

# The Vine

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The theme speaker at our recently concluded Church retreat, Rev. Daniel Ang, made a very perceptive comment, though half in jest, that we were very brave to hold our retreat in the midst of the World Cup season. Thank God that our priority for spiritual rejuvenation was proven not out of place.



We thank God for the hard work of the retreat committee (comprising Jim Lee, Peter Cheong, Peggy Lee, James Tan, Edmund Ng and members from the Chinese Section) in rallying the participation of close to 200 members (about equally divided between the English and Chinese Sections). We thank God that the retreat was a big success in enhancing the fraternity between both language sections of the Church as a united community in Christ. The testimonies of participants you read in this issue of The Vine bear out the truth. Thank God that all of us who were at Sofitel Resort, JB, were able to enjoy the fruits of the retreat programmes without feeling any pinch in the heart for missing out on the battle between England and Argentina on television. Any excitement of the latter paled in comparison to the great spiritual and recreational satisfaction derived. Speak to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Chinese congregation who participated in the retreat – I am sure they share the same sentiments as I have just described. I know it because of the free and easy conversations and mingling of both language participants during meal times and combined activities. Personally, I have got good interactions with numerous individuals

whom I had not known existed as my fellow co-labourers in ministries in the same place called Jurong Christian Church.

Pastor Anthony certainly had his plan well made to catch members off-guard with his good-humoured test of our knowledge of our Church Vision. What Church Vision? If you ask this question, then you are in the same boat as those among the retreat participants who certainly could not claim having passed Pastor Anthony's test with flying colours. ☹ It is a fact! Many of us, myself included, walk in and out of Church regularly but find it very easy to neglect paying attention to our Vision statement that reminds us of our Christian duty. I know what the statement says – ooh, ... it has something to do with discipleship... ur ... and disciple-making ... argh ... oh ... – oh yea, I better pay due attention to the Vision statement, and remind you to do the same lest you become the next victim of ignorance. Ignorance of the Vision statement is no excuse for ignoring the fact that we all share the common Christian duty of glorying God through a life of true discipleship and disciple-making. Even if we cannot remember the exact wording of the statement, we ought at least to remember the essence of it to guide our Christian living exemplifying the twin spiritual virtues of discipleship and disciple-making.



The World Cup season continues beyond our retreat season. It is remarkable that there are people who give the sport event priority over Church services. We all know that God is greater than the World Cup, but who can fault the sheep for their poor judgment when even a high shepherd of the stature of an Archbishop would publicly

endorse the primacy of the World Cup? I doubt that attaching undue weight to the secular thrill of the World Cup in relation to regularly scheduled Church services is a phenomenon restricted to soccer fans of their own national teams. In fact, it reflects a common trait of man to easily succumb to the rousing of their passion. This is harmless only if the passion is worthy and properly directed without pushing God to second place.

**Faithful to follow World Cup at church** From Straits Times, May 29

LONDON - Church-going England fans won't have to test their faith during the World Cup, as many churches are re-scheduling services and even putting up big screens.

The move has been backed by Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey - a keen Arsenal fan - according to the online news service Ananova.

Italy's coach Giovanni Trapattoni commented aptly after his team scraped through to the World Cup second round by drawing 1-1 with Mexico,

“That match proves that there is a God.” (TODAY, 14<sup>th</sup> June) While Trapattoni might recognize God’s blessing upon his team in that particular match, it certainly is true that God is present in every match, in every event – even unpleasantly to Italy in its subsequent upset by ‘lowly’ Korea. “Man proposes, God disposes” is a well-known truth in all spheres of life and the World Cup is an illustrious example that draws our attention to the fact. Look at how men renown in the field of Soccer proposed Senegal as a minnow and France and Argentina as extreme hopefuls for lifting the Cup. Alas! France and Argentina did not even manage to get past the preliminaries, let alone getting within sight of landing a place in the quarter-finals. What an absolute disposal of a hope rooted in human vagaries!

