

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jan 3 – 9, 2005)

MON	8.30 am	FEBC Day of Prayer
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	Joshua, Judges, Ruth (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	YPF Meeting
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Lord's Supper) (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

FEBC second semester 2004/2005 will reopen on Jan 3, 05 with a Day of Prayer.

Thu night class is held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Jan 5, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "The Woman of Spiritual Strength" by Rev Das Koshy. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jan 8, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's house at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Onward Christian Soldiers!" by Rev Timothy Tow. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715 or mail_mrgoh@yahoo.com.sg.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings:

Last Lord's Day S\$10,557; THB2,930
Christmas Eve S\$14,763.60

Designated Offerings: Rev Tow \$500, \$200, \$200, \$100, \$50; Rev Jeffrey Khoo \$500, \$150, \$100, \$50; Rev Das Koshy \$100; Tanzania Bible College \$8,000; Missions \$250; Hien (Brisbane) \$1,000, \$500 (YPF), \$500, \$100; Joshua Khoo (Kuantan) \$100; Needy FEBC Students \$100; Lam Mung (FEBC) \$50; John Ovung (FEBC) \$30; Barnabas Yap \$150; Wendy Teng \$200, \$50; Bible Witness \$100; FEBC Scholarship \$1,400, \$1,000, \$100; FEBC \$590, \$300

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$41,790.60; THB2,930

Church Building Fund: \$5,000, \$1,880, \$500, \$500 **Total:** \$230,339.60

Sunday School Offering: \$221.40

Verse for the Week: *The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.* Prov. 10:29

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Mrs Rosalind Tow.
2. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
3. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
4. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.

Children's Sunday School, Children's Worship and Children's Choir are held at Level 6 and **Filipina and Indonesian Bible Study** will be held at Room 604, Level 6 effective today.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 14

2 January 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 86
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 46
Hymn	No. 46
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 27
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Matt. 24:7-8
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>How best can we serve Him as His coming is near?</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 220
Benediction	Pastor Tow

WHAT IS "TSUNAMI"?

It is a Japanese word meaning big tidal waves triggered off by undersea earthquakes. Tsunami when they reach the shore rise up three to four stories high so that many are caught indoors and bashed to death.

By Wednesday Dec 29 the death toll rose to 55,000. The biggest earthquake in 40 years claimed 63,000 by 9 am the same day. But these statistics do not include the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands themselves have at least 4,000 to 7,000 wiped out and many more missing, according to two news reports.

We thank God that Singapore has joined the big global effort "in a spontaneous outpouring of generosity among individuals, groups and companies, people queued at the Singapore Red Cross office to donate money, helping the group

reach its initial target of \$1 million in just two days."

How about us? We believe for humanitarian reasons we should give our offerings today to those who suffer from the tsunami.

Now, has God anything to say about this tsunami? One of the signs of our Lord's second coming and end of the world is "earthquakes in divers places." It is your pastor's duty to speak on it. And I hope my message will speak to someone here how best to serve the Lord.

Testimonies of Salvation

I was born a Catholic and grow up as a Catholic. I go to Church and worship idols. My sister who is working in Singapore has a good Christian employer. She recommended me to her employer's sister to work as a housemaid. I knew the Lord give me a chance to work in Singapore for a purpose.

After I arrived in Singapore, my sister brought me to her employer's Church. My sister also attends this Church every Sunday. She asked me to attend the Filipino Bible Study with her. As I listened to the message



Infant Baptism, Christmas Eve Carol Service, Dec 24, 2004

I felt uncomfortable because the preacher talked about the sins of worshipping idols. The preacher talked to me personally and I said, “I am not ready yet”. He told me, “don’t wait for tomorrow, for tomorrow may be too late”. It made me really think about it that night. As I am new to the Bible Study group I wanted to make sure I am in the right way. The next Sunday the preacher talked about how sinful man is. As I listened to the message I realized how sinful I am and in need of a Saviour. I repented from all my sins. On that day I believe that Jesus died for my sins. Although I knew that before as a Catholic it was just head knowledge. I now fully understood and believed that Jesus died for me and rose again the third day. I received Him into my life as my Lord and Saviour. I wanted to follow Him in water baptism.

My prayer to Him is that I may grow in my Christian life, and be faithful in His service.

– *Alicia Reyes Gabor*

My name is Febe Lagradante Britana and I came from the Philippines. My parents were very faithful in their Catholic religion. All their children were Catholic. As I was born a Catholic I grew up in the same faith. I go to Church to worship Mother Mary and all the saints. I did not know that God hates those who worship idols.

The Lord gives me a chance to work in Singapore. I was very happy that my employer is good and understanding. And most of all they are all Christians in the family and go to Church every Sunday. Every Sunday they ask me to go with them to the Church. I thank the Lord for my employer in allowing me to attend the

Filipino Bible Study where we open and study the Bible together with other Filipina. Our teacher really takes time to explain to us that salvation is by grace alone and not by good works. The Bible tells us that we are all sinners and that we cannot earn our salvation by our own good works and the wages of sins is death in the lake of fire. I then wasted no time to repent from all my sins and accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I do not want to be punished in the hell fire. I believed that He has washed my sins away by His precious blood that He shed in the cross of Calvary. Jesus paid all the wages of my sins. He died on the cross for me. Praise the Lord. I want to be baptized and follow the Lord, no turning back to idolatry.

My prayer is that I want to be a good employee to my good employer, that all my loved ones will someday come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Amen.

– *Febe Lagradante Britana*

I, Marisa Abioda Amilda, will commit myself unto the true and living God. I have seen His light and I have become enlightened, led away from all my sins. The Lord has saved me, and blessed me. I am grateful to Him that I have kind and warm employers.

I was formerly a Catholic. As I looked back I felt ashamed of myself in worshipping idols. I know the Lord has done so much for me. I love Him for He is pure and merciful to me.

When I first came here in Singapore, I know my employers are Christians. They invited me to their home and thoughtfully told me how to do all the

household chores, and then they even brought me to the Church and bought me a Bible. I started to learn about the Lord and wanted to know more about Him, so my employers let me join the Filipino Bible Study. It was then I realized that I am a sinner and wanted to receive Him as my Lord and Saviour and be baptized. I believed and will be faithful unto Him.

I want to grow in my Christian and prayer life. I do not want to go back to my former idolatrous worship. I pray that my loved ones will come to know Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord that He had sent the Filipino Bible Study to enlighten me.

Praise the Lord.

– *Marisa Abioda Amilda*

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter IX

John 9:6

“Is this Compatible with Modern Hygiene?”

A modern professor of theology asked his students a “progressive” question in regard to Jesus making clay with spittle to anoint the eyes of the blind man: “Is this compatible with modern hygiene?” Seemingly “progressive” seemingly harmless.

To speak disparagingly of our Lord’s work is as deadly as the old serpent’s sting. When this classroom attack on our Lord was related to a Christian doctor, he replied with a twinkle in his eyes, “From a medical standpoint, our saliva contains certain enzymes that kill germs.” So a doctor of theology should have learnt a little medicine before he spoke outside of his field of knowledge. Says Dr. David Smith, “Saliva was credited by ancient physicians, Jewish and Gentile alike, with

medical efficiency especially in ophthalmic distempers (diseases)”.

Do you know that in two other instances of healing, Jesus used the same “prescription”? There is the account in Mark 7:33-35 where Jesus spat and touched the deaf and dumb man’s tongue. And the other, also in Mark, 8:23-25, where he spat on the blind man’s eyes. If saliva is incompatible with hygiene, ancient or modern, why did our Lord use it again and again?

We cannot question our Lord whether using spittle measures up to modern hygiene. We can only submit to any “prescription” our Lord uses, as a dying man needing an operation is put into a surgeon’s hands.

Why did Jesus use spittle and clay and why did He send the blind man to wash in the pool of Siloam? Let Bishop Ryle answer for us: “The direction here given to the blind man would remind any pious Jew of Elisha’s directions to Naaman, “Go, wash in the Jordan” (II Kings 5:10). . . . By the command was a test of faith, and in obeying the blind man found what he wanted. It is the great principle which runs through scripture – “Believe and obey and all will be right.”

We would stress further that obedience must be that of abject submission to the Lord of Lords even as His saliva-clay humiliates its recipient. It is said that Hindu worshippers of the cow are so given to their four-footed goddess that some would drink her milk with a teaspoon of her droppings to express their devotion. And we and our Lord?

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jan 10 – 16, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL C, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	YPF Meeting
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jan 15, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's house at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on "Ten Commandments" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715 or mail_mrgoh@yahoo.com.sg.

The drawer of POSB cheque no. 300107, kindly see one of the ushers or call 6254-1287 for some clarifications.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings:

Last Lord's Day \$7,491.00
Watchnight Service \$9,649.40

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$250; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$250; *Calvary Reformed Churches in Sri Lanka* \$1,000; *Hien's Ministry (Brisbane)* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$200, \$150; *Merlin (FEBC)* \$100; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$250, \$200; *Wendy Teng* \$250, \$100, \$50; *RPG/Bible Witness* \$50; *Tracts* \$50; *Printing of "Songs in the Night"* \$100; *YPF* \$200; *FEBC Bookroom* \$600; *FEBC Scholarship* \$250; *FEBC* \$1,000

Total General and Designated Offerings:
\$22,290.40

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$600, \$400, \$200, \$100 **Total:** \$232,639.60

Sunday School Offering: \$363.60

Verse for the Week: *The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.* Prov. 10:30

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
3. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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Vol. II No. 15

9 January 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 85
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 75
Psalms	No. 151
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 247
Offertory Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Prov. 3:5-10
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>From a Godly Life to a Prosperous Life</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 288 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Earth in 40 years registering 10 on the Richter scale. Being underwater, the upheaval lifted the water, causing ocean waves to sweep thousands of kilometers from its epicenter off the northern tip of Sumatra causing horrendous damage and death of unknown thousands in Indonesia, Penang, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India. Suddenly, popular seaside resorts, with thousands of holiday-makers were turned into disaster areas, with great numbers dead, missing or injured. Suddenly merriment was turned to mourning.

2. SO IT WILL BE AT OUR LORD'S RETURN

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

When there is a disaster that strikes our neighbours it is incumbent that Christians should render help as taught by Jesus in the parable of the good Samaritan. I remember my pastor grandfather, even when his salary was low, he would be the first to contribute, e.g. to flood victims.

I suggested our general offerings last Lord's Day be sent to the tsunami victims and from the report of \$7,491, you have done well. (Plus another \$1,000 for Sri Lanka)

From Calvary B-P Church Weekly, dated Jan 2, 05:

1. WORST EARTHQUAKE IN 40 YEARS

The last Sunday of 2004 (Dec 26) will long be remembered for the worst earthquake on Planet

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thess 5:3). Did not our Lord warn that one of the cardinal signs of His coming would be earthquakes? (Matt 24:7). Psalm 114:7 says, *"Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord."* *"The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever ... He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth..."* (Ps 104:31, 32).

Reader, be wise. Heed the earthquake sign. The earth is the Lord's, and it quakes at His approach.



Adult Baptism, Christmas Eve Carol Service, Dec 24, 2004

Question: How soon, O Lord? *Only be ready!*

**3. “BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY:
HOLD THAT FAST WHICH THOU
HAST...” (REV 3:11)**

The fact is the end time is fraught with extreme deception and universal unbelief. “... scoffers, walking after their own lusts” will deny the truth and ridicule the doctrine of our Lord’s return, saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation” (2 Pet 3:3, 4).」

Presbyterian Missionary Balchin declared at our Chinese Presbyterian Synod that Christ has no need to come because he came again at Pentecost with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The tsunami terror that has claimed at least 160,000 lives show how terrible will be Christ’s Second Coming when He judges the world. He may come in our life time, even as it is foretold in Rev. 9:13-16 at the Euphrates, i.e. Iraq! Be ready, all of us.

*Your affectionate pastor
TT*



Far Eastern Bible College
reopened Monday,
January 3rd, 2005 with
a new intake of 8
students as follows:

1. Timbangan Tarigan, *Indonesia (M)*;
2. Choi Young Sik, *Korea (M)*;
3. Kim Mi Kyung, *Korea (F)*;
4. Shin Bo Mi, *Korea (F)*;
5. Song Sun Taek, *Korea (M)*;
6. Rajan Shrestha, *Nepal (M)*;
7. Wong Chee Leong, *Singapore (M)*;
8. Arpornthip Chaita, *Thailand (F)*.

The Faculty this Semester are:

1. Rev Timothy Tow, *MDiv, STM, DD*
2. Mrs Ivy Tow, *BTh*
3. Rev Jeffrey Khoo, *BTh, MDiv, STM, PhD*
4. Rev Koa Keng Woo, *BTh*
5. Rev Quek Suan Yew, *BArch, BTh, MDiv, STM*
6. Rev Prabhudas Koshy, *BSc, BTh, MDiv, ThM*
7. Rev Jack Sin, *BA, MDiv*
8. Mr Tan Kian Sing, *BEng, GDBA, MDiv*
9. Mrs Jemima Khoo, *BTh, MA, MRE*
10. Miss Carol Lee, *BBA, DipEd, MEd, MDiv*
11. Mr George Skariah, *BTh, MDiv, ThM*
12. Elder Han Soon Juan, *CertEd, CertTESL, DipTESL, MA*
13. Elder Geoffrey Tan, *BSc, BA (Hons), DipEd*
14. Mrs Anne Lim, *DipRSA, CertRK*
15. Mrs Koa Keng Woo, *Music studies*

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter IX

John 9:7

The Pool of Siloam

The Pool of Siloam is identified with that which is today located at the southeast part of the City of Jerusalem. The waters come from the Gihon Spring via the tunnel built by King Hezekiah (II King 20:20; Chron. 32:30). It is thought that when Jesus declared Himself the living waters at the close of the Feast of Tabernacles (7:37, 38) He was using a figure from the waters of Siloam, which were used at this season to symbolise God’s blessings.

The significance of washing at the Pool of Siloam finds a penetrating interpreter in Matthew Henry. He says, “The waters of Siloam had of old signified the throne and kingdom of the House of David, pointing to the Messiah, Isa. 8:6, and the Jews who

refused the waters of Shiloah, Christ’s doctrine and law, and rejoiced in the tradition of the elders. The evangelist takes notice of the signification of the name. Christ is often called the Sent of God; the Messenger of the covenant, Mal. 3:1; so when Christ told him to go to the pool of Siloam, he did in effect send him to Himself, for Christ is all in all, to the healing of souls. Christ, as a prophet, directs us to Himself, as a Priest. Go, wash in the fountain opened, a fountain of life, not a pool.

The cure was effected, the man came seeing. Here is an instance, 1. Of the power of Christ. What cannot He do, who could not only do this, but do it thus? No doubt this is He that should come. 2. It is an instance of the virtue of faith and obedience. This man let Christ do what He pleased, and what He appointed him to do, and was cured. They that would be healed by Christ must be ruled by Him. He came back from the pool wondering, and wondered at. He came seeing. This represents the benefit gracious souls find in attending on instituted ordinances according to Christ’s appointment. They have gone to the pool of Siloam weak, and have come away strengthened; have gone doubting, and come away satisfied; have gone mourning, and come away rejoicing; gone trembling, and come away triumphant; have gone blind, and come away seeing, come away singing, Isa. 52:8.”

The Pool of Siloam is the Pool, yea Fountain, of Him sent by God. Have you washed in this Pool that you may look not to the temporal things of this world, but to the eternal in the heavens?

John 9:8-17

**Faith Tested Under an Ecclesiastical
Gestapo**

If we read between the lines, we can gather what took place as the blind man, besmeared with clay, wended his way to the

pool. A crowd followed to see if his eyes would really open. As he washed, and washed, suddenly he cried, “Hey, I can see! I can see!” A greater crowd gathered as he hurried home to tell his people.

Jesus who had had many clashes with the Pharisees, representing the Jewish ecclesiastical authorities, was now under “ban”. This put a fear not only into the hearts of the sympathetic but also of the blind man’s parents. That is why they dared not exult in the healing of their son. When accosted by the Pharisees they rather retreated into their shell: “We know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself” (v. 21). So did the rest of the people waver, under an ecclesiastical Gestapo, as they began to express their doubts (v. 8, 9). Those responsible to the Jews even took him to a cross examination by the Pharisees (v. 13). What a terrible let down! Says Dr. David Smith at this point, “Instead of rejoicing in their neighbours’ good fortune, those people, to clear themselves of the suspicion of complicity, dragged him before the Pharisees, that is, the rulers of the synagogues who had pronounced the ban. It was indeed a serious case, since it was the Sabbath Day and the miracle was thus a violation of the Rabbinical law of Sabbath observance; yet it perplexed the dignitaries. For while some of them saw only the illegality of the miracle, others felt the wonder of it and recognised it as an evidence of our Lord’s divine commission; and when in the hope of obtaining fuller light on the case they appealed to the man – a mere lad, intelligent and nimble witted, very different from the old paralytic of Bethesda, he stoutly supported his Benefactor: “He is a prophet.”

“Truth”, according to Zorobabel, “endureth, and is always strong; it liveth and conquereth for evermore.” (I Esd. 4:38). St. Paul says, “For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” (II Cor. 13:8).

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jan 17 – 23, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	YPF Meeting
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jan 22, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's house at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Why come for a Fellowship?" by Rev Prabhudas Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715 or mail_mrgoh@yahoo.com.sg.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held on Jan 29, 05 (Sat) at 6 pm followed by a pot-bless dinner. Venue: Mr and Mrs Tay Bee Heng's house at Blk 526 Serangoon North Avenue 4, #02-110. Program: Bible Study on Jude by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328 or edwardwsv@yahoo.com.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$9,151

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Calvary Reformed Churches in Sri Lanka* \$200; *Tsunami Relief* \$200; *Hien's Ministry (Brisbane)* \$100; *Vanarith (FEBC)* \$80; *Elibariki (FEBC)* \$80; *Jose Mangco (FEBC)* \$80; *Thadeaus (FEBC)* \$80; *Wendy Teng* \$50, \$50; *FEBC Bookroom* \$100; *FEBC* \$250

Total General and Designated Offerings:

\$10,621

Church Building Fund: \$1,000 **Total:** \$233,639.60

Sunday School Offering: \$374.80

Verse for the Week: *The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.* Prov. 10:31

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
3. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session on Jan 30, 05 (Sunday afternoon) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 16

16 January 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Mr Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 129
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 78
Psalms	No. 158
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 236
Offertory Prayer	Mr Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Matt. 9:1-8
Pastoral Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>Jesus is God</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 333
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

FROM A GODLY LIFE TO A PROSPEROUS LIFE

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Jan 9, 05)

Text: Prov. 3:5-10

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

The Tsunami of Dec 26, 04 struck at Aceh Province Indonesia and spread all over the Indian Ocean, even to Africa, bringing death to at least 160,000 people.

1. A church member and his family went to

spend a holiday in Phuket at Christmas time. As True Life B-P Church was holding a special Christmas Eve Service they left Phuket for Singapore in time and were saved from the disaster.

2. On the other hand I have known of a young man who did not attend church, but went with his girl friend on Sunday to Desaru for a swim. He plunged into the water but was carried out to sea and drowned. When his family opened his locked drawer and found photos of his baptism they asked me to bury him. His girl friend came to the funeral and has remained single to this day.

This leads me to my subject on Living a godly and prosperous life from Prov. 3:5-10.

I. We should worship the Lord without a break every Lord's Day. Some of us think it is not important like that young man who went swimming in Desaru. Should your friend from Malaysia visit you on the Lord's Day, instead of bringing him to church you take him to Sentosa for a swim. You have gone astray because you do not in all thy ways acknowledge him. You are wise in your own eyes nor fear God and depart from evil.

Then how can we acknowledge him that he may direct our paths. I believed we should regularly read a



Christmas Carolling, Dec 19, 2004

portion, say a chapter of Scripture a day and pray for guidance from the Word of God. It shall be “health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.” But the majority of our members fail flat because we cannot give time to reading God’s Word nor pray, and when temptation comes we have no defence at all. If we have a loving and godly wife and will pray for each other that must be a special blessing from God. I have known how a godly wife’s prayers have kept her husband from the other woman.

II. Honour the Lord with thy substance. But it is the small change when offerings are collected. Malachi 3:8 asks, “Will a man rob God? In tithes and offerings!” Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house. The church that is not liberally supported by her members by tithing cannot accomplish God’s business. Missions cannot advance without our tithes. And we should be helping members of the church who are in financial difficulties with more than our tithes. I have seen how God has blessed members who not only tithe but give well and beyond to help members’ needs. Jesus says, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” Acts 20:35. Truly it is like opening the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. “So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”

If you had not lived a godly and prosperous life last year, keep close to God now and serve Him with your substance as you should and you will find out the difference. Amen.

I cheated death by half an hour!
by Mr Eio Eng Hua

It was Sunday morning on 26 Dec 2004 in Sri Lanka. I was driving to Colombo on my way to attend a church service from my resort located at Kalutara (37 km

away). The sky was blue and the road was clear. It was a relaxing drive. I had to pass an area known as “Moratuwa” where on both sides of the road you can see hundreds of wooden houses with zinc roofs usually occupied by the lower income people here. That stretch of road is about 5 km. It was about 9.00 a.m. when I drove past that place. There was nothing abnormal or unusual at that point of time.

When I returned from Colombo about one and a half hour later, to my horror, I saw tree trunks, branches, debris and household items spread over the 5 km stretch of road. What was more shocking was that 80% of the houses on both sides of the road was flattened! People were running wild and screaming. I didn’t know what was happening. It was later on that I learnt that at 9.30 a.m. the killer waves, “Tsunamis” had wiped out the homes of the poor residents in that area. It was as if some weapon of mass destruction had exploded there. Many people were either killed or missing and others badly injured. If not for God’s grace, the killer waves could also have “swallowed” me also. It was a matter of half an hour difference!

Indeed, “By Grace we are saved”.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter IX

John 9:18-34

Faith under Trial

Let Dr. David Smith retell more vividly the whole story: “There was nothing for it but to enter upon a judicial investigation....

First arose the question whether it were a genuine case and not an imposture, and to ascertain this they cited his parents and, removing him meanwhile from the court, addressed to them a threefold

interrogation: 1) Was he their son? 2) Had he really been born blind? And if so, 3) how had he now his sight? The first two questions they unhesitatingly answered in the affirmative, but the third was dangerous in view of the menace of excommunication, and they evaded it. “Ask him,” said they (according to the true order): “he is of age,” literally “he hath age,” meaning that he was old enough to speak for himself, not, as the phrase suggests with us, that he had turned twenty-one but that, according to Jewish usage (cf. Lk. ii. 42), he was over twelve. Thus balked, they recalled the lad and laid a trap for him. “Give glory to God” said they, meaning not, as our version suggests, “Ascribe the praise of the miracle to God,” but “Glorify God by confessing the truth” (cf. Josh vii. 19). “Give glory where it is due my son, even though it is manifest by thy shame Once more I charge thee to consult thy soul’s weal by glorifying Heaven and speaking the truth.”

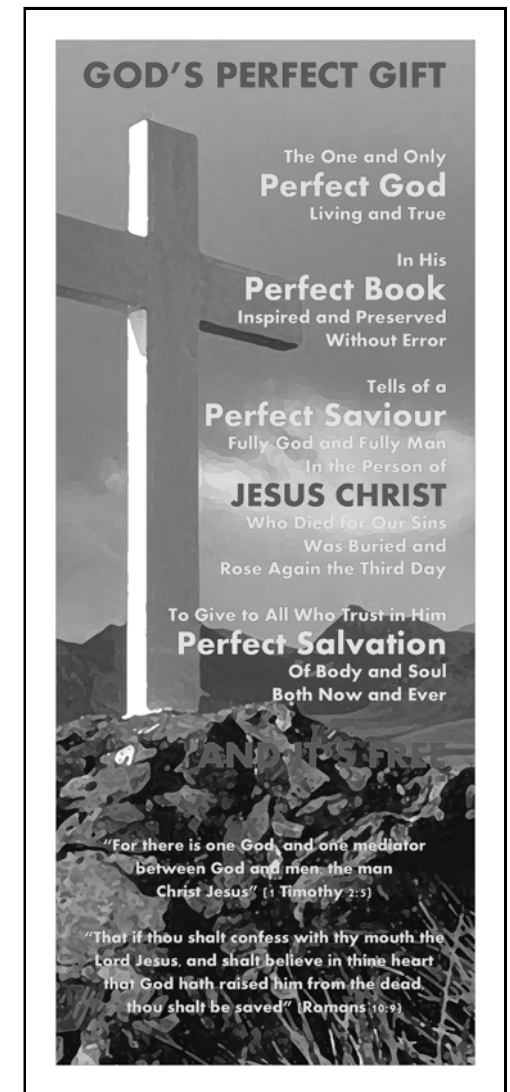
Their pretence was that they had elicited the facts from his parents and it was useless for him to persist in the imposture. “Give glory to God. We know that this fellow is a sinner.” “Be that as it may,” he stoutly replied, “one thing I know – that whereas I was blind, now I see.” Thus checkmated, they reverted to their original question, how the thing had been done, hoping that he might be betrayed into some inconsistency. But he met them with a cutting sarcasm. “I have told you already; why would ye hear it again? Would ye also become His disciples?”

They made the fatal blunder of losing their tempers. “Thou art a disciple of the fellow,” they stormed: “but we are disciples of Moses. This fellow – we know not whence he is.” The lad was blessed with a gift of humour, and keeping cool he fastened on their confession and lectured them with superb insolence: “Why, herein is

the marvellous thing! He opened the eyes of one born blind – an unprecedented miracle, impossible without God, yet ye wise men, the teachers of Israel, ‘know not whence He is!’” This ended the case.

“Dost thou teach us?” they cried; and “they cast him out” – not merely out of doors but out of their fellowship, excommunicating him.”

The day is coming when those who witness for Christ will be similarly tested. Will we stand the test?



APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jan 24 – 30, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	YPF Meeting
	6.00 pm	FBF Meeting
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship will be having an outing at East Coast Park this Sat (Jan 29, 05). Please meet at Paya Lebar MRT at 1.30 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715 or email at mail_mrgoh@yahoo.com.sg.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jan 29, 05) at 6 pm followed by a pot-bless dinner. Venue: Mr and Mrs Tay Bee Heng's house at Blk 526 Serangoon North Avenue 4, #02-110. Program: Bible Study on Jude by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328 or email at edwardwsv@yahoo.com.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Jan 30, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$8,286

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$300, \$200; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$200, \$90; *Calvary Reformed Churches in Sri Lanka* \$240; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$90; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$90; *Lal Lian Uk (FEBC)* \$60; *Lam Mung (FEBC)* \$60; *Rajan (FEBC)* \$60; *Wendy Teng* \$70; *FEBC* \$10,000, \$500
Total General and Designated Offerings: \$20,246

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$200
Total: \$234,839.60

Sunday School Offering: \$214.00

Verse for the Week *The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.* Prov. 10:32

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
3. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febe.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 17

23 January 2005

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 141
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 78:1-40
Psalms	No. 159
Announcements	
Special Number	Deborah & Judith
Offering & Hymn	No. 276
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Isaiah 61
Sermon	<i>The Garment of Praise</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 119
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

I reproduce herewith a Statement by Dr Rowan Williams writing in The Telegraph “today” who declares the Asian tsunami should make all Christians question the existence of God.

“The Asian tsunami disaster should make all Christians question the existence of God, Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, writes in The Telegraph today.

In a deeply personal and candid article, he says, “It would be wrong” if faith were not “upset” by the catastrophe which has already claimed more than 150,000 lives.

Prayer, he admits, provides no “magical solutions” and most of the stock Christian answers to human suffering do not “go very far in helping us, one week on, with the intolerable grief and devastation in front of us.”

Dr Williams, who, as head of the Church of England, represents 70 million Anglicans around the world, writes: “Every single random, accidental death is something that should upset a faith bound up in comfort and ready answers. Faced with the paralysing magnitude of a disaster like this, we naturally feel more deeply outraged – and also more deeply helpless.”

He adds, “The question, ‘How can you believe in a God who permits suffering on this scale?’ Is therefore very much around at the moment, and it would be surprising if it weren’t – indeed it would be wrong if it weren’t.”

Dr Williams concludes that, faced with such a terrible challenge to their faith, Christians must focus on “passionate engagement with the lives that are left.”

But Matt. 24:3 refers to the sign of Jesus’ Coming and the end of the world and in v. 7 that there will be earthquakes in divers places. In v. 5 Jesus brings in false Christs.

The Asian tsunami disaster of undersea earthquakes, declares our Lord, should appear before His Second Coming and end of the world but the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams



Tanzania Bible College

diverts our attention now to doubt God's existence and our own Christian faith and prayer. This makes him what Jesus says of false Christs.

We believe Jesus is coming very soon by the 150,000 lives lost, which shows God is ruling this world which all the more strengthens our faith and bolsters our prayer. St. Paul says, "Pray without ceasing." (I Thess. 5:17)

Many years ago I heard on the BBC how of the 50 Bishops in England, 45 denied the Virgin Birth of Christ and His Resurrection. And the Archbishop is chosen from these unbelievers. St. Paul says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9) The Archbishop ends up very concerned that "Christians must focus on passionate engagement with the lives that are left." This leads to my concern to preach the Gospel about how to be saved and go to heaven because God's Son paid the penalty of our sins by dying on the cross for us. If those who died in the Asian tsunami were Christians they went to see the Lord. This is what we must do all the time, True Lifers.

Our Bible College Movement Before He Comes

Jesus ends His Olivet Discourse of His Second Coming and the end of the world with Matt. 24:14, "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." "A witness unto all nations" brings to mind that through FEBC (Far Eastern Bible College) we have over 15 nationals under training who will return to their countries to evangelise their people. This is the quickest way to reach multinationals.

FEBC has reopened and we received 8

students. A ninth student has just come in and he is none other than Elder Tan Nee Keng to take the MDiv. course. He will serve the Lord fulltime.

But we are helping the Bible College of East Africa to upgrade with over 100 students, at the same time building Tanzania Bible College. The two African Bible Colleges will take in many African nationalities and tribes to fulfil the conditions of Christ's coming. See the progress of Tanzania Bible College on the back page! It is four hours drive from Nairobi, Kenya. True Life BPC recently received \$8,000 to help build the Bible College as we wait for His coming!

*Your affectionate pastor
T T*

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter IX

John 9:35-41

Christ and Follow-Up

Though a believer is forcibly separated from his congregation, as in the case of this blind man, he is not homeless. In fact, he should come out of such a foul ecclesiastical system, as commanded in II Cor. 6:14-18 (Here is the doctrine of ecclesiastical separation for the sake of truth and purity). And when he comes out, there is the Father to receive him.

In this case, our Lord who meets with him after the excommunication is the Father. It is a follow-up by the Chief of pastors. What is most important in our follow-up? To ground the new believer in the Faith. Our Lord now reveals Himself to the new believer that He is the Son of God. And with that the whole doctrine of His Person, yea, even of the Trinity and all that is in the Apostles Creed is

included. The more we know of Christ, the more will we submit to His benign authority. "And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him." (v 38).

Let Dr. David Smith conclude our remarks on this chapter: "A crowd had gathered, including some of the Pharisees who had pronounced the sentence of excommunication and were jealously watching the offender. And here our Lord found an opportunity for enforcing the lesson of His dealing with the latter. It was, as we have seen, an acted parable, a picturesque appeal to the blinded people of Jerusalem to open their eyes to "the Light of the World." "It was for judgement," said He, "that I came into the world, that the unseeing may see and the seeing be made blind." By their attitude toward Him men passed sentence on themselves. If they did not welcome the light, they proved themselves blind (cf. iii 19). This touched the pride of the Pharisees. "Are we too blind?" they interposed – we, the teachers of Israel? And He retorted with a stinging sentence. "Had ye been blind, ye had not had sin. As it is, ye say 'We see': your sin remaineth." Well for them had they been ignorant as the despised multitude, since they would then have been excusable. They knew better, and that was their condemnation."

Chapter X

To His own sheep who hear His word Jesus Christ is the Door of Life

This famous chapter on the parable of the Good Shepherd should be studied with Chapter 9 as its background. It is given on one hand as a rebuke to the unbelieving Jews and professional churchmen, and on the other as an assurance to believers, with an appeal to all and sundry who would put their trust in Him, near and far.

Jesus' claim to deity by referring to the

Father working in concert with him and He with the Father became the flash point of contention again. The Jews surrounded Him at Solomon's porch in the temple precincts. (As mentioned in the last chapter our Lord was now at the Feast of Dedication, or Hanukkah, the Feast of Lights, about the same time as the Christmas season). They wanted Him to declare once and for all if He was their expected Messiah (**Messiah** is the Hebrew meaning **Anointed**, is **Christos** in Greek and Christ in English). Jesus answered with the same sarcastic logic He had put in the blind man's answer to the Pharisees earlier (9:27): "I told you, and ye believeth not" (v 25). Then, using the law of evidence again to prove His point, He cited the testimony of His miracles in the Father's Name as one irrefutable proof of His Messiahship. He also revealed to them the mystery of their unbelief, despite a hundred proofs being given, and that mystery resided in the fact that they were not His sheep. They did not belong to that circle of saved ones whom the Father had elected to give Him the Son (cf. Jn 6:37). But those who are saved, and therefore listen to His Word, are saved forever (v 27, 28). In doubly-assuring His sheep of the everlasting life He offered them, our Lord claimed once again His equality with the Father (v 30). This invited another threat of stoning because the Jews could tolerate His claim to miracles, but not at all His claim to Godhood. To which our Lord had an argument from Scripture according to Ps. 82:6. How wonderful is God's Holy Word that offers us a ready answer to the assailants of truth.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan three times during forty days in the wilderness did He not vanquish His foe by thrice quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy? (Memorise I Pet. 3:15).

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Jan 31 – Feb 6, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
WED	7.00 pm	LF 1 st Anniversary
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	YPF Meeting
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Ladies Fellowship's First Anniversary Dinner/Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Feb 2, 05) at 7.00 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Guest Speaker: Rev Timothy Tow. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship will be having a Prayer and Reflection Session this Sat (Feb 5, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's house at 53 Oriole Crescent. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Fundamental Christian Ministry Combined Meeting 2005 will be held at the residence of Dr S H Tow on Feb 25, 05 at 7.30 pm. Address: 18 Anderson Road, Singapore 259977. Message: "The Lord is Coming! Implications for Students" by Dr S H Tow. For enquiries, please contact Lijin at 98223083.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,061; RM100; GBP10
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC* \$1,200, \$100, \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$7,711; RM100; GBP10
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$400, \$80
Total: \$236,319.60

Sunday School Offering: \$400

Verse for the Week: *A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.* Prov. 11:1

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
3. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet outside the Auditorium at 1.00 pm. For those going on your own, please meet at Blk 257 Bangkit Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Easter Sunrise Service Mar 27, 05 will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

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Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 18

30 January 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 40
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 80
Psalms	No. 164
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 72
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Matt. 24:4-14
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>More About the Tsunami</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 220
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Thus saith the Lord: *"For mine eyes are upon all their ways; they are not hidden from my face, neither is their iniquity hidden from my eyes."* (Jeremiah 16:17)
 (Manna International News, Australia)

In Jan 25, 05 Straits Times Life! there is more talk about the Tsunami in Phuket. The Thai Resort which has 4 million visitors a year has 260 dead and 2,000 injured. Though 460 hotels out of over 500 are now cleaned up and functioning, 10,000 still have lost their jobs for tourists now return number only 20 percent. There is also the problem of ghosts crying and wailing when the dark night comes.

Singaporeans who attended a memorial service for the Tsunami numbered 7,300, just a short while ago, had no idea what happens when they died. What do you say brothers and sisters who attend True Life Church? "There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." What is Jesus talking about? It is in answer to His disciples about His coming and of the end of the world (Matt. 24:3). The Tsunami that struck Aceh, Indonesia this time (undersea earthquake) released such a force that the killer waves travelled 800 km an hour

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

A POSITIVE TSUNAMI OUTCOME – The International Jerusalem Post January 7, 2005 featured a touching story of an Israeli and Palestinian couple brought together by the roaring waters of the Tsunami. The four, isolated for hours on the roof of a van, with deep concern for each other's survival, became great friends. When rescued and safe, the Israelis, a honeymoon couple, had no money or ID cards so the Palestinian couple paid for the Israelis to get home to Israel, and all firmly emphasised they would be friends for life.

A TV report featured an Indonesian survivor from a devastated community solemnly declaring, "I think God has reminded us that we have forgotten Him and that we should remember Him properly now." *Hopefully, the world at large has received that message also and will act upon it!*



Filipina Bible Study

and devastation reached even Africa – Somalia, Tanzania and Kenya.

Jesus is coming again and very soon. Rev. 9:13-16 speaks of the third World War which will break out from the Euphrates, which is Iraq. Rev. 16:12-16 tells how the last battle will be fought at Armageddon that leads to Jerusalem and Mount of Olives.

Dearly beloved, all these things can happen in our lifetime. There is only one way of salvation – Our Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Virgin born Son who died for our sins and rose again from the dead. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9)

"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) Our FEBC is in a Bible College movement helping two African Colleges whereby many nationalities are involved. Every week when you come to church think of Christ's coming.

Your affectionate pastor
TT

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter X

John 10:1-6

What's in a Parable?

A parable, according to Chambers Dictionary, is a comparison; a fable or story of something which might have happened, told to illustrate true doctrine, or to make some duty clear. (The word parable is made up of two Greek words: para = beside + ballein = to throw).

Scofield lists 40 parables from the Synoptic Gospels, but leaves out this only

"parable" in John. John's parable is more of a "similitude".

Can you identify the characters and objects in this parable? How many categories?

1. Our Saviour is the Good Shepherd, the Door, the Pasture.
2. The undershepherd, the pastor, is the porter; the sheepfold the Church, the sheep are the saved ones, believers. Other sheep are the Gentiles afar off who are to be evangelised and brought into the Church.
3. The false teachers are the thieves and robbers, the strangers, the wolves.
4. The professionals are hirelings. Bishop Ryle in his day says, "Thousands of ordained in the present know nothing whatsoever about Christ, except His name."

What are the characteristics of the four categories above?

1. The Saviour invites us to come to and through Himself (the Door). He calls us by name and leads us to pasture, to more abundant life. He gives His life to save His sheep. He is concerned for other sheep to be brought into the Church.
2. The pastor who opens the Door serves the local church faithfully and waits on the Chief Shepherd. He opens the Door that the sheep might come in and out. Every pastor should be a soul winner.
3. The false teachers take preeminence over the Master, or steal into the Church by climbing over the fence or breaking through, in order to destroy the flock (Jude 4). They are also wolves (Acts 20:29).
4. The professionals, hirelings, when they see the church attacked by the

false teachers could not care less for the souls of the members. They run away when the going is rough.

Every true member of the Church of Jesus Christ has an unction from the Holy Spirit so that they can recognise who's who is the Church, for good or for bad. Memorise I John 2:20 and read v. 27. This is what is meant by "my sheep hear my voice" and "a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him" (v 5). Every Christian has a duty to keep heretical teachers from the pulpit.

John 10:28, 29

What is Eternal Life?

According to Chambers Dictionary, eternal means "without beginning or end of existence"; everlasting; ceaseless. The eternal life that our Lord gives to those who hear His voice (v 27), that is, who believe in Him and obey Him, is life that has no end, everlasting. Some Christian teachers, however, say we can lose that life when we sin again.

Sin, of course, is a terrible thing. It brought us into the misery of death and hell when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Can a Christian lose his salvation when he falls into sin again? Hebrews 10:26 does warn against wilful sin which seems to be connected to v 29 with those "who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace." Will a truly born again Christian revile His Saviour as stated above? If so, he is in the gravest danger. But we think not. A truly born again Christian must love His Lord, and when he sins, he has "an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And He is the propitiation for our sins . . ." I Jn 2:1, 2. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I

Jn 1:9). We do not think a Christian will lose his salvation, for the life given him is eternal, everlasting.

Therefore eternal life is everlasting life, and everlasting life is life that continues forever and ever without being cut off even for a short duration. Therefore Christians have, in theological language, "eternal security". This is what Jesus means when he says, "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." To doubly assure us of His keeping power that we should not be lost, He adds, "My Father which gave them me is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (v 28, 29).

Let us conclude with Calvin's quotation of Jonah 2:9, "Salvation is of the Lord." Praise the Lord, we are saved not because we are good enough, but because He is good to us. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us . . ." (Titus 3:5). Memorise this verse.

FORGIVEN

By Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Sins Forgiven

Heaven to See

Sins Forgiven

Not Hell 'twill Be

Sins Forgiven

Forever to Live

Sins Forgiven

Only Jesus can Give

**"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."
(John 3:16)**

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 7 – 13, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>No FEBC Night Class</i>
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	YPF Meeting
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (<i>Lord's Supper</i>) (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship will be having a Chinese New Year Visitation to Ling Kwang Home this Sat (Feb 12, 05). Please meet outside the FEBC Bookroom at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Young People's Fellowship First Anniversary will be held at the RELC, Level 6, Paterson Room (Room 602) on Feb 19, 05 (Sat) at 3 pm. Message: "Be An Example" by Rev Timothy Tow. For details, please contact Clement at 98297665 or jinwentai2@yahoo.com.sg.

Adult Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo on Feb 26, 05 (Sat) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113 Singapore 730835. Program: A study on "A Theology for Every Christian – Book I: Knowing God and His Word" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Bro William Teo at 91831150.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$10,120

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$200, \$50; *Elibariki (FEBC)* \$50; *Phanna (FEBC)* \$50; *Byju Samuel (FEBC)* \$50; *Jose Maghanoy (FEBC)* \$50; *Vanarith (FEBC)* \$50; *Nelson Were (FEBC)* \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *FEBC* \$2,000

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$13,253

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$100 **Total:** \$237,419.60

Sunday School Offering: \$348.70

Verse for the Week: *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.* Prov. 11:2

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
3. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.

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Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



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REL, Auditorium, 10.30 am

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 19

6 February 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 117
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 84
Psalms	No. 169
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 321
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Acts 20:32-35
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>More blessed to give than to receive</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 390
Benediction	Pastor Tow

MORE ABOUT THE TSUNAMI

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Jan 30, 05)

Text: Matt. 24:3-14

Tsunami is a Japanese word that refers to tidal waves released from undersea earthquakes such as happened only a month ago. The speed at which the killer waves travelled was 800 km an hour. In a few hours, devastation came even to Somalia, Tanzania and Kenya in Africa. In our region, the killer waves reached down to Langkawi and Penang, but we in Singapore were mercifully spared. The dead caused by the Tsunami has now reached 290,000.

Shortly after it happened when the count was 150,000, there came a statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury, representing 70 million Anglicans around the world, that there is no God. This clearly reveals that modernists and liberals within the church are not Christians but of another

religion. The brutal fact was first revealed by Dr J. Gresham Machen in the 1930s. Dr McIntire his student and successor carried on the fight in a 20th Century Reformation and we who are in the 21st Century must do the same. Let us thank God for True Life for taking a stand for a 100% perfect Bible without any mistake.

Many years ago I heard on the BBC that at a Synod Meeting of the Anglican Church, 45 out of the 50 Bishops did not believe Jesus was the Virgin born Son of God nor in His Resurrection. The present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, is chosen from one of the 45 unbelieving Bishops. The Tsunami has exposed him, a so-called Church leader to be an atheist.

Secondly, we have a TV report of an Indonesian survivor from a devastated community declaring, "I think God has reminded us that we have forgotten Him and that we should remember Him properly now." He may be a nominal Christian or even a Muslim, but he is one awakened by the Tsunami.

There was a memorial service held for the Singapore dead attended by 7,300. How many knew where the dead had gone and what happened to them? Sad to say none of them had any hope beyond



Adult Sunday School

the grave. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" (I Cor. 15:32). My contractor friend Mr Goh is one of them.

Thirdly, the Bible, God's Word, says the end of the world and Jesus' coming again will be marked by famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places (Matt. 24:7). Far and wide, throughout the Indian Ocean and unto the uttermost part of the earth Jesus is telling us the end of the world and He's soon coming is upon us through these events, even false Christs and wars and nations going against each other. Let me say it again, Earthquakes in divers places, especially this recent Tsunami killing 290,000 are speaking to us. We who believe the Bible must wake up and prepare for Jesus' coming.

Matt. 24:14 requires us Christians to double up to win many nationalities before He comes. This we are doing through FEBC, helping African Bible Colleges. The Bible College of East Africa with 120 students has many tribes and the Tanzania Bible College is another. The text reads, "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."

Do you know that Rev 9:13-16 tells of the outbreaking of WWIII in the Euphrates which is Iraq again. Two wars fought in Iraq bring the third much closer. From the Euphrates the battle will lead up to Armageddon, the Hill of Megiddo or Slaughter. This is the landmark of a great plain south of Haifa where kings of the East will strike towards Jerusalem. This leads in no time to Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives where Jesus will land to fight for Israel. This can come in our lifetime.

Christians living at the time of WWIII have nowhere to escape but upwards. Paul tells us in I Cor. 15:51-53, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but

we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." And in I Thess. 4:13-18 he adds, "*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent* (The word 'prevent' here is old English which means 'go before') *them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

This event whereby we are saved in midair without going through death is called the Rapture, being caught up forcefully by the saving power in the Second Coming of our Lord.

The recent Tsunami, whereby God will bring us to the coming of WWIII (Rev 9:13-16) which will be Iraq again and to the Rapture without experiencing death is our Hope. Are you not happy we have this Blessed Hope? We shall be raptured without going through death to live with our Saviour for 1,000 years on earth and forever more. But if you are living in sin you must repent and seek the Lord's forgiveness before it is too late.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter X

John 10:7-21

The Unique Claims of the Good Shepherd

Did it occur to you that no other person in the world, not one among the prophets or philosophers, ever made such claims as our Saviour? Though Plato had said that every philosopher should be a king, and Confucius talked of the princely man, there is none among their fraternity that has made such claims as our Lord.

In this chapter our Lord declares Himself the Good Shepherd, the Door, the Pasture. Now, the shepherd of Psalm 23 which we all know so well is none other than the LORD. Note the four capital letters, L-O-R-D. This is the King James translators' way of showing the Divine Name JEHOVAH. The good shepherd is Jesus' claim to Jehovah, the God of Israel, in the Old Testament. The Door has reference to the entrance to the Temple, the Way of approach to God. Hence, according to Psalm 84, the exultation of one as a "door-keeper in the house of my God." The pasture speaks of good provisions to the sheep which brings to mind Psalm 100 where God's people are called "the sheep of His pasture." (v 3). Against such claims to Godhood and Saviourhood, the Jews, the Pharisees, scribes and lawyers, blind guides of the blind, insofar as the immediate context is concerned, are thieves and robbers, strangers and wolves, while professionals in the Service of the Church are called hirelings. Here is the argument for our Lord's Divinity – His claim to all the powers and virtues of Divinity. If these claims are not true, He must be the greatest imposter and megalomaniac.

He claims to be the author of Life. He foretells His death and His resurrection. It is these divine claims that caused a building up of opposition from the unbelieving Jews until it burst over His head in His arrest, trial and crucifixion.

But His fearless testimony of Himself did yield results. While some called Him a devil and a madman, there were others who took His side (v 19-21). On which side are you?

A PREACHER ON THE FENCE

*From out the millions of the earth
God often calls a man
To preach the Word*

And for the Truth to take a royal stand.

*'Tis sad to see him shun the cross,
nor stand in its defense;*

*Between the fields of right and wrong,
A preacher on the fence.*

*Before him are the souls of men
Bound for heaven or hell;
An open Bible in his hand,
And yet he will not tell*

*All the truth that's written there;
To them 'twould be an offense.*

*The joys of heaven, the woes of hell.
A preacher on the fence.*

*Now surely God has called a man
To battle for the right;*

*'Tis his to ferret out the wrong,
And turn on us the light.*

*And yet he dare not tell the truth;
He fears the consequence;*

*The most disgusting thing on earth
Is a preacher on the fence.*

*If he should stand up for the wrong,
The right he'd not defend.*

*If he should stand up for the right,
The wrong he would offend.*

*His mouth is closed; he cannot speak
For freedom or against.*

*Great God, please deliver us
From a preacher on the fence!*

*But soon both sides will find him out,
And brand him as a fraud.*

*A coward who dares not to please the
devil or his God.*

*Oh Lord, free us from fear of man;
From cowardly pretense;*

*Cleanse out the dross and fear of loss,
And keep us off the fence!*

- Anonymous

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 14 – 20, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	YPF 1 st Anniversary
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Errol Stone) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship First Anniversary will be held at the RELC, Level 6, Paterson Room (Room 602) this Sat (Feb 19, 05) at 3 pm. Message: "Be An Example" by Rev Timothy Tow. For details, please contact Clement at 98297665 or jinwentai2@yahoo.com.sg.

Adult Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo on *Feb 26, 05* (Sat) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Knowing God and His Word" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. Future meetings will be held on the third Sat of every month. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held on *Feb 26, 05* (Sat) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Tan Beng Lee's home at Blk 103 Spottiswoode Park Road #08-104. For details, please contact Tan Beng Lee at 98719796.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$10,410; AUD5

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$200; *Hien's ministry* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$200; *Mrs Tow* \$100; *Jemima Khoo* \$100; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$500; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *YPF* \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$200; *FEBC* \$300

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$12,510; AUD5

Church Building Fund: \$10,000, \$1,000, \$100 **Total:** \$248,519.60

Sunday School Offering: \$520.10

Verse for the Week: *The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.* Prov. 11:3

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
3. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

Easter Sunrise Service Mar 27, 05 will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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Vol. II No. 20

13 February 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 114
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 87
Psalms	No. 176
Announcements	
Special Number	YPF
	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 217
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	1 Pet. 1:13-19
Sermon	<i>Red, the Colour of Salvation</i> (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 184 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Feb 6, 05)

Text: Acts 20:32-35

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

I. The exact words of this quotation from our Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive", cannot be found in the Bible.

But there is plentiful teaching on giving with Jesus' own example in giving.

1. In Lk. 6:38 Jesus says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Earlier Jesus said, "Do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest."

To illustrate this let me tell you a Chinese New Year story. I had a friend, Stephen by name, who found a job as a security guard in one of the high rise condominiums at Gilstead Road opposite our church. He came from Penang. To help him further I gave him a small room in our Beulah House so he had somewhere to stay when off duty. This happened about ten years ago.

A few years later he returned to Penang. A few days ago he suddenly reappeared. He had come to Singapore in search of a job again. Sorry, he found no job. He came to ask for help. He needed \$50 to pay his way back. I gladly helped him.

The next day he came again. "I got pick-pocketed" (Watch out for



Ladies Fellowship 1st Anniversary, Feb 2, 05

pickpockets during Chinese New Year). I gave him another \$50, less enthusiastically. As he was waiting downstairs I gave the money through my wife. As this was Chinese New Year she put the money in a red envelope, plus another \$50 of her own. How doubly thrilled Stephen must be now on his homeward journey. A Christian should be ready to help anyone who comes to him in need.

2. In respect of giving, Jesus had given the most. He gave His powers of healing to hundreds of the sick. To the hungry, He once fed 5,000 (Jn. 6:1-11) with five loaves and two fishes and on another occasion 4,000 with seven loaves and a few little fishes (Matt. 15:32-34). Wasn't our Lord more blessed than the poor and needy who received at His Hand?

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. (Jn. 3:16) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:32)

3. God blesses us with riches when we come to believe in the Saviour. Now we know how to return a tenth to His House and we gladly help the poor and needy in the Church.

II. 1. The second person who sets us the example in giving is the Apostle Paul. He testifies of himself, "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

In all his long travels in his missionary journeys, Paul did not face a penniless situation until he came to Corinth. As his principle in such matters is "Self help, with

God's help is the best help", he found a certain Jew named Aquila with his wife Priscilla. As Paul had learnt tentmaking in his youth and Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers he found a job with them. He earned his self-upkeep. In no time Paul had earned enough, so with further support from new believers he ceased tentmaking.

2. After Paul had remained in Corinth for a good while, well over one and a half years, Aquila and Priscilla gave up tentmaking to join Paul in the work of the Gospel so that they sailed with him on his return journey. When they all came to Ephesus Paul left them there. At Ephesus, Paul's partners instructed Apollos, an eloquent preacher who knew only the baptism of John the Baptist, to whom Aquila and Priscilla expounded more perfectly the way of God. The Scripture does not say how the couple were supported. But from our text which says, "Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities (his tentmaking), and to them that were with me (Aquila and Priscilla). I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Paul evidently was Aquila and Priscilla's supporter.

III. Paul, being God's specially chosen, set the example of supporting his coworker couple and himself, now has instructions for us. In view of the fact that we today are working together as a local church without the necessity of Paul's constant travelling about, we should teach members:

1. To give first of all to God by tithing and secondly to fulltime workers such as the local pastor and others such as the clerical staff and missionaries in foreign lands, e.g. Hien our Vietnamese graduate

now in Brisbane, Australia. We should support a suitable Bible College such as FEBC so that more ministers will be trained. Far Eastern Bible College will have graduated 500 in 44 years. Besides we are in a Bible College movement to upgrade the Bible College of East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya with 120 students and another in Tanzania, the Tanzania Bible College. God has blessed True Life B-P Church because we are a giving Church.

2. We should increase our giving at special seasons to remember our Lord such as Easter and Christmas and Chinese New Year. At Chinese New Year we naturally give a bigger angpow in thanksgiving to God and some to relatives or members that they might be happy at this season. And I am deeply touched by members who cease not to give to worthy persons like Bible College students and missionaries. Jesus says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Are you a giving Christian?

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	
Children's Sunday School (9.15 am – 10.15 am)	
Classes	Venue
Pre-Nursery, Nursery, K1	Room 601
K2	Room 602
Primary 1 & 2	Room 603
Primary 3 to 6	Room 604
Children's Worship (10.30 am)	
Classes	Venue
Nursery Worship (2 – 4 years old)	Room 601
Children's Worship (K1 & K2)	Room 602
Children's Choir (Primary 1 – 6)	Room 603



The Family Bible Study Fellowship meets on the last Saturday of every month at 5.30 pm in member's home

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 21 – 27, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Adult Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Koa Keng Woo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Feb 26, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on "Ten Commandments" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Adult Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Feb 26, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Knowing God and His Word" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Feb 26, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Tan Beng Lee's home at Blk 103 Spottiswoode Park Road #08-104. Speaker: Pr Eduardo Morante. For details, please contact Tan Beng Lee at 98719796.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Feb 27, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,690.40

Designated Offerings: *Tanzania Bible College Building Fund* \$1,000; *Van Fund for Hien's Ministry (Brisbane)* \$100; *Kemaman Mission* \$100; *Kuantan Mission* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$50; *Vanarith (FEBC)* \$50; *\$50; Rajan (FEBC)* \$50; *Manling (FEBC)* \$50; *Merlin (FEBC)* \$50; *Elibariki (FEBC)* \$50; *Febian Siregar (FEBC)* \$50; *Jeremy Siregar (FEBC)* \$50; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100, \$50, \$50, \$50; *FEBC* \$484, \$200

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$10,474.40

Church Building Fund: \$5,000, \$3,000, \$300, \$250 **Total:** \$257,069.60

Sunday School Offering: \$284.00

Verse for the Week: *Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.* Prov. 11:4

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.
3. For Mr Tan Teck Boon, father of Mrs Helen Eio.

