.27-Dec.1. Pray for Mr. Tan as he speaks daily there.
Rev & Mrs Ed. Paauwe send belated greetings and gift to Life Church on her 28th anniversary. Gift gratefully acknowledged.
Forty John Sung Revival Sermons Vol.I, translated by T.Tow is out! With 20 theme songs (music notation) as well, it has 156 pages. 300 copies have been promised as gifts to Lifers. Available at church entrance.

FEBC has closed for vacation. New Semester will begin on Jan. 2, '79.

FEK Committee will meet after service at the parsonage.

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru',
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.
Chorus:
O Lord, you know, I have no friend like you,
If heaven's not my home, O Lord what will I do?
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.
They're all expecting me, and that's one thing I know,
My Saviour pardoned me and now I onward go;
I know He'll take me through, tho' I am weak and poor,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Pray for the sick: Mr. Lee Choon Ngee at Toa Payoh Hospital; Mrs. Lim Geok Kim at Mt. Alvernia; Mdm Ang (mother of Mr. Ang Kheng Leng) at home; Elder Heng Mui Kiah at TTSH.

Eileen Tow, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Tow Siang Yeow is flying with Rev. Tow, to study at Shelton College, Florida.

The Paaupes have been re-appointed to S'pore. They are flying out of Philadelphia Dec. 27.

George Kutty, having served one year in Thailand, is rejoining FEBC. Hear him today at the Worship Service.

Women's Fellowship Choir Practice on Friday at 7.30 p.m.

3rd December, 1978
With Old Folks at home.
Nov. 28, 1978.

My dear Readers,

"When the old banana tree is chopped off"

"... then the young shoots begin to sprout." This saying of mine before leaving Singapore three months ago is fulfilled upon my return. I have seen not only a new spirit stirring Lifers to action, but also a revived FEBC family. A half-dozen new friends have joined the Chinese service, among them Nancy Zee's mother, brother and sister from J.B. and Gim Thong's mum. But the sea of faces at the English service was overwhelming, and I am particularly glad to see a number of GLTDers, return to the fold. Even Sharon our daughter Church has grown - all in such a short space of time (To be exact, I have been away 100 days).

Many Thanks and Thanksgivings.

May I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the College students for their fine cooking to welcome me back on Monday night. The Rally that followed was another expression of the love of the whole Church. Session gave me another round at Asia Hotel, and there were the innumerable individual blanzas. Thank you for all your love gifts which engender further thanksgivings. Thank you for the overflowing gifts for Dr. McIntire.

Shelton College, Florida.

I am most thankful to the Lord for prolonging my stay so that I could speak to our congregation. The reason why I am delayed is Eileen's Panam Budget Ticket. It does not permit her to fly earlier than Nov. 28. Eileen is Dr. Tow Siang Yeow's second daughter, and I'm bringing her along to Shelton College. Shelton is an ICCO College in Liberal Arts granting a B.A. I'd like to open it's door to our young people, to you who have no higher ambition than seeking the Lord's blessing in a Christian institution. The new president of Shelton is Rev. Glen Rogers.

A Warm Welcome at Cape May.

The 10th World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches is scheduled at Cape May, June 14-28, 1979. Here is Dr. McIntire's 350-room Christian Admiral Hotel. A fortnight's Christian Fellowship under inspirational teaching is beyond compare with what the world offers you. As far as present rates go, a group round-trip ticket, Singapore-New York, costs only U.S. \$1267. This is a time when S'poreans with their stronger dollar can go overseas. Ivy and our children will be most delighted to be of any service to you. A first convert by this sermonette is none other than Elder Tow Siang Hwa. And he would be happy to present a paper on Christ's Second Coming!

John Sung Sermons.

"A labourer is worthy of his hire." For translating "Forty John Sung Revival Sermons" Vol. 1, I have earned 1,000 copies from the publisher. And since our Lord has said, "Freely ye have received, freely give," I'm giving the same to whoever would ask. It seems there are only a couple hundred left! After this, you'd have to pay for it, from Christian Life Book Centre.

During this season when Singapore is worked up by the Billy Graham Crusade, it seems God has gone one step ahead with the John Sung publications. If you hunger for the spiritual, there are not only the sermons which you have received, but also the book by William E. Schubert, "I Remember John Sung" (\$1.00) and "In John Sung's Steps" by T. Tow (\$2.00). These three books are a set, to be read together. Many lives have been blessed so be sure you get it from Stephen Kuan at our Book Centre. Why not give the set as a Christmas gift?

Au revoir!

God be with you till we meet again! It has been a wonderful week back home. Some people have asked me, "How's America?" I replied, "Fifty-fifty." But for good old Singapore, "Ting How!" Whether America, whether Singapore, "this world is not my home, I'm just a passing through." By the way, I forgot in the last Courier to tell you the sequel to the lost baggage at Manila. They have also safely come in. As we fly today!

Affectionately, T.T.

TESTIMONY : Seah Siow Gek.

When I look back at the past years, I am just filled with thankfulness to GOD for His gentleness, His patience, and His love towards me. I accepted Christ in 1966, and I was fed with the Word of God through my involvement with YFC in my Secondary years. I was however, very dissatisfied with my Christian life; I felt very restless: I know I was saved, but why was I not experiencing the peace, the abundant life that Christ had promised? I based my faith too much on feelings then. As a result, I swung from one extreme to another; my life was filled with "mountain-top experiences" alternating with depressions - God placed a deep hunger for Him in my heart; I knew that I could never find happiness in a life without Him.

