

The Vine

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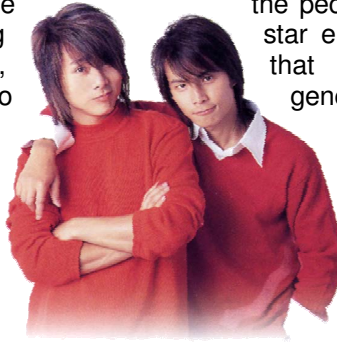
EDITOR'S WORD

Saturday 24 Sep 2005 – a day to remember for LCS because it was the first time in its history that an island wide flag day operation was carried out.



Patrolling the stretch of the Jurong

Point bus terminus with Richard Lee and Joo See from 2.30 to 5.30 pm, I learnt some valuable lessons. Firstly, the flag seller is like a leper, almost everyone tries to avoid him. Secondly, modern technology is working against flag selling because most people use the cash card and so do not have loose change to drop into the bag, thus they avoid flag sellers.



An eye-opening revelation was that the Malays and people with small children were more willing to come up to give without being

approached. Unfortunately, those who seem well dressed and sophisticated are also too involved with their hand phones to be willing to stop and drop a coin or two.

Could the NKF debacle have such a great impact that dropping a 20 cent coin is considered stupidity? I think not. I believe if I was one of the 5566 or F4 band boys, the collection would be 100 times more. Indeed, NKF has trained the people to give only if a star entertained them. Is that to be considered generosity?

As the hours went by with slim pickings, I continued to pray to the Lord to send some people to drop coins into the bag so that I will not feel

depressed knowing that there were so many uncaring



people rushing along the wide path. Based on the number of stickers I “sold”, I must have met at least 75 generous people who willingly came up to me. However, this number is peanuts compared to the hundreds of people who avoided me.

learned that if I meet a flag seller, I will go up to him and drop a coin or two to encourage him.

May the Lord bless you with wisdom in this simple lesson in godly living.

Martin Cheah

After this experience, I have



WHEN IS JESUS' EXACT BIRTH DATE?

Many of you may realize that your grandparents, especially those born in China, have their birthdays on 1 January 19XX. Is it a coincidence? I think not! It is a convenient date that the government use for all those who have forgotten their actual date of birth. Does this imply, as some writers try to say, that since the actual date of birth is unknown, therefore the person is a fictional character? Ask your grandfather if he is a fictional character!

So why is Jesus' exact date of birth a mystery? Most people agree that December 25 is probably not the actual date citing reasons like the shepherds would not be out in the fields at that time of year. Let me suggest some reasons why it may be that the first coming of the Son of Man is as unknown as His second coming.

If the exact date be known, surely some people will start saying, “Jesus is a Capricorn that is why he had such a character.” Others may worship the date instead of the person, so all those born on that date become somewhat special.

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Mission Trips – What Are We Doing?

...a brief analysis by David Mays, ACMC

A question about short-term missions in a book review snapped me to attention.

“Is this the first major missionary movement carried out primarily for the personal benefit of the missionaries?”

(Timothy Paul Erdel, Evangelical Missions Quarterly, April 2004, p. 250)

This question raises some important issues. Why do we do trips? Who are they for? What are we trying to accomplish? Are we doing them in ways that accomplish what we hope?

There are at least three possible beneficiaries:

1. Missionaries and people being ministered to on the field
2. Those who go
3. The church who sends them

Initially, many church leaders promoted mission trips to increase awareness and commitment in the goers and sometimes in the congregation. Trips were expected to produce long-term missionaries.

Over the past 18 years of working with churches in missions, I have noticed a trend in the way churches spend missions money. In the 80's, it wasn't unusual to hear missions committee members, often older people, say that they didn't want to go to a missions conference because it would cost money that could be given to missionaries. Missions promotion in churches was often cheap, childish, and embarrassing. Missions committees maximized funds for supporting missions and minimized expenses.