Infant Baptism, Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith on Easter Sunrise Service, Mar 27, 05. Please register immediately with Pastor.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am.

Easter Sunrise Service Mar 27, 05 will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



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Vol. II No. 21

20 February 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 85
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 89
Psalms	No. 179
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 293
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Matt. 5:10-12
Sermon	<i>Walking in Victory</i> (Rev Errol Stone)
Closing Hymn	No. 359
Benediction	Rev Errol Stone

RED, THE COLOUR OF SALVATION

(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Feb 13, 05)

Text: 1 Pet. 1:13-19

Red to the Chinese means happiness, prosperity, health, wealth, and good fortune. It is the colour of life, but of the physical and material life on earth. To us who are Christians, the colour red is also very meaningful, only richer and deeper, for it not only means the abundant life that we now experience here on earth, but also the fullness of eternal life we shall enjoy hereafter in heaven.

The Bible is full of the colour red, not the red words in the gospels as found in some Bibles, but the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin. 1 Peter 1:18-19 tells us, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of

a lamb without blemish and without spot."

When we think of the blood of Christ, we should not think only of His death, but also of His life. Jesus saved us by living for us. The blood of Christ points to His life. In Leviticus 17:11, we are told that "the life of the flesh is in the blood ... to make an atonement for your souls." Christ lived on this earth for 33½ years, and throughout His life—from the time of His birth till the time of His death—He was working for our redemption.

God requires a man to be holy if he wants to live forever in heaven. Man must keep the Ten Commandments perfectly if he wants to see God (Matt 5:8). Jesus told the rich young ruler, "if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt 19:17). Man must be holy as God is holy (1 Pet 1:16).

But man is full of sin. No one is pure and guiltless. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). Not only is man born in sin, he has also broken all the commandments of God. Every single human being stands condemned before a thrice holy God and deserves only judgement and condemnation in hell. Man cannot be saved at all by his own good works.



YPF Presentation, Feb 13, 05

Man needs a Saviour, and God has provided such a Saviour in His only begotten Son—the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ who is not only perfect God but also perfect Man has to earn the righteousness that is required for our entrance into heaven. So when Jesus was on earth, He kept the Ten Commandments perfectly for us. The Lord Himself said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law ... I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill” (Matt 5:17). Galatians 4:4 tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ was “made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons”. The Lord Jesus Christ clothes us with the garment of His righteousness so that we might become the children of God.

But this was not all that the Lord had to do to save us from our sins. The Lord Jesus Christ must not only live for us, He must also die for us. His blood points not only to His life but also to His death. Death is sin’s penalty (Rom 6:23). As the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus must bear our sins on the cross, shedding His precious blood. For “without shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb 9:22). Truly, the Lord Jesus Christ is “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Jesus saved us by His life, and by His death, and by His life again when He rose from the dead. He died, was buried and on the third day rose again from the grave according to the Scriptures (1 Pet 1:21, 1 Cor 15:3-4). Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

God has a *hong bao* (red packet) for you, and it contains a most precious and infinite gift—the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ His Son. Have your sins been forgiven? Do you have eternal life? Is Jesus Christ your Saviour? Jesus is telling you, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and

believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:24-26). “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31).

Do not delay, believe on Jesus and be saved today!

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter X

John 10:22-30

Another Claim of Equality with the Father

In the encounter with the Jews after the healing of the paralytic of 38 years, Jesus’ claim to partnership with the Father in His work roused the Jews’ resentment. For they perceived that if such claims were true, then Jesus was claiming God to be His Father, “making Himself equal with God.”

In this chapter Jesus claims to give life everlasting to His sheep and guarantees life to be imperishable because He keeps it with His hand, and such security is reinforced by the Father’s hand. He claims again that the Father is working alongside Him. But our Lord goes further. He declares: “I and the Father are one”. This speaks not only of equality in power but equality in essence.

It is from such Scripture passages that the authors of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms frame their doctrine on the deity of Christ and His equality with the Father and the Spirit.

Q 11 of the Larger Catechism: How doth it appear that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father?

A. The Scriptures manifest that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father, ascribing unto them such

names, attributes, works, and worship, as are proper to God only.

“I and my Father are one” refers to Christ’s attributes and essence being at one with the Father. This makes Him equal to God, which provoked a barrage of stones about to be discharged by the offended Jews. This made the Jews to accuse our Lord of blasphemy. Again they retorted in their hardened unbelief, “For a good work we stone thee not: but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”

There are many educated people today who can accept Jesus Christ as a prophet, even the Muslims. But they reject Him to be God’s Son, equal with God the Father. But remember an earlier warning, from our Lord, “For if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.” Do you kneel to Jesus Christ the Son of God, God of very God?

John 10:31- 38

Jesus Christ, the Master-Logician

The Jews took up stones to stone Jesus because they were angry that He being a man made himself God. Jesus stood His ground, unafraid, to defend His cause. He asked them a question from the Old Testament, the Bible of the Jews. Quoting Psalm 82:6 He said, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, Ye are gods’. If He called them gods (**Elohim** in Hebrew, the same word used for **GOD**) unto whom the word of God came, (and the Scripture cannot be broken), Say ye of Him whom the Father hath sanctified and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.”

What Jesus has quoted from the Jews’

own Scriptures gave them no leverage to answer. What Jesus challenged them was this: “Is it not written in your Law that those who have God’s Word (the judges of Israel) are called gods? If these who ruled over Israel were called gods, how can you say that I blaspheme when I tell you I am the Son of God, I whom the Father has set apart and sent into the world? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may learn and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father.” If human judges were called gods in ancient Israel, Jesus the One whom God has sent from heaven to be the Saviour of mankind is worthy a thousand times more to be called Son of God. Can such logic be refuted?

The fact that the Jews had no answer and resorted to physical force speaks for itself. Jesus Christ, the Master-Logician!



Missionary Hien and his family, our Vietnamese Graduate now in Brisbane

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Feb 28 – Mar 6, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Mar 2, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "Walk not as Fools but as Wise" by Rev Stephen Khoo. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Mar 5, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Christian Music Workshop by Sis Janice Lai. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715 or mail_mrgoh@yahoo.com.sg.

There will be no evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$5,853.50

Designated Offerings: *Rev Errol Stone* \$100; *Faith Presbyterian Church Easter Camp* \$100; *Tanzania Bible College* \$100; *Hien's ministry in Brisbane* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$50; **FEBC** \$500

Total General and Designated Offerings:

\$6,803.50

Church Building Fund: \$150 **Total:** \$257,219.60

Sunday School Offering: \$526.40

Verse for the Week: *The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. Prov. 11:5*

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

Infant Baptism, Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith on Easter Sunrise Service, Mar 27, 05. Please register immediately with Pastor.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am.

Easter Sunrise Service Mar 27, 05 will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am.

We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs Helen Eio on the home going of her father on Feb 24. Pastor Tow conducted the vigil service on Feb 26. Funeral will be officiated by Pastor Tow this afternoon, 2 pm at No. 10 Ava Tower, Ava Road (Basement Carpark) after which the cortege will leave for Choa Chu Kang Christian Lawn Cemetery.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 22

27 February 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Mr Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 237
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 90
Hymn	No. 21
Announcements	
Special Number	Indonesian Students
Offering & Hymn	No. 183
Offertory Prayer	Mr Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Luke 17:26-30
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Koa Keng Woo
Sermon	<i>Remember Noe and Lot</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 223
Benediction	Rev Koa Keng Woo

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Our Involvement in Missions from the Very Beginning

When Life Church was founded in Oct. 1950 in no time we went out to evangelise the West Coast of Malaysia in obedience to the Great Commission, Matt. 28:18-20. This took us to the heart of Pahang and to Alor Star in Kedah in mid-1951. My good partner was Deacon Hsu Chiang Tai who supported our Church for over 40 years though he migrated to New York in 1960.

In mid-1951 we also headed for the East Coast, to Jemaluang, 87 miles north of Singapore and 13 miles south of Mersing. Now our involvement takes us further north to Kuantan 210 miles and Kemaman 245 miles north of Singapore (show by map, adding J.B. and Kota Tinggi and Kelapa Sawit).

When an independent missionary from Hawaii,



Miss Adeline Char came to us in 1952, we decided to bring her to Jemaluang. We went to the British Land Officer located in Mersing and on the spot he gave us a quarter acre piece of land to build a church. The British were desperate to fight the Malayan Communist Uprising, hence the urgency.

Miss Char ministered in Jemaluang for nearly 30 years before she left for wider horizons. Now the church premises are taken over for private business, but has the Jemaluang witness stopped entirely? Miss Char sent a young man to study at Chin Lien Seminary and he is an ordained pastor now actively serving.

Out of our West Coast Evangelistic drive we have come to possess a church at Kelapa Sawit, 43 miles north of Singapore. Some



YPF First Anniversary, Feb 19, 05

years ago this church sent Tee Chung Seng to train at Far Eastern Bible College. After graduation his zeal has inspired a young people's team to join him to evangelise Jemaluang. Now on the fourth week Tee Chung Seng and his young people would have YF Sat afternoon and Church Service the following Sunday (20 come to Church). Now they meet rather at a house near the Government school.

Being greatly thrilled by Jemaluang's Revival Mrs Tow and I, using Judith's car, with Deborah coming along to sing we will not be in church this Lord's Day when Rev Koa preaches. Just as I say this there comes a message from Helen Eio that God has taken her father home which now alters the picture. Our plan to go to Jemaluang is totally changed and this Lord's Day afternoon I shall conduct the funeral at 2 pm at No. 10 Ava Tower, Ava Road.

Your affectionate pastor
T T

Testimonies of YPFers on the occasion of YPF First Anniversary, Feb 19, 05

The YPF first started out with only three members – Herbert, Wei-tse and me. That was not a very encouraging beginning. However, by the Lord's grace, the YPF has since grown to about 15-25 people attending each week. It is a most wonderful blessing to hear the Word of God preached every Saturday and see the people grow in Christ with each passing week. May the YPF continue to preach the truth each week, and grow from strength to strength!

I would also like to thank God for Mr and Mrs Foo who kindly open their house for us to use for every meeting, and also providing invaluable advice to us. The Lord will surely bless their family for their faithfulness.

Expect great things from a great God. And expect even greater things. Amen.

– Clement Chew

In all my years in Church, I did not join any fellowship group. There were always school work, extra curricular activities, and other excuses that would take priority over attending fellowship meetings on Saturdays. I thank the Lord that when True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church was started and the Young People's Fellowship (YPF) was formed, I joined the YPF. I realized that if I put God first in my life, I will desire to make time for fellowship meetings, for the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

It truly is a blessing to be able to gather with other like-minded and Bible-believing brethren to learn precious truths from the Bible and to experience the warmth of sweet Christian fellowship. Most importantly, YPF is truly a God and Word-centred fellowship, and not a social gathering. I thank God for the Word that is faithfully taught to us by God-fearing and God-honouring servants of God.

Indeed, God has been very gracious to the YPF this past year. It has grown from a handful to the group that it is today. It is only by God's grace and mercy that we are sustained.

May all praise and glory be to God!

– Jacelyn Chng

Thank and praise God for YPF! I have learnt many precious lessons from the Word of God and it has without a doubt brought me closer to our heavenly Father. This is the place where I look forward to come week after week – to meet like-minded brethren to share about the things of God and to give God all the glory for the things He has done in our lives.

Special thanks go out to Dr Jeffrey Khoo, our advisor, the speakers who have ministered to us and each and every one in YPF. Not to mention our wonderful hosts, Mr and Mrs Foo Chee Yong, for being so

gracious to us in opening their home for our gatherings and fetching us from Watten Park week after week tirelessly and the labour of love of our beloved sister-in-Christ, Nina. "Thank you so much! You have been a great blessing to my life and I sincerely thank God for you!"

I also want to thank the Lord for the chance to serve Him. Indeed, we are chosen to be His soldiers to do things for Him (2 Tim 2:3-4) – we are saved to serve God. What a privilege! I pray that God will continue to use me to be a blessing unto others as much as possible, that His matchless name alone may be magnified!

It really warms my heart as I see all in YPF grow together in the Lord. Without a doubt, this is my greatest desire and words cannot describe the blessedness that I feel inside my heart of hearts. All I can say is, "Praise the Lord!" I sincerely pray that our heavenly Father will continue to work a good work in our hearts that we may continue to grow in Him together – One in Christ and one in heart!

Soli Deo Gloria (To God be all the Glory).

– Herbert Goh

I pray that my testimony may be edifying.

Firstly, I would like to tell you how I got to know my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When my father first brought me to church, I just went as I was told, and not because I wanted to worship God. That was how I started going to church. Then after that, I tried not to go to church for awhile. I found that I sinned even more when I stayed at home instead of going to church.

Now I realize that attending church activities (like YPF) is a higher purpose of God. God wants me to be like Moses who will rather suffer with God's people than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season.

Is going for church services and activities suffering? Not at all. By attending YPF I am given many opportunities to serve God in

different areas. There are many seniors like Clement and Herbert who help and teach me in the service to God. I also learnt something from Clement's testimony – he does things by faith.

After I heard what Clement said, I started to sing in the choir. Clement said, "when I sing, I sing by faith." *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6). Sometimes when I serve God, I will face some difficulties, but it is all a test of our faith.

Thank you for reading as I end my testimony with a few verses.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Corinthians 15:58)

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

– Samuel Goh

As a member in Young People's Fellowship, which is also known as YPF, I've grown more mature in the spirit and got to learn more about the Bible, the Word of God. I've been to most of the meetings and have seen YPF grow as the days go by. It is an encouragement to see more people, new faces, appearing in the meetings. Thank God for that.

Thank God that I've found a fellowship which helps me to understand the scriptures. Thank God also for the people I've met here who are always showing care and concern.

Resolution for 2005: I would like to help out in any area which God would direct me. As I lack the courage to speak publicly, I hope it would be in an area where public speaking is not required.

– Esther Kiew

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Mar 7 – 13, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (<i>Lord's Supper</i>) (Dr S H Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship will be having a combined meeting with Tabernacle BPC YF this Sat (Mar 12, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Speaker: Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.

Mrs Helen Eio expresses their sincerest appreciation and thanks to the brothers and sisters in Christ who came to comfort them during their recent bereavement. Our love and care meant so much to them.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,522; RM0.50
Designated Offerings: *Rev Errol Stone* \$250; *Faith Presbyterian Church* \$250; *Mission/Evangelism* \$1,000; *FEBC Students* \$500; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$60; *Mrs Tow* \$100; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$500; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *Barnabas & Ling Ling's Daughter* \$200; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *FEBC* \$100, \$100

Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$9,965; RM0.50

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$1,000, \$100, \$50
Total: \$259,369.60

Sunday School Offering: \$302.80

Verse for the Week: *The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.* Prov. 11:6

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

Infant Baptism, Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith on Easter Sunrise Service, Mar 27, 05. Please register immediately with Pastor.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am.

Easter Sunrise Service Mar 27, 05 will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am.

We extend our congratulations to Mr and Mrs Tai Mern Yee on the birth of their son, Tai Eyan Ern on Mar 1, 05.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 23

6 March 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 83
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 95
Psalms	No. 193
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 362
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Matt. 6:9-13
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Teach Me to Pray</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 365
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Arthur Steele, founder of Clearwater Christian College, Clearwater, Florida coming to help us confer the Th.D (Doctor of Theology) degree on successful candidates, highest number 3. A very significant event not to be missed. May 9 to 10 the College will hold the annual camp at Mersing, Dr. Arthur Steele speaking.

A very important action to be taken by our church members, have you applied for leave to come to our Annual Bible Camp, June 7 – 10 to be held at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing? Overflow registrants will reside at Timotel. The price is far cheaper than those who go to Bintan Island, for example. Dr. Jeffrey Khoo and I will speak on our B-P Faith that leads us to establish True Life B-P Church.

There is another occasion, the 54th Anniversary of Kelapa Sawit B-P Church, 43 miles north of Singapore in Johore that has requested me to speak because I was there with Miss Leona Wu to evangelise. As a result this became a Chinese Church jointly administered by Miss Wu and us. Now it is independent. For nearly 20 years it was under Miss Ng Sang Chiew and now under Mr Tee Chung Seng. The date of commemoration is April 17, 10 am.

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

TIME for Action!

First of all those of you who should register your membership as members of True Life B-P Church and have not yet done so are requested to do so henceforth. The reason is by law our Church must hold its ACM (Annual Congregational Meeting) on April 24 and your presence is required.

Also it is necessary to elect our Session. For a sure administration we should re-elect our elders and deacon coming from Life Church who agree with the pastor that we have a Bible without any mistakes and new members (deacons and deaconess). We must pray earnestly in making the right choice.

Far Eastern Bible College will be holding graduation on May 8 with our good friend Dr.



Church Prayer Meeting at RELC, Level 5, Napier Room

If you would like to come along please let me know early. No venture no gain!

Your affectionate pastor
T T

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter X

John 10:39-40

Is it cowardice to run?

We see in the remaining verses of this chapter our Lord becoming a fugitive again. Is it cowardice to run? Was it cowardice on Paul's part to escape out of Damascus in a basket "let down by the wall"? It is not cowardice to run before one's time is up. Our Lord "regarded death as going home" (to use a Chinese proverb) when He knew His time to die was nigh. So did the apostle Paul when at last he was taken to Rome. Before one's appointed hour with God, there's the injunction from our Lord to the Twelve, "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye to another" (Matt 10:23).

For the location of His retreat, we have further light from Matt 3:1, 13. In Matt 19:1 we have the fuller expression, "the coasts of Judea beyond Jordan". Ellicott thinks this location is to the north of the Sea of Galilee on the eastern side of the River Jordan. This location is the Golan Heights taken by Israel from the Syrians, in the Six-Day War, 1967.

How long did He stay there? From the Feast of Dedication to Passover was a period of four months (December to April). In between there is the return to the Capital outskirts, to Bethany, for the raising of Lazarus, and a certain time spent in a city called Ephraim, "near to the wilderness" (Jn 11:54).

The old faithfuls, converted in the earlier days of His ministry, followed Him there. What a contrast with the rebellious Jews in

Jerusalem. How it must have encouraged our Lord to see the Gospel flourishing in them despite the persecutors, and through them new ones drawn into the kingdom. The people, when comparing John the Baptist with Christ inferred Christ was more excellent because Christ's miracles were so remarkable, whereas John did not perform any. They did however conclude that John worked no miracles for Christ's sake, that He might be more highly esteemed (Calvin).

Christ's retreat beyond Jordan was used of God to produce more fruit. It was no cowardice to run at this juncture of His life.

Chapter XI

To both dead and living believing Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life

Although this is the first time that Lazarus, Mary and Martha are mentioned in John, the two sisters are well known to us by Luke's account (10:38-42). With Lazarus revealed here as one Jesus loved, we have a complete picture of the Bethany Trio.

Two miles from Jerusalem by a slope of the Mount of Olives on the Jericho Road, was Bethany. There lived together the two sisters and their brother, an apparently well-to-do family. This is one family that had received Jesus Christ not only into their house but also into their heart. How our Lord and His disciples were encouraged by their loving reception and warm hospitality whenever they passed through en route to Jerusalem.

Now it happened that during the period our Lord was gone from Jerusalem to beyond the River Jordan, Lazarus fell ill. This illness was a serious one, so that a messenger was sent to ask Jesus to come.

When our Lord received the news He perceived it was another occasion planned of the Father whereby God's Name would be greatly magnified. He was given the knowledge that this sickness would end in death but as Lord of Life He would raise Lazarus from the dead. This would be a final demonstration of His Messianic mission, that He came not to fulfil the political desires of His countrymen, but to save all mankind from sin and death. Our Lord had before this time raised Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:49) and the widow's son at Nain (Luke 7:11). Now He was to do it again, a triple confirmation of His Sonship. He purposely delayed coming in order that Lazarus, now stinking after four days, might give a greater testimony of His power.

The disciples who had retreated with Him to beyond Jordan, sensing the danger

of returning to the metropolis, tried to dissuade our Lord from going. Thomas, at this point, seemed resigned to their fate. Jesus, nevertheless, encouraged them, that nothing could harm them until their appointed task was done.

The raising of Lazarus is the last straw of Jesus' acts that breaks the camel's back of Jewish tolerance. Now they plot to get Him at all costs. Christ must be put to death. Such rejection of the truth is not surprising when we hear what Abraham says to the rich man in hell, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

But, to both dead and living believing, Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.



Preacher Joshua Khoo and his family (Kuantan), standing in front of the Church Van purchased with the help of love offerings from brethren of True Life B-P Church

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Mar 14 – 20, 2005)

MON – FRI	FEBC Mid-Term Break
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL C, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT 3.00 pm	Adult Fellowship
3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Adult Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Mar 19, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Topic: "Knowing God and His Word" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Mar 19, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on "Ten Commandments" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Mar 20, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Pastor Tow is away for a preaching appointment at the 13th Anniversary of Berean B-P Church today.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$9,539

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$300; *Tanzania Bible College* \$1,300; *Hien's Ministry* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$200; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$100; *Rajan (FEBC)* \$50; *Elibariki (FEBC)* \$50; *FEBC Scholarship* \$300; *FEBC* \$300

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$12,239

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$200 Total: \$260,569.60

Sunday School Offering: \$551.80

Verse for the Week: *When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.* Prov. 11:7

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

Infant Baptism, Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith on Easter Sunrise Service, Mar 27, 05. Please register immediately with Pastor.

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am.

Easter Sunrise Service Mar 27, 05 will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 24

13 March 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dr S H Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 68
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 103
Hymn	No. 37
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 306
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Scripture Text	Ps. 103
Sermon	<i>Bless the LORD, O my soul</i>
Hymn	No. 175 (Lord's Supper)
Closing Hymn	<i>When This Passing World Is Done</i>
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

TEACH ME TO PRAY

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Mar 6, 05)

Text: Matt. 6:9-13

Let me ask you a question in the opening words of our hymn, Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray? I have a strong suspicion many of you cannot say you prayed. We belong to a rushing generation. So hard to find time. And we are also a people too well off. No need to pray. Now, let me ask you another question, Do wives pray for their husbands and vice versa, Do husbands pray for their wives? And we are not concerned for the salvation of our younger generation either. Do grandparents pray for their growing up grandchildren? Do parents teach their children to pray when they get up in the morning and when they go to bed at night? And at mealtime? 3x a day. King Solomon says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is

old, he will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6). We are also like little children not knowing what to pray. We are like the disciple in Lk. 11:1 who pleaded, "Lord, teach us to pray."

This Lord's Prayer is composed of six petitions. The first three petitions are devoted particularly to the glory of God. The remaining three petitions concern ourselves.

The first petition, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name" is that God's Name may be hallowed or revered. By this we wish God to receive all the honour and glory that He deserves to which is opposed that profanation (disrespect) which has become too common in the world.

The second petition, "Thy kingdom come" is that the kingdom of heaven may come. The kingdom consists of two parts. The one, God correcting all our carnal desires. The other, His making all our powers to an obedience to His commands. We are commanded to pray that He will subdue the hearts and minds of all men to a voluntary obedience to it.

The third petition, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" is that the will of God may be done on earth as it is in heaven. In praying for this, we renounce again our carnal desires that God may rule



Ladies Fellowship, Mar 2, 2005

according to His pleasure. There is a verse in Isa. 42:8 which says, "I am the LORD: and my glory will I not give to another."

Now follows the next part of our prayer in which we descend to ourselves. The fourth petition is, "Give us this day our daily bread." This is a general request to supply our physical needs. The expression "this day" restrains the desire for more. We must realise what we have is not our own. We must learn that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4; Dt. 8:3). It teaches us to earn an honest living. In fact God gives us plentifully and we must return one-tenth to Him, which is tithing. This we bring to God's storehouse the Church. "And prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Mal. 3:10)."

The next and fifth petition is conditional. "And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us." This is different from the Bible text which says "debts" because we are influenced by "trespasses" in the Common Prayer Book of the Anglican Church for Singapore was a British Colony. Mission Schools, like ACS followed the Common Prayer Book. Here Jesus impresses on us further that if we don't forgive others, God will not forgive us either. And how many times are we to forgive those who have hurt us? Peter asked the Lord, "Seven times?" Jesus said unto him, "I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." For that is how God deals with us. Read Matt. 18:21, 22.

But I have heard of a church member who being hurt by another, was fuming against her, "I will not forgive" she shouted against her. Neither will she obtain forgiveness from God. Even elders will not

forgive one another in their hearts. How can God bless their ministry in Church? The result is one of the two left the church and they have not made up to this day. And even pastors. I remember two old pastors the best of friends who became the worst of enemies without any reconciliation until death.

The sixth petition is "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." The forms of temptation are many. Satan is very cunning. He uses adverse and prosperous events at the same time. From prosperous events such as riches and power. From adverse events such as poverty and afflictions. Satan is the enemy and sin is his weapon. Our petition is that we may not be conquered by any temptations but in the power of the Lord be superior to sin and the whole kingdom of Satan. This is deliverance from evil. Will we submit to God?

Whatever we seek from God is stated in the Lord's Prayer taught by our Lord Jesus Himself. To assist our weakness we should appoint regular hours for prayer such as when we rise up early in the morning before leaving our room.

*Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ, our Saviour,
Did you ask for loving favour,
As a shield today?*

*Oh, how praying rests the weary!
Prayer will change the night to day;
So when life seems dark and dreary,
Don't forget to pray.*

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XI

John 11:1

O Bethany, my Home Sweet Home!

The House at Bethany that had been

our Lord's resting place on the way to Jerusalem was suddenly overtaken by trouble. Lazarus was sick and going to die. They who had been the Lord's host and hostesses now had confidence of finding help in time of need. "Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold he whom Thou lovest is sick" (v. 3).

There's a Chinese saying, "If you have no guest at home, neither can you find a host abroad." Hospitality is a virtue exhorted upon Christians by the Apostle to the Hebrews, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Heb. 13:2). How much more important it is for Christians to entertain the Lord, the Chief of angels! How great is the honour and how plentiful are blessings that flow therefrom. If you have lived in close communion with the Lord Jesus, if you have laboured for His cause, if you have served His church loyally and faithfully, your prayers to Him for help in time of need will also be heard. This Martha tried to do in her womanly way by cooking nice meals for the Lord. In this respect the ladies of our church who look after the kitchen are blessed if they serve Him lovingly, and not for any other reason. In this respect the women of the church who come to Bible Study, like Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, "they have chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from them" (Lk. 10:38-42).

O Bethany, my Home Sweet Home,
Where my Lord is wont to stay.

Unworthy though as I can be,

He's forgiv'n me by His grace.

What a blessing before Him seated

Who can take away my part?

O Bethany, my Home Sweet Home!

God and man share heart to heart.

My heavy burdens He puts them on Himself;

Through Valley of Tears no more bereft.

For Jesus is my Home Sweet Home,
I must see Him day to day.
His love endures till worlds be gone,
With Him life brings no dismay.
His love endures till worlds be gone,
I'll go with Him all the way.

— Translated from Heavenly
People's Choruses.

THE SCRIPTURES

Say, Christian, would'st thou thrive,
In knowledge of thy Lord?
Against no scripture ever strive,
But tremble at His word.

Revere the sacred page;
To injure any part,
Betrays, with blind and feeble rage,
A hard and haughty heart.

If aught there dark appear,
Bewail thy want of sight;
No imperfection can be there,
For all God's words are right.

The Scriptures and the Lord
Bear one tremendous Name;
The written and the Incarnate Word
In all things are the same.

For Jesus is the Truth,
As well as Life and Way;
The two-edg'd sword that's in His mouth,
Shall all proud reasoners slay.

Why dost thou call Him Lord,
And what He says resist?
The soul that stumbles at the word,
Offended is at Christ.

The thoughts of men are lies;
The word of God is true;
To bow to That is to be wise;
Then hear, and fear, and do.

— Joseph Hart

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Mar 21 – 27, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
FRI	8.00 pm	Good Friday Service (Lord's Supper)
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	7.00 am	Easter Sunrise Service at Labrador Park (Pastor Tow)

There will be no Prayer Meeting this Friday. **Young People's Fellowship Meeting** will be held this Sat (Mar 26, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Beginning With Faith" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715 or email at mail_mrgoh@yahoo.com.sg.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Mar 26, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Edward Wong's home at 45 Hindhede Walk #03-06 Tower A (Lobby 2), Springdale. Program: Bible Study on Jude by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328 or edwardwsv@yahoo.com.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet outside the Auditorium at 1.00 pm. For those going on your own, please meet at Blk 254 Bangkit Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$4,940.30

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien's Ministry* \$2,000; *Van for Gethsemane BPC Care Ministry* \$125.40 (YPF); *Febian Siregar (FEBC)* \$50; *Linda (FEBC)* \$50; *Merlin (FEBC)* \$50; *Manling (FEBC)* \$50; *Barnabas Yap's family* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$2,000, \$200

Total General and Designated Offerings:

\$9,865.70

Church Building Fund: \$10,000, \$1,000, \$300, \$200 **Total:** \$272,069.60

Sunday School Offering: \$495.20

Verse for the Week: *The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.* Prov. 11:8

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the Labrador Park, 7 am. Bus leaves Newton at 6.40 am. If you need transport, please sign up at the Notice Board outside the Auditorium. For those driving, please park at Carpark B. Bring along sitting mats/chairs and torchlight. **Bible Camp** June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 25

20 March 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 108
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 91
Psalms	No. 188
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 298
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Gen. 22:1-14
Sermon	<i>God Our Provider</i> (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 353
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Godly Men for Church Leadership

by Rev Prabhudas Koshy

Only godly men can appropriately and effectively manage the ministries of the church. The church, being a spiritual body, can only be managed by men of high spiritual credentials. Let us take note that the qualifications for church leaders are not to be determined by any human entity or individual, because God has already stipulated them. Those who do not meet all of the qualifications required by God's Word for Elders and Deacons should not come to those positions.

In our church, the need for biblically qualified people to come to serve in the offices of Elder and Deacon are increasingly felt in these days. However, we should not hurry and carelessly appoint people to the offices of the church. My prayerful opinion is that while we continue to have the services of the present Pastor, Elder and Deacons, we must earnestly pray for God's leading concerning who should be appointed to these offices. The early church prayed to have both the

discernment concerning God's choice of men to the leadership and also their equipping done adequately.

Pray for Godly Church Leaders

The Apostle Peter and fellow apostles prayed for God's leading in the appointment of a man to replace Judas. "And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place" (Acts 1:24-25). The Scripture clearly records in another text that the prayers of the early church for godly men to lead the ministry was answered – "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2).

We need the help of the Holy Spirit in determining the right persons for the offices of the church. The Spirit knows every man's heart. From the example of the anointing of David as King, we know that in the selection of leaders, God is interested in the spiritual condition of the heart, rather than outside appearances. We read in 1 Samuel 16:7, "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height



Holy Communion Worship Service

of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.” This is the reason why Peter and the rest of the Apostles prayed, “Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship.” If we have to have men of God’s choice in the leadership, we must sincerely seek His mind in prayer, even in fasting.

Another reason why we must pray in the selection of godly leaders is that it is the Spirit who equips men for the offices of the church. The Spirit is the giver of spiritual gifts that are necessary for the offices of the church. “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (1 Corinthians 12:11). So only the Spirit can show who are the men whom He hath equipped with the appropriate gifts for the edification of the church.

Even our Lord Jesus prayed all the night long, before He chose the apostles. “And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles” (Luke 6:12, 13). So let us pray for godly leaders during our Prayer Meetings on Tuesday nights and in all other prayer gatherings. God’s will must be done in the appointment of the church leaders. Like Moses, we must pray, “Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation” (Numbers 27:16).

Preparing Godly Church Leaders

As much as it is the duty of the church to pray for godly leaders, it is also the duty of the church to prepare men of God’s choice for the offices. This is especially the duty of the pastor(s) of the church.

Through the instruction of God’s Word,

encouragement, and correction, people ought to be prepared for the offices of the church. The Apostle Paul advised Timothy that “the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

According to the instructions in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, these brethren have to be carefully examined and equipped for this highly responsible office of the church. The Scripture demands that they should be biblical in their personal, family, social and church life. As much as their personal life matters, their family’s conduct also matters that they may be worthy men to fill the office of Eldership. Paul wrote in Titus 1:6, 8, “If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men.”

These brethren also need to have a good knowledge of the doctrines that we hold dearly to that they may be able to teach and defend them. “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Titus 1:9).

– *Extracted from 24/8/03 Gethsemane BPC Weekly which was reprinted in Kulai B-P Fellowship’s 19/1/05 Weekly*

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XI

John 11:2-16

Unanswered Prayer?

Why did not Jesus rush to the scene of trouble? Was not Lazarus dying? He need not rush to the scene. He could have uttered a word, as He had done before in healing the nobleman’s son at Capernaum (Jn. 4:46-54). He did neither. He chose rather to delay His coming. “He abode two days still in the same place where He was” (v. 6).

This He did, not because He was afraid

like His disciples who were glad in the procrastination. The disciples expressed concern when the Lord finally said, “Let us go into Judea again” (v. 7). They argued, “Master, the Jews of late sought to stone Thee: and goest Thou thither again?”

Jesus’ answer was one of confidence and assurance. Jesus believed in God’s timing of events. He was not afraid to meet danger face to face. If His time had not yet come, He would be safe. Therefore Jesus’ delay in going to the scene was not due to the danger facing Him.

Jesus’ delay, which seemed to result in prayer unanswered, was to the glory of God, “that the Son of God might be glorified thereby” (v. 4). Jesus’ delay, while giving a little respite to the fearful disciples, serves to reveal what are the thoughts and intents of our hearts. Insofar as Thomas is concerned, he seems to adopt a stoical attitude. He said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him” (v. 16).

Jesus’ delay, by no means, is unanswered prayer. Not only it is to God’s glory, it is for the good of everyone He loves. The conclusion of this episode is summed up in v. 15, “And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe” The “ye” in this verse includes “many of the Jews which came to Mary and had seen the things which Jesus did” of v. 45, i.e. friends of the Bethany Home Sweet Home.

When things don’t come our way, don’t fret! Sit still like Mary. Don’t rush about like Martha. Can you sing this song:

Trust in the Lord and don’t despair,
He is a friend so true!
No matter what your troubles are,
Jesus will see you through.
Sing, when the day is bright;
Sing, through the darkest night
Everyday, all the way,
Let us sing, sing, sing!

John 11:17-37

“Inexperienced Faith, Experienced Faith, Faith that needs no Experience”

This three-step progression of faith, as

enunciated by Dr Chia Yu-Ming, China’s greatest theologian, may be seen in Martha’s quest. Martha has followed our Lord through many of His wonderful deeds. If she had not seen the miracles others had seen she believed them all the same. Believing is seeing!

Surely she had heard how Jesus healed the paralytic of 38 years, how he opened the eyes of the young man born blind by sending him to wash at the Pool of Siloam. And she must have heard of Jairus’ daughter and the son of the widow of Nain. But now her brother was dead four days. Could Jesus raise him up?

In her brother’s case, her faith in the Lord’s ability to raise him up was that which Dr. Chia calls inexperienced faith. This is reflected in v. 24, “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection in the last day.” When Jesus commanded to take away the stone Martha’s inexperienced faith is expressed again, “Lord, by this time he stinketh, for he hath been dead four days” (v. 37). Inexperienced faith winces before great odds. Martha had never seen a man dead four days raised to life.

When Jesus cried with a loud voice to raise Lazarus, the same voice also raised up Martha’s sinking faith. Now that she had seen with her own eyes, she believed with all the others (v. 45). Faith in the Lord’s power to raise the dead at the last day was doubly confirmed. Experienced faith!

In the next chapter where the scene portrays a resurrected Lazarus sitting at table with his Lord and Saviour, and a serving Martha, how confident was she now in contrast with that trembling soul that she was before the event. Now she could say with a confidence as never before “I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God which shall come into the world (v. 27).” Faith that needs no experience!

What we need is experienced faith that will grow to faith that needs no experience. Read the Bible everyday. The Bible is experienced faith that will so strengthen us that our faith will need no experience.

曾 否 在

Were You There?

mf

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (were you there?)
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (to the tree?)
 3. Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (in the side?)
 " " " " " laid Him in the tomb?

f

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh!
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? Oh!
 " " " " " laid " " " tomb?

mf

Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,
 Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,
 Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,

pp

trem - ble, Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 trem - ble, Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 trem - ble, Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
 " " " " " laid " " " tomb?



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT RELC AUDITORIUM

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

25 March 2005

A PRICE TO PAY IN FOLLOWING CHRIST

(Message delivered by Pastor at the
True Life Church Good Friday
Service, Mar 25, 05)

Text: Matt. 16:21-26

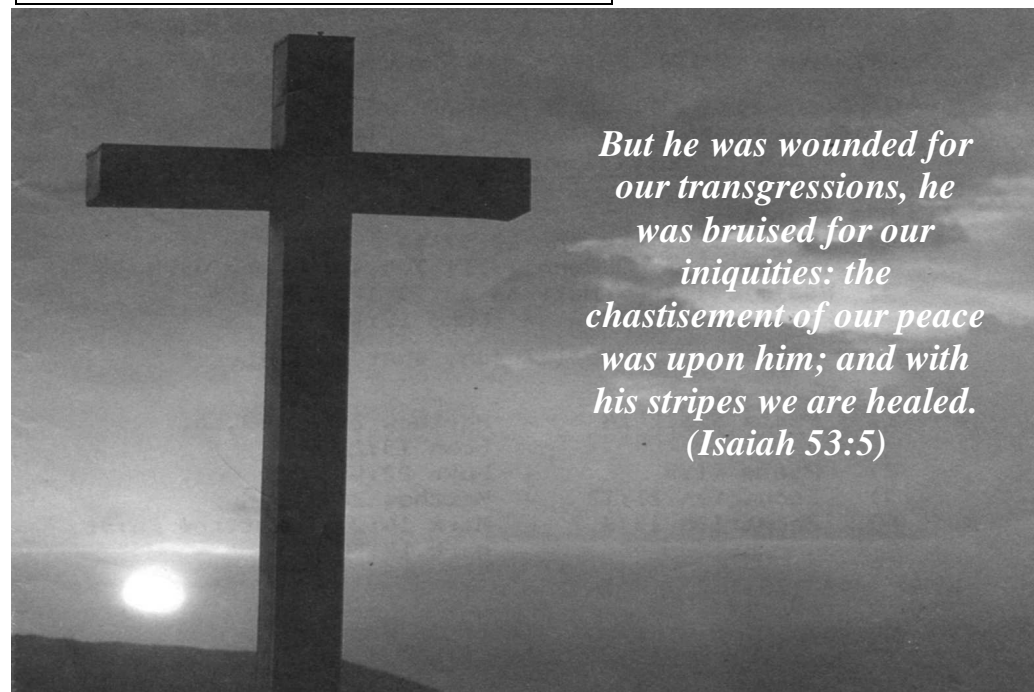
Today is Good Friday. This is the Day Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Do you come tonight to remember Him and thank Him for His salvation? With so many people here I believe you do.

There is a price to pay in following Christ. Our Lord began to show His disciples how He would be killed by the elders, chief priests

**"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is
within me, bless his holy name"**

8.00 pm

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 194
Invocation-Gloria Patri Hymn	No. 190
Announcements	Church Choir
Special Number	Young People's Fellowship
	Benjamin & Andrew
Offering & Hymn	No. 188
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Matt. 16:21-26
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>A Price to pay in Following Christ</i>
Closing Hymn	<i>Were You There?</i> (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow



*But he was wounded for
our transgressions, he
was bruised for our
iniquities: the
chastisement of our peace
was upon him; and with
his stripes we are healed.
(Isaiah 53:5)*

and scribes and be raised on the third day.

But Peter did not like what Jesus said and wanted this thing to be far from his Lord. Jesus rebuked Peter as Satan because he savoured not the things of God but the things of men.

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." To take up his cross is to die in the steps of Jesus.

The first to follow Jesus is St. Paul. Paul tells Timothy his follower after he was imprisoned in Rome he was ready to die for his faith and he looked forward to his death. By God's grace Peter changed from his fearful self to follow his Lord. After Jesus' resurrection when He appeared to His disciples and spoke personally to Peter, our Lord foretold Peter's death in following Him. Peter fulfilled his Lord's wish and died for Jesus, as it is said, Crucified upside down. By tradition it is also said every one of his disciples died for his Saviour.

There is a picture illustrating the Church of Smyrna. "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, . . . Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (Rev. 2:9-10)." That picture illustrating this scripture shows a lion let out of his cage in the Colosseum is about to devour the early Christians under persecution by Roman emperors.

So Jesus our Lord expects us His followers today to do the same. O Lord, because we love you with all our heart keep us faithful to the very end. Amen.

RECONCILIATION

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,
Thou art beforehand with men
for thou hast reconciled thyself to the
world through the cross,
and dost beseech men to accept
reconciliation.

It is my responsibility to grasp thy overtures
of grace,
for if thou, the offended party, act first
with the word of appeasement,
I need not call in question thy willingness
to save,
but must deplore my own foolish
maliciousness;

If I do not come to thee as one who seeks thy
favour,

I live in contempt, anger, malice, self-
sufficiency,
and thou dost call it enmity.

Thou hast taught me the necessity of a
mediator, a messiah,

to be embraced in love with all my heart,
as king to rule me,
as prophet to guide me,
as priest to take away my sin and
death,

and this by faith in thy beloved Son who
teaches me

not to guide myself,
not to obey myself,
not to try to rule and conquer sin,
but to cleave to the one who will do all
for me.

Thou hast made known to me
that to save me is Christ's work,
but to cleave to him by faith is my work,
and with this faith is the necessity of my
daily repentance

as a mourning for the sin which Christ
by grace has removed.

Continue, O God, to teach me
that faith apprehends Christ's
righteousness

not only for the satisfaction of justice,
but as unspotted evidence of thy love
to me.

Help me to make use of his work of salvation
as the ground of peace,

and of thy favour to, and acceptance of
me the sinner,
so that I may live always near the cross.

- Extracted from "The Valley of Vision: A
collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions"

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

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PASSION CHORALE

Attr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153

Trans. (into German) by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

Trans. (from German) by James W. Alexander, 1804-1859

HANS LEO HASSLER, 1564-1612

Har. by Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain:
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,

Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns Thy on - ly crown,
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?

How art Thou pale with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And, should I faint - ing be,

How does that vis - age lan - guish Which once was bright as morn!
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, Vouch - safe to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love to Thee!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Mar 28 – Apr 3, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Apr 2, 05) at 3.00 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: The Faith of Habakkuk" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

We extend our deepest condolences to Sis Florence Ng on the home-going of her beloved mother on Mar 22, 05. Burial Service was conducted by Pastor Tow at the Choa Chu Kang Lawn Cemetery on Mar 23, 05.

(Cont'd from previous page)

my heart is filled with joy, and this joy is not without any reason.

I realised and confessed that I am a sinful person. This caused me not to have happiness in this life. But Jesus had died willingly for me on the cross, and His precious blood had cleansed me of all the sins in my heart. Jesus has manifested His glory and His truth in my life through the Bible. In response to what I have learnt, I received Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour on 6 March 2005. Now I believe in Him and His Words. Not that I have chosen Christ but He had chosen me that I might become a member of the family in the kingdom of heaven. Since I received the Lord Jesus, I always pray to Him because only Jesus is able to know and understand my heart. And I am committed to search the truth of God's Words more diligently. I have started to surrender my whole life to the

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$5,500

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$320, \$200; *Wendy Teng* \$100, \$50; *YPF* \$150; *FEBC* \$100, \$100

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$6,520

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$500, \$500, \$300, \$250 **Total:** \$274,619.60

Sunday School Offering: \$499.00

Verse for the Week: *An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.* Prov. 11:9

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Dr Tow Siang Phang that God will give him many more days.
2. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing, overflow to nearby Timotel. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.

FEBC Bookroom Promotion: 30% Discounts for most books and bibles.

Lord Jesus because I know that all these are by His grace only. Praise the Lord.

– *Lestari Etik*

In the beginning I joined my wife in Church only occasionally. When she fell ill and recovered from ill health I realised that this was possible because of her faith in Jesus and answers to all the prayers.

I decided to be a believer and to attend Church regularly every Sunday. Since True Life B-P Church is half the distance as compared to travelling to Galilee B-P Church, I decided to attend True Life B-P Church. My decision to believe in the Lord Jesus as my Saviour was made known to Pastor Rev Tow in August 2004. I have been attending Sunday School since November 2004. I enjoy worshipping in this Church and am seeking Baptism.

– *V. Mahadevan*



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>
(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 26

27 March 2005

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT LABRADOR PARK, 7 AM



*"Why seek ye the living among the dead?
He is not here, but is risen." (Luke 24:5-6)*

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

7 am

Call to Worship	Mr Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 211
Invocation-Gloria Patri Hymn	No. 286
Announcements	
Baptism of Infant	
1. Tai Eyan Ern	
<i>s/o Mr and Mrs Tai Mern Yee</i>	
Baptism of Adults	
1. Grace Benliro Bulaclac, <i>Domestic Helper</i>	
2. Kho Ming Hui Zachary, <i>Student</i>	
3. Lestari Etik, <i>Domestic Helper</i>	
4. V Mahadevan s/o Visuvalingam, <i>Retiree</i>	
Special Number	Church Choir
	Children's Choir
	YPF
	Filipina Bible Study
	Indonesian Students
	Deborah Mae
Offering & Hymn	No. 205 (stanza 1)
Offertory Prayer	Mr Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Romans 10:4-10
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>A Prize to win in Following Christ</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 205
Benediction	Pastor Tow

A PRIZE TO WIN IN FOLLOWING CHRIST

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church Easter Sunrise Service, 7 am, Mar 27, 05)

Text: Rom. 10:4-10

Today is happy Easter morning. This is the Day Jesus Christ, being crucified and buried rose up on the third Day. And it is announced in Rom. 10:9, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

What shall we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus? I can think of nothing about our Lord except His death. Why did He die on the cross? He was crucified to pay the penalty of our sins.

Secondly if you believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Whereas in our Good Friday message we had a Price to pay in following Jesus, like going to prison and dying for our faith, we have a Prize at Easter for following Jesus in believing in His resurrection. Why does God rejoice to this extent in rewarding us for believing in Jesus' Resurrection? Because it is a victory of victories over Satan and Death.

Last year I quoted Rom. 10:9 and brought great joy to many who did not know Rom. 10:9. Knowing that many are here who did not come last year I say this again with the addition that Jesus died and was buried which presuppose His Resurrection plus the reason why He died – to pay the penalty of our sins.

Hallelujah, Christ this early morning rose from the dead to save us. Let us tell our relatives and friends who still do not know and are lost. Amen.

Baptism Testimonies

Once in my life, I only knew that there is a GOD. It was a belief in which I have never given any serious thought and willingness to know him more. As long as I know that there is a GOD who exists in this world, I don't bother it anymore.

But everything changed when I arrived here in Singapore. I was formerly a Catholic and I go to church every Sunday to worship idols. I never thought that God will really find a way so that I will really know who really He is. He enlightened my mind through His followers. And I'm very grateful that one of His followers invited me to join

with them to their church. They are my good employers. Through them, I have known more about God. I realised that the Lord Jesus Christ has shed his blood for me to save my soul and to wash away all my sins. I really regretted wasting my time praising all idols and without knowing more about God.

The Lord Jesus is an amazing Lord and I totally surrender my whole life to Him and have complete faith in Him. I have received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour and my protector and I want to be baptized. I thank God for eternal salvation and glory and most of all I want to live as a true Christian by committing myself to Him.

I thank my Lord for giving me employers who are very understanding and enthusiastic in attending church every Sunday. I pray that God will guide them and protect them from all evil. Amen.

– Grace Benliro Bulaclac

I first came to know of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the year 2000 during the Christmas period. A group of carolers from Life Bible-Presbyterian Church came to our house to spread the Good News. It was at that very moment that I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. I was glad to know that someone has died on the cross for my sins and He is none other than Jesus Christ, God's one and only begotten Son. I am thankful to the Lord for choosing me.

Thank God that He has led me to such a wonderful church where I can worship the Lord happily and willingly without fail every Lord's Day. I am also grateful that there are many caring and warm-hearted True Lifers to guide me through. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless and watch over True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. To God be the glory!

– Zachary Kho

I was formerly a Muslim and strongly against the Christian faith because it is contradictory to my own faith. But, I never tasted happiness in my life's journey. All of the religious ritual practices followed by me were done out of compulsion and after a while they became traditions. On a certain occasion, I asked my Christian friend (in Indonesia) about Jesus and she explained to me whole-heartedly. From that time onward I began to desire to know more about the Christian faith. I wanted to know about the teachings of God's Words but I did not have such courage to go and learn from a Church.

A few years ago I came to Singapore with a hope to find a job and Christianity, because I thought that it may be easier for me to learn God's Words here than in Indonesia. In fact, my dream came true. But unfortunately, I could not understand well because I was learning the Bible not in Indonesian language but in English and English was a language which I do not understand well. So, it was difficult for me to understand the Bible. After working for sometime in Singapore, I had the chance to go back to Indonesia but without the knowledge of God's Words.

Sometime after that, I came back to Singapore with the same purpose, that I could work and learn God's Words. At this particular time, I was employed by a Christian employer who attends True Life B-P Church every week. They always bring me to the Church and permitted me to attend the Indonesian Bible Study class conducted by the Church. I am very much thankful that I am able to learn God's Words in Bahasa Indonesia. In the beginning I was always engaged in a debate with my Bible Study teacher. But he answered well all of my questions, using Bible as the basis. From that time onward

(Cont'd on back page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Apr 4 – 10, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (<i>Lord's Supper</i>) (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Apr 6, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "Jael" by Rev Ronny Khoo. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Apr 9, 05) at 3.00 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Love in the Light of God's Word" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Far Eastern Kindergarten's Registration for 2006 is now open for children born in 2002 (Nursery) and 2003 (Pre-Nursery). Please call 62513676.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings:

Good Friday Service S\$6,875; USD100
Easter Sunrise Service S\$6,573; USD70

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$300, \$200, \$200; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$300, \$300; *Tanzania Bible College* \$2,000; *Hien's Ministry* \$200; *Van for Gethsemane BPC Care Ministry* \$100; *FEBC Students* \$500; *Florence Ng* \$150; *Wendy Teng* \$200, \$50; *FEBC* \$300

Total General and Designated Offerings:
S\$18,248; USD170

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$300, \$100, \$100, \$100, \$50 **Total:**
\$277,769.60

Verse for the Week: *When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.* Prov. 11:10

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.

We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs Tow Siang Phang and family on the home-going of Dr Tow Siang Phang on Mar 29, 05. Vigil Service was conducted by Pastor Tow on Mar 30, 05 and funeral was officiated by Pastor Tow on Apr 2, 05 at the Chua Chu Kang Christian Cemetery.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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Vol. II No. 27

3 April 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 203
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 90
Psalms	No. 183
Announcements	
Special Number	Quartet
Offering & Hymn	No. 221
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Matt. 24:3-7, 14
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Four Earthquakes in Three Months</i>
Closing Hymn	<i>Prepare To Meet Thy God</i>
Benediction	Pastor Tow

to build a Church but they needed help.

The result is with some help from Singapore plus their self help they should complete the whole thing this coming Christmas. They expect at least 200 Faithfuls to celebrate Christmas.

Danny Awad the youngest son of Pastor George Awad felt called to serve the Lord fulltime. Some years ago he applied to study at FEBC but somehow was rejected by the immigration. So he found entrance to a Presbyterian Bible College in the Philippines. After four years he graduated with an M.Div. He returned home also with a Filipino wife and now they have two girls.

True Life organised the 11th Pilgrimage last year from Aug 26 to Sept 11, 05. Knowing the needs of Rev Danny Awad we are now sending them US\$200 a month which makes them our missionaries. Jesus says, "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). Our support of Danny Awad with his Filipino wife is prophetically meaningful! Amen.

Your affectionate pastor
T T

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

One Story from Our 11 Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

From 1983 to 2004 we organised 11 Pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

In our second Pilgrimage in 1987, Pilgrims contributed US\$36,000 for Palestinian members of Baraka Bible-Presbyterian Church (Bethlehem and run by missionaries) to establish their own in the village at Beit Sahour (Shepherd's Field).

They bought a piece of land rather close to the Greek Orthodox Church which incurred the Bishop's displeasure. After some years when the price of land went up (Rom. 8:28) the Palestinian BPs sold it at a profit. They bought another piece of land at Shepherd's Field but out of sight of the Bishop. The good price they earned enabled them



Adults' Baptism, Easter Sunrise Service at Labrador Park, 27 Mar 2005

GOD OUR PROVIDER

(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Mar 20, 05)

Text: Gen. 22:1-14

God is truly our Provider. Not only does He provide us with our daily needs, He has also provided us with a most gracious gift of infinite value—His dearly beloved and only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—“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” (John 3:16).

In Genesis 22:7-8, we find Isaac as a type of Christ. When Isaac asked his father, “where is the lamb for a burnt offering?,” Abraham simply replied in faith and in truth, “God will provide.” God had indeed provided! When Isaac saw himself being placed on the altar of sacrifice, he must have realized that he himself was that lamb that God had provided. Abraham had taught his son well concerning the things of the Lord. Like his father Abraham who was obedient to God’s command, Isaac did not protest, nor try to escape, but willingly submitted himself to the will of the Lord. What remarkable faith!

Isaac paints a wonderful picture of Christ. For the Lord Jesus Christ was “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Jesus willingly and silently went to the cross to die for our sins. This He did to fulfill the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53:6-7, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”

Why was Abraham so ready to offer Isaac on the altar of sacrifice when God

commanded him to do so? Abraham could have questioned the Lord, “Lord, how can you ask me to sacrifice Isaac, the son of promise who shall fulfill the covenant you have made with me and my posterity? Lord, surely you must have made a mistake by telling me to sacrifice Isaac, for how can a dead son bring life and blessing to many as you have promised in Genesis 12, 15 and 17?” But Abraham had no such doubts and asked no stupid questions. He knew who God was, and what He was like. God never contradicts Himself. He never tells a lie. He always keeps His Word. To Abraham, whatever God says is always true, and whatever He does is always right. As far as Abraham was concerned, his duty was simply to obey, and to do God’s will, and to do it immediately, “And Abraham rose up early in the morning, ... and went unto the place which God had told him” (Gen 22:3). Indeed, “the King’s business required haste” (1 Sam 21:8)!

Abraham had great faith in God and His Word. That is why till today he is known as the father of faith. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb 11:6). Abraham was prepared to offer up Isaac because he knew that his God was a God who keeps His promises and can perform the impossible—“Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead” (Heb 11:19).

This is the kind of faith that is needed today. As our pastor—Rev Dr Timothy Tow—says, “What we need is experienced faith that will grow to faith that needs no experience.” Both Abraham and Isaac had a faith that needed no experience. They *knew* God in the fullest and truest sense of the word. The more we learn of God through His Word, the more

we love and obey Him, the more our faith will grow and increase.