He was very gracious to me all the years I'd been struggling to seek Him. I did not realise that He'd already provided the way - His Word; through which He had revealed Himself. He showed me His promise in Jeremiah 29:13:

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek with all your heart." He showed me too, that my piecemeal manner of studying His Word was inadequate. I needed to go on to partake of "solid food". To seek Him, I needed to study, and to strive to obey His Word. This was what the Psalmist had discovered in Ps. 119:10.

"With my whole heart I seek Thee: let me not wander from Thy commandments." He also taught me that faith does not depend on feelings. As I learnt to enjoy Him, I began to experience the peace and joy that He promised - not momentary feelings, but the peace that only the Holy Spirit can give, the peace that underlies even the difficult times in life. I had to learn many things: often I was filled with a sense of inadequacy, my weaknesses seemed so glaring and so insurmountable. But He was very gentle: I was much comforted by the assurance that "He who begun a good work in (me) will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6). I learnt that salvation does not stop at receiving Christ - that only opens the door to God's marvellous working - to sanctify us, and mould us into Christ's image. It is wonderful to know that the God who so deals with us, is all-wise, and all-loving - all-wise, so that He is able to accomplish His purpose in us; all-loving, so that whatever He accomplishes in us is for our good. This realisation has taught me not to be afraid to trust Him.

God has also blessed me tremendously thru' my teaching at Living Water Sunday School in my university years. In fact that is one of the reasons why I wish to be accepted into Life Church membership. I realise how much we need to encourage and exhort one another to love, and to serve God. I was baptised at Moulmein Church of Christ in 1974 but I left the church because of the false doctrine they teach, that baptism is necessary for salvation. I have been attending Life Church for more than 3 years now, and I would like to become a member of this fellowship of believers.

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

TUES 7.15 pm Women's Fellowship Choir Practice.
8.00 pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting.
FRI 8.00 pm Thanksgiving Family Worship at the home of Elder & Mrs. Seow Chong Pin, 7 Lily Ave. (off 6th Ave.) Singapore 10. All are welcome.
SAT 3.00 pm Lifers Wedding Bells: Mr. Dennis Khoo Yew Kheng and Miss Elsie Lim Hwee Hway. Rev. K.C. Quek officiating.
SUN 10.00 am Dr. Tow Siang Hwa.
12.30 pm AGM of the Sunday School at FEBC Library.

Last Week's Offerings: \$1170.06 + \$200/-.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Mr. Tan.
1.00 pm Study Group continues in-depth study of Romans (chapter 4).
4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.
6.30 pm Mr. Tan and Bro. Gim Thong leave for Tampoi. Any coming?

Many Lifers, loved ones and friends were at the airport last Tuesday morning to send off our pastor, Rev. T. Tow and his niece, Eileen Tow.

Mr. Lee Choon Ngee aged 73, uncle of our Dn. Paul Tsao went home to be with the Lord on Nov. 29, '78.

Our deepest condolence to Mrs. Lee Choon Ngee of our Chinese Service and all the loved ones of the late Mr. Lee.

Welcome to Christian teacher Mr. Tan Git Kan and his students of the Sekolah Menengah Sultan Ahmad Shah in Cameron Highlands who are in Singapore on an educational tour.

Praise the Lord for Mrs. Lim Geok Kim's successful operation of her ear.

Scripture Union notes for 1979 are available from Dn. Peter Wang.

Govt. has given notice to Sarimbun Gospel Mission to close down this month. Welcome back to Dn. Sng to serve in Life Church.

Forty John Sung Revival Sermons Vol. I, translated by T. Tow is out: With 20 theme songs (music notation as well), it has 156 pages. 300 copies have been promised as gifts to Lifers. Lifers make sure you get your copy.

Welcome Home to Dr. Anthony Thio. He is presently practising with Drs. Su and Ma at The Specialists Centre.

Pray for Bro. Peter Sim as he heads OBTI (Operation Bring Them In), this time reaching out to the residents in Whampoa. Praise the Lord for the many zealous Lifers involved in this outreach.

I NEED THEE, PRECIOUS JESUS FOR I AM FULL OF SIN:

My soul is dark and guilty, my heart is dead within.

I need the cleansing fountain where I can always flee,

The blood of Christ most precious, the sinner's perfect plea.

I need thee, precious Jesus, for I am very poor;

A stranger and a pilgrim, I have no earthly store.

I need the love of Jesus to cheer me on my way,

To guide my doubting footsteps, to be my strength and stay.

I need thee, precious Jesus, and hope to see thee soon,

Encircled with the rainbow and seated on thy throne.

There, with thy blood bought children, my joy shall ever be,

To sing my Jesus' praises, to gaze, O Lord on thee.

(Trinity Hymnal No: 419.)

Edited by Mr. Tan Wai Choon, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 11. Tel: 2560617.

17th December, 1978
Faith Seminary
Elkins Park Pa 19117
USA
Dec. 7, 1978.

My dear Readers,

"Rev." Jim Jones

It is St. Augustine who said that the best and the worst specimens of mankind are found in a monastery, and he spoke from experience as head of a monastic society he had founded. Having been betrayed by my disciples, every now and then, I made this statement for thanksgiving at a Prayer Meeting, "Thank God, no murder has been committed in our community yet!"

When a Christian minister uses Christ for his own ends, and attempts to found a communistic commune in Guyana under cover of Christianity, he must end up like Judas - crucifying, in this case, the body of Christ (if any of his followers are believers, but deluded) and murdering himself. What makes it so hideous is the induced suicide of over 900 souls. The pictures on the TV are ghastly.

Jim Jones is a stink to the American people. This whole bloody mass is nauseating to human kind. It is worse than Hitler's mass liquidation of the Jews. To me, it is another sign of this earthly system coming to an end. God's judgment is near. "Rev." Jim Jones comes under St. Paul's condemnation, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." (I Tim. 4:1,2).

