

Jurong Christian Church

The Vine

For internal circulation only

November 2003

Vol. 11/2003

What's Inside...

1. Bishop John Tan's Reformation Day message
2. John Lee speaks about men and women

14 years old
this year



Editor's Views

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It is hard to believe that 14 years have passed by. I remember when we first started on The Vine, I was using an IBM XT compatible computer and now I am using a Pentium 4. In the early days, I had to hand draw my graphics but now I surf the Internet for pictures. Anyway my eyesight has deteriorated and I can't really draw well anymore. (Good excuse for being a lousy artist)

When the idea of a newsletter was first mooted by Pastor William Chang, Se Ping volunteered as the editor. I can't really remember why I got involved but I was there in the very beginning helping Se Ping out. The Vine's first editorial committee comprised Se Ping, Amy Saw, Joo See and myself. *(There are no pictures of the committee to show you because The Vine committee hardly meet. In the early days, we just passed the printed pages to the editor. Nowadays, we e-mail one another.)* Joo See did not write in the beginning and those articles bearing her name were actually written by me. Only later when she experienced many miracles from God did she share her testimonies in The Vine.

If I remember correctly, Se Ping stepped down in July 1993 because she was having a baby. (The baby is a big girl now; when are you coming back?) John Lee came on board in November 1992 and has been actively involved since then. But I must admit

that there was a time when he gave me a jolt by announcing his retirement from The Vine. Maybe I should announce mine before the idea comes back to him again.

The Vine looks like a two-man show. In the beginning it was Se Ping and I and now it is John and I. However, a two-man show cannot work; so we have a team of writers or regular contributors over the years. We had a brother called Thomas in the early days. He has now left JCC. Pastor Martin used to be a prolific writer too. Our supporting writers have included Swee Leong, Charlotte Sam, Tony Koh and others. What we lack are writers from the youths. We oldies enjoy knowing what's happening among the young ones.

We have moved from black and white, hand drawn, cut and paste newsletters to colourful printed ones. However, we still have a long way to go before we reach a professionally printed version. We cannot achieve this with limited manpower. Therefore I encourage you to contribute articles and testimonies for The Vine.

You don't have to be a good writer. You just need to have a desire to share in writing what blessings you have received from the Almighty and we will polish the language for you, if necessary. Even what John Lee and I write are subject to polishing and repolishing before you get to read them.

Has God not blessed you? Surely, you are blessed to be a blessing. Even if you think you have not received blessings but tribulations, you can still share them because there may be a lesson therein which God wants you to share with others to encourage them. So there is no reason not to write.

Martin Cheah

CHRIST ALONE

*(Bishop John Tan's 31st Oct 2003
Reformation Day message)*

When Peter, James and John were on the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared before them, talking with Jesus. According to the Gospel records, Peter felt that the scene was wonderful, so he suggested setting up three shelters there – one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (Matt. 17:5) When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified, until Jesus came to touch them and tell them not to be afraid. When they got up, they saw no one except Jesus.

“*Solus Christus*” (Christ alone) is one of the Reformation principles. Today, however, many churches do not depend on Christ alone. They add on Moses’ way of leadership and Elijah’s ministry of miracles in order to say that their churches are indeed good.

Moses was the highly acclaimed leader of the Israelites. He led the Israelites out of Egypt, received the Ten Commandments from God, built the Tabernacle, instituted the Levitical system and, frequently, performed miracles. Some people say that God took Moses away at Mount Nebo because He did not want the Israelites to regard Moses as an idol to be worshipped.

Elijah was Israel’s great prophet. He prayed for fire to rain down from heaven and slaughtered the false prophets of Baal. He summoned the wind and rain, and restored the life of a widow’s son. He occupied a lofty position in the eyes of the Israelites. At every Passover Seder, a seat, “Elijah’s Chair,” is always provided. The Israelites believe that before the coming of the Messiah, God will surely send Elijah first.

The authors of both the New Testament and the Old Testament frequently mention the names of Moses and Elijah. The high status of these two great men in the eyes of the Israelites and in history are thus evident.