Mission trips are costly. A great deal of money is spent to support mission trips. Don Parrott says, “The short-term missions market is consuming a large proportion of the available resources for the total missions effort.” *(Evangelical Missions Quarterly, July 2004, 40 (3) 357)*

In addition to motivating the goers, most trips are expected to contribute to a particular missionary endeavor, and those returning often feel very fulfilled in what they accomplished. Many make substantial contributions

to the Kingdom. But for most the primary result may be recruiting more people to go on trips. I recently sat through a 90-minute missions trip report. The main appeal to the audience was to go on a trip. A secondary request was to pray for a missionary. There was no mention of giving money for the support of missions.

What was once a preparation step has become the primary goal. The mission trip has become an end in itself. Missionaries and the mission field are the means to these ends. Subtly, ends become means and means become ends.

Here are some questions to ask about your missions trips:

- What value do they provide to the missionaries or the field?
- Are you doing missions for your own benefit, i.e. “using” the mission field as a discipleship tool for your people?
- If they are primarily meant to stimulate missions involvement on the part of the goers or the congregation, are you following through to make it happen?
- Are you making mission trips your primary missions ministry?

Let's look at an over simplification of how missions works:

- Goal - God receives glory when lost people come to know Him and live for Him.
- Missions - Where the church is non-existent or weak, disciples from other places and cultures are sent to live among the people, get to know them, love them, help them, witness to them and/or train and assist the local believers to do so.
- Sending - Christians are sent to do the above when local churches disciple, recruit, train, send, support, encourage and pray for them.

Mission trips are a powerful tool in the missions enterprise. But they aren't the only tool. Misused they are a huge waste of money at best and a serious hindrance to effective missions at worst.

Here are some recommendations:

A. For contribution to field ministry.

- Go where missionaries or local congregations want you and can use you. Do what they ask you to do.
- Send people with appropriate education, skills, experience and training to carry out what the missionary or church needs done.
- Send people on mission trips where you plan to have ongoing support, partnership, or participation in field ministry.
- Prepare people adequately for the trip.

B. For increasing prayer, financial, and long term missions involvement.

- Design the follow-up plan before you go and carry it out afterward. This is as important as going. If you don't carry out the plan, don't go. The plan includes a) ongoing mentoring of the one who goes and b) maximizing the impact on the congregation.
- Select and send people who are willing to seriously consider the potential long-term impact on their lives.
- Consider the costs vs. benefits of a mission trip just as you would any other training or promotion activity. Don't assume the work the goers plan to do justifies the cost.
- Be sure goers get plenty of exposure to missionaries and their work.
- Arrange for a large portion of the congregation to be exposed to high quality, well designed, and compelling reports of the trips, showing the crucial benefit of the ongoing missionary work and clearly stating how the congregation can contribute.
- Over an extended time, help each goer process what God is teaching him or her and individually mentor each individual in living out what he or she is learning.
- Evaluate the results of each trip against criteria decided in advance.
- If trips are primarily discipleship opportunities for the goers, consider funding them from the education or discipleship budget. This will help you evaluate the value. It's too easy to justify using missions money for activities that do not accomplish missions ministry.

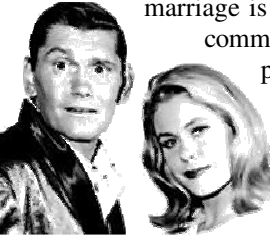
It is imperative to make the maximum possible contribution to the glory of God.

From www.menofintegrity.org
www.menofintegrity.org/articles/accountabilityquestions.html

DON'T PLAY PLAY WITH ROMANCE

IT IS A TEST OF YOUR ACCOUNTABILITY LEVEL!

Caveat Emptor – This is a Latin expression that means “Let the buyer beware.” When buying goods, we take possession of the goods and we know the consequence for failing to exercise prior diligence for a good decision. Albeit marriage is not a commodity for trade, we all know too well that a commercial market exists internationally where women are paraded as wares for selection by interested customers from afar who have the financial means to fork out the cost. Call it by whatever name – fees, necessary expenses, angpows or any better euphemism – it is denominated by the universal market symbol \$\$ instead of ♡♡.