God must and will keep all His promises—both national and spiritual—to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God will one day make Israel a very great nation—above all the nations of the earth. When the Lord Jesus comes again, He shall rule over the whole earth from Jerusalem which will be made the capital of the world. Jesus will come and He shall reign for a thousand years on the earth (Rev 5:10, 20:6). Even Paul—the Apostle to the gentiles—said, “And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Rom 11:26).

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and so are His words to Israel and to His Church (Heb 13:7-9). His words are forever true, and they shall never fail “as it is written,” “as it stands written,” “as it remains forever written,” 100% inspired, 100% preserved! To God be the glory, great things He hath done. *Jehovah Jireh*—our God provides!

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XI

John 11:38-46

The Economy of Miracles

Remember what happened after the feeding of the five thousand? Jesus told the disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.” (Jn 6:12) Here is a vital principle about miracles – the economy of miracles.

Remember also John Sung’s quoting of a Beijing Christian saying, “When you have a small sickness, go to the Taifu (doctor); when you have a big sickness, then you must go to Yesu”. Here is also enunciated

the vital principle of economy in miracles.

That is to say, what we can do, we must do. What we cannot do, Jesus will do. Notice that in the raising of Lazarus, Jesus called out with a loud voice to work the miracle. But He did not tell the Grave-stone to roll away, nor did He command the grave clothes and napkin to fall off with another shout. He told the people concerned to do it themselves.

Today God has given us modern medicine and surgery. Advances are made in every branch of healing, so that T.B. and pneumonia can be cured and eyes can be opened by the surgeon’s knife. Not to find treatment from doctors specialised in their skills but rely on some itinerant faith healer is to misuse God’s economy. Not to take two aspirin tablets and thank God for them as you would before meals, but to seek a faith healer for your headache is pious foolishness.

In America there are evangelists who try to handle snakes literally and drink poison to show off their faith. One even tried to resurrect his dead mother because he said Jesus had commanded his disciples to raise the dead. This evangelist prayed and sweated with every ounce of his strength to raise his mother, but to no avail. This is pious foolishness plus foolhardiness.

While we thank God for modern medicine and surgery neither can we neglect earnest prayer. We also believe in faith healing, but such as is of partnership between God and man. The pioneer-missionary working in frontier villages not only prays for the sick but also uses pills and syringes, and his landrover too to transport some injured person to hospital. This is working out the economy of miracles, allowing God to do what we cannot do, and doing what we can do.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Apr 11 – 17, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>The Minor Prophets</i> (Rev Tow)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i> (Rev Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.00 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Das Koshy) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Apr 16, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Ten Commandments by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Apr 16, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Topic: "Knowing God and His Word: The Question of the NKJV" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

Far Eastern Kindergarten's Registration for 2006 is now open for children born in 2002 (Nursery) and 2003 (Pre-Nursery). Please call 62513676.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$7,302.10; USD100; RM5
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$200; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$200, \$100; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$100; *Thadeaus (FEBC)* \$50; *Jose Maghanoy (FEBC)* \$50; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *FEBC Scholarship* \$300; *FEBC* \$500, \$100

Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$9,435.10; USD100; RM5
Church Building Fund: \$250, \$150, \$100
Total: \$278,269.60

Sunday School Offering: \$338.20

Verse for the Week: *By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.*
 Prov. 11:11

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

True Life BPC 1st Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be held on Apr 24, 05 at 10.30 am. It is your duty as a member to attend.

Daily Vacation Bible College Course on "An Overview of the Book of Revelation" by Rev Stephen Khoo will be held from May 3 – 7, 2005 at Far Eastern Bible College.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



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Vol. II No. 28

10 April 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 86
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 91
Psalms	No. 188
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 72
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Acts 6:1-7
Sermon	<i>The Qualifications of Deacons</i> (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 183 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Important Pastoral Chat

Do you know we are required to meet at an ACM (Annual Congregational Meeting) on Lord's Day April 24, 10.30 am at RELC our usual place of worship where we will also elect Elders and Deacons?

I now publish the Apostle's requirement for Elders and Deacons from I Tim. 3:1-13 – *"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Our registration for True Life B-P Church up to now is 163 voting communicant members.

In view of the fact we are a new Church, the Interim Committee had seriously considered itself for your election: 1. Pastor Timothy Tow Siang Hui 2. Elder Mahadevan 3. Rev (Dr) Jeffrey Khoo and for Deacons 4. Tai Mem Yee 5. Steve Chng 6. Tan Beng Lee 7. Wilson Tan Tai Tian.

I shall preach the Word on Elders and Deacons.

Your affectionate pastor

T T



Church Choir, Easter Sunrise Service at Labrador Park, Mar 27, 05

FOUR EARTHQUAKES IN THREE MONTHS

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Apr 3, 05)

Text: Matt. 24:3-7, 14

The title of my message is, “Four Earthquakes in Three Months.” From the Tsunami of Dec 26, 04 when 300,000 perished to Mar 28, 05 where the fourth earthquake with a reading of 8.7 on the Richter Scale struck the Sumatra Island of Nias with 1000 dead. In between there was the second quake which killed 500 in Iran and a third which shook Japan. The fourth and last quake reached down to Petaling Jaya or KL and tore gaps on the road. Will another earthquake hit hard our beloved Singapore?

What does the Bible say about all this? Every earthquake says we are closer to the end of the world and the coming of Christ. That we have “Four earthquakes in three Months” shows our Lord can come anytime now. That is what our Lord says, but are we ready? There is work that our Lord expects us to do.

The work that the Lord wants us to do is redoubled evangelism and missions. Matt 24:14 says, “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.”

That the church is redoubling the work of evangelism and missions is attested by a worldwide extension of 400,000 missionaries according to an American report, and from Korea alone 12,000 are witnessing in 120 countries. Between China and Korea there is this saying, wherever you go in the world there is a Chinese Restaurant. As for Korea there is a Korean Church.

Far Eastern Bible College our own College has 114 students and we have a programme of upgrading other Bible Colleges. These involved Myanmar, Indonesia, the Bible College of East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya with 120 students and the newly constructing

Tanzania Bible College. One member gave \$8,000!

It is mentioned that our work must involve the conversion of many nationalities. Now when we take to upgrading foreign Bible Colleges we are bound to convert other nationalities. Jesus says our work of evangelism and missions must spread worldwide to cover many nationalities before the end comes. In upgrading foreign Bible Colleges this will hasten His coming.

True Life B-P Church gives liberal support to Far Eastern Bible College by paying for many foreign students to study in Singapore. When they graduate they will return to their own country to convert their own people. It will rejoice your heart to know our foreign students are coming from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, China, Korea, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and four from Japan in the past, even several from USA and last but not least Errol Stone from Perth, Australia. Sixteen nations altogether. From Far Eastern we have become an International Bible College.

This has gladdened our hearts that we are hastening the Lord’s Return because “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

I have not mentioned all the other events that also show that they hasten the end of the world and Christ’s coming, such as famines and pestilences, false Christs and false prophets, wars and rumours of wars, nations fighting one another, false brethren within the Church, etc. (Matt. 24:3-14)

What I have touched upon is our Christian duty and it requires us plenty to do before Jesus Christ comes. May True Life B-P Church heed the Lord’s call and

the more participate in Malaysia missions even to Kuantan and Kemaman where we are teaching Sunday School children.

“Four earthquakes in three months” says we are closer to the end of the world and the coming of Christ. The Lord can come anytime now but are we ready?

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XI

John 11:31-36

Tears of Christian Love

Many Jews came to comfort Martha and Mary concerning their brother. The scene seemed to be a picture of solemn serenity until Jesus arrived. Then all the pent up tears like a torrent gushed out from Mary when she saw Him. This touched off a stream of weeping in the Jews, so much so that the Master also wept. Tears of sympathy. Tears of Love.

There’s no power on earth greater than love. Love can melt the hearts of steel which the fire of gunpowder cannot.

In the raising of Lazarus we have learnt not only the lesson of faith. We learn also now the lesson of love, Christian love. The love of a sister for a brother is natural love. The love of a sister-in-Christ for a brother-

in-Christ is supernatural love. As the Bethany Trio believe in the Lord, we see a two-fold love in action.

We also see how Mary loves her Lord and how Jesus loves her, one of His blood-bought lambs. Observe what Martha said to Mary the moment she got home after meeting with Jesus on the road. “The Master is come, and calleth for thee,” she cried. The same love of the Shepherd for His erring sheep is seen in Mark’s account where the angel said to the woman, “But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter . . .” (Mark 16:7).

Here’s a lesson on how to comfort the bereaved. Not by words but by tears. Tears of Christian love. Thus we have a word from the apostle Paul, “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another . . .” (Rom 12:15, 16).

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love!
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.



Infant Baptism, Easter Sunrise Service at Labrador Park, Mar 27, 05

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Apr 18 – 24, 2005)

THU		FEBC Exams Begin
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	1st Annual Congregational Meeting Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

True Life BPC 1st Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be held next Lord's Day, Apr 24, 05 at 10.30 am. It is your duty as a member to attend. Elder Geoffrey Tan for Elder and Charles Kan for Deacon are also for Election.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Apr 23, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Loving in Deed and in Truth" by Bro Nelson Were. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Apr 24, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$6,548
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Rev Danny Awad* \$500; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$50; *Tanzania Bible College* \$1,000; *Missions* \$4,000; *Gethsemane BPC Care Ministry* \$1,000; *Wendy Teng* \$100, \$100; *FEBC* \$262.15 (Calvary Jurong YF & YAF)
Total General and Designated Offerings: \$13,860.15
Church Building Fund: \$10,000, \$1,000 **Total:** \$289,269.60

Sunday School Offering: \$480.60

Verse for the Week: *He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.* Prov. 11:12

Pray for the Sick:

1. For Miss Tow Soon Ai.

Daily Vacation Bible College Course on "An Overview of the Book of Revelation" by Rev Stephen Khoo will be held from May 3 – 7, 2005 at Far Eastern Bible College.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.

Pastor Tow is away for a preaching appointment at the 54th Anniversary of Kelapa Sawit B-P Church today.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 29

17 April 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Rev Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 93
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 95
Psalms	No. 193
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 209
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Romans 1:13-17
Sermon	<i>The Man Who is Not Ashamed of the Gospel</i> (Rev Koshy)
Closing Hymn	No. 461
Benediction	Rev Koshy

Chung Seng succeeds as Pastor of both Kelapa Sawit and Air Bemban.

Today we are going to Kelapa Sawit, 43 miles north of Singapore with Judith and Deborah Mae providing transport. Others coming are Seah Seow Hock and wife and Dr Wu of Calvary Pandan separately.

Deborah will sing to the congregation.

Kelapa Sawit under Tee Chung Seng has branched out to Jemaluang, 13 miles south of Mersing, to revive the work started in 1952 by Miss Adeline Char, missionary from Hawaii. This work has an adult Sunday Service of 20 and operates once a month on the 4th Sunday.

May I remind you once again our Lord's Second Coming is any day now. He demands that we be ready any moment. Rev. 9:13-16 says the 3rd World War will erupt from the Euphrates River which is Iraq. We know two wars have been fought there, the second by Bush. Jesus can come during our lifetime!

Every earthquake is a reminder of His coming and end of the world. From Dec 26, 04 the terrible undersea tsunami there are four more earthquakes, No. 2, 500 killed in Iran, No. 3 that shook Japan, No. 4 another big one that shook the

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Being the founding B-P pastor and oldest I seem to get a good number of invitations to speak at anniversaries. Today we are being invited by Kelapa Sawit, our first mission station started in 1952 by Life Church with the cooperation of Miss Leona Wu, principal of Chin Lien Bible School. Later on she entrusted the work to us. As I was with Miss Wu there, I am invited to speak at her 54th Anniversary.

Kelapa Sawit is a lively, self-supporting Church today headed by Tee Chung Seng, a convert from Kelapa Sawit's branch Church, Air Bemban, 3 miles north of Kelapa Sawit. Tee Chung Seng studied at FEBC and continues with the good work of almost 20 years by Miss Ng Sang Chiew at Kelapa Sawit. After Miss Ng Sang Chiew retired to stay at Ling Kwang Home, Tee



Kuantan Sunday School

Sumatra Island of Nias on Mar 28, 05 that killed 2000 and No. 5 on Sunday April 10, 05 that struck Padang, Sumatra with 8.3 reading on the Richter Scale and that also shook Singapore and sent 700 people running down the buildings. 5 earthquakes in 3½ months.

And as it is said by 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,” our Church must hasten with the gospel henceforth.

Your affectionate pastor
T T

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

*(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the
True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Apr 10, 05)*

Text: Acts 6:1-7

True Life B-P Church is 1½ years old by the grace of God, and it is time we appoint deacons (*diakonoι*, “servants”) who will assist the pastor and the elders in the service of the church. With a growing membership and attendance, the needs of the church have also increased, with many added responsibilities both spiritual and physical, and the pastor and elders cannot manage the church all on their own. In matters physical and fiscal, the deacons can step in to assist the pastor and the elders who are mainly in charge of the spiritual matters of the church.

In Acts 6, we find the Apostles overwhelmed by the physical care of the church members, so much so that they had no time to pray and to preach. By this time, there were at least 8000 members in the church; 3000 believed at Pentecost (Acts 2:41), and another 5000 (men not counting women and children) later on when the Apostles preached in the temple (Acts 4:4). Since there were only 12 Apostles, that would mean 1 Apostle to every 700 members. It was no wonder that the

Apostles found themselves overwhelmed by the increasing demands of a rapidly growing church, and unable to concentrate on the vital ministry of the Word of God and of prayer which they were called to do.

Moreover, the poor and destitute among the Greek-speaking Jews were neglected in the daily distribution of food and funds (Acts 6:1). There was a real and urgent need to appoint, from within the church, men who could be deacons to take care of the physical needs of the believers so that the Apostles could focus on meeting their spiritual needs (Acts 6:3-4).

The seven deacons were assigned to “serve tables” (Acts 6:2). The “tables” here refer to food and finance tables (cf John 2:15). These tables were specially set up for the poor and needy to apply or appeal for food or money. The deacons would sit at these tables to lend a sympathetic ear to their plea, and decide on the right and fair amount to give as good stewards of God’s money and provisions. It is no simple task, and so those chosen for such a duty must have these three qualifications (Acts 6:3):

(1) Deacons must be men of honest report

They ought to bear a good testimony and reputation in the church and in the world. The qualities of such men are listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, “Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a

good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

One of the important qualities of a deacon is that he must not be greedy of filthy lucre. He cannot be tempted with money. He must be absolutely trustworthy, and the congregation must be sure that he can be trusted in no uncertain terms. No gamblers, no casinos! Deacons must be above board and beyond reproach. They should not give any reason for members to suspect that they might be pocketing the tithes and offerings collected. He must not love money, “for the love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Tim 6:10).

(2) Deacons must be men full of the Holy Spirit

They must be born again, Spirit indwelt and Spirit controlled. It is not enough just to find an honest man. A man might be honest but void of the Spirit, an unbeliever. A deacon must be a believer, and a spiritual one at that. The work of a deacon is not secular work but spiritual work. The deacon must perform his service with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit to give direction, and to make the right decisions especially when dealing with difficult cases or situations. He needs the wisdom of God, and this wisdom can only come through prayer. He must be a prayerful man, totally dependent on the Spirit to help him succeed in his service.

(3) Deacons must be men full of wisdom

This wisdom is not worldly wisdom but Wordly wisdom—wisdom that comes from the Word of God—the Holy Scriptures. Psalm 19:7 says, “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, *making wise* the simple.” The Spirit uses the Word to make a person wise. An effective deacon is one who is not only Spirit-filled but also Word-filled. The Good Book is his infallible Guidebook, not any of the “Edward de

Bono” type or motivational business administration books the world has to offer.

The tragic problem with the church today is its worldliness as seen in its employment of the world’s thinking and methods in appointing men to church office and in governing the church. The world looks for the rich, the powerful, and the intellectual. It is commonly thought that the most capable and qualified men to run the church are those with means, influence, or brains. Well, these are the world’s requirements, but not God’s. We do not demean nor denigrate people with means, influence, or brains, and we are not saying that such men are automatically disqualified from church office, but money, power and brains are simply not the things the Lord tells His church to look for in choosing men for service. Spiritual service requires spiritual credentials—we need men who are honest, spiritual and wise—not necessarily those who are rich, powerful or brainy.

May the Lord help us choose the men of His choice to serve Him in His church to the glory of His Name!

The Good Word

How good it is to hear
God’s Word.

He speaks to all
Where’er it’s heard.

‘Tis not of man;
Thus saith the Lord.

He authored
its divine accord.

So all mankind
Could thus afford

The blessings of His
Holy Word.

– John Tow

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Apr 25 – May 1, 2005)

MON – FRI	FEBC Exams
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT 2.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Dr Arthur Steele) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship will be holding a Sports Day this Sat (Apr 30, 05) at Climb Adventure (Address: 10 Hoe Chiang Road, Keppel Towers, #01-04/05, Singapore 089315). Please meet at 1.30 pm at Tanjong Pagar MRT or 2.00 pm at Climb Adventure waiting area. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Apr 30, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Edmund Wong's home at Blk 82 Strathmore Avenue, #14-144 Singapore 141082. Program: Bible Study on Jude by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 252 Bangkit Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$8,760

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$120; *Hien's Ministry* \$200, \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$100; *Faith (Daughter of Pr Tan Kian Sing)* \$1,000; *Barnabas & Ling Ling* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC* \$200, \$80; *Redesignated to Church* \$10,000

Total General and Designated Offerings:

\$20,910

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$232 **Total:** \$290,501.60

Sunday School Offering: \$428.20

Verse for the Week: *A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.* Prov. 11:13

Praise the Lord:

1. Miss Tow Soon Ai is now recovering.

Daily Vacation Bible College Course on "An Overview of the Book of Revelation" by Rev Stephen Khoo will be held from May 3 – 7, 2005 at Far Eastern Bible College.

Pr Tan Kian Sing's Ordination will be held this evening at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, SGBF Hour, 6 pm. Pastor presiding. All are welcome.

FEBC 30th Graduation Exercises will be held at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, May 8, 2005, SGBF Hour, 6 pm. Speaker: Dr Arthur Steele.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker.



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RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 30

24 April 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 216
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 98
Psalms	No. 199
Offering & Hymn	No. 27
Scripture Text	Titus 1:5-13
Sermon	<i>The Importance of Elders</i>
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Reports and Election	
Benediction	Pastor Tow

PASTORAL CHAT

Six earthquakes in three months and three weeks!

Every earthquake is a reminder of His coming and end of the world (Matt. 24:3, 7).

From Dec 26, 04 the terrible undersea tsunami that killed 300,000 to April 16 there are five more earthquakes. No. 2 killed 500 more in Iran and No. 3 shook Japan. No. 4 was another big one that shook the Island of Nias, killing 2000, the reading was 8.7 on the Richter Scale. No. 5 struck Padang in South Sumatra which affected Singaporeans, sending 700 running down the buildings. The 6th quake struck Nias Island again reading 6.2 scaring people running to higher ground. This happened as recent as Sat, April 16, 05.

I gave this message to a packed Church at Kelapa Sawit last Lord's Day and tried to awake the congregation to evangelism and missions. For He says, "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."

Kelapa Sawit has redoubled in evangelism and missions the last three years by going to Jemaluang, 13 miles south of Mersing, to revive a work started in Jemaluang by Miss Adeline Char in 1952. The work has so prospered that 8 members of Jemaluang Church came to celebrate with the mother church.

When they presented an item of praise, Kelapa Sawit clapped their hands to receive them. Pastor Tee Chung Seng who is graduated from FEBC is their leader. Every 4th Lord's Day he is in Jemaluang to lead the service.

At Kelapa Sawit this time I baptised 6 adults which include two Nepalese watchmen. Also 4 infants were baptised.

Thank God Deborah Mae and Judith came to sing. Two other cars, Seah Seow Hock and wife and Dr and Mrs Wu from Calvary came also.

Today is Election Day which is our ACM required by law. One who has informed me he is not standing for Election is Steve Chng. The congregation that has registered to date consists of 172 with voting rights and you are requested to do your duty.

Your affectionate pastor

TT



Kelapa Sawit B-P Church 54th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, April 17, 2005

We Are:

Calvinist and Bible-Presbyterian

We Uphold:

The Historic Creeds & Confessions
of the Reformation Church

We Aver:

That God, by His Singular Care and in
His Inscrutable Providence, has
Perfectly Preserved His Holy Word
Through the Ages

We Affirm:

That the Word of God,
in the English Language, is
The Authorised Version

GENESIS

Notes From A Weekly Study

Conducted by Pastor Quek

(Taken from Newsletter of Cherith Fellowship,
Vol. 1 Issue 1, April 2005, edited by J.T. Joseph)

General

Chapters 1 & 2 are not separate accounts
of creation: they are different *but* coherent.

The three attributes of God that come
across forcefully are: His omnipotence; His
(perfect) wisdom; His goodness.

In the exercise of His Goodness, He
delegated to man authority over all creation.

CHAPTER 1

Verse 1 ff

Creation is indubitably *ex nihilo*.

The three 'heavens' need to be noted:

1st – atmosphere [Day 1; verse 8]

2nd – outer space [Day 1]

3rd – Paradise [Day 1] [Satan sinned in
'Heaven', and fell with his cohort.]

These will eventually be destroyed –
according to II Peter.

General Sequence:

Days 1 – 3: Creation formed ["general"]

Days 4 – 6: ... then, filled ["the details"]

Note:

- Darkness first; *then* Light → this is
to be regarded as "temporary light".

- 'firmament' – divided the waters
above from the waters below.
- Before the Flood, there was only
one sea.
- Use of the numerical adjective
preceding 'day' confirms that a
twenty-four hour day [*not* some
extended period of 'time'] is
intended. Contrast with **2:4** –
clearly not a twenty-four hour day;
no numerical adjective prefixed.

Verses 11, 12

Vegetation created as *mature* – had the
appearance of 'age', though less than 24
hours' old.

So too with Adam, as we shall see.

Note that whilst all green plants need
sunlight (for photosynthesis), the sun was
created only on Day 4.

Truly, in Him all life-forms ultimately
live and move and have their being!

Verses 16 – 19

Creation of the 'permanent' sun and
stars.

Verses 20 – 21

Day 5: Creation of fish and (winged)
birds.

Verses 24 – 25, 26

Day 6 sees the creation of land animals
... and man.

As to man:

- Image of God in man pertains to
'character', not form or substance
[eg. Man is endowed with the
capacity to appreciate beauty].
- Both man & woman are covered in
the decree, 'let them have
dominion...'
- Man's original sin → Satan
thereafter given the dominion over
the natural world that was once
possessed by Adam [hence, Satan
is called, the 'prince of this world'].

The Good Word

by John Tow

This shining beacon
in the night
Will illuminate us
all right.
It will help us
regain our sight.
Yes, from the beginning –
the Light
Which is God's Word
has shone so bright –
Declaring thus to all
His might.

No other book
has made it clear:
The whys and wherefores
of life here!
Search if you will
both far and near
For other writings
that are dear
And if you'll do so
without fear,
God's Word will come through
without peer.

If it's God's Word
should it not be
Safe kept for all
absolutely?
Indeed, look at
its history!
Appreciate its trials
and see
God's higher hand –
so mightily
Holding it forth
for you and me!

Consider what we have
right here:
Mankind's past, present
and future.
This commune –
like a seer,
Tells us of forces
far and near.
Good verses evil,
plain and clear!
Yet, God's in charge:
He brings us cheer.

So, within its
sacred pages –
See the story
of the ages
Unfold in
vivid images!
Be amazed by
all its stages.
Find joy and peace too,
like sages
Filled with wisdom
of the ages.

You say:
"He doeth all things well!"
Why then doubt you His Word,
pray tell?
If in the world
since Adam fell,
Man has striven so
to excel.
Thus it is in him
to rebel,
And in rebellion
toll his knell.

But God
is forever gracious.
For to Him
we all are precious.
It is His Will
that all of us
Should hear the Gospel
glorious,
And come to repentance
with tears –
Seeking His salvation
joyous.

How infinite
His majesty!
Comprehend now
this fact and see
The meaning
of eternity!
No easy task –
so finite we!
Trust then,
have faith, implicitly.
Do, and His Elect
you will be!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 2 – 8, 2005)

TUE – SAT	Daily Vacation Bible College
WED 7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL C, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT 3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Lord's Supper) (Rev Stephen Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
6.00 pm	FEBC 30 th Graduation

Daily Vacation Bible College Course on "An Overview of the Book of Revelation" by Rev Stephen Khoo will be held this week, May 3 – 7, 2005 at Far Eastern Bible College.

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (May 4, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "Let Our Lives Count For Christ" by Elder William Seah. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (May 7, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Humility, Humility, Humility" by Rev Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

FEBC 30th Graduation Exercises will be held next Lord's Day, May 8, 2005 at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, SGBF Hour, 6 pm. Speaker: Dr Arthur Steele.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$8,346; RM65

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Lok Kwok Wah* \$100; *Church Camp* \$800; *FEBC* \$1,000, \$500, \$100

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$11,146; RM65

Church Building Fund: \$1,000 **Total:** \$291,501.60

Sunday School Offering: \$365

Verse for the Week: *Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.* Prov. 11:14

Praise the Lord:

1. Miss Tow Soon Ai is now recovering.

Election Results: Nominees for Elders (including Pastor) and Deacons are all voted in. The Church Session for 2005 – 2008 consists of: *Pastor:* Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow Siang Hui
Elders: Rev (Dr) Jeffrey Khoo Eng Teck
Elder Eric Mahadevan
Elder Geoffrey Tan Hock Jin

Deacons: Dn Charles Kan Kai Pui

Dn Tai Mern Yee

Dn Tan Beng Lee

Dn Wilson Tan Tai Tian

The newly Elected Session will affirm their allegiance to the Word of God by taking the Dean Burgon Oath at a Service of Consecration on Lord's Day, May 15, 05.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker. Please register at the Book Table.



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REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

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Vol. II No. 31

1 May 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 47
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Hymn	No. 411
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 296
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Luke 22:29-33
Sermon	Three Statements Jesus made to His Disciples (Dr Arthur Steele)

Report and Accounts

Closing Hymn No. 305

Benediction Pastor Tow

THE IMPORTANCE OF ELDERS

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church
10.30 am Service, Apr 24, 05)

Text: Titus 1:5-13

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil

beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."

Last Lord's Day Dr Jeffrey Khoo spoke to you about Deacons. Deacons mean servants in the part they play in the Church to take care of the more mundane things such as "serving tables", according to Acts 6:1-7. Nevertheless, they should be of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost whom the Apostles might appoint over the business.

This week which is our Annual Congregational Meeting required by law when we not only have Annual Reports but also our First Election of Elders and Deacons, the Session, it is my turn to speak on "The Importance of Elders."

Originally the Presbyterian System allowed only Elders to be in the Session, which governed the Church. This is still so with the American B-P Church. But when I joined as pastor of the Teochew Say Mia Tng at Prinsep Street which had a modified system, the Session was made up of Elders plus Deacons to govern the Church.

When we left Prinsep Street with our newly built Church at Gilstead Road completed in 1963, we carried over the practice of our Prinsep Street English Service of Elders and Deacons until today.

At this juncture it is expedient for me as pastor to inform you the new congregation of True Life Church the importance of Elders over the Deacons.



*Thank God for new outreach for our Missionary Hien's ministry in Brisbane:
Sunday Worship at Estelle's home, Stradbroke Island, 24 April 2005*

Paul writes to Titus in Titus 1:5-13 especially on Elders. Elders are also called Bishops (overseers). The word “Elders” referring to the man, the word “Bishops” to the function of the office. The functions of the Elders are to rule, especially to guard the body of revealed truth from error.

Hence Paul says in Timothy an elder must be apt to teach and in Titus, an elder must hold fast the faithful word that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince those who err. For illustration when my two assistant pastors in Life Church said there were mistakes in the Bible, I as pastor had to rebuke them and declare we have a 100% perfect Bible without any mistake. Those two assistant pastors who also taught at FEBC immediately resigned from the College.

Because Life Church Session had more Deacons than Elders, who lacked the sound doctrine of Elders, they gave way to the particular error of the assistant pastors, and I stood alone with some Elders, we withdrew to True Life worshipping at RELC.

Now, the Elders nominated with the Pastor who should be No. 1 Teaching and Ruling Elder, you must elect after serious heart searching and the Deacons who had been picked to serve by the Interim Committee you must also likewise elect.

Before God it is your duty to cast your vote for the names who are nominated Elders and names who are nominated Deacons. God, I believe, has infallibly led us to this point, and now He likes to accept your part. The two Commissioners sent by Calvary Tengah B-P Church are Elder William Seah and Elder Peter Goh and the results of acceptance of Reports and Election will be declared to you next week.

GENESIS

Notes From A Weekly Study
Conducted by Pastor Quek

(Taken from Newsletter of Cherith Fellowship,
Vol. 1 Issue 1, April 2005, edited by J.T. Joseph)

CHAPTER 2

Verse 8

Eden – a particular location, standing in contrast with such as Sodom or Gomorrah.

Verses 16, 17

God’s injunction and warning were given to Adam – not Eve. He must then have passed it on.

Satan somehow knew of the situation.

Verses 24

Moses’ comment? – more likely to have been God’s instruction for the establishment of the human family [cf. Mark 10:7; Eph. 5:31].

CHAPTER 2 TO CHAPTER 3

How many weeks have elapsed? We can’t say for sure, but it is likely to have been a short period, as Eve had yet to conceive.

CHAPTER 3

Note the extensive use of **polysyndeton (and .. and ..)**, signifying that all the ‘actions’ reported herein were deliberate or wilful: cf. Gen. 22:9, 10.

Verse 1

‘Subtle’ = ‘beautiful and clever’ or ‘cunning’?

Most likely the former, as sin had not yet entered the world (‘beautiful’ in comparison with the other beasts of the field).

Was the serpent ‘Satan transformed’ or was the creature possessed by Satan?

Most likely the latter, as demons can possess only living things.

Note:

- Satan had been cast to Earth upon his fall from grace, *but* the Earth was not yet under his dominion – Adam had yet to sin.
- The serpent will remain cursed, even in the Millennium.

Verses 1 – 5

Arguably, Adam was not with Eve when the serpent approached her.

Verses 2, 3

Eve’s capital mistake – not accurately handling God’s Word in the context in which she found herself: OMISSION + SUBTRACTION + DISTORTION.

Was this a sin of ‘ignorance’? – *then, how did Eve know she had been ‘beguiled’ [3:13]?*

Also, check out Numbers 15: 24, 25.

Note:

- Eve sinned by tampering with the Word of God.
- She sinned before Adam but, as she was not the representative of the human race, mankind did not fall with her.

Verse 4

Satan’s frontal attack – a direct challenge to God.

Verse 5

‘ye shall be as gods’ – note the lower case g.

Satan’s intent was to introduce idol worship where the only knowledge, thus far, had been of the one, true and living God.

Satan’s definition of ‘god’: merely, a being who knows good & evil [cf. *Verse 22*].

Note: Adam and Eve *had* cognitive knowledge of good & evil, but, before the Fall, they had *experiential* knowledge only of ‘good’.

Verse 6

Eve ate first – then gave the forbidden fruit to Adam.

Now he had to choose and choose in the full knowledge of God’s explicit command to him:

- Choose God and separate from Eve?
- Choose Eve and be (both of them) separated from God?

Verse 9

God always calls the sinner.

Verse 10

We see the sense of shame rising spontaneously [as Calvin commented].

Verse 12, 13

Fallen beings *so* want to have companions in sin!

God always demands of the sinner that he owns up to his sin [no ‘ifs & buts’] – such a man would be after God’s own heart [cf. David].

The Good Word

by John Tow

Like a father
 who loves His son,
He reaches out
 to everyone
Through His Word
 that His Will be done.
Thus, not one jot,
 and no, not one,
Or one tittle
 will get undone
Till all be fulfilled
 ‘neath the sun.

**Acknowledge then
His majesty.**

**Accept His counsel
humbly.**

**If mortal man
can yearn to be**

**Perfect in ways
that’s beyond me,**

**Why can he not
readily see**

**The logic of
God’s primacy?**

He brought forth life
 at His command,
Created all things
 with His hand.
He’ll surely help us
 understand
His Kingdom
 which now draws at hand.
He’s able in a way
 that’s grand
To speed His Word
 o’er sea and land.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 9 – 15, 2005)

MON – WED	FEBC Camp at Mersing
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL C, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT 3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

FEBC 30th Graduation Exercises will be held this evening at Calvary Pandan B-P Church, SGBF Hour, 6 pm. Speaker: Dr Arthur Steele.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (May 14, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Charismatic Workshop by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker. Please register at the Book Table.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$8,279.10; AUD10; RM10
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$100; *Rev Tan Kian Sing* \$100; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$100; *Baraka B-P Church* \$500; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$250, \$100; *Elibariki (FEBC)* \$100; *Sopheak (FEBC)* \$100; *Thadeaus (FEBC)* \$80; *Jose Maghanoy (FEBC)* \$80; *Vanarith (FEBC)* \$80; *Rajan (FEBC)* \$80; *Lam Mung (FEBC)* \$80; *Lal Lian Uk (FEBC)* \$80; *Rotha (FEBC)* \$50; *Phanna (FEBC)* \$50; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100, \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$200; *FEBC Scholarship* \$300; *FEBC* \$505

Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$11,514.10; AUD10; RM10
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$102, \$100
Total: \$292,703.60

Sunday School Offering: \$466.80

Verse for the Week: *He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.* Prov. 11:15

The newly Elected Session will affirm their allegiance to the Word of God by taking the Dean Burgon Oath at a Service of Consecration next Lord's Day, May 15, 05.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 32

8 May 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 49
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 92
Psalms	No. 189
Announcements	
Special Number	Rev Ronny Khoo
Offering & Hymn	No. 359
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Rev 3:7-22
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Stephen Khoo
Sermon	<i>The Church of the Open Door</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 266 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Diploma of Theology (DipTh)

Tan Hwee Khim Serena

Ajin Thu

Yap Yee Kin

Yong Boon Keong Joshua

Bachelor of Religious Education (BRE)

Warunee Harichaikul

Jeon Mi Kyung

Lim Seo Young

Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

Chong Wei Leng Leonard

Rio Lequin Espejon

Khadga Bahadur Thapa Magar

Peck Choon Khim

Wiwun Sunarto

Richard Murcia Tiu

Master of Religious Education (MRE)

Chan Kah Wai Karen

Pipit Margareta Jong

Justin Paul V J

Viswanathan

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Kiantoro Lie

Yip Moh Chung Theresa

Peter Yoksan

Eben Yoon

Master of Theology (ThM)

Michael Kipyegon Arap Koech

Vo Thanh Phan

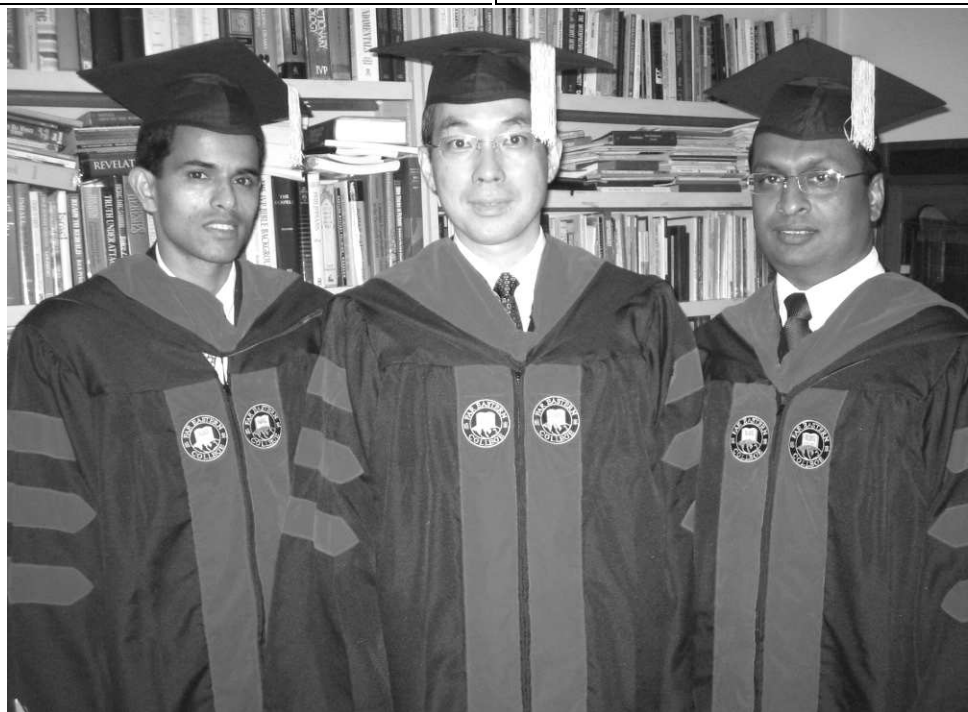
Doctor of Theology (ThD)

Prabhudas Koshy

Quek Suan Yew

Georgekutty Skariah

Thereafter you are cordially invited to a buffet dinner downstairs.



ThD Class of 2005:

Georgekutty Skariah, Quek Suan Yew, Prabhudas Koshy



At the 30th Graduation Exercises of Far Eastern Bible College at Calvary Pandan B-P Church 6 pm this evening 35 will be awarded their certificates and conferred their degrees including three

doctorates for the first time in the 43rd year of FEBC's history. Dr. Arthur Steele, Founder of Clearwater Christian College, Clearwater, Florida is the Graduation speaker.

Certificate of Religious Knowledge (CertRK)

Lim Bin Hwee

Deborah Mae

Oh Sung Hwa

Pek How Sian Vincent

Puah Li Choo Priscilla

Tan Hwee Kien

Zhang Bei Fang

Certificate of Biblical Studies (CertBS)

Foo Kui Ping Linda

Park Eun Hyung

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XI

John 11:47-57

That God's Son Must Die for their Crimes!

This miracle of miracles so alarmed the power-mad Jewish leaders that a council was immediately called. Said the chief priests and Pharisees among themselves, "What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation."

Calvin comments: "A specious (looks good at first sight) disguise cloaks their wickedness – zeal for public good. Their chief worry and fear was that their tyranny would be destroyed; but they pretend to be anxious about the Temple and its worship of God, about the reputation of their nation and the condition of the people."

Then spoke Caiaphas, high priest of that year, "Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." The solution to the so-called problem of the Romans coming to take over their authority was to have an innocent man put to death.

When John says that Caiaphas said not this of himself, he means that something greater incited his tongue, because God intended to testify by his mouth something higher than come to mind. Unwittingly he prophesied in his position as high priest that Jesus would die a vicarious death for the nation, and beyond that, for the children of God that were to be gathered from the Gentile world.

Once again, before Jesus' time was up, He retreated from further confrontation with the Jews. He quietly departed to a city called Ephraim in north Judea, close to

Samaria. This did not lessen the Jews' determination to kill Him. For while Jesus went into retreat His fame spread abroad the more so that He was the subject of discussion by the crowds now making their way to Jerusalem for the last Passover of His Life.

Chapter XII

By His Death that many might live Jesus Christ is the Seed of Life

In this chapter John takes us into the Holy Week. The hour had come when our Lord must return to Jerusalem and there "suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed, and be raised again the third day" (Matt. 16:21).

One of the most touching events prior to His Death was His anointing by Mary of Bethany (Matt. 26:6-13; Mk. 14:3-9). Ryrie's Harmony of the Gospels puts the day of the anointing to be the Sabbath just before Holy Week. A comparative reading of Matthew and Mark shows that the event occurred in the house of Simon the Leper, a neighbour.

The moment it was noised abroad that our Lord had arrived at Bethany, a great crowd of the Jews gathered. Some came with curiosity to see not only Jesus, but also Lazarus, the man who walked out of the grave after four days. Others to watch His steps, how they might kill Jesus, and Lazarus too. That happens in every big congregation! There are the sincere worshippers like the Bethany Trio and Simon. There are the curious. There are the fault-finders and plotters, coming in the spy. These were John Sung's observations.

The next day, that is Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a young donkey ceremonially into Jerusalem. This is now known as the Triumphal Entry. Read Matt. 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 18:29-44 for a composite picture. John mentions among

the great multitudes that welcomed Him, King of Jerusalem were those who had seen Him raise Lazarus.

Sometime during Holy Week, it is John who tells us of an interview by certain Greeks through Philip of Bethsaida of Galilee. These Greeks were Gentile-born proselytes, some of whom were settled in Galilee, and perhaps were acquaintances of Philip. (Philip is a Greek name, though he was a Jew). Their request to see Jesus expresses support, an encouragement to our Lord at this crisis hour.

As Jesus spoke to His disciples and these Greeks, He was elated by the fruits

that He as the corn of heavenly wheat, the Seed of Life falling into the ground to die, would produce. But as He discoursed He also had a foretaste of Gethsemane, wherefore He signed, "Now is my soul troubled". In his sombre soliloquy a marvellous thing happened. A voice rang out of heaven, so loud, that some said it thundered. The voice came not so much for our Lord as for the bystanders. Those who heeded that voice were saved, but those who turned a deaf ear were condemned. Those like the Greeks who came to see Jesus in order to hear the Truth were accepted but the unbelieving bystanders were rejected.

The Good Word

by John Tow

His covenant
with us is real.

See His eternal stamp
and seal.

They do to one and all
appeal

That God's Word
has the power to heal

The ills that all
of man must feel –

If he would to the Savior
steal.

**A stone will He
not give to you.**

**So trust His Word –
It holds the clue**

**To life abundant,
life anew!**

**This Bread of Life
is giv'n to you.**

**So wholesome,
it was broken too,**

**Upon Calvary's tree
for you.**

I urge now, everyone
to read

This precious Word of God
indeed.

Find guidance
for your every need.

Have faith in it
and it will lead

You on to the
most pleasant mead

Where sheep do safely graze
and feed.

**There will you find
comfort and rest,**

**Help and advice
for every test,**

**The way of life,
a life that's blest!**

**And the Spirit
at His behest**

**Will instruct you
and manifest**

**Its pow'r
to help your every quest.**

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 16 – 22, 2005)

WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.00 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Koa Keng Woo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (May 21, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on "Ten Commandments" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (May 21, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Topic: "Knowing God and His Word: Can the KJV Ever Be Replaced?" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker. Please register at the Book Table.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$6,776.90
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Tanzania Bible College* \$2,000; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333
Total General and Designated Offerings: \$9,359.90
Church Building Fund: \$1,550, \$1,000, \$250, \$100, \$50 **Total:** \$295,653.60

Sunday School Offering: \$423.30

Verse for the Week: *A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.* Prov. 11:16

The Dean Burgon Oath

I swear in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that I believe "the Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne. Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is direct utterance of the Most High. The Bible is none other than the Word of God, not some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike the utterance of Him that sitteth upon the throne, faultless, unerring, supreme." So help me God, AMEN.



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Vol. II No. 33

15 May 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 34
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 95
Psalms	No. 193
Announcements	
Oath of Allegiance to the Word of God	Church Session
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 27
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Numbers 30:1-2
Sermon	<i>The Dean Burgon Oath</i> (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 418
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

movement and our upgrading lesser Bible Colleges is hastening our Lord's return.

It is now become a tradition, the day after graduation FEBC will hold a retreat at our own Mersing Resort. 100 students and faculty came together for fellowship and mutual encouragement that we will become better servants for the Lord. Speakers were Rev. Tow, Dr. Steele, Dr. Quek Suan Yew, Rev. Stephen Khoo, Dr. Das Koshy.

The day following our return from Mersing was College cleaning by all the students. A sister, part-time student, graciously supplied lunch to the whole College, good food for Dr. Steele and the pastor also.

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Last Lord's Day there were 1,200 who attended the 30th Graduation Service of FEBC. From the Graduation List with 9 in Certificate Class, we have the healthy sign of more lay people pursuing theological studies. They will become more qualified as Sunday School teachers. With more qualified in the MDiv and ThM plus 3 in the ThD we will see more Bible Colleges started. Dr. Arthur Steele came from America this time to speak God's Word to us.

Matt. 24:14 says, "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." Our school has students from 15 nations. When they graduate and return to their countries they will teach more nationalities and hasten our Saviour's return. FEBC is in a Bible College

As the Lord wonderfully timed it our Holy Land agent Guiding Star came to see me about our 12th Pilgrimage. It has now been fixed for the week of school vacation in March 2006. Guiding Star has recommended us to fly cheaper by Gulf Air and land in Amman, Jordan. They will keep us in touch. March is end of winter. For Singaporeans to experience the cold, if fortunate the snow, which we did once. This time we will be driven up Mount of Transfiguration! We will take up to 45.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.



FEBC 30th Graduation Exercises, 8 May 2005

THE DEAN BURGON OATH

(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, May 15, 05)

Text: Numbers 30:1-2

What is an Oath?

According to Chambers Dictionary (original edition, 1901), an oath is “a solemn statement with an appeal to God as witness, and a calling for punishment from Him in case of falsehood or of failure.” Taking an oath is thus a very serious matter. According to the definition as found in Chambers Dictionary, it involves (1) a solemn statement, (2) an appeal to God as witness, and (3) a punishment from God in case of falsehood or failure.

Who was Dean Burgon?

John William Burgon lived from 1813 to 1888. He was born in Smyrna (cf Rev 2:8), a city of Asia Minor which is today Asiatic Turkey. He was a graduate of Oxford University where he earned three degrees (BA, MA and MDiv). Burgon was such an outstanding scholar that he was later appointed Oxford professor of divinity in 1867. In 1876 he became the Dean of Chichester, and was henceforth known as Dean Burgon.

Just as David was raised up to fight Goliath, Burgon was raised by the Lord to challenge Westcott and Hort—two liberal Anglicans who attacked the inspiration and preservation of the Holy Scriptures. Filled with holy indignation that God’s Word—the very foundation of the Christian Faith had been undermined, he devoted the last 30 years of his life to the defence of the Traditional and Preserved Text and the King James Bible over against the corrupt Westcott-Hort Text and their Revised Version which is the father of all the modern versions of the English Bible today.

Burgon had a high regard for the King James Bible. Consider what he said, “*Our Authorised Version is the one religious link which at present binds together ... millions of English speaking men scattered over the earth’s surface. ... It may be confidently assumed that no ‘Revision’ of our Authorised Version, however judiciously executed, will*

ever occupy the place of public esteem which is actually enjoyed by the work of the Translators of 1611—the noblest literary work in the Anglo-Saxon language. We shall in fact never have another ‘Authorised Version.’ ... As something intended to supercede our present English Bible, we are thoroughly convinced that the project of a rival Translation is not to be entertained for a moment. For ourselves, we deprecate it entirely.” Concerning the King James translators, Burgon wrote, “*Verily, those men understood their craft! ‘There were GIANTS in those days.’ ... because the SPIRIT of their GOD was mightily upon them.*”

Like Burgon, True Life upholds “*the Authorised (King James) Version to be the Word of God—the best, most faithful, most accurate, most beautiful translation of the Bible in the English language, and do employ it alone as our primary scriptural text in the public reading, preaching, and teaching of the English Bible*” (Constitution, 4.2.1.3).

What is the Dean Burgon Oath?

In his defence of the Word of God against Westcott and Hort, Dean Burgon produced a most sublime statement of faith on the perfection and purity of the Holy Scriptures. He said, “*The Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the Throne! Every Book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is the direct utterance of the Most High! The Bible is none other than the Word of God: not some part of it more, some part of it less; but all alike, the utterance of Him who sitteth upon the Throne; faultless, unerring, supreme!*” At the FEBC 11th graduation service in 1979, our beloved pastor who is also principal of FEBC turned this statement into an oath, and required every member of the teaching faculty to take it.

Is the Dean Burgon Oath according to the Scriptures? It most certainly is. “*The Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne.*” The phrase “Thus saith the LORD” appears 415 times in the Bible to tell us that it is the direct utterance of the Most High God. God speaks to us today directly

through the Holy Scriptures. Each time we read the Bible it has the authority of “Thus saith the LORD.” And this Bible is none other than the God-breathed words of the Hebrew OT and the Greek NT that form the basis of our Authorised King James Bible which Dean Burgon promoted and defended in his battle against the corrupt text and translation of Westcott and Hort.

To what extent is the Word of God pure and perfect? It is pure and perfect to the last iota. The psalmist in Psalm 19:7 says, “*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.*” Psalm 119:140 says, “*Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.*” Proverbs 30:5 says, “*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*” 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God.*” Note that “All Scripture” is inspired of God, not “Some Scripture” or “Most Scripture” but “All Scripture.” *Every word of God is important and significant. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” That was why Dean Burgon wrote, “The Bible is none other than the Word of God: not some part of it more, some part of it less; but all alike, the utterance of Him who sitteth upon the Throne; faultless, unerring, supreme!” The Bible is faultless and unerring not only on matters of salvation, but also of science, history, and geography. We reject the view that the Bible contains “insignificant” mistakes like spelling mistakes, chronological mistakes, numbering mistakes, or so-called scribal mistakes.*

Do we have the pure and perfect Word of God today? The answer is again a resounding yes. God not only inspired His words 100%, He also promised to preserve His inspired words 100%, to the last jot and tittle. Jesus said in Matthew 5:18, “*Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*” Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33 say, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*” Psalm 12:6-7, “*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a*

furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” The Westminster Confession of Faith (chap I, para VIII) states, “*The Old Testament in Hebrew ... and the New Testament in Greek, ... being immediately inspired by God, and, by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical.*” That is why we affirm with Burgon, “*Every Book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is the direct utterance of the Most High!*”

Please note that Dean Burgon wrote these words in the *present tense*: “Every book, chapter, verse, word, syllable and letter *IS* (not WAS) direct utterance of the Most High.” The Greek word *gegraptai* (perfect tense of *grapho*, “to write”) translated “it is written,” or “it *stands* written,” is used 67 times in the Bible to teach us in no uncertain terms that the Bible *was, is, and will always be* the perfect Word of God—*forever* infallible and inerrant. This is a statement, a position, an oath of faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”

Allegiance to the Perfect Word of God

The FEBC board and faculty took this oath last week at her 30th convocation on May 8, 2005. May the session of True Life BPC follow after this good tradition of FEBC as put in place by our beloved and founding pastor to take the Dean Burgon Oath and to take it sincerely without reservations. As Numbers 30:1-2 says, “*This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded. If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.*” When we take an oath that is in accordance to the Holy Scriptures and say what God says in His Sacred Word, we are safe and secure, and shall receive His blessing to serve Him who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. To Him be all glory and honour. Amen.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 23 – 29, 2005)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship will be having a Visitation to Ling Kwang Home this Sat (May 28, 05). Please meet at FEBC, 3.30 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (May 28, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Bernard Tee's home at 19A Hillview Avenue #08-06, Singapore 669554. Program: Bible Study on Jude by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$5,642.55; RM15
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien's Ministry* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC* \$200
Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$6,192.55; RM15
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$600, \$200
Total: \$297,453.60

Sunday School Offering: \$345.90

Verse for the Week: *The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.* Prov. 11:17

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (May 29, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. Theme: "Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith". Dr Jeffrey Khoo chief speaker. Please register at the Book Table.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 34

22 May 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 93
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 99
Psalms	No. 203
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 137
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Luke 4:1-13
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Koa Keng Woo
Sermon	<i>What kind of life are you living?</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 332
Benediction	Rev Koa Keng Woo

Stone from Perth. They surely will impart heavenly wisdom to us.

I hear 101 have registered to come. I believe more are coming! Our charges are the lowest. It is the fellowship that should draw us together.

At Jemaluang, 13 miles south of Mersing a group of young people have accepted the Lord as Saviour. They have begun a service every 4th Sunday at 10.00am under the charge of Tee Chung Seng of Kelapa Sawit. We are mindful of their growth in waiting for His coming. Amen.

PASTORAL CHAT

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

My Dear Readers

Apart from our Lord's Day Worship at 10.30am where for variety we take in a goodly number of speakers, we have the Friday night Prayer Meeting where we speak a half hour for Bible Study and extra time for testimonies (John Sung's style). We have gone over Revelation and are now entering Gospel of Matthew. We have around 60 who come to prayer meeting regularly. It brings us great joy whenever our prayers are answered. Do you get your private prayer answered? Do you pray every morning? "Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray?" Do you teach your young children to pray before they go to bed at night and when they get up in the morning?

For our Mersing Camp, June 7 – 10, we have not only Hien our Vietnamese missionary to Brisbane as devotional speaker but also Rev Errol

GENESIS

Notes From A Weekly Study
Conducted by Pastor Quek
(Taken from Newsletter of Cherith Fellowship, Vol. 1 Issue 2, May 2005, edited by J.T. Joseph)

CHAPTER 3

Verse 14

Was it the serpent's fault? – recall that the curse on the serpent would not be lifted even in the Millennium [Isa. 65:25].

Actually, this is not a matter of 'fair' or 'unfair': God (alone) has the sovereign right to curse the serpent, using it forever as a reminder to all mankind [cf. Jn. 3:14, 15].

O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

**Oath-Taking by FEBC Faculty and Board
At the FEBC 30th Graduation Exercises, 8 May 2005**



I swear in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that I believe "the Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne. Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is direct utterance of the Most High. The Bible is none other than the Word of God, not some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike the utterance of Him that sitteth upon the throne, faultless, unerring, supreme." So help me God, AMEN.

Verse 15

The protogospel – man's salvation, Satan's damnation.

Note 'her seed'/'his heel' – implying, the saviour will be a male [automatically disqualifies Mary].

Why was Satan not straightaway cast into the Lake of Fire? As a result of this 'reprieve', he will induce man to sin even during the Millennium.

Consider this:

The exercise of God's power in physical resurrection will not save us [cf. I Ki. 17:22; Jn. 11:44], because divine justice must needs be satisfied. The person who is merely resurrected will not have a glorified body, and would thus succumb again to physical death.

Without the shedding of blood, there can be no remission ['cancellation'] of sin.

We see, therefore, that Satan must be defeated by the Cross first.

Take note of three kinds of *death*:

- Spiritual death, as happened to Adam the moment he sinned
- Physical death - Adam died after 930 years
- Ultimate death at the end of the Millennium, for unbelievers & rebels

Jesus died *physically* on the cross [not spiritually, because He is sinless].

His very real death conquered (at one stroke) spiritual, physical, and ultimate death for the *elect* → the *elect* will one day have glorified bodies.

Verse 16 (b)

What is this 'desire'? – see also, GEN. 4:7.

This is the woman's desire to usurp the authority of her husband. Her 'curse' would only be reversed under the conditions set forth in EPH. 5:22-33.

'Curse' for *man*: no physiological change [as pain in childbearing]; rather, the ground is cursed for his sake → he has, among other penalties, to sweat & toil just to maintain his physical existence ...

Verse 17 ff

... but for his good, otherwise he in idleness would find opportunities to sin the more.

Verse 18

Adam is still herbivorous.

Only *after the Flood* did God permit meat-eating. Before the Flood, however, those in rebellion to God indulged in 'meats for the belly' – e.g., Nimrod.

Despite the ground being cursed, man still found idle-time, which he used to indulge in sins of increasing depravity → God *had* eventually to destroy the world by water.

Verse 21

Introduction of the idea of *substitutionary atonement*.

Remission of sin (by the shedding of blood) carries the idea of 'cancellation' of the (ultimate) penalty.