Life is like that. Even “the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” (Rom. 8:20–21) So likewise, the positive and negative experiences in any human scheme, whether it be the transient World Cup glory or life’s more vital goals, are to be expected. “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer,” we are told. (Rom. 12:12) In sober moments, this is of course understood; but being carried away from sanity by high tension is certainly not out of the ordinary in this topsy-turvy world – witness the Russian rampage for a loss suffered, the self-immolation by a South Korean just to show support for his national team and the neglect of duty by Indonesian prison warders allowing 48 prisoners to escape at the height of the match between Brazil and Belgium, just to name a few cases in point to highlight the risk of World Cup fever going out of control. Bettors, with the tacit support of the authorities in the form of easy legalized betting avenues, are particularly under threat of losing their heads. Beware that Christians are not immune to an unhealthy obsession with the World Cup, a.k.a. soccer worship, leading to a ruinous effect on self and family in all ways imaginable! For Christians, one of the signs of trouble is when essential Church programmes are postponed, or participation in them are avoided, purely in respect of game days.

As the excitement of the World Cup builds up to a crescendo, I hope that we members of the JCC community know better the right choice to make when our faith is being tested. If you are a hardcore World Cup fan, I have a gentle message for you: There is nothing wrong with enjoying the exhilaration of watching the matches on television anywhere any time, provided that you do

not let your passion consume you to the point when you lose sleep over missing a match but think nothing of missing Church services. Thank God for the opportunities to whet your World Cup yearning, but pray also to remain clear-headed should it happen that more important priorities collide with game schedules. Ω

Dear Saints,

Well, it is that inevitable time for sports enthusiasts and others for the big World Cup activities. In fact, I heard that Sports News is going to begin pre-game reporting this morning - the game isn't until late this afternoon!

Sports are not bad. In fact the Apostle Paul himself used numerous sports related illustrations in his writings. He spoke of endurance, finishing the race, fighting the good fight, training, and on and on.

Just as anything else, moderation is still the prerogative of the Christian. We are not to let anything other than the Lord Jesus Christ control us and are to seek Him with fervour. I hope that we can keep all the week's buildup, hype and today's game in proper perspective in light of eternity. There are eternal issues and then there are life issues. **Soccer is not an eternal issue. It doesn't matter in eternity the outcome of today's game.**

Yours faithfully,

*(Adapted from the Internet)*

# Atonement

by Tan Swee Leong

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The starting point of understanding atonement is to understand the nature of God. God is holy and perfect, he abhors sin, sin is repulsive to him and he cannot tolerate sin. God has put in place his moral and spiritual laws, which reflect his nature. Violation of these laws is an act of disobedience, an attack on the very nature of God. The consequence of such transgression is liability to punishment and death. The Bible states, "The soul who sins is the one who will die." (Ez. 18:20), Paul states in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death,"

Man is born in sin and has a corrupt nature. Before being born again in Christ, we were controlled by the sinful nature (Rom. 7:5), we in fact "used to be slaves to sin" (Rom. 6:17). Sin separates us from God. Man in this sinful condition is spiritually dead and cannot save himself. On our own we are unable to do any genuine meritorious work to fulfill God's requirements, which is to keep the law perfectly and to attain salvation for our souls.

## **How then is the problem of sin resolved and reconciliation with God attained?**

In the Old Testament, God instituted a sacrificial system where sacrifices for sin are regularly offered for sin that has been committed. God who is holy, righteous and just could not overlook sin, however in his perfect love he desires to forgive and restore sinners to himself. Out of his grace, he provided a way whereby a substitute sacrifice could be offered to atone for the sin of mankind. In Scripture, the word, *atone*, *Kaphar* in Hebrew means literally "to cover". The sinner is delivered from punishment by interposing something between one's sin and God. God then saw the atoning sacrifice rather than the sin. This covering of the sin means that the penalty is not exacted upon the sinner.

