

The Vine

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Inside...

1. Pictures of Retreat 2004
@ Guoman PD
2. Spiritual Delight
by Tan Swee Leong
3. The Butterfly Lovers
by John Lee
4. Retreat Reflections
by Justin Tay

Editor's Views

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Lord Jesus. After more than six months of preparation and worry, I thank God that the Retreat 2004 has been a great success. Now we only have to pick up the pieces to put a closure to this project, eg collecting payment from those who haven't paid, settling all the claims for expenses, finalizing the accounts and arranging the 700 plus photos into a CD show.

All commendations received by the Committee members are welcome; but certainly as Christopher mentioned, without you all, there can't be a retreat. I can share with you how I felt when the support for this retreat was so slow in forthcoming. We started registration so early but could not get many people to sign up. Then many who had signed up started to cancel. Then we started to worry that we had chosen too pricey a location as we received some response that it was too expensive.

Finally, the day came when we had to close the registration even though we had not achieved our target numbers. I had to make a final appeal but still it seemed that the response was not forthcoming. Thank God that in the last minute, many of you decided to sign up and we eventually hit our target for adults. Yet

I do regret that not many youths and young adults signed up. We did not plan this retreat for old folks and senior citizens only. However, thank God for the senior citizens ministry led by Peter Cheong. Actually, it wasn't planned.

There was work aplenty for the Committee. Christopher mentioned that I was barking at him. Maybe it is because I am a control freak although I don't realize it. However, I can tell you that I was very worried because many things were still incomplete even in the last few days before the retreat. The retreat book was completed only 1 week before the retreat and even then, there were changes, which could not be incorporated in time. At the last minute, we were told that the travel insurance could not be effected and the retreat song was a last-minute decision that we did not even have a practice singing it. The first time we sang it was in front of all of you at Guoman.



Senior Citizen ministry by Peter Cheong

What was Café Nite? None of us had any clue. Thank God, Joseph had it all planned out. What about Celebration Night? We thought no one would come up to share but again thank God many did.

Even as I reflect, we can try to plan but only God can make it work out according to His will. Who can provide good weather, journey mercies and spiritual delight? Surely not the committee!

I would recommend anyone who has never sat in a retreat committee to try it for a great experience and fun; nay, a wonderful delight. Discounting the cost of going for recce to various locations before finally choosing Guoman; the additional night's stay plus driving and food and annual leave for the advance party; the outlay of time and energy for planning and meetings and coordinating with the resort, I encourage you to take up the challenge, but don't forget to count the cost but not stop at that. If you count the value, the worth that you can reap for the expense, you won't regret it especially if you have helped your brothers and sisters to have Spiritual Delight.

The time has come for the present Committee to pass the torch to the next team. I have all the worksheets and databases ready. Maybe this can be counted as my little help to make your work slightly easier. Another advice from experience: if we plan for a beach retreat again, beware of sand flies.

Martin Cheah

A Big Thank You



I did not come up to share at the Celebration Night but thank you gang. You made the part I play in Committee look good. All I did was arrange the retreat book but you made it sound like I did much more.

You may have noticed that I was just enjoying myself at the retreat but Chris was busy with all the physical arrangements. Joseph was tied up with all the projection work. Peter was immersed in senior citizen ministry. Alan, Tony and Kin Siong were busy with the logistics and the bus arrangements. And of course Nick was behind the camera doing what he is supposed to do. Anthony was up front doing his best even though his children were sick.

What more can I say? You are great to work with.