Verses 22 - 24

Note the precaution God had to take, to prevent man becoming fixed in the state of sin.

Had Adam, after the Fall, eaten of the Tree of Life, he would have been permanently fixed in the state of sin.

On the other hand, had Adam passed the 'test', he would have received, by God's promise, eternal life. How? – by partaking of the fruit of the Tree of Life? Perhaps.

Note: there was *no* (recorded) prohibition on partaking of its fruit.

Rev. 22:2, 14 shows us the Tree Of Life, with twelve different kinds of fruit. Only in the glorified state would man be allowed to eat thereof.

CHAPTER 4

There is as yet no 'nation' properly so-called. God had to prepare a 'chosen' nation to be the vehicle for the coming Seed – the lineage goes back to Shem [see Matthew 1].

Perhaps the most startling testimony to the coming of this Seed is from the mouth of a pagan seer – Baalam: see Num. 24:15 – 19.

Verse 1

Eve – not Adam – named her first child.

This was Cain. She presumed it would be Cain who would bruise the serpent's head.

Verses 3 – 5

The AV preserves the 'chiastic structure' of the Hebrew text, this approach being discarded by modern translations.

'Chiastic' refers to the technique of referring to A then B, and immediately after, switching the flow from B to A. It serves to draw our attention to the specific context.

Our attention is first directed to Cain. His offering was not, in itself, objectionable; the problem lay in his attitude and in his motives.

In other words, his heart not being right, he offered an unacceptable offering to God. Cain's 'offering' was a cereal offering, whereas Abel's was a blood offering.

Does the context require a blood offering?

Recall that 'faith' – per Heb. 11:4 – entails doing what God requires of you at any given point in time, whether or not you understand 'why'.

God must, earlier, have instructed the brothers as to the type of offering He expected of them – perhaps this instruction was given through their parents [see Gen. 3:21].

As far as God is concerned, motive (attitude) and action must be consonant with His teachings.

Cain's offering on this occasion reflected his attitude: 'What's good enough for me should be good enough for God'.

Note that, at this point in time, there was no detailed teaching from God, concerning a diversity of offerings – that came much later. The *only* offering required of Adam and his family was the blood offering.

We are thereby reminded that sin offering must always precede the other types of offering as introduced in Leviticus chapters 1 – 6.

If you do not put yourself right with God first, all your offerings & gifts & good deeds are redundant!

The Good Word

by John Tow

For in its pages
you will find
How God does love
the good and kind
And looks over the world
to find
These ones to bless
with ties that bind.
So those who have
God's call declined
Will face His judgment
in the wind.

**So heed therefore
the Word anew!**

**It's our Salvation's charter
true.**

**Scribed by the hand of God
for you;**

**He'll keep it safely sealed
and true.**

**Now if the scribe
was none but you**

**I know just how much
more you'd do!**

You can trust in God's
Holy Writ.

It has all that you need
in it.

History, prophecy,
wisdom, wit.

The past and future . . .
all of it.

Read and see
how the puzzles fit.

It is divine,
so, think on it!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (May 30 – Jun 5, 2005)

WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Jun 1, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "Saved to Serve" by Elder Mahadevan. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jun 4, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Neo-evangelicalism" by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

There will be a Camp Briefing immediately after the Worship Service today. All Campers please stay for the briefing.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,054.70; RM4
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$50; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$50; *Hien & his ministry* \$5,000, \$250; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$100; *Missions* \$100; *Barnabas Yap* \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$250; **FEBC** \$50

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$11,954.70; RM4

Church Building Fund: \$5,000, \$1,000, \$162

Total: \$303,615.60

Sunday School Offering: \$330.70

Verse for the Week: *The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward. Prov. 11:18*

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held once a month on the first Friday of every month at members' home, beginning July 2005. For those who wish to open their homes, please register with Wendy Teng at 94754067.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 251 Bangkit Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febe.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 35

29 May 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 58
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 99
Psalms	No. 203
Announcements	
Special Number	Dn Charles Kan & family
Offering & Hymn	No. 137
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	II Kings 20:1-11
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>When Sickness Calls</i> (Dr S H Tow)
Closing Hymn	No. 319
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

his wife could come to our Bible Camp at Mersing. He had given us four precious months to take care of our Kindergarten and Church in Kuantan, and I wanted them to enjoy our fellowship and hearing the Word of God. I was doubly delighted. I therefore write this Chat to share with you my secret.

As Elder Leong Yin Chu is bilingual, he has written a book which will mightily bless you. The wonderful thing about this book is his frankness. How from a life of unbelief he came to receive Jesus as his Saviour, and how after he retired he and his wife gave their lives to win others to Christ. As a result God has opened a way for them to visit many countries, even Saipan and to meet up with Moses Hahn, and to teach English to his students in Kompong Som in Cambodia. A most thrilling book to read, and you by coming to Camp June 7 – 10 will be more thrilled by meeting with the author.

And remember the secret I told you. If you want to be happy, you must make others happy too. Amen.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Let me tell you a secret, If you want to be happy, you must make others happy!

Regarding our Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 to be held at Lautan Biru Resort, Mersing, it came across my mind that I should invite Elder and Mrs Leong Yin Chu who helped take care of our newly completed Kindergarten and Church in Kuantan for four months in 1996. Elder Leong Yin Chu was a fighter pilot in his young days and finished his career as an inspector of schools in Singapore, when he and his wife decided to serve the Lord in saving souls. At my first phone call there was no answer. I was disappointed thinking he and his wife were serving in some foreign country. When he answered my phone call later during the day I was delighted! He and



FEBC Camp at Lautan Biru Resort, Mersing, May 9 – 11, 2005

THE FAR EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE, SINGAPORE (FEBC)

by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

*(Taken from Elder's Page of Calvary Pandan
BPC's Weekly dated 22 May 2005)*

Forty over years ago, God laid upon the heart of Rev Dr Timothy Tow to set up for the Bible-Presbyterian Movement a Bible College. Why is a Bible College such a masterful stroke in the cause of Jesus Christ?

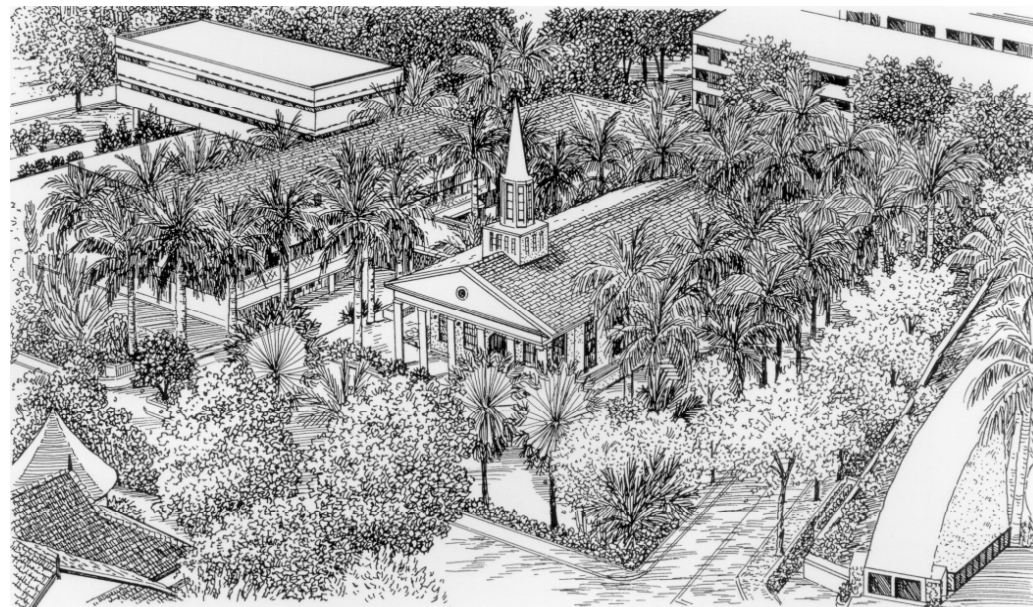
Many have disdained the FEBC and continue to do so. It is a local Bible College and therefore it lacks the respectability of an overseas Bible College and Seminary. It is similar to how the degrees from the local university are regarded as second class compared to the degrees obtained overseas. Such a colonial mentality is hard to erase. This mentality is not only found in the world but sadly it is also found in God's church. Do you disdain the FEBC? Or do you support FEBC?

FEBC stands for the TRUTH of God's Holy Word – The courses offered in FEBC are Bible based. The Bible is first and last the only emphasis in FEBC, by the grace of God. The Dean Burgon oath is taken by every faculty and Board member of FEBC. This is the promise made at every annual Graduation Service. Without the Word of God the Christian has nothing and FEBC has nothing too. Therefore the defense of the Holy Word of God is paramount in FEBC. FEBC has no choice but to rise up and be counted for the defense of the doctrine of the perfect Bible. FEBC understands that without perfect preservation, the doctrine of perfect inspiration is useless. To reject that there is a perfect Bible today is to opt for the diabolical anthropocentric theory of an errant Bible for all. This arrogant doctrine stems from a sinful heart where man becomes the judge of God's Holy Word instead of being judged by His Holy and perfect Word.

FEBC emphasizes biblical scholarship with godly seriousness – The FEBC does not exist to make money unlike many seminaries in America and across the world. Many of these seminaries were founded on noble foundations

i.e. to further the cause of Christ and defend the Word of God. Over the years and with new presidents, new ideas evolved that soon turn these seminaries into a money making venture. The ministry to train men and women for the gospel of Christ is now a forgotten emphasis in many seminaries. Where many Bible Colleges have lowered their academic standards, hoping to attract more prospective students, FEBC, by the grace of God, has maintained her standard of training men and women for the vineyard God has prepared for them. The study of the original languages (three years of Greek and two years of Hebrew) is compulsory if the student is pursuing a degree in the Master of Divinity. This was the minimum standard in the days of old for the training of God's servants. To teach and preach God's Word in its completeness the preacher needs to know the original languages. To defend God's Holy Word in its completeness, the preacher needs to know the original languages. For example, if a preacher reads the commentary and the commentator says that the Greek or Hebrew says this or that he has no way to evaluate if it is true or not. Or if he is confronted by an enemy of Christ who says that the Hebrew or Greek says that he is wrong, the preacher would be struck dumb immediately because he does not know the original languages. FEBC does not go out of her way to gain numbers (quantity) but only in maintaining the highest standard (quality), by the grace of God.

FEBC impacts the world for Christ through the students – The student body is made up of men and women called into the full time ministry from all walks of life, race and nationality. The end of semester retreat in Mersing (which was just concluded three weeks ago) was a very blessed time. It was encouraging to know that though we come from varied



backgrounds, spoke different languages, with different cultures, all of us have the common bond in Jesus Christ that transcends all these differences. These men and women will return to their homeland and, with support from many Singapore churches, bring their fundamental doctrines to further the cause of Christ in ways that we cannot imagine. The fulfillment of the Great Commission beyond the shores of Singapore, through FEBC, is mind boggling. Your support in prayer and finances will go a very long way toward this godly effort.

FEBC is the lifeline of the BP Movement – If Calvary Pandan or for that matter any conservative B-P Church has a member who is called and needs to be trained, without FEBC, we would not know where to send him for training in a theology that is Bible-Presbyterian. If the LORD tarries, Calvary Pandan needs new men and women who are called to be trained for the ministry. It is one thing to desire to serve and another to actually serve effectively in building up the faith of the believers. The desire alone is not enough. He needs to be properly trained. The sovereignty of God in preserving and nurturing His church does

not negate or diminish human responsibility. All of us have a part to play in God's programme for the furtherance of God's work into the next generation. One can either go or give. But we can all pray. Pray for the FEBC that God will defend it against the attacks of the evil one both from within and without. For the sake of our children and their spiritual well being, we need FEBC to remain true and faithful to God to the very end.

Conclusion

Do you still disdain FEBC? I pray you will have a change of heart and mind. To teach in the FEBC is a privilege and by invitation only. It is more than mere paper qualification that qualifies a person. It is the heart, the heart that has been given over to Jesus Christ and God's Holy Word. May our gracious and holy God continue to bless, keep, provide and protect His Far Eastern Bible College. For as long as FEBC sees herself as Christ's College, she will not stray from the truth and her original purpose, calling and founding. Pray for and support FEBC, for the glory of God. AMEN.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 6 – 12, 2005)

TUE – FRI	Bible Camp at Mersing
FRI 8.00 pm	No Prayer Meeting
SAT 3.00 pm	No YPF Meeting
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Pr Hien Nguyen) (<i>Lord's Supper</i>) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Bible Camp June 7 – 10, 05 at Resort Lautan Biru, Mersing. All Campers please meet at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, in front of FEBC Hall at 7.30 am, June 7, 05 (Tues).

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held once a month on the first Friday of every month at members' home, beginning July 2005. For those who wish to open their homes, please register with Wendy Teng at 94754067.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,206.80; RM50
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Tanzania Bible College* \$2,000; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$200; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *FEBC* \$150, \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$9,239.80; RM50
Church Building Fund: \$900, \$100, \$70
Total: \$304,685.60

Sunday School Offering: \$580.50

Verse for the Week: *As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.* Prov. 11:19

The drawer of RHB cheque no. 236419, kindly contact Dn Tan Beng Lee at 98719796 for some clarifications.

In view of Bible Camp, there will be **no Prayer Meeting and Young People's Fellowship Meeting** this week.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 36

5 June 2005

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	<i>Prepare to meet thy God</i>
Invocation-Gloria Patri Hymn	<i>Yerushalayim, Messiah Is Come</i>
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	<i>Jesus Christ Is Coming!</i>
Offertory Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Zechariah 10:6-10; 8:21-22
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Israel Regains Her Nationality, Christian Countries More Converted</i>
Closing Hymn	<i>Song to the New Jerusalem</i>
Benediction	Pastor Tow

about this is Tee Chung Seng of Kelapa Sawit, who graduated from FEBC three years ago. Not only pastoring Kelapa Sawit he is heading a Worship Service of young people every fourth week at Jemaluang, 13 miles south of Mersing. When Kelapa Sawit celebrated her 54th Anniversary, young members of Jemaluang came to sing to the mother church.

Now June 26th is a fourth week and Dr. Wu who attends True Life would come with me but now I discover I cannot because I have to speak at Tabernacle BPC at her Anniversary. I would advise Dr. Wu to go yourself to Jemaluang by making your own arrangement with Tee Chung Seng. Please phone him at Kelapa Sawit B-P Church, 020-7-652-2811 before 12 noon on a Sunday.

Coming third Sunday we have another happy event. Rev Tan Kian Sing who shifted Berean BPC from Changi to Mt. Emily has to shift again. We have visited his new place in the vicinity of Lavender St. and only a mile or so from Mt. Emily. I think this is a better location. I will be speaking on Thanksgiving and Deborah and Judith will come and sing. The worship time is 10.30 am.

Your affectionate pastor

T. T.

Oath-Taking by Church Session 2005 – 2008 At RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am Worship Service, May 15, 2005



I swear in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that I believe “the Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne. Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is direct utterance of the Most High. The Bible is none other than the Word of God, not some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike the utterance of Him that sitteth upon the throne, faultless, unerring, supreme.” So help me God, AMEN.

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Last week I told you a secret. If you want to be happy you must make others happy. Now that Elder Leong Yin Chu and his wife whom I invited to our Bible Camp June 7 – 10 are able to come it makes me doubly happy. He will bring along some copies that tell of his wife. If you are wise to get the book and read it, you will be trebly happy.

What are the signs of Christ's Coming and the end of the world? Read Matt. 24:2-14. Do you know since the great Tsunami of Dec 26, 04 till May 15, 05, 4½ months, there have been eight earthquakes, i.e. to say, Jesus is reminding us His Coming is very, very near and we should be winning souls of all nations before He comes. That FEBC has 15 nationals in her school is just doing that. With an upgrading programme of other Bible Colleges we touch other nationals and do the same.

As a Church we can do likewise by reaching out to new groups of believers. One good news

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XII

John 12:1-11

Mary's Loving Fragrance

As we have noted earlier Bethany was our Lord's House of Rest on His way from upcountry to Jerusalem. As this was Christ's last visit to Bethany, Simon the Leper whom Jesus had obviously healed before this, opened his house to receive him, and the disciples. According to John Sung, it was a job to feed, apart from the Lord, twelve hungry young men. Hence the enlistment of Martha into the Simon kitchen. Lazarus, to show his gratitude to the Lord for raising him, came over to keep company.

While the disciples had eaten their fill, some quite oblivious of approaching storm, our Lord pondered in deep meditation. Nobody followed His thoughts, but Mary. Nobody knew how heavy a load our Lord was carrying, but Mary. Only Mary had fathomed the innermost feelings of our Lord, because she loved Him dearly. And loving is always expressed by giving. Much loving, much giving. Little loving, little giving (cf. Luke 7:14-43). Mary loved Jesus because she had experienced forgiveness as no other had.

The pound of very precious spikenard ointment, costing 300 pence or **denarii** was equivalent to a year's wages. Mark says Mary first broke the alabaster box before she anointed Him. (Alabaster is a white stone, semi-transparent). Immediately a shot was fired from Judas Iscariot's sniping post. He who rarely spoke a kind word to anybody, least of all to our Lord. What a picture of those members in Church who say bad of others, but it only reveals their own badness. There was no love lost by Judas in the remark, even when he pretended concern for the poor, for John tells us he was a thief. The taking of public funds for one's own use is a serious crime! Criminal breach of trust, to use a legal term.

But Jesus accepted Mary's love offering. Jesus commended her, but rebuked Judas with

a retort: "Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but Me ye have not always" (v. 8). Jesus appreciates our love gifts.

Here's another verse of the Bethany Song translated from Hong Kong Rev John E Su's Heavenly People's Choruses: And our Lord would say to us, as we sing, think of Mary too! "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her" (Matt. 26:13).

My Home Sweet Home, by Olivet
Finds grace in Emmanuel's eyes.
Where joined in one are heart and heart,
Then soar our souls to the skies.
I pour on Him my ointment sweet,
Little token of my love.
O Bethany, my Home Sweet Home –
Endless blessings from above.

John 12:12-19

The Significance of Palm Sunday

While the Jews plotted Jesus' death, Sunday dawned bright and clear! "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world" (Jn. 10:9). "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24).

The significance of Jesus riding a young donkey into Jerusalem was not understood by the disciples until Jesus rose from the dead when they remembered the Scriptures that foretold His benign kingship (Zech. 9:9).

The multitudes, wave after wave, rallied their king, palm leaves swinging to the chanting of Hosanna, Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna is another Hebrew compound word which literally means, "Make safe, I pray you". It is now adopted by all languages through the Church. It is an exclamation of praise to God and prayer for blessing.

As Holy Week comes round each year, we have found it an especial blessing to celebrate it, beginning from Palm Sunday. Some churches decorate the occasion with palm fronds, or even make a procession round the church grounds before entering the sanctuary to worship. The celebrating of Palm Sunday subdues us to Christ the King and honours Him with praise. The celebration of Palm Sunday is to prepare the hearts of the devout for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Let's not forget, Christ is not only Saviour, but Lord and King! And He is coming soon to earth again as King, not over the Church only, but also over every nation, kindred and tongue.

The singing of Hosanna exalted Christ as King of the Jews. The Pharisees being ever jealous of their high powers resented this more than ever before. Matthew 21:15 says they were "sore displeased". They resolved to turn the Hosannas into "Crucify Him". Before the hour arrived, however, our Lord was kept safe by His Father. The crowds who had witnessed Christ raising Lazarus and who now came in force were a wall of defence around Him. "The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him." Where do you stand in the crowd?

The Good Word

by John Tow

Here is life's
instruction manual.
And God's promises
perennial.
They show the way
to blessings real.
Reveal to all
God's judgment scale;
Life eternal,
or death's dark vale.
Both grave concerns!
No mythic tale!

**Search then
this treasure trove today.**

**Seek out God's promises
I say.**

**They are like signposts
on life's way –**

**And so well-placed by God
that they**

**Will be at hand
whene'er you stray –**

**If to Him you will call
and pray.**

Ah, is this not all
God's doing?
It's marvellous
how everything
About His Holy Word's
keeping
Points to its
miraculous being!
Therefore, as
God is all-knowing,
All-seeing,
and everlasting
His Word will be
for-evering.

**From everlasting
like the Lord,**

**To everlasting,
will the Word**

**Go forth 'til all the world
have heard**

**About God's love!
So praise the Lord!**

**This Book of Books
will go forward**

**From strength to strength
in full concord.**

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 13 – 19, 2005)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	3.00 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jun 18, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on "Ten Commandments" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Jun 18, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "My Journey from the RSV to the KJV" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$6,960.60

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien's ministry* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$250; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$200, \$100, \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$300; *Tracts* \$300

Total General and Designated Offerings:

\$8,610.60

Church Building Fund: \$4,030 **Total:** \$308,715.60

Sunday School Offering: \$423.50

Verse for the Week: *They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.* Prov. 11:20

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held once a month on the first Friday of every month at members' home, beginning July 2005. For those who wish to open their homes, please register with Wendy Teng at 94754067.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 37

12 June 2005

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"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 8
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 103
Psalms	No. 212
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 27
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	John 15:1-8
Sermon	<i>Jesus Christ, Our True Life</i> (Pr Hien Nguyen)
Closing Hymn	No. 173 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Israel Regains Her Nationality, Christian Countries More Converted

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, June 5, 05)

Text: Zechariah 10:6-10; 8:21-22

We have been talking about the return of our Lord from the Tsunami of Dec 26, 04. Now we have another two fulfillments according to Zechariah 10:6-10; 8:21-22.

As to Israel regaining her nationality, she has been a people without a country for 2,000 years until May 14, 1948 and she had to fight 5 wars against the Arabs from her independence to 1982—5 against Lebanon. So we have The War of Independence, 1948. There were 2) The War of Suez, 1956, 3) The 6-Day War, 1967, 4) The Yom Kippur War, 1973 and 5) Against Lebanon, 1982—5.

Not only has Israel regained her nationality, she has become a super power in the Middle East in

fulfillment of Christ's Coming.

The second sign in conjunction with Israel is many Christian countries from around the world will visit Israel and becoming more converted. "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) We of True Life Church must win more souls for Christ before He comes.

Do you know all the countries increasingly visiting the Holy Land are Christians? And as they visit the Holy Land and learn of Him and His wonderful presence at every spot He walked, to Golgotha where He was crucified and to the Empty Tomb when He rose from the grave. Practically all have believed and are saved. During my last 11 trips to the Holy Land, I had over 500 followers. Practically every one of them were saved. They have seen and they have believed.

Let me witness to you how our Lord has mightily blessed the Bible Presbyterian Church in further converting many in the Holy Land itself to our Lord. The Bible Presbyterian Church in USA through The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions sent Dr. Lambie to open a T.B. Hospital here at Baraka, 10 miles south from



Choir Gathering, May 22, 2005

Bethlehem. He had 80 Arab employees who were converted, so he built a Baraka B-P Church in Bethlehem.

A male nurse, George Awad after Dr. Lambie was gone was called and ordained over the Church. His wife and four sons became zealous Christians and the youngest son Danny Awad was called to study to be a pastor. He spent 4 years in a Bible College in the Philippines where he graduated and he married a Filipino classmate and she gave birth to two children and returned to the Holy Land with her husband to minister.

We who went to the Holy Land in 1987 bought them a piece of Land to build a Church and now in the Shepherd's Field stands another B-P Church for the Arabs, a youth Church under Rev Danny Awad. O the joy of seeing 200 of them come for the Christmas Service.

Since the founding of True Life B-P Church I have reported the Shepherd's Field B-P Church asking us for US\$200 a month to support Rev Danny Awad and our Church has done our bit for the furtherance of the Gospel.

The Lord's Coming is very near and may be in our lifetime. We have no excuse to take things easy. We must rather convert every True Lifer, including our children and loved ones in the spirit of our going to the Holy Land and seeing them believe as they have finally seen Golgotha and the Empty Tomb.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Rom. 10:9, 10)

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XII

John 12:20-22

Rejected by the Jews, Welcomed by the Greeks

It is John who lets us into an interview of certain Greeks with the Lord during Holy Week. These were devout Gentiles coming from various countries to attend the Passover feast in Jerusalem. (From Romans 1:16 it appears the word Greeks is taken to mean Gentiles broadly).

Apart from the conjecture they might have come from Galilee, we have concrete examples of their devoutness. Read the story of the good Centurion of Capernaum (Matt 8:5-13). For his great faith and worship of the Lord Jesus he is made a forerunner of many who shall come from the east and west, and shall sit with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Luke tells us further this Centurion had built a synagogue for the Jews (Luke 7:5).

These Gentile Greeks figure greatly in the Acts of the Apostles as "fearers" or "worshippers of God" – earnest heathen, who turned from idolatry to the Jewish faith in one living and true God (I Thess. 1:9). The "Greeks" while not taking part in the ceremonial, nevertheless, joined with worship of the Synagogue and Temple. One of them was Cornelius, a Centurion of the Italian band, a Roman.

Other than these "Greeks", we can think of the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:27) who also came to Jerusalem to the Feast (Acts 8:27).

So when those Greeks asked to see Jesus, they were seeking for the Truth. While the Jews had rejected Him here were Greeks who received Him. These are the other sheep that must be brought into the fold (Jn 10:16). And when Greeks,

Romans and Ethiopians are converted to Christ they will sing –

"In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love,
Throughout the whole wide earth"

The Greeks represent the cultured and educated Gentiles. Our ministry must not neglect the educated (Rom 1:14).

The Barbarians, those who speak uncultured dialects, are their counterparts to whom Paul is indebted in the Gospel. Hence the importance of missions to far off islands and heartlands of continents. They are also crying, "Sir, we would see Jesus."

Do you, like Philip, bring them to Christ?

John 12:23-47

Glorification through Crucifixion

In answer to the inquiring Greeks Jesus talks of the glorification of the Son. What does this mean? Calvin says this glorification "refers to the proclamation of the Gospel, as if He had said that soon the knowledge of Him would be spread throughout every region of the world". Ellicott says, "This is to be accomplished in His ascension and return to Heaven. But the immediate connection implies that He regards the extension of His Messianic work, and the acceptance of His truth by the nations of the earth, as part of the glory of the Son of man."

But the way to this "glorification" is one, only one – the way of the Cross. Jesus once again announces His death, the heavenly corn of wheat falling into the ground of humanity to die. He is optimistic about His death because out of it will come the Resurrection and the bringing in of countless souls as fruits from His death. In v. 25 He exhorts once again the fearful disciples to follow Him to the end. They who will suffer with Him will reign with

Him. (v. 26) This theme He has been harping upon ever since Caesarea Philippi (Matt 16:21) in order to strengthen His followers.

But Jesus is both God and Man, fully God, fully Man, yet without sin. As Man He has also the weakness of the flesh. "The Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt 26:41). Suddenly, a dark cloud from Gethsemane, as it were, overshadowed Him, "Now is my soul troubled, . . . and what shall I say? Father save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour." O, the mystery of Godliness and the mystery of humanity united in one Christ. The mystery of human tension in Godliness and the mystery of Godly tension in humanity.

Who can enter into the mystery of those days before crucifixion? Let us say with Paul, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death" (Phil 3:10). Memorise this verse.

The Good Word

by John Tow

Let us therefore
with one accord,
With billions hail
our Savior's Word
His Counsel stands
on its record
So always let us
heed His Word
And not forget:
"Thus saith the Lord!"
His will is that
He will be heard!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 20 – 26, 2005)

WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Ronny Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship will be having Quiz/Games Day this Sat (Jun 25, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jun 25, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Dr and Mrs Lee Kek Gee's home at 35 Moonbeam Terrace, Singapore 277308. Program: Bible Study on Jude by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Jun 26, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,618.10; RM202
Designated Offerings: *Wendy Teng* \$100;
FEBC \$2,000, \$626, \$250, \$200, \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$9,894.10; RM202
Church Building Fund: \$10,000, \$1,000,
 \$1,000, \$200, \$100, \$50 **Total:** \$321,065.60

Sunday School Offering: \$422.00

Verse for the Week: *Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.* Prov. 11:21

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng on July 1, 05 (Fri) at 8 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. For those who wish to open their homes, please register with Wendy Teng at 94754067.

Pastor Tow is away for a preaching appointment at the Thanksgiving Service of Berean B-P Church today.

Pastor Tow will be preaching at the 18th Anniversary of Tabernacle B-P Church next Lord's Day, 3.30 pm.

(Cont'd from previous page)

My words abide in you." How can we truly submit ourselves to the authority of God's Word if we do not believe that we have God's Perfect Word, which is without any mistakes, inerrant, infallible, 100% inspired and 100% preserved for us today?

My dear friends, do not be deceived by anyone. The Lord Jesus is our true life, and He can produce a true Christian life in us, and change us and transform us day by day, and His words can make us clean (v 3), and regenerate us (1 Peter 1:23) and sanctify us (John 17:17). If we question, or doubt, or criticise God's Word, we have not truly submitted ourselves to the authority of His Word, and we can never bear true fruit because when we despise God's Word, we do despise God Himself!

Conclusion

My dear friends, the Lord Jesus Christ is our true life. His grace is sufficient for us

when we are willing to walk alone with God and determined to listen to His voice alone. That is enough! God will see us through all situations and help us overcome Satan and the world, temptations and our sinful nature because if God is in us and for us, no one can be against us, neither Satan can harm us. The Bible says, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" (Col 3:3-4).

May God help us trust in Him and depend on Him all the time and always submit ourselves to Him and to the authority of His Perfect Word so that we may bear much fruit for His glory. I do thank God for His providence that He brought me from Trinity Theological College to FEBC to study His Word with sound doctrines so that I may bear good fruit and stand before you this morning and share His Word with you. All glory to the Lord. Amen.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 38

19 June 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 4
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 103
Psalms	No. 216
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 245
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Psalms 126
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>From Sadness to Happiness</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 104
Benediction	Rev Jeffrey Khoo

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

How quickly our Annual Bible Camp at Mersing, June 7 – 10, 05 has come and gone! The messages were given not only by Pastor and Dr. Jeffrey Khoo but also by Hien from Brisbane and Rev Errol Stone from Perth.

Rev Errol Stone and his people have been worshipping at St. John's Ambulance Headquarters until this week when they have to shift to another location further north though their home remains the same.

Our Camp this time was full of children. A special programme was prepared for them. They sang beautifully two songs at the worship service. Hien preached an appropriate message titled "Jesus Christ, Our True Life" which touched many hearers.

One special feature of the Bible Camp was an outing to a nearby island where they had a swim.

My message to the Camp is Our Church Has

Seven Roots. Our First Root is French. It comes from Calvin from which is the Reformed Faith. We are Protestants. Luther's teaching is, The Just shall live by faith. Lutherans on the other hand cannot be sure of their salvation but followers of Calvin are very sure. "Once saved, always saved." Even I was not sure until I studied at Faith Seminary in America. I was so gladdened by Calvin's teaching that I abridged Calvin's Four Books which are treasured to this day.

The Second Root is English. Being Presbyterians we are not Anglicans with their bishops and Archbishop. We believe in the government by Elders.

The Third Root is Scottish. There was a strong English Presbyterian Mission, its representative was William Chalmers Burns, a Scotsman (1815 – 1868). He came to China in 1847 and founded the Teochew Church in Swatow. Under him my maternal great grandfather was converted in 1859 and ordained first pastor in 1882.

The Fourth Root was German. Though the English Presbyterians were the first to establish the Teochew Church in Swatow, there was one fishing village called Iam Tsau, 25 miles from Swatow, earlier occupied by Dr. Rudolph Lechler of the Basel Missionary Society. Dr.

Lechler persisted in planting a church in Iam Tsau (1848–1852), although he was banished from his Iam Tsau station at the behest of changing Prefects. Nevertheless, he was able to baptise 13 believers from whom a church was established. The Tow and Lim (Joshua) clans have descended directly from this remote Teochew village church so that, as a matter of fact, our B-P Church has also a little German Root!

Years later, Rev Tan Khai Lin my maternal great grandfather, became superintendent pastor of Iam Tsau Church. What Lechler planted, William Burns and Tan Khai Lin watered, but God gave the increase (I Cor. 3:7).

Dr. Lechler moved inland to work with the Hakkas and founded the Basel Church.

In 1935 Singapore, Aug – Sept, was visited with a Pentecost through the ministry of Dr. John Sung whereby 2,000 nominal Christians were soundly converted. Rev Quek Kiok Chiang, pastor of Faith B-P Church, I and my brother, Dr. S. H. Tow, pastor of Calvary B-P Church were also converted and fired with a zeal for evangelism. In Dr. John Sung we have our Chinese Root.

When I your pastor now serving True Life Church was called to study for the ministry, I went to Faith Seminary in USA. I soon heard Dr. Carl McIntire calling for a 20th Century Reformation because the 16th Century Reformation was now undermined by modernism and liberalism. My heart was so touched that I became his disciple. Here is our American Root.

Our Seventh Root is the founding of an English Service for Life Church, Prinsep St. and how Elder Quek Kiok Chiang, I and Deacon Hsu Chiang Tai became The Three Musketeers and followers of McIntire. Of the Seven Roots, American Root has led us to become Bible-Presbyterians.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

JESUS CHRIST, OUR TRUE LIFE

(Message delivered by Pr Hien Nguyen at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, June 12, 05)

Text: John 15:1-8

(1) What is Our True Fruit, True Life?

We know that our Father is the Husbandman, or the Farmer, the Gardener (v 1). His purpose is that the branches must bear fruit, bear more fruit (v 2) and bear much fruit for His glory (vv 5, 8). There is no other way, if we do not bear fruit, we shall be taken away (v 2). Then what is our true fruit?

We can see many artificial flowers and fruits, but they are not real and have no life, only for decoration. Many believers nowadays also profess that they are Christians. They also preach the Bible, they also believe the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and they also believe that the Bible is the Word of God, but are they true Christians? Are you and I true Christians? Then we must look into the Bible, the Word of God, to determine what is our true fruit or our true Christian life.

(a) *It is true obedience to God, His will and His Word.* Jesus says, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt 7:21-23). This is for the branch in the Lord without bearing any fruit (v 2). They claim to trust in the Lord and appear to do many things for the Lord but they do not submit themselves to the Lord and to the authority of His Word. They do not obey God nor do God’s will, and they will be taken away.

(b) *It is a true holy life.* God purges us so that we may bear more fruit (v 2). When God chastises His children because of His love, He wants them to be partakers of His holiness (Heb 12:10).

(c) *It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.* God expects us to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance or self-control (Gal 5:22-23).

(d) *It is a Christ-like life.* God has called us and saved us so that we might be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:29).

(2) Who Can Produce True Fruit, True Life?

God chose Israel as His own people, and gave them the law, the promises, and the covenants. God had done whatever He could for them and expected them to bear good fruit. Sadly, they only brought forth bad fruit: “What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?” (Isa 5:4). This proves that man cannot produce any true or good fruit by himself due to his corrupt and sinful nature. Then, who can help us to produce true fruit? In verse 1, the Lord Jesus says, “I am the true Vine.” And this statement reminds us of some precious points:

First, this is the covenant Name of God, the LORD, Jehovah, I AM THAT I AM (Exod 3:14). Then, the Lord Jesus is not only Perfect Man but also Perfect God, the LORD Jehovah Himself.

Second, the Lord Jesus wants to use this statement as a metaphor to tell us that He is our true Source of life because it is the Vine that supports the branches. The present tense of the words “I am” and the definite article “the” speak of the eternal truth that the Lord Jesus alone is the Source of life. The word “true” tells us that Jesus is the living and true God, and the Lord Jesus is our true Saviour, and our true Lord. God’s Word is true from the beginning (Ps 119:160), and God is seeking true worshippers, who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). My dear friends, “Let God be true, but every man a liar” (Rom 3:4). God expects us to bear true fruit for His glory.

Finally, our true Source of life is the Lord Himself, a living Person, a Divine Person, and not a thing. If we now have fellowship with

Him, we have His life. And if you are not sure that you have this life in you, you can open the door of your heart and receive the Lord Jesus into your heart (Rev 3:20). Then only the Lord Jesus can produce true fruit in us. Only the Lord Jesus Christ in us can produce true peace and true joy that the world and the pleasures of the world cannot give to us. And no one can take this true life away from us.

How can we live a true godly life in this sinful world? The apostle Paul shares his experience in Romans 7 when he struggles greatly in his battle against sin and temptation. Then he cries, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” So, only the Lord Jesus Christ Himself can produce a true holy life, a true godly life in us. All glory unto Him!

(3) How Can We Live a True Christian Life?

There are two conditions for a Christian to bear true fruit:

(a) *Full dependence on the Lord: abiding in the Lord Jesus* (vv 4, 5, 7). This means we need to trust and depend on Him fully all the time as the branch must depend on the Vine to have life.

(b) *Full submission to the Lord and His Word.* The Lord Jesus came to serve, not to be served. He died for our sins, but He rose again. The Bible says that God has made Him both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36), and that God has exalted Him to be a Prince and a Saviour (Acts 5:31). How about us? Do you and I exalt the Lord Jesus as our Lord, our King? If we still do what we like, speak what we like, watch what we like, read what we like, or go wherever we like regardless of the Lord and His will and His Word, we are still a king of our own heart, not the Lord! The Lord Jesus says, “But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me” (Luke 19:27). The Lord Jesus must be our King, our Lord, and we must be submissive to His control and guidance. We are to be submissive to the authority of His words as verse 7 says, “and
(Cont’d on next page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jun 27 – Jul 3, 2005)		
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow)
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study
Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Friday (Jul 1, 05) at 8 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130.		
Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jul 2, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Obedience" by Sis Wendy Teng. There will be a pot-bless dinner after message. All parents of YPFers are welcome. Kindly RSVP with Serene by Tues (Jun 28, 05) at 97882429. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.		

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS			
General Offerings: \$5,716.60			
Designated Offerings: Rev Tow \$200; FEBC Students \$300; Nelson Were (FEBC) \$50; Lian Uk (FEBC) \$50; Lam Mung (FEBC) \$50; Febian (FEBC) \$50; Merlin (FEBC) \$50; Manling (FEBC) \$50; Wendy Teng \$100; FEBC \$1,000, \$600, \$150			
Total General and Designated Offerings: \$8,366.60			
Church	Building	Fund:	Total:
\$322,065.60		\$1,000	
Sunday School Offering: \$458.00			
Verse for the Week: <i>As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.</i> Prov. 11:22			
There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 249 Bangkit Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.			
Pastor Tow will be preaching at the 18 th Anniversary of Tabernacle B-P Church this afternoon, 3.30 pm.			

(Cont'd from previous page)

prepared to abandon the good name of "Biblical fundamentalism" in favour of a rather vague "preservationism" or "paleo-evangelicalism" as suggested recently.)

(5) **Our Hope: The B-P Faith believes in the glorious promise that once a Christian is saved, he is always saved.** The God of the Christian Bible who has promised to preserve every one of His inspired Hebrew and Greek words has also promised to preserve every one of His saints who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ (John 10:27-29, Rom 8:28-39). We reject the mistaken Arminian view that a Christian can fall into and out of grace—saved at one moment, and unsaved the next. The Lord will never disown His children even when they are sometimes disobedient, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb 12:6). Every Christian will surely get to heaven. The Holy Spirit who indwells every believer guarantees it (Eph 1:13-14). (For in-depth study, read *Calvin's Institutes*

Abridged by Rev Dr Timothy Tow available at www.febc.edu.sg/press.htm.)

We are confident that the foundations of our faith are sure and secure. Our foundations are none other than the Living Word—our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday, today and for ever," and the Written Word—the 100% inspired and 100% preserved Hebrew and Greek words of the Reformation Text that are incorruptible, unchangeable, and forever infallible and inerrant, that form the basis of all faithful translations of the Protestant Reformation.

As Bible-Presbyterians, we are BIBLE first, then Presbyterians. But certain pastors and presbyters today override the Bible and criticise the Bible they hold in their hands. The question and challenge of the hour remains: Will history repeat itself? Is this the generation that will see the downfall of the B-P Church? Will B-P sons deny the Faith, or will they defend the Faith? O Lord, save us from the apostasy to come!



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 39

26 June 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 20
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 105
Psalms	No. 222
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 273
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Col. 1:9-23
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Ronny Khoo
Sermon	<i>Strengthening Our Faith</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 543
Benediction	Rev Ronny Khoo

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Last Lord's Day I ministered at Berean's new place of worship somewhere behind Lavender St. It leads from a back lane to a Super Food Court which also faces Jalan Besar. Two Life Church Session members, Elder Tan Nee Keng and Deacon Wee Hian Kok are now worshipping at Berean and studying at FEBC.

This Lord's Day I am called to preach at the 18th Anniversary Service of Tabernacle B-P Church at Siglap, 3.30 pm, by Elder John Leong.

Now, here comes another B-P Church celebrating her 1st Anniversary. It is the Gethsemane B-P Mission Church in Cebu, Philippines, July 3, 05. In line with this they would appreciate it if I could write a short greeting to the Church to be printed in their Church bulletin on that day.

Why me? Because the young Filipino Pastor there is a graduate of FEBC with a growing congregation of 50–60 supported by Rev. Dr. Das Koshy, pastor of Gethsemane BPC, Singapore. His name is Reggor Galarpe.

Here are my greetings to this B-P Filipino Church, "May many more Filipino students come and study at FEBC in Singapore and return to establish many more BP Churches in Cebu and beyond for Christ is soon coming." – T. Tow.

In regard to Christ's Coming, Jesus says "there will be an extension of the gospel in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). Our shifting to RELC has broadened our contact with not a few other nationalities. Let our members who find them sitting next in church show their welcome. We have observed among them Indonesians, Australians, Indians, Malaysians, Americans, mainland Chinese, etc. Those who come regularly to True Life we would bring into the sheepfold, i.e. they must know whether Christ's death and resurrection has saved them. If they have found the Saviour they must prepare to get baptised at the next Church Anniversary.

If we hear of another B-P Church reaching out to found another B-P Church, e.g. Tee Chung Seng of Kelapa Sawit now in Jemaluang, 13 miles south of Mersing, we must try to help them.

Last Wednesday news was received that Dr. Arthur Steele was hospitalised and his daughters have asked us to pray for him. We prayed for him on Friday, our Prayer Meeting night. Lord, have mercy.

– T. T.

KNOWING OUR BIBLE- PRESBYTERIAN FAITH

by Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Why should we know our Bible-Presbyterian Faith? Don't we know it already? Every member catechised and baptised in the B-P Church should know why he is B-P, but sadly, this is sometimes not the case. Some may know it in the head, but not in the heart. Some know it in name, but not in practice. Some may believe in the B-P Faith, but do not care to defend it. These are the fence sitters who can smile at both truth and error. On the Bible issue, the KJV is good, but the NIV, NASB, TEV, RSV, CEV, ESV etc are also good (maybe even better, their distorted translations, and their underlying corrupt text notwithstanding).

Will our sons defend the Faith? There is a real need today for Protestant sons to know the Historic Christian Faith not just doctrinally but also polemically in the spirit of Jude 3, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

How we thank God for the 16th Century Protestant Reformation! How we thank God for the brave and godly servants like Luther, Calvin, and Knox whom the Lord had raised to defend the Faith. Without the Light of the Reformation, we would still be in Roman Catholic darkness and bondage today.

Reformation is unending and ever continuing. We remember the 20th Century Reformation Movement under Dr Carl McIntire. The B-P Church and all faithful fundamentalists fought hard and well against modernism, ecumenism and neo-evangelicalism. It was a battle for the Bible, and the battle was fought and won. The doctrine of Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) has become the orthodox expression of our belief in a totally inerrant and infallible Scripture.

The battle for the Bible continues into the

21st Century. Now the battle concerns the doctrine of the Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of Scripture. Neo-fundamentalists are denying that the Church has a perfect Bible today. They claim that the Bible was perfect only in the past when it was first given, but no longer perfect today. God may have inspired His words perfectly, but did not preserve His words perfectly. They teach that Christians do not have all of God's words today, and even if they do, they cannot be totally sure where the inspired words are. There is no tangible Word of God that is infallible and inerrant in every way today. Every Hebrew text is impure, every Greek text is impure, every translation is impure. There is simply no such thing as a perfect Bible, no such thing as a perfect Written Standard today. If that be the case, how can we be sure that Christianity is true? If the Bible today contains mistakes, how can we know for certain that our faith is sure? "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom 10:17). But they insist that the Word of God is impure and imperfect today because God did not preserve His words infallibly. If we do not have an infallible and inerrant Scripture today, then is not our faith vain? Are we still not in our sins? Christians are a most miserable lot for sure!

But our Protestant Confessions of Faith since the days of the Reformation affirm that our Scriptures have been "kept pure in all ages" (Westminster Confession, I:9). We have a perfect Bible today, and on the basis of the doctrine of the *special* providential preservation of God's words in the original languages, Christians by the *logic of faith* can know for sure where the inspired words today are found or located (Heb 11:3, 6).

Despite the sure teaching of Scripture (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35), and the clear testimony of the Protestant Confessions concerning the perfect preservation of Scripture, so-called fundamentalists today say that the perfect preservation of the Holy Scriptures is a "new doctrine." They say that God did not promise that He will preserve His words infallibly to the jot and tittle. Those who teach the 100% perfection of the Bible

today are branded as "heretics." They accuse those who teach that the Bible is 100% perfect and without any mistakes of being "ungodly" and "unscholarly." The godly and scholarly man today is the one who agrees with the so-called "facts" and "evidences" that the Bible today contains some "insignificant mistakes," and has "built-in redundancies." If asked about whether the Bible today has mistakes or not, the best that Christians can say today is, "There are no mistakes in the Bible that should cause us any worry." According to these neo-fundamentalists, claiming that "The Bible has no mistakes whatsoever, period" is extreme and untenable.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do" (Ps 11:3)?

Our foundations are not destroyed and can never be. In my article—"Identifying Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith"—published in the 50th anniversary magazine of Life B-P Church, I wrote concerning our Roots, our Book, our Lord, our Work, our Hope. But let me restate them in light of the present battle for the VPP of Scripture.

(1) **Our Roots: The B-P Faith is rooted in the Protestant Reformation and in Biblical Fundamentalism.** Our roots tell us that we need to keep on "earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Calvin in the 16th Century and McIntire in the 20th Century had their own spiritual and doctrinal battles to fight, and we have ours (read *The Singapore B-P Church Story* by her founding pastor Rev Dr Timothy Tow). In the 21st Century, it is for the perfect preservation of the Holy Scriptures. The 16th and 20th Century Reformation cry of *Sola Scriptura* (Scriptures Alone) must ring true even today as we seek to defend ...

(2) **Our Book: The B-P Faith is anchored solely on the divinely inspired and supernaturally preserved Word of God.** The Bible in our hands today is not only 100% inspired but also 100% preserved (Ps 12:6-7, 2 Tim 3:16, 1 Pet 1:23-25). The Bible today is in the 100% inspired and 100% preserved Hebrew and Greek Scriptures on which the

Authorised KJV is based, and not in the corrupt Westcott and Hort text underlying the inferior modern English versions. There is only one Bible today (the inspired and preserved original language Bible), because we have only one Lord. (Read my books—*Kept Pure in All Ages: Recapturing the Authorised Version and the Doctrine of Providential Preservation*; and *KJV Questions and Answers*, accessible from www.febc.edu.sg/press.htm.)

(3) **Our Lord: The B-P Faith believes in a Saviour who is 100% God and 100% Man in one Person—Jesus Christ—the only living and true God and Saviour of the world.** Our Lord and Saviour who is all-powerful and all-knowing surely could not have allowed any of His inspired words (not just the doctrines) to be lost for He had promised to preserve them to the last iota (Matt 5:18). Our Lord can only tell the truth; He cannot lie (Rom 3:4). His promises are true and He has kept His words. If this be the case, what then is our duty?

(4) **Our Work: The B-P Faith is a militant faith which separates from all forms of unbelief and apostasy.** It is the duty of every Christian to believe the Bible and defend the Bible wholeheartedly and courageously against the insidious attacks on the Scriptures by neo-evangelicalism which says the Bible is *imperfectly inspired* (no perfect Bible in the past), and neo-fundamentalism which says the Bible is *imperfectly preserved* (no perfect Bible in the present). Confusion arises when no clear stand is taken, when lines are blurred. There is a vital need to take a separatist stand and a declared position "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9 cf 2 Cor 6:14-7:1, 2 Thess 3:16-14). We seek God's approval, not man's. The compromiser is the one who seeks the popular vote. But one with God is majority! (For a critique of neo-fundamentalism, read my articles, "The Emergence of Neo-Fundamentalism," *The Burning Bush* [January 2004], and "Bob Jones University, Neo-Fundamentalism, and Biblical Preservation," *The Burning Bush* [July 2005] in www.febc.edu.sg/burningbush.htm. It is no surprise that neo-fundamentalists today are

(Cont'd on next page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 4 – 10, 2005)

WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Jul 6, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "True Wisdom" by Elder Boaz Boon. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jul 9, 05) at 3 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: KJV Workshop by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$10,421; RM54
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Tanzania Bible College* \$2,000; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$250, \$50; *Barnabas Yap & family* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100, \$100, \$50; *FEBC Scholarship* \$350; *FEBC* \$600, \$500, \$200

Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$14,921; RM54
Church Building Fund: \$200, \$150, \$100 **Total:**
 \$322,515.60

Sunday School Offering: \$473.00

Verse for the Week: *The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.* Prov. 11:23

Far Eastern Bible College will reopen on July 18, 2005, 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. Speaker: Rev Dr Das Koshy, pastor of Gethsemane B-P Church. The Basic Theology for Everyone courses will resume with *New Testament Introduction* by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo on Monday nights and *Exodus* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Thursday nights, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 40

3 July 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 83
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 105
Psalms	No. 222
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 249
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7-8
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Hospitality Ministry</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 101
Benediction	Pastor Tow

very soon. We need to learn from them.

In regard to our Lord's very soon coming we pointed out last week how in Christ's acceleration programme (Matt. 24:14) we should pay special attention to all kinds of nationalities visiting our Lord's Day Service. We have observed Indonesians, Australians, Indians, Americans, mainland Chinese coming into our congregation. If they sit near you it is your duty to contact them after service as required of God's Word to win all nationalities to Christ. This is one advantage worshipping at RELC.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Last Lord's Day I ministered to Tabernacle B-P Church at 133 Fidelio Street (Opera Estate), Singapore 458518. It was the happy occasion of their 18th Anniversary. My message to them was "Jesus is coming very soon". Are you labouring with meeting with Him in view? With an active membership of 70 and baptised infants of 16 they have taken a stand with us of a 100% perfect Bible without any mistake.

They go to Chai Chee with their Elder on a Saturday for Evangelism, quoting Prov. 11:30, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

They are planning on a missionary trip to Cambodia July 9 – 13, nine of them.

They have seven who gather for Bible study in Chinese with help from an FEBC graduate, hoping for a Chinese pastor to shepherd them. They are actively labouring to meet our Lord who is coming

EXCERPTS FROM DR. S. H. TOW'S CHAT

26 June 2005

My Dear Readers

1. A VOICE FROM THE PAST

This week we reprint a pastoral which I wrote in 1988 for Calvary Weekly of Lord's Day 13 November. The 17-year-old article has useful practical lessons for all who love God's house. All too often we lack the warmth of welcome for visitors and newcomers, or we fall short in the area of reverence for the holy Sanctuary.

May we be reminded by this voice from the past of the need to



Church Camp at Lautan Biru Resort, Mersing

June 7 – 10, 2005

Theme: Knowing Our Bible-Presbyterian Faith

honour the Lord in His House so that we may receive His approval and blessing.

2. “WHY I LEFT ANOTHER CHURCH TO COME HERE”

No church is perfect, but this does not mean we should not strive for perfection. A church which fails to provide a quiet and worshipful atmosphere in the Sanctuary will cause members to become dissatisfied, and some will leave to look elsewhere.

Recently a new friend told us why she came to us: “In the other church there is chit-chatting in the Sanctuary, and disrespectful behaviour. I found it hard to concentrate on worship.” Another visitor said, “For 45 minutes we sang, clapped hands, prayed and shouted Hallelujah, as well as held hands or raised hands and swayed the body.”

While we may marvel at the defects in other churches, we might well be guilty of other sorts of defects ourselves. As I meditated on the matter, I am persuaded to write for the benefit of all. Surely YOU and I ought to be concerned that we do not “put off” new friends by our commissions and omissions. It is already not easy to get people to come to church, and to drive our visitors away by our defects (which are largely avoidable) must be something most thoughtless and foolish. Let us all examine ourselves: do I do things which dishonour God in His holy Sanctuary?

3. DISHONOURING GOD IN HIS HOUSE

It is a strange fact that men of the world honour their politicians and musicians more than we honour our great Omnipotent God. People are seated 15 minutes before some VIP politician or minister arrives to give a speech. At musical performances (eg of SSO at the Victoria Concert Hall) latecomers are shut out and not allowed to enter to disturb the audience while a performance is on. This is the RESPECT the world shows to VIPs

and music lovers. Everybody observes these rules of common courtesy. But in God’s House it seems we have no rules and no respect for God or others. Consider these 10 ways of dishonouring God in His House:

- (1) Habitual and careless latecoming.
- (2) Coming without heart preparation.
- (3) Irreverent attitude toward Sanctuary.
- (4) Chatting and casual talking.
- (5) Reading things not related to worship.
- (6) Indifference to prayer / singing / listening.
- (7) Walking in and out at will.
- (8) Falling asleep during worship.
- (9) Allowing children to disturb the peace.
- (10) Disrespectful attire, worldly.

When you consider the above account carefully, you will surely say: “These things ought not so to be.” All of us would agree too.

4. HONOURING GOD IN HIS HOUSE

Of course we all want to honour God, in His House and elsewhere, at all times. However, due to thoughtlessness, or lack of discipline on the part of some church leaders, the Sanctuary is allowed to degenerate into a club house or social meeting place, sometimes even into a market-place. (Calvary is not any of these, thank God.) Nevertheless it is needful for us to take stock and IMPROVE the SANCTITY in the SANCTUARY:

- (1) Lord’s Day worship should be seen as the CLIMAX to a week of devotion toward the Lord. We must therefore come with adequate heart preparation.
- (2) Let us keep an early Saturday night so as to be able to get up early on Lord’s Day morning.
- (3) We must LEAVE home EARLY

(making allowance for traffic delays, etc) aiming to ARRIVE 15 minutes before time.

- (4) Approach the Sanctuary reverently and observe SILENCE.
- (5) In the Sanctuary: no casual talking, no unnecessary moving about (Do not walk to toilet! Go before service).
- (6) In worship, do it heartily with ALL our HEART/ SOUL / MIND / STRENGTH.
- (7) Keep young children RESTRAINED.
- (8) Come to God’s House properly attired: no flashy or fleshy clothes. We must All learn to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.
- (9) For today (17 years after) we need to add: check your handphones and pagers, switch them off during Worship Service! Let us observe sanctity in the Sanctuary.

Lovingly in the Lord

Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor

Calvary Pandan BPC

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XII

John 12:28-36

The Father’s Final Confirmation

The Father spoke from heaven on Jesus’ baptism to tell the world that this was His Son (Matt. 3:17). The Father spoke from heaven again at the Transfiguration of the Son to strengthen the faith of the three disciples (Matt 17:5). Now the Father spoke the third and final time to tell both the world and His disciples what He would do through His Son. “This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes,” declared our Lord as the voice subsided.