The sacrifice offered as a substitute for the sinner, bore the sinner's guilt. The sacrifice has to meet certain requirements to accomplish the intended effect:

- The sacrifice must be unblemished, signifying the necessity for perfection.
- The sacrifice must cost something, atonement cannot be taken lightly
- Death was necessary as this expresses the substitutionary character of the sacrifice. Sin has been transferred to the sacrificial animal that bore the penalty of sin.

The Old Testament sacrificial system dealt only with unintentional offences against God. The sacrifices had to be repeatedly offered and in themselves were inadequate. Hosea states that God “desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.” (Hos. 6:6), the writer of Hebrews states that “the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings--external regulations applying until the time of the new order.” (Heb. 9:9-10).

In the New Testament (NIV), the word “atonement” is mentioned three times (Rom. 3:25, Heb. 2:17; 9:5), in fact, “atone” is not used at all. However, the idea of atonement is clear throughout the New Testament. Sinners are slave to sin (Jn. 8:34), Christ has set them free (Gal. 5:1) and in Christ death he died for our sin (1 Cor. 5:13) and conquered and freed us from death and gave us salvation (Rom. 5:17).

Wayne Grudem defines atonement as “the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation”<sup>1</sup>. Christ is fully God and fully man. As Christ is fully man he is able to redeem us, Christ’s death is of sufficient value to atone for the whole human race as it is of infinite worth. As Christ is sinless, he did not have to die in payment of his own sin, but for the atonement of sin for all mankind. Christ spoke of the purpose of his coming; “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17). Christ gave his life as a sacrifice, a picture which is vivid to those accustomed to offering animals on the altar. He offered himself as a substitute in our place, dying for our sin. Whereas, the Old Testament sacrifices had limited effect, Christ’s death had eternal effect, as a once of all atonement for the sin of all mankind. This is attested in scripture, -“He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.” (Heb. 9:12).

In Christ’s death, the effects of sin have been nullified (Rom 5:12-21). In Christ there is no condemnation (Rom 8:1), as we are discharged from the law, dead do that which held us bondage as Paul states “So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ” (Rom 7:4). Christ has turned the wrath of God away from sinners, this is termed propitiation.

The wrath of God is always directed against sin not the sinner. Another term used in conjunction with atonement is expiation embodying the meaning cancellation or dismissal, “making amends for”. Expiation is the payment for the penalty of sin. . Jesus death not only expiates (wipes away its penalty) but also propitiates (turn away the wrath of God) God’s judgement on sinners who transgressions are not atoned for.

Did Christ really die in our place as a substitute? The Bible states that "our sins we laid upon him"(Is. 53:6), "Christ bore our iniquities"(Is. 53:11) "he was made sin for us"(2 Cor.5:21). It is clear that Christ bore our sin, our sins were transferred to Him, He took our place as a substitute.

Christ death brought an end to the enmity between God and humankind; he reconciles us to God, removing the hostility. Reconciliation embodies the idea of "making peace" between man and God. Paul states "His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility." (Eph. 2:15b - 16). Reconciliation makes us "at one" with God which is synonymous to the meaning of atonement.

Atonement is Christ's work in his life and death, his bearing the punishment due to us for our sin, dying for our sin as a substitutionary sacrifice, bringing us pardon with God and reconciliation. It is God's love that has motivated and produced the sacrifice for atonement necessary for healing the relationship between God and man." Atonement is summed up by John when he said, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

#### End notes:

1. Wayne Grudem. Systematic Theology, IVP1994. pg 568.

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**Nathan** was an unpopular preacher. His text was: "Thou Art the Man!"

That type of preaching has never been popular. It is not popular today, and the man who is preaching that kind of Gospel is not a popular preacher. Today, in this modern, liberal age, the preacher is not supposed to point people out or to call their names. They might get offended!

Nathan preached his sermon to a big shot—none other than the king himself. He preached him a red-hot sermon in language easily understood, and then looked him straight in the eyes and said, "Thou art the man"! (II Sam. 12:7).