"False apostles for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:13,14).

More subtle is Satan's tactic to delude the whole Church when he comes into our midst as an apostle. Now Paul warns us to beware of "false apostles" who are transformed, even Satan himself, into "an angel of light."

One modern preacher who has risen to the pinnacle of an apostle is Billy Graham. As I write he is riding the crest of the popularity that has been created for him to dazzle the eyes of the simple. Beloved, here is a good test of his "apostleship." If he is the paragon of Christianity, one who is so much looked up to even by sincere Christian leaders, let him declare with the apostle three times, "Be ye followers of me" (I Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17).

I cannot be a follower of Billy Graham in his ecumenical evangelism. Our Lord never preached under the sponsorship of the Jewish Church nor did He rub shoulders with the hypocritical Churchmen of His day. Nor did the apostle Paul.

But what is most detrimental to the cause of Christ is his adulterating more and more the Gospel message. Perhaps, in S'pore, he is preaching even the Blood of Christ, and, as he is heralded by some as a second John Sung, he might have read some of our recently published John Sung Sermons, and is now using some of John Sung's phrases. This will not help what he tells the world at large. In a recent interview with the press wherein he offers 10 points for "Happiness" he does not even bring in the Name of Jesus Christ though he does say "Believe in God." But the devils also believe, and tremble! (Jas. 2:19). (Let Bro. Pong Sen display this evidence as carried in the latest "Christian Beacon").

What brings us Happiness is repentance from our evil ways and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What brings us Happiness is to know our sins are forgiven by trusting in God's Son who died to pay for the penalty of our sins who died to deliver us from the Second Death, i.e. everlasting punishment in hell. What brings us Happiness is living a new life in the power of His Resurrection and the glad hope of being saved, even bodily, at His Second Coming. All the talk of love, love, love, these days, without the Love of Christ that is shed abroad in our hearts, is powerless. Dr. Graham, "Happiness," and not one word about Jesus Christ and His Salvation plan?

No Christmas without Worshipful Giving

Every year Singaporeans are caught up in the whirl of induced spending by the big-time operators. Suddenly the purse-string is loosened. Money is squandered in a lot of unnecessary spending. "Well, we are trying to make our children and loved ones happy by buying all these gifts!"

Christians who love the Lord should restrict every item of luxurious buying, and let all that is soon turned to lumber be given rather for the Cause of Christ. Session decided to give this year's Christmas offering to help build a Bible School in the Philippines. It is the Bible Institute Rev. Ormeo is building, but is temporarily suspended for lack of funds. At present this Bible Institute has 56 students. Think of the good your love gift to our Lord will accomplish, immediately!

Rev. Hsu Chiang Tai's philosophy of life.

I told you the story of Rev. Hsu when I preached to you in my brief Singapore visit. Here are his own words:

"I rather invest this money in the Lord's work. You know, I and my wife both live

a simple and thrifty life. We enjoy it. I think I buy my personal belongs - clothes, shoes, etc, about \$20 a year. I buy most things from the Salvation Army and other thrift stores or charitable stores. In fact I used to pick up old clothes and wash and use them. They are usually good ones. In the past 2-3 months, I managed to pick up some, about 300 lbs. of used clothing, which I washed and sent to International Christian Relief, Collingswood, N.J. for Relief in India.

"I try to do my utmost for the Lord while there is yet day. 1) I am getting older. 2) The Lord is coming soon. For the past 2 years, everyday, I put on the "ONLY JESUS SAVE" sign on the back of my jacket. It's a desperate way of witnessing. So far no one likes to do it, that way. Well, everyone is different in character and style. But some may think it goes too far, somewhat crazy. I don't think so at all

"In a very frugal way, we eat well, very well, We live near a very big market area. Ships buy their food stocks from these stores - 42-38 street, 8th Ave., New York City. In the evening there are damaged fruit and vegetables for cheap sale, 1 basket of tomatoes, 4 lbs. for 25 cents. 1/4 is bad, so we cut them out and cook at once and finish them in a few days, with beef, pork, etc. We are very healthy and satisfied."

In this way our brother saves a few thousand dollars which he distributes for the support of missionaries, buying books for FEBC, etc, etc. What will you do for Christ this Christmas? God bless you, every sincere Reader. T.T.

THE NEW EVANGELICALISM

By Tan Wai Choon

(Paper delivered at the Ninth General Assembly of the Far Eastern Council of Christian Churches, Baguio, the Philippines, Nov. 14-18, '78) - continued.

IV. THE NEW EVANGELICAL STRATEGY OR PRINCIPLE.

Dr. Harold J. Ockenga further writes:

"The New Evangelicalism has changed its strategy from one of separation to one of infiltration Instead of attack upon error, the New Evangelicals proclaim the great historic doctrines of Christianity. The results have been phenomenal.... The strategy of the New Evangelicalism is the positive proclamation of the truth in distinction from all errors without delving in personalities which embrace the error" (William E. Ashbrook, The New Neutralism, p. 4,5).

In another place, he writes:

"An up-to-date strategy for the evangelical cause must be based upon the principle of infiltration. We evangelicals need to realize that the liberals, or modernists, have been using this strategy for years. They have infiltrated our evangelical denominations, institutions, and movements and then have taken over the control of them. It is time for firm evangelicals to seize their opportunity to minister in and influence modernist groups. Why is it incredible that the evangelicals should be able to infiltrate the denominations and strengthen the things that remain, and possibly resume control of such denominations? Certainly they have a responsibility to do so, unless they are expelled from those denominations. We do not repudiate the Reformation principle, but we believe that a man has a responsibility within his denomination unless that denomination has officially and overtly repudiated biblical Christianity" (Harold Ockenga, "Resurgent Evangelical Leadership" in Christianity Today, Oct. 10, 1960).