What was the reaction of the crowd to the Voice from heaven? To most of the crowd it was a rumbling sound, like thunder. “Except a man be born again he cannot hear

from the Kingdom of God” is our corollary to Jn. 3:3. As the Apostle Paul puts it, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” The words of the preacher, declaring God’s message to the congregation Sunday after Sunday, may be falling on too many deaf ears. Are you one of them?

Some of the crowd said, “An angel spoke to Him.” The Voice was from the Father for their sakes, but they thought it to be directed to Jesus by some angelic power. The second class of hearers who see a need in others but never in themselves are not only deaf but blind. When you come to Church you come because there’s a special singing item with angelic music (the church today uses entertainment to draw a crowd) or because you want to hear what He will say to you?

When the Father answered, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again” to the Son’s prayer, “Father, glorify thy name.” He meant to say, “I will perfect what I have begun” (Calvin). It is our duty to make the glory of God the utmost exertion of our life, if need be, even to death. This is the Son’s submission to the Father, who reiterates it in his reference to being “lifted up” i.e. to be hung on the cross to save them that believe. The Father’s final confirmation of the Son finds reciprocal submission in the Son. His substitutionary death on the cross is a prerequisite to the Glory to come. And He invites the crowd again to believe in Him by walking in this light of His teaching. And you!

Come to the Light, ’tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the Light has shone upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 11 – 17, 2005)

WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Adults Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Jul 16, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Program: Bible Study on Hebrews by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jul 16, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on "Ten Commandments" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. Following the Bible Study is a **Combined True Life/Gethsemane Creation Seminar** by Dr Vincent Chia on "The Origin of Life: Is there a Biological Basis for Evolution?" Time: 7-9 pm. Venue: Singapore Post Centre Seminar Room, Level 5 (Near Paya Lebar MRT). All are welcome. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$9,203; RM70
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien & his ministry* \$100, \$100; *Bible Witness Ministry* \$200; *Barnabas Yap* \$100; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *FEBC Scholarship & Printing of CH Spurgeon's "Prayer of Jabez"* \$5,000
Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$15,236; RM70
Church Building Fund: \$2,000 **Total:**
 \$324,515.60

Sunday School Offering: \$547.00

Verse for the Week: *There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.* Prov. 11:24

Far Eastern Bible College will reopen on July 18, 2005, 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. Speaker: Rev Dr Das Koshy, pastor of Gethsemane B-P Church. **The Basic Theology for Everyone** courses will resume with *New Testament Introduction* by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo on Monday nights and *Exodus* by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew on Thursday nights, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.



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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 41

10 July 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 1
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 108
Psalms	No. 232
Announcements	
Special Number	Deborah & Judith
Offering & Hymn	No. 237
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	II Tim. 1:1-7
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Are Grandparents and Parents mindful of their Children's Salvation?</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 291 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Hospitality Ministry

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, July 3, 05)

Text: I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7-8; I Pet. 4:9

Many years ago a fellow from Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean opposite Lebanon, suddenly appeared before my house. To keep him from entering my house I stood in the doorway to block him. When he said he was looking for the pastor and wanted to confess his sins to him, I remembered Paul's teaching to Timothy and to Titus that they be given to hospitality and be lovers of hospitality. I also remembered Peter speaking in I Peter 4:9, "Use hospitality one to another without grudging." I let the Cyprus fellow into my house. He was full of sighs and tears and after hearing his confession, I comforted him and let him go. Let us be hospitable one to another. Do you serve your guest with a cup of coffee?

(1) Today, let me tell you how two sisters are mindful of a hospitality ministry for our church. One of the sisters spotted two new visitors to our church. She contacted them and learnt that they had come all the way from Pasir Ris. She got one of the Elders to welcome them. This must be a warm welcome and they would come again.

(2) This sister made a further suggestion that we should have a Guest Book to write down the names and addresses of the newcomers that we might follow up with them.

(3) Then it was suggested to me that we should have a team of ushers to look out for them and contact them. On second thoughts it seemed to me the best way to get them was through the two concerned sisters.

How wonderful through these two sisters we can get a dozen newcomers in no time!

(4) As Pastor, shaking hands with worshippers leaving church after service, I see many new faces each week. I am simply overwhelmed by the faces, and I have not the time to discover those that I don't know.

(5) The two sisters quoted how in our own evangelism at Bukit Panjang we were blessed with 19

*Children who attended the Church Camp at Lautan Biru Resort, Mersing
Presenting two praise items to the Lord
On Worship Service, June 12, 2005*



going out and how one of the people they talked to was very enthusiastic. She asked questions on the Charismatic church, tongues, etc. Should she come to True Life and no one welcome her, all of our efforts may be gone.

(6) With 300 each week worshipping at True Life we have the trouble of not knowing one another. But when we are in a small church of 30 or 40 we are bound to know one another. To start with I am suggesting our two concerned sisters to look up newcomers immediately after service.

(7) A most important reason why we must look them up, is Christ's accelerated evangelism programme before He returns. Jesus is coming back very soon. Have you forgotten the great Tsunami, undersea Earthquake, on Dec 26, 04 and seven Earthquakes that followed until May 15. Jesus' accelerated evangelism programme is, "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)

(8) At RELC, an English Centre for teaching English to all nations we see many nationalities come to worship. It is our duty to extend our hospitality to find out our visitors if they are believers. By welcoming them they will come again. We observe Indonesians, Australians, Americans, Indians, mainland Chinese in our midst.

(9) We have also the Far Eastern Bible College with 19 nationalities. By preaching the gospel through our students we are witnessing unto the day of His coming. Our faculty with an upgrading programme for BCEA in Kenya touching many races is hastening Jesus' Return.

(10) Do you come to relax in church and taste a good sermon without some work to do for our Saviour? How about our Elders? Paul has mentioned how bishops, i.e. Elders should be given to hospitality. Let this be our hospitality ministry.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XII

Ecclesiastes 3

John 12:37-50

The Father's Final Condemnation

When God has spoken, and spoken again, and again, and man rejects him, he is condemned for ever. With multi-audio visuals, the Voices from heaven and the miracles performed by the Son on earth, alas, the results coming from the audience were scanty. Thus comments John the Evangelist, "But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him" (v. 37).

When God's mercies and grace are repeatedly rejected, then His judicial hardening of men's hearts begin. Isaiah's famous words are quoted to prove the point: "He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart and be converted, and I should heal them" (v. 40). The best example of such rejection we can think of is Pharaoh. Despite the Lord's relief given him after every plague, Pharaoh broke promise after promise to let Israel go. God's grace to a hardened heart, like water oozing over cement, makes it even harder! The Jews who were privileged to see and hear so much from God's only begotten Son became the most hardened lot against the grace of God. This is true also today. The most Christianised nations today, like those in the west, might be called Christian. The fact is they are the least Christian in proportion to the less developed countries who are just beginning to open up to the Gospel. Is that the state of your heart too, you of the third and fourth generation? "The first shall be the last."

But there is always a remnant of believers even among the most hardened.

It is satisfying to note that among them, apart from Nicodemus (Jn. 7:50) were many of the chief rulers who also secretly believed on Him (Jn. 12:42). Are you a secret believer my Jewish reader?

A final warning before Christ concluded this phase of his public ministry, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (v. 48). This reflects His previous warning, "For if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24).

There's a line that is drawn by
rejecting our Lord,
Where the call of His Spirit is
lost, . . .
And you hurry along with the
pleasure-mad throng
Have you counted, have you counted
the cost?

Chapter XIII

To the Disciples already Cleansed Jesus Christ remains their Ablution of Life

It is important to note that the events of Holy Week, the last days of our Lord's life on earth, occupy a sizeable portion of each of the Four Gospels. John devotes practically half of his book to those acts and words of Jesus not found in the other Gospels.

John Ch. 13 is a case in point. Whereas the Synoptic Gospels tell us more or less the same about the institution of the Lord's Supper, it is John who supplements with this vivid and detailed account of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

If at all washing the feet is a courtesy to be observed on such an occasion as the keeping of the Passover in Mark's mother's Upper Room, it is the disciples who should wash the Master's feet. Instead, they were like a bunch of naughty children, vying with one another who should be No. 1 (Matt.

22:24-27). To make it worse, it was at the Lord's Table that the dark intentions of the Traitor Judas Iscariot were conceived. Hence the hint "and ye are clean, but not all." For He knew who should betray Him. Therefore He said, "Ye are not all clean." Washing their feet Jesus would teach them the much needed lesson of humility and loyalty. "Proud man," says St. Augustine, "would perish unless a lowly God found him." So let us learn this lesson too, and wash one another's feet in mutual esteem and forgiveness, in loyal service of the Master.

Some Christian sects practise foot-washing literally like the Seventh Day Adventists. The Pope would go around washing the feet of twelve layman during Holy Week. A holy ceremony they observe because they take Jesus' words literally. We do not practise foot-washing because we take the object lesson rather to heart. Nor dare we tread the way of the cross, in holy service of the Master, without first having our feet washed. Let us not be as "fools rushing in where angels fear to tread." Holiness of life and loyalty of service are both so lacking in the Church today. How do you stand up to the divine measurement set by our Lord as He stoops to wash your feet?

FEBC is the first Bible College to achieve CaseTrust for Education accreditation.

CaseTrust for Education accredited institutions possess good student welfare practices and high quality standards with clear fee policies, well-defined student redress practices and systems, disclosure of commitment to quality, and well-trained academic and administrative personnel.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 18 – 24, 2005)

MON	8.30 am	FEBC Day of Prayer
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

FEBC first semester 2005/2006 will reopen tomorrow, Jul 18, 05, 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. Speaker: Rev Dr Das Koshy.

Thu night class is held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jul 23, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Finding a Life Partner" by Rev Dr Das Koshy.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$10,605.00; RM50
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$100;
Kemaman Mission \$200; *Mrs Tow* \$100;
Wendy Teng \$200; *FEBC* \$3,500, \$250, \$200,
\$100, \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings:
S\$15,555.00; RM50
Church Building Fund: \$280 **Total:**
\$324,795.60

Sunday School Offering: \$489.00

Verse for the Week: *The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.* Prov. 11:25

The Adults' Sunday School and Catechism Class is now studying the book of 2 Corinthians, verse-by-verse. Those seeking baptism or reaffirmation of faith are required to take this class. Class starts at 9.15 am sharp. All are welcome.

Fundamentals of the Christian Faith by Dr Jeffrey Khoo is available at the reception table. Every member/visitor is entitled to a copy free of charge.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 42

17 July 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 2
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 111
Psalms	No. 236
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 118
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	John 15:1-5
Sermon	<i>Man is Helpless Without Christ</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 387
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Are Grandparents and Parents mindful of their Children's Salvation?

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, July 10, 05)

Text: II Tim. 1:1-7

When I was in Secondary School 70 years ago there was no hardship passing examinations. We went through Senior Cambridge without much struggle. Chinese was not compulsory and yet I passed because we were Chinese-speaking and I attended a Chinese-speaking Church. I took Latin and that was where I had to sweat it out. In contrast our children today have to take tuition classes at Kindergarten age.

Grandparents and parents worry over their children's education, but as for their spiritual welfare they are consigned to the Sunday School. But God sees through their hearts.

I. 1. Paul speaking to Timothy rejoiced to trace Timothy's faith which dwelt first in his

grandmother Lois and in Eunice his mother and right down to Timothy himself which was confirmed in Paul's ordaining him to be a minister. Now, how about us? Can we rejoice in our grandchildren and children strongly putting their trust in Jesus Christ that they love to come not only to Church and Sunday School but also to the prayer meeting?

2. Let me give you my testimony. As Grandfather I take pleasure not only to pray with my two granddaughters, I not only teach them to pray but hear them pray themselves. After assuring them of Jesus' love for their souls, then I pray for their education and school work.

3. I examine them if they pray themselves before going to bed at night and before getting up in the morning. The elder of the two answers firmly she has direct contact with God both morning and night. The younger granddaughter is still unsure. She forgets to pray and once or twice her father prays with her while he drives her to school. To remind her to pray always, I said, she would win, and not to pray, she would lose. Praying before exams she wins, but she must do her homework first!



**"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;
and he that winneth souls is wise."**

Prov. 11:30

Tabernacle B-P Church 18th Anniversary, 26 June 2005

4. Our grandchildren and children need our prayers for salvation and we must receive their confirmations. Proof: the love to come to church, to give their own tithes, (I'm speaking of older ones I know) their love for the doctrines.

II. 1. Now, as they go to university, they all the more need our prayers. They should show an attitude of gratitude for all the provisions from their parents.

2. When they begin to date let them go only with Christians, the best with them of the same church. Let them openly discuss with their parents. Let them refrain from pre-marital sex and let them break off with those who take God lightly.

3. If they are called to the ministry and they go to Bible College first, well and good. We have seen those who argue for University first but end up last.

E.g. A Korean girl student wanted to join Singapore Bible College to learn music, but by taking theology at FEBC she was led to finish with an MRE. She did not graduate as a Singer but as a teacher of the Bible. She was called to teach at a Bible School in Cambodia in the Cambodian language. A rare species indeed.

III. Our children need our prayers throughout life.

And Timothy through association with Paul became a minister. But don't forget Timothy's grandma Lois and Eunice his mother and their upbringing of him.

Are Grandparents and Parents today mindful of their Children's salvation? What is your answer?

But you, are you saved? Jesus Christ is coming very soon! Why not serve Him full-time? Join FEBC.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XIII

John 13:1

What love!

There is a Chinese saying: "Before a man dies, his words are kind." His attitude to his fellowmen is suddenly orientated to goodness. How much more the spirit of our Lord. One who is sent from God on a Mission to save a lost world. One sent to die our death, once for all, that we might be delivered from death and live forever more!

In order to spread the good news of His saving grace to a dying mankind, He had chosen twelve disciples, and trained them three-and-a-half years. He ate and slept and walked with them as He preached and taught throughout the land of Judea. What comradeship, what bond of fraternal kindness that bound Master and pupils had developed and deepened through the years. That ineffable brotherly love, "passing the love of women," only David could express from unfathomable depths on the death of Jonathan (II Sam 1:26). This is re-stated by John the beloved disciple in respect of his Lord in the last hours of His earthly life: "Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end" (Jn 13:1). Dr David Smith tries to describe it thus: "unto the utmost – loved them as He had never done before. It was the tenderness of parting; and His heart was full to overflowing when they gathered that night for the last time in the Upper Room. At the very outset His tenderness was sorely tried. St. Luke has told (22:24-30) how a contention arose among the Twelve which of them should be accounted the greatest; and here St. John shows its occasion."

Applying Christ's tender love for the disciples to us who seem far from Him,

Calvin says, "Let us know that He is mindful of us, for He loves His own who are in the world. He still bears the same attitude now which He had at the crisis of His death." Thus, when you feel lonely, deserted, despised, remember this, that He whose love for us is stronger than death will deliver you to the very end.

Days are filled with sorrow and care,
Hearts are lonely and drear;
Burdens are lifted at Calvary,
Jesus is very near.

John 13:2, 3

What Magnanimity!

V. 2 and v. 3 should give us an insight into the divine magnanimity of Jesus Christ. What human leader could tolerate any traitor upon discovery of his plot? V. 2 tells us that Judas Iscariot had not conceived to betray his Lord until this moment, when supper was ended. He who looks into every heart, and not on the outward appearance, perceived the sinister design without casting a glance. Did not our Saviour hint of his fateful hour when he spoke at the end of the great discourse on the Bread of Life, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was who should betray him, being one of the twelve." (Jn. 6:70, 71)

In spite of the rising rebellion in Judas, Jesus remained calm and resolved to wash the disciples' feet, including the traitor's. The assurance from the Father of the universal authority conferred on Him and the self-consciousness of His Divine origin and return to God secured Him from the least perturbation.

If ever there was a human that could approach but a fraction of His composure, it would be His ancestor David, the great King David. How he ruled Israel in royal serenity amidst the intrigues of Joabs and Ahithophels. Can we learn a lesson from our

Lord's magnanimity and go the second mile with evil men? Even when it seems to be a hopeless end? How true the saying by the English poet, "To err is human: to forgive divine."

Read carefully Ps. 41 and discover for yourself the many nuances of psychology that come into play in David's life among friends and foes in His kingdom. Learn from him and our Lord how to detect traitors. But never be a traitor yourself. In codified human law treachery against the king is listed the No. 1 crime. Treachery against the Divine King is surely an unpardonable sin inasmuch as it ends in one's own condemnation by suicide.

O the magnanimous magnanimity of our Divine Lord!



**FEBC Bookroom Promotion:
30% Discounts for most
Books and Bibles.**

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Jul 25 – 31, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	New Testament Introduction (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jul 30, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Forgiveness" by Elder Boaz Boon. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Jul 30, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Tay Bee Heng's home at Blk 526 Serangoon North Avenue 4, #02-110, Singapore 550526. Program: Bible Study on Jude by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$5,773.40; RM70
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Berean B-P Church* \$100; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$500, \$250, \$200
Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$7,323.40; RM70
Church Building Fund: \$550 **Total:**
 \$325,345.60

Sunday School Offering: \$393.00

Verse for the Week: *He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it. Prov. 11:26*

The Adults' Sunday School and Catechism Class is now studying the book of 2 Corinthians, verse-by-verse. Those seeking baptism or reaffirmation of faith are required to take this class. Class starts at 9.15 am sharp. All are welcome.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Jul 31, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Bernard Tee on Aug 5, 05 (Fri) at 8.00 pm. Address: 19A Hillview Avenue, Hillview Park, #08-06 Singapore 669554. Tel: 67609069.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 43

24 July 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 5
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 107
Psalms	No. 226
Announcements	
Special Number	Indonesian Students
Offering & Hymn	No. 137
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	I Peter 2:5-11
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>Walking with the Lord</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 445
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

12. Jeremiah Sim Joo Lian, Singapore (M);

13. Peter Sim Swee Meng, Singapore (M);

14. James Tan Tat Yong, Singapore (M).

The Faculty this Semester are:

1. **Rev Dr Timothy Tow**, MDiv, STM, DD
2. **Mrs Ivy Tow**, BTh
3. **Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo**, BTh, MDiv, STM, PhD
4. **Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy**, BSc, BTh, MDiv, ThM, ThD
5. **Rev Koa Keng Woo**, BTh
6. **Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew**, BArch, BTh, MDiv, STM, ThD
7. **Rev Dr Jack Sin**, BA, MDiv, DMin
8. **Rev Tan Kian Sing**, BEng, GDBA, MDiv
9. **Mrs Jemima Khoo**, BTh, MA, MRE
10. **Miss Carol Lee**, BBA, DipEd, MEd, MDiv
11. **Elder Han Soon Juan**, CertEd, CertTESL, DipTESL, MA
12. **Elder Geoffrey Tan**, BSc, BA (Hons), DipEd
13. **Mrs Anne Lim**, DipRSA, CertRK
14. **Mrs Koa Keng Woo**, Music studies



Berean B-P Church Thanksgiving Service, 19 June 2005, held at their new place of worship at 48A Foch Road (Lavender)



Far Eastern Bible College

reopened Monday, July 18, 2005 with a new intake of 14 students as follows:

1. Ejigayehu Alemu Zeleke, Ethiopia (F);
2. Limhathung Lotha, India (M);
3. Rommy The, Indonesia (M);
4. Philip Kipsaat Lagat, Kenya (M);
5. Richard Kiprono Kirui, Kenya (M);
6. Biak Lawm Thang, Myanmar (M);
7. Mung Hau Khup, Myanmar (M);
8. Ton Soung Kao, Myanmar (M);
9. Eliezer Saycon Ortega, Philippines (M);
10. Cheong Chin Meng, Singapore (M);
11. Ko Ling Kang, Singapore (M);

Man is Helpless Without Christ
(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the
True Life Church 10.30 am Service, July 17, 05)
Text: John 15:1-10

John 15:1-10 speaks against the proud man who says, “Without me, God cannot do anything,” and “I can do something without God.” But Jesus says truly, “without me ye can do nothing.” What does Jesus mean by this? In making this statement, Jesus is telling the proud sinner:

(1) You Need Me for Your Salvation

In the first four verses of John 15, the word “abide” occurs eight times. The Greek word here literally means “to remain.” It has the idea of *permanent residency, endurance, belonging and possession*. A branch has no life outside of its life-source which is the vine itself. Jesus is the true vine. Eternal life comes from Him. He gives eternal life to all who belong to Him and remain in Him. The word “abide” is written in the Greek present tense which calls for a *continuing state or condition*. The believer is called not just to believe but to *keep on* believing, to keep on abiding or remaining in Christ.

The word “abide” is also written in the imperative. In other words, abiding in Christ is *not an option but a command*. It is not something we may do; it is something we *must* do. We must not only believe in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we must also submit to Him as our Lord.

The Saviourhood and Lordship of Christ cannot be separated. Romans 10:9 says, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the **Lord Jesus**, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” It is only when we surrender ourselves totally to Christ as both our Saviour and our Lord, and allow Him complete control of our hearts, our minds, our lives do we find ourselves fully transformed by His saving grace and power.

Of course, salvation is purely by grace

alone, through faith *alone*, in Christ *alone*, and not at all by any good works of our own (Eph 2:8-9). Nonetheless, one evidence of true conversion is the evidence of a transformed life that bears good fruits for Jesus Christ. *The rooting must come before the fruiting*. The fruit of the Spirit can only manifest itself if a person is first of all rooted in Christ—the true vine (cf Gal. 5:22-25).

In saying, “without me, ye can do nothing,” Jesus is telling the proud saint:

(2) You Need Me for Your Service

We need to abide in Christ not only for our salvation, but also for our service or ministry. Jesus says, “He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit” (John 15:5). Jesus wants all of His saints not just to bear some fruit, but *much* fruit. How can we as Christians bear much fruit for the Lord? Not through the flesh, but through the Spirit. If we trust in the arm of flesh in our work for the Lord, we will fail, and fail miserably.

If we want to serve the Lord effectively, then we need the Word of God and prayer. Jesus says in John 15:7, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” Note that it is not just His “message” that must abide in us, but His “words.” Every word of God is important. The Bible has no redundant words. Did not Jesus say, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4)? We have a 100% perfect Bible today, fully preserved, and we are to live by its every word if we are to find the wisdom and strength we need to serve the Lord. God did not just preserve His truth or His message, He also preserved His words to the last iota (Matt. 5:18, 24:35).

When we allow the words of the Lord to dwell richly within us, then we will

have the heart and the mind of Christ. His desires become our desires, and our desires become His desires. And when this happens, we shall pray to the Lord for what we want, and it shall be given to us. The psalmist says, “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Ps. 37:4).

If we want the Lord to bless us in His service, we must serve Him with pure motives—to glorify the Lord and Him alone. Jesus was so powerful and bore so much good fruit in His ministry on earth because He always sought to glorify His Father in heaven. And so He tells us to do the same. “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:8).

Finally, our service for the Lord must be constrained by His love. Jesus says, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love” (John 15:9-10). If we love the Lord, we must keep His commandments. *Obedience* is the key to effective service for the Lord. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XIII

John 13:14-15

The Dual Significance of the Feet-Washing

“What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter” (v. 7). What Jesus did at the moment confounded His disciples, for as we have earlier observed, the washing of feet was what the disciples should have done for their Lord in the beginning.

As we look at the sacred event from a distance, we can see more clearly its significance:

(1) The disciples who had come to trust the Saviour were washed already, save their feet. This signified their contamination with the world in their daily walk. We need to come to Jesus for cleansing from such contamination as the rivalry for first place even as we come to the Lord’s Table. Jealousy, pride, suspicion, backbiting are sins of the spirit, more deadly than the lusts of the flesh.

(2) The disciples as a college of trusted lieutenants had now been jolted into disarray by such a turncoat as Judas Iscariot. Hence they were not clean. We must guard always the rank and file of the Lord’s army that there be no defection. How? By washing one another’s feet.

We should wash one another’s feet if the Master has condescended to wash His disciples’ feet. We must come to terms with one another in the service of the Church. For any Session member to speak evil of the Pastor, for any Christian to malign his Church, without any just cause is treachery. Let us never become disloyal to those with whom we labour in the Kingdom of God.

Simon Peter, though not understanding the full significance of Jesus’ word, was nevertheless right when he said, “Not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” Let us add, “My heart, and my bowels.” Have you been washed by the Blood of the Lamb?

His power can make you what you ought to be!

His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free;

His love can fill your soul and you will be,

‘Twas best for Him to have His way with thee.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Aug 1 – 7, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	New Testament Introduction (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Aug 3, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "The Prayer of Jabez: Do's and Don'ts" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Bernard Tee this Friday (Aug 5, 05) at 8 pm. Address: 19A Hillview Avenue, Hillview Park, #08-06 Singapore 669554. Tel: 67609069.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Aug 6, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Teach me to Pray" by Sis Wendy Teng. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$7,671.50; RM10
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$170;
Evangelism Ministry \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100;
FEBC \$1,000

Total General and Designated Offerings:
S\$9,241.50; RM10

Church Building Fund: \$200, \$50 **Total:**
\$325,595.60

Sunday School Offering: \$522.00

Verse for the Week: *He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.* Prov. 11:27

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 247 Bangkit Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

The Asian Awakening by Rev Timothy Tow is available at the reception table. Every member/visitor is entitled to a copy free of charge.

The Session together with members of Calvary Tengah B-P Church cordially invites members of True Life B-P Church to rejoice with them on the occasion of their 11th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service next Sun, *Aug 7, 05* at 2 pm. Venue: Shalom Chapel, 345 Choa Chu Kang Road, Singapore 689485. Speaker: Dr Tow Siang Hwa.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 44

31 July 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 86
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 108
Psalms	No. 232
Announcements	
Special Number	Elder Boaz Boon
Offering & Hymn	<i>Bring All The Tithes Now Before Him</i>
Offertory Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Matt. 24:3-14; I Thess. 4:13-18
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Signs of Christ's Coming Multiply, Are You Ready?</i> <i>Behold, The Son of God is Coming Again!</i>
Closing Hymn	Pastor Tow
Benediction	Pastor Tow

2. Do you know since the great tsunami of Dec 26, 04 till May 15, 05, 4½ months there have been 8 earthquakes, i.e. Jesus is reminding us His Coming is very, very near and we should be winning souls before He comes.

3. Let me now add one more, No. 9 which took place in Japan last week, and 27 were hurt in Tokyo which caused the stopping for one day of the bullet train and flying out of Tokyo.

I preached on the coming of Christ in conjunction with earthquakes some years ago and a B-P pastor criticised me for scaring our members. Now that I have counted 9 earthquakes in 6 to 7 months I cannot be scaring people. I am getting my members to look up and not look down upon the world lest they be left out!

— T. T.

GENESIS

Notes From A Weekly Study

Conducted by Pastor Quek

(Taken from Newsletter of Cherith Fellowship, Vol. 1 Issue 3, July 2005, edited by J.T. Joseph)

CHAPTER 4

Verse 7

'... shall be his desire ...': the reference may be to Abel's desire to rule over Cain – cf. Gen. 3:16; '... and thou [Cain] shalt rule over him ...' – the right of the older brother.



Young People's Fellowship Meeting, 16 July 2005

PASTORAL CHAT

Keeping count of Earthquakes

1. Six Earthquakes in 3 months and 3 weeks!

Every earthquake is a reminder of His Coming and the end of the world! (Matt. 24:3, 7)

From Dec 26, 04 the terrible undersea tsunami that killed 300,000 to April 16 there are 5 more earthquakes. No. 2 killed 500 more in Iran and No. 3 shook Japan. No. 4 was another big one that shook the island of Nias, killed 2,000, the reading was 8.7 on the Richter scale. No. 5 struck Padang, South Sumatra which affected Singaporeans, sending 700 running down the buildings. The 6th quake struck Nias again reading 6.2 scaring people running to higher ground. This happened as recent as Saturday, April 16, 05.

Verse 8

The act was clearly premeditated. Cain was angry at God, but knew he could not touch Him → took it out on Abel, who was closer to God than Cain.

Note the rapid progression of ‘total depravity’, after Adam’s fall. Those with a ‘low view’ of sin would have us believe that a long period of time had elapsed after the Fall. Not so, for we see the first two humans born after that event, well and truly schooled in sin.

Verse 9

God confronted Cain. He wanted the lad to face the issue squarely, and repent.

It’s a mistake to avoid confrontation just to preserve a semblance of peace → tends to lead merely to a truce, and *not* reconciliation.

Verse 9 [last part]

A Christian is his brother’s keeper. With (saving) knowledge of Christ comes Christian responsibility. Neutrality or procrastination are both unacceptable.

Verse 12

The hard labour imposed on Cain was to allow him less time for devising mischief.

Verses 13 - 24

The twofold division of the human race is demonstrated in the distinction between Cain and Abel. We can only assume that Adam and Eve loved their sons equally, and had instructed *both* in the knowledge of God as the boys grew to manhood. What we see manifested in Cain and Abel are therefore innate (spiritual) differences.

Outwardly pious, and keeping the ceremonial observances relating to worship of the one, true and living God, Cain – in time – showed his true colours.

This conflict between the two spiritual lines of humanity continues unabated, and Satan seems, in our time, to have the upper hand. We know, however, that ‘the God of peace shall bruise Satan under [our] feet shortly’ [Rom. 16:20]. God’s punishment of Cain may therefore be seen as the archetype of the final punishment to be exacted upon the Serpent – his eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire.

By application, those who obey not the gospel of Christ will ‘be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power’ [II Thess. 1:9].

God’s curse did elicit from Cain a clear recognition of his lifelong guilt, and concomitant sorrow: he cries out that the punishment of his iniquity [5771/‘aw-vone’] is hardly bearable – *not* that it was undeserved.

Whilst this may not have been sorrow unto repentance, it shows that he, at least, had sobered up: gone was the pride with which he had earlier decided what offering *God* should be pleased to receive from him.

God spared his life, not exacting the death penalty imposed from Gen. 9:6 onwards. In part, this left the door open for repentance, properly so-called. In part also, Cain’s restless wandering served as a stark reminder to the antediluvians of the consequences of disregarding God’s holy law.

The world from Cain to the Flood was utterly unlike that after the deluge. Civilisation rapidly became advanced, aided by the unique and uniform climate worldwide. The ‘waters above’ or vapour canopy [no rain, as yet] produced an elevated atmospheric pressure, and doubtless filtered radiation far more thoroughly than the postdiluvian atmosphere subsequently was able to do. This, perhaps, could account for the near-thousand year life span that was the norm.

Moreover, the gene pool was pristine: brother marrying sister [they had no other option in respect of fulfilling God’s injunction to be fruitful and multiply] had none of the deleterious side-effects that, by the time of Moses, led God to prohibit consanguineous marriages.

The rest of Chapter 4 lists the main descendants of Cain: *Enoch* [dedication], *Irad* [man of the town or city], *Mehujael* [God gives life], *Methusael* [God’s man], *Lamech* [conqueror]; the latter’s three sons are listed also – *Jabal* [wanderer], *Jubal* [sound], and *Tubal-cain* [the inventor of metallurgy, both of bronze and iron].

Mark the man, Lamech. He appears to have inspired the Cainites to defy God in matters small and great. Most noticeably, he despised God’s injunction of ‘one man-one wife, for life’, and entered into a bigamous relationship with two women, *Adah* [ornament] and *Zillah* [shade]. Their names suggest physical beauty, which leads one to suspect that Lamech was moved more by lust than a desire for companionship.

Thus did humanity commence its downward spiral.

There is no evidence, throughout the Cainitic period, of organised government, or a system of laws to regulate society. There was as yet no human agency to superintend standards of behaviour or worship. Some heeded the patriarch Adam’s injunction and obeyed the eternal God; most, however, went in the way of Cain – or Lamech, rather.

Verses 25 - 26

The Promised Line is preserved: God “appoints” a substitute for Abel, in and through the birth of *Seth* [substituted].

We read that Eve named the baby, whereas 5:3 indicates that Adam did the naming. This may indicate that, though man was – and *still is* – the God-appointed head of the family, he would customarily consult his God-appointed life-partner in most matters.

Note that whilst Adam is declared to be in the ‘likeness of God’ [Gen. 5:1], Seth is said to be in Adam’s likeness [5:3]. Indubitably, Seth took on the fallen nature of his father [Rom. 5:12-14].

We should, at this stage, keep three points in mind:

- God instituted the chosen line and preserved it throughout history.
- God’s command to be fruitful and multiply, was being amply fulfilled.
- God’s curse upon the world, and man in particular, remained in effect, the long life-spans of the antediluvian patriarchs notwithstanding

Verse 26

‘... then began men to call upon the name of the LORD ...’

Did this mark the commencement of regular worship of the one, true and living God?

Perhaps not.

With the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden, God also appointed a place and time when men could approach Him, under certain conditions, to offer worship and to hear His word.

The first such occasion was when God instituted the principle of substitutionary atonement, teaching the meaning thereof to Adam and Eve. They, in turn, must have taught the manner of approaching God, to Cain and Abel. (*It is worth reiterating that God may not be approached without the blood of the substitutionary atonement ‘covering’ the nakedness engendered by the guilt of sin.*)

Thus, 4:3, 5 would have not been the first time the two brothers came up to make their offering [i.e., worship] to God. The words, ‘in process of time’ literally mean, ‘at the end of the days’, suggesting regularity in the practice of worship.

If God had been pleased to accept Cain’s offerings hitherto, then we may conclude that he, too, had followed God’s prescription as to the manner of worship.

In other words, he (initially, at least) followed his brother’s practice – Gen. 4:4 – doubtless buying the sheep he would have needed from Abel. He would, moreover, have been counselled along these lines by his brother who, though younger, was a prophet [*Abel – first in the line of prophets: see Luke 11:49-51*]

Life went awry after that fateful day when Cain slew Abel. The practice of *individual* worship, at least by the faithful, would nevertheless have continued, *until* the time of Verse 26 when men began to call on the name of God. This phrase thus signifies the commencement of regular, *public or corporate* worship of Jehovah.

Calling on the name of the one, true and living God – then as now – presupposes childlike faith in ‘Him who is invisible’.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Aug 8 – 14, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	New Testament Introduction (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Lord's Supper) (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Aug 13, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Temperance" by Rev Das Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$9,203; RM50.10

Designated Offerings: *Bible College of East Africa* \$100; *Bible Witness Ministry* \$100; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$2,000, \$500

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$12,336; RM50.10

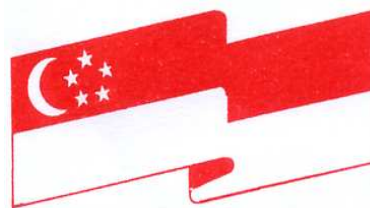
Church Building Fund: \$10,000, \$1,000, \$152, \$80, \$50 **Total:** \$336,877.60

Sunday School Offering: \$412.00

Verse for the Week: *He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.* Prov. 11:28

Those seeking Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

The Session together with members of Calvary Tengah B-P Church cordially invites members of True Life B-P Church to rejoice with them on the occasion of their 11th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service this afternoon at 2 pm. Venue: Shalom Chapel, 345 Choa Chu Kang Road, Singapore 689485. Speaker: Dr Tow Siang Hwa.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 45

7 August 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship Dn Tai Mern Yee

Opening Hymn No. 216

Invocation-Gloria Patri

Responsive Reading Ps. 84

Psalm No. 169

Announcements

Special Number Children's Choir

Offering & Hymn No. 27

Offertory Prayer Dn Tai Mern Yee

Scripture Text I Tim. 2:1-4

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Tow

Sermon *What Can We Do for Our Nation?*

Closing Hymn *Singapura*

Benediction Pastor Tow

**Signs of Christ's Coming
Multiply, Are You Ready?**

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Jul 31, 05)

Text: Matt. 24:3-14; I Thess. 4:13-18

Since every earthquake is a reminder of His Coming and the end of the world (Matt. 24:3, 7), I have been led to keep count of Earthquakes. Six Earthquakes in 3 months and 3 weeks!

From Dec 26, 04 the terrible undersea tsunami that killed 300,000 to April 16 there are 5 more earthquakes. No. 2 killed 500 more in Iran and No. 3 shook Japan. No. 4 was another big one that shook the island of Nias, killed 2,000, the



Choir members visit Ms Tow Soon Ai on 17 July 05

Singapura

T. Tow

Samuel A. Ward

1. O Fai-rest Isle of Southern Seas, Thy waters are so blue; Waft by a balmy
 2. Our fathers came to this green shore, From many climes and lands; They found a richer
 3. On thee we've built a new ci-ty- First great port of the world. Let Right pre-vail and
 4. To-day we sail as one na-tion, Our flag is fly-ing high; May our Cap-tain by

o-cean breeze, Thy land is decked with dew. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! Thou
 life in store Be-neath just ru-ling hands. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! Thou
 E-qui-ty, Not by might nor by power. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! So
 wise ac-tion Steer us with Com-pass nigh. Sing-a - pura! Sing-a - pura! Light-

fa-voured Isle of ease. God bless thee yet with Thine increase, And peace from year to year.
 ha-ven of the free. God bless thee yet with Thine increase, And peace from year to year.
 may thy sons serve thee. God bless thee yet with Thine increase, And peace from year to year.
 ship of li-ber-ty. Sail on un-to pros-pe-ri-ty And peace a thousand years!

reading was 8.7 on the Richter scale. No. 5 struck Padang, South Sumatra which affected Singaporeans, sending 700 running down the buildings. The 6th quake struck Nias again reading 6.2 scaring people running to higher ground. This happened as recent as Saturday, April 16, 05.

Do you know since the great tsunami of Dec 26, 04 till May 15, 05, 4½ months there have been 8 earthquakes, i.e. Jesus is reminding us His Coming is very, very near and we should be winning souls before He comes.

Let me now add one more, No. 9 which took place in Japan last week, and 27 were hurt in Tokyo which caused the stopping for one day of the bullet train and flying out of Tokyo.

I preached on the coming of Christ in conjunction with earthquakes some years ago and a B-P pastor criticised me for scaring our members. Now that I have counted 9 earthquakes in 6 to 7 months I cannot be scaring people. I am getting my members to look up and not look down upon the world lest they be left out!

Jesus gave us a lot more signs of His coming in Matt. 24 which are false Christs, false prophets and false brethren inside the church. Outside the church we will hear of wars and rumours of wars, famines and pestilences. Like earthquakes which have so numerous occurred I shall refer to wars and rumours of wars. The most recent war-talk is the 6-Nation negotiation in North Korea and China's ability to retaliate America. As to pestilences the worsening of bird flu and what I would call social pestilence like the two time bombing of London wherein 50 died and 700 were hurt. Then the killing of 88 in Egypt just south of the Israeli border.

The title of my sermon today is "Signs of Christ's Coming Multiply, Are You Ready?" You cannot take it easy when you have the 9 earthquakes recently recorded,

you have wars coming, and pestilences, and what I have called social pestilences. So I ask, Are You Ready? because if you have Jesus as your Saviour, you are sure to go with Him when He comes. If you are not sure you must repent of your sins and call on Him now to save you.

One sin often mentioned by the Apostle Paul is to abstain from fornication, as brought up in I Thess. 4:3-5, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God."

Finally the Apostle consoles us about loved ones who have died. When Jesus comes again He will come with the voice of the archangel giving a shout and with the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up with them, i.e. raptured, to meet the Lord in the air, and shall be with the Lord forever. When we meet with the Lord we will meet with our loved ones together. What rejoicings it will be.

Let us repeat I Thess. 4:13-18 together.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XIII

John 13:16-21

The Treachery of Judas Foreshadowed in David's Life

King David, the ancestor of Jesus Christ, in many ways portrayed his Greater Son. As our Lord is here being betrayed by Judas, Jesus' treasurer and one of the Twelve, so was David betrayed by his closest friend and counsellor, Ahithophel.

Did you read Psalm 41? Do you realise v. 18, ". . . but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me" refers to Ps. 41:9? As David complains to God in this

Psalm about his enemies, he evidently cites the case of Ahithophel at this verse. (Matthew Henry)

Who is Ahithophel? He is to David as Kissinger was to President Nixon. II Sam. 16:23 says of Ahithophel, "And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom."

When Absalom rebelled against his father David, Ahithophel sided with the rebellious son. "He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me." What anguish of soul, as David found himself stabbed, as it were, in the back! What anguish of soul in our Lord too as we now re-read Jn. 13:21.

How can it be that a disciple should betray his Master? This dark mystery is hinted in v. 16. When a disciple tries to become "greater" than his Master. When his will rises above the will of his Lord. How do you react to your superior's instructions? How do you work with your boss? In the Church, how do you go about the Lord's business with your pastor, elder, superintendent, senior? This is one question often asked confidentially to a Referee of one seeking employment with an establishment. Insubordination leads to treachery! Don't be an Ahithophel. Don't be a Judas! "The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him" (v. 16).

In Ps. 55 David speaks further of the traitor: "For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. . . . The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords" (v. 12, 13, 21).

John 13:22-32

Jesus stoops lower to conquer yet

The magnanimous magnanimity of Jesus is magnified further when, after washing all the

disciples' feet, including the Traitor's, He gave a sop to Judas. A piece of bread dipped in the "sauce" (a paste of dried fruits crushed and moistened with vinegar). It was an ancient custom to show special kindness when a host gave to a guest a portion (cf. I Sam. 9:23, 24), like his Chinese counterpart airlifting a chunk of meat with his chopsticks to his friend. Thus when our Lord gave the sop to Judas, it was His final act of magnanimity. Jesus stoops lower to conquer yet.

Dr David Smith comments, "He told the traitor that he was still dear to His heart, and would he even now repent, all would be forgiven. But alas! The appeal was unavailing. Judas accepted the token of love from the Master's hand unmoved, and thereby sealed his doom. It happened with him as with that miserable mortal, Francis Spira, when He stifled the Holy Spirit's pleading and signed his recantation. 'I felt, he afterwards confessed, a wound in my will that I have never got over since; my will has never been itself since that fatal morning; it is paralysed at the heart.' And even so it befell the traitor when he thus did despite unto the Spirit of grace. His soul was blasted." This is what is meant by John when he recorded: After the sop, then entered Satan into him.

He who is afraid to die has died a hundred times! He who is prepared to die, and allows himself to be betrayed to death, can never die! This is the victory of Him who stoops lower yet to conquer. Hence His glorification, and through His glorification the Father is glorified too. In the willing death of Christ on the cross, a wonderful change of things was wrought, says Calvin: "The condemnation of all men was manifested, sin blotted out, salvation restored to men, in short the whole world was renewed and all things restored to order . . . Christ concludes that He will win a glorious triumph by His death, because His sole aim in it is to glorify the Father." Hallelujah for the cross! But let us all learn from our crucified Saviour to be magnanimous even to our foes.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Aug 15 – 21, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	New Testament Introduction (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.00 pm	Adults Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Aug 20, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Program: Bible Study on Hebrews by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Aug 20, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Ten Commandments by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$6,916.00

Designated Offerings: *Tanzania Bible College* \$2,000; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$250, \$50; *Barnabas Yap* \$150, \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$150, \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$350; *FEBC* \$215

Total General and Designated Offerings: \$10,581

Church Building Fund: \$10,000.00 (*Donation from Miss Tow Soon Ai's Home-Going Service*), \$1,000, \$100, \$50 **Total:** \$348,027.60

Sunday School Offering: \$531.40

Verse for the Week: *He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.* Prov. 11:29

Those seeking Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

The family of the late Miss Tow Soon Ai expressed their thanks to members of True Life B-P Church for coming to the Memorial and Home-Going Services of Miss Tow Soon Ai to comfort them during their recent bereavement.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 46

14 August 2005

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 9
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 108
Psalms	No. 232
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 309
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Ps. 90:1-12
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>At 70 or at most 80 you die!</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 559 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

What Can We Do for Our Nation?

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church
10.30 am Service, Aug 7, 05)

Text: I Tim. 2:1-4

It was forty years ago in 1965 after we were not welcome to become a part of Malaysia that we had to stand alone, and now we are become a nation. By honest hard work we have become first port and first airline of the world. Many expatriates working in Singapore could wish to make Singapore their homeland. As for me I have always declared there is no better place for me to live than Singapore. God has blessed us for choosing Singapore for the founding of Far Eastern Bible College where 120 students from 19 nationalities are gathered in these last days for training before our Saviour comes.

What can we do for our Nation while our Lord tarries? Paul exhorts us that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men. Fifteen percent including Roman Catholics are Christians. The rest 85% are Buddhists,

Taoists, Muslims and Hindus, who are outside Christ. We are to pray for them and even thank God for them. Isn't this the first step to bring them to Christ?

Then for kings and all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For our Prime Minister and all ministers of state that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. In so doing it works out good and acceptable to our God and Saviour who will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Is it not a fact that the churches in Singapore by keeping the law obtain favour from the Government so that we can preach the Word, and people from the outside have come to know the Truth. The Government in fact has great respect of the church. Our own Calvary Tengah B-P Church celebrating 11th Anniversary is a case in point.

When some trouble has erupted within the church, some people have thought they will get redress from the Government. But the Government respects a great deal the church and will not interfere in any way.

“Who will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (v. 4). This is the main emphasis of the whole passage of our text. This passage of Scripture bespeaks St. Paul's mind and is an exhortation to us, every



Ladies Fellowship Meeting, 3 August 2005

member of True Life B-P Church, even in missions, to those of us who regularly leave Singapore in the night to get to Kemaman and Kuantan the next day. And to Hien one Vietnamese graduate from Far Eastern Bible College now serving in Brisbane, Australia and remember once again the Lord is coming back even in our life time.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XIII

John 13:33-38

Cocksure Peter

There's a Chinese saying, "As distance measures the power of a horse, so long associations between friends reveal the heart." We have tasted the gall of bitterness in Judas' character as revealed by his treachery of the Master at the Last Supper. Now we shall see the cocksureness of Peter, the centre-forward of the remaining Eleven, pruned. Are you a Peter?

Let us go back to the beginning: ". . . when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own which were in the world, he loved them to the end." (13:1) With Judas now gone into the night, Jesus all the more expressed His tender affections to the rest. But His greater concern for them was their welfare after He was gone, that they love one another.

Now as Christ cared lovingly the future of His disciples, Peter rose to the occasion to express his devotion in the Master's impending danger. He sensed, as they all sensed, that their Lord was coming to the hour of crisis, the hour of arrest and death. In a moment of noble resolution he offered to die together with the Master. Is that not the experience of us who are more emotionally charged? Don't be too cocksure! As Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times before that cock-a-doodle note, so must we be warned against cocksureness.

I have known of an elder who loved his Lord dearly and was outspoken for His cause

in peacetime. During the Japanese occupation of Singapore this elder was one day searched as he walked past a Japanese sentry. Gospel tracts were found on his person. When questioned if he was a Christian he vociferously denied he was one. Peter, beware of cocksureness!

Chapter XIV

To Thomas and You Who Grope for Salvation, Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life

As night had descended and zero hour was approaching, the disciples (minus Judas) were beset with a mounting anxiety. To allay their fears our Lord comforted them with this sermon in the passover chamber.

Though He was soon to take leave of His disciples, He would not leave them comfortless like wandering orphans. He was going back to His Father and would return to receive them to a better abode He would prepare for them. In this sermon Jesus leads them to higher planes of truth, with many applications for their edification and ours.

- (1) His Second Coming
- (2) His being the only way to God
- (3) His oneness with the Father
- (4) His sending of the Holy Spirit
- (5) His peace that transcends the world
- (6) His subordination to the Father

Oftentimes we hear John 14:1-6 read at funeral services for the consolation of bereaved families. We hear it so much that we almost know it by heart. Let us pay more attention to the remaining portion of this chapter.

Usually, it is Peter who stands up to speak or ask questions. Having just been told how he would thrice deny his Lord in the ensuing encounter with the enemy, Peter is ominously silent.

Can you identify the three disciples who speak this time? Who is Judas, not Iscariot? He is the author of the Epistle of Jude, also called Thaddaeus and Lebbaeus in Matthew 10:3.

John 14:1-6

1. His Second Coming

By telling the disciples of His second coming, Jesus gives them what the Church calls the Blessed Hope. Jesus is the only way to God, but it is not a one way street for Himself to go home to the Father forever. It is a two way street, whereby He will return to take us to Himself. That is why He begins with "Let not your heart be troubled."

The classic chapter describing the manner of His return is 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Jesus' second coming will not be the same as His first coming. It will not be in a lowly manger but with loud fanfare of trumpet-sounding angels, in super-atomic power and celestial glory visible in the clouds to the whole earth.

At the second coming the dead in Christ will be raised with new, glorified bodies. They will be whisked up to heaven with those Christians alive after them in a lightning Rapture or Catching-up. Such a cataclysmic event of comic proportions defies every imagination.

Some Christians, studying Revelation and other prophetic Scripture on the end-times, argue much about the timing of the Rapture. This is like going to take a train armed only with time-tables. Jesus does not stress on the timing of His Second Coming, but rather our preparedness to meet Him. Those who have His truth and His life will go with Him who is the way. Thomas' question from a heart of inexperienced faith leads us all who reads this chapter and believe Him into a faith that needs no experience. If we trust the Lord, He will take us back to be with Him. He is our guide to show the way. Can you say you will go with Him at His Second Coming? Or, should He tarry longer, to meet Him when you die? If He does not come to us yet, we must be prepared to go to Him! Are you ready?

John 14:6

2. The One and Only Way to God

Though we have covered up to verse 6 in the previous lesson, we must give special attention to this one verse, for it touches on a

very important aspect of truth. Note that Jesus says, ". . . no man cometh unto the Father **but** by me." No man can go to heaven except through Jesus Christ. How different is Jesus' assertion from the philosophy of the world.

This means the Roman Catholic doctrine of making Mary a co-Saviour is a great lie, though they acknowledge Christ died for our sins. Are you a Roman Catholic? You are taught a wrong doctrine.

This means every human religion, east or west, is of no avail to save us. There's one religion that substitutes with a man for a mediator to God. He is out! Because without the Son, there is no way to the Father. Thus we must pray in Jesus' name. ". . . for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4: 12)

The Jews who stick only to Moses and the 39 books of the Old Testament are also out. They will be saved as a nation when they worship Jesus as their Messiah at His Second Coming (read Zechariah 12:10).

Much less can those who follow Confucius, who doesn't know of life beyond the grave. Much less the followers of Buddha or Laotse. What a pity to see our own countrymen worshipping idols and devils and a host of gods and goddesses; Kwan Yin and Kwan Kong. Heroines and heroes they might be, but those we have named above, including prophets, could not save themselves to live again. How then can they save us?

Some who say, "As long as we have faith", without reference to Jesus, are lost, like a ship without anchor or rudder in a stormy sea. **Jesus is the one and only way to God!** This is what we must tell to others who do not know Him. Do you? Rev. C. T. Hsu, a founder member of the B-P Church now in New York tells the world that "ONLY JESUS SAVES" by wearing this label on his jacket wherever he goes! This has provoked many a debate with Roman Catholics, for good!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Aug 22 – 28, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	New Testament Introduction (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Ronny Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Aug 27, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: The Obedience of Abraham" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Aug 27, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Edward Wong's home at 45 Hindhede Walk #03-06 Tower A (Lobby 2), Springdale. Message: "Raising our children in these perilous times" by Rev Das Koshy. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Aug 28, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs David Ong on Sep 2, 05 (Fri) at 8.00 pm. Address: 31 Windsor Park Road, Singapore 574137. Tel: 64599459.

(Continued from previous page)

thy mouth wide," He says, "and I will fill it." (Psalm 81: 10).

Peace that overcomes Satan (v. 30)

"For the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." J. C. Ryle further comments: Our Lord would have his disciples know that Satan, 'the prince of this world,' was about to make his last and most violent attack on Him. He was mustering all his strength for one more tremendous onset. He was coming up with his utmost malice to

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,981.00; RM219
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$200, \$50; *Barnabas Yap* \$150; *Wendy Teng* \$120; *FEBC Scholarship* \$500; *FEBC* \$300, \$250, \$200

Total General and Designated Offerings:
S\$8,951.00; RM219

Church Building Fund: \$1,000 (Additional Donation from Miss Tow Soon Ai's Home-Going Service), \$1,760, \$1,000, \$200, \$120, \$100, \$50 **Total:** \$352,257.60

Sunday School Offering: \$416.00

Verse for the Week: *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.* Prov. 11:30

Those seeking Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

Fundamental Christian Ministry (FCM) Combined Meeting will be held in Calvary Pandan B-P Church (AV Studio) this Friday, Aug 26, 05 at 7.30 pm. Message: "Will ye also go away?" Speaker: Mr Nelson Were. Contact person: Mr Herbert Goh (HP: 94377715). This meeting welcomes all students from the universities and polytechnics. (A ministry of Calvary Tengah BPC).

At the Book Table: Fanny Crosby's Musical DVD produced by Bible Witness Media Ministry available at \$12 per copy.

The sermons are taped and available for sale in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.

try the second Adam in the garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross of Calvary. But our blessed Master declares, "He hath nothing in Me." – "There is nothing he can lay hold on. There is no weak and defective point in Me. I have kept my Father's commandment, and finished the work He gave me to do. Satan, therefore, cannot overthrow Me. He can lay nothing to my charge. He cannot condemn Me. I shall come forth from the trial more than conqueror."



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 47

21 August 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 31
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 107
Psalms	No. 230
Announcements	
Special Number	Jenny Kan & Andrew Kan
Offering & Hymn	No. 137
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Rev. 2:8-11
Sermon	<i>Be Thou Faithful Unto Death</i> (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 418
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

At 70 or at most 80 you die!

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church
10.30 am Service, Aug 14, 05)

Text: Ps. 90:1-12

There is a Chinese proverb which says, "It is rare for a man to live up to 70." When I came with my parents to Singapore from China in 1926 I first saw my grandfather who came here before us. He was 65 years old and I felt he would not live much longer because of what the Chinese proverb says. The Bible, which is God's Word, says it more accurately, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Ps. 90:10). To word it more vividly, we have entitled our sermon, "At 70 or at most 80 you die!" Not everyone will live up to this ripe old age. My mother lived up to only 54 and my baby Girl of 7 months died 5 weeks after my mother. Everybody wants to live forever.

Let us learn a lesson from my cousin Miss Tow Soon Ai who passed away unexpectedly last week. She must have been ill for a year, going through kidney dialysis. Then she fell on her way to church on the Lord's Day, which resulted in the amputating of her feet. This brought her much grief. She recovered enough to be able to do some cooking and go out shopping. Despite her illness, my cousin was full of life. I was so happy that she would recover completely, I thought, when I heard she was ward at the NUH hospital again. We went to see her but she could not wake up. The next day the shocking news came that she died. She was in her mid-eighties. There is no question but that she is in heaven now but all her well-wishers wanted her to live.

How old are you, in your sixties? Whether sixties or seventies we are all the children of death. Our strength is paradoxically full of labour and sorrow. And when a person grows old he or she has to pay for medicine more than for food. Life is seeing the doctor without ceasing. Since the doctor cannot completely heal you, you have to prepare for death!

The shortness of our lives are compared with a flood that comes in and goes out in a matter of hours.

