

# The Vine

## Editor's Word

I like to write about current hot topics so that The Vine will be relevant and interesting. However what is current is more of a hot potato which would be best to avoid than to pick up.

Although not as newsworthy as En Bloc sales, the movement to repeal section 377A of the penal code is slowly but surely gaining momentum. 377A is the section of the Penal Code which prohibits "gross indecency" between men, in other words, which criminalises homosexual acts. Nominated MP, Siew Kum Hong will be sponsoring a petition in Parliament calling for the repeal of section 377A of the Penal Code.

If history repeats itself, then we must learn from the history of San Francisco. The homosexual community in San Francisco developed at the end of World War II, when thousands of military personnel returned to the United States via San Francisco. A substantial number of those men were homosexual and decided to stay in the city.

The emphasis in the gay movement shifted abruptly in the 1980s, when the AIDS epidemic struck the community. The hedonistic lifestyle changed as the seriousness of the epidemic sank in and the number of deaths increased. Political efforts by gays have shifted away from enfranchisement and toward demands for

social services and research money to deal with the AIDS crisis.

San Francisco experienced a sharp rise in early syphilis between 1999 and 2002, with the number of cases rising from 44 to 494 per year. Rates continued to rise through 2004. Since 1999, most syphilis cases have been among men who identified as gay or bisexual, and were infected with HIV.

Proponents have tried to relate same sex marriage with inter-racial marriage. Some claim that infidelity between husband and wife challenge family values more than same sex marriages. Are they comparing apples with apples or are they just trying to muddy the waters so that we do not see clearly?

The above information mainly came from the Internet, so if there are errors, your pardon please.

How can procreation take place in a same sex marriage? So until gays marry lesbians and become heterosexual again, life as we know it will come to an end. The declining birth rates in Singapore may be a warning signal of how this trend is soon to be a reality.

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Gen 1:27) Let it be so as the Holy Bible said and not deviate from it.*

*Martin Cheah*

# WHAT IS YOUR CHURCH LIKE?

Several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church. No one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was finished. At its grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of the new church.

Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece. But then someone said, "Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the church be lighted?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here" the nobleman said, "the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark"

That's a poignant story, isn't it? And it makes a very significant point about the importance of our commitment and loyalty to the church. The poet Edward Everett Hale put it like this:

I am only one,  
but still I am one.  
I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something;  
And because I cannot do everything  
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.



What if every member of your church supported the church just as you do? What kind of church would you have? What if every single member served the church, attended the church, loved the church, shared the church, and gave to the church exactly as you do? What kind of church would you be?

*Story submitted by Margaret Lee*

# Heard of any miracles lately?

## It Happened at the Church Prayer Meeting

On 19 September 2007, at the church Prayer Meeting, a group of ladies were praying together. One of them complained of a pain in her leg. Immediately, one lady in the group started praying fervently and laying hands on the injured leg. After a seemingly long time of prevailing, the lady with the pain in the leg felt better. On Saturday, when some of the ladies met for the Mid-Autumn outreach, the lady with the pain told them that the pain was gone.

The lady in pain was Susan Tan and the prayer warrior was Margaret Lee.

## Is it coincidence or what?

She had an itch in her eyes and it troubled her to no end because she has a history of eye problems. Her mind played tricks on her as fears arose about the severity of the itch. Suddenly, she lost interest in watching TV and just wanted to retire to sleep.

At another part of Jurong, a lady received an encouraging SMS. After reading it, she thought of deleting it. However she felt a need to forward this message to some of her friends.

The SMS reached the lady with the itch in her eyes. It gave her great comfort because the SMS reminded her of a God who was her father and would take care of her. This lady was Joo See and the one who forwarded her the SMS was Karen Soh.

## How do we define what is a miracle?

A simple definition found in the Internet Free Dictionary states: "An event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God". Drawing on theologians such as Augustine and Aquinas, we can say that a miracle is a discernible, divine act in the world, outside, above, or beyond the natural order of things, that manifests some aspect of God's power and love. A miracle is also a "divine act." That means God is its principal cause, even if he uses intermediaries such as prophets, apostles, or other saints as instrumental causes. Since miracles are acts of God, if something is genuinely miraculous, we know that God is acting for some purpose.