Martin Cheah



Spiritual Delight

by Tan Swee Leong

Spiritual Delight! What an invitation for the soul to find joy and delight in God! This retreat is one of the best I have attended. It was not so much the pleasant surroundings, the physical comforts offering material delights; beyond these it was a time where the soul can be fed and where we can re-discover the sense of joy and rest in God. This is what retreats are for, where one can retreat from the world



to draw near to God, to hear His voice and enjoy His presence. It is a time for us to recover God's pattern of rest for our body and soul – the Sabbath rest. God himself rested from His work of creation and enjoyed and appreciated the beauty and goodness of His creation, declaring that it was good.” We too are called to work out God's pattern in the reality of our lifestyle. We are to cultivate our common senses of sight, smell, hearing and touch to appreciate the beauty and goodness and to enjoy what God has created. Often in our busy lifestyle we are caught up with too many things. We need to quieten down, we need soul rest, we need to intentionally set aside time to be with God – each day in our quiet time, each week in worship on the Lord's Day and each year. Beyond these set-aside times we need to find delight in God in the ordinariness of our lives. For in God's sight we are His children, His Beloved – we are defined by who we are and not by what we do. Our self worth is determined by our relationship with God. This relationship can be seen in the context of:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| God as Creator ----- | we as creatures: a distant impersonal relationship |
| God as Yahweh ----- | we as His people: able only to come near to God only so far and no nearer |
| Jesus as Saviour ----- | we as sinners: our relationship is one of expectation of our continuing need for redemption and of serving Him |
| God as our Heavenly Father--- | we are His child: an endearing, caring relationship |
| God as Friend ----- | one who walks with us, in whom I can confide and share |
| God as Bridegroom ----- | we as His bride: we are loved by God with an intimate closeness |
| God as Lover ----- | we are His Beloved: the most intimate of relationship, we rest in His love. |



How do we see our relationship with God? We need to serve and obey Him but we can also draw near and delight in Him, and enjoy Him – “The chief end of Man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever,” so says the Westminster Confession. We often think of glorifying God as doing all that God commands us – we are to work and strive to please Him. God’s declaration to His son is, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.” In Christ

we too are His beloved son and daughter. God delights in us because we are in Christ.

How then do we re-discover spiritual delight of being His beloved? We need to remember “This is my Father’s World” and rest in the thought of the wonders His hand has wrought in nature and creation. We can delight also in being quiet before God – “Be still and know I am God” (Ps 46:10). There is enjoyment of the presence of God in the quietness of our hearts and being still before God.

This call to spiritual delight is not a self indulgent one – we are to delight not in a hedonistic way to please ourselves. This delight is always to honour the other. We need to focus on others, as His beloved we are also called to honour, serve and love God and honour the other, for each person is made in the image of God. As we often sing, “I can see in you the glory of my King, I love you with the love of the Lord.”

So did we find spiritual delight in the four days we retreated to be with God and His people? I believe we did – the message ministered not just to our heads, but to our hearts and souls; we found an inner stirring of understanding who we are and how we relate to God and why we serve Him. The personal times with Ser Choon and with each other over meals and discussion sessions exemplify how we need to honour each other to share, listen, to minister through conversation – to be a soul friend. The times of worship and activities brought delight, cheer and mirth to our spirits and joy and delight to our souls.



It has been a long while that we have experienced such enjoyment in the Lord. Should it be only during retreats that we can delight in God? Surely not! God’s relationship with us is enduring, His pattern is for all of our life’s sojourn, His presence and goodness is in us. We need to be like the Psalmist who instructs us to “Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Let’s intentionally delight in God.



Retreat Reflections

By Justin Tay

It was a great retreat. There are so many things to write about. I shall start with the top 3 special moments.

JCC Idol (Reminiscent of the 60's and 70's) Day 2

I heard this was the first time we had such an event at a retreat. Initially, it sounded out of place, but as the day drew near, all of us, including the little ones began to anticipate the ecstasy to be provided by our very own talents. I guess all the initial hype from the organizers sort of rubbed off on us.



The night came. There wasn't much singing but there was an abundance of Rock and Roll. I was especially amazed by the enthusiasm and creativity of our senior contestants; they can certainly rock and shake their bon bon. It is as if these veterans have been rocking away all their teenage lives. Now I know what they did in their teens...haha... As a matter of fact, these evergreen oldies (5566 and The Beatles) snatched the centre-stage from the young and hip (F4, MLTR, SHE). Well, we youngsters must concede that the older the ginger the hotter it is. (姜是老的辣。) After all, these people came from the Saturday-Night-Fever generation. A round of applause for Our Beatles!