They all looked alike to Brother Nathan. Big shots or little shots—it made no difference to Nathan. He had a message from God to deliver, and he delivered it just exactly as he received it from God. Every minister of the Gospel has a message to deliver, and woe be unto the preacher who fails to deliver it just as the Lord God has laid it down.

God give us more preachers who will first listen to God for the message, then deliver the message of God just as God gives it! The place to find that message is in the Word.

# Evidence of Salvation

## ***SALVATION DEMANDS REPENTANCE***

Repentance means a change of mind resulting in a change of life. It is illustrated in the Corinthian believers who changed their minds about the proud and wicked indifference they had in regard to the gross sin in their midst. A church member had been living in fornication with his stepmother. Instead of mourning this wickedness and the tainting of the testimony of the church, the Corinthians were "puffed up" (1 Cor. 5).

A changed life is not required for salvation. God does the saving and the life changing. A changed mind is required, though. The person who has never changed his mind about God, sin, Christ, and the Bible, has never been saved. The individual who professes salvation yet does not demonstrate a changed life is not a person who falls away from salvation; he is a person who has never possessed salvation. He has never repented. The changed life is the evidence and fruit of repentance.

## ***SALVATION REQUIRES A NEW BIRTH***

Regeneration is God's work. A man cannot work up the new birth, nor can he work for it. He cannot even work to keep it. God gives the new birth as a gift of grace. But He only gives it to those who repent and place full confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Could God live within an individual's heart without being evidenced in that person's daily life? The Bible teaches that this is not possible.

## ***WHAT CHANGES DOES SALVATION BRING?***

### ***A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH AND ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD***

The regenerated person has become a child of God. God is his Savior. The Spirit of God has taken permanent abode in his heart. He desires to know God and seeks to do so.

### ***A LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD***

The individual who is born again hungers after the Bible. It is God's voice, and the regenerated man loves God's voice. It is God's law, and the regenerated man has God's law written upon his heart. A person's attitude toward the Bible is a strong indication of his spiritual condition.



## **A LOVE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE**

A new attitude toward God's people is the sure mark of the born again person. He who does not love to be with the brethren is not passed from death unto life, no matter what the profession. Everything about the brethren will not be loved. The fellowship will not be without problems and frictions. Backsliding can hinder one's fellowship with the saints for a time. The young or carnal brethren do not love with the maturity of the older brethren. Feelings can be hurt and temporary schisms can result, but the fact remains that saved people DO love saved people and desire to be with them.

## **A LOVE FOR GOD'S WAYS**

The individual who does not love righteousness is either lost or severely backslidden. If God dwells within, a person's life will be changed. The person who shows forth no change in his attitude toward God, God's Word, God's people, and God's ways has no Bible basis whatsoever for claiming to be saved and on the way to heaven.

## **SALVATION IS EVIDENCED BY PERSEVERANCE**

True faith keeps on keeping on; it perseveres. The Savior keeps His own. The saved man might stumble and halt and grow weak at times, but his faith will continue, nevertheless. The person who wholly and finally turns his back to the Lord Jesus is one who has never had true faith to begin with. He has perhaps dabbled in the things of Christ; he might have tasted of God's table, but he has never actually drunk of the salvation of Jesus Christ.

## **SAVING FAITH WORKS**

A faith that does not work is a dead faith. The individual who professes to be saved, but who is not interested in Christ and the things of God, has an incredible kind of "faith." It certainly is not saving faith.

Such a person claims to believe that God hates and judges sin as the gospel teaches, yet he does not tremble about his own sinful ways. The unchanged person claims to believe that Jesus suffered a painful, bloody death to set him free from sin, yet he continues in the very things that required Christ's death. He claims to believe that the resurrected Christ gives victory over sin, yet he says he simply cannot give up his sin. He claims to believe that Life is in Jesus alone, but he spends no effort to seek and know Christ in daily life, rather, he continually feeds from the cesspools of the world. He claims to believe that God's wrath is revealed against the ways of this world, yet he refuses to leave his worldly pleasures and companions. He claims to believe that the Bible is God's Holy Word, the only Book in the world which truly has eternal value, yet his mind is filled with anything and everything but the Bible.