The Church today put their focus on strong charismatic leaders who are very capable from the pulpit to administration. Church members look up to their leaders with admiration, praise and adoration. There are others who look out for extraordinary phenomena such as speaking in tongues, miraculous healing, prophecies, dreams, etc., treating these as indications that the church is filled

with the Holy Spirit and full of potential.

When Christians set their sights on leaders and supernatural phenomena, they may miss out on the need to put their focus on Christ. What they see are some external characteristics of Christian ministries or the outward manifestation of God's hand at work through His servants. Instead, we should not lose sight of the sustaining grace of Christ in the leaders and their ministry.

Luke 9:30-31 tells us that Moses and Elijah talked to Jesus about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. They were referring to Christ's impending death and resurrection. This was also the reply that Cleopas gave to Jesus on the Road to Emmaus when the latter asked, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" The answer: "About Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet ... The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him ... it is the third day ... They went to the tomb this morning but didn't find his body." (Refer Lk 24:13-24)

What churches need to talk about today are not about Moses' leadership or Elijah's miracles and wonders, but about Jesus Christ – His death and resurrection, proclaimed by the WORD and celebrated by the SACRAMENTS.

When Peter saw Moses and Elijah with Jesus in glorious radiance, they

felt that the scene was unsurpassed in splendour. So they suggested the setting up of three shelters ... At that moment, God spoke from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." (Lk 9:35) When the voice had spoken, Moses was gone. Elijah was gone. The disciples saw only Christ – "Where are Moses and Elijah?" Yes, God wants us to place our attention neither on Moses (a leader) nor Elijah (extraordinary events or supernatural abilities). God wants us to listen to Christ alone, to focus our attention on Him in worship and service.

The principle "*Solus Christus*" (Christ alone) of the Reformation over 400 years ago is now being subject to battering by the relentless waves of modern technology, commerce and all forms of human enterprise that people worship, as churches become man-centred, man-powered, man-pleasing and man-praising. Gradually, "Christ alone" is like a pearl that has lost its shine. Pray that God will open our eyes to see and reaffirm Christ as the centre of the Church and our ministries. To Christ alone all glory is due! †

CONDOLENCES

*To our sister **Charlotte Sam** and family on the death of her father-in-law recently.*

May the Lord of Peace grant them peace and consolation.

Men are “one kind”, women “another kind”?

John Lee

The differences between man and woman are in the nature that God has created them rather than in the artificial stereotyping that people condone according to their fancy. At Chinese weddings, the groom is typically associated with 才 (talent) while the bride is flattered for her 貌 (beauty) in the classic compliment of 男才女貌。I do on occasions find that the bride is far from being a beauty (at least externally) though a highly capable woman while the groom commands a striking presence with his handsome looks that would leave no one guessing how he had managed to capture the eyes of the girl by his side. The hackneyed tribute of 男才女貌 (talented man paired with a beauty) is outdated and not recognizing women of intelligence and men of good looks. “Talent is to man (never mind ugly looks) and beauty is to woman (never mind whether she has a brain or not)” is not in accord with reality. Why can’t a woman have her 才 openly acknowledged and likewise a groom have his good looks given equal attention? Perhaps, I have mistaken 财 (wealth) for 才; i.e., the compliment should be 男财女貌 instead. (Note that both 财 and 才 sound alike and are written exactly the same way in *hanyu pinyin*.) Whatever it is, it makes me wonder why the compliment with its inherent prejudice is today still accepted by bride, groom, families, relatives and friends with unabashed approval.

Men are “one kind”, women “another kind”? If a ‘yes’ answer points to a condescending or jaundiced attitude towards either, then we can do without the differentiation labels. However, if it points towards a positive and honest attitude of accepting differences between the two matter-of-factly, it becomes needless for men and women to quarrel to no end over who is worthy of esteem and who is lousy. We should sacrifice stereotypes for giving each other due respect for what he/she is capable of in contributing to a mutually gainful and harmonious relationship. (Ignore what either is incapable of.)



It seems that the traditional quarrel between the sexes started way back with the first couple, Adam and Eve. For the record, Adam does not impress me with his lack of intelligence as he so thoughtlessly hungered after the forbidden fruit (not because he had not been forewarned) and had the cheek to pass the blame to Eve when confronted about his foolish greed. Clearly, the woman was equally foolish to have fallen for the deception of the serpent.