Someone once said, "Coincidence is God's way of performing a miracle anonymously." The next time a "coincidence" occurs, remember to praise Him!

*Martin Cheah*

# Bangkok Updates by Rosanna

**Warm greetings from Thailand!**

Dear Prayer partners,

The rainy season has stopped in Bangkok and although it is occasionally hot in the afternoons, the weather is cool in the evenings. But regions in the North and Northeast are facing flash floods.

The political weather however is uncertain. A couple of months back, the new Thai Constitution was accepted by the public, winning by a small margin. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, there will be elections for a new government. The election campaign has started.

Church Life

## **Baptism**

Last September, 3 people were baptized in Ladprao. Mae Thoi, whom I mentioned in my newsletter sometime back, decided to be baptized. Mae Thoi decided that she could not wait until all her relatives come together to perform the last Buddhist rites for her mother's ashes. This was what kept her from being baptized. The other 2 are Khun Ji and her son, Rheo. Ji came to church one day and said she wanted to accept Christ and be baptized. We thank God for leading these 3 precious souls into His kingdom.

Baptism in Ladprao in Sep 2007

## **Elderly in the slum**

In August, the Ladprao women's group went to the slum community to celebrate mother's day for 6 elderly. We had a great time talking and singing with them. Notice the oldest lady with the shortest hair is a former nun. Some of these women are either bedridden or handicapped thus making them unable to meet with other people.



Visitation to the elderly at the slum

## **Saturday English class**

Since August, Ladprao has again started an English class every Saturday to 6 primary school children aged 8 to 10 years old. We

are hoping more children will join. After lessons, we have games, or the children will either read children books about Jesus, and we show them video cartoons relating to the gospel. My co-worker, Pha Noi will sit and chat with the parents while lessons are going on. Please pray there will be opportunities to share Christ with them.

### **Ministry to our HIV church members in Ladprao**

We have 2 church members who have the HIV virus. Both are positive about life and are taking their medicines regularly. Khaen is still undergoing therapy with the Finnish missionary in Ladprao. But there have been a lot of changes in Khaen now. She is much better and has put on weight. She does not hear the 'voices' speaking to her so often now and if she does, she ignores it. Ladprao church has taken the initiative to help Khaen start a small business as a food vendor near her place. We hope this will help her ease her family burden and to start her life anew. Please continue to pray for Khaen.

One of our church member, Wikorn, was involved in a serious car accident 2 Sundays ago while driving back home at 5 in the morning. His car overturned a couple of times and Wikorn had to be extracted from the wreck by cutting off parts of the car. Although the car is beyond repair, we thank God that Wikorn is safe. He is still in hospital but out of ICU. Pray for full recovery as there is still a bump in his head. The doctor has advised that Wikorn needs to be spoken to everyday to help him recover his memory.

### **Ministry in Mukdahan**

I had the opportunity together with the Lutheran Diakonia to visit Mukdahan prison in the Northeast. We have a Lutheran church in Mukdahan and Ajarn Sim, the pastor in charge had started a prison ministry there. We did ministry to the women inmates although a couple of old men were allowed to join the women. Most of them are doing life-term due to drug peddling across the border with Laos. We also did a seminar on Aids prevention, as HIV is on the rise in Mukdahan. Being very close to the Laos border, Mukdahan is projected to be the next big city. Apart from that, we had an evangelistic meeting and the Word of God was shared powerfully to them. All of the inmates accepted the forgiveness of sins from Jesus Christ.



Women inmates at Mukdahan prison

In September, Charis Lee from Bedok Lutheran Church came for a short volunteer program for 3 weeks to teach English in Immanuel Hostel, Ubon, the Northeast and in Laksi Lutheran Church, Bangkok. Charis also visited the various Lutheran Diakonia ministries to understand the social work of the ELCT. We hope many more volunteers from Singapore will come to do a longer period of volunteer work under the ELCT.



### **ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand)**

The last couple of months have seen some changes in the administration of the ELCT. We thank God for the new ELCT Church Council, for spearheading these changes. We thank God for their courage, dedication and service in making difficult decisions for the church as a whole.