A man went abroad to take home a wife. The woman was young enough to be his daughter, so it certainly would raise the question of whether the relationship ought to be described in the usual male-female romantic terms. The sad fact was that the wife escaped back to her country only a short while after marriage. Instead of pursuing actions to recover a love lost, as would be the ordinary behaviour of someone losing a dearly beloved, he went straight to the court to ask for a quickie divorce (i.e., requesting the court to side-step the standard conditions) so that he could put everything behind him and start life afresh. Sorry for him, he had no sympathy from the court but a stern rebuke for his muddled way of thinking as regards a marriage. The swift ending of the relationship surely had a problematic root. Whatever that root was in this case, it does bring up in our mind the frequent troubles that surface from marital relationships that feature rapid (or instant) build-up across distant lands. When one turns to a middleman to find love, and the middleman is more focused on business returns rather than dutiful service, the warning about *caveat emptor* is certainly appropriate. This warning should also make one think twice about the potential disastrous consequences if one were to harbour objectionable thoughts of acquiring a spouse as a pecuniary transaction, whether tacit or direct. If the warning helps, then it would stay the objectionable action and serve the person well. If it does not help, then the person being forewarned should be prepared to accept the consequence with his/her action as a complete package.



In sincere love marriages, diligence is still needed to ensure that we make the right decision to take the one we have chosen as our beloved “to have and to hold” for life. However, the similarity with *caveat emptor* in the getting hold of our intended possession ends here. In a marriage founded on romance, if we fail to exercise prior attentiveness to ensure that we are making the right choice, our loss is not measured in dollars and cents; our loss would be immeasurable in terms of the emotional upheaval and quite commonly a lifetime of regret, for which there is no sure palliative. It is therefore very surprising that there are people who cannot be more careful in the purchase of goods, yet cannot be more hasty and imprudent in taking the step of making a love commitment. Love at first sight and marriage after a lightning romance are quite in vogue among many young people today, and interconnected is the same speedy kind of break-ups in relationships.

If I have a word of advice for young people, especially those little boys and girls who are hardly out of their teens (or school uniforms) but are unabashedly displaying their affections in public places for all to see and feel uncomfortable, it is that teenage, when one is still wet behind the ears, is not the best time to engage in romance. This is because when a teenager is growing, the mind changes quickly. If it is with physical goods that what we liked one year ago will no longer match our taste one year from now, we can simply enjoy the goods for the time being and discard them when their favour with us is gone. We shall then splurge a little of our wealth to buy the next beauty that the manufacturer puts on the market and keep up with the buy-and-replace actions. Is this what we can do responsibly with a boyfriend or girlfriend, to pick up and enjoy for a defined useful lifespan and then go pick a newer attraction that meets our changing taste?



Very surprisingly, many teenagers who are “in love” know in their hearts that such teenage romance is “never expected to last”. So what are they in it for? It speaks volumes about the immaturity that they would well nigh deny with self-confident words like “Oh, don’t worry, I am old enough to know” and claims that parents don’t understand better. They go into romance with their eyes open, but their tunnel vision only lets them see the immediate satisfaction of a yearning, the fulfillment of a desire for solace and the short-term gains of whatever nature commensurate with the judgment of a developing young mind. Loneliness at home, lack of friendship in school, escapism from nagging adults, the craving for a confidante to share one’s heart problems or stress, or simply a fancy to be in clique with like-minded friends who are pairing up can be the germ of an immature relationship.