So both the man and woman were equally foolish. The man might blame his woman, “You and your foolishness! If not for you, I would not have touched the fruit and now become poisoned by sin and called to explain myself to our Father.” The wife might blame her man, “What nonsense for you to blame me. Aren’t you supposed to have the duty to take care of me and stop me in my mistake? Stupid and irresponsible of you that I am now in this plight ...” I do not know how the first couple fought it out, but I observe that despite their foolishness, they were both equally talented (with 才) to be able to apply their sewing skills to make coverings for themselves. (Gen. 3:7) Yet, they were equally poor, being without 財, save for a few pieces of leaves for clothes. The only riches were found in the beauty of the Garden of Eden with all the provisions therein made available by God; but the first couple, all because of their equal foolishness, ended up sharing in their equal misery and poverty.

Often, I note that whenever women attempt to argue their voice hoarse about men being this or that, they are betraying their own foolishness and hypocrisy. The same goes to men who throw darts at the opposite sex. General accusations and specific accusations are both alike in having the tendency to fly backwards to hit the dart throwers. I have read of this lady who divorced her husband because the latter had the habit of buying expensive things to brag about his wealth, which he really had little. Yet, it was this habit of the man to offer expensive gifts that enticed the woman to say “I Do” at the marriage altar. Now, she changed the pledge to “I Don’t” and it makes me think about the three backward-pointing fingers when her index finger was pointed accusingly at a convenient target to explain away her flight from the conjugal coop. I have also read of men who want out with their wives on the grounds that the latter are attracting a lot of attention from other men; yet it was this same attractiveness of the women known by the men (now their husbands) that made the men work extra hard in playing the courtship game and the men themselves have no qualms about the fact that their own handsome looks are also attracting the attention of other women. What hypocrisy!

Double standards! Double standards! To me, they apply equally to both sexes. Foolishness! Foolishness! To me, this applies equally to both sexes too. If women can be beautiful, likewise can men be gorgeous in their looks. If men can be talented, likewise can women be intelligent. Whatever good, whatever shortcomings, both sexes have their share and if both are equally wise, they would work towards building on their strengths for mutual good. Focusing on the alleged bad and hurling accusations will only accentuate the perceived inequality between both sexes. Yes, maybe the accusing party wants to be known that he/she is superior to the other; but when one speaks highly of oneself, it only betrays one’s silliness to have listeners see through one’s self-aggrandizing accusations,

being wise only in his/her own eyes but not in favour with God. (*See the exhortation of Prov. 3:7*) If you are truly wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer. (Prov. 9:12)

As Christians, we celebrate the equality of the sexes not in the sense that a man must have an equal right to wear skirts or that a woman must have an equal duty to carry arms. Equality in God's way means that both have duties and responsibilities in equal measures in a complementary manner and commensurate with God's purpose – man "one kind" and woman "another kind" – noting God's fairness in the distribution of roles. Each has his/her strengths to take care of the other and weaknesses to depend on the other for support. As great as one may think himself/herself to be, it is not human perception of greatness that decides one's status in the Kingdom. This is the truth expounded in Luke 7:28-30. Are you devoted to God's Way or do you subscribe to the expedient views of today's self-appointed 'experts' in man-woman relationships, the views that bend according to one's gender? MEN ARE "ONE KIND", WOMEN "ANOTHER KIND" – What do you see of the verity of this statement? †



Language Curiosity

(Introducing "a new Chinese proverb")

平时不祈祷，急时拥抱十字架

(or 平时不祈祷，急时抱主脚)



In the Chinese Language, 路 means 'road'. But why is it that people still say 马路 when the road is not meant for horses? At the time the expression was coined, the horse was the primary vehicle of people. I think a better term relevant for today would be 车路. We continue to use the term 马路 out of habit. It is quite alright so long as the thought we intend to convey is understood. However, there wouldn't be anything wrong either if linguistic expressions are updated just as people continually change with the times. Yet, it must be said that words, like postage stamps, can be a rich source of information about history. The term 马路 can be a reference for telling the story of horses being the early form of transport

and that roads might have been specially laid out for them to gallop along without hindrance. (Similarly, when we celebrate CHRISTmas next month, let us be observant of what the word tells us about history.)