Canoeing (Can-do-it?) Day 3

After paddling to and fro the coastline, we decided unanimously to try out a more daring stunt: balancing 8 fellas on the 2-sitter canoe. Well, initially we capsized several times and quenched our thirst many times with free salt water. In the end, we managed to stabilize 7 of us aboard. The eighth was just too much for the canoe. It was indeed a thrilling 'ride'.



Paddling out to the ocean?



Water polo (or Water rugby?) Day 3

The game started well initially, until a point when several cheeky members from both sides decided to play foul. And so the traditional church-style sportsmanship we practiced fervently in previous games gave way to underhand tactics. At some point, 4-5 sisters were found sandwiching one poor brother! All kinds of pulling, yanking, squeezing, scratching, catfights and splashing came upon us unexpectedly... haha...Even some of our more demure creatures became scary under the water – creatures with fangs and claws. The focus of the game was not scoring. Rather, it was to subdue and to survive. Thankfully, all took it well in the spirit of raucous fun. Surprisingly, the kids responded to the frenzy with more zeal and shrewdness. In the end, although some of us came up the pool battered and aching, most of us still carried smiles on the faces. I guess, even in spiritual retreats, there is also a time to let the mind go crazy.



Overall (Exceeded expectations)

Overall the stay was well worth the money and long distance. I certainly got to know more about our church members, some of whom were previously unfamiliar to me. I discovered that many of our church members were formerly Malaysians. And I mean many. Many of the church members were also kind enough to share their lives and family affairs with me. The 4-day stay was like another 4 years in the church. I used to just smile at them in church but I think now I can at least address them properly.



The amenities came in a wonderful variety: a relaxing auditorium, a clean beach with clear water, pool table, swimming pool, table-tennis table, sauna, tennis courts, golf course, gym, football field, bar, and many more. The food was delicious and served buffet style. Even though there were flies around on the outdoor eating occasions, we nonetheless attacked the food voraciously. I guess that was the reason why God gave us 2 hands. The other hand is for us to shoo away flies.



This was definitely a very enjoyable retreat, even though it was my first. A big “Thank you” to our



committee members for finding such a great resort and planning everything so wonderfully. Also, not forgetting Mr Chong Ser Choon for stimulating and challenging us spiritually and reminding us that we are His beloved. Joy and the cross can indeed co-exist! Can't wait for the next retreat. See you all then! O

A Delightful Retreat

by Shawn Lee/John

Impatiently waiting
Time moved like a snail
Excitement rushing
With the day's arrival.



A slow and tiring journey
Hours of boredom, few refreshing breaks
What's in store ahead
Only the committee knew.



At long last the retreat grounds beckoned
Great views inviting impatience again
Green fields, blue ocean, bright sky
How could I keep still longer?



Meal times
– buffet or BBQ my tummy's delight
Worship times
– hymns, prayers, messages, my spirit quenched
Fun times
– dry land or water, blessed physical delight
Now time seemed to fly!

Games in the field soon over
Followed by swimming in the pool
Why couldn't time move more slowly
Or God give me more hours for each day?



JCC-IDOL Nite
– Mediacorp or Hollywood simply not a match
Babies, youths and oldies spared none
– rousing laughter collapsing the hall
Judges *kayu* all very fun
Just 'cos a precious title's up for grabs.

First experience – most enjoyable
Guess what? – Kayaking in the sea!
Two to a kayak – braving the waves
All truly wet and wild – waterpolo can wait

CELEBRATION NITE
a moving picture of spiritual delight
JCC members and friends
a silent gathering to pray and meditate
Candles in hands and hearts to God
United as one body edified in soul and spirit



Alas! the last day must arrive
Farewell to Guoman Resort
Home Sweet Home
O why? Tell me why!
Why did time have to move so quickly?

Joint authorship note:

The above poem was started off as 5 stanzas by Shawn Lee, as a practice in poetry writing. Extended practice revisions produced the final poem, which therefore contains much of his reflections; esp. on the boring part (the long journey) and the fun part (in the fields, pool and the sea).