(Next week: The N.E. Strategy vs. the Word of God).

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

TUES 7.15 pm Women's Fellowship Choir Practice.
8.00 pm Bible Study & Prayer Mtg.

* SAT 2.00 pm Sunday School Christmas Party at FEBC Hall. All Welcome!
* * * * *
* SUN 8.45 am Sunday School Prize Giving Day. Speaker: Elder P.K. Khoo.
* * * * *
* 10.00 am Mr. Tan.
* * * * *
* 7.45 pm Special Christmas Eve Service. Many special items and testimonies.
* * * * *
* Christmas Offerings to be given to Rev. Antonio Ormeo's Bible Institute in Manila, Philippines.
* * * * *
* 9.15 pm Christmas Carol singing and fellowship at FEBC Badminton Court. Our YFers will go out carolling.
* * * * *

Last Week's Offerings: \$1267.53 + \$100 for Galilee BP Church.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Rev Dr Jacob L. Chelli of India.
1.00 pm Study Group continues in depth study of Romans at Mr. Tan's.
4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.
We Bid Godspeed to: 1) Deacon Peter Wang & Family who are on vacation in W. Malaysia.
2) Elder Edmund Tay who left yesterday morning for Manila with the Police Cadet Corps on an educational tour. Expected back on Sat., Dec. 16.
Welcome Home to: 1) Penny Gan. 2) Dr. Ong Thiew Chye & Family. Dr. Ong is now serving at Woodbridge Hospital as a Christian psychiatrist.
Tampoi Bro. Teo Gim Thong & company Life Church at 6.30 p.m. to minister at Tampoi.

THE NEW EVANGELICALISM

By Tan Wai Choon

(Paper delivered at the Ninth General Assembly of the Far Eastern Council of Christian churches, Baguio, the Philippines, Nov. 14-18, 1978.)

I. WHAT IS THE NEW EVANGELICALISM?

"The New Evangelicalism is the latest dress of orthodoxy, as Neo-Orthodoxy is the latest expression of theological liberalism. The New Evangelicalism differs from Fundamentalism in its willingness to handle the social problems which Fundamentalism evaded. There need be no dichotomy between the personal gospel and the social gospel. The true Christian faith is a supernatural personal experience of salvation and a social philosophy. Doctrine and social ethics are Christian disciplines. Fundamentalism abdicated leadership and responsibility in the societal realm and thus became impotent to change society or to solve social problems. The New Evangelicalism adheres to all the orthodox teachings of Fundamentalism but has evolved a social philosophy."¹

so wrote Dr. Harold John Ockenga, pastor of the Park St. Church in Boston, first president of Fuller Theological Seminary and universally recognized as the father of the New Evangelicalism.

II. ITS HISTORY AND ITS INFLUENCE.

Though the term "new evangelicalism" was coined by its founder in an address at Fuller Theological Seminary in 1948, the exact beginning date for the new evangelical movement is difficult to determine. Dissatisfaction with fundamentalism became vocal after Fuller was founded. In the 1920s this movement was actually an outgrowth of the fundamentalist - modernist controversy in the U.S.A. It was an attempt to remain true to historic Christianity but it attempted to avoid polemics with the modernist in the name of courtesy and love.

Though its history is relatively short, its influence has been phenomenal. Christian leaders and churches all over the world are not spared from its encroaching influence. It would be naive to think that the new evangelicalism is confined to the U.S.A. Knowingly or unknowingly, Christian leaders have come to accept the movement and espouse its tenets as evidenced by their favourable response to the Billy Graham Crusade in the various major cities of the world.

III. SOME REASONS FOR ITS POPULARITY.

Some reasons may be suggested for its wide acceptance and popularity:

First, many of its champions are men of ability and gifts, and who for years have been known as Bible-believing evangelicals. Some of these were once defenders of the faith. They have won confidence of a large number of Bible-believing Christians who are slow to believe that their leaders' views have changed over the years.

Second, it emphasizes "love" and "a positive" approach toward the modernists and the World Council of Churches and its affiliates. Nobody wants to be called "unloving" or "negative." Of course the position of positivism is an attractive one as compared to negativism.

Third, the new evangelicalism appears successful judging from the number of its adherents. Nobody wants to be left out nor wants to be unsuccessful in our success-oriented societies! In the coming Singapore Billy Graham Crusade, the director reported:

"... we have 146 of the 160 English-speaking congregations participating in the crusade. That means only 14 English-speaking churches and/or missions or congregations are not officially endorsing or participating. There are 97 Chinese-speaking churches of which we have 83 officially participating. We also have seven Tamil-speaking churches and one Malay-speaking church participating. So we have 237 out of 265 churches participating in the crusade."²

Non-participating churches feel left out!

Fourth, it treads the middle course between two opposing theological systems: fundamentalism and modernism. It avoids the two "extremes" who wants to be labelled an extremist! It is a compromising position. Our president Dr. Tow writes: "It seems to me that the hidden roots of compromise reach deep down into the lower stratum of our fallen nature. I am speaking generally, first considering my wretched self, for are we not all prone to selfishness, and to seek the praise of man? "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9) We who have been called to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3) ought, above all, to search our own hearts, lest we also fall (I Cor. 10:12)." (to be continued)

Highest Rainfall in a Day

"Six people died, another two are missing and more than 1,000 people were evacuated from their homes as floods, unleashed by the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in a single day here, swamped Singapore for the second day yesterday," so reported The Straits Times of Dec. 4, 1978.