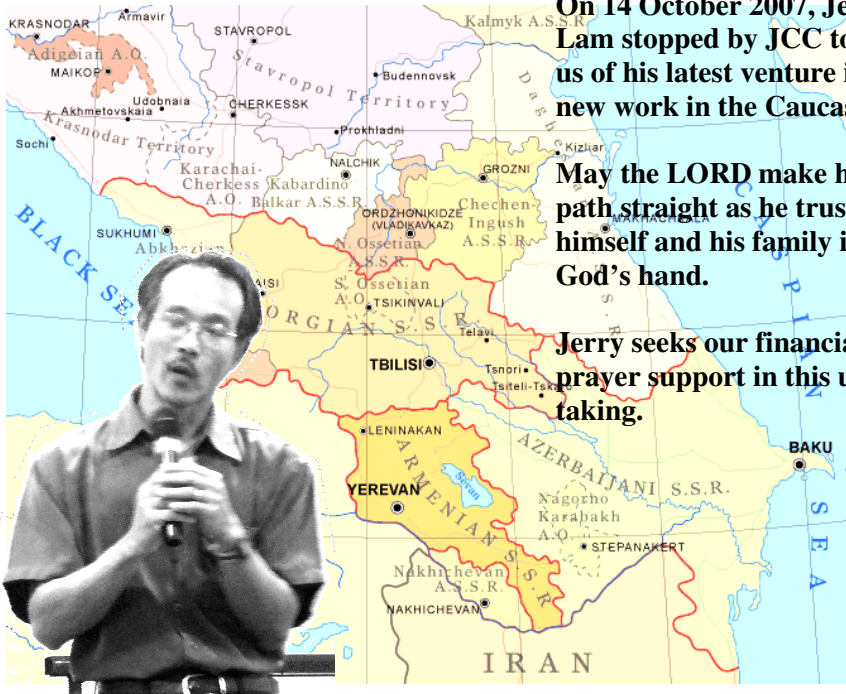
### **Upcoming Events:**

- 10 October 2007, ELCT and LMT will have a joint forum meeting.
- 11 October 2007, Baan Palan church dedication in Chiang Rai.
- 12 October 2007, the HIV Aids Diakonia Dept will have a camp in Chonburi for our HIV patients and their families.
- 14 October 2007, the District 1 churches will have a fellowship outing in Bangkok
- 21 October 2007, the ELCT Youth will have a Sports Day for the Lutheran Church in Bangkok.
- 21 November 2007, the ELCT Women's group will have their quarterly meeting.
- 24-25 November 2007, Ladprao church will have their church camp in Kanchanaburi.

Thank you for your much needed prayers in all the areas that I have mentioned. Pray also for me as I will be participating in all the upcoming events mentioned above. Pray also for good communication and planning with the various Thai government schools and prisons as I arrange details of the upcoming English camp mission team from Singapore in December.

May our Lord keep you strong and faithful!

For Jesus alone  
Rosanna Hutagalung  
Bangkok, 9 October 2007



**On 14 October 2007, Jerry Lam stopped by JCC to tell us of his latest venture into a new work in the Caucasus.**

**May the LORD make his path straight as he trust himself and his family into God's hand.**

**Jerry seeks our financial and prayer support in this undertaking.**

*MAN versus MACHINE (an extract from an article by Valsa Cheruthone)*

	MAN	COMPUTER
From Dust	God made man from dust (sand) of the ground (Gen 2:7, 1Cor 15:47-48)	Microprocessor is made of a chemical element called silicon which comes from sand.
Breath of Life	God breathed into man (Gen 2:7)	No life and intelligence for computer.
Operating System	Managed and controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 7)	Managed and controlled by the OS, eg Windows, Linux, etc.
Software	Stores different software in his brain to do each type of work in a continuous learning process	Softwares to perform specific duties are installed and periodically updated when new versions are available.
Virus	Enmity, jealousy, malice, pride, etc infect the human heart and destroy him	Infected by malicious viruses developed by people, which can destroy data and programs.
Anti-virus	Bible study, prayer and practicing the presence of God can prevent the attack of sin	By installing anti-virus and firewall software it can prevent attack from virus.