**2 Hands, One Heart...**

**JURONG CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
RETREAT**



Reflection by the KOH Family  
(Tony, Susan, Hannah & Diana Koh)...

We are in "Good Hands"....We would like to share our thanksgiving for a Spiritual Refreshing/Formation Learning Experience & fellowship time at this Retreat – both for us in the Adult programs and the children in the Kids programs.

We thank GOD for this learning experience to be grounded in His Words and to find solace in the LORD! We are especially thankful to the Organizing Committee, specially impressed by their dedication and commitment towards keeping the retreat participants in good hands...Certainly, we have experienced the loving hands of GOD...



A picture of peace & tranquility



With joy we give "THANKS" once again for this Enriching Experience through JCC 2002 Retreat!



↑ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

← What a congregation ... with thanksgiving & praise!

# WCC RETREAT

6th-9th June 2002

Sofitel Palm Resort, JB

Before the retreat, I could not wait patiently with all the thoughts of what great experience there was in store for me at Sofitel Palm Resort.

Finally, the much-anticipated day arrived. Upon reaching our destination, I was impressed by the vastness of the place with all its splendid facilities. The rooms were truly wonderful. They were so spacious and the beds so comfortable. Even the bathroom was equally fantastic. I could stay in the bathroom and have a good sleep.



↑ Pastor Anthony (Centre) and a section of his family of Christ.

Lots of rest and lots of food! Of course, I would not forget the spiritual food intake during those 3 days that gave me a great feeling of being "re-charged".

I have learnt that Prayer is a spontaneous response to God when we have a conversation with Him through our meditation, quiet-time and reflection as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Also, God is sovereign in both spiritual and secular world. We need to be especially careful in our ways of conduct and "performances" in our workplace, not to conform to the world's standard but to God's standard in truth, justice and love.

Hope the energy we have been charged up with will light up God's way for our non-believer friends and colleagues so that they will be convinced about Christ and give praise to our eternal God.

*Kin Siong*

The buffet meals were very agreeable to a big-eater like me. The spicy Penang laksa tasted marvelous during supper. It really helped to end my day well.

After satisfying my tummy during breakfast, more great feasting of a spiritual

kind was in store. The theme talks by Reverend Daniel Ang were simply edifying. I gained a lot from the messages on the topic “Spiritual Formation”. They helped me to understand how I can apply Spiritual Formation in my daily life.



The combined games were great too for fellowship with the youths from the Chinese Section. With games such as carom, darts, golf and bowling, it was no wonder that everyone felt very calm without feeling stressed out by the spiritual program for the retreat. I was quite happy bowling. Even though I was just an amateur bowler, I was surprised with my team’s top result.

I appreciated the “Free & Easy” part of the program too. This retreat was indeed enriching and also relaxing with a good balance of numerous “Free & Easy” time slots. Kicking football and playing water polo were quite fun, though I was exhausted after that. I was also pleased to make some new friends while playing soccer.

Time seemed to pass very quickly. After all, all good things have to come to an end. It was time for me to say goodbye to the resort, which had offered me so much in experience – both physical fun and spiritual uplifting! I would also like to thank God for the great time I had at this Church Retreat.

*Benedict Lee*



I looked forward to this church retreat as a getaway from the burdens and problems I am going through recently. Actually, my priority was rest and recreation rather than spiritual revival. I had no intention in participating actively in the retreat programme but wanted a time of reflection and reevaluation of my life and career.

God has His way of dealing with me. The theme talks spoke to me, especially the talk of “dark nights” (sufferings) which I was experiencing. Therefore I could relate well to the message. Perhaps God had planned this message for me and others in the same boat. I am sure other participants at the retreat were also blessed by the speaker – Rev. Daniel Ang.

The free and easy programme was particularly appealing to me. There were no skits and performances that were a feature in past retreats I attended since late 80's. Thus, instead of spending a lot of time preparing for group performance, the participants had more private and family time during the short stay. The community bonding was enhanced through other less formal programmes like playing games. Incidentally, water polo seemed to be a mainstay for good fun at retreats.