Rainfall during the 24-hour period between 7.30 a.m. on Saturday (Dec. 2) and the same time Sunday (Dec. 3) - at 512.4 mm - was a new record which surpassed the previous record of 431.5 mm of rainfall on Dec. 9-10 in 1969 by 80.9 mm. Though the rainfall was the heaviest, thank God, the flood was not the biggest. It never reached our church compound. It threatened to. Part of Gilstead Road from the front entrance to 9A Gilstead to Bukit Timah Road was covered with water from one to more than 3 feet deep. Nonetheless damage to property, livestock and poultry was described as heavy - estimated to be over \$10 million.

The 1969 flood entered our church auditorium and threatened to cover our lower pulpit platform. Thank God, He spared us this time.

The Lord Gave Opportunity to Hear Gospel

Although most Lifers were kept from attending Sunday School and Worship last Sunday, more than two dozen students from Sekolah Menengah Sultan Ahmad Shah in Cameron Highlands were kept in by the flood to worship with us and hear God's Word. I took the opportunity to give them the Gospel message, seeing that most of them were Hindus. Praise the Lord three responded to the Gospel appeal and were accordingly counselled.

I'm quite sure many of you attempted to come but were turned back by the traffic police from going into the flooded areas. May the Lord bless your sincere desire to go to His house to worship Him. Praise the Lord, He enabled many of our session members, some Lifers and many YFers and YAFers to worship Him (The YFers and YAFers were retained in 9A Gilstead Road by the heavy downpour on Saturday). Yes, we did have our worship service with a smaller congregation (about $\frac{1}{3}$ of our usual size). But then our Lord said: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). What our God desires is not numbers. He only desires that we worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23,24). TWC.

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON-SAT Camps

(Dec 11-16) 1. Life YF Annual Camp at Calvary B-P Church, 1 Tao Ching Road, (22), Tel: 654295.

2. New Bridge Road Chapel holds Bible Camp at FEBC.

TUES 7.15 pm Women's Fellowship Choir Practice.

8.00 pm Bible Study & Prayer Mtg.

SAT Record No. of Wedding Bells:

10.45 am Mr Peter Chua Teck Hong and Miss Sally Cheng Wai Ping. Rev. K.C. Quek officiating.

1.30 pm Dr Benny Tan and Miss Foo Fui Ping. Elder Richard Chia of the New Bridge Road Chapel officiating.

3.30 pm 1. Mr Chia Nam Kin and Miss Cheong Lai Wah.

2. Mr Tan Kiak Seng and Miss Phua Chee Kiat. Pastor Huang Ee Yuen of the "Fisherman of Christ" Fellowship officiating.

5.00 pm Mr David Teo Sin Hock and Miss Seah Ann Kheang. Rev. Philip Heng of Galilee officiating.

SUN 10.00 am Rev Dr Jacob L. Chelli, President of Berean Baptist Bible College and Seminary, India.

Last Week's Offering: \$427.85.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.

10.00 am Dr Tow Siang Hwa.

12.30 pm AGM of the Sunday School at FEBC Library.

4.00 pm Chinese Service at FEBC Hall.

The November/December issue of the BP Banner is out!

With special supplement on the Billy Graham Crusade by editor Dr. Tow Siang Hwa.

Penny Gan our choir leader writes to friends

at Life Church: "I have been in Japan for 6 days now: Although I got quite sick on my way from Manila, I was told that we missed all the typhoons. The Lord has really been taking care of us.

We went to the Shikoku Christian College today and met some Christians. We shared our experiences and when time came for us to leave we could say to the students "See you in Paradise." It was lovely.

I mentioned Rev. Tow to some faculty members and they seemed to know of him. I am looking forward to coming back to church."

Mrs. J. Packer of Melbourne, Australia sends greetings to Lifers who still remember her.

Congratulations to 1) Mr & Mrs Wee Hian Kok on God's gift of a boy, born Wednesday, 6lb. 14oz.

2) Elder and Mrs Seow Chong Pin on their silver wedding anniversary on Dec. 12. A thanksgiving family worship held last Friday was well attended.

The Voice of the Lord is Upon the Waters (ps. 29:3,10). Has the Lord spoken to you through the flood last weekend? He has spoken indeed. He lets us know that we are dependent and helpless. A flood comes and our movements are restricted!

How about the losses of lives and property?

God's message to us is that we are living today by His grace. In the final analysis, everything, pig or poultry belongs to God (Ps. 50:10-12) and He has every right to take back. He gave to Job and took from Job and Job blessed Him for that (Job 1:21). It takes a spiritual man to see God's hand in all things.

At the time of writing this Weekly, Rev. Tow's Americourier has yet to arrive.

31st December, 1978
Faith Seminary,
Elkins Park Pa 19117, USA.
Dec. 21, 1978

My dear Readers,

This is a small world.

Last Sunday after service, I tuned to WTMR an all-Christian Radio Station from outside Philadelphia. Right on the dot came the words, "... the Billy Graham Crusade in Singapore." Three crusade leaders of Singapore were asked to give their comments. They were Dr. Tony Chi, Bishop Chew Ban It and Dr. Benjamin Chew. Everyone said some sweet words, prosaically. I couldn't hear a note of hallelujah, praising God, from our S'pore Churchmen. Of course the singing of Christmas carols by the thousands of voices blended well into the American air waves at this hour, so it sounded like a happy Christmas crowd bringing the Season's Greetings. Then the closing words of Dr. Graham requiring the new acceptors of Jesus to read the Bible, to pray and join some Bible or Church group, and the fluent interpretation by Elder Peter Yap. (Incidentally Peter Yap and I received the Lord at the John Sung's Campaign in 1935 on the same day, and we had gone out preaching together on the streets.) Then the Billy Graham broadcast climaxed with the statistics of 65,000 filling the National Stadium, with 10,000 more waiting outside, and with thousands having come to the Saviour.