It is like taking a nap. It is like grass that grows up in the morning but is cut down by the evening. James says, “It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” (Jas. 4:14)

By our sins we have incurred God’s anger over us. By our secret sins which are all exposed before His eyes. So we must ask God to teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. We must repent.

Moses’ first wife died during their wilderness journey to the Promised Land. Moses chose an Ethiopian wife, a black woman, who was approved of God to help him (Num. 12:1-15). The importance of a wife can be seen from Moses’ 90th Psalm though the wife is not directly mentioned.

Although husbands and wives are not openly mentioned it applies to you and me. Husbands and wives have only a short time to live together. We should make it the best we can. Husbands should love their wives and wives should reverence their husbands. Paul says it three times in Ephesians Chapter 5. This is because too many husbands are not loving their wives. As a result many wives have cooled off towards their husbands, leaving their first love. I have known of a wife who dutifully cooked three meals for her husband. Since he took her for granted without any appreciation, when she fell ill she died in a short time as if to say good riddance to her husband. Now the husband has to eat his meals irregularly, seated sadly by himself all alone.

How quickly time flies. How old are you? Whether you like it or not “At 70 or at most 80, you die!” But do you know you are saved or not. The answer is either it is heaven or hell. Where will you go?

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” The wisest thing to do is to repent.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XIV

John 14:7-15

3. Jesus and the Father are One

The doctrine of the Son’s equality with the Father has been enunciated to the Jews on several occasions when Jesus’ authority was challenged. (Review your earlier lessons in John). Philip knows something about this, but is not clear, so he wants to know more (v. 8). So it must have been with the other disciples, and with us.

Jesus and the Father are one because He is the only begotten Son of God. John 1:1 and 2, in introducing us to the True God against the false ones and idols, declares: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” In these statements we are introduced to the mystery of the eternal Godhead: To the unity of God, and to the Trinity of God, Jesus the Son being the Second Person and the Comforter of v. 16 the Third Person.

Jesus is the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of His Person (Hebrews 1:3) so that it is true to say that when we see Him we see the Father. Is that not our experience when we see some son who looks and speaks and acts so similar to his father? Jesus is one with the Father in substance (essence), power and glory (Shorter Catechism A. 6). Proof that Jesus is God: His miracles (Works). Read v. 10, 11.

A most comforting thought is that the disciples, who would be Jesus’ hands and feet when the Head is ascended on high, were promised power to do the works of God like the Son, even more! Here in v. 12-15 Jesus hints of the Pentecostal power to come upon the Church. By faith, we can do the same today! “If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it” (v. 14).

John 14:16-26

4. The Sending of the Holy Spirit

As our Lord has hinted of the power to be unleashed upon His disciples, He now reveals more fully the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, through Whom His power will be given. The Holy Ghost (old English) or Holy Spirit is called the Comforter, or Counsellor in another translation. The Greek word is *Paracletos* which literally means One called to one’s side, or Advocate (1 John 2:1). The Holy Spirit as a Divine Person is here more clearly revealed than in the Old Testament.

In the history of redemption, there is a progressive revelation of God’s gracious outworkings in three dispensations. 1) In the Old Testament, God is presented as “the high and lofty One that inhabiteth Eternity.” 2) In the New Testament God is seen through His only begotten Son. 3) With the return of our Lord to heaven, “another Comforter” was sent in His room, and He it is that continues to this day the ministry of the incarnate Saviour, by wooing sinners to Christ.

It is the Holy Spirit that causes us to be born again by bringing us to the crucified and risen Saviour. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals the Truth of Scripture to us after we’re born again. The Holy Spirit brings us not only to the Son but also to the Father (v. 20). Romans 8:14, 15: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” If you have the Spirit of God in you, you can see things that the natural man cannot see, the spiritual and heavenly truths which are foolishness to the world (1 Corinthians 2).

In v. 26 Jesus says the Holy Spirit “shall teach you all things and bring to remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Calvin comments that we need

patience to learn the things of Christ until the Spirit makes plain what we seemed to have often read or heard in vain. Outward preaching will be useless unless the teaching of the Spirit is added to it. This should supplement what Christ says to Judas (not Iscariot) under what condition God will manifest Himself to man – when we love Him and keep His commandments (v. 21).

John 14:27; 30

5. Peace that transcends the world (v. 27)

Memorise the golden text of this verse, for we so much need peace in this troubled world!

Bishop J. C. Ryle comments: “Peace is Christ’s peculiar gift; not money, not worldly ease, not temporal prosperity. These are at best very questionable possessions. They often do more harm than good to the soul. They act as clogs and weights to our spiritual life. Inward peace of conscience, arising from a sense of pardoned sin and reconciliation with God, is a far greater blessing. This peace is the property of all believers, whether high or low, rich or poor.”

The peace which Christ gives He calls “my peace”. It is specially His own to give, because He bought it by His own blood, purchased it by His own substitution, and is appointed by the Father to dispense it to a perishing world. Just as Joseph was sealed and commissioned to give corn to the starving Egyptians, so is Christ specially commissioned, in the counsels of the Eternal Trinity, to give peace to mankind.

The peace that Christ gives is not given as the world gives. What He gives the world cannot give at all, and what He gives is given neither unwillingly, nor sparingly, nor for a little time. Christ is far more willing to give than the world is to receive. What He gives He gives to all eternity, and never takes away. He is ready to give abundantly above all that we can ask or think. “Open
(Continued on back page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK

(Aug 29 – Sep 4, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	New Testament Introduction (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs David Ong this Friday (Sep 2, 05) at 8 pm. Address: 31 Windsor Park Road, Singapore 574137. Tel: 64599459.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Sep 3, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Patience" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 244 Bukit Panjang Ring Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

(Continued from previous page)

Positively, we must

Be Obedient to the Words of Christ (v 11a)

When the Lord said, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches," he is calling on all believers who are indwelt by the Spirit to obey His words. True believers who have spiritual ears will not only hear but will also obey the words of our Lord and Saviour. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). If we hear but do not do as the Lord says, we may be false or fake Christians, as James says, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (Jas. 2:26).

Be Overcomers of the World of Satan (v 11b)

All believers are overcomers and shall overcome the world of Satan. The word "overcomers" comes from the Greek word *nikao* which means "to conquer, to be victorious." All believers have already

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$7,120.10; RM102.10

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$132; *Hien's Ministry to University Students in Brisbane* \$2,000; *Indonesian Bible Study* \$100; *Filipina Bible Study* \$100; *Barnabas Yap* \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$50

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$9,752.10; RM102.10

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$300 Total: \$353,557.60

Sunday School Offering: \$604.00

Verse for the Week: *Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.* Prov. 11:31

Those seeking Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

There will be a 2nd Anniversary Lunch held at the Chinese Restaurant, RELC, Oct 2, 05, 12 pm. The subsidised charge is \$15 per person. Children under 12 will dine separately from adults, if under 12 at \$5 per person. Friends of True Life will be invited. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

conquered the devil, and have victory over death in the Lord Jesus Christ. All believers will endure to the very end—they will never deny but always confess that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Saviour, and believe in His forever infallible and inerrant Word, no matter what the cost.

To all believers, the Lord promised a crown of life. This life is of course eternal life (John 3:16), and will not suffer the second death, i.e. be cast into the lake of fire on the day of judgement (Rev. 20:14-15).

Dear friends, do you have this kind of a faith—true faith that would be faithful unto death? This kind of a faithful faith is not sourced in us, but in Christ. True, God-given faith is a faith that will never deny Christ, never compromise the truth, and never surrender the faith in the face of persecution or even death, but will be obedient to the words of the Lord, and will overcome the world of Satan. Amen.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 48

28 August 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Geoffrey Tan
Opening Hymn	No. 6
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 107
Psalms	No. 226
Announcements	
Special Number	Indonesian Students
Offering & Hymn	No. 426
Offertory Prayer	Elder Geoffrey Tan
Scripture Text	Matt. 8:5-13
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Ronny Khoo
Sermon	<i>The Healing of the Centurion's Servant</i> (Rev Ronny Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 441
Benediction	Rev Ronny Khoo

Three Heaven and Earth Moving Statements from God's Mouth Settle the Question Whether His Words are Preserved

Our Lord Jesus Christ declared three times in Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33 the same words, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." This settles the question whether His Words are preserved or not. Scholars who miss this statement but argue from other angles are missing the woods for the trees.

If Jesus guarantees that His Words will remain longer than heaven and earth which He has created, its preservation will last longer than the creation.

Two instances in the Bible will illustrate our point. After God had written the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone, Moses broke them in anger when he came down from the

Mount and saw the children of Israel worshipping a calf they had made instead.

Then God said to Moses, "Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest." (Ex. 34:1).

The second instance is recorded in Jeremiah Chapter 36. God told Jeremiah to write in a book words spoken against Israel and Judah and all nations. Then Jeremiah called Baruch his secretary to write in a book Jeremiah's words from the Lord and read them to King Jehoiakim and all in the Lord's house. When the king heard it he cut up the book with a pen knife and burnt it up. But God's Words came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the roll all the former words that were in the first roll which King Jehoiakim had burned.

Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire, and there were added besides unto them many like words.

God's Words cannot be broken (John 10:35) but only be preserved.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

Be Thou Faithful Unto Death

(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Aug 21, 05)

Text: Rev. 2:8-11

Ps. 90:10 says, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” Our life of 70-80 years on this earth is full of labour and sorrow. This short life that we live on earth is full of pain and suffering. Like it or not we are living in a sinful and a sin-cursed world, plagued by all kinds of evil.

What then can we do with the years God has given us to live? How can we live a useful life that will count for eternity? As Christians we have the answer. Live not for self but for Christ. Christ gave His life for us. He lived for us, died for us, and lived again so that we might have eternal life. We owe our lives to Him. Jesus says, “be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). This is no different from what He said in Mark 8:34, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me.” Therefore, let us not live a selfish life but a selfless life for Christ our Lord and Saviour.

What does Jesus mean when He tells us to be faithful unto death? One thing is certain, He is not here telling us to be terrorists, or suicide bombers—kill ourselves and kill others in the name of religion. Terrorism must be condemned. Terrorists are not martyrs but murderers.

So what does it mean “be thou faithful unto death?”

It means we must,

Never Deny Our Saviour in the Face of Persecution (v 8)

The church in Smyrna was a persecuted church. The name “Smyrna” describes the church well. “Symrna” means “bitter.” It comes from the Hebrew word for “myrrh” which is a gluey substance used for embalming the dead. Hence, the name “Smyrna” contains the idea of suffering and death. This was what

the Christians in Smyrna had to face daily in their lives because of their faith in Jesus Christ. In those days, the Christians were persecuted and faced the death penalty if they did not worship the Roman Emperor. During the reign of Domitian (AD 81-96), emperor worship was made compulsory. Every year, Roman citizens were required to burn incense to the image of the emperor. A certificate was issued to prove that they had done so. Without this certificate, they faced the death penalty. Many refused to break the 1st and 2nd commandments of the Lord: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me ..., Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image ... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them” (Exodus 20:3-5). Many who refused to worship the emperor paid with their lives.

One example was Polycarp, a disciple of the apostle John, who was martyred in Smyrna. Here is his story, “And Polycarp was met by the captain of police who said to him, ‘Why, what harm is there in saying, Caesar is Lord, and offering incense, and saving yourself?’ But he at first gave them no answer. When however they persisted, he said, ‘I am not going to do what you counsel me.’ Then they, failing to persuade him, uttered threatening words and took him to the stadium. When the judge pressed him hard and said, ‘Swear the oath, and I will release you; revile the Christ,’ Polycarp said, ‘Eighty-six years have I been His servant, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?’ The judge threatened him: ‘I have wild beasts here and I will throw you to them, except you repent.’ But he said, ‘Call for them.’ Then he said to him again, ‘If you despise the wild beasts, I will cause you to be consumed by fire, unless you repent.’ But Polycarp said: ‘You threaten that fire which burns for a season and after a little while is quenched: for you are ignorant of the fire of the future judgment and eternal punishment, which is reserved for the ungodly. But why do you delay? Come, do what you will.’” Polycarp was burned alive at the stake, and he died in AD 155. Polycarp was the Bishop of Smyrna.

But Jesus has comforting words for those who suffer and die for the sake of their faith. He declared, “I am the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.” Jesus here is saying that He is the living and true God who is the First and the Last—the Author and Finisher of our Faith. He was dead and is alive—He died for our sins on the cross according to the Scriptures, and was buried. But He conquered death by His resurrection on the third day according to the Scriptures. And because He lives, we also will live even though we die. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11:25-26).

Never Compromise the Truth in the Midst of False Accusations (v 9)

The Christians in Smyrna were not sleeping but lively Christians. They actively witnessed for Christ and bore a good testimony for Him. Jesus says He knows fully their good works done for Him and His Kingdom. And because of their good works, they have gone through much tribulation. They have been cast out by family and society, robbed of their possessions, and put in prison just because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Children whose parents have been martyred have become orphans; women have lost their husbands and become widows. Although they have become poor physically and materially, Jesus said they are truly rich spiritually.

The Lord also knows fully the hatred the enemies of the gospel have against Him and His children. Certain Jews have blasphemed God and slandered His saints by falsely accusing them of cannibalism (eating flesh and drinking blood at Holy Communion), destroying homes, and betraying the country. These are all lies. Satan is an accuser of the brethren, and he will spin his lies to destroy God’s Church and God’s children. That is why the Lord calls them “the synagogue of Satan.” Evil and wicked people who gang up against God’s people with false accusations are doing the bidding of their Master—the devil.

Never Surrender Our Faith at the Threat of Execution (v 10)

As human beings, it is natural for us to be afraid when our life or livelihood is threatened—“behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried, and ye shall have tribulation.” But Jesus commands us “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer. ... Be thou faithful unto death.” Instead of fear, there should be joy, for Jesus said in Matt. 5:10-12, “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness; sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

If we are to be afraid, then let us be afraid of God. Fear God not man. Jesus said, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28).

The Lord says that our tribulation is but 10 days. In other words, it is only for a short time compared to eternity. 2 Cor. 4:17-18 says, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Now, when a robber points a gun at you and threatens you, “Money or life?” How would you respond? I trust you will say “life!” But if someone were to point a gun at you and say, “Life or Christ?” We must answer, “Christ!” “Be thou faithful unto death,” Jesus says, “and I will give thee a crown of life.” Jesus also says, “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it” (Mark 8:35).

What does it mean “be thou faithful unto death?” *(Continued on back page)*

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 5 – 11, 2005)

MON-FRI	FEBC Mid-Term Break
WED 7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL, Level 5 Room 502, Napier Room
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (<i>Lord's Supper</i>) (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Sunday School Teachers' Day Lunch will be held today at 12.45 pm, Le Chateau, Level 2, The Pines, 30 Stevens Road.

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Sep 7, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "Mary and Martha" by Rev Das Koshy. All are welcome.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Sep 10, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Prayer and Sharing Session. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,968.00; RM50
Designated Offerings: *Tanzania Bible College* \$2,000; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$500 (YPF); *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC* \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$9,618.00; RM50
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$260 **Total:** \$354,817.60

Sunday School Offering: \$385.00

Verse for the Week: *Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.* Prov. 12:1

Those seeking Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

There will be a 2nd Anniversary Lunch held at the Chinese Restaurant, RELC, *Oct 2, 05*, 12 pm. The subsidised charge is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet. Friends of True Life will be invited. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

We extend our congratulations to Mr and Mrs Chua Jin Yong on the birth of their son, Ryan Chua Jek Wee on Aug 6, 05.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL, Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 49

4 September 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 85
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 110
Psalms	No. 235
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 390
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Eph. 6:10-18
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>In Spiritual Warfare, by Prayer and Supplication</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 362
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Coming and end of the world is near and I have tried to turn your attention from the world. We had eight quakes in several months two months ago. But we have another two quakes the last two months. Let me remind you once again to labour not for ourselves on earth but for His Kingdom above. Let us do good to His Church, not letting opportunities escape us! The last two earthquakes occurred in Japan and at the first one some 60 people were hurt.

That which occurred on Boxing Day, Dec 26, 04 let loose the 1st Tsunami (undersea earthquake) which killed 300,000 in a grim reminder that this world is not our home. We're just a passing through. You have been attending True Life Church, but again let me ask you, "Are you saved?" Or when Jesus comes and you are still alive, will you be changed and caught up to meet with him in heaven?

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XIV

John 14:28

6. His subordination to the Father

"For my Father is greater than I" is one favourite sentence the Jehovah Witnesses have plucked out of context that our Lord is a

PASTORAL CHAT

My Dear Readers

Time flies! Do you realise that in another month we would have fulfilled two years coming to worship at RELC which will gather us to celebrate on Oct 2, 05, 12 pm at a subsidised Chinese Lunch. Be quick to register at only \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

On that Day, Pastor will baptise those who have been faithfully attending Dr Jeffrey Khoo's Sunday School Class. Please don't delay but rather rejoice you will be accepted for salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

We remember Elder Mahadevan how he got ill on his way back from America after visiting his daughter. We pray and continue to pray for his soon recovery that he and Mrs Mahadevan might join us at the 2nd Anniversary Lunch.

Earthquakes are a reminder to us that Jesus'



Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting, 27 Aug 2005

lesser God. The Jehovah Witnesses, like the Arians of the 4th Century, refute Christ's equality with the Father in substance, or essence. While Jesus admits His subordination to the Father at this point, does He not elsewhere declare Himself equal to the Father? Remember how the Jews sought to kill our Lord "because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself **equal** with God." (Jn. 5:18). In John 10:33 Jesus declares, "I and the Father are one." For which the Jews took up stones again to stone him, v. 33: "For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God." The classic passage on Jesus equality with the Father yet in subordination is penned by the apostle Paul in Phil 2:6-8, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

What then does it mean when Jesus says, "My Father is greater than I?" Dr. Buswell says, "It is of the utmost importance that we distinguish between economic and functional subordination and essential equality. When Jesus said, 'The Father is greater than I' and 'I can of my own self do nothing' (Jn. 5:30) we must understand these statements as referring to this economic subordination 'in the days of his flesh.' Christ is like a crown prince who becomes a private in the army of which one day he will be Commander-in-chief. This he does on purpose to fulfill the requirement of national service.

Says Dr David Smith, "He was less than the Father in His state of humiliation, forasmuch as for us men and for our redemption, He had become man, laying aside his proper glory. . . ."

Chapter XV

To infuse us for more fruitful service, Jesus Christ is the Vine of Life

If you read again the last sentence of the last verse of the last chapter, it will give you the clue to the place and setting of this sermon. It is no more in the Passover chamber, but as suggested by Scofield, on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane – outside Jerusalem across the Cedron Valley, on the slopes of the Mount of Olives.

Jesus uses the figure of the vine to teach the vital relationship between Himself and the Church, inasmuch as the fruit of the vine, grape juice, was a little while ago used for the Lord's Supper. The grape is one of the seven holy fruits (Deut. 8:8), a native of the Holy Land like the olive and the fig. These three fruits are used as symbols of Israel. Where are figures of the other two found? Israel is called the Lord's vineyard and Judah (chief tribe of Israel from which came our Lord) is called the choicest vine (Isa. 5:1-7). Ps. 80 similarly likens God's people of old to a vine brought out of Egypt. It is therefore most appropriate for our Lord to use the figure of the vine for Himself and the Christian Church in an extended sense.

Now, while the vine is a familiar figure to the Jews, to us who live in a land where rather the rambutan grows, it needs some explanation: The common grape vine, says the New Bible Dictionary, is a slender plant which trails on the ground or climbs supports by means of tendrils. When the fruit bearing branches develop they are raised above the ground on supports to a height not much higher than a man. Other Scriptures where the vine is mentioned are Lk 13:6-9; Mt 20:1-6; Mk 9:17; Mt 21:28-32; Mt 21:33; Mk 12:1-11; Lk 20:9-18.

John 15:1-8

The Church is a Fruitful Vine

Remember this chapter is one of the last

sermons our Lord preached to the disciples before He was taken. Though He will be taken physically from earth, He must continue on earth through His Church. His Church must be established and spread to the ends of the earth.

His Father, Almighty God, is the husbandman, or farmer, of the vineyard, which is the world. Jesus is the vine planted of the Father. The true vine, because He is the perfect ideal, the spiritual vine that remains forever. We are His branches, His hands and feet on earth, while the Head is ascended to heaven, to carry out His mission. Our purpose while on earth is to be productive for Him, to bear much fruit, to increase His Church. This is illustrated by the heavy, drooping clusters of grapes, sparkling and luscious, ripening on the vine. And as you pluck them to eat, so juicy-sweet in the mouth, won't you say thank you to your host who invites you to his garden? Bear much fruit, our Lord says, that my Father be glorified! Reader, you may have been saved for some years, for a decade, two decades, a lifetime that is about to end! Examine yourself. What fruit have you borne to Christ that has glorified the Father? Or no fruit, as is hinted by our Lord? Or sour fruit, a sour Christian life, whereby you are at odds with other Christians? Not only non-productive, but counter-productive?

A withered branch, falling off painlessly, is taken away to burn. A Christian in name, not ever born again, drops out of Church with no regrets, and drifts back into the world. He fails to qualify in the eyes of the Heavenly Father. Such a person is not saved. How many a Christian in name ends miserably in hell, as John Sung says of the Rich Man in Luke 16. As the Church is a fruitful vine, so may every member produce good fruit to His Lord.

John 15:2-10

The Process of Increasing Productivity

1. Keep close to the Lord. "He that

abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." Do you seek the Lord's glory in all you do? Do you pray for His approval and guidance? Do you love Him with all your heart? Do you come to church service and prayer meeting and regularly partake of the Lord's Supper? Are you even baptised? These are means of grace whereby we are helped to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Allow His Word through daily Bible reading to purify your life. "Now ye are clean through the word I have spoken unto you." The Bible is likened by St. Paul to water with a cleansing power. He says, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Eph 5:26). Hence the great effort made in these RPG notes to stimulate Daily Bible reading for the health of your thought life.

3. Endure the corrective measures God has taken to shape your life. A dead branch is broken off without pain, because it has no feeling. A Christian in name leaves the Church without regrets for the world because he has never been a part of the Church. These facts were observed in the last lesson. But a true son and daughter of God must endure chastisement (Heb 12:6-8). The persecutions that descended on the apostles in the beginning were permitted of God to strengthen the Church. The judgement on Ananias and Sapphira purged the early church of dishonesty and vain glory. When we get sick or sustain loss of property or meet with any kind of failure, remember these have come from our Father to draw us back to Himself. These are prunings for a more productive life.

And in all these developments in the process of increasing our productivity, the sustaining spirit must be love. We continue in His love, to keep His commandments, to be cleansed by His word, to be purged of the Father!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 12 – 18, 2005)		
MON	7.30 pm	<i>New Testament Introduction</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED	8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Exodus</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.00 pm	Adults Fellowship
	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
<p>Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.</p> <p>Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Sep 17, 05) at 3 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Program: Bible Study on Hebrews by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.</p> <p>Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Sep 17, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Ten Commandments by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.</p>		

(Continued from previous page)

"Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you, and ordained you . . ." (v. 16). This brings us to the doctrine of election.

When He says that they had not chosen Him, it means they had no credit or merit to qualify as disciples or friends. It was by God's sheer pleasure and purpose and for His own glory that He had chosen the Eleven to be apostles. This was a higher election above their initial election to salvation. The apostles were specially chosen out of the saved ones, entirely by God's special grace. In so revealing to the disciples their higher appointment, Christ's design is to stir up the disciples to do their duty actively

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS	
General Offerings: \$18,521 Designated Offerings: <i>Rev Tow</i> \$200, \$200; <i>Rev Ronny Khoo</i> \$100; <i>Kemaman Church</i> \$200; <i>Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)</i> \$250; <i>Wendy Teng</i> \$50; <i>FEBC Bookroom</i> \$333; <i>FEBC Scholarship</i> \$350; <i>FEBC</i> \$100 Total General and Designated Offerings: \$20,304 Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$50 Total: \$355,867.60	
Sunday School Offering: S\$510; USD5	
Verse for the Week: <i>A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.</i> Prov. 12:2	
Those seeking Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith are to attend the Sunday School class at 9.15 am. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table. There will be a 2nd Anniversary Lunch held at the Chinese Restaurant, RELC, <i>Oct 2, 05</i> , 12 pm. The subsidised charge is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet. Friends of True Life will be invited. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.	

(Calvin). This also gives them an undergirding strength for service, as they realise that it is God who works in them "to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil 2:13).

Are you called to be a servant, a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ? In fulltime service? Have there been moments of doubt and discouragement to your soul when the work takes you uphill, along a crooked path? The Way of the Cross! Remember you are chosen specially of God to the task He has called you. Therefore you cannot fail, and must not fail, because Christ is the main spring of your work. Let that inferiority complex be dispelled by His Higher Appointment.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 50

11 September 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 34
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 109
Psalms	No. 233
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	<i>Bring All The Tithes Now Before Him</i>
Offertory Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	II Tim. 3:1; Matt. 24:3, 6-8, 13-14
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Perilous times of the Last Days</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 265 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

In Spiritual Warfare, by Prayer and Supplication

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Sep 4, 05)

Text: Eph. 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Paul teaches us in Eph. 6:18 that in Spiritual Warfare we should be praying always with all prayer and supplication (earnest prayer) in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. The opposite however is true of us in that we do not pray. The Hymn, "Ere you left your room this morning, Did you think to pray? In the name of Christ our Saviour, Did you ask for loving favour, As a shield today?" admits we are a prayerless people, including the pastor. May God help us to become a praying people.

I can remember how when bombs were raining down on us during the Japanese war we all cried to the Lord for mercy. Now with peace reigning supreme there is no need, so we do not pray. Neither do we teach our children to pray before they go to bed at

night and rise for the day and to give thanks for our three meals. Even we are ashamed to pray eating out at a restaurant.

We even have our own built-up reason relying on Calvin that since God knows in advance all that happens He will take care of everything. So why pray? But Paul whose theological teaching is Calvinistic rejects our erroneous thinking when he says we should be praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

I admitted we are a prayerless people including myself. I began to repent when I realised how Paul rejects our wrong ideas about Calvin. Whether God will take care of my needs or not, it is my duty to cry out to Him. Jesus says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Lk. 11:9).

The more I cry out to Him the more He blesses me. The more He blesses me the more I cry out to Him. Does not Paul in I Thessalonians 5:17 teach us "Pray without ceasing." Now I make it a habit to pray whenever I'm in troubles such as misplacing a book. By prayer I recover the book.

From a life of prayerlessness now to a prayerful life! Not only a prayerful life but as an elder of the Church I am empowered to pray for the sick that they may be healed. James 5:14-16 says, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent

prayer of a righteous man availeth much." So to lead in prayer it must be by a righteous man, a man respected by the Church.

Yes, from a prayerless life to a prayerful life to becoming an elder of the Church and be empowered to pray for the sick that they be healed.

By way of testimony as pastor of Life B-P Church I was called to pray for the healing of an infant boy from leukemia. I even baptised the child at the request of the parents, one a Roman Catholic and the wife a Muslim (she was a Malay), in their desperation. They promised to become Christians. After my prayer the boy recovered from leukemia the next two days according to the surprised doctors of Singapore General Hospital. Finally the whole family of 7 more children with the Catholic father and Muslim mother were baptised. They continue to go to church to this day, especially the leukemia boy, now grown up.

A second case was a Life Church deacon's wife who was healed instantly with the applying of olive oil when I the pastor was accompanied by Rev John Grauley, missionary from America to FEBC. The deacon's wife came to Life Church that very week to testify how she recovered even with a rosy cheek the moment she felt healed. This was witnessed by the American missionary, Rev John Grauley, including his wife. Glory to God in the highest. Amen.

Let us repeat Paul's teaching according to Eph. 6:18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Let us learn to live a prayerful life and

not remain in our playful life. Let us learn to live a prayerful life before our children and grandchildren that thereby they will come to Christ. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XV

John 15:11-14

Jesus gives not only Peace But Joy

In Jn. 14:27 Jesus bequeaths to His Church peace, *shalom* in Hebrew and *Ping An* in Chinese. The meaning of joy from God is well expounded by J. C. Ryle as follows:

The joy thought of is that which Christ Himself possessed in the consciousness of His love towards the Father and of the Father's love towards Him. The brightness of that joy lit up the darkest hours of His own human life, and He wills that it should light up theirs. In the consciousness of their love to God and of God's love to them, there would be in them, a part of their true life, joy which no sorrow could overcome. They were as men with troubled hearts. He has told them of the true source of peace. His own peace He has given them. He tells them now of the source of joy, and has spoken the word that they may possess the very joy which was the light of His own heart.

The state of which He has spoken to them – the loving and being loved of God – is the ideal perfection in life. It supplies satisfaction for all the deepest desires of our being. The capacities of the whole man are filled in it, and the result is fulness of joy. They have learnt little of the true spirit of Christianity whose religion does not impart to them a joy which sheds its light over the whole of their lives.

As I have observed, the Christian joy,

derived from God's love, is seen to glow above many a troubled Christian forehead. And that joy brings also confidence, so a Christian "with Christ in the vessel can smile at the storm." This is the Protestant faith, not the Roman Catholic religion!

John 15:14-17

By Higher Appointment

Hitherto, the lowliness of discipleship has been stressed, the prerequisites of obedience and submission. "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord" (Matt 10:24). And John 15:20, "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord." These virtues of humble service having been learnt during the last three-and-a-half years, the Eleven (Judas the traitor is gone) are now elevated to friends. "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends" (Jn. 15:15). The way to the top in God's service is to start from the lowest rung of the ladder, one step at a time, one step at time! Calvin says the first, second and third rule in learning the things of God are humility, humility and humility.

What an honour to be promoted friends of the Lord. Wasn't that the high title given Abraham, the friend of God? (Jas. 2:23; II Chron. 2:7; Isa. 41:8). A servant receives only orders from the Master. A friend is in mutual consultation! But let's not forget the rules of loyalty and fidelity and of loving submission that govern friendship (v. 12-14).

From the honour of friendship conferred on the disciples our Lord leads them further to their higher appointment,

(Continued on back page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 19 – 25, 2005)		
MON	7.30 pm	<i>New Testament Introduction</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Exodus</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Koa Keng Woo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road, Singapore 309063.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Sep 24, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: The Patience of Job" by Rev Das Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Sep 24, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Dn and Mrs Tan Beng Lee's home at Blk 103 Spottiswoode Park Road, #08-104, Singapore 080103. Message: "How to discipline and guide our children" by Pr. Eduardo Morante. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

(Continued from previous page)

They fulfilled the words of David, who spoke as a type of Him, and was hated without a cause by the men of his generation. Judases not only within, but also without, a great many of them.

But God would not let sinners go without the continuing work of the Holy Spirit. So Jesus encourages the disciples that He will send the Comforter proceeding from the Father, to further testify of Him. The work of the Holy Spirit is to give success to the Gospel. He will work in the hearts of stubborn men to convince them that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Matthew Henry says, "The blessed Spirit is the Emanation of the Diving

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS
General Offerings: S\$6,699.00; RM50
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$50; *Missions* \$200; *Barnabas Yap* \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$350; *FEBC Students* \$300
Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$7,949.00; RM50
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$100, \$70
Total: \$357,037.60

Sunday School Offering: S\$483.00; Euro 1.20

Verse for the Week: *A man shall not be established by wickedness; but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.* Prov. 12:3

Infant Baptism, Baptism or Reaffirmation of Faith on 2nd Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 2, 05. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

There will be a 2nd Anniversary Lunch held at the Chinese Restaurant, RELC, Oct 2, 05, 12.30 pm. The subsidised charge is \$15 per person including children who sit at the big tables and \$5 for children buffet. Friends of True Life will be invited. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Sep 25, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Light, and the Energy of Divine power. The rays of the sun, by which it dispenses and diffuses light, heat and influence proceed from the sun, yet are one with it. They (the disciples) also, taught and encouraged by His influences, would bear testimony to Him and His salvation. They would be especially competent in this, having been with Him from the beginning of His ministry."

When Christ is rejected by our initial testimony, the Holy Spirit must work to convince them who reject Christ in order to become those who receive Him. Is that not the experience of those of us who were very stubborn in the beginning? That we have now received Christ is the inner work of the Holy Spirit.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 51

18 September 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 66
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 110
Psalms	No. 235
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 390
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Heb. 10:22-25
Sermon	<i>Preparing for Christ's Soon Return</i> (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 227
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Perilous times of the Last Days

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Sep 11, 05)

Text: II Tim. 3:1; Matt. 24:3, 6-8, 13-14

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (II Tim. 3:1) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 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. 24:3, 6-8, 13-14)

In these perilous times of the Last Days, God has specially protected us from all harm since Singapore

gained independence in 1965 forty years ago. During the last two weeks we are drawn into the reality of Perilous times in the Last Days. Suddenly the breaking loose of the Hurricane Katrina blowing all along the Gulf Coast at well over 200 km per hour brought death to tens of thousands of Americans with the full flooding of New Orleans. Everyone of the 480,000 population was affected. As a result not only tens of thousands were killed but went without water or food and now it is reported 400,000 jobs are lost. What touched us sympathetically is that Singapore's three Chinook helicopters near New Orleans have gone into action to ferry 700 out of the flood waters to safety, a part of the evacuation of New Orleans 480,000 population. America is surely grateful for what Little Singapore can do.

(Alarming predictions of as many as 10,000 dead in New Orleans may have been greatly exaggerated, officials have said. The authorities said the first street-by-street sweep had revealed far fewer corpses than feared. "Some of the catastrophic deaths that some people predicted may not have occurred," said Colonel Terry Ebbert, the city's homeland security chief. "Numbers so far are relatively minor compared to the dire projections of 10,000," he said on Friday. He said a reliable assessment of the death toll would be obtained only in two weeks. The

spectre of a five-figure toll had been raised as the Federal Emergency Management Agency ordered 25,000 body bags to be flown to a temporary morgue for Louisiana fatalities. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin also suggested last weekend that “it would not be unreasonable to have 10,000 dead”. But soldiers helping in the search were not seeing that kind of toll. “There’s nothing at all in the magnitude we anticipated,” said Major-General Bill Caldwell. Louisiana’s official death count stood at 118 and Mississippi’s was 211. – The Sunday Times, September 11, 2005)

An UN Official declared this was worse than the Dec 26, 04 Tsunami that struck Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia at which around the Indian Ocean, 300,000 were killed. It will take years before Aceh in Sumatra and New Orleans can be restored.

The title of my message this week, “Perilous times of the Last Days” must show that it is a worldwide event. Beginning with the Dec 26, 04 Tsunami in the next five months there were 8 earthquakes. The following month another 2 earthquakes shook Japan injuring 60 in the first one.

As I look at the events hereafter I cannot expect better times. More earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods will soon follow. A few days after I said this Japan is pounded by Typhoon 14 with over 20 deaths and over 50 injured. Famines while fighting shy of Singapore a land of plenty are just being reported ravaging Africa’s 900 million. For, 300 million are going hungry every night. Pestilences, which means any contagious deadly disease, such as bird-flu coming out of Vietnam and dengue fever rising to 8,850 this year are invading Singapore. Now come wars and rumours of wars out of man’s wickedness. The Book of Revelation reveals one third of the people will be killed. Rev. 9:13-16 says, “And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were

prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.” This means a World War i.e. a Third World War is in the process of formation. The river Euphrates is present day Iraq.

As we come to Rev. 16:12, “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” So from Iraq will come kings of the east. Is China in the picture? How about Pakistan and India?

And God will gather them together kings of the whole world to a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. This is a hill south of Haifa, Israel’s northern port and west of the Sea of Galilee from where the enemies of Israel will drive down to Jerusalem, in a matter of a few hours where the final battle will be fought. This is the actual battle of Armageddon.

The mention of Iraq is significant, for already two wars have been fought, the second War with Iraq by President Bush of USA. Iraq is seething with troubles again.

With USA now standing against North Korea in the East and Iran in the West, against China and Taiwan in the middle, should war break out that will be the end. The Third World War is the Last War. Even Singapore is armed to the teeth with the latest American fighters.

We are in the Perilous times of the Last Days. Whether the Perils are brought in by nature such as by Hurricane Katrina over New Orleans or by the wickedness of men, we who know the Lord must not seek the world and its riches and pleasures but His Kingdom. For the end of the world and Christ’s Coming can happen even in our short lifetime! Whether you will be saved is your problem.

In these perilous times of the last days our Lord has some good news for us. It is

what I would call “Accelerated Missions”. The Gospel will be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come. It is reported Korea alone sends out 12,000 missionaries and the whole world 400,000, including technical missionaries. We at Far Eastern Bible College receive students from 19 nationalities. When our students return to their own countries then they will spread the gospel to other nationalities and bring them to Christ. And that shall lead to the end. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XV

John 15:18-25

Double Reinforcement for Stormy Days

“Reinforced concrete” is a term often used in the building industry. Webster defines it as “concrete masonry in which steel bars or mesh are so embedded that the two materials act together in resisting forces.”

Before our Lord left His own He must see to their utmost preparation to meet with stormy days ahead. Are we prepared?

In the previous sections we have seen how our Lord has reinforced the disciples by inculcating love – love for the Master, love for one another. When we stand united in the bonds of Christian love we can face a hostile world.

Yes, the hostile world is what the disciples will be launched into. They will be met with hatred (v. 18), persecution (v. 20), prejudice (v. 25). These are the forces facing every true disciple, for every true disciple must undergo what the Master undergoes. Our Saviour in witnessing to the Truth ended in death. So death, martyrdom, is the end expected of every true disciple in a hostile world.

Are we prepared to carry the cross in these last days?

To doubly reinforce the disciples to stand in an evil day, our Lord reminds them of oppositions that will arise for His sake. “But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, . . . He that hateth me hateth my Father also.” So, for the Father’s sake too. The realisation of a Christian, when persecuted for righteousness’ sake, that such persecution will be turned into blessing (Matt 5:10) reinforces him to go through the ordeal.

So, speaking from his own experiences, Peter exhorts the persecuted, “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. . . . Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” (I Pet 4:13-16).

Double reinforcement for stormy days consists of love, and devotion to suffer for Jesus’ sake, like the concrete and steel used in building houses.

John 15:22, 24-27

Christ convicts, the Comforter Convinces

Christ had taught the gracious doctrines of the Truth especially to the Jews. To prove that His teachings were from God, He performed mighty miracles before them, “the works which none other man did.” How privileged the Jews were, who were given sumptuous spiritual feasts, course after course. Instead of being grateful for Christ’s ministry, the Jews, like spoilt children, spurned the one who fed them. In so doing, they condemned themselves. They were convicted by their rejection of truth. They had no cloke, no excuse, for their sin.

(Continued on back page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Sep 26 – Oct 2, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	<i>New Testament Introduction</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	<i>Exodus</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5</i> <i>Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Oct 1, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Controlling Your Anger" by Rev Das Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 241 Bukit Panjang Ring Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,186.00

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Hien's Ministry* \$150; *Bible Witness* \$300; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC* \$300, \$200, \$100, \$50

Total General and Designated Offerings:
\$8,536.00

Church Building Fund: \$10,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$200, \$101, \$80 **Total:** \$368,918.60

Sunday School Offering: \$355.00

Verse for the Week: *A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.* Prov. 12:4

Anniversary Thanksgiving Lunch: The 2nd Anniversary Thanksgiving Lunch will be held at the Chinese Restaurant, RELC next Sunday (Oct 2, 05), 12.30 pm. Come and praise the Lord on this happy occasion.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Tan Tong Hai on Oct 7, 05 (Fri) at 8 pm. Address: 151 Duchess Avenue, Singapore 269172. Tel: 64646681.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. II No. 52

25 September 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 83
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 111
Psalms	No. 236
Announcements	
Special Number	Indonesian Students
Offering & Hymn	<i>Bring All The Tithes Now Before Him</i>
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Haggai 1:2-11
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Koa Keng Woo
Sermon	<i>Consider Your Ways</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 405
Benediction	Rev Koa Keng Woo

Preparing for Christ's Soon Return

(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Sep 18, 05)

Text: Heb. 10:21-25

Last Lord's Day, our beloved pastor spoke on "Perilous Times of the Last Days." The Lord's return is nearer than we think. Considering the signs of the times (Matt 24:3-14). (I would recommend that you read or read again our pastor's booklet entitled *It is Nearer than You Think!* to know what the Lord had taught about the end times so that we might be ready when He finally comes back.)

There are three "Let Us" exhortations in this passage (vv 22-24): Let us (1) draw near to God, (2) hold fast to our faith, and (3) provoke one another to love and good works. These three "Let us" verses are sandwiched by statements on what Christ has done for us in the past (v 21),

and what Christ will do for us in the future (v 25).

What did the Lord Jesus Christ do for us in the past? He has gained for us direct access into the Most Holy Place—the very presence of God—by His life, His death, and His life again. Verses 19-20 says, "*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.*" The mention of His blood and His flesh has to do with His redemptive ministry on earth—His life, His death and His life again—to save us from our sins. Jesus kept the Ten Commandments for us to earn the righteousness we need to be accepted by God, then as the Lamb without spot and blemish. He died for us on the cross shedding His precious blood for the remission of sins. But that was not the end; He rose again the third day and is alive today as our Great High Priest making intercession for you and for me.

This same Jesus who is our Great High Priest has not only saved us in the past, and in the present, He will also save us in the future when He comes back.



Ladies Fellowship Meeting, 7 September 2005

And so we should keep on “*exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*” (v 25b). The “day” here refers to the day of His return to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. That day is “approaching.” It is getting nearer and nearer, and it is nearer than we think.

In light of the soon return of Christ, what must we do in order to prepare ourselves for it?

We are exhorted to do these three things:

(I) DRAW NEAR IN FAITH (v 22)

In verse 22, we are told to draw near to God in faith. The word “draw near” (*proserchomai*) is used three other times in Hebrews (4:16, 7:25, 11:6), and speaks of our approaching God with great reverence and sure confidence on the basis of the once-for-all atonement of Christ and His unending ministry as our Great High Priest (Heb 7:22-28). With Christ as our Great High Priest, we have immediate and direct access to God the Father for we no longer worship the Lord outside the Holy of holies but inside the Holy of holies.

How are we to draw near to God? We are to draw near to God in the following ways: (1) **By having a true heart.** The true heart is the regenerated or “Born Again” heart. A true heart is a sincere heart that is 100% believing and nothing doubting (“in full assurance of faith”). The true heart is a heart that is fully assured by faith and not like the hypocritical heart that the Lord accused the Pharisees and Scribes of having: “*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me*” (Matt 15:8).

(2) **By having a pure heart, cleansed once-for-all by the blood of Christ** (cf Lev 16:14-16), and washed day-by-day by the Word of God (John 17:17). Are you born again? Are your sins forgiven? Are you washed by the blood of Christ? If not, draw

near to God now in faith. “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*” (Acts 16:31). For those of us who have already believed, let us continue to draw near to God by growing in our faith. RPG—Read, Pray, and Grow! Read your Bible, pray every day, and you will grow.

(II) HOLD FAST IN HOPE (v 23)

In verse 23, we are told to hold fast in hope. The word “faith” (*elpidos*) here concerns our hope in Christ. Our faith is one that is full of hope as stated in Hebrews 11:1, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” We have not seen Christ in person, and we have not yet arrived in heaven, but both Christ and heaven are true and real, and we shall see Christ and heaven for sure one day. This faith that is full of hope we must “hold fast.” The word “hold fast” (*katechomen*) literally means to “hold down,” or “pin under.” It has the idea of a wrestler holding down or pinning down his opponent giving him no chance to break loose. When we hold fast to this hope that we have, we will not waver in our faith, we nail it down, we make it firm. The words “without wavering” here means “without leaning.” We do not lean to the left or to the right, but steer a straight course. The wheels of our faith are not out of alignment. We will always travel on a straight and forward direction, not detouring to the left or to the right.

Our faith is “Yes” and “Amen,” not “Maybe.” Why? Because God is faithful—“*for he is faithful that promised.*” The Apostle Paul wrote, “*For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us . . . was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by*

us” (2 Cor 1:19-20). God will never fail to keep His words; He will never fail to keep His promises and will surely fulfill them to the jot and tittle (Matt 5:18). That was why Paul said, “*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*” (Phil 1:6). Once saved, we will never lose our salvation no matter what—once saved, always saved.

This is good news, is it not? In our True Life gospel bookmark, we spread this good news that a perfect God has given us a perfect Book that tells us of a perfect Saviour who gives to us perfect Salvation. The Apostle James tells us, “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*” (Jas 1:17). That is why we must never waver in our faith and hope—we must never doubt our God, never doubt His Book, never doubt our Saviour, never doubt our Salvation.

(III) PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE (vv 24-25)

The word “consider” here does not mean “let me think about,” but “let me pay full attention” to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ “to provoke [them] unto love and good works.” The word “provoke” here is a strong word for disturbance. It is usually used in the negative sense of arousing ill feelings or stirring up trouble (eg, Acts 15:39). But here, it is used in the positive sense. It is holy provocation. We are told to stir up the feelings of fellow believers to love God more, and to do good works for Him—(1) to keep His commandments (Exod 20:1-17), (2) to bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), and (3) to put on the whole armour of God (Eph 6:10-20).

The Christian religion is a “one another” religion. No Christian is an island. No

Christian is a lone ranger. We are called to live out our faith in a community of God’s people. We must not abandon the “assembling of ourselves” (v 25). The word “assembling” here is the word for “synagogue.” A synagogue is a place where the Jews gather together for worship, prayer, Bible study, and service. Similarly, Christians should make every effort, as much as we can and as often as we can, to meet together for the purpose of “exhorting one another.” The word “exhorting” (*parakaleo*) here speaks of standing beside or alongside someone in order to help, guide or encourage him like a best friend or buddy.

Are we seeking every opportunity to meet with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ not only on the Lord’s Day at the worship service, but also prayer meetings, fellowship meetings, Bible study classes, and church camps? Or are we keeping our distance because we are too busy? We should not be staying away from such spiritual gatherings but to get together as much as possible, and all the more as we realise that the Lord is coming back real soon.

Conclusion

In light of Christ’s soon return, let us therefore cultivate the virtues of faith, hope and love. Let us draw near to God in faith; hold fast to our faith in hope, and encourage one another to press on in this faith and hope in love. And to do all this, we must do first things first: First we must get right with the Lord (v 22), then we need to work on strengthening our faith in the Lord (v 23), and it is only when we are strong in the Lord that we can help others to live for the Lord (v 24).

May the Lord help us all to be ready when He returns.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 3 – 9, 2005)	
MON 7.30 pm	<i>New Testament Introduction</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED 7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
THU 7.30 pm	<i>Exodus</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI 8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (<i>Lord's Supper</i>) (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road. Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Oct 5, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "I Would Be True" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. All are welcome. Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Tan Tong Hai this Friday (Oct 7, 05) at 8 pm. Address: 151 Duchess Avenue, Singapore 269172. Tel: 64646681.	

(Continued from previous page)

only the words of our Lord who ***"died for our sins according to the Scriptures ... was buried ... [and] rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"*** (1 Cor 15:3-4).

The Bible itself which is our supreme and final authority of faith and practice clearly teaches its plenary inspiration, ***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,"*** and its verbal preservation, ***"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"*** (Matt 5:18), ***"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"*** (Matt

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS	
General Offerings: \$6,595.00 Designated Offerings: <i>Rev Tow</i> \$200; <i>YPF</i> \$100; <i>Evangelism Ministry</i> \$100; <i>FEBC</i> \$250, \$20,000 Total General and Designated Offerings: \$27,245.00 Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$122, \$75 Total: \$370,115.60	
Sunday School Offering: \$422.00	
Verse for the Week: <i>The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.</i> Prov. 12:5	
Anniversary Thanksgiving Lunch: The 2 nd Anniversary Thanksgiving Lunch will be held at the Chinese Restaurant, RELC after Worship Service today at 12.30 pm. Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Oct 8, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Forgiving One Another" by Elder William Seah. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715. True Life BP Church's sermons are taped and available for sale in DVD (\$5) or Audio CD (\$3). You may place your orders with Dn Charles Kan, Barnabas Yap or any of the PA crew.	

24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33). The doctrine of the 100% inspiration (VPI) and 100% preservation (VPP) of each and every word of the Bible is *as old as the Bible itself*. It is certainly **NOT** a new teaching or theory, and definitely **NOT** a false doctrine.

The twin doctrines of VPI and VPP must be received *by faith* (Rom 10:17, Heb 11:6). Our faith must be "according to the Scriptures," and **NOT** "according to the scholars." ***"Let God be true, but every man a liar"*** (Rom 3:4). ***"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"*** (2 Cor 13:8).

Soli Deo Gloria!



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 1

2 October 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

Second Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

10.30 am

Call to Worship Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn No. 27
Invocation-Gloria Patri
Responsive Reading Ps. 84
Psalm No. 169

Announcements

Baptism of Infant

1. Loei Xiao Wen Rachael
d/o Mr and Mrs Loei Sek Wan

Baptism of Adults

1. Marquez Marites, *Domestic Helper*
2. Sheila Marie Navarro, *Domestic Helper*

Reaffirmation of Faith

1. Leong Shu Zhen Ruth, *Student*
2. Leong Tian Ci Samuel, *Student*

Offering & Hymn *Bring All The Tithes Now Before Him*

Offertory Prayer Elder Mahadevan
Special Number Children's Choir
Quintet
Young People's Fellowship
FEBC Students
Bee Heng, Deborah & Judith

Pastoral Prayer Rev Ronny Khoo & Deborah
Scripture Text Church Choir
I Cor. 9:19-23
Sermon *Servant Unto All to gain the more*
Benediction Pastor Tow

The Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of the Sacred Scriptures

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* (WCF) states very clearly that the inspired Scriptures in the original languages are by God's "singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages" (WCF 1:8). The Westminster divines used Matthew 5:18 as a proof text for this affirmation of the verbal plenary preservation (VPP) of the Scriptures. This proves that the doctrine of the VPP of Scripture is not just creedal, but more importantly **Biblical**.

Definition of Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP)

What does VPP mean? "Verbal" means "every word to the jot and tittle" (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18). "Plenary" means "the Scripture as a whole with all the words intact" (Matt 24:35, 1 Pet 1:25). So VPP means the whole of Scripture with all its words even to the jot and tittle is perfectly preserved by God without any loss of the original words, prophecies, promises, commandments, doctrines, and truths, not only in the words of salvation, but also the words of

history, geography and science. Every book, every chapter, every verse, every word, every syllable, every letter is infallibly preserved by the Lord Himself to the last iota.

What and where are the preserved words of God today? They are the inspired OT Hebrew words and NT Greek words the prophets, the apostles, the church fathers, the reformers used which are today found in the long and continuously abiding and preserved words underlying the Reformation Bibles best represented by the time-tested and time-honoured KJV, and **NOT** in the corrupted Alexandrian manuscripts and critical Westcott-Hort texts underlying the liberal, ecumenical, and neo-evangelical modern English versions.

Basically, those who hold to the VPP of Scripture believe and embrace the following tenets:

- (1) God has supernaturally preserved each and every one of His inspired Hebrew/Aramaic OT words and Greek NT words to the last jot and tittle, so that in every age, God's people will always have in their possession His infallible and inerrant Word kept intact without the loss of any word (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33, John 10:35, 1 Pet 1:23-25).
- (2) The "providential" preservation of Scriptures is understood as God's *special* and not general providence. *Special* providence or *providentia extraordinaria* speaks of God's miraculous intervention in the events of history and in the affairs of mankind in fulfilment of His sovereign will for the sake of His elect and to the glory of His Name.

The divine preservation of the Canon (books) and Text (words) of Scripture comes under God's *special* providence.

- (3) The Bible is not only infallible and inerrant in the past (in the Autographs), but also infallible and inerrant today (in the Apographs).
- (4) The infallible and inerrant words of Scripture are found in the faithfully preserved Traditional/Byzantine/Majority manuscripts, and fully represented in the Printed and Received Text (or Textus Receptus) that underlie the Reformation Bibles best represented by the KJV, and **NOT** in the corrupted and rejected texts of Westcott and Hort that underlie the many modern versions of the English Bible like the NIV, NASV, ESV, RSV, TEV, CEV, etc.
- (5) There are no mistakes in the Bible, period. There are no mistakes or errors (scribal or otherwise) in such OT passages as Judges 18:30, 1 Samuel 13:1, 1 Kings 4:26, 1 Chronicles 18:3, 2 Chronicles 22:2 etc. If there are "discrepancies" in the Bible, the "discrepancies" are only seeming or apparent, **NOT** real or actual. Any inability to understand or explain such difficult passages in no way negates the infallibility and inerrancy of the Scriptures, applying the faithful Pauline principle of biblical interpretation: "let God be true, but every man a liar" (Rom 3:4).
- (6) Knowing where the perfect Bible is is a matter of textual recognition

and **NOT** textual criticism. In the field of textual recognition, Burgon is good, Hills is better, Waite is best.

- (7) The Chinese Union Version (CUV) is the "Word of God" for the Chinese people today since it is the best, most faithful, most reliable, and most accurate version among the Chinese versions presently available. Great care ought to be taken not to undermine our Chinese brethren's confidence in the CUV. Nevertheless, versions or translations are never superior to the inspired and preserved Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek Scriptures; thus there is a need to consult these original language Scriptures for clarity and fulness of meaning, and to compare Scripture with Scripture.

Dr Peter Masters Says VPP is Not a Heretical but an Honourable Position

Dr Peter Masters of Spurgeon's Tabernacle has expressed a healthy respect for our position on the VPP of Scripture. It is heartening to note that Dr Masters, in his letter to the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) dated August 19, 2005, did not think our VPP position to be in any way "heretical," but indeed "*an honourable one.*" He also gave his unreserved support and endorsement of FEBC, "*May I say that the ministry of FEBC under Dr Timothy Tow ... is a remarkable manifestation of the blessing of God in maintaining the inerrancy, fundamentals, evangelism, sound hermeneutics and biblical separation. Your work is magnificent and encouraging to the highest degree.*"

In another letter, Dr Masters reaffirmed his remarks on the VPP of Scripture that "*it is a sincerely held view aimed at safeguarding the Word, and promoting its*

integrity. Its advocates seek to proclaim and adhere to the Gospel and the historic doctrines of the faith. They seek to preserve an excellent translation of the Bible, and to oppose corrupt W & H based translations ... the position is honourable. It is certainly not base, self-seeking, unfaithful, or heretical in the sense of denying any doctrine of the faith."

The VPP of Scripture is a position of faith that is based solely on the Word of God. "***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen***" (Heb 11:1). "***So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God***" (Rom 10:17). "***But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him***" (Heb 11:6). It is a position that we must take if we are to weather and survive the onslaughts of postmodernism, pop-modernism, open-theism and neo-deism that seek to destroy the church today.

Our Perfect Lord and His Perfect Word are the Foundation of Our Faith

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Ps 11:3).

It is only when we have a 100% perfect, infallible and inerrant Bible can we say the Bible is our only and final authority, and foundation of faith. If there is no such an infallible and inerrant Bible today, then the so-called "scholar" becomes the supreme authority, and we have to kowtow to his subjective and speculative judgements on and corrections of the Bible. Some may want to trust the words of men, but we trust

(Continued on back page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 10 – 16, 2005)	
MON 7.30 pm	<i>New Testament Introduction</i> (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
WED 8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
THU 7.30 pm	<i>Exodus</i> (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting <i>RELC, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room</i>
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
SUN 10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Oct 15, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Ten Commandments by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715. Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Oct 15, 05) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Program: Bible Study on Hebrews by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.	