I suppose most members who participate in church retreats appreciate a good balance of spiritual uplifting with time for relaxation and recreation. This we had wonderfully at the Sofitel Palm Resort from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June. I have no doubt that this successful formula will be noted by organizers of future retreats.

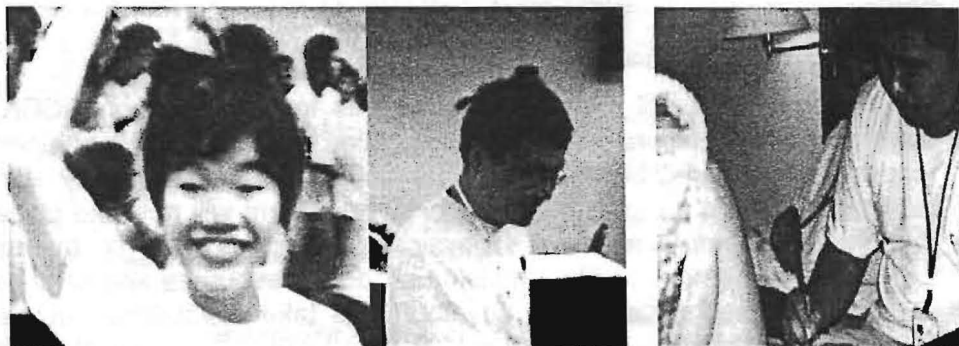
*Sek Hoong*



Oh! What a headache!

A comfortable place  
to study God's Word

Happy birthday boy



Latest fashion in hairstyle

What is he sketching?

# Serving our little tots

Jurong  
Christian  
Church

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## Kindergarten

We give praise and thanksgiving to our Lord for sending 330 children to JCKK. In the midst of a community with 10 children centres (kindergartens and childcare centres), the current enrolment is a blessing from our God, the Lord of all time. As He showered us with His gracious blessings, we seek to give Him all glories through the provision of quality preschool education.

Quality preschool education is a curriculum that provides for the development of a whole child, and the acronym SPICES best describes the respective domains of development. Thus the programme in JCKK is flavoured with the relevant ***SPICES***.

### ❖ **S** PIRITUAL

*"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt 16:26).*

What good will it be for our students to graduate from JCKK, immersed into the main stream, excelled academically, attained leadership positions, but lacking in the knowledge of His Word? Dr. Wilson (1994) stated that, "... spiritual development will not take place in quite the same way as his physical development or his mental development." The provision of foods, resources and settings will ensure that these developments take the natural course. Therefore, we need TO MAKE AVAILABLE the spiritual foods and setting for the spiritual development.





In 1999, with the introduction of the Pre-Nursery class, we embarked on the use of the Gospel Light Sunday School materials that bring the children through the Bible in its structured curriculum. Our Pre-Nursery teachers having found the materials age-appropriate and interesting, the GL materials were adopted for use for all classes in January 2000. After using these materials for 4 years, we are now sourcing for new materials for year 2003. Although our students come from a diversified culture and social economic background, we trust that in His own time, the gospel will be 'ACCEPTABLE' to them.

## ❖ P HYSICAL

*"What joy is in the body! The joy of work and of hard purposeful effort, the joy of singing, the joy of sport and activity, the joy of tenderness and physical touch, the joy of controlling physical things. Children have a tendency toward them all. Softly feel a baby's head, rough house with two-year old, watch a three year old squeeze shapes from a square block of clay, and you'll see the opening melodies of the body's joy.*



*Inhibition and fear take away the body's joy ... We must help them to try the physical things without intimidation, embarrassment or fear. We must help them begin to sense the simple enjoyment of the functioning of their bodies. Then beyond that, we must help them find and concentrate on the physical things that they do especially well, the things in which they are gifted, be they sports, music, crafts, dance, or what ever their own particular gifts suggest." – Linda Eyre and Richard Eyre*

Activities that promote the physical skills of young children enhance the educational potential in each child. Recognizing the developmental level of the children, our teachers planned for comprehensive activities that give the children boundless opportunities

to practise different kinds of skills during the sessions for indoor/outdoor play, art and crafts, and, music and movements.