Immediately after Billy Graham came Dr. McIntire's preaching from his Collingswood pulpit. This was the 1st Sunday he preached since he got sick Aug. 26. He preached from Job, "My Servant." Job, he said, is an O.T. Christian who knows his God and the way of Salvation and he knows it better through suffering. He asks you and me if we know our God, our Redeemer who is alive, our forgiveness of sins.

Then there was the latest tape giving us the whole service with the flood in the background. Elder Khoo chaired and Mr. Tan preached from Ephesians directing his message to the students from Cameron Highlands, Praise the Lord for his convincing preaching and two hands raised to receive the Saviour.

This is a small world-through the speed of communication by radio, cassette and air-mail.

And the days are drawing to a close.

Jeremiah says, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassion fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness" (Lam. 3:22,23). So, we are enabled to live safely from one Christmas to another. But, let us not be lulled by a Singaporean midsummer to sleep. "For when they shall say, Peace and Safety then suddenly destruction cometh upon them ..." (I Thess. 5:3). With all the light of prophecy before us, we should see from the trend of present world events "the writing on the wall." The turmoil in Iran, the raising of oil price, the American recognition of Red China, the shaky US\$, the increasing influx of "boat people," the Indonesian ultimatum to foreign missionaries, the Israel-Arab question, etc.; are unmistakable signs pointing to global disaster ahead. And the days are drawing to a close, I believe, within our generation. What an awful close to this age it will be. Despite every manoeuvre of man, this world cannot evade coming judgment. World War III is inevitable! Are you prepared to meet your God? (Amos 4:12).

New Year Resolution or Elucidation?

When you get to read this Courier, the old year would be ticking its last hours. The Watchnight Service, and the chiming of our Church Bell to welcome 1979. What resolution will you and I make? Only soon to be broken? But if Light will shine into our slumbering eyes, if Divine Elucidation will come to awaken us, then we will get up and do something, even to the working out of our salvation.

St. Paul says, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand ..." (Rom. 13:12). Jesus says, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (Jn. 9:4). As we have been given the light showing what is ahead in these end-times, we will not aspire how much richer we can become in 1979, but rather ask what would our Lord want us to do?

As for me, I must rededicate myself to the double-ministry wherein the Lord has put me. The Church and the College. The College must redouble efforts to train more labourers for the harvest fields. The Church must be the mainstay to pray for and send out the labourers. May we in prosperous Singapore send the Gospel to all ASEAN, to the ends of the earth. And why should we hasten to do it? Maranatha, the Lord cometh! (I Cor. 16:22).

First Semester Completed and a busy Christmas!

Time flies, It was a Sunday night, Aug. 13, that we took leave of you. Now, I've completed one Semester's teaching. Exams are on. The school closes Dec. 22 for Christmas and re-opens Jan. 14. Christmas will be a busy time. We have in our fellowship Mrs. Annie Tan, Clement and Phoebe, just arrived ahead of Dr. Patrick Tan. Dr. Tan will be stationed in Texas for 2 months' Aviation training. Concurrently, the Paauwes are returning Dec. 27 to Singapore. There is a farewell service for them at Elkins Park Church, Christmas Eve. Christmas Day will see us all gathered in a grand reunion in

Baltimore, at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Jacob Huang. Then it will be Eileen's turn to travel south to Shelton College at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

"For we can do nothing against the Truth, but for the Truth."

This verse from II Cor. 13:8 is the Holy Spirit's voice speaking to confirm Dr. Tow Siang Hwa's message affecting Dr. Graham. In a Protestant situation, how subtly Dr. Graham, how discreetly, has he let the sleeping dog of his championing RCism lie! But nothing can be hidden under the searchlight of Truth. And if you are a son of Truth, you will side Truth and not Might and Power. I thank God for my brother, preaching that sermon I would have myself preached. I thank God for Mr. Tan, another of His sheep who hears His Voice. And thank you Tape Librarian for your prompt mailing. Praise the Lord, there's a witness for the Truth. This makes me very happy, so I say Happy New Year. In Christ, T.T.

THE NEW EVANGELICALISM By Tan Wai Choon - continued.

V. a. i) POSITIVISM vs NEGATIVISM.

The positive proclamation of the truth in distinction from all error without delving in personalities which embrace the error sounds attractive and positive; but is it Scriptural? William R. Newell, bible commentator and one time under-study of D.L. Moody, said that not to mention personalities in disputes is not only un-Pauline, it is also unbiblical. He noted that Paul mentioned two names in each chapter of 2 Timothy. (from a cassette message by Dr. Jack Murray of the Biblical School of Theology). Certainly Paul mentioned the persons who embraced erroneous teachings: Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim. 2:17). The Apostle John named Diotrephes as his and the church's opponent (3 John 9,10).

Our Lord certainly attacked and corrected errors in the Rabbinic teachings in Matt. 5-7, "Ye have heard ... but I say unto you" (Matt. 5). He directly contradicted the teachings of the erring Rabbis. In Matt. 22:29, our Lord gave no respect to Sadducean scholarship but declared to them: "Ye do err" concerning the resurrection. In Matt. 23, our Lord has severe denunciations for the errors of the Pharisees and of the Pharisees themselves. Thus our Lord continually rebuked both error and errorists openly, clearly and boldly. Paul opposed and exposed the Judaizers in the churches of Corinth and Galatia.

To proclaim the great historic doctrines of Christianity without attacks upon error is not the strategy of our Lord, nor that of the great Apostles Paul and John.
To be continued.