Parents may live in “a different age”, but they had gone through the same journey of youth whereas youngsters have yet to traverse the crossing from youth to adulthood for the fuller experience of the tour of life. How can parents then not know better? Yes, parents may not know better how to operate the new-fangled gadgets that keep on hitting the market; but parents in their youthful days were like the young of today in chasing after the fashion of the day, so they know very well the minds of the youths who are always trying to be in tune with the fads. Parents in their youthful days were also nagged by their parents whom they did not understand, so they now understand today’s youths’ dislike for nagging while the latter have yet to understand the love and concern behind their parents’ “peskiness”. The father and mother of today’s youngsters also went through the step of falling in love and then getting married, and so they know the feelings and the responsibilities involved. Alas! Today’s adolescents are just beginning the step of trying to fall in love without even touching on an understanding of the attendant responsibilities. So do parents not understand the youths more, or the youths not understand the parents more? Who has the greater wisdom? Let the Bible be the arbiter. Under the heading “Exhortations to Embrace Wisdom”, Proverbs 1:8-9 advises, “Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.” Eph 6:1 further commands, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (Read also Proverbs 4)

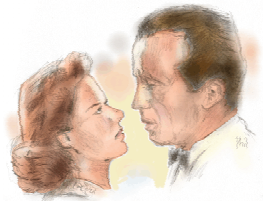


The wisdom of parents regarding teenage romance has been given an endorsement in a case that I know of. This boy from a nominal Buddhist family had known this Malay girl from the same polytechnic. They had fallen in love, but their parents were opposed to it, knowing by their good judgment that with both unequally yoked in faiths it was bound for ruin. Knowing about this case, I really felt bemused by the young couple’s discernment or lack of. They continued to behave like an item on outings together, eating together, ... but, fulfilling the wise insight of the elders, the relationship finally crumbled. Against the wise counsel of elders, a pair of young minds thought they knew better to enter a relationship with hope. The hope was founded on “love forever” that was carved and secured on shifting sands. As proven, the minds bamboozled by the flush of romance were neither up to scratch in appreciating the seriousness of boy-girl love nor sentient to the glaring absence of the minimum essential underpinnings to gird it.

If the young item involved in the short-lived love is an exemplar of foolishness, then older persons with more years to their age should have mature brain cells to appreciate the importance of this advice, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Cor 6:14 KJV) Even if this instruction of Scripture is seen not as directly referring to marriage, the notion that two persons leaning poles apart in their beliefs yet intimately associating their lives together as in a nuptial tie will present a whole host of serious difficulties and invite trouble is definitely common sense. This is valid for non-Christians too. But as Christians, we ought to be more aware of warnings in the Bible against spiritually disparate unions. “While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, ... And the Lord’s anger burned against them.” (Num 25:1-3) Moses must have remembered this when he warned the Israelites not to intermarry while they were about to enter the Promised Land. (Deut 7:3-4) How can a husband and wife who are unequally yoked be heirs together of the grace gift of life? (1 Pet 3:7 KJV)

It is always sad to see any young couple smiling lovingly at each other when there is a high probability of the relationship heading for the rocks in the not-so-distant future. For illustration, it is easier to understand by considering an extreme – say, a good man with a great job who does not gamble but enjoys his time nightly visiting watering holes with friends *vs.* a pleasant woman who is a great cook but who loves to find adventure high-rolling at casino tables a few times a week. A man and woman in courtship are bound to have differences. Many differences can be ironed out with a fair dose of mutual give and take, and in this way the relationship will gradually progress to higher levels as both persons forge a deeper understanding and acceptance of each other’s strengths and weaknesses. Wouldn’t this take time? How can a quickie escalation from courtship to wedding bells allow for the breadth and depth of a life-long union? Differences that are extreme such that they cannot be set aside within a sensible time frame for conjugal tie to bind would point towards the likelihood of an unequally-yoked relationship that spells D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R.