## ❖ INTELLECTUAL

*“Among the major contributions of Piaget’s work has been the now widely accepted recognition that young children actively construct their own understanding of concepts and ‘operations’ (such as cause and effect, number, classification, seriation and logical reasoning). This constructivist perspective in cognition emphasizes the child’s need to act on objects, interact with people, and think and reflect on their experiences.” – Sue Bredekamp and Carol Copple*



We never run out of activities that enable our children to actively manipulate, explore, adapt, create, compare, interpret, explain, select, classify and construct. To complement all hands-on activities, we ensure that we have ample paper work to equip them for academic readiness. Thus our

students walked out of our gate, all geared up for the competitive race beyond.



## ❖ CREATIVITY

*“Of all the qualities we seek to nurture in children as they grow, use of the imagination must be one of the most important. Indeed, our imaginations grow more important with every passing year as our technology develops and becomes even more amazing. We must remember that every machine first has to be imagined by someone.” – John Coe*

Freeing our children to be creative and provide the resources (dough, construction blocks, scrape materials, paints, etc) and the time to ‘mess’ up. Our teachers have been constantly reminded that in the crafts work, the process is of greater value than the end product. Our children are encouraged to make choices about the materials and



activities (for example – child will decide what he wants to do with an empty tissue box). In the process of his creative task, teacher will offer assistance when necessary. To foster creativity, we must treasure the creative process, value fostering of originality and the unique expression of ideas and thoughts. Therefore, we set aside time for mini projects for all the levels in JCKK.

## ❖ E MOTIONAL

*“We want more for our children than healthy bodies. We want our children to have lives filled with friendship, love and high deeds. We want them to be eager to learn and be willing to confront challenges.... We want them to grow up with confidence in the future, a love of adventure...We want them to be resilient in the face of the setbacks and failures that growing up always bring.” – Seligman*

Children are little adults. Like the adults they have the same emotional needs – need to be loved, need for caring and safe relationship. It is only in a warm, loving and caring environment that we will be able to build the self-esteem and confidence of these little adults. And, JCKK provides the atmosphere of warm loving care.

## ❖ SOCIAL

*“Children who lack social competence, necessary for initiating and maintaining satisfying relationships, are at risk of peer rejection, academic failure, and later social and emotional problems.”*

*- Bruce Allen Knight & Desma Hughes*

We have the space and action packed activities that provide opportunities for social interactions. Whether in the multi-purpose hall or the classrooms, many of our programmes promote prosocial skills such as co-operative behaviours (through discussing, negotiating and compromising), sharing and caring for one another in their little community (the classroom setting).



Having sprinkled 'spices' on the curriculum to bring the best out of the young children, we also remember their parents, grandparents and siblings. A family that prays together stays together. Likewise, a family that spends time together for leisure will stay together. It is also an opportunity for us to share with them God's blessings for JCKK. Professionally, preschool education is incomplete without parental involvement. Every responsible parent has a role in this very important phase of the young child's life, be it the role of father or mother. Other members of the family rally around to give the parents the emotion and moral support as they wrestled with job responsibilities, and the tiring yet joyous moments with the growing child. We welcome the presence of parents in JCKK. Therefore, we planned for some of the year events to be opened to all the parents and their kinsmen.