FEBC & LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

MON YAF and SUNDAY STUDY GROUP continue joint retreat at 558 Blk N Lagoon View, S'pore 16. Tel: 447159.
Forum at 2.00 pm. Members on the panel Elder P.K. Khoo, Elder C.P. Seow and Mr Tan.
3.00 pm Wedding Bells at Life Church between Sherman Rajoo and Miss Ang Wee Peng of Galilee, Rev. P. Heng officiating.

TUES 8.30 am FEBC DAY OF PRAYER meeting at Life Church/Kelong, off Changi Point.
New Students: Esther Tan (S'pore), Shirley Liem (Indo), Yap Kim Sin (Malaysia), George Kutty (India) and Tony Ting (S'pore).
8.00 pm Bible Study/Prayer Meeting.
9.00 pm Session Meeting at FEBC Library. Elders and Deacons please note.

WED 8.00 am FEBC classes begin with chapel.

THUR 7.30 pm FEBC Lecture on "Missions and -9.30 pm Evangelism" by Rev Ed Paauwe. This weekly lecture is opened to all Christians. Lifers are especially urged to attend.

SAT 3.30 pm JYF, YF and YAF.

SUN 10.00 am Rev Edward Paauwe (Lord's Sup.)
Mr Tan speaks at Grace BP 3rd Anniv.
Thanksgiving Flowers by Mr & Mrs M. Cheang.
Last Week's Offerings: Sunday Service \$4,698/-; Christmas Eve Service \$1,491.02.
Total Christmas offering \$10,095/- (inclusive of \$1,320/- for Gospel Boat).
Congratulations to Mary & Prasad for God's gift of a boy, Alvin, 8lbs. born on Dec.27.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am S.S. Open Sunday.
Speaker: Dr T.C. Lim.

10.00 am Rev(Dr) Patrick Tan.
Testimony: Mr Tan Yew Chong.
Both will leave S'pore on Jan. 3, '79 - Dr Tan for Texas, USA, Mr Tan for Seoul, Korea, both on employer's assignment.

4.00 pm Mandarin Service at FEBC Hall.

RETREAT Introducing our Young Adults and their roles in Life Church.

8.00 pm YF 27th Anniversary. Interesting and challenging programme.

* 10.45 pm WATCHNIGHT SERVICE The Lord's *
* Messenger: Rev(Dr) Peter Ng. Start 1979 *
* in God's House, with God's People, hear- *
* ing God's Word, receiving God's blessings, *
* and giving God the praise for God's *
* benefits! *

Welcome Home to Dr David Cheong.
S.U. Notes are here! Please get them from Deacon Peter Wang.
Congratulations to Bethany B-P Church which will celebrate 5th Anniversary on Jan. 7, '79.
Sunday School Ex. Co. for 1979:

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Gen. Supt. | : Elder Edmund Tay. |
| Gen. Sec. | : Deacon Teo S.H. |
| Assist. Sec. | : Mr Geoffrey Tan. |
| Treasurer | : Mr Arthur Yeo. |
| A. Supt. | : Elder Khoo P. K. |
| S. Supt. | : Deacon Paul Tsao. |
| Y.T. Supt. | : Mr Peter Sim. |
| J. Supt. | : Mr S. Prasad. |
| P. Supt. | : Mrs E. Tay. |

My dear Readers,

"Remember Christ our Saviour, Was born on Christmas Day."

"... O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy" So we sing you this carol as our loving greeting, and instead of saying "Merry Christmas," we rather say "Joyous Christmas." And we truly rejoice, not like the world carousing noisily like so many empty vessels, but meaningfully and thankfully. We should celebrate Christmas not in keeping with a custom, but as an expression of our personal faith. We buy gifts for our loved ones and offer a special Christmas offering for the extension of God's Kingdom, because we rejoice in Christ our salvation. Dear Reader, what is your share of blessing this Christmas?

Life Church has a charming tradition.

In Christian countries like England and America, Christmas has been celebrated from ancient times. As ancient as Christmas is the snow we so often see on Christmas cards. What makes Christmas so charming is the snow, and we are waiting for it, which usually comes heavy at Christmas.

Though we have no snow at Life Church, nevertheless, we have a charming tradition of celebrating Christmas. It is our Carol Service at night, on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Instead of the snow, we have the charm of a still night under a Christmas moon and the multi-coloured Christmas lights. And there is also our Galilee Sea Fountain playing a whispering note under the Japanese Lamp. But what swells the Christmas charm and spirit is the congregational singing of the age-old carols: "Silent Night," "Hark the Herald," "O come Emmanuel." These and a dozen more of the old favourites bring heaven to earth, and lift earth up to heaven. (Don't miss tonight, the Night of nights!)

Christmas is Bitter-sweet!

But there is the bitter side of Christmas, inasmuch as the Son of God comes to taste every human woe, even to death, in order that our life might be made sweet. The manger is a baby-cross for the new-born Saviour, and the winter snow that surrounds the stable (it snows once a decade in the Holy Land) chills the air of the early Christmas morse.

I never realised what world of a cold, miserable night the Saviour was born into until we lived in Bethlehem through the winter of 1969. And as we often shiver in the "cold palace" of this French-American Castle that Faith Seminary is, my thoughts are drawn to "Winter Moon" a carol I was inspired to write that miserably-cold Christmas we went through in Israel.

The second stanza sings to the tune of "White Christmas":

Thus Mary ponders in her heart,
While the winds howl over the sky,
And the cows low, and asses bray,
And Baby Jesus wakes and starts to cry.
Again she caresses her Child
Under the flickering candle light,
O the thought that He's born to die!
Sweeps o'er her soul this first Christmas night

Why did God the Father send His beloved Son to suffer in this world of woe even on the Day of His Birth? That is part of His salvation plan, and the whole 33 years of Jesus' life is a testing ground for the God-Man, the Second Adam, if He would obey even to death to redeem, to buy back, the LIFE our first parents lost. So God is looking down this Christmas on every Christian's heart if we truly love and serve Him? Despite our own sorrows, our many worldly chores and cares. If you feel so lonely this Christmas, if you feel deserted by the cold of human ingratitude, sing with Mary the above stanza. There is a fellowship of suffering that the world cannot give but is readily found in Christ. And He heals us!