Take a look at this Chinese proverb: 平时不烧香，急时抱佛脚。 Literally, it means: “In normal times you do not burn incense (pray), but in distress you cling to the feet of Buddha (for mercy).”

It is obvious that the proverb’s origin in China had, as its background, the religiousness of a people who would turn to Buddha when in need. Since Christians neither 烧香(burn incense sticks) nor have anything to do with Buddha, this is a proverb some Christians do not warm up to although they wouldn’t mind its use in allegory. The proverb quite accurately captures the mindset or attitude of many people whatever their beliefs: “In times of comfort religion is ignored, but in distress the solace of prayer is sought.”

Since language is not dead, we may allow it to evolve new expressions; not only so, but we can let ourselves be the active agent for the evolution. In this regard, we may take the gradual step forward to have the above transformed as: “In times of comfort God is ignored; but in distress, the solace of prayer is sought.” Now, this leads us to contemplate how the Chinese proverb should be reconstructed. Anybody has any idea?

What do you think of this: 平时不祈祷，急时拥抱十字架。 “Normally you do not bother to pray but when in distress you rush to embrace the Cross.”? Someone I spoke to suggested that the following alternative is better: 平时不祈祷，急时抱主脚。 In normal times you do not pray, but in distress you rush to clasp the feet of Jesus. (Ref. Matt. 28:9 忽然，耶稣遇见她们... 她们就上前抱住他的脚拜他。)



Do you like the newly evolved Chinese proverb? Maybe for use within the JCC community for a start. ☺ More importantly, **whatever form the proverb takes, think about whether it describes anybody’s attitude that prayers are only meant for troubled moments and not for normal times.**

John Lee

Stories about Giving

Stories about Giving

Chuck Swindoll, in his book *Improving Your Serve* tells this story:

Shortly after World War II came to a close, Europe began picking up the pieces. Much of the Old Country had been ravaged by war and was in ruins. Perhaps the saddest sight of all was that of little orphaned children starving in the streets of those war-torn cities. Early one chilly morning an American soldier was making his way back to the barracks in London. As he turned the corner in his jeep, he spotted a little lad with his nose pressed to the window of a pastry shop. Inside the cook was kneading dough for a fresh batch of doughnuts. The hungry boy stared in silence, watching every move. The soldier pulled his jeep to the curb, stopped, got out and walked quietly over to where the little fellow was standing. Through the steamed-up window he could see the mouth-watering morsels as they were being pulled from the oven, piping hot. The boy salivated and released a slight groan as he watched the cook place them onto the glass-enclosed counter ever so carefully. The soldier's heart went out to the nameless orphan as he stood beside him. "Son...would you like some of those?" The boy was startled. "Oh, yeah...I would!" The American stepped inside and bought a dozen, put them in a bag, and walked back to where the lad was standing in the foggy cold of the London morning. He smiled, held out the bag, and said simply: "Here you are." As he turned to walk away, he felt a tug on his coat. He looked back and heard the child ask quietly: "Mister...are you God?" We are never more like God than when we give. "God so loved the world, that He gave..."

My Personal Testimony

In May, when I was "transferred" to my new department with a substantial cut in pay, I struggled to meet my pledge. How could I not fulfill my pledge? However, I had to cut back on my pledge because I just could not make ends meet. At the time of the "transfer", the HR Manager actually told me not to expect an increment. A fate I quietly accepted.

Then last month, the company declared that there will be a wage freeze next year but to compensate the staff, it will give a bigger bonus this year. I really marvel at God's grace to me. If there was no wage freeze, I would get nothing since I would not get an increment but by God's grace, I got a windfall, which helped me to fulfill my pledges to date.

Indeed can you trust God with your money? Isn't the bank of Heaven safer than any bank on this Earth? And the interests it pays, "A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over".

Even as I looked at 2004's Expenditure Budget, I must appeal to you to give generously unto the work of the Lord.

Martin Cheah.

How Much To Give?

1. If we would give anything for the glory of God and the honor of Christ, **OUR GIFTS MUST BE MOTIVATED BY LOVE AND GRATITUDE TOWARD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** (II Cor. 8:7-9).