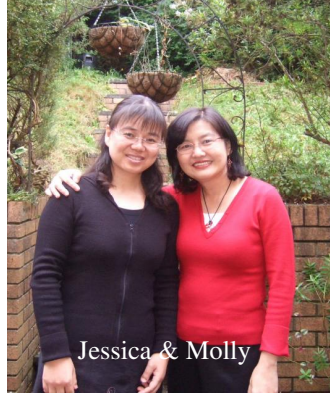
# Swansea Updates by Molly

From: Molly Chua <look4molly@yahoo.co.uk>

Dear friends,

## **Mathematics Lecturer from Shanghai University opened her heart to Jesus yesterday (14/10/07)**

I just can't tell you how happy I am to have the joy and the privilege to lead a Mathematics Lecturer from Shanghai University to the Lord Jesus yesterday (14/10/07)!!! Jessica Li from China, in her mid-30's, is a visiting lecturer to Swansea University. She came here on 2 October 2007 & will be here till 13 December 2007.



She got to know about "English Corner" through one of the "old" students and heard a lot of the good that we have done for the students. Praise God and to Him be the glory!

On Friday she asked me about church. And yesterday, Sunday morning, she came very early to church. Together with some students, they all came to my home for lunch after church.

She has a lot of time in her hands and wondering whether she could stay longer to chat with me. Then she disclosed to me that for many years, she had been searching for something to settle her inside. She had been going round in circles and felt trapped and perplexed. She had read extensively of various religious books, Christianity included, but still couldn't find a focal point in her life. According to her, since she came here and whenever she sees me, she feels relax and she could be herself. She saw something in me and she wanted that something!

I was able to go through the 4 Spiritual Laws with her and explained the Good News. She said, "This is what I have been searching for for many years, the forgiveness of sin, the Power that sets me free from the inside. I want to follow Jesus and I will give my whole life to Him!" Wow! Isn't that marvelous? The Lord has brought her all the way to Swansea to find Him and this is how much the Lord loves her!

Please pray for her remaining time here with us that she will grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God. She will be attending 2 of my Bible Study groups



on Wednesday night & Friday afternoon for non-Christians / new converts. Pray that her faith in the Lord will be strengthened and that the Lord will minister in a very special way to her. She said that many of her students are also searching and are very lost in life. So pray that the Lord will use Jessica to influence and help many students to come to know the Good News of Jesus Christ. Would you please just pause and say a short prayer for her, for God's protection & favour upon her?

### **About Rumi in Wakayama, Japan**

Rumi has gone back to Japan and she told her dad about her new found faith. Thank God that there was no objection. Her dad just told her that she needed to find out more about this religion and don't believe too much. Rumi said that she wants to grow and learn more so that she could tell her family the Good News of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

A big "THANK YOU" to those of you (OMF friends as well) who tried to connect Rumi with a local church in Wakayama. I have given her a few choices and she will look into that. I know that one Sunday she was involved in Girls' Scout and another week she was unwell. I have not heard from her since, will try to keep you updated.

Rumi is very precious. As some of you may know, it is VERY HARD to reach the Japanese with the Gospel. Now that Rumi has come through in faith, we are trying our best to help her in her spiritual journey. Thank God for the BIG family of God!

### **ENGLISH CORNER**

The new academic year has started in Swansea University and we thank God for His favour upon us. We were so privileged to be asked by the chairwoman of the Chinese Association to participate in their Welcome Party for freshers on 10 October 2007. More than 300 students were there that night and more than 1/2 have heard about English Corner!!! Wow! Isn't that fantastic?



Song Item

The "English Corner" song item was given the first slot, after the speeches by the Vice-Chancellor and one of the Chinese professors! What an honour! We sang 2 songs and everyone enjoyed doing the action song with us. That was great fun! Anita, one of the Chinese converts here, was one of the MCs. She did a wonderful job with a very good command of English. Many were greatly impressed by her.

I even had a word with the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Seow. They have heard about the ENGLISH CORNER too. Professor Seow thanked me in front of the VC for being such a great help to the Chinese students! He is very grateful and heard many good things about it. Praise God!

So now, every Friday at the English Corner, we have been having a room full of new students from China, and of course, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea also, about 60 over, altogether. We praise God that some members from Gorseinon Church are coming over to help us out! It is really very exciting!

Some of the new students heard about the English Bible Class from the old students and they want to come and learn too!!! Many have requested for baking classes too! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Siew, fellow Malaysian lady who is the International Student Advisor, who just became member of Argyle Rhyddings church on 7/10/07, will be starting a choir among these students. So Every Friday, at 6:30 pm there will be a Choir practice before the English Corner proper.

### **Coming Day Trip on 20 October 2007 (Saturday)**

Please pray for the coming Day Trip to "The Hall of Abbey-Cwm-Hir". 44 people have signed up already!!! Please pray for good weather, safety and a good time of interaction. You can log into this website <http://www.abbeycwmhir.com/index.htm> to have a glimpse of this fantastic place, 52 rooms of Victorian Splendour!!! I am sure you wish to join in the fun too! May be next time when you are here in Swansea... Hi! Hi!

Bye for now! I just want you to know that we really appreciate your prayers, encouragement and help! We are grateful for your participation in building HIS KINGDOM in Swansea. Hallelujah!

With lots of love,  
*Molly Chua*



# LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE



News on the Internet:

## **Dead? You still have to pay library fine**

Wed Sep 26, 10:18 PM ET

HARRISON, N.Y. - Even the dead apparently have to pay the fines on their overdue books at one Westchester County library. Elizabeth Schaper said she was charged a 50-cent late fee while turning in a book that her late mother had checked out of a Harrison Public Library branch.

*Schaper said she returned the book last week, and was stunned when the man behind the library counter told her of the 50-cent fee. "I told him that maybe he didn't hear me right, that my mother had just died, otherwise I'm sure that she would have returned it on time," Schaper said. "His only reply was that, 'That will be 50 cents.'"*

*"Schaper said a couple days after the incident another library employee called to apologize and offered to return the fine she had paid."*

Probably the library staff could not be faulted for insisting on the 50 cents. He was just doing his duty in following the rules, lest his superiors held him to account when they themselves risked being held to account by audit for a fine shortfall. As comedian Jack Neo would have said, "Law by law."

The way human brains think can lead to a rather amusing outcome. If you owe me 50 cents, no matter what, I have to claim it from you. It is just right to do so; it is A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, if not a matter of accountability to audit. We know that a negative audit report can be a serious matter. Woe betides the financial staff if accounts are not up to scratch to the last cent. So better be on the safe side.

If Ms Shaper did not pay up, would the following scenario play out?

- 1) *The staff keys into the system against the customer record this sum of 50 cents as account receivable. He breathes easy after duty carried out.*
- 2) *With the passage of time, this record slips deeper and deeper into the recesses of the system, well nigh forgotten until a financial audit digs it out. By that time, years have gone by.*
- 3) *By recommendation (or order) of the audit, the library sends a reminder at the cost of postage, paper, labour, computer processing expense, etc.*

4) *The debtor never responds, so another round of reminder is sent, at a repeat of the above recovery cost. Maybe this time, out of kindness or frustration and eager to close the case, the creditor decides to elicit some response with a little diplomacy, by telling the debtor that she may appeal if not happy.*

5) *Finally, after all the to-ing and fro-ing, the library gets zilch in return because, after throwing good money chasing bad money, it decides to be magnanimous in closing the case with these nice words, “In consideration of your appeal and of your long years of loyalty to the library, we are very pleased, despite our unnecessary costs incurred, including the cost of producing and sending you this reply, to grant your appeal. Do pay us a visit soon.”*

*Alternatively, the creditor decides to sue Ms Schaper or the estate of her deceased mother. After incurring legal expenses of \$20 000, it still does not get back the 50 cents because of the Statutory Limitation on debt recovery timeframe.*

6) *In the next audit, the serious and highly principled auditor asks, “Have you accounted for all the outstanding fines?” The top officials of the library reply, “Yes, we tried very hard, sparing no time, effort and money to chase after the debts due to us. It is all in the accounts books the money we have spent in the process and the cases we have closed. All our debtors have been cleared, but we ourselves are in the red.”*

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE, so have a hearty laugh at the ridiculous outcome of a so-called “principled action”. Of course, for the sake of laughter, I hope that nobody will mind that I have allowed myself some licence for a generous dose of exaggeration in the above “possible” scenario. Maybe an extreme scenario like this is really possible if we consider the real outrageous case *Pearson v. Custom Cleaners* in Washington earlier this year of an administrative law judge in the District of Columbia suing the Korean owners of a dry cleaner for US\$65 million as compensation for a pair of lost pants, not including millions more in punitive damages and attorney fees. Laughably, even a learned person can conceive a foolish “principled action”. (Or was it unprincipled?)



*John Lee*

## Financial Stewardship – Buying Annuity



"I want to live indefinitely. I don't want to die," said the world's oldest man at age 112, Tomoji Tanabe.

It is possible that Tanabe may live more years. Not only that, he is looking forward to it and he believes that he can. It is a contrast to Singaporeans who prefer to occupy their minds with doubts that they would live past 85 years of age to benefit from the government's proposed compulsory annuity and have meaningful time still to enjoy past their retirement at age 65, an age up to which employers will be legally mandated to offer jobs to their employees.

Is the optimism of Tanabe worth our emulation, so that we see the merit of the proposed annuity catering to longevity need; or do we see the longevity statistics of Singaporeans as less impressive than that of Japan, a country with the largest population of centenarians, so we would rather have an earlier drawing down of our CPF money to enjoy before it is too late with our age not catching up?

Whether we are optimistic or pessimistic, we won't know for sure when the time will arrive for us to kick the bucket. A person deemed to be of poor health may be declined life insurance at standard risk. On the other hand, a life underwriter may be happy to issue a large policy to one with no bad medical history who is certified PES A (highest level of fitness suitable for all vocations) in the army. Unpredictably, the final outcome may be that the former ends up surviving the latter. This is a matter of common sense knowledge, the unpredictability being exactly the justification for buying insurance. **If we can be sure, we don't need to insure.**

**Statistics on longevity does not tell the whole truth of whether you will live to a certain age.** Any statistical forecast that a certain percentage of people will live past 85 years, say, is just that – a fallible forecast. It is a generalization based on the data of the past to give us an educated guess of the future. Actually, mere numerical data is not the only factor we have to consider regarding the reliability of the statistics. It may be that the data is encouraging or discouraging, giving us high or low hope of long life. However, for the period that the data was gathered, the conditions affecting life (level of healthcare, changing state of air pollution, prevalence of diseases, socio-economic status of the population, etc.) may not be the same for the future period of relevance. So how old the population will grow can be better or worse than what the statistics implies.

With or without the statistics to help us, we don't know a lot of things about the future. There is no such thing as a crystal ball that can help. **Against the uncertainty, an annuity gives us the certainty that we will have a livelihood no matter how long we live.**

Remember the prodigal son in the Gospel story? He was impatient to get his hand on his inheritance fast to spend when it was not actually due for him to have (with his father still alive). Granted his wish, he was of course elated to have the sudden windfall to enjoy while he could. He did not calculate that he would outlive the wealth, which was soon depleted. As the saying goes, a fool and his money are soon parted.

None of us is a perfect fool, I suppose. We are all also not perfectly wise. Let's say that we are part-foolish-part-wise. The foolish part of us keeps urging us to spend, spend, spend ... to enjoy, enjoy, enjoy ... while we still have the breath to do so. With annuity, we can permit ourselves (within ethical limits) the foolishness to spend and enjoy as fast as we could deplete the cash in hand from the regular payouts. No worry that we would fall into the same predicament of being penniless like the prodigal son. This is because the wise part of us has planned for a guaranteed continual cash flow for life.

What if God decides to call us home much sooner than we can feel satisfied of having enough from our annuity? Well, it may also be that God

decides to call us home much later. Since it is a mystery to everyone when it is his/her time to go, it is fair for all who join the annuity pool, isn't it? In the event of an early farewell to this world, we can be contented that we are leaving behind a legacy of charity with the un-retained portion of our contribution going to benefit others who survive us. Doing charity is an expression of Christian love. On the other hand, should we miscalculate and underestimate our longevity because our human reasoning turns out to be at odds with God's will, we ourselves become the benefactors of the charity largesse of the annuitants who had "under-claimed" while they went home before us. (There were people expected to die early, yet they lived long; and people who planned to live long, yet died early.)

Purchasing an annuity is good financial stewardship. By foregoing the immediate gratification of a large wealth, one gets the assurance of receiving fixed regular payments throughout life. Some trade-offs between benefits and sacrifices are necessary for any financial investment. While it does not suit everybody, it should be relevant to most people. **Even wealthy parents who see no need to buy annuities for themselves may consider buying annuities as gifts for their children instead of passing to them a large one-off windfall like what the prodigal son received from his father. Apart from ensuring equitable and lasting legacy distribution between children, an annuity is also a very useful instrument for estate planning (to save on death duties).**

*John Lee*

*Note:*

*In Singapore, the concept and value of annuity are still not very well appreciated. People who buy annuities tend to do so because of the CPF regulations on funds withdrawal rather than out of a desire for the unique benefits compared to other forms of investments. In America, annuities tied to charity giving (in cash or property) are quite common, dating back more than a century. One may even set up a gift annuity to benefit a church.*

# Tough Maths

**The Vine** is mainly for your Spiritual Formation, if I can use that phrase. However, sometimes we have to feed your mathematical hunger also. So here are the solutions to the tough PSLE maths questions:

## Question 1

Shop A has 156kg of rice. Shop B has 72kg of rice. After both shops sold an equal amount of rice, the ratio of rice that Shop A has to Shop B is 4:1. Find the amount of rice sold by the shops. (3 marks)

	Shop A	Shop B	Total
Originally	156kg	72kg	228kg
Sold	? (multiple of 4)	? (multiple of 4)	? (multiple of 8)
Final	4 units	1 unit	5 units (multiple of 5)

### Observations:

The final total must be a multiple of 5kg.

The amount sold by Shop A must be multiple of 4 kg since the original qty and final total for this shop are each a multiple of 4. The amount sold by Shop B is the same; i.e., multiple of 4. Therefore, the total amount sold by both shops must be a multiple of 8 since it is the same for each.

### Solution:

Try reducing the total 228kg in multiples of 8 so that the final total will be a multiple of 5. Only the first 4 cases below need be considered. **Note that the trial figures of 8, 48, 88 ... are quickly arrived at by noting that the ending digit needs to be 8 in order for the result to end with digit 0**, making it a multiple of 5 as required. In this problem, there is no way we can subtract a multiple of 8 to yield a result ending with digit 5.

$$228 - 8 = 220 \text{ (}\Rightarrow \text{ each shop sells 4 kg.)}$$

$$228 - 48 = 180$$

$$228 - 88 = 140 \text{ (}\Rightarrow \text{ each shop sells 44 kg)}$$

$$228 - 128 = 100$$

$$228 - 208 = 20 \text{ (Rejected since this means each shop sells 104 kg, which is obviously impossible for Shop B)}$$

The conclusion is that each shop sells 44 kg since this is the only possibility for the final stocks to be in ratio 4:1.

**Answer: 44 kg**

### Comments:

Although the explanation above seems to be tedious, it is normally not required for the PSLE candidate to explain in such detail and in so many words. However, a number of concepts are involved and understanding them to such a degree and in combination as required to crack the problem is not quite within the means of the average student.

This problem can actually be solved very easily in a few short steps by Secondary School students using algebraic equation. However, Primary School curriculum does not equip the students to handle it that way.



## Question 2

6/14 of the chairs in a hall are in rows of 13. Half of the chairs are in rows of 7. There are 112 more chairs in rows of 7. The rest of the chairs are stacked up. Find the total number of chairs. (5 marks)

*Solution:*

6/14 of the chairs are in rows of 13.

7/14 of the chairs are in rows of 7.

The rest of the chairs = 1/14 of the chairs.

Also,  $7/14 - 6/14 = 1/14$

\* 1/14 of the chairs = 112 chairs.

Total number of chairs =  $14 \times 112 = 1568$  chairs

*Comments:*

Compared to Question 1, this question carries 5 marks but is relatively much simpler. However, there is a trick. The row numbers 13 and 7 are not relevant to the solution and many PSLE candidates may be 'deceived' into spending lots of time figuring out where to apply these two numbers since they are inclined to think that 5 marks can't possibly be for such a simple solution.

## Question 3

Tank A is filled with water to its brim. Water is then poured from Tank A to Tank B until both share the same height. What is this height? (4 marks)

*Solution:*

Note that the width of the 2 tanks = 40 cm.

The 2 tanks can be pushed together so their contents water can be seen as one single rectangular block with length  $50 + 70 = 120$  cm and width = 40 cm.

The combined volume in the 2 tanks =  $120 \times 40 \times$  common height of water

Volume of full tank A =  $50 \text{ cm} \times 40 \text{ cm} \times 60 \text{ cm}$

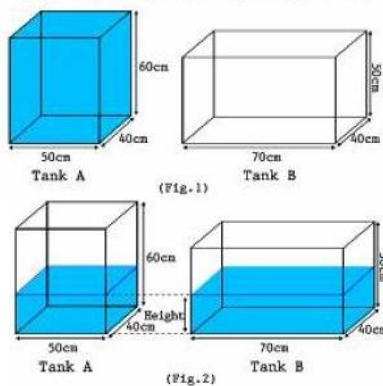
$120 \times 40 \times$  common height of water =  $50 \times 40 \times 60$

\* common height of water =  $\frac{50 \times 40 \times 60}{120 \times 40} = 25$  cm

*Comments:*

Note that the final division can be done by cancellation to save a lot of time. It is unnecessary to separately multiply out the numerator and the denominator.

**In case you are wondering if Editor Martin or John worked out these answers, let me assure you that Martin is not good with figures. He is not a numbers person. Editor John Lee who also works as a private tutor came up with the solutions for this year's PSLE tough maths problems.**



# MID-AUTUMN HIGH TEA FELLOWSHIP

22 Sep – the Dialect Ministry held its last outreach event for 2007. The speaker, a regular, Rev James Lim sang songs and gave a lively message.

Before he came up however, Pastor Anthony's dad gave his testimony which can be found in this issue. The "Hokkien Peng" presented a number of songs also.

At the end, I noticed one lady put up her hand as an indication of having said the prayer with Rev James. There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.



# PULSE RETREAT AT BINTAN

*By Zheng Lin*



From 21<sup>st</sup> to 23 Sep 2007, 13 of our youth leaders had a retreat at Nirwana Resort on Bintan Island.

Bintan is a one-hour ferry ride from Singapore's Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal, and it is quite a good place to go for a family

outing or a weekend retreat. The villa there is very big and nice and is affordable and the beach is very beautiful also.

Throughout the retreat, the 13 of us had a great time fellowshiping and bonding with one another as we gathered for worship, devotion sharing and games. It was really good to take a break from our usual busy schedules.



One of the highlights of the retreat was a cooking competition between the guys and gals on the second night. The guys cooked prawn mee with bak-kut-teh soup and the gals cooked Japanese curry, rice and soup. It turned out that the guys and gals were an equal match for each other; so everyone was a winner. Actually, the greatest gain for all was not in the winning, but in the camaraderie built up that will enhance teamwork among these youth leaders in the church.



# Chui Yin & Jack

27 October 2007 - The Wedding Day of Lim Chui Yin, daughter of Ronnie Lim to Tan Jack Wei. This ceremony was conducted by Rev Steven Gan of Amazing Grace Presbyterian Church at Upper East Coast Road.



Due to the distance from the west, probably many JCC members could not make it, yet a sizable number did, overwhelming the photographer who had to step much further back to take the group picture.

Here are some words from the little girl some of us knew who has now grown up and got married:

"I vividly remember the first time I met Jack. It was in 1999 when we were both medical freshmen. The years in medical school went by and I bumped into Jack once again, in the final year. We saw each other a lot more as we were both studying in school to prepare for the final year. We exchanged phone numbers, study tips and comic books! Back in those days studying for the final exams, faced with the frightening prospect of failing the exams, we had discussed the higher powers that be.

Jack started to read an old Bible that he had. He examined the words in the Bible diligently and asked to attend church with me. We were housemen at that time and in between weekend calls and ward rounds, we persevered in attending church together as often as we could. From then on, I witnessed an amazing transformation of his life right before my eyes. In humility he grew in faith which led to his baptism on Easter day of 2006.

Today, I walk down the aisle with the blessings of my parents, to be united in marriage with Jack."