Christmas is for the whole world!

Whether you are in the West or the Orient, North Pole or South Pole, or as the Galileans had sung some time ago, "Everywhere you go, it's Christmas"! So when Lifers come to worship Him this Christmas, that vertical line to God must be completed with the horizontal of a trans-world witness. We have a worldwide ministry, young and old Lifers! In this connection, we thank God for 9 nations represented at our Bible College. Then think of Hassan in Israel, a foremost Christian testimony I'm told by Dr. Carlson my missionary friend to the Holy Land. Think of Bro. Djunaidi his Gospel Boat up and down the Kapuas. Pray for us as we are involved in training 50 American and foreign students. Give to help build the unfinished Bible School of Rev. Ormeo in Manila! Christmas is for the whole world!

To be practical, charity begins at home. Let us minister to one another's needs within our Church. Please say words of comfort for me to Mrs. Lee Choon Ngee on the

home-going of her beloved husband. A word of cheer also to Elder Heng Mui Kiah.

We have a spiritual Asean that I believe is our first responsibility in worldwide missions. We have ministered to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and now Philippines. What about Thailand? Thank God for Sister Kimiko attending to a sizeable Japanese congregation right in our midst. God's Spirit is moving mightily in the hearts of our people, and this movement of the Spirit, I believe, is gathering momentum in, what I would call, "this closing age of missions." The age is coming to a close according to our Lord, "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come!" (Matt. 24:14). Christmas is for the whole world!

"Peal on the good tidings of Peace,
Peal forth the Divine Amnesty,
From Christmas Day to Christmas Day
And Earth shall say Emmanuel." (echoing to "O Christmas Tree")
Joyously, T.T.

THE NEW EVANGELICALISM - continued
By Tan Wai Choon

V. THE NEW EVANGELICAL STRATEGY vs. THE WORD OF GOD.

The New Evangelical strategy of infiltration; of non-attack upon error; and of the positive proclamation of the truth in distinction from error without delving in personalities which embrace the error shall be scrutinized under the searchlight of the Word of God. This strategy sounds "refined," "up-to-date," and attractive. It appears to have been "successful." But the duty that God requires of men is obedience to His revealed will (S.C. Q. 39). God's revealed will is our Bible. God does not require His people to be "up-to-date" or "seemingly successful." He requires absolute obedience to His Word. When king Saul "spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed" (I Sam. 15:9), his actions must have appeared "refined," "up-to-date," attractive and even "kind." But it was against God's revealed will (I Sam. 15:1-3) and for that Saul deserved and received God's stinging rebuke: "... Because thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (I Sam. 15:23b). The new evangelical strategy may be "refined," "up-to-date," attractive and pragmatic, but it is definitely not scriptural. (to be continued)

LIFE CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

TUES 8.00 pm Bible Study & Prayer Mtg.
SAT 3.30 pm JYF & YF.
4.30 pm YAF/STUDY GROUP RETREAT COMMENCES.

7.30 pm FILM SHOW: "If I Perish."

"This is the challenging and inspiring true story of a courageous Korean Christian girl who defied the Japanese war lords in the name of Jesus Christ during Japan's occupation of Korea in World War II." All Welcome.

SUN 8.45 am Sunday School for all ages.
10.00 am Rev (Dr) Patrick Tan (Dr Tan leaves for the U.S. on Jan 3, '79).
8.00 pm YF 27th Anniversary.
10.45 pm Watchnight Service.

The Lord's Messenger: Rev(Dr) Peter Ng.

Last Week's Offerings: \$828.08 + \$100 (X'mas offering) + \$150 (for Paauwes).

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS

8.45 am S.S. Prize Giving. Sp: Dr. Lim T.C.
10.00 am Mr. Tan.
4.00 pm Chinese Service FEBC Hall.
7.45 pm Special Christmas Eve Service.
9.15 pm Christmas Carol Singing/Fellowship at FEBC Badminton Court.

Congratulations to: a) Annie Lim, Kenneth Lee, Jonathan Phang and Endrina Tay for PSLE success. Jonathan and Endrina are among the top 8%. b) Dr & Mrs Tan Yew Ghee for Dr Tan's success in his M. Med. (O & G) exam. They leave Thurs. Dec. 28, '78 for London where Dr. Tan will sit for his M.R.C.O.G. exam. They express thanksgiving with a special bouquet.

S.U. Notes Last Call. See Dn Peter Wang.

HIS NAME AT THE TOP

I had the nicest Christmas list,
The longest one in town,
Till Daddy looked at it and said,
"You'll have to cut it down."

I knew that what he said was true
Beyond the faintest doubt,
But was amazed to hear him say,
"You've left your best Friend out."

And so I scanned my list again,
And said, "Oh, that's not true!"
But Daddy said, "His name's not there,
That Friend who died for you."

And then I clearly understood,
'Twas Jesus that he meant;
For Him who should come first of all
I hadn't planned a cent!

I'd made a Christmas birthday list,
And left the Saviour out!
But, oh, it didn't take long
To change the list about.

And tho' I've had to drop some names
Of folks I like a lot,
My Lord must have the most - because
HIS NAME IS AT THE TOP!

Pastor Tan & Ruby express sincere appreciation to the many Lifers who have so graciously sent their well-wishes through very attractive cards. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2) for this Christmas and the New Year.