The Apostle Paul refused to give any commandment about giving. He simply says that our giving is to be a proof or demonstration of our love for Christ. We prove the sincerity of our professed love to Christ by what we give and why we give it. In this dispensation of grace, God has given us no laws telling us how much we are to give. Like all other acts of worship, our gifts must be motivated by love. "The love of Christ constraineth us!" Love for Christ is the key. Love is generous, overflowing, and sacrificial. Love sets its own guidelines. Love is a law unto itself. Love determines what the believer gives, how much he gives, and how often he gives.

2. If we would give as unto the Lord, **OUR GIFTS MUST ARISE FROM A WILLING HEART** (II Cor. 8:12).

That which is given out of a sense of duty, responsibility, debt, or legal constraint is not free. Only when our gifts come from willing hearts, only when they are given freely and cheerfully are they accepted by God. The quantity given is totally insignificant to the Lord. It is not the amount given, but the motive of the gift that matters (Ex. 35:4, 5, 29).

3. **WE SHOULD ALL GIVE ACCORDING TO OUR ABILITY, IN PROPORTION TO OUR BLESSINGS** (I Cor. 16:2).

Carnal men and religious legalists talk about percentages and specific amounts. But the New Testament never speaks of such things. Our gifts to the cause of Christ, the preaching of the gospel, and the poor among us are to be based upon our ability. God's people are not tax-payers (tithers), but sons! We do not owe ten percent of our income to the government of God's kingdom. God's kingdom, his church is our family. When we give, we are giving to meet the needs of our family. What miser will be stingy with his own family?

There should be an equality in giving too (II Cor. 8:13-14). A few people should not be expected to carry the load for all. Each should do what he has the ability to do in the support of Christ's kingdom. Yet, the poor should not be expected to carry the same load as the wealthy.

4. ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD GIVE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE GOSPEL (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:7).

Men and women, rich and poor, old and young, all who believe the gospel should give a portion of their earthly goods for the support of the gospel. We should all be willing to share what we have for the common good of God's church.

5. If we would honor Christ in our giving, WE MUST BE BOTH LIBERAL AND SACRIFICIAL IN GIVING (II Cor. 9:5-6).

Believers are liberal and generous because they have been treated liberally and generously by God (Rom. 5:21; I Cor. 6:9-11). Giving is like sowing seed in the earth. A wise farmer sows his best seed and scatters it generously. That is the way we are to give (Gal. 6:6-10). We have given nothing until we have taken what we want, what we need, what we can use for ourselves, and have given it to our Lord (Mk. 12:41-44).

6. ANY GIFT THAT IS ACCEPTED BY CHRIST AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP, FAITH, AND COMMITMENT TO HIM MUST BE VOLUNTARY (II Cor. 9:7).

The Word of God leaves it entirely up to you what you give, who you give it to, where you give, the way you give, and when you give. There is nothing legal about it. God's people are not in bondage. "God loveth a cheerful giver!" He will not have legal gifts of a grudging spirit.

7. Whether our gifts are made in public offerings of worship, to private individuals, or to specific causes, WE ARE TO GIVE AS UNTO THE LORD (Matt. 6:1-5).

Do nothing to be seen of men or honored by men. That which is done unto the Lord, for the honor of God, will be seen and honored by him (Mk. 14:3-9). In all acts of worship (prayer, giving, fasting, Bible reading, etc.) strive to maintain privacy. The minute you advertise what you do for Christ you expose a hypocrite's motive!

8. THIS KIND OF GIVING IS WELL-PLEASING TO GOD (Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:16).

Give out of a loving and grateful heart, hoping for nothing in return. Of these two things you may be assured: (A) You will never suffer loss by generosity (Lk. 6:38). "The only way to have more than enough to spare is to give more than you can spare" (Oswald Smith). "Many a man becomes empty handed because he does not know the art of distribution" (C. H. Spurgeon). (Read Psalm 37:16-26). (B) The more you can be trusted with to use for the kingdom of God, the glory of Christ, and the furtherance of the gospel, the more you will have to use. If you are willing to give, God will supply you with the ability to give (II Cor. 9:10; Phil. 4:19).