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11 June 2004

Isaiah 43:18-21 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! . . . The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Dear Praying Friends,

A couple of months ago one of our prayer partners called to say that he felt the Lord wanted us to be prepared for His new move in GMB. Shortly after that call, I heard the above passage quoted by the pastor during the worship service on Sunday.

Since then, we have been praying that the Lord will lead us into the new thing that He might wish to do in our midst. We want more blind people to come and honour Him and proclaim His praise.

We thank the Lord that six blind persons were baptized this year - Seet Yong Chye on 30th May; Toh Seng on 26th May; Johnny Chua on 11th May; Kan Ee on 25th April; Hare Lim and Alice on 28th March.

Please pray for our workshop on "Discovering Your Behavioural Strengths" on 19th June. This is not an evangelistic event, and we hope to build rapport with the young people. Please pray that more young people will sign up for the workshop, and that our staff will find favour with them.

On 3rd July, we will be having an evangelistic musical concert by Petra Chorale, a team from Indonesia.

If the Lord is willing, we hope to be able to bring the blind adults for an outing on 18th August. Please pray that He will send us the help we need for this event. Our camp for the Chinese group will be on 21st-24th September.

Chee Kong and I will be making a trip to Vietnam on 19th June, and will return on 28th June. Please keep us in prayers, especially that the Lord will open doors for us to meet with some blind people there, and to be of encouragement to His children. We also hope to meet up with Jia Hui, who has gone there since 26th May, and planned to return only on 13th July.

Lastly, let us continue to trust that the Lord will provide our every need. Just as He provides water for all His creatures, surely He will take care of His chosen people.

Yours in our Father's service,

Cheong Cheng Choo



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Luke: 19:26 "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.

We thank and praise the Lord for good stewards like you, who invested His money in this work among the blind. May He give more and more to you as you manage His resources.

Three blind brothers, Yong Chye, Johnny chua and Toh Seng were baptized last month.

Pray with us that more blind people will use their spiritual gifts and be like the first two servants in Luke 19, who receive the Lord's good commendation, and not be like the third servant who was rebuked by his master.

Enclosed herewith please find our receipt for your gift. Thank you once again for blessing GMB.

Yours in our Father's service,
11 June 2004

*May the Lord repay you for what you have done.
May you be richly rewarded. Ruth 2:12*



The Butterfly Lovers & Other Love Stories



Whether or not you enjoy tragic love stories, you are most probably familiar with the popular classic menu of THE BUTTERFLY LOVERS 梁山伯与祝英台 (*Liang Shanbo & Zhu Yingtai*) and Shakespeare's ROMEO & JULIET. What do these stories tell us?

Written in 1959, THE BUTTERFLY LOVERS tells the story of two young lovers who loved each other against family objections. When the eligible bachelor *Liang* (梁) received a phony letter from *Zhu's* (祝) family that the latter had passed away due to a serious illness, he was inconsolable and soon kicked the bucket brokenhearted. Upon hearing the news of her lover's death, the young lady was distraught. She feigned willingness to go along with her father's plan for her marriage into a wealthy noble's family with only the condition that the wedding procession should pass by *Liang's* grave. On the big day, as the procession passed the graveyard, *Zhu* jumped off her sedan and grieved forlornly, crying out heartrending and tender words of affection and pain. It was as if in answer to *Zhu's* wish that *Liang's* tomb cracked open as dark clouds covered the sky and lightning flashed. At the instant, *Zhu* jumped into the open tomb to reunite with her love in death. After that, two butterflies flew out of the tomb and danced in the air; hence, the title of the story.

Written between 1593 and 1596, ROMEO & JULIET is a classic that literature students study in schools. It tells the story of two young lovers

whose love for each other turned out to be a fatal tragedy because of a stubborn feud between their families. Due to an unfortunate miscarriage of news that Juliet was dead from poison (when in fact she was just being drugged and deliberately placed in a tomb for Romeo to rescue her from an imposed marriage), Romeo was beside himself in grief and so, at his wife's tomb (he had been secretly married to Juliet), he downed some poison and died just as Juliet awoke from her drugged sleep. At the sight of her dead beloved, Juliet committed suicide with the dagger from Romeo's belt. And so, like the story of THE BUTTERFLY LOVERS, the couple were reunited in death when they had faced great difficulties to be together while alive.

THE BUTTERFLY LOVERS was based on a historical Chinese legend. ROMEO & JULIET was based on an old Italian tale in the 16th Century, *The Tragicall Historie of Romeus and Juliet*, by Arthur Brooke. Whatever the primary sources of the two love stories, they nevertheless share a common thread (although, admittedly, there are many differences too) about a young man and a young woman falling in love, facing insurmountable odds due to contrasting family backgrounds and parental disapprovals, and finally choosing the path of death to be with each other forever.

Having had the Italian, English and Chinese version of "*Romeo & Juliet*", perhaps you would like a little

diversion to an Indian version to learn about another young couple who died for love in a lake. As legend has it, stupidity wasn't ascribed to the couple but to the lake that was thus called LAKE STUPID. No joke! – A real lake with the name exists in Florida, U.S.A. Let's read on:

This Indian version is about an Indian lass and her dearest who belonged to an opposing tribe, with the two living on opposite sides of a lake. Due to their respective tribal objections to their twinning as a couple, they could only shout love messages to each other across the lake and not meet. One winter night in the brightness of moonlight, the Indian "*Romeo*" and "*Juliet*" decided that they had to meet. So dim-wittedly, they decided to swim across the lake from the opposite banks. Very soon, they reached the centre of the lake and held each other close; and very soon, they were frozen to death. Posthumously, the couple's love for each other was acknowledged by the *Romeo's* tribe and so the lake was named LAKE STUPID to remember him by.

All the above are sad stories, but stories that must have a great number of followers for them to enjoy the status of a legend passing from generation to generation. Notwithstanding the fact that they are just stories, I cannot help wondering whether their authors made any link consciously or subconsciously with the prevailing real situations in human love affairs. If they didn't, then the stories are just fictions in the same category as tales about unreal monsters

and fairies that people just read for recreation. On the other hand, love stories (published in books or acted out in plays) substantially are all emotion-based and they usually gain validation by the ability of readers or audiences to identify with them evocatively in the heart or intellectually in the mind. It is thus not far-fetched for us to assume that the stories and plays do reflect in varying measures real-world occurrences in love and courtship that one may connect with personally or vicariously. Indeed, from time to time we do come across real happenings of people losing their senses, blinded by love that they are willing to die for. It may be meaningful for us to draw lessons vicariously through the stories by asking:

- Could *Liang & Zhu* have avoided the finale of uniting in death if only they had used some patience and played for time to overcome the obstacles?
- Could *Romeo* have saved himself from death by seeking the wise counsel of the Friar (who helped him secretly marry his sweetheart and also made the arrangement for him to meet *Juliet* at the tomb) instead of being impetuous, blinded by love? In fact, if he did only pause a minute to think of some help for his emotions, he and *Juliet* would most likely become reunited in life and love with final acceptance by their parents as the Friar had planned to work towards that object.

Yes, I repeat, the above are just stories. Hence, my questions may serve as ideas for a modification of THE BUTTERFLY LOVERS and ROMEO & JULIET to give them happier endings with the message that in love, impetuosity can be deadly but patience pays good dividends. To add a little bit of spice for tastiness, the re-invented story (by John Lee ... *Ahem!*), though fictional, may be constructed to bond with some real cases of patient love that overcomes obstacles and bears fruit in the contemporary love-and-courtship milieu so that readers may connect readily with it and aspiring playwrights may decide to adopt it for some stage productions. ☺ Have your smile, courtesy of John Lee; but do you seriously think that no practical lesson can be had from a story. Very often, in life, we gain insights from good stories. While I cannot write such good stories, I can at least share with you a bit of Scriptural inspiration. Don't you like love stories? Here are some more from the Bible.

The story of JACOB & RACHEL is an example of one long wait; nay, actually two. First, Jacob had to wait seven years on the promise of the woman he desired. Alas, he was deceived and ended up having to wait another seven years before he finally got married to the lady of his longing. (Gen 29:19-30) Jacob was an exemplar of patience, in the spirit of what 1 Cor.13:4 speaks, "Love is patient ..." Seven years seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. (Gen. 29:20) With the ridiculousness of the deception, an ordinary mortal like any

of us would most likely let fly our tempers and even call for murder, but not Jacob. Despite being deceived for the first seven years, he was willing for love's sake to trust God to work things out in God's time, which turned out to be seven more years; mind you, not merely seven more months. Certainly good for him that in his day there were no *Liang-Zhu* or *Romeo-Juliet* to set the lethal example of surrendering to death for unrequited love.

In man-woman relationship, it is quite common for young singles to fall in and out of love. (Note: This is not the same as couples falling in and out of marriage, which is to be detested.) There may be times when you love someone but the love is not reciprocated; or someone loves you but you are not excited by it. It does happen to people that love descends upon them undeserved and they reap the fruits of God's blessings by His grace in His special way. The story of HOSEA & GOMER is an example of how the young preacher did not deserve the woman from harlotry as his wife, but chose to obey God's instruction for his marriage (Hos. 1:2) and continued to find strength to return undying and unselfish love for the kind of unfaithful treatment he got from her. That marriage was not a relationship Hosea could be proud of in ordinary human terms, but it was one that endured just like God's love for his sinners is strong enough to withstand the perverseness of our sinful nature. God's unconditional love for his chosen nation, Israel, (Hos. 11:8 – "How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel?") is

love that the nation does not deserve for her iniquity. Nevertheless, God does not give up His love for her. Similarly, Gomer's disgraceful conduct did not deserve the unceasing love of her husband, Hosea, but the latter with love in the sinews of his soul was able to overcome any temptation to surrender to doom.

The circumstances in any of the above stories may not exactly match the love difficulties that your friends "Tom & Ann" are facing in their relationship. None of the stories also fit the descriptions of your colleagues "Robert & Sue" who are in the throes of despair for the unfair troubles that visit their engagement. Truth be told, there are many more couples' relationship stories in the Bible that I can describe here in many more pages; such as, Abraham & Sarah, Ahasuerus and Esther, Isaac and Rebekah, Boaz and Ruth, Ahab and Jezebel, Ananias and Sapphira, Zacharias and Elizabeth, etc.; and none of them would perfectly align with any of the distressed circumstances of relationships we happen to be aware of among people we know. However, all these stories taken together bear out a central truth that there is no relationship so perfect without difficult problems. But the stories in the Bible also bear out the fact that there is no trouble so deep that true, unselfish love cannot endure. There are things big enough beyond our control, but is our love true enough that is patient as 1 Cor. 13:4 describes it, and patient enough to wait and see with hope in God to untie the knots in our heart? Whether a young chap ends up with a deserved reward after a long

wait of patient love or, following God's direction, settles for an alternative someone who is unworthy according to accepted wisdom, a love that speaks the language of fatality ("*die, die, must die if I do not get what I pine for ...*") is surely a love that is worth burying. I am talking about burying the love, not burying the person – because God still loves the person, no matter who or how he/she is. The love of God never fails. In conclusion, let me share with you this message that I read somewhere:

Real love is a survivor.
Because it finds its source and life in God.
Real love can endure anything!

John Lee



10 LESSONS TO IMPART TO CHILDREN BY A FATHER

Final Part

This is your Fathers' Day gift from The Vine.

9. Teach your children to manage their money

Father, teach your children to be a good steward of their money. It is more than how to invest their money wisely using various financial instruments. But rather “honour the Lord with their wealth with the firstfruits of all their crops” then “their barns will be filled to overflowing and their vats will brim over with new wine.” (Proverb 3:9-10). In other words, if you are generous to the Lord, He will be generous with you. This is the promise God made and all riches belong to God.