I am not pessimistic, cynical or pouring cold water on loving couples. There is a publication entitled “COMPLETE IDIOT’S GUIDE to ROMANCE”. (How many of us are “idiots” in romance? ☺) I have not read it, but I know that it is about celebrating love. To fall in love and be loved is indeed a beautiful thing worth a celebration; but whatever is beautiful will be beautiful no more if it is treated with a cavalier attitude *sans*



responsibility. On love, 1 Cor 13:11 says, “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.” Young people who are ready to fall in love should be grown up already – no longer like a child who is oblivious to the meaning of accountability. Conversely, if you pass the test in theory and practice on the subject of accountability, then you are ready to fall in love with that someone who will be special to you in your lifetime – not just for a season. To all lovebirds who are in the right category (right in the sense of being mature and responsible), I wish them sweet romance all the way to their eventual blissful wedded life.



John Lee

WHEN IS JESUS' EXACT BIRTH DATE?

continued from page 2

Knowing the character of man to worship the object rather than the creator (eg. the Mona Lisa instead of Da Vinci), God in His wisdom may have hidden the date from mankind.

Nevertheless, if you search the Internet, you will find that man does not give up trying to crack the Bible code. Using clues from the Gospels, eg the dating of the census, or the time of Zechariah's duty in the temple and working back from the fact that John was six months older than Jesus, various dates have been proposed. So does it really matter if we don't know the exact date of Jesus' birth?

The fact is that Jesus did walk this earth some 2000 years ago is enough for me to know and want to celebrate.

When was Jesus Born?

Jesus was born on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, in the fall of the year. To be exact, He was born on Tishri 15, which this year is the eve of October 17th and the day of October 18th, 2005. (<http://www.cybertime.net/~ajgood/HBJ.htm>)

There are numerous other dates proposed with lengthy discussions on how the date is derived but I chose October because I am writing this article for the October issue of The Vine.

Merry Christmas in advance since October is also one of the possible dates of Jesus' birth.

Martin Cheah

Martin's Shield Bible Quiz 2005

Last month I prophesied that the winner would be either the Youth or the BB team. Well you can stone me for being a false prophet because the winner was the team from Bethel CG. After the grueling quarter finals, the BB were knocked out and only the Youth, AAT, Taman Jurong and Bethel teams remained to battle in the grand finals.



Children's Day Celebration at Kent Ridge Park

By Tony Koh

1st OCT 2005 - We started off the day, by taking the Necessary Action to Fight the Mosquitoes with our TRUST in GOD (mosquitoes will always be there, however our CREATOR GOD who created and fashioned all human beings in HIS IMAGE will certainly help us to overcome the DENGUE Fever!)

Pastor Samuel gave a word of greeting and prayed for all of us. The teachers lead by our **SUPER**intendent - IRIS performed an action song for the children who gave them a THUMBS UP (90 Marks) for the performance.

Then the message was given by Auntie Betsy, pointing us to verses in the Bible which tells us that each child is fashioned in the image of God and that we are made with different talents. GOD uses our different talents just like a piece of newspaper which can serve many purposes...like being made into a hat or apron... or to fight against the mosquitoes...or for cleaning...etc...

The rains came but thanks to God, our prayers were answered and the rain was only a passing shower.



We needed to trust God even more during the Canopy Bridge Treasure Hunt due to the strong winds which seems to little Gabriel like a tsunami was coming.

We headed back and reached JCC by 11.45 am. Thanks and praise to our Creator Lord, God and Saviour.

HAPPY and BLESSED CHILDREN's Day!



In the Straits Times recently, there was a hoo-hah over mixing religion and school. Yet the cunning one has slipped his religion into our schools without any of us making a big fuss about it. Extracted below is chapter 2 from the book, THE LIE:

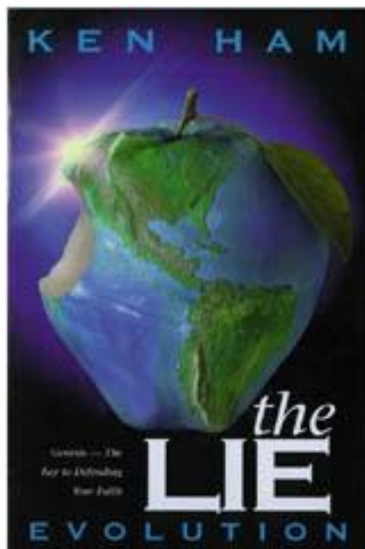
Evolution is Religion

The term "evolutionist" is used extensively throughout the following chapters. In other parts of this book, we will discuss the ideas of Christians who try to marry the concepts of evolution and the Bible. However, because the majority of evolutionists are not Christians, I wish the reader to understand that the term "evolutionist" is used to mean those who believe that evolution -- in the sense of time, chance and struggle for survival--rather than the God of the Bible is responsible for life.

In the official journal of the South Australian branch of the Australian Skeptics, the entire 30 pages of *The Southern Skeptic*, Volume 2 Number 5, Autumn 1985, were devoted to an attack on the creation science ministry in Australia and the United States. On the last page, we read the following: "Even if all the evidence ended up supporting whichever scientific theories best fitted Genesis, this would only show how clever the old Hebrews were in their use of common sense, or how lucky. It does not need to be explained by unobservable God." These people who vehemently attack the creation ministry in saying we are a religious group are themselves a religions group. They have really said that even if all the evidence supported the book of Genesis they still would not believe it was an authoritative document. They are working from the premise that the Bible is not the Word of God, nor can it ever be. They believe, no matter what the evidence, that there is no God. These same people are most adamant that evolution is a fact.

Evolution is basically a religious philosophy. We in creation ministries are explaining to people that both creation and evolution are religious views of life upon which people build their particular models of philosophy, science or history. The issue, therefore, is not science versus religion, but religion versus religion (the science of one religion versus the science of another religion).

The famous evolutionist Theodosius Dobzhansky quotes Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: "Evolution is a light which illuminates all facts, a



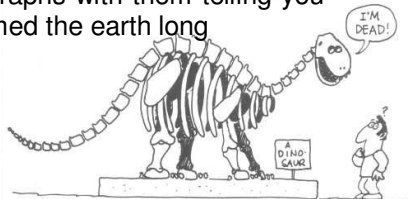
trajectory which all lines of thought must follow." To the Christian, of course, this is a direct denial of the sayings of Jesus as quoted in John 8:12 (NIV): "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In Isaiah 2:5 (NIV) we are exhorted to "walk in the light of the Lord." In verse 22 of the same chapter we read, "Stop trusting in man...."

It does not take much effort to demonstrate that evolution is *not* science but *religion*. Science, of course, involved observation, using one or more of our five senses (taste, sight, smell, hearing, touch) to gain knowledge about the world and to be able to repeat the observations. Naturally, one can only observe what exists in the present. It is an easy task to understand that no scientist was present over the suggested millions of years to witness the supposed evolutionary progression of life from the simple to the complex. No living scientists was there to observe the first life forming in some primeval sea. No living scientist was there to observe the Big Bang that is supposed to have occurred 10 or 20 billion years ago, nor the supposed formation of the earth 4.5 billion years ago (or even 10,000 years ago!). No scientists was there--no human witness was there to see these events occurring. They certainly cannot be repeated today.

All the evidence a scientists has exists *only* in the present. All the fossils, the living animals and plants, the world, the universe--in fact, everything, exists *now*--in the present. The average person (including most students) is *not* taught that scientists have only the present and cannot deal directly with the past. Evolution is a belief system about the past based on the words of men who were not there, but who are trying to explain how all the evidence of the present (that is, fossils, animals and plants, etc.) originated. (Webster's Dictionary defines religion as follows: "... cause, principle or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith." Surely, this is an apt description of evolution.) **Evolution is a belief system--a religion!**

Fossil bones do not come with little labels attached telling you how old they are. Nor do fossils have photographs with them telling you what the animals looked like as they roamed the earth long ago.