WORRY AND ANXIETY - DESPAIR OF THE SOUL

First, it was
September 11.

Then, localised terrorist acts. In recent months we were plagued with the SARS virus. Lately, some have been laid off from their work. Others are facing impending job retrenchments. We are into stressful and difficult times. The picture has been gloomy these days. We are living with much uncertainty. We are crowded with deep anxiety and worry in our minds. Our souls cry out in despair. What must be done? How do we get out of this situation?

The Psalmist also faced such deep anxiety and worry. David penned this in Psalm 62 to express the despair of his soul.

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. How long will you assault a man? Would all of you throw him down – this leaning wall, this tottering fence? They fully intend to topple him from his lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse. Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my

fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge (Psa.62:1-8).

The NIV Life Application Bible aptly puts it:

Placing all hope in God, knowing that God is in control allows us to wait patiently for him to rescue us. True relief does not come when the problem is resolved because more problems are on the way! True relief comes from an enduring hope in God's ultimate salvation. Only then will trials be resolved.

Prayer can release our tension in times of emotional stress. Trusting God to be our rock, salvation, and fortress will change our entire outlook of life.

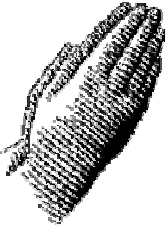
What is the antidote for worry and anxiety?

Pray, pray and pray. Pray Until Something Happens – P.U.S.H.

Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you (1Pet.5:7).

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well (Mt.6:33).

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything let your request



be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil.4:6-7).

Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Heb.12:3)

A prayer of submission to God :

Father, I thank You for being my God - merciful and gracious, long suffering and abounding in goodness and truth, and just in all Your ways. I worship You and submit in obedience to You, in spirit, soul and body. I surrender fully my mind, will and emotion, spirit and body to your total control. In the name of Jesus, I reject every thought of worry and anxiety in my mind, will, emotion and spirit. In Jesus' name, I take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. In Jesus' name, I command worry and anxiety to leave me now. Amen.



The HO YEOW SUN Controversy

She might have been misunderstood by many people, and continuing to be

misunderstood.

Pastor Ho Yeow Sun, as she was well known, personally clarified with The New Paper, "I'M NOT A PASTOR."

The term 'music pastor', or *yin yue mu shi* in Mandarin, was actually coined by her record label in Taiwan, she said. **"I'm just the music director of**

my church, and I'm also a counsellor. I'm not a pastor. I don't preach."

According to TNP Report, she is trying to shake off the pastor tag. With the launch of her new album, *Lonely Travel*, she's been labelled 'cosmopolitan lady' and 'counselling teacher' in Taiwan.

Add Top 10 Outstanding Young Persons Of The World to the list. Sun will fly to Denmark next month to receive this prestigious award given out by the Junior Chamber International. Representing Singapore in the moral leadership category, she is reportedly the fourth Asian celeb to receive it, after Jacky Cheung, Andy Lau and Michelle Yeoh.

In an email interview with the Straits Times, her husband, Rev. Kong Hee, tried to clear up the confusion over his wife's status. While she is strictly speaking not a pastor, church members call her a 'pastor' to recognize her contributions. The newspaper quoted his view about detractors, **"We can't please everyone and ... if there is a philosophical difference in our world view and the way we do things in City Harvest, they would leave. What's good is that we have 400-over wonderful churches to choose from in Singapore, and they should settle into a church that they feel comfortable in."**

Rev. Kong says that show business would not compromise his wife's values and integrity. Well-wishers admire her for her energy and work. The flip side is that she can't be envied for the pressure she faces to straddle her secular career and church work expertly to bring joy and love to people by her songs and simultaneously maintain a wholesome Christian testimony for the glory of God. While outsiders may not fully comprehend her situation, brothers and sisters in Christ (no matter where they are) can pray for her to seek the best that can be in accord with God's calling for her, *sans* controversy. †

JCC Sunday School Children's Day Celebration

28th September 2003

Thank God for kids!

They are rowdy, noisy, cheeky, naughty even eeky but altogether lovely. Throughout the year we see them faithfully contributing towards the glory of God's kingdom with heart-winning performances and presentations at numerous occasions like Christmas, Easter, Teachers' Day etc. But come Children's Day, it is their turn to have a well-deserved whale of a time.