Teach your children to beware of unscrupulous get-rich-quick schemes. Teach them to resist the temptation of being greedy in getting high returns without knowing how it is being done. Instruct your children not to make pledges with strangers in case on their default your children become liable. But when your children made a wrong financial decision or made a promise they cannot fulfill, instruct them to free themselves quickly. Humble themselves, plea for mercy and pursue tirelessly until a solution is found to get out from the snare.

Having said all this, there is a warning to you. “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1 Tim 6:10). Teach your

children to distinguish between managing their wealth and loving wealth. Do not make money lord over their lives.

10. Teach your children to love their neighbour

Jesus summarises the law of God into two great commandments. We are to love God and our neighbours. Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act (Proverb 3:27). Teach your children to be generous to others. Do not plot harm against your neighbour who lives trustfully near you and do not accuse a man for no reason when he has done you no harm (Proverbs 3:29-30). Be a good neighbour and live harmoniously.

In summary, fathers, remember these:

If you fail to teach your children to fear God, the devil will teach them to hate God.

If you fail to teach your children to guard their minds, the devil will teach them to have an open mind to receive evil.

If you fail to teach your children to obey their parents, the devil will teach them to rebel and break their parents' heart.

If you fail to teach your children to select their companions, the devil will gladly choose for them.

If you fail to teach your children to control their bodies and sexual purity, the devil will teach them to yield completely to lust.

If you fail to teach your children to enjoy their spouses, the devil will destroy their marriages.

If you fail to teach your children to watch their words, the devil will fill their mouth with filth.

If you fail to teach your children to pursue their works, the devil will make them lazy.

If you fail to teach your children to manage their money, the devil will teach them to waste their money on riotous living.

If you fail to teach your children to love their neighbour, the devil will gladly teach them to love only themselves.

Therefore, fathers, we have great responsibilities to our children and God who entrust them to us. May you remember these lessons and impart them to your children so that they in turn will teach the next generation. Ask God for His wisdom and He will gladly teach you.

What would be your reward being a wise father?

- A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother (Proverb 10:1)

- The father of a righteous man has great joy, he who has a wise son delights in him (Proverb 23:24)
- A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke (Proverb 13:1)
- Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. (Proverb 22:6)

Joy, children's obedience and continuity of your teachings are even more appealing than great wealth. Your legacy of good fatherhood will last for many generations but your wealth may not last until the third generation.

Written by Chong Yew Moi
– March 2004

(Much of the text has been adapted from John MacArthur's message entitled "Crucial Lessons for a Wise Father" and my interpretation from the Book of Proverbs)



Good happenings!

Praise the Lord!



Congratulations to Pastor & Mrs Samuel Wang on the arrival of their bouncing 4th child on 11th June. Photo shows Pastor Samuel Wang and child.

Our bro. Alan Soh and Alan Yeo have started a small business at the CDANS club at Bukit Batok.

The food they serve is halal and the mee rebus is shiok.

Do pray that God will bless them in this venture.



You can drop by for lunch after church.



BB learning about plants from Freddie Low

- Two invited friends (Rong Hui & Xue Hong – both in NS) came to our Youth Worship and they received Christ when our youths Lian Khup and Zhi Qiang shared the gospel with them. Continue to pray for protection and smooth follow-up by Lian Khup and Zhi Qiang.
- The annual DOT (Youth Leaders) retreat from 7th to 9th August is a happening that attests to the vibrancy of our youth ministry and God's blessing of capable and available youths among us to take up the staff of leadership in humble service to the Lord. We invite more potential youth leaders to join the current team.

May our Lord bless the youths with the excitement of learning together and of close bonding as they serve as one for the Kingdom. May they have a fruitful time of learning and edification under our brother-in-Christ and ex-lecturer from SBC, Mr. Chong Ser Choon. Let us also pray for new youth leaders to rise up to be shepherds and for current leaders to share their youth vision to the new ones.

God bless JCC to be a blessing!