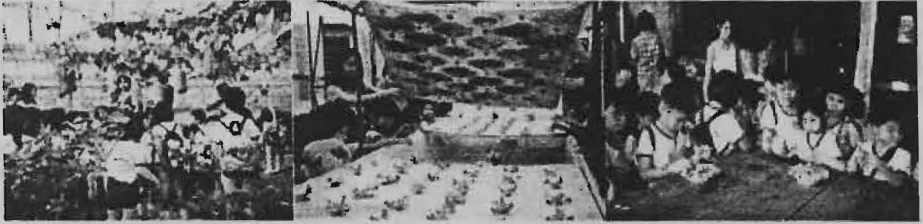


They attended our Chinese New Year celebration. As we stood along the corridor on the second floor to witness the 'whole clan' (Papa, Mama, Kong Kong, Ah Ma, siblings and some time aunties and uncles), thronging into JCC gate and up the flight of steps to the sanctuary, we 'Praise the Lord. With our whole heart, we will praise His holy Name.' And the beauty of this get-together - a sea of colourful traditional costumes, reminding us of the unique feature of our multi-racial society. Our students were singing praises (to the melody of traditional Chinese New Year songs) to His mighty name and our pastors delivered message reflecting God's love and grace. Each family represented by the head received a beautiful Chinese New Year carrier with two tangerines and a tract. All this was made possible with assistance from JCC members led by Brother Chan Yoke Meng.

Parents-Teachers meeting (2 sessions) was well attended by parents. Our Pastors Yee, Loh, How and Lee, took turn to come down to interact with the parents. With the ever ready support from our kitchen staff, we were able to spread the tables at the multi-purpose hall with breakfast and afternoon tea.

We rounded each term with field trips that took our students beyond the usual tourists' attractions - educational trips to fire-station,

parks and farms. The 2<sup>nd</sup> term ended with a trip to the quails and aeroponic vegetable farms.



And more to come – 8<sup>th</sup> August is our National Day celebration. September 11, 2001 had changed the world, and our country is not spared from the threats of terrorism. Together we need to be a model for the students under our charge – we need to stand together, united for Singapore, free to worship our Lord and God, with open avenues to share the Gospel. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our invitation to all members, friends and residents around us to join us on this special day.

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• Venue: JCKK  
• Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
•••••

*Deborah Pay (Mrs)*  
*Principal*

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# Do you know that

THAI GOOD NEWS CENTRE SINGAPORE

## is a part of the Lutheran Church?

What's Up at TGNC?

- *Rev Wayne T. Zweck, Secretary of the Lutheran Church of Australia visited TGNC on March 20.*
- *Thai New Year Worship cum-Celebrations on April 14. A good turn-up of more than 150 people for our programmes from 10am to 7pm. Two women and one man prayed to receive Christ.*
- *LMT & JBT Meetings in Thailand on April 19 to 23 were attended by Rev Rickson Leong, the Mission Chairman of Lutheran Church in Singapore.*
- *Labor Day Concert 2002 on May 1 were held at the TGNC. Special presentations by our English Class students and Soccer Team members. Attendance: 250*

Prayer Requests

- *LCS Pastor's Study Trip to Balvaria from July 7 to 25. Pray for safe journey mercy and God's protection for the Pastors.*
- *Talentine Concert on August 9. Pray for good preparations for our members and also good attendance.*
- *Seminar on Worship on June 30 & July 7 at TGNC. Pray for our speaker: Rev Terry Kee and good participations from our members.*

When called upon to do some thing  
For God or fellow man  
I always find a good excuse  
To back out if I can,  
can't get up in front of folks  
And pray or testify,  
And I know someone else can help  
My neighbor more than I.  
I can't talk in front of people  
And Lord knows I can't sing,  
And when you come right down to  
it  
I can't do anything.  
So I get up and go to church  
When Sunday morning comes  
And I feel like by doing this  
My Christian duty's done.

**I CAN'T**

And now I stand with all mankind  
Before the great white throne  
To be rewarded for good works.  
What if I have none?  
I see some souls placed on God's left  
And some placed on His right,  
I start to feel uncomfortable,  
And then I am filled with fright.  
I find that I can speak up now  
Before this multitude.  
I can pray and testify,  
Then plead and beg some too.  
"Lord, I know I've not done much,  
You know I've been no saint.  
But Lord, please place me on your  
right."  
And He replies, "I can't."

M. Melton, USA