Eagerly, a few teachers came forth to plan the programme for the day. By God's grace, the programme went well and we have a few first-timers to JCC joining us in the celebrations as well. All in, there were probably close to 70 kids with us that beautiful day.

We started with a warm welcome, especially the new friends and warm-up session. The kids were singing their hearts out under Auntie Betsy's guidance. Oh! They nearly brought the house down. Then they were treated to a 20-minute magic



show performed by our very own Goh Family – the “MagiGohs” (none other than Young Kwang, Mandy, Jonathan & yours truly). Look at all the hands over the ears! They were dead sure that Uncle Young Kwang was out of his mind to pierce the balloon with the very long and sharp steel needle! But of course, with Uncle Young Kwang's “magic” the needle pierced through the balloon neatly without popping it.



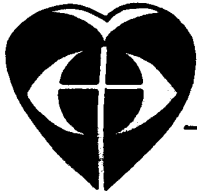
Amazing!! Auntie Iris also convinced the attentive audience that they too had magic up their sleeves when they made colours disappear and appear mysteriously from a colouring book. She also showed how water could disappear into thin air. Mandy showed how she could command a dice to slide and stop along a vertically held string. Even Jonathan thrilled the audience with a mind-reading trick. After the magic show, the younger children proceeded to another venue for games organised by Auntie Peggy. They had a great time making their own colourful sandwiches. The older kids were challenged to some brain teasers put together by Uncle Kin Cheong.



After the games the kids came back together again for some refreshment. We celebrated the birthday of those born in Sep, rounding off with the lots of ice cream. Yum!!

We thank God for the wonderful time and trust that they have been touched by God's immeasurable love and care for them. We also thank the teachers who helped put the event together.

Iris Lee



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Singapore 618744

Greeting in Jesus name!

The Apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 10:23 "I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

We believe that you are giving your support to GMB for the sake of the Gospel too, and we pray that you will also share in the blessings. We may not be able to reward our supporters, but in our prayers, we ask the Lord Himself to bless and reward you.

Last month we had 2 outings, one for the blind children on 11th and the other for the adults on 25th. We brought the children to Botanical Gardens, and it was wonderful to see the children so happy. One of them was a new comer, Dickson. On 20th September, he prayed to receive the Lord Jesus into his life at our children cell meeting. Although it was raining the whole day on 25th, the blind adults also had a very happy day at Changi Beach Club. After several visits from our staff, Mr Soh Hare Lim agreed to come to the outing. It was his first time attending our activity for the blind, and he had a pleasant experience. Please pray that he will agree to come to our fellowship meeting from this month onwards.

Please pray for a new contact, Peter Ng, who is suffering from Tourette's Syndrome, that is, he would have tics (involuntary motor movements e.g. flinging his arms, kicking etc) We had brought him to our cell group on Wednesdays for the past 2 months, and saw him hitting his own face, and he would also shout as he kicked. The noise which he made was quite distracting to the other blind people. We are now giving him personal attention, and feeding him with the Word of God when he comes. Please pray that the evil one will not be able to hinder him from knowing the Lord and that he will be delivered from this problem/bondage.

Please pray for a blind sister, Ng Git Hoe, who had just suffered a major stroke on 27th September. Thank you for your partnership in the Lord's service. May He reward and bless you.



George Lee

On behalf of G M B
22 October 2003

Pray that the Holy Spirit will open their spiritual eyes to behold Jesus.

BB Founder's Day

26 Oct
2003



What is CHRISTmas to you?

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 7.30 – 7.45 pm | Singspiration by Yat Wah |
| 7.45 – 8.15 pm | JCCK's performance |
| 8.15 – 8.30 pm | Talk Show by Yat Wah on What is Christmas to you? |
| 8.30 – 8.45 pm | JCC's Kid Church performance (choreographed by Doris) |
| 8.45 – 9.00 pm | Message by speaker |
| 9.00 – 9.30 pm | Refreshment |



Come & find out...



on 20 Dec 2003

BB Founder's Day

26 Oct
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on 20 Dec 2003