When people visit a museum they are confronted by bits and pieces of bones and other fossils neatly arranged in glass cases. These are often accompanied by pictures representing an *artist's impression* of what the animals and plants could



have looked like in their natural environment. Remember, no one dug up the picture, just the fossils. And these fossils exist in the present. For example, in Tasmania there is a sandstone bed containing millions of pieces of bones, most of which are no larger than the end of your thumb. The evolutionists have placed a picture at one particular excavation so that tourists can see how the animals and plants lived in the region "millions of years ago." You can stare at those pieces of bones for as long as you like, but you will never see the picture the scientists have drawn. The picture is their story of their own preconceived bias, and that, ultimately, is all it ever can be.

When lecturing in schools and colleges, I like to ask the students what can be learned from a fossil deposit. I ask the students whether all the animals and plants contained in the deposits lived together, died together, or were buried together. I then warn them to make sure that the answer they give me is consistent with true scientific research. As they think about it, they come to realize that they do not know if the organisms lived together because they did not see it happen. They do not know if the organisms died together because they did not see that happen either. All they really know is that they are buried together because they were found together. Therefore, if you try reconstructing the environment in which the organisms lived just from what you find there, you could be making a terrible mistake. The correct use of science needs to be emphasized in our educational system.

The only way one could always be sure of arriving at the right conclusion about anything, including origins, depends upon one's knowing everything there is to know. Unless he knew that every bit of evidence was available, he could never really be sure that any of his conclusions were right. He would never know what further evidence there might be to discover and, therefore, whether this would change his conclusions. Neither could a person ever know if he had reached the point where he had all the evidence. This is a real problem for any human being--how can he ever be one hundred percent sure about anything? It is something of a dilemma, is it not? It is like watching a murder mystery on television. What happens? It is obvious. Halfway through the viewer knows who did it--the butler. Towards the end, this conclusion is still obvious. Three minutes before the end, new evidence is admitted that you did not have before, and this totally changes your conclusions. It wasn't the butler after all!

However, starting with the irrefutable evidence of the Scriptures, we are told that in God the Father and His Christ" ... are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). There is no way any human mind can know all there is to know. But we have Someone

who does. This ends our dilemma. We are in no doubt that what God has revealed in His Word is truthful and accurate. He is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19) about **anything**. In time, we will know more fully. He will add to our knowledge, but He will not change what His word has already revealed.



The story has been told of a person who went back to his university professor many years after completing his degree in Economics. He asked to look at the test questions they were now using. He was surprised to see that they were virtually the same questions he was asked when he was a student. The lecturer then said that although the questions were the same the answers were entirely different!

I once debated with a geology professor from an American University on a radio program. He said that evolution was real science because evolutionists were prepared to continually change their theories as they found new data. He said that creation was not science because a creationist's views were set by the Bible and, therefore, were not subject to change.

I answered, "The reason scientific theories change is because we don't know everything, isn't it? We don't have all the evidence."

"Yes, that's right," he said.

I replied, "But, we will never know *everything*."

"That's true," he answered.

I then stated, "We will always continue to find new evidence."

"Quite correct," he said. I replied, "That means we can't be *sure* about *anything*."

"Right," he said.

"That means we can't be sure about evolution."

"Oh, no! Evolution is a fact," he blurted out. He was caught by his own logic. He was demonstrating how his view was determined by his bias.

Models of science are subject to change for both creationists and evolutionists. *But the beliefs that these models are built on are not.*

The problem is that most scientists do not realize that it is the belief (or religion) of evolution that is the basis for the scientific models (the interpretations, or stories) used to attempt an explanation of the present. Evolutionists are not prepared to change their actual belief that all life can be explained by natural processes and that no God is involved (or even needed). Evolution is the religion to which they are committed. Christians need to wake up to this. **Evolution is a religion; it is not a science!**

Missions is Alive in JCC

The time is near...