(Continued from previous page)

Ps 119:140 tells me that "Thy word is very pure" therefore I see no error and can trust it wholeheartedly – it is the basis of my faith. I read the Bible regularly for it makes me wise unto salvation and it gives me sure hope in the Lord. I am only clay in the potter's hand. With the master potter working on this lump of clay, my heart has a peace that the world does not have. I trust that the Spirit of God can and will guide, teach and strengthen my faith in Christ.

I pray that Jesus will keep me faithful and true unto him. I also wish to use this opportunity to thank the Sunday school teachers and the church leaders for their efforts in teaching us the Word of God. In particular I wish to thank Rev Jeffrey Khoo for his clear teaching in the New Testament Introduction Class. My faith has strengthened considerably.

In conclusion, I am very happy to be a Christian.

– Ruth Leong

My name is Samuel Leong and I am 12 years old. When I was a baby, mother sang many bible

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS	
General Offerings: S\$36,555; IDR1,000; RM4.60 Designated Offerings: <i>Rev Tow</i> \$200, \$200; <i>Dr Jeffrey Khoo</i> \$300; <i>Tanzania Bible College</i> \$2,000; <i>Hien (Brisbane)</i> \$100; <i>Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)</i> \$300; <i>Barnabas Yap</i> \$50; <i>Wendy Teng</i> \$500, \$100, \$50; <i>FEBC Students</i> \$400; <i>FEBC Bookroom</i> \$333; <i>FEBC Scholarship</i> \$700; <i>FEBC</i> \$1,000, \$400 Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$43,188; IDR1,000; RM4.60 Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$50, \$50 Total: \$371,215.60	
Sunday School Offering: \$482.50	
Verse for the Week: <i>The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.</i> Prov. 12:6	
Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road. Sunday School cum Ladies Fellowship Outing on <i>3 Nov 2005</i> (Hari Raya Puasa Public Holiday), 8.30 am to 1.30 pm. Open to all. Cost: \$25 for adults, \$15 for children. Please sign up at the Book Table.	

songs to me. After hearing the bible songs for many years, I remembered that Jesus saves sinners. Now I believe that Jesus can save me and accepted him as my Saviour. Repentance means stop doing sinful actions and start doing what Jesus wants me to do. I have asked Jesus to forgive me of all the sinful desires and behaviors. I asked God to clean my heart with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

I believe in my heart that the Bible is 100% God's Word without any error. I try to read the Bible faithfully and regularly though some time, I do not have much time with the school work load. I am willing to change my ideas or behaviors according to God's Word.

I am trusting Jesus Christ in every situation everyday. I pray to Jesus faithfully. Jesus Christ is the Lord and master of my life now. I believe that I am filled with the Spirit of God after I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and my master. I believe that the Spirit of God can guide, teach and strengthen our faith in Christ. I am happy to be a Christian and I am also happy to have a heavenly hope (John 14:1-6). – Samuel Leong



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 2

9 October 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 24
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 108
Psalms	No. 232
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 136
Offertory Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	Matt. 6:25-34
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>Put God First, God Blesses You Richly</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 175 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

Servant Unto All to gain the more

(Message preached by Pastor on Oct 2, 05 at the True Life Church Second Anniversary Service)

Text: I Cor 9:19-23

The title of our message this Lord's Day is taken from Paul that though he be free from all men he has made himself servant of all that he might gain the more. If Paul were a salesman he would put it this way: My customer is my master and I always am his servant. In order to have a harmonious church I said in a sermon one Lord's Day morning You members are always right and I as your pastor am always wrong! Members of the Church, I am sure, including my wife, were quite surprised.

Using his tactics, Paul says, "Unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews". On his Second Missionary Journey he met young Timothy at Lystra and converted him. As Paul would take him along he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those quarters. For the Jews all knew Timothy's father was a Greek. Now that Timothy was circumcised he rendered much valuable

service in Paul's Second Missionary, even to Paul's imprisonment in Rome before he was executed. Paul gained Timothy under the law to great profit, for the sake of winning more souls.

Paul now talks about those that are without the law that he might gain them without the law. In Gal 2:3 he says, "But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek (opposite to Timothy), was compelled to be circumcised." Paul gained Titus without the law and in Paul's epistle to Titus what great work was revealed that he did for the Lord. Take note of the difference between Timothy and Titus. While Timothy's mother being a Jewess he came under the Law and had to be circumcised. Titus being fully Gentile needed not to be circumcised.

Now in this third category, Paul says, "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: that I might by all means save some". Here we have a testimony from Dr John Sung. John Sung who got his PhD from USA was a Methodist Evangelist. When he was in Manchuria he baptised 200 by sprinkling. He was welcome wherever he went. But when he came to Hong Kong in the south he made no headway. For here was Baptist territory. The Baptists wanted him to practise immersion at least once. Yielding to the Baptists before they opened their territory to his preaching, John Sung immersed some of them. Does not John Sung now

become weak that he might gain the weak that he might by all means save some? Outwardly yes but inwardly no. For he being a Methodist remained a Methodist. Chuckled he, “More faith, less water. Less faith, more water.” Why did he jovially hint the Baptists use more water? Less faith! Methodists and Presbyterians having more faith use less water! John Sung when in Singapore preached in a Methodist Church without hindrance – this is my chuckles.

Since we left Life Church two years because my two assistant pastors declared the Bible to contain mistakes against my belief of no mistake and 100% perfect, 300 have stood with me. But yet have I made myself servant unto all that I might gain the more. Preaching the gospel to save their souls is our first emphasis. Then comes Baptism. Jesus says, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15, 16). Paul says, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (I Cor 1:17). Paul does not crack a joke here like John Sung but speaks the honest truth no more no less. Amen.

Testimonies

I was a Catholic. I was raised to go to Church every Sunday and to listen to the sermon of the priest. But I do not really realise the usefulness of worship and prayer. I also regularly prayed the Holy Rosary together with my siblings, yet in my heart and mind I did not feel any relationship with the Lord.

I thank the Lord that He gave me a chance to work in Singapore in a Christian family. While working here, I came to know Rev Errol Stone from Perth. He was invited to the Church Camp at Mersing in June 2005. At the parsonage, he shared with me the gospel. He showed me from the Bible these verses, I Tim. 4:1-3 and John 3:16. At Mersing, he continued to share with me God’s Word from Romans 3:10, 3:23, 6:23 and 10:9-10. When we returned from Mersing Camp to Singapore and before he went back to Perth, he came to the parsonage and shared the gospel

with me again. Through his sharing, the Lord opened my heart. I realised that I am a sinner and Jesus came to die for me. I am very grateful to God that Jesus came to save me. That very day on 10 June 05, I repented of my sins and received the Lord Jesus Christ into my heart as my personal Lord and Saviour and Rev Errol Stone led me in the sinner’s prayer.

I thank God for saving me. Now I know that the Roman Catholic Religion that I was brought up in cannot save me. Only Jesus saves.

I thank God that my employers bring me to Church and let me attend the Filipina Bible Study that I may know more about God. I know the Lord leads me to work here so that I can come to know Him as my Saviour and change my life. I want to live for Christ all the days of my life and to confess Him now publicly in water baptism. – *Marquez Marites*

I thank the Lord our God for giving me a Christian employer who always brings me to Church every Sunday and lets me join the Filipina Bible Study and specially allows me to read the Bible at home. Although I was raised as a Catholic, I really respect the Church’s beliefs and teachings. It’s really different from what I believed. With the preaching and teaching in our Filipina Bible Study, slowly and slowly I can see the differences. Although we believe in the same God I am worry about myself and family’s salvation. It is very hard for me because all my family and relatives are Catholics and it’s difficult for them to understand and accept that I change my religion but I know I am a sinner and nobody can save me, only one Person who can save and forgive all my sins and that is Jesus who died on the cross and take away all my sins with His precious blood. I decided to follow Him, no turning back, so I decided to be baptised. He really changed me a lot. Every time I pray I feel closer to Him and have peace.

My favourite verse in the Bible is Philippians 4:6-7, “Be careful for nothing;

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”. So I will leave it up to Him, no worries because I know He is always there for me when I pray. Praise the Lord.

– *Sheila Marie Navarro*

My name is Leong Shu Zhen Ruth, and I am 17 years old. From a young age, I have heard the gospel of God from Bible stories, hymns and church worship. My heart was moved by the

gospel of salvation. I believe the gospel is the only hope for me, as I sincerely have no wish to spend eternity in hell. In the book of Acts, the keeper of the prison asked Paul and Silas, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”. Likewise, when I was about 6 years old and beginning to comprehend the gospel message, I also believed on the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart. I asked Jesus to forgive me of all my sins.

I believe the Bible is the Word of God.
(Continued on back page)



2006

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October	November	December

主之家我為督基



2006

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October	November	December

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
Acts 16:31

Have you got any of these Christian Art Calendars? Get them at the Book Table.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 17 – 23, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	New Testament Introduction (Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
THU	7.30 pm	Exodus (Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Ronny Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Mon and Thu night classes are held at the Far Eastern Bible College, 9A Gilstead Road.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Oct 22, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Christian Contentment" by Rev Das Koshy. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$7,227.00; RM100
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$50; *Hien's Ministry (Brisbane)* \$350; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$50; *FCM* \$150; *Merlin (FEBC)* \$100; *Manling (FEBC)* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$150, \$100, \$100, \$50; *FEBC Scholarship* \$500, \$350; *FEBC* \$300, \$250, \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$10,127.00; RM100
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$880, \$300
Total: \$373,395.60

Sunday School Offering: \$412.00

Verse for the Week: *The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.* Prov. 12:7

Sunday School cum Ladies Fellowship Outing on 3 Nov 2005 (Hari Raya Puasa Public Holiday), 8.30 am to 1.30 pm. Open to all. Cost: \$25 for adults, \$15 for children. Please sign up at the Book Table.

Infant Baptism, Adults Baptism & Reaffirmation of Faith On Second Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 2, 2005



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 3

16 October 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 20
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 110
Psalms	No. 235
Announcements	
Special Number	Kan Family & Cheryl
Offering & Hymn	No. 229
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Exod 3:6-15
Pastoral Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>The God that We Serve</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 28
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

PASTORAL CHAT

The Lord Has Saved Me From Disaster

It was Friday night Oct 7, 05 when after Prayer Meeting we returned home back to College. At about 10.45 with two students carrying hymn books up my house and I four or five steps from the ground for safety I should have grasped the hand rail. Alas! I missed the grip which would send me falling backwards to disaster, but somehow I swerved inwards to the staircase and I landed with a severe bump on my left eye. Thereafter I could not follow what was happening. I was quickly whisked to Alexandra Hospital where they made a thorough examination of me from head to foot finishing at about 3 am. Suddenly my wife appeared which made me feel better. Since I was in first class ward she could stay with me all the time. The medical report was I was completely untouched, safe and sound.

I would like to share with you here a Chinese proverb in the light of the Word of God. The

Chinese proverb says, "Little children fall and they grow up. Old people fall and they die." I could have died had I fallen backwards but in the light of Ps 91:9-12, "Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

I am speedily recovering and report back to the Hospital doctor for a final clearance. Pray for me that I may serve our congregation to the best of my ability. Praise the Lord for His keeping. Amen.

**Put God First,
God Blesses You Richly**
by the Pastor

Text: Matt. 6:25-34

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can

add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof means enough for the day is bad enough.

We worry about our livelihood, with regard to what we shall eat and what we shall drink and what we shall wear. But Jesus says the birds are fed by God, the flowers are better clothed than King Solomon and the Gentiles seek for these things. Christians should not be concerned for these things which God provides us. What is required of us is we should seek God's kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto us. From Matt 6:33 may I give the title of my message, "Put God First, God Blesses You Richly".

Life is full of struggles. Children going to Primary Schools are made to carry heavy school bags and to take tuition in English, Chinese, Mathematics and Music, some piano plus violin. They are rushed off to school before the break of day! What I say here is the truth and no exaggeration.

But parents while worried about their growing up and welfare have forgotten God the source of their success. To bring God into their young lives they should teach them to pray before they go to bed and to pray when they get up in the morning. They should be taught to return thanks for the three meals and whenever they eat. They should be taught to ask God for safety going out of the house and coming in. I remember my grandfather who was a pastor always prayed for the safety of his grandchildren before leaving home. Now I add thanking Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins.

I have two grandchildren. I teach them to pray. I test them, "Did you pray last night when you went to bed and get up this morning?" The elder always says yes but the younger gives no answer. We come now to school exams which parents are more concerned about. If parents just then wake up to their need of God it may be too late.

Now we come to adults. Of much neglect in adults is prayer. This hymn, "Ere you left your room this morning, Did you think to pray?" This is found in Revival Hymns and Choruses No. 362. In the last days of the Japanese war we cried out to God to save us from falling shells around us. Now that there is no war we don't pray. I did not pray for another reason. Calvinism teaches God knows everything ahead so why should I pray. Until I find the Bible teaches Jesus would pray for long periods and Paul also prays. In I Thess 5:17, Paul urges us to "Pray without ceasing". This has now taught me to pray in the morning and whenever I am troubled such as misplacing my keys. Does God answer my prayer? He does. You try to pray in the morning and whenever in trouble. What an enriching life to be in touch all the time with God! For He really answers our prayers.

One important relationship between us and God is tithing. What is tithing? It is recorded primarily in the last book of the

Old Testament. Malachi 3:10, 11, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, i.e. one-tenth of your income into the church, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; ..."

Truly those who give to God, God keeps on giving to them. Deuteronomy Chapter 8 says (vs. 17-18), "And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, ..."

But I have known a church member who cultivates the opposite habit. He takes pleasure to take from the shop he is working as much expenditure as he can charge. As much expenditure not only for himself but what he considers to be for the business run by the shop. All this is done without the knowledge of the boss. In legal language this is criminal breach of trust. A jail sentence awaits him if he is found guilty.

But for us that will seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness (take note, his righteousness) Jesus says, "all these things we need, i.e. what we shall eat and what we shall drink, and what we shall wear shall be added unto us." Put God first, God blesses us richly.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XVI

John 16

Jesus' Parting Words to His Disciples

One reason why Winston Churchill could rally an unprepared nation to resist the Germans to victory in the last War was his frankness. Contrary to Neville

Chamberlain's mincing of words, Churchill told the nation the seriousness of the ordeal facing them in no uncertain terms.

He who is the Truth, in his parting words, tells the disciples all the trials that will now break upon their heads like a thunderstorm. Thus Ch. 16 begins abruptly, but truthfully: "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" (fanaticism of a Jewish jihad).

Jesus then bolsters His argument for leaving them with the good results that will come – the sending of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to take His place – in a greater way (v. 7)! On one hand the Holy Spirit will convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgement, on the other He will guide the apostles into all truth, since they cannot receive all of it now.

Jesus allays their sorrows and their fears with the assurance of victory over death. Their sorrow would be for "a little while" when it will be turned into joy (v. 20). Our Lord compares his ordeal to a woman in labour, "but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world" (v. 21).

Furthermore our Lord promises them the security of being supplied by the loving Father above, if they will but ask in His Name.

Strengthened by our Lord's plain speaking, the disciples express their restored confidence (v. 29, 30).

Jesus says for the last time how the disciples will be dispersed by the coming trials, but He will stand the test because the Father is with Him. Memorise v. 33 and test your memory of Jn 14:27 which speaks of the peace that the world so sorely needs.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 24 – 30, 2005)

MON	7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
THU	7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Rev Quek Suan Yew) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship will be having a Visitation to Ling Kwang Home this Sat (Oct 29, 05). Please meet outside FEBC Bookroom at 2.50 pm. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Oct 29, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Edmund Wong's home at Blk 82 Strathmore Avenue, #14-144 Singapore 141082. Message: "How to handle disappointments" by Rev Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Oct 30, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,274.00
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$200, \$100; *Rev Jeffrey Khoo* \$150; *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$100; *Berean B-P Church* \$500; *RPG Ministry* \$100; *Wendy Teng* \$100; *FEBC* \$200
Total General and Designated Offerings: \$8,924.00
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$200, \$100
Total: \$374,695.60

Sunday School Offering: \$506.00

Verse for the Week: *A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.* Prov. 12:8

Sunday School cum Ladies Fellowship Outing on Nov 3, 05 (Hari Raya Puasa Public Holiday), 8.30 am to 1.30 pm. Open to all. Cost: \$25 for adults, \$15 for children. Please sign up at the Book Table by today.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Dr and Mrs Francis Lee on Nov 4, 05 (Fri) at 8 pm. Address: 35 Moonbeam Terrace, Singapore 277308. Tel: 64722272.

At the Book Table: Fanny Crosby's Musical DVD produced by Bible Witness Media Ministry available at \$12 per copy.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 4

23 October 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Geoffrey Tan
Opening Hymn	No. 86
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 110
Psalm	No. 235
Announcements	
Special Number	Children's Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 390
Offertory Prayer	Elder Geoffrey Tan
Scripture Text	I Thess. 4:13-18
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Ronny Khoo
Sermon	<i>Rejoicing in the Coming of the Lord</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 230
Benediction	Rev Ronny Khoo

Being a One-Master Servant

(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Oct 9, 05)

Text: Matt. 6:19-34

My title, "Being a One-Master Servant," is a restatement of Matt 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." No man can serve two masters without being a hypocrite. A man who serves two masters is a "double agent"—he has two faces and is double-hearted; he is a traitor like Judas who finally revealed that money was his master, not Jesus Christ. As much as we do not want such disloyal and treacherous men to be our friends, neither does the Lord. Our loyalty to God must be 100% or none at all. Split loyalty is disloyalty; 99% or even 99.9% allegiance to God is not good enough and falls far short of God's glory or perfect standard (Rom 3:23).

How to be one-Master servants? We can only be one-Master servants if we apply the following biblical principles:

(I) Love Heavenly Treasures, Despise Earthly Riches

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (vv19-21). The Lord tells us that earthly riches are transient and will last only for a short while. They may be here today, but gone tomorrow. What can take our worldly goods away? (1) Moth: This refers to natural disasters (eg, tsunami, hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes etc). (2) Rust: This refers to age and decay. (3) Thieves: This refers to human agents who steal, cheat and rob us of our possessions.

In contrast, heavenly treasures are forever; not diamonds are forever, but heaven! Heaven is where God is. He is your Safekeeper. There are no thieves and robbers in heaven, only the angels and the saints, and they will not steal from you.

How to build up your treasures in heaven? Simple: by working for



Second Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 2, 2005

the Lord right now on earth. “Work for the night is coming, work through the morning hours ... Work for the night is coming, when man’s work is done.” When we work for the Lord, our hearts must be right—“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” The heart is the seat of emotions and affections. Love the world and you will think money. Love Christ and you will think heaven.

(II) Love Truth, Hate Error

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!” (vv 22-23). Light refers to Truth. Ps 43:3 says, “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me.” The light of God is His truth. Darkness refers to sin and error. We are walking in a sin-cursed world which is dark and dangerous with many pitfalls and potholes. If we want to walk aright, and prevent ourselves from falling into danger, we need the light of God’s Word, for “thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps 119:105). We need to fill our minds with God’s Perfect Word which is our Perfect Compass. This Perfect Compass always points us to the right and precise direction, and we have such a Perfect Compass today! We have the forever infallible and inerrant words of Christ 100% inspired and 100% preserved to lead and guide us and we shall not be afraid what the devil or wicked men might do to us (2 Tim 3:16, Matt 5:18)! As much as God has preserved His words (Ps 12:6-7), so shall He also preserve His saints (Ps 12:1-5). Our perfect Bible is never out of focus, and contains no double images. It will give us a “single eye” and is “full of light.” We must follow Jesus always, and never lose sight of Him our Lord and our Saviour for “Jesus again spake unto them, saying, I am the light

of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

(III) Love God’s Kingdom, Forget Satan’s World

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (vv 24, 25, 33).

We may have many worries in life—food, clothing, shelter, etc. God tells us not to worry. He knows how to take care of our physical needs. If He takes care of the birds on the daily basis, and makes sure they have food each time, how much more will He care for us His children who are far more important and precious to Him than the sparrows! The Lord does not want us to worry about such matters of livelihood. He promises to take care of our physical needs; He will give us day by day our daily bread. We should let go and let God worry about our physical needs. What God wants us to worry about is our spiritual life—Is God first place in our life? Are we reading our Bible and praying every day? Do we keep the Lord’s Day holy? Are we studying His Word diligently, and having close fellowship with the saints? Or do we love the things of the world? This is the Lord’s command, “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of

God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Conclusion

If we want to serve the Lord, we must serve Him with 100% love and loyalty. The Lord expects no less from us. How to be one-Master servants? Jesus tells us to (1) love heavenly treasures and despise earthly riches, (2) love truth and hate error, (3) love God’s kingdom and forget Satan’s world. May the Lord help us.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XVI

John 16:1-4

To be forewarned is to be forearmed

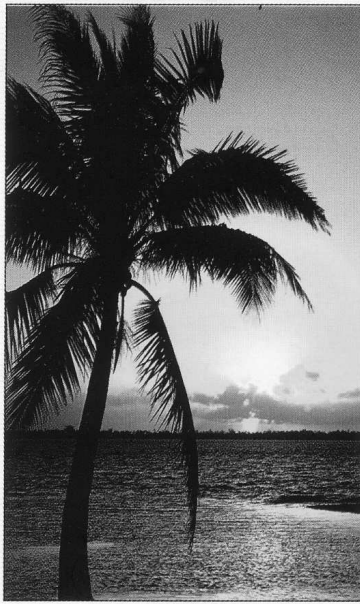
When Jesus first called the 12 apostles, did He not lay down the terms of discipleship? Yes, He did. Though Mark and Luke give us a scanty description, Matthew fills in the details with the whole of chapter 10, consisting of 42 verses. The warnings He gave therein are the same as given in this passage, just as frank and drastic, and the demands of discipleship just as absolute.

In Matthew, however, the disciples are assured of the Father’s protection by His particular providential care. They are promised the wisdom of the Holy Spirit for their lips to deliver them from the verbal snares of their accusers. Why does our Lord say, “And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you?”

Our understanding is that though He had stated the terms of discipleship, He did not harp on them, since the time of testing had not yet come. Since the Lord was always in the company of the disciples, they felt secure.

Now that zero hour was approaching, the Master must have His disciples braced for the test. To be forewarned is to be forearmed: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.” Suffering no doubt, but deliverance sure!

What lesson can we learn from this plain talk? We must also be alerted. As the disciples had to go through suffering in the way of the cross, we must be prepared to go through turmoil and persecution in these last days before we see the crown – His return! Despite our present trials, however, we also shall have our sorrow turned into joy when He comes in the clouds of heaven to take us up. Is this your hope in a troubled world?



2006

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Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
Acts 16:31

*Have you got the Christian Art Calendars?
Get them at the Book Table.*

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Oct 31 – Nov 6, 2005)	
MON 7.30 pm	No FEBC Night Class
WED 7.45 pm	No Ladies Fellowship Meeting
THU 8.15 am	Sunday School cum Ladies Fellowship Outing FEBC Exam Begins
FRI 8.00 pm	Family Worship
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study
Sunday School cum Ladies Fellowship Outing will be held this Thu, Nov 3, 05 (Hari Raya Puasa Public Holiday). Please meet at RELC at 8.15 am. Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Dr Francis and Mrs Stephanie Lee this Fri (Nov 4, 05) at 8 pm. Address: 35 Moonbeam Terrace (off Holland Road), Singapore 277308. Tel: 64652272. Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Nov 5, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Joy (Phil. 4:4)" by Elder Boaz Boon. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.	

PREAMBLE

A Personal Affirmation of the 100% Inspiration and the 100% Preservation of the Original Language Scriptures Underlying the King James Version

- (1) I do believe in the divine, verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and as the Word of God, the Supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- (2) I do affirm the biblical doctrine of providential preservation that the inspired words of the Hebrew OT Scriptures and the Greek NT Scriptures are "kept pure in all ages" as taught by the Westminster Confession.
- (3) I do believe that the Texts which are purest and closest to the autographs of the Bible are the Traditional Masoretic Hebrew Text of the Old Testament, and the Traditional Greek Text for the New Testament underlying the King James Version.
- (4) I believe that the purity of God's words has been faithfully maintained in the Traditional/Byzantine/Majority/Received Text, and fully represented in the Textus Receptus

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS	
General Offerings: \$8,440; RM1,035 Designated Offerings: <i>Rev Tow</i> \$200, \$50; <i>Amos Go (Myanmar)</i> \$100, \$100; <i>Wendy Teng</i> \$100; <i>FEBC</i> \$500, \$150 Total General and Designated Offerings: \$9,640; RM1,035 Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$300, \$150 Total: \$376,145.60	
Sunday School Offering: \$465.00	
Verse for the Week: <i>He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.</i> Prov. 12:9	
There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 239 Bukit Panjang Ring Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330. Christmas Cards by <i>Bible Witness Media Ministry</i> are available at the Book Table. Every adult worshipper is entitled to a set free of charge. Members are encouraged to use these cards to invite their friends/relatives to the Church. When sending out the cards, it is advisable to enclose our Gospel Bookmark which contains the gospel and details of our church.	

that underlies the KJV. Providential preservation is not static but dynamic.

- (5) I do believe that God's providential preservation of the Scriptures concerns not just the doctrines but also the very words of Scripture to the jot and tittle (Ps 12:6-7, Matt 5:18, 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33, Rev 22:18-19).
- (6) I do not deny that other faithful Bible translations, including foreign language ones, that are based on other editions of the Textus Receptus can be deemed the Word of God.
- (7) I do believe that Scripture cannot contradict Scripture, and hence there can be no discrepancies in the Bible. All alleged discrepancies are only apparent and not actual. Principles of harmonisation should be employed to offer possible solutions, but calling such discrepancies "scribal errors" is not one.
- (8) I do not believe we need to improve on the TR underlying the KJV. I do not want to play textual critic, and be a judge of God's Word. I accept God's special hand in His providential work of Bible preservation during the Reformation.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 5

30 October 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 46
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 46
Psalms	No. 90
Announcements	
Special Number	Indonesian Students
Offering & Hymn	No. 27
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	I Samuel 17:1-11; 20-29
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
Sermon	<i>The Reformation Spirit – Dead or Alive?</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 432
Benediction	Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

A 21st Century Reformation Paper TRUTH OR LIES?

by Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Accusers and Allegations

A number of websites seek to attack and destroy the verbal and plenary perfection of the Bible. They claim that the Bible is verbally and plenary inspired (VPI) but not verbally and plenary preserved (VPP). Simply put, they want Christians to believe that the Bible was only infallible in the past but no longer infallible today.

In attacking the present infallibility and inerrancy of the Scriptures and the identification of an existing infallible and inerrant Scripture in the original languages in the inspired and preserved Hebrew and Greek words underlying the Reformation Bibles best represented by the KJV, these anti-perfectionist, anti-preservationist, anti-TR/KJV, pro-Westcott-Hort, and pro-modern-versionists falsely accuse believers of the present perfection of Scriptures as schismatics, heretics and even cultists by linking them to

Ruckmanism and Seventh-Day Adventism (SDAism). Their writings imply that it is simply unscholarly and even sinful to suggest that Christians today indeed possess a 100% infallible and inerrant Bible.

Henceforth, I will refer to such propagators of untruth generally as "the accusers," bearing in mind that not all of them share exactly the same beliefs with regard to the VPP and the KJV, as some among them even inexplicably profess love for the KJV—notwithstanding their readiness to find fault with the KJV and/or the original language texts (words) underlying the KJV. The title of "arch-accuser" goes to Doug Kutilek who contributed a chapter to the faith-denying and doubt-casting book called *One Bible Only?* authored by the faculty of Central Baptist Theological Seminary (with support from Bob Jones University). In that book, Kutilek maliciously and mischievously paints with a broad and contemptuous brush all pro-KJV advocates as Ruckmanites.

If Kutilek had kept his criticisms of Ruckman to Ruckman alone we would not have cared, but he linked sound defenders of the KJV like Edward F Hills, David Otis Fuller, David Cloud, D A Waite to Ruckman! This is hitting below the belt. He also unjustly accused pro-KJV defenders of SDAism just because D O Fuller quoted from SDA Benjamin Wilkinson who so happened to defend the KJV as well

in his book *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated* (1930). This is a common tactic by detractors to mislead, to paint white as black so that people will not see the white but only the black, and to make people think that the black they see is indeed white. Such sophistry is usually employed by those who have no case or a weak case, who have to resort to such low blows to score their points in order to look credible.

VPP is Not Ruckmanism

It is a well-known fact that authors like Hills, Fuller, Cloud and Waite by no means defend the KJV in the way Ruckman does. It is clear from the writings of Hills, Fuller, Cloud and Waite that they do not espouse at all the beliefs of Ruckman that:

- (1) the KJV is doubly inspired;
- (2) the KJV is advanced revelation;
- (3) the English KJV is as or more inspired than the original language Scriptures;
- (4) the KJV can be used to correct the original language Scriptures;
- (5) there is no need whatsoever to study the Biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek due to an “inspired” English translation;
- (6) the KJV cannot be improved on (*The Defined King James Bible* edited by Waite and Tow and published by Bible For Today is certainly an improvement of the KJV);
- (7) the KJV is the only Bible that has gospel or salvific content;
- (8) those who do not use the KJV are condemned to hell; and
- (9) all non-English speaking believers must learn English to know the Truth.

Hills, Fuller, Cloud and Waite are all essentially speaking of the infallibility and inerrancy of the inspired Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek Scriptures behind the Reformation Bibles best represented by the KJV. The KJV does not stand independently or separately. It is dependent on its original language source texts, and these source texts (words) known by various names—Byzantine, Majority, Received—are the infallibly preserved apographs of the inerrant autographs.

As far as non-English translations or versions of the Bible go, all non-English speaking believers are encouraged to use the Bibles they have in their own native tongue, but they ought to use that version which is closest to the inspired and preserved Byzantine, Majority and Received texts, and as far removed as possible from the Alexandrian, Minority, and Westcott-Hort texts. They ought also to use a Bible that is translated by means of the verbal equivalence method (word-for-word) rather than the dynamic equivalence method (thought-for-thought) in keeping to the twin doctrines of VPI and VPP. Biblically and theologically trained pastors and teachers are necessary to teach faithfully the whole counsel of God, expounding from the inerrant Hebrew and Greek Scriptures God has infallibly preserved, namely, the Masoretic Text and the Textus Receptus of the Protestant Reformation, all the truths that God has given using the best version or translation the people have in their hands.

VPP is Not SDAism

Dr Benjamin Wilkinson (an SDA) does not own the King James Bible. The King James Bible was not translated by SDAs but by Reformation and Protestant scholars of the highest calibre during the reign of King James in the early 17th century. The King James Bible is for everyone who loves the Bible and desires to have the best and most faithful English Bible ever produced for their meditation and edification. Neither does Wilkinson own the “copyright” to the Biblical doctrine of VPP which belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ who said in all three Synoptic Gospels, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matt 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33).

Wilkinson did not pioneer the defence of the KJV. The original defence of the KJV may be traced to the Trinitarian Bible Society (TBS) which was originally founded in 1831 to defend the biblical and fundamental doctrine of the Trinity and the 100% deity of Christ—hence its name “Trinitarian.” The clearest proof-text for the doctrine of the Trinity is 1 John 5:7, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the

Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” This most excellent verse has been scissored out by Westcott and Hort, and the modern versions. The TBS in its defence of the Trinity found it most necessary also to defend 1 John 5:7 as found in the underlying preserved Greek text of the KJV. By so defending the KJV and its preserved underlying Greek text, is the TBS now SDA just because Wilkinson at a later time happened to defend the KJV and its underlying Greek text too? Note that the TBS is stoutly against Westcott and Hort, and the modern versions, and even considers the NKJV untrustworthy.

The Bible League is another early defender of the KJV. Founded in 1892, the Bible League resisted the “Downgrade” in Great Britain. The modernists were throwing out one doctrine after another including the foundational and indispensable doctrine of the divine inspiration and total inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible League was founded to contend earnestly for the historic Christian Faith. Since its inception, the League has endeavored “[t]o promote the Reverent Study of the Holy Scriptures, and to resist the varied attacks made upon their Inspiration, Infallibility and Sole Sufficiency as the Word of God.” Insofar as the Bible versions issue is concerned, the Bible League unashamedly holds to the view that “the Authorised Version is the most accurate and faithful English Bible translation available today.” Its latest publication (2004), a 126-page book authored by Alan J Macgregor and titled *Three Modern Versions* is a most timely critique of the NIV, ESV and NKJV. It is significant to note that Macgregor quoted Wilkinson’s *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, but in a footnote (pp12-13) Macgregor wisely explained his use of Wilkinson’s material thus:

It must be pointed out here that while there is some good material in Dr Wilkinson’s book, there are also a number of inaccuracies. He was a Seventh-day Adventist (a fact that many who quote from him fail to reveal). Some who support the use of modern versions of the Bible allege

that one of the reasons for Dr. Wilkinson’s strong opposition to the Revised Version of 1881 was that it altered two verses which Adventists regard as proof-texts in support of their doctrines: Acts 13:42 (which they regard as teaching the necessity of Gentiles keeping the Sabbath or Seventh Day), and Hebrews 9:27 (which Adventists believe teaches soul sleep). I have sought to be selective in the quotes I have used. Some might argue, why quote from him at all, if he was a member of a cult? The answer is that despite his Adventist views ... there is nonetheless some sound evidence in his book that rightly exposes facts concerning the Westcott and Hort Text, and the errors of Vaticanus and Sinaiticus. He also provides solid, factual support for the superiority of the Received Text.

This allegation that the belief in the verbal and plenary preservation of the Scriptures and the defence of the KJV is a “new doctrine” and a “new practice” has been very much the tactic of anti-VPPists, anti-TRists, and anti-KJVists to vilify the fundamental doctrine of the infallible preservation of the inspired words of the Holy Scriptures to the last jot and tittle as promised by our Lord Himself in Matthew 5:18, and the goodness of the KJV and its underlying Hebrew and Greek Texts, so that the unknowing populace would automatically shun the good old doctrine of VPP, the good old TR, and the good old KJV without consciously giving them a second thought. Some of the accusers even claim to be “*preserving our godly paths*” (*Jer 6:16*)! Can this be so?

New Attacks, New Terms, Not New Doctrines

David Cloud rightly says that such new attacks against KJV defenders “has increased in intensity in recent years and is finding a home even among those who claim to be Fundamentalists and Bible-believing Baptists.” Cloud quoted from the Rev Dennis Gibson (a minister of the gospel who has served in Presbyterian and Baptist churches since 1958, and a regular contributor to the international

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(Continued from Weekly Proper)

devotional guide—*Read, Pray and Grow*) who in a letter to him dated April 19, 1995 wrote, “I see a real hostility that has been generated in the minds of some of the *younger pastors*. There does not seem to be, on their part, a serious interest in dealing with this issue ... It is the hostility, however, that is troubling. Sides are forming and deep prejudices are evident. To be ‘a King James man’ is now a term of opprobrium. This opposition is within ‘so-called’ evangelicalism, not as in the past, from the liberal-modernist camp.”

Is it no wonder that the Trinitarian Bible Society, noting a significant change in theological climate in Christendom, felt compelled to issue a comprehensive statement in 2005 (www.trinitarianbiblesociety.com/site/qj/qj571.pdf) defining what it believes to be the Doctrine of Scripture? D P Rowland, the General Secretary of TBS wrote in the Society’s *Quarterly Record* (April-June 2005), “Today, as has been stated, things are very different. The doctrine of Scripture has been, and is being, assailed on every side; not least from within many branches (including those taking the name of ‘evangelical’ and ‘reformed’ and may I add ‘fundamentalist’) of the so-called ‘Christian Church’ of our day. The Committee, therefore, considers it necessary for the Society clearly and unambiguously to state where it stands on this most fundamental of all doctrines” (words in italics are mine).

New assaults on the foundational and indispensable doctrine of the infallible preservation of the inerrantly inspired words of Holy Scripture require updated statements and more definitive terms to affirm Christianity’s fundamental beliefs concerning the *forever* infallible and inerrant Scripture, hence our term—“Verbal Plenary Preservation”—as expressed in the Constitution of the Far Eastern Bible College, and True Life Bible-Presbyterian Church:

(1) *We believe in the divine, Verbal Plenary Inspiration (Autographs) and Verbal Plenary Preservation (Apographs)*

of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and as the perfect Word of God, the Supreme and final authority in faith and life (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21; Ps 12:6-7; Matt 5:18, 24:35);

(2) *We believe the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament underlying the Authorised (King James) Version to be the very Word of God, infallible and inerrant;*

(3) *We uphold the Authorised (King James) Version to be the Word of God—the best, most faithful, most accurate, most beautiful translation of the Bible in the English language, and do employ it alone as our primary scriptural text in the public reading, preaching, and teaching of the English Bible.*

What is the real problem today? Is it not the unequal yoking of “reformed” and “fundamentalist” theology with the textual-critical method of Westcott and Hort and the “inerrant autographs alone” view of Warfield, their resultant corrupt text and modern perversions? Why are “reformed” people agreeing with certain fundamental Baptists who castigate the doctrine of special providential preservation as a “new doctrine,” non-existent before 1648 and the Westminster Confession? Why are certain Biblical fundamentalists well-known for their Biblical conservatism and separatism speaking favourably of rationalistic methods of Biblical criticism, modernistic critical texts, and the ecumenical and neo-evangelical modern versions? Has there not been a downgrade today within reformed Christianity and historic fundamentalism? If so, is this not a backsliding away from the 16th and 20th century Reformation movements?

Prayer and Plea

Our sincere and earnest prayer is that Bible-believing and Bible-defending Christians would not just believe and defend the Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) of Scripture, but also the Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP) of Scripture. The Bible was not only infallible and (P.T.O)

(Continued from previous page)

inerrant in the past (in the Autographs), but also infallible and inerrant in the present (in the Apographs). These Apographs are the providentially and specially preserved Hebrew and Greek manuscripts and texts underlying the Reformation Bibles best represented by the KJV.

The Texts Underlying the KJV as Identified by the Trinitarian Bible Society

As a defender of the VPP of Scripture and the KJV, I praise the Lord for the Trinitarian Bible Society’s latest position statement on the Bible as published in its *Quarterly Record*, April-June 2005. The TBS identifies and describes the underlying texts of the KJV as follows:

“The Trinitarian Bible Society Statement of Doctrine of the Holy Scripture” approved by the General Committee at its meeting held on 17th January 2005, and revised 25th February 2005 declares:

The Constitution of the Trinitarian Bible Society specifies the textual families to be employed in the translations it circulates. The Masoretic Hebrew and the Greek Received Texts are the texts that the Constitution of the Trinitarian Bible Society acknowledges to have been preserved by the special providence of God within Judaism and Christianity. Therefore these texts are definitive and the final point of reference in all the Society’s work.

These texts of Scripture reflect the qualities of God-breathed Scripture, including being authentic, holy, pure, true, infallible, trustworthy, excellent, self-authenticating, necessary, sufficient, perspicuous, self-interpreting, authoritative and inerrant (Psalm 19:7-9, Psalm 119). They are consequently to be received as the Word of God (Ezra 7:14; Nehemiah 8:8; Daniel 9:2; 2 Peter 1:19) and the correct reading at any point is to be sought within these texts.

The Society accepts as the best edition of

the Hebrew Masoretic text the one prepared in 1524–25 by Jacob ben Chayyim and known, after David Bomberg the publisher, as the Bomberg text. This text underlies the Old Testament in the Authorised Version.

The Greek Received Text is the name given to a group of printed texts, the first of which was published by Desiderius Erasmus in 1516. The Society believes that the latest and best edition is the text reconstructed by F.H.A. Scrivener in 1894. This text was reconstructed from the Greek underlying the New Testament of the Authorised Version.

Amen!

Can the accusers fault the TBS for letting us know which texts have been preserved by the special providence of God and used by the TBS as its *final point of reference* in all its work? If they find fault, it may be because they want to paint VPP as merely a theory with no specific texts that can be found or identified in practice (i.e. in the real world). If VPP is destroyed or undermined by them, the immediately underlying original Hebrew and Greek apographs become of no consequence and it would then not matter if Christians use perverted modern versions since such versions can also claim to be ultimately traceable to the unavailable autographs. VPI without VPP can lead to the floodgate being opened for the inclusion of the heretical Gnostic gospels and perverted modern Bible versions.

The above TBS statement, similar to the *Preamble* I wrote in my booklet—*KJV: Questions and Answers*—published by Bible Witness Literature Ministry in 2003, is stricter and more definitive. The *Preamble* is reproduced in full on the back page of the *Weekly Proper*.

May the Reformation cry that is based on the **Reformation Bible** ring loud and clear today—not *Sola Autographa* but ***Sola Scriptura!***

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (2 Cor 13:8).

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 7 – 13, 2005)

MON – FRI	FEBC Exams
WED 8.00 pm	Church Session Meeting
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL C, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room
SAT 3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (<i>Lord's Supper</i>) (Dr Jeffrey Khoo) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Nov 12, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Ten Commandments by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Nov 12, 05) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Message: "Verbal Plenary Preservation – Q&A" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.
YPF Camp, Dec 12 – 15, 2005. Theme: Walking With Jesus. *Speakers:* Bro Nelson Were & Rev Tan Kian Sing (night messages). *Venue:* Calvary Pandan B-P Church. For enquiries, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$23,905; RM20
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$100; *Dr Jeffrey Khoo* \$500; *Mrs Tow* \$200; *Amos Go (Myanmar)* \$340 (LF), \$170 (YPF), \$459; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$500; *Ng Sang Chiew* \$200; *Barnabas Yap* \$200; *Wendy Teng* \$200, \$100; *FEBC Students* \$400; *Tanzania Bible College* \$2,000; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *FEBC Scholarships* \$400; *FEBC* \$5,000, \$200
Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$35,407; RM20
Church Building Fund: \$5,000, \$1,000, \$200, \$122 **Total:** \$382,467.60

Sunday School Offering: \$533.00

Verse for the Week: *A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.* Prov. 12:10

Christmas Cards given free with compliments from True Life are available at the Book Table. Every adult worshipper is entitled to a set free of charge. Members are encouraged to use these cards to invite their friends/relatives to the Church. When sending out the cards, it is advisable to enclose our Gospel Bookmark which contains the gospel and details of our church.

At the Book Table: Fanny Crosby's Musical DVD produced by *Bible Witness Media Ministry* available at \$12 per copy.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REL C Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 6

6 November 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 129
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 107
Psalm	No. 230
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 245
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Ps. 91:9-16
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>I Will Even Prolong His Life</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 392
Benediction	Pastor Tow

The God that We Serve

(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Oct 16, 05)

Text: Exodus 3:6-15

Who is the God that we serve? How big is our God? Many a time we worry about mundane things in life like would I have enough to eat or what bad things will people do to me? When we start worrying about such things instead of trusting in the Lord and in His promises, we sin against Him. We sin the sin of doubt—doubting His promises, questioning His power. Such a sin not only hurts us spiritually, it might even hurt us mentally, emotionally and physically.

Moses had all kinds of doubts, questions, and uncertainties when the Lord called Him. Moses was too self-centred in his thoughts to be effective for the Lord. Moses had to be directed away from thinking about himself to thinking about God—to think of God's presence and His power—that he should not be trusting in his own strength but in the strength of the Lord.

The Lord allayed all the doubts and worries of

Moses by assuring him of these three truths about Himself. The Lord wanted Moses to know the God whom he serves is the:

(I) God Who Remembers (vv6-10)

We read in Exodus 3:6-8, "Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey."

First, the Lord assured Moses that He is a God who remembers. Israel was God's chosen nation, and still is. God remembers the promises He made to His servant Abraham about 400 years ago (Genesis 12). God has a perfect memory. He does not and cannot forget. He always remembers His people, and in His own good timing He will deliver them from bondage and destruction. God cannot but fulfil all His promises to Israel and to His Church. This God who remembers is a God we can trust fully, 100%. He does not fail. He cannot fail. He never forgets His words. He will do what He has promised to do. Jesus likewise



Rendering of Praise Items by various groups on 2nd Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Oct 2, 2005

assures us in Matthew 5:17-18, “*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*”

Verses 7-9 tell us these three things about our God:

- (1) **He hears our prayers and knows our sorrows** (v7). “*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*” (Heb 4:14-16).
- (2) **He is a God of action and will provide us with good things to enjoy** (v8). “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*” (Jas 1:17). Jesus said, “*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*” (Matt 7:11).
- (3) **He is more powerful than any superpower, and none can stand against Him** (v9). Even proud and mighty Nebuchadnezzar of ancient Babylon was humbled to the dust by God, and after he gained his sanity, he blessed the Lord, “*And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his*

will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Dan 4:34-35).

The God that we serve is all-powerful.

(II) God Who Appoints (vv11-12)

“*And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain*” (Exod 3:11-12).

God can act alone but He is often pleased to use His people to do His work. What a privilege it is if He were to appoint us to serve Him. Moses was such a privileged man when the Lord appointed him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. God always raises a man to stand in the gap, and Moses was that man. Other examples may be found in church history. In the 4th century, the Lord raised up Athanasius to defend the doctrine of Christ, that Jesus was not only **100% man**, but also **100% God**, against the heretic Arius who denied the deity of Christ. In the 16th century, the Lord raised up Martin Luther and John Calvin to defend the doctrine of salvation—**100% grace** and **100% faith** and not by works at all—leading the Protestant Church out of the bondage of the Roman Catholic Church. In the 20th century, the Lord raised up J Gresham Machen and Carl McIntire to defend the **100% inspiration** of the Holy Scriptures against the modernists and the neo-evangelicals, and today the Lord has raised up men like Edward F Hills, David Otis Fuller, David Cloud, D A Waite, and our very own pastor—Timothy Tow—to battle for the **100% preservation** of the Holy Scriptures in defence of the King James Bible against the corrupt Westcott and Hort text, and the modern versions.

As we earnestly contend for the faith according to God’s appointment, we are comforted to know that we are not alone. God

fights the battle with us. The battle for the Bible today is very much His battle. As He told Moses “*Certainly I will be with thee,*” so He tells us today “*I will be with thee.*” The Lord guaranteed Moses success in verses 19-21, “*And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty.*” The Lord already knew what would happen, and how He would deliver Israel out of Egypt (against the open theists who deny that God knows the future).

The God that we serve is all-knowing.

(III) God Who is Eternal (vv13-14)

“*And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you*” (Exod 3:13-14).

The God we worship and serve is called the great “I AM.” His Name is above every name. Jesus is the great I AM. The I AM revealed Himself in the NT. Jesus told the Jews, “*Before Abraham was, I am*” (John 8:58). He revealed what that divine name means when He made these 7 declarations:

- (1) “***I am the bread of life***” (John 6:35),
- (2) “***I am the light of the world***” (John 8:12),
- (3) “***I am the door of the sheep***” (John 10:7),
- (4) “***I am the good shepherd***” (John 10:11),
- (5) “***I am the resurrection, and the life***” (John 11:25),
- (6) “***I am the way, the truth, and the life***” (John 14:6),
- (7) “***I am the true vine***” (John 15:1).

Jesus Christ is seven times “I am.” Seven is the number of God, the number of perfection. Jesus is the Perfect God Himself who has come to be our Saviour. What a wonderful God we

have—the almighty I AM who had become a lowly man—just to be Jesus our Saviour and yet God no less. Jesus is the Greater Moses who has come to deliver us from the bondage of sin and of Satan.

The greatness of our Lord is seen in His humility. “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Phil 2:5-11).

When we come before the Lord Jesus Christ, we can only say, “You are everything, we are nothing.” Like John the Baptist, “He must increase, I must decrease.” He is so big, we are so small. We are so weak, He is so strong. But the wonderful thing is this: when we say we are weak, then we are strong; we become strong in His strength not ours. That was why Paul could say, “*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong*” (2 Cor 12:9-10). Knowing our weaknesses, He will help us all the way as we learn to trust and obey Him.

The God that we serve is all present.

Conclusion

Who is the God that we serve? The God that we serve is the God who remembers, who appoints, and who is eternal. The God that we serve is all-powerful, all-knowing and all-present. Amen.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 14 – 20, 2005)

MON	1.15 am	Pastor and Mrs Tow leave for Perth, Australia (SQ 225)
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Nov 19, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Program: Bible Study on Ten Commandments by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

YPF Camp, Dec 12 – 15, 2005. Theme: Walking With Jesus. *Speakers:* Bro Nelson Were & Rev Tan Kian Sing (night messages). *Venue:* Calvary Pandan B-P Church. Please register at the Book Table. *Closing Date:* Dec 4, 2005. For enquiries, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

Latest Issue of Burning Bush, Jan 2006 available at the Book Table. Please help yourself to a copy.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$8,770
Designated Offerings: *Rev Ronny Khoo* \$150; *Rev Errol Stone* \$500; *Hien & his ministry* \$150, \$100; *Kuantan Mission* \$50; *BCEA (Kenya)* \$70; *BCEA (Tanzania)* \$600 (AF), \$110; *YPF Camp* \$100; *FEBC Scholarship* \$350; *FEBC* \$536, \$600
Total General and Designated Offerings: \$12,086
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$100, \$50 **Total:** \$383,617.60

Sunday School Offering: \$557.00

Verse for the Week: *He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.* Prov. 12:11

(Continued from previous page)

That God 'took' Enoch demonstrated clearly to his contemporaries (and does so to us) that *life continues beyond the grave*. Where God took him is not stated, but we may safely surmise that it was where God's literal presence may be found – cf. John 14:3.

Were Enoch and Elijah translated bodily to Heaven because of a unique ministry God reserved for them in the future? If so, these men may be the Two Anointed Ones of Zech. 4:14 and the Two Witnesses of Rev. 11:7-12.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 7

13 November 2005

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Pastor Tow
Opening Hymn	No. 88
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 108
Psalm	No. 232
Announcements	
Special Number	Benjamin & Andrew
Offering & Hymn	No. 236
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Scripture Text	Heb 11:1-6; Rom 1:16-17
Sermon	<i>Living Faith</i> (Rev Stephen Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 183 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Pastor Tow

before 10.30 worship. Each class takes one hour, from 9.15 to 10.15. We will hold it inside a big room entered from our big Auditorium. Please delay no further but register with Wendy Teng who is around Sunday morning.

Our Catechism Class will begin second Lord's Day of January and carry on till Easter, when our Lord rose from the dead. Here's a comforting verse, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom 10:9). "Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9).

So, hurry!

Your affectionate pastor
T T

PASTORAL CHAT

My dear Readers

This is my last Chat with you before I leave for Perth, Monday morning Nov 14, a new way of flying!

What I would say to new members is the matter of Baptism. Baptism is commanded by our Lord Himself. In Mark 16:15, 16, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Baptism in Acts of the Apostles is done without waiting. Acts 2:37, 38 records, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Today there is no such urgency. But we conduct a Catechism Class which takes 12 times, convening

I Will Even Prolong His Life

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Nov 6, 05)

Text: Psalm 91:9-16

It was Friday night Oct 7, 05 when after the Prayer Meeting we returned back to College. At about 10.45 pm with two students carrying hymn books up my house, and I four or five steps from the ground, for safety's sake, I should have grasped the hand rail. Alas! I missed the grip which would send me falling backwards to disaster, but somehow I swerved inwards to the staircase and I landed with a severe bump on my left eye.

Thereafter I could not follow what was happening. I was quickly



Adults Fellowship Meeting, Oct 15, 2005

whisked to Alexandra Hospital where they made a thorough examination of me from head to foot, finishing at about 3 am. Suddenly my wife appeared which made me feel much better. Since I was in the first class ward, she could stay with me all the time. The medical report was I was completely untouched, safe and sound.

I would like to share with you here a Chinese proverb in the light of the Word of God. The Chinese proverb says, “Little children fall and they grow up. Old people fall and they die.” I could have died had I fallen backwards, but in the light of Ps 91:9-16, “Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.”

After three days stay in Alexandra Hospital I was discharged. I thought I could be back in church after a week but it has taken three weeks and to be fully recovered exactly one month.

Now God had a higher plan for our lives. We had earlier taken a vacation leave to Perth from Nov 13 to Dec 13 where we would gladly speak at Rev Errol Stone’s pulpit for 3 weeks, for he is one of us believing we have a 100% perfect Bible without any mistake for which reason we have left Life Church for over two years.

With the advance of years upon me I admit I am not as all round as before, but I am willing to do my part so I have asked our Saviour to prolong my days that I may live up to 95 years.

How did the Lord prolong my days as I hope to 95 years? Ps 91:11 says, “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.” Remember I told you when I missed gripping the hand rail I would have gone down directly, but how could I turn inwards and land at the steps down not being hurt at all?

You say it was a miracle, but the Bible has much to say about the ministry of angels. Isa 63:9 says, “...and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them.” I cannot go wrong to say the Lord Jesus in His love and pity saved me sending an angel. Now when I landed sideways at the bottom of the staircase it was incumbent on the attending doctor to see if I was hurt from head to foot. But he happily reported there was none. There is a famous picture of a little boy and little girl crossing a stream over several flimsy planks with an angel invisible to them but the angel protected them.

Ps. 91:15, “He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.” To be honest, this falling down the steps happened so fast I had no time to call upon him. But if we have the habit to pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17) we might make it. Yes, later on when I came to my senses, as I have found it calling up the Lord every morning. I have learnt not only to thank the Lord for deliverance but to thank Him for sending an angel out of love and pity.

I have taught Revival Hymns and Choruses to pray every morning before leaving the room, to pray because in safe Singapore we don’t pray but in the Japanese War we prayed, even sweating.

Now God has blessed our Prayer Meeting every Friday night to about 70 people. Seeing children come, as Pastor, I prayed for God’s blessing on them, on their studies in school. More children are coming and behaving better.

I want to thank God for teaching me a further lesson in prayer through falling down the steps. God help me. Amen.

GENESIS

Notes From A Weekly Study

Conducted by Pastor Quek

(Taken from Newsletter of Cherith Fellowship,
Vol. 1 Issue 4, Nov 2005, edited by J.T. Joseph)

CHAPTER 5

Verses 1, 2

The very *first use* of ‘book’ in the OT – compare ‘book’ first used in the NT in Mt. 1:1. The first book speaks of the origin of man; the first book of the NT addresses the ‘origin’ of the Last Adam.

‘.. and called their name Adam ..’ Thus, Eve’s name is subsumed under her husband’s. Though wives are joint heirs, with their husbands, of God’s promises and gifts, their role in marriage is not to assert ‘equality’ (their God-given status anyway) but to practice ‘submission’ per God’s definitions of the respective roles of the ‘goodman’ and his helpmeet.

Verses 5-31

The refrain repeated: ‘and he died’. Such is the consequence of the Fall – Enoch and Elijah excepted.

Such a repetition may be seen in the use of the word ‘rest’, in Heb. 4:1-11. (In the latter reference, ‘rest’ has three meanings: ‘promised land’; ‘7th day’; ‘Heaven’.)

The inevitability of death reinforced in men the consciousness of sin and judgment, well before the giving of the Decalogue.

The rest of Chap. 5 is a summary of the antediluvian patriarchs. There were ten in all, from Adam through Noah.

(*year of birth / .. of death*)

Adam (1/930); Seth (130/1042); Enos (235/1140); Cainan (325/1235); Mahalaleel (395/1290); Zared (460/1422); *Enoch* (622/987); Methuselah (687/1656); Lamech (874/1651); Noah (1056/2006).

If indeed the oldest of the living patriarchs had the primary responsibility for preserving and teaching the Word of God, then in view of the fact that Enoch and Lamech were outlived by their respective fathers, there would have been seven such men before Noah. This would explain the Apostle Peter’s reference to Noah as the ‘eighth preacher of righteousness’.

The meaning of the name of each patriarch after Adam, is significant:

Seth – *appointed one*; Enos – *mortal frailty*; Cainan – *smith*; Mahalaleel – *God be praised*; Jared – *descent*; Enoch – *dedication*; Methuselah – *when he dies, judgement* [in the form of the Flood?]; Lamech – *conqueror*; Noah – *rest*.

The comparatively vast ages of these antediluvian patriarchs stand in sharp contrast to human life-span in the post-Flood world. This is hardly surprising, however: the world was never to be the same again. The names of these ancient men are repeated in I Chron. 1:1-4 and in Luke 3:36-38, confirming their acceptance as ‘historical/factual’ by the later inspired writers of Holy Scripture.

Verses 21-24

Enoch, the 7th from Adam in the godly line [Seth’s], had the same name as Cain’s son. What a difference in character, however!

Godly Enoch thundered against his blasphemous and godless generation in words to be echoed by Jude [Jude, verses 14-15]. It is remarkable, is it not, that Enoch should have prophesied of the 2nd coming of Christ whilst the Flood was still in the future!

Enoch’s walk with God was a walk of (daily) faith and obedience – cf. Heb. 11:5-6 – rather than a literal daily encounter with theophanic revelation. Such close fellowship with the one, true and living God is a privilege made available even to us in these last days.

The climax of Enoch’s living testimony was an event all but unique in the annals of recorded history: his translation, in the flesh, to Heaven – cf. Heb. 11:5. The only other such event happened to Elijah, about 25 centuries later. Note that Enoch prophesied about mid-way between Adam and Abraham – Elijah, about mid-way between Abraham and Christ; *and* that both prophesied during times of rampant apostasy.

The ‘translation’ of these two saints can hardly be regarded as ‘rapture’, for I Cor. 15: 20, 23, 51-52 makes it plain that Jesus must be the first to have a glorified body; then, all of us saints (each at the appointed time, of course).

(Continued on back page)

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 21 – 27, 2005)

FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr S H Tow)
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Nov 26, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Handling Depression" by Rev Das Koshy.

Family Bible Study Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Nov 26, 05) at 5.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Lam Pin Juh's home at 57 Hillview Avenue, Hillington Green #06-01, Singapore 669568. Message: "Father's Role" by Rev Ronny Khoo. For details, please contact Dn Tan Beng Lee at 98719796.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Dn and Mrs Tan Beng Lee on Dec 2, 05 (Fri) at 8 pm. Address: Blk 103 Spottiswoode Park Road #08-104, Singapore 080103. Tel: 63271346.

Pastor Tow is away on a working vacation in Perth, Nov 14 to Dec 13, 05.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$7,340
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Amos Go (Myanmar)* \$50; *Ng Sang Chiew* \$150; *YPF* \$50; *FEBC* \$5,000, \$250, \$200, \$200, \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings: \$13,540
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$600, \$200
Total: \$385,417.60

Sunday School Offering: \$439.00

Verse for the Week: *The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.* Prov. 12:12

The Adults' Sunday School Class on I Thessalonians by Dr Jeffrey Khoo will commence next Sunday (Nov 27, 05), 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Nov 27, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

YPF Camp, Dec 12 – 15, 2005. Theme: Walking With Jesus. *Speakers:* Bro Nelson Were & Rev Tan Kian Sing (night messages). *Venue:* Calvary Pandan B-P Church. Please register at the Book Table. *Closing Date:* Dec 4, 2005.

We extend our congratulations to Mr and Mrs Chiang Sie Boo on the birth of their son, Erasmus Chiang on Nov 15, 05.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 8

20 November 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 91
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 109
Psalms	No. 233
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 237
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Gal 5:16-26
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	<i>Walk in the Spirit</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 323
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

The Bible College Movement in East Africa

by Dr Jeffrey Khoo

The Bible College of East Africa (BCEA) was founded in 1965 by the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions (IBPFM), USA. The IBPFM was the missionary arm of the 20th Century Reformation Movement spearheaded by the late Rev Dr Carl McIntire and the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC). BCEA has a precious heritage and a rich history indeed.

It was Rev Victor Hall, an IBPFM missionary, who first saw the need for a Bible College in Kenya to serve as a bulwark against the rising tide of apostasy in Africa. There was a dire need to raise up a faithful generation of theologically trained African pastors to preach the pure gospel of Jesus Christ, and defend the forever settled faith (2 Tim 2:2, Jude 3). Nairobi was strategically located for such a mission in Kenya. Kenya itself was centrally located for outreaches to its neighbouring countries, namely, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

In 1964, a 10-acre piece of land was purchased

just outside the city of Nairobi to build a Bible College. Classes began in early 1965. Dr William Hawks was the first principal with 5 students. Other IBPFM missionaries who served at BCEA were Dr Charles Jackson, Rev Raymond Carlson, Dr Edward Gross, and Dr Okman Ki.

BCEA had a humble beginning. It began as a mustard seed, but has now become a tree through the faithful and devoted ministry of Rev Dr Mark Kim Kyung Soo.

In 1989, after graduating from the Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC), the Rev Mark Kim was called upon to head the college. He and his family stepped foot on Kenyan soil on March 30, 1990. At that time, the 10-acre campus was rather undeveloped. It only had a couple of buildings for classes and accommodation. It could not take in too many students. By the grace of God, through much prayer, planning and labour, BCEA is now a very well-equipped campus with no less than a dozen buildings, the largest of which is the library named "Reformation Hall." Rev Dr Kim who has an agricultural degree, and his wife Hannah, a skilled gardener herself, played no small part in the transformation of the college premises into a beautiful garden campus.

A Bible College, first and foremost, needs teachers. To build up his faculty, Rev Dr Kim had sent a good number of BCEA graduates to FEBC for further studies. Rev Stephen Masila one of BCEA's early



Family Worship at the home of Dr Francis & Mrs Stephanie Lee, Nov 4, 2005

graduates, who earned his BTh and MDiv from FEBC, now serves as BCEA's academic dean. Other alumni in the faculty are Eben Yoon (MDiv), Francis Onyango (BTh), Violet Malongo (BRE), Christine Kendagor (BTh), and Patrick Matheka (BMin). Ephrem Chiracho (MDiv) who taught for a couple of years has since returned to Ethiopia his home country to plant a church, and God willing, a Bible College. Ejigayehu Alemu, also from Ethiopia, now studying at FEBC, is another candidate for Ethiopian missions. Peter Elibariki, who hails from Tanzania is currently working towards his MDiv at FEBC, will return to serve in BCEA (Tanzania) once he completes his studies in May 2006. FEBC has 114 students from 16 countries, but BCEA surpasses FEBC with 130 students from 8 African nations besides Kenya. Both FEBC and BCEA are at the forefront of the Bible College Movement in the 21st century.

In the year 2001, BCEA invited FEBC to offer a Bachelor of Ministry (BMin) programme to her alumni who had already earned their 4-year diploma in theology. With approval from the faculty, FEBC embarked on this joint effort with BCEA to promote the Bible College movement in Africa. Indeed, "the trend is toward the trained." The BMin programme comprises a total of 16 courses (8 residential and 8 external), culminating in a thesis project. The residential courses are offered twice a year, in June and December. Since December 2001, FEBC has been sending visiting lecturers to conduct intensive BMin courses on campus at BCEA. The pioneer class of 8 students graduated with their degree on May 29, 2004. Another 7 graduated on July 9, 2005. My trip to BCEA this time will see me teaching the Westminster Standards to a class of about 70 comprising mostly BCEA alumni who are now serving as pastors, and senior students of the college.

How did BCEA and FEBC come into such a partnership in theological education? It is all by the grace of God that the Holy Spirit should work in the hearts of like-minded brethren who love the Lord Jesus Christ and who love His forever infallible and inerrant Word. We have

the same Reformation and Reformed Spirit and Doctrine, and that is why we have come together to promote the Bible College movement. There is a vital need in these last days of unbelief and compromise to train pastors and teachers who are faithful to the 100% inspired and 100% preserved Word of God, our only and final authority of faith and practice.

May FEBC and BCEA keep true to the Biblical mandate, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim 2:2). We also do not forget the Gospel mandate, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt 28:19-20).

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XVI

John 16:5-8

God's Economy, Our Prosperity

As our Lord makes plain the ordeal both Master and disciples must pass, and shows how He must return to His Father in heaven, a pall of silent sorrow falls over the Eleven. As the Chinese saying goes, what greater sorrow is there than to part with a loved one, in life or in death? Naturally the disciples do not want their Lord to leave as little children cannot endure to see their parents go from them for any length of time. Were you Philip or Thomas, how would you have felt?

In the Divine economy of working out the Salvation Plan, however, it is for our good that the Saviour leave this earth. Were He to remain on earth, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, would not be sent. But when our Lord goes up to Heaven according to the economical working out of God's Salvation Plan, the Holy Spirit will descend and carry out what remains to be done. In this arrangement we, the church on earth, will be universally blessed. Whereas our Saviour's work was confined to the land of the Jews, the

work of the Holy Spirit will spread to all the world.

Perhaps an illustration at this point will help. How do you light up your house? By putting your lights as near to the ground as you can? If you do this little light is given to the house. No. You put them as high as you can, fixing them usually on the ceiling. Then light comes to every corner of your dwelling. As Christ is gone on high so will His Light the Holy Spirit be shed abroad in our hearts to the ends of the earth. God's economy is our prosperity!

John 16:8-11

The Spirit's Threefold Mission

1. He will reprove the world of sin. "Of sin because they believe not on Me" (v. 9). To reprove is to convince. It is the Holy Spirit's work to convince, and He can do it effectually. Unless the Holy Spirit accompanies our preaching it will fall on deaf ears. Who are they whom the Holy Spirit will reprove? The world, both Jews and Gentiles. Matthew Henry adds "Some in every age, in every place, in order to their conversion to faith of Christ. Now this was encouragement to the disciples in reference to the difficulties they were to meet with. Even the malignant earth the Spirit shall work upon; and the conviction of sinners is the comfort of faithful ministers." What sin? The sin of unbelief. To reject Christ is a terrible sin!

2. Of righteousness. He will convince the world that Jesus of Nazareth is Christ the righteous, though the Jews cannot accept this, and therefore they are in much trouble today. Christ is proved to be a Righteous Man and not a deceiver, yea even the Redeemer of mankind.

3. Of judgement. By the judgement of the prince of the world, the Devil, Christ is proved the stronger One. The Spirit will show that Christ's errand into the world was to introduce times of reformation and regeneration. And further of the final day of judgement: all the obstinate enemies of Christ's gospel and kingdom shall be reckoned with, for the Devil is judged. Thus sinners are convinced and brought to condemn themselves and plead guilty before God (Matthew Henry).

John 16:12-15

The Holy Spirit the Continuing Teacher of the Apostles

The teaching of Truth is progressively given. From the Law of Moses to the History of God's People, to Prophecy, to the Poetical Books like Psalms and Wisdom Literature like Proverbs. Then comes the New Testament Books, the Gospels, Acts, Epistles and the Revelation. Paul says to the Corinthians, "I have fed you with milk and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able" (I Cor 3: 2).

Our Lord says to the disciples, "I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (v. 12). For example, the truths of the resurrection and ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit in power at Pentecost, all these have not taken place yet. It is more logical, after these events have occurred, that lessons on them be given. The Holy Spirit is the continuing Teacher who "will guide you into all truth." Matthew Henry says, "To guide the Apostles, He will take care they do not miss their way. The Spirit guided their tongues in speaking and their pens in writing, to secure them from mistakes. The Spirit is our guide; Romans 8:14, to go with us by continual aids and influences."

Machen says the apostles derived their authority from Jesus' commission who would send the Spirit to guide them into all truth (Jn 16:13). And by virtue of this authority the Apostles added to the Bible of their time the Books that are comprised in the New Testament. The verses of this section particularly give the Apostles the authority to write the N.T. Books because the Holy Spirit is their continuing Teacher. The Books of the N.T. are as inspired as the Books of the O.T., inerrant, infallible. Not only are the Apostles' writings God's Word, their preachings are as much! Machen refers us to I Thess 2:13 where Paul says, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." If any one should criticise any apostle, on any word or deed, let him beware!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Nov 28 – Dec 4, 2005)

FRI 8.00 pm Family Worship
SAT 3.30 pm Young People's Fellowship
SUN 9.15 am Sunday School
10.30 am Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Filipina Bible Study
Indonesian Bible Study

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Dn and Mrs Tan Beng Lee this Fri (Dec 2, 05) at 8 pm. Speaker: Rev Ronny Khoo. Address: Blk 103 Spottiswoode Park Road #08-104, Singapore 080103. Tel: 63271346.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Dec 3, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Behold, I Come Quickly!" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

YPF Camp, Dec 12 – 15, 2005. Theme: Walking With Jesus. *Speakers:* Bro Nelson Were & Rev Tan Kian Sing (night messages). *Venue:* Calvary Pandan B-P Church. Please register at the Book Table. *Closing Date:* Dec 4, 2005.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$7,251; RM51
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200, \$50; *Wendy Teng* \$200, \$50; *FEBC* \$300, \$200
Total General and Designated Offerings: S\$8,251; RM51
Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$120 **Total:** \$386,537.60

Sunday School Offering: \$335.00

Verse for the Week: *The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.* Prov. 12:13

The Adults' Sunday School Class on I Thessalonians by Dr Jeffrey Khoo commences today, 9.15 am to 10.15 am. All are welcome.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 237 Bukit Panjang Ring Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Latest Issue of Burning Bush, Jan 2006 available at the Book Table. Please help yourself to a copy.

Pastor Tow is away on a working vacation in Perth, Nov 14 to Dec 13, 05.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 9

27 November 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 93
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 110
Psalms	No. 235
Announcements	
Special Number	Indonesian Students
Offering & Hymn	No. 245
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	II Peter 3:1-18
Pastoral Prayer	Dr S H Tow
Sermon	Grow in Grace and in Knowledge
	<i>The Debt We Owe</i>
Closing Hymn	
Benediction	Dr S H Tow

Nowadays, when you use Fax and Email you can communicate with high speed to the glory of God. Why do we come to the fellowship of Faith Presbyterian Church? Because the pastor, Rev Errol Stone takes a similar stand with us. He believes in a 100% perfect Bible without any mistakes. Such a stand has pleased God and He mightily blesses us. So will God bless another group called Truth B-P Church that will worship at Calvary Pandan at the new extension.

Oh yes, let me close by telling of our visit to the Aboriginal Bible College where Rev Errol Stone teaches and from where graduates go and extend the Gospel to other aborigines to God's glory.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

How Do You Spend Your Money Towards God?

(Message delivered by Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church, Perth)

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said,

PASTORAL CHAT

My dear Readers

I have taken my annual vacation leave for a month from Nov 14 to Dec 13 and it is now Nov 22 in Perth. Faith Presbyterian Church no more worships at the former premises but is shifted to Dianell Community Centre which is more convenient.

Apart from speaking at Prayer meetings, youth and women's fellowships, I am also requested to preach twice. The title of the first one is "How do you spend your money towards God?" This sermon comes to you this week. We come to Perth at the right time because it is summer time. If it is winter I will be shivering. How about the Holy Land? It will be warming up to spring. Nevertheless I must warn Singaporeans more accustomed to sunny weather to bring one or two warm clothings.



Photo of the Aboriginal Bible College (could not see all the students)

Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts (Malachi 3:7-12).

Money is a very important matter in our lives. It is a very important matter between us and God. The prophet Malachi rebukes the Jewish Church for robbing Him in tithes and offerings. God in fact is very lenient in His requirement of our money. He requires of us only one-tenth, our tithes to be brought to church his storehouse and above the tithes, the offerings.

A good number of church goers give of their tithes every week and often above that, in offerings. But a good number, God declares, “rob Him”. In their power they keep the tithes and offerings for their own enjoyment, leaving God alone.

When we consider further we discover there are some who cheat Him. They not only conveniently forget the tithes but cheat the shops which employ them, in one way or another. Cheating the shops which employ them is cheating God. This is criminal breach of Trust and if caught they will be sentenced to jail.

When we bring our tithes to church, to

God’s storehouse that there be plentiful to use for God’s purposes, God is well pleased. God challenges us “if He will not open us the windows of heaven, and pour us out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Mal. 3:10). When I was a theological student, I thought I could be excused from tithing, but I was wrong. God did not bless me. Now that I give more than the tithes, in my love offerings, God blesses even more.

How does God bless us? God says, “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts” (Mal. 3:11). In today’s context, He will keep us from sickness, He will keep us from accidents, He will keep us from evil.

In conclusion, let me as your pastor urge you to give your tithes and offerings regularly to God and see if He will not pour you out a blessing from heaven. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XVI

John 16:16-22, 27-33

“A Little While”?

This phrase our Lord used to describe the events so soon to follow, in a matter of hours, and in the days immediately following, became a riddle to the disciples.

As we see it more clearly from a distance, “a little while” that our Lord talks about is the short separation between them in the arrest, the crucifixion, burial and resurrection. Were not the disciples

frightened out of their wits? Were they not bowed down with sorrow? Some might even have given up all hope, being dull to our Lord’s teaching and prophetic utterances. The gloom of despair was heavy, but for “a little while”. “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

For after His death came the Resurrection, and after the Resurrection, the Ascension (v. 28), and in the truth of the Ascension there was implied the gift of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual return and constant presence of Christ in the Church.

Calvin sees beyond Christ’s showing Himself to the disciples in “a little while.” He sees also the presence of Christ in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. For although He is not seen with the eye, yet His presence is known by the same presence of faith. Christ wanted the disciples to know what would be the state after His death, that they might be contented with His spiritual presence and not regard it as a loss to them, that He no longer dwelt with them as a mortal man.

How the disciples loved their Lord and how they felt sorrowful at missing their Saviour even for “a little while”. Do you miss your Lord, when you are kept from attending Church because of sickness? Does He come to you during those days of confinement? Is He with you all the time?

John 16:23-26

1. **In that day ye shall ask me nothing (v. 23)**
2. **At that day ye shall ask in my Name (v. 26)**

These two sentences seem contrary to each other!

1. **In that day** (v. 23) refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit who will fully illumine them **so they shall not need to ask** the meaning of new thoughts and words as they have done hitherto. Read I John 2:27,

“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” “But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things” (I Jn 2:20).

2. At that day ye shall **ask in my Name** (v. 26). Calvin comments: Was God first invoked in the name of Christ at that time? Christ is describing the future when the Father will give the disciples whatever they ask **in His Name**.

“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my Name” (v. 24). Did the disciples, keeping to the Old Law, refrain from coming boldly to ask before God, unless there was a Mediator? For the Veil of the Temple was still drawn across, the true High Priest had not yet entered into the heavenly sanctuary to intercede for His people, nor yet had consecrated the way by His blood. But now Christ was making expiation, and will soon be received into Heaven. He openly showed Himself to be the Mediator and in His Name our prayers to the Father will now be heard.

Praise God, a new and living way (Heb 10:20) in the Name of Jesus Christ is opened to all believers. There is no need of any human priest, Jewish or Roman Catholic. Come to Him. Tell Him all your needs. In His Name your prayers will be answered, according to the will of the Father, and not by any other name nor by any human mediator. Thus we must always conclude our prayers to God ‘in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 5 – 11, 2005)

WED	7.45 pm	Ladies Fellowship
FRI	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting REL, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room
SAT	3.30 pm	Young People's Fellowship
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Lord's Supper) (Rev Das Koshy) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Quek Siok Eng this Wed (Dec 7, 05) at 7.45 pm. Address: 58 Watten Drive, Singapore 287963. Tel: 64667130. Message: "Looking Ahead" by Rev Stephen Khoo. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Judith at 96729973.

Young People's Fellowship Meeting will be held this Sat (Dec 10, 05) at 3.30 pm. Venue: Mr and Mrs Foo's home at 53 Oriole Crescent. Message: "Pillars of Christian Character: Hope" by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact Herbert at 94377715.

YPF Camp, Dec 12 – 15, 2005. Theme: Walking With Jesus. Speakers: Bro Nelson Were & Rev Tan Kian Sing (night messages). Venue: Calvary Pandan B-P Church. Please register at the Book Table. Closing Date: Today.

Pastor Tow is away on a working vacation in Perth, Nov 14 to Dec 13, 05.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$7,103.00; RM17.50
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Bible Witness Ministry* \$150; *RPG Ministry* \$200; *After School Care Ministry (under Henry Tan)* \$200; *Hien (Brisbane)* \$150; *Ejigayehu (FEBC)* \$50; *Limhathung (FEBC)* \$50; *Biak Lawm Thang (FEBC)* \$50; *FEBC Students* \$100; *FEBC Bookroom* \$333; *Wendy Teng* \$50
Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$8,636.00; RM17.50
Church Building Fund: \$300, \$102, \$100 **Total:**
 \$387,039.60

Sunday School Offering: S\$500; Rupiah 500; RM0.10; AUD0.05

Verse for the Week: *A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.* Prov. 12:14

The Adults' Sunday School Class by Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying on the book of I Thessalonians, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

Christmas Carolling on Dec 23, 05 (Fri), 6.15 pm. For those interested in joining please register your name at the Notice Board outside the Auditorium. For enquiries, please contact Bee Heng at 92703353 or Judith at 96729973.

Next Quarter RPG, Jan – Mar 06 available at the Book Table. Please help yourself to a copy.

At the Book Table: 30% Discounts for Books, Bibles and Christmas Cards.



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REL, Auditorium, 10.30 am

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 10

4 December 2005

"BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name"

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Opening Hymn	No. 96
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 111
Psalms	No. 236
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	No. 262
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tai Mern Yee
Scripture Text	Mark 7:24-30; Matt 15:21-28
Pastoral Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>Jesus Our Only Help</i> (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
Closing Hymn	No. 420
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

can come to Church most conveniently, self-support. These Asian students coming mostly from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia who also come to Tuesday night prayer meeting have found the Lord to the joy of the whole Church.

Rev Errol Stone is a very capable lecturer at an Aboriginal Bible College located half an hour out of city. Here is an Aboriginal Bible College Principal helped by a very efficient half-Aboriginal wife. Ten students stay at the College.

PASTORAL CHAT

My dear Readers

There's a saying, "Many hands make light work." For this week I will write this Pastoral Chat only. The rest of the writing will come from Dr Jeffrey Khoo. We are in a Bible College Movement, so you'll hear from him how God is blessing the advanced studies in Nairobi, Kenya.

Whereas FEBC has an enrolment of 114, the Bible College of East Africa, incorporating 8 races, has 130. But meanwhile your offerings are helping a College of like mind now building in Tanzania, two hours driving from Nairobi.

Coming back to Perth, Rev Errol Stone's Church has a weekly attendance of 40, divided equally between white Australians and Asians, mostly university students. Rev Errol Stone's ministry to the Asian Uni-students is to let them self-manage the Church van so that they

Rev Errol Stone is invited as one of the speakers at True Life Family Bible Camp to be held at Bukit Tinggi, Malaysia in June next year. You can be sure he is a busy man. While his wife is working as a nurse very busily occupied she contributes to the finance of the whole family. They are contributors most to the kingdom of God.

Rev Errol Stone got his BTh Degree from FEBC 7 years ago, after 3½ years' study to the glory of God.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.



Faith Presbyterian Church – Perth, pastored by Rev Errol Stone

Bible College of East Africa, Tanzania

by Dr Jeffrey Khoo

“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name” (Rev 3:8).

The Lord has opened a door for Rev Dr Mark Kim Kyung-Soo—principal of the Bible College of East Africa (BCEA), Kenya—to build a Bible College in Tanzania. Rev Bumiji M’Shana, the General Secretary of the Africa Missions and Evangelism Church (AMEC) in Tanzania had for many years urged Dr Kim to establish a Bible College in Tanzania patterned after BCEA.

The AMEC churches had separated from the liberal and ecumenical Lutheran Church. They have 60,000 communicant members but only 90 pastors, most of whom, are not theologically trained. The people are crying out for the Word of God. Half a dozen of them were privileged to be sent to BCEA in Kenya for training and have graduated, and are now full-fledged pastors in their respective AMEC churches.

The difference in the quality of the ministry of the Word between the trained and the untrained was clearly evident. Hence, those untrained saw the great need to be trained themselves, and yearned for formal theological training. A local Bible College had to be set up to meet this great need. The half-dozen graduates of BCEA who are now pastors can double-up as lecturers—a faculty is already in place. Rev Peter Elibariki, one of these pastors who is now under training at FEBC, will return in May

2006 after completing his MDiv to boost the teaching faculty of this new institution. More from Tanzania would be coming to FEBC to receive advanced training. BCEA-Tanzania is built not only for AMEC but also for other denominations and churches in Tanzania looking for a biblically sound and fundamental college for the training of their workers to become fully-equipped ministers of the gospel and faithful servants of Jesus Christ.

How about the campus? The Lord has provided a beautiful property in Arusha for the building of the Bible College of East Africa (Tanzania). Arusha is a tourist gateway to the scenic national parks of northern Tanzania, namely, the famed Serengeti Plains and the Ngorongoro Crater. It is located at the foot of Mount Meru with an excellent view of nearby Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa’s highest). The 8-acre piece of land in Arusha was bought for US\$20,000 a couple of years ago. It was indeed a timely purchase for land prices have since increased markedly due to Arusha having achieved “city status” on July 1, 2005. With public works to improve the infrastructure of the city, the Tanzanian government intends for Arusha to be a world-class conference centre and Safari destination. The College is well poised to be a witness for Christ to people coming from all over the world.

True Life B-P Church and FEBC have contributed no small sum to help in the building of this Bible College in Tanzania. Already the administration-classroom block and the dormitories have been built at the cost of US\$70,000. Staff quarters, dining hall, the chapel and library will soon be built. The new College is scheduled to open for classes in September 2006, God willing.

Dear brethren, do pray for the speedy completion of this building project most necessary for the hastening of the Gospel advance not just in Tanzania and East Africa, but into all Africa and the world (Matt 28:18-20). “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).

Not only has the Lord provided the funds for the building of BCEA Tanzania, he has placed a burden in the heart of Elder Tan Nee Keng of Berean B-P Church, now into his 2nd year of MDiv studies at FEBC, to pray for the needs of Tanzania. May the Lord make a way for him to be a missionary in this great harvest field. And may the Lord raise many more to answer the call of Christ to serve Him full-time. “*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest*” (Matt 9:37-38).

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XVII

**To the Father’s own elect ones,
Jesus Christ effectuates the Mediator of Life.**

The whole of this chapter is known as the Lord’s High Priestly Prayer. (“Our Father” in Matt. 6:9-13 is commonly called “The Lord’s Prayer”). J. C. Ryle says of this much longer Prayer: “It is wonderful as a specimen of the communion that was ever kept up between the Father and the Son, during the period of the Son’s ministry on earth. It is wonderful as a pattern of intercession which the Son, as a High Priest is ever carrying on for us in heaven. Not least it is wonderful as an example of the sort of things that believers should mention in prayer. What Christ asks for His people, His people should ask for themselves. It has

been well and truly said by an old divine that, “the best and fullest sermon ever preached was followed by the best of prayers.” (The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Jas. 5: 16).

Scofield analyses this Prayer into seven petitions:

- (1) That Jesus Christ may be glorified as the Son who has glorified the Father (v. 1, Phil. 2:9-11).
- (2) For restoration of the eternal glory (v. 5).
- (3) For the safety of believers from (a) the world (v. 11), (b) the evil one (v. 16).
- (4) For the sanctification of believers (v. 17).
- (5) For the spiritual unity of believers (v. 21).
- (6) That the world may believe (v. 21).
- (7) That believers may be with Him in heaven to behold and share His glory.

This chapter contains many deep things. J. C. Ryle further comments, “There are sentences, words, and expressions in the 26 verses of this chapter which no one probably has ever unfolded completely. We have not minds to do it, or to understand the matter it contains, if we could. But there are great truths in the chapter which stand out clearly and plainly on its face, and to these truths we shall do well to direct our best attention.”

The burden of this Prayer however is our Lord’s concern for the elect, you and me who have believed in Him and love Him. You are one of the elect if you have tasted the sweetness of Jesus’ saving grace!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 12 – 18, 2005)

MON-THU	YPF Camp
TUE 1.40 pm	Pastor and Mrs Tow return from Perth (SQ224)
FRI 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting RELC, Level 5, Room 502, Napier Room
SAT 3.30 pm	No YPF Meeting
3.30 pm	Adults Fellowship Meeting
SUN 9.15 am	Sunday School
10.30 am	Worship (Pastor Tow) Filipina Bible Study Indonesian Bible Study

Young People's Fellowship will be having their Camp this week from Mon – Thu (Dec 12 – 15, 05) at Calvary Pandan B-P Church. *There will be a Camp Briefing in the Auditorium immediately after Worship Service today. All Campers please stay for the briefing.*

Adults Fellowship Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs William Teo this Sat (Dec 17, 05) at 3.30 pm. Address: Blk 835 Woodlands St. 83 #12-113. Program: Bible Study on Hebrews by Dr Jeffrey Khoo. For details, please contact William Teo at 91831150.

At the Book Table: 30% Discounts for Books, Bibles and Christmas Cards.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$8,029; RM10.20; AUD0.10
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *Dr Jeffrey Khoo* \$100; *Hien's Ministry* \$100; *Joshua Khoo (Kuantan)* \$500; *Wendy Teng* \$50; *FEBC Students* \$200; *FEBC Scholarship* \$300

Total General and Designated Offerings:
S\$9,479; RM10.20; AUD0.10

Church Building Fund: \$140, \$50, \$50 **Total:**
\$387,279.60

Sunday School Offering: \$408.00

Verse for the Week: *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. Prov. 12:15*

The Adults' Sunday School Class by Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying on the book of I Thessalonians, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

Christmas Carolling on Dec 23, 05 (Fri), 6.15 pm. For those interested in joining please register your name at the Notice Board outside the Auditorium. For enquiries, please contact Bee Heng at 92703353 or Judith at 96729973.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session next Sunday afternoon (Dec 18, 05) at Bukit Panjang. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

Next Quarter RPG, Jan – Mar 06 available at the Book Table. Please help yourself to a copy.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 141, Newton Post Office, Singapore 912205

Email: febc@pacific.net.sg; Website: <http://www.febc.edu.sg>

(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 11

11 December 2005

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Opening Hymn	No. 97
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Ps. 115
Psalms	No. 241
Announcements	
Special Number	Sis Jenny Kan
Offering & Hymn	No. 309
Pastoral Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Scripture Text	John 4:46-54
Sermon	<i>Growing Faith</i> (Rev Dr Das Koshy)
Closing Hymn	No. 247 (Lord's Supper)
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

PASTORAL CHAT

My dear Readers

By coming to Rev Errol Stone's Church we have come into close fellowship with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Bible College of West Australia. It happens to be their 20th Anniversary. Its Principal is Clive Hayden. One of its volunteer lecturers is Rev Errol Stone who takes a stand with us for a 100% perfect Bible without any mistake.

God has His witnesses like us who when they declare themselves Evangelical use only the KJV. When we visited them on one occasion we met a member of the Trinitarian Bible Society. So there are strong Evangelicals, opposing Liberals and Modernists to the point of running an Evangelical Bible College for the last 20 years.

Rev Paul Contento, my good friend since I was a student in Nanking under Dr Chia Yu Ming said, “Without a Bible College the Church would die.”

How true it is with the Aboriginal Church. Because they have an Aboriginal Bible College they have a sizable Church in Perth where the Aboriginal Bible College can celebrate their 20th Anniversary. At its celebration Principal Clive Hayden declared, “College Training is a must in these days to prepare the men for ministry. God is looking for ordinary men to do extraordinary work in the Church.”

We have visited the College and seen 5 graduating students. But the College needs to build to provide more living quarters for next year. They need \$500,000. The College does not receive Government funding for operation costs. The College is supported by Evangelicals in the Churches.

Here is a graduating student's testimony. “My name is Brendon Garlett. I am a fulltime student of two years. I will be graduating this year. I praise the Lord very much for what He's done for me whilst at College. We live by faith and God has met my every need so far, with finance, food, clothes, just to name a few. I have learnt so much and the lectures have been really enjoyable. The staff, students and lecturers have also been a great encouragement to me. The classes have helped me to be more confident. We have been through the Old Testament and the Gospels,



Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Bible College, Perth, W.A.

Memory Verses and Public Speaking is important in my Christian life, as it helped me in my preaching. Doctrine and Church History has given me a better understanding of those who suffered for our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*Your affectionate pastor
T. T.*

Jesus Our Only Help

*(Message delivered by Dr Jeffrey Khoo at the
True Life Church 10.30 am Service, Dec 4, 05)*

Text: Matt 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the sinner’s only Help. Although Jesus is ever ready to help all who are in need, not everyone will be helped by Him. Only those who sincerely seek His help with all their heart will be helped. Jesus will not force His way into our lives. He offers His help, but if we refuse or reject His offer, He leaves us alone to our self-destructive ways. And if we are punished and destroyed because of our sins, we have only ourselves to blame. We cannot blame Jesus on the day of judgement.

Jesus is still ever ready to help. The day of judgement has not yet come. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).

Who will receive the help of Jesus? The true story of Jesus and the Canaanite woman teaches us the kind of people Jesus will help. If we want Jesus to help us in our need, we must approach Him in our hopelessness, in our helplessness, and in deep humility.

I. JESUS HELPS THE HOPELESS

The Bible describes this woman in 3 ways: She was (1) of Canaan, (2) a Greek, and (3) Syrophenician by nation. In other words, she was Gentile in every way. These 3 descriptions of her background tell us that she was (1) completely outside the circle of

God’s special blessing experienced only by the chosen people, and (2) paganistic in every way—a worshipper of idols and practitioner of the occult. Know that the Canaanites had a very extensive pantheon of gods. They worshipped chiefly Baal and Baal takes on different forms. There were male and female versions of Baal with many other gods and goddesses of sex and war, and other sorts of deities. It was a religion that appealed to the lusts of the flesh. Their temples were filled with priestesses who served as prostitutes. They also offered human sacrifices.

Serving her gods has left her totally without hope. Instead of being helped she has been destroyed by her religion. It is not surprising that such dark heathen practices have resulted in her daughter being demon-possessed. It is possible that she had asked her pagan priests to save her daughter but evidently none of them was able to help. She was left totally hopeless. That is what Satan does, he seduces us to worship him, and finally when we take the bait, we are done for—he leaves us for dead.

II. JESUS HELPS THE HELPLESS

This woman was greatly troubled and deeply depressed. Every attempt to find help for her demonised daughter ended with a zero. No one could help. She was at her wits’ end. Her daughter, perhaps her only one, was very dear to her. Mark tenderly tells us that she was “a young daughter” or “a little daughter”—just in primary school.

Note that at first she identified her sorrow with that of her daughter—“Lord, take pity on me and my daughter.” But that appeal became more and more intense when she finally dropped all mention of her daughter and just cried out, “Lord, help me!” This tells us of her utter desperation. Not only her daughter, she too was in great pain and suffering. She realised her total helplessness in the situation—flesh could not conquer spirit. To fight the demons we

need supernatural power that only God can give. She realised that Jesus was her only help.

Not only must a person who wants to be saved from sin and death consider himself totally hopeless, he must also see himself totally helpless. If we think that we can somehow save ourselves, or we have some strength but not enough, and simply need God to top up whatever strength we think we lack, we will not receive God’s help. God wants us to be 100% dependent on Him for our spiritual salvation. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.” Spurgeon said, “If my garment of salvation requires only one stitch from me, I am lost.”

But being hopeless and helpless is not enough—for there are those who feel like that but instead of humbling themselves before the Lord to seek His salvation, their pride drives them to murder and suicide. Pride is self-destructive.

III. JESUS HELPS THE HUMBLE

The woman’s humility was displayed in the following ways: (1) She confessed who Jesus was. Look at her confession, “O Lord, thou Son of David.” For this to be uttered by a Canaanite woman was quite remarkable. If she had just called Jesus “Lord” that would not be so surprising, but she added, “Thou Son of David!” In other words, she acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah, the King whom God promised David would come from his line. She was not an Israelite and yet she could know who Jesus truly was. She must have done a lot of homework and study. And through deep study and more importantly faith, she finally understood and realised that Jesus was the Messiah—God Himself who has come to save her from her sins.

(2) She worshipped at His feet. She humbled herself to the ground. She did not see it fit to speak to Jesus face to face, but fell at his feet. And (3) she was willing to be called a dog. Jesus said, “...it is not meet to take the

children’s bread, and cast it unto the dogs.” The “dogs” Jesus referred to were pet dogs. In those days, the good bread was set on the table, but the spoilt bread would be set aside and used as cloth to wipe away dirt and this bread is then thrown to the ground for the dogs to eat. The Canaanite woman humbled herself to that level—“Lord, I understand that I am not among the chosen ones of Israel; I am willing to be like a dog in the house of the Jews, please at least feed me with these crumbs.”

Why did Jesus do all these? Not helping her immediately, and saying all those things to her? For 2 reasons: (1) to test her faith, and (2) to teach His disciples that non-Israelites had greater faith than the children of Israel.

Look at Jesus’ very loving and tender words to her, “O woman, great is thy faith.” Just one word from Jesus, and the demon was cast out of her daughter.

How much should we humble ourselves before God? 50%? 80%? 99.9%? No! God demands 100% humility and submission from us. If you are an unbeliever and you want God to save you, you must humble yourself to the dust just like this woman. If there is just a fraction of pride in you, you are lost.

As Christians, if we want the Lord to help us in our daily lives and answer our prayers, we must be totally dependent on Him to do His will and obey His Word. Sunday is the Lord’s day, but instead of coming to church, we go out to work or to play; how can the Lord bless us?

Conclusion

Do we humble ourselves before the Lord to confess that without Him we are indeed hopeless and helpless people? If we want Jesus to help us, we must come to him totally hopeless, totally helpless, and totally humbled!

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 19 – 25, 2005)

FRI	8.00 pm	No Prayer Meeting
SAT	3.30 pm	No YPF Meeting
	8.00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
SUN	9.15 am	Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study

There will be no Prayer Meeting this Friday, Dec 23, 05.

Christmas Carolling will be held this Friday (Dec 23, 05) at the homes of Dr and Mrs Francis Lee, Mr and Mrs David Ong and Mr and Mrs Steve Chng. Please meet at RELC at 6.15 pm. For enquiries, please contact Bee Heng at 92703353 or Judith at 96729973.

Christmas Eve Service will be held at the RELC Auditorium this Sat, Dec 24, 05 at 8 pm.

Watchnight Service will be held at the RELC Auditorium on Dec 31, 05 at 10.45 pm. Speaker: Dr S H Tow. The Lord's Supper will be served.

There will be a door-to-door HDB flats evangelism session this afternoon at Bukit Panjang. Please meet at Blk 235 Bukit Panjang Ring Road at 2.30 pm. For details, please contact Dn Tai Mern Yee at 97932330.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$6,913; USD1; THB20

Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$200; *BCEA* \$100; *Rajan (FEBC)* \$50; *Febian (FEBC)* \$50; *Manling (FEBC)* \$50; *Arnold (FEBC)* \$50; *FEBC Students* \$300; *Wendy Teng* \$300; *FEBC* \$250, \$100, \$100; *PA Crew (for purchase of microphone & PA Equipment)* \$1,000

Total General and Designated Offerings:

S\$9,463; USD1; THB20

Church Building Fund: \$1,000, \$100, \$50 **Total:** \$388,429.60

Sunday School Offering: \$513.00

Verse for the Week: *A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.* Prov. 12:16

The Adults' Sunday School Class by Dr Jeffrey Khoo is now studying on the book of I Thessalonians, 9.15 am – 10.15 am. All are welcome.

Family Bible Study Fellowship will be having a Thanksgiving pot-bless gathering at the home of Dr Francis and Mrs Stephanie Lee on Dec 26, 05 (Mon) at 5.30 pm. Address: 35 Moonbeam Terrace (off Holland Road), Singapore 277308. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

At the Book Table: 30% Discounts for Books, Bibles and Christmas Cards.



TRUE LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RELC Auditorium, 10.30 am

30 Orange Grove Road, down Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore 258352

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(Ring Pastor Tow at 9A Gilstead Road, 62502138 Anytime)

Vol. III No. 12

18 December 2005

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Elder Mahadevan
Opening Hymn	No. 151
Invocation-Gloria Patri Hymn	<i>O Bethlehem</i>
Announcements	
Offering & Hymn	<i>Winter Moon</i>
Offertory Prayer	Elder Mahadevan
Scripture Text	Gen 3:15; Isa 7:14 Lk 2:15-19
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Tow
Sermon	<i>From the First Christmas Message</i>
Closing Hymn	<i>Winter Moon</i>
Benediction	Pastor Tow

shall be saved. Calvin further assures us we are not only saved, but always saved.

These words I've written come from a dream in the early hours of the morning and they are for you. Many who attend Church are trying to do their best to be saved. But salvation is from God the Lord and Jesus is coming again very soon at the end of the world. Matt 24:3-14 gives many signs one of which is earthquakes. From Dec 26, 04 with the bursting of the Tsunami (undersea earthquake) which killed 300,000 around the Indian Ocean up to 80,000 killed one month ago in Pakistan and to the latest in Iran, there were 10 quakes, a sure sign of the end of the world. Are we ready? Accelerated missions whereby the gospel will be preached to all nations will hasten Christ's coming even now!

The second message I preached at Errol Stone's Church is Christ is coming very soon so let us redouble our efforts as stated in Matt 24:14, "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." Amos Go of Chin State, Myanmar came to see me for help. He appeared before

PASTORAL CHAT

My dear Readers

Whenever I meet with John Calvin and sit at his feet to hear him expound the facts of life I must let him guide me in greener words of truth. For example, when Calvin quotes Jonah 2:9 to show it is God who saves and not man, he teaches, "once saved, always saved."

However, we often put salvation in the human effort after Arminius, but one verse from St. Paul according to Rom 10:9 is sufficient, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Next March we are making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. When we shall come to the Garden Tomb which is empty and believe that Jesus is risen and now ascended to heaven we



Piglets purchased by brethren of True Life B-P Church for Amos Go, Myanmar

our Church. He is responsible for one church and linked up with two other churches. By helping them keep piglets they would be able to support the pastors. Another graduate from FEBC who runs an Orphanage of 30 young people also needs our help. Thus the gospel will be extended to far away Myanmar (Burma). Remember Christ is coming very soon and there is no time delay. Amen.

Your affectionate pastor
T. T.

A Testimony from a visitor of our Church

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus. My name is Reena. I was born in a Muslim family in the southern part of Bangladesh. I was brought up in a Muslim culture and family. In 1976 after my marriage I heard about Jesus through my husband. My husband was a believer. He used to go to Church every Sunday. I used to keep and hide all his clothes for worship on Sundays so that he will not go to Church and just stay at home. I wanted to bring him back to the Muslim faith. He used to read the Bible loudly so that I could hear it. He would also leave the Bible around the house so that I could pick it up and read it. In my childhood I was taught that if I will touch the Bible I will be paralyzed so I never touched the Bible. One day after much courage I touched the Bible. I was perspiring thinking that I will be paralyzed but nothing happened. I used to treat my husband very badly but he was always good to me. One afternoon he took me to a house where there were other Christians. They were very good to me. I was thinking why these people can't be Muslims again. When I gave up trying to convert my husband I decided I will leave him and go to my father's house. My eldest daughter was only three months old.

The night I decided to leave him, I had a dream. I saw that I was with my daughter trying to go to my father's place with the help of a small boat. Suddenly there were big waves and everyone said that this boat will get drowned and we will die. I saw a big wave coming towards our boat. I started crying and shouting. Suddenly I heard a voice saying "Fear not. I am with you". I asked him who he was and he said "I am Jesus Christ. I am the way your husband is telling you again and again". Then the storm got quiet and on the bank of the river I gave my life to Jesus. The next morning I went to church and got baptized. After that me, my husband and all the children worshipped the Lord. We also did evangelical work. Now God is giving us more strength and wisdom to do His work.

I request you all to remember me and my family in your prayers and our evangelical ministry in Bangladesh. Praise the Lord. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:

Chapter XVII

John 17:1-4

1. That Jesus Christ may be glorified as the Son Who has glorified the Father (v. 1; Phil. 2:9-11)

In the first petition that Christ be glorified, it means to give glory to the Son by carrying Him through the cross and the grave. That He might accomplish the work He was sent into the world to do, whereby He might be exalted to the right hand of God and given the name that is above every other name.

Stier remarks, "These words prove the Son is equal to the Father, as

touching the Godhead. What creature could stand before his Creator and say, "Glorify Me, that I may glorify Thee"? The glory of God is the end of all creation (Shorter Catechism A.1) But nothing brings such glory as Christ's finishing the work of redemption by His death, resurrection and ascension."

We know how Jesus' resurrection and ascension are glorious aspects of His redemptive work. Can it be said of His death with two thieves nailed beside Him, and He Himself hung naked on the cross? J. M. Neale says, "But just as we think an earthly general more glorious when he is in the heat of battle, covered with blood and sweat and dust, than when he is clothed in purple and in fine linen, and in the midst of triumph, so our Lord in one sense was more glorious when He was lifted on the cross than ever – I say with all reverence – when He rose from the dead." (Read Phil 2:9-11).

Let us therefore glorify Christ the more in His death and remember Him at the Lord's Table wherein His glory shines the brighter. Perhaps it is from the glory of His death that an analogy is drawn by the British Colonial Government who erected a Cenotaph at the Singapore Padang to "Our Glorious Dead". If they who died in two World Wars were glorious for the cause of righteousness, how much more our Lord who died to confer righteousness and life on sinful dying men! (v. 2-4)

In the cross of Christ, I glory
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

John 17:5

2. For restoration to the eternal glory

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I

had with thee before the world was." (v. 5)

"The meaning of this verse I take to be as follows: 'Father, my earthly work being now finished, I ask to be restored to that heavenly glory which in an unspeakable manner I had with Thee, as one of the co-equal and undividing Trinity, long before this world existed. The period of my humiliation and self-imposed weakness being accomplished, let Me once more share Thy glory, and sit with Thee on Thy throne as I did before my incarnation.' It is needless to say that the things asked in this prayer both here and elsewhere, are very deep, and reach far beyond man's understanding. The glory which the Son had with the Father, in the time before creation of the world, is a matter passing our comprehension. But the pre-existence of Christ, the doctrine that Father and Son are two distinct persons, and the equal glory of the Father and the Son, are at any rate taught here very plainly. It seems perfectly impossible to reconcile the verse with the Socinian theory – that Christ was a mere man, like David or Paul, and did not exist before He was born at Bethlehem. Let us also learn the practical lesson, that a prayer for glory comes best from those who have done work upon earth for God. A lazy wish to go to glory without working is not according to Christ's example." – J.C. Ryle. (Socinianism leads to Unitarianism).

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." In this doxology by the apostle Paul in I Tim 3:16 we see Christ come from glory, returning to glory! Unless Christ is God, He has no glory to return to.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK (Dec 26, 2005 – Jan 1, 2006)

MON	5.30 pm	Family Bible Study Fellowship
FRI	8.00 pm	No Prayer Meeting
SAT	3.30 pm	No YPF Meeting
	10.45 pm	Watchnight Service
SUN	9.15 am	No Sunday School
	10.30 am	Worship (Dr Jeffrey Khoo)
		Filipina Bible Study
		Indonesian Bible Study

Family Bible Study Fellowship will be having a Thanksgiving pot-bless gathering at the home of Dr Francis and Mrs Stephanie Lee tomorrow, Dec 26, 05 (Mon) at 5.30 pm. Address: 35 Moonbeam Terrace (off Holland Road), Singapore 277308. For details, please contact Edward at 93887328.

There will be no Prayer Meeting this Friday, Dec 30, 05.

Watchnight Service will be held at the RELC Auditorium this Sat (Dec 31, 05) at 10.45 pm. Speaker: Dr S H Tow. The Lord's Supper will be served.

There will be no Sunday School next Lord's Day, Jan 1, 2006.

Family Worship cum Prayer Meeting will be held at the home of Dn and Mrs Tai Mern Yee on Jan 6, 06 (Fri) at 8 pm. Address: Blk 101, Clementi St. 14, #06-143 Singapore 120101. Tel: 67781165.

LAST LORD'S DAY OFFERINGS

General Offerings: S\$8,593; RM50
Designated Offerings: *Rev Tow* \$330, \$100;
Dr Jeffrey Khoo \$150; *Richard (FEBC)* \$50;
Philip (FEBC) \$50; *FEBC* \$300, \$100
Total General and Designated Offerings:
 S\$9,673; RM50
Church Building Fund: \$10,000, \$1000 **Total:**
 \$399,429.60

Sunday School Offering: \$540.00

Verse for the Week: *He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.* Prov. 12:17

Those seeking Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership are to attend the Catechism Class which will commence on Jan 8, 2006. Please complete the Church Membership Application Form and drop it in the box provided at the Book Table.

Far Eastern Bible College will reopen on Jan 3, 2006, 8.30 am with a Day of Prayer and Registration. **The Basic Theology for Everyone** courses will resume with *Life of Christ* by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo on Jan 9, 06 (Mon) and *The Prophecy of Zechariah* by Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy on Jan 5, 06 (Thu), 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

12th Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – Israel, Palestine, Jordan. March 9 – 23, 2006.



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Vol. III No. 13

25 December 2005

“BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name”

10.30 am

Call to Worship	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Opening Hymn	No. 29
Invocation-Gloria Patri	
Responsive Reading	Isaiah 9:1-7
Hymn	No. 42
Announcements	
Special Number	Church Choir
Offering & Hymn	No. 156
Offertory Prayer	Dn Tan Beng Lee
Scripture Text	Matt 1:18-23
Pastoral Prayer	Dr Jeffrey Khoo
Sermon	<i>God With Us</i>
Closing Hymn	No. 151
Benediction	Dr Jeffrey Khoo

From the First Christmas Message

(Message delivered by Pastor at the True Life Church
10.30 am Service, Dec 18, 05)

Text: Gen 3:15; Isa 7:14; Lk 2:15-19

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Gen 3:15) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isa 7:14) And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were

told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. (Lk 2:15-19)

We have just returned from Perth after a month-long vacation leave, and we have had a taste of an Australian pageant of Christmas since early Nov. Twenty Santa Clauses jumping out of sledges, followed by semi-nude dancing girls advertising price deductions because of Christmas. Cheap sales, cheap, cheap sales. All the talk of Christmas is money, money, money. And did God have to wait 4000 years before the birth of His Son?

But the Bible tells us that the first Christmas message was given by God in Gen. 3:15, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

This verse gives us the first gospel message, the first Christmas message, whereby God puts enmity between the Serpent's seed and the seed of the woman. The seed of the woman is Jesus Christ who will crush Satan's head and Satan will bruise His heel. Isn't this the first Christmas message since it refers to the



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Virgin born Son of God? It is given in Gen. 3:15 and long before Luke.

The second time it talks about the Virgin born Son of God is Isa. 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." These words were spoken by Isaiah the prophet to wicked King Ahaz of Judah who pretended to trust God never requiring a sign. The fact was Judah was hard pressed by the Northern Kingdom the ten tribes of Israel. Judah needed God's help.

The third time, we have Mary the Virgin participate in giving birth to the Saviour and the visit of the shepherds to the manger on the advice of the Angel. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Mary pondered how she gave birth to Jesus as the Virgin mother. Mary pondered that Jesus was born to die to save us from our sins.

O the thought that God's Son is born!
Sweeps o'er her soul this first Christmas night.
O the thought that He's born to die!
Sweeps o'er her soul this first Christmas night.

If we ponder how Jesus was born to die for our sins, it will be our first Christmas and it will be worth its while.

— From the First Christmas Message out of the Garden of Eden.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE:
Chapter XVII
John 17:6-15

3. For the Safety of Believers from
(a) The World; (b) The Evil One

In this extended passage Jesus shows a caring concern for His disciples, like a loving mother for her children. As a mother cares for the brood she has brought up, from conception to birth, from birth to

infancy, from infancy to adolescence, so our Lord thinks upon His own as the elect of God (the men which Thou gavest me out of the world) who have received the message He preached, and His person as from the Father above. These chosen ones come under Christ's High Priestly Prayer, not those outside in the world.

Now that He was to leave them in person, He did not leave them to fend for themselves. He prayed for their safekeeping, inasmuch as "none of them is lost, but the son of perdition" (v. 12). Here is a most comforting thought to you and me who are trusting in Him. We have "eternal security", divine guarantee of our salvation, unless we become traitors like Judas, the son of perdition. ("Perdition" means "utter ruin"). Truly, the eternal security we have in Christ is a most comforting thought even as our Lord expects "that they (His disciples) may have my joy fulfilled in themselves" (v. 13).

Christ keeps us safe not by removing us out of this world, but rather that we might be protected from the world's hostility and from the machinations of the evil one. Why? Because we are His hands and feet to continue His witness unto the Truth while He is ascended on high. (Read v. 18).

The story is told of an angel enquiring of our Lord upon His arrival at the portals of heaven, "Before You ascended here, You told your disciples to go into the world to preach the Gospel to every creature. What if your disciples will not?" The Risen Saviour replied, "I have no other way. I depend on them, my hands and feet on earth." We who enjoy peace and protection from the world and the devil cannot abuse that peace by doing nothing for the Lord.

Unto Us A Child Is Born 42

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

— Isaiah 9:6

S. H. Tow

Piae Cantiones. 1581 Geoffrey Shaw

1. Un - to us a child is born, King of all cre - a - tion! Came He to a
2. Un - to us a son is giv'n From the Fa - ther's bos - om; Born to save the
3. Cra - dled in a sta - ble low With the cows and ass - es; Came to dwell with
4. Her - od's heart with fear was filled; Born a king in Jew - ry? Let the lit - tle
5. But the ang - el of the Lord Said to faith - ful Jo - seph: "Flee this night from
6. God His Son to us has sent From His home in glo - ry; To the cross of
7. God the Son came Son of man, God in flesh ap - pear - ing; That the sons of
8. Al - pha and Om - e - ga He, Let us come and bow down; Praise dear Re-deem -

world for-lorn, The Lord of every na - - - - - tion.
world from sin, To give His life a ran - - - - - som.
men be - low To preach and teach the ma - - - - - sses.
boys be killed! "Said Her - od in his fu - - - - - ry.
Her - od's sword, In E - gypt is a re - - - - - fuge safe."
shame He went - Yes, this the Christmas sto - - - - - ry.
men may be The sons of God re - joi - - - - - cing!
er to Thee, O make my heart Thy roy - - - - - al throne!