I will be flying to Philippines, Manila on 13 Oct for a 5 day mission trip organized by Singapore Bible Society. The main objective is to distribute bibles. I'm sure most of us know that every year the Bible Society organize the fund raising event, Bike for Bibles. The funds collected are used to buy Bibles for those people who cannot afford to own a Bible [We are blessed to own more than one Bible]. This year, the fund is for the Philippines. We will only distribute a portion [2,000] of the 10,000 Bibles. The rest will be done by the Philippines Bible Society. I would appreciate that you can pray for me and the team of 10 persons.

We thought we must also "feed" the hungry. One of the team members will prepare some dried food. I cannot go without food, so I am preparing some biscuits and sweets to distribute to the children.

We will go to a slum area in Manila and stay one night. The next morning we will leave Manila to a place in Zambales Province. We will spend two nights in Zambales Province and we will be going to a few villages in that province.

Please pray for :

1. Safe journey to and from Manila by JetStar.
2. Safety as we travel from place to place.
3. God to provide good weather as this is the rainy period [May to Oct].
4. The team to appreciate the culture and be able to adapt to the cultural differences.
5. All our stomach to adapt to the food there.

For urgent matters please call / sms me at 9006 5354. Some remote areas may not have mobile network coverage.

Thank you. See you soon.

Sook Hui

Even as Sook Hui is on her way to the Philippines, Stephanie is already in Cambodia on a mission trip and in a few weeks' time, another 7 members will be in Northern Thailand, while Jim Lee will be leading a team from SBC to Cambodia also. Missions is alive and well in JCC – we just have to be aware of it.

GOSPEL MISSION to the BLIND

Dear Praying Friends,

Luke: 11:17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.

Firstly, we thank the Lord for the unity and harmony that we have been able to enjoy in GMB all these past many years. Please pray that we will be able to: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:3)

Our hearts are grieved by what is happening at the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH). Let us pray for the Lord's mercy upon them, and that the SAVH will not be ruined, but that the Lord's will for the SAVH will be accomplished.

Many people have asked if we are part of the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped, and whether we are involved with the current problems that they are reading in the news. Please be informed that Gospel Mission to the Blind Ltd is a Christian Organization, and that GMB is not part of the SAVH, neither are we involved with the problems reported in the news.

Prayer Items

1. Please pray that many blind Christians will sign up for our fasting/prayers on 27th -29th Oct. and that we will experience the manifest presence of the Lord and His guidance in a way that we have not experienced before.
2. Please pray for our Christmas outreach on 17th Dec. 05 and for the Lord's anointing upon Marilyn Baker as she sings and shares her testimony at the outreach.
3. Please pray for our planning of calendar of events for year 2006.
4. Please pray for the Lord's guidance upon the GMB council to make good choices of people to join the team as GMB staff.



Lastly, we thank you for supporting GMB with your prayers. We appreciate your partnership.

Your sister in the Lord,

Mrs Cheong Cheng Choo
Gospel Mission to the Blind Ltd



Oct 9 – The JCC Mission Team of the new Millennium was unveiled to the congregation. Mainly comprising of youths, guided by Anthony as their advisor, the new team has co-editor of The Vine, John Lee accompanying them on their wild ride to 3 locations in Northern Thailand. He will be there as part of the Mission Team but I am sure he will not forget to bring back all the news for The Vine.

The team will leave on the evening of 23rd November and spend about 11 days exploring Northern Thailand with Rosanna as their local guide. They will be our pathfinders, looking for green fields for JCC to set up our mission outreach. As the team comprise mainly of non-working people, there will be a need to raise funds.

- Date : 23 Nov 2005

For those of us who cannot spend the time to go on mission trips because we are busy earning money, we can still buy a share in the work through our finances. If the Lord has blessed you, then you can be a blessing to others. Don't run away from them when they come to you for funding but indeed be pro-active and go up to them and offer your help in areas of prayer, advice and finances.

- Flight : SQ63

MC

- Location:

