

The Vine

For internal circulation only

Volume 04/2008

Editor's Word.

A NEW Church Building

20th April 2008 JCC held its 40th AGM and this time around, the focus of the whole AGM was on the Proposed Renovation Project. Like David facing Goliath, JCC the church with \$400K in Reserves is faced with the task of raising \$5 to \$7 million in 3 to 5 years time to rebuild the church building which will by then be 45 years old. Can we do it? Certainly, if David can defeat Goliath with just 5 shiny stones so can we. However, first we have to pick up the stones. The stones were not in David's pocket, he had to pick it up from a stream.

What is \$400K? It is only about 6% of \$7 million. That means we will still have to raise 94% of the estimated building costs. How do 356 persons intend to raise about \$6.6 million in 5 years? Let me break it down for you.

	S\$	
Target	7,000,000.00	
Reserves	400,000.00	
Balance to raise	6,600,000.00	
Amount to raise over 5 years	1,320,000.00	per year
Amount to raise each month	110,000.00	per month
356 members must contribute	308.99	each per month
Total each member contributes over 5 years	18,539.33	

If each of the 356 active members were to contribute \$309 per month above their current giving, JCC will be able to carry on operating and at the same time raise

about \$6.6 million in 5 years time. As you ponder over the figures, you may realize that in 5 years time, you would have given a sum total of \$18,539 for the building of a new church building. Is that a lot of money? It is only about 30% of the cost of a 1.6 litre Japanese motorcar or about 3% of a cheaper \$600K private condominium. Are you willing to put aside this money for the glory of God?

The above calculation is a very simple formula. The amount each have to contribute will be many times lesser if we factor in interest from banks. So if every one were to contribute up front \$3,708 (ie \$309 x 12 months), JCC will have \$1.3 million to put in the bank to earn interest. If we do that at the beginning of each year, we may raise the targeted amount earlier than 5 years with compound interest making the difference.

What do I compare \$3,708 to? A holiday for one to Japan, a Fujitsu Notebook P1610, a Nikon D2Hs (Body only) \$5,375, or a Panasonic Viera TX-32LX500M LCD TV \$3,799. It is not out of your reach. Just remember as you put your hand in your pocket, don't clench your fist so that your hand cannot come out.

If we are truly serious about raising the \$7 million in 5 years time, we must start now. Let me see the funds flowing in as I take up the office of Treasurer.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7) Why is Singapore's Happiest Person not a Pastor? The Straits Times on 18 April reported that "The secret of being happy? It's all in the laugh." Are we affected by our giving because it makes us not so cheerful? Is the secret truly in the laugh?

The Bible says, "*But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.*" (Psalm 68:3) The context of this verse was when the person was in trouble he was still happy. Proverbs 15:13 states, "*A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.*" So the secret is not in the laugh but in a happy heart.

The Good News Bible translates the word "Blessed" in the Beatitudes as "Happy". With so many "Blessed" we should be the Happiest people in the world. So let us not dread the challenge of raising \$7 million in 5 years, instead be happy that God has raised us up for this very purpose to pass the baton into the hands of the future generation.

Martin Cheah

The Meaning of Wealth

(Part III)

We are familiar with the teaching that the love of money is the root of all evil. It is not wrong, however, to make wealth by the good estate that God has given us, by the strength of our hands and God-given ability. The way of insatiable men who thirst after riches (mere symbols, not the substance of wealth) is entirely at odds with the wholesomeness of wealth creation through hard work. Men can work hard to increase the yield of production so there is more to go around, more wealth for more people albeit the attached monetary value per unit may remain constant without succumbing to greed-based inflation. If everyone does the same in contributing to a healthy increase in wealth, there will always be enough to go round and round without avarice hijacking the production-and-supply order.

Sadly, when greed comes into play, building up a greater store of money becomes mistaken for a creation of wealth that people can enjoy.

Globally, money is stashed away in the stratosphere (beyond the reach of ordinary mortals), never consumed by conversion to usable wealth but eaten away by the moths of financial markets. In Singapore, 62 billion dollars were wiped off the value of local shares in less than a month¹. This was small beer when compared to 6.55 trillion rupees (S\$240 billion) lost within minutes at the Bombay Stock Exchange² and the potential \$1.3 trillion cost that the US subprime debacle is drawing from the world³. Scary thought that massive funds can just vaporize overnight! Astounding to contemplate the food-equivalent that can feed the world's hungry!

There is time for the mighty to be humbled. Is this a punishment against lending at usury and excessive interest whereby the borrowers end up with unredeemable debts, or is it God's way of enforcing the cancellation of debts at intervals? (Rf Deut 15:1 ff; Eze 18:8, 13, 17)

¹ ST 22nd Jan report: STI plunged 6% in worst one-day fall since Oct 1987

² Business Times 23rd Jan report

³ ST 9th Apr report: US mortgage crisis to cost \$1.3 trillion worldwide

People work harder and harder to earn more money. In the end, they store much of it away in pots labeled “stocks and shares” or “safe property holdings”, or have some skimmed away in the guise of savings for an uncertain future – truly uncertain, being always afar. The “best” investment instruments (a.k.a. “junk bonds” and financial products with more fascinating names) and the most effective “wealth-generators” (increase in rates, rents and prices) do not add to real wealth production. The wealth is blown up by the inflation of monetary values that gives the impression of growth. Besides, any growth will be put back for further growth (encouraged by the promise) ad infinitum; any loss is written off (no choice). It is like putting the pots in a time capsule to be opened and recycled with their contents for another time of opening, ad infinitum, until there is nothing left. More preposterous is the way individuals commit themselves to buy or sell commodities by the tonnes to manipulate prices up and down without any interest in taking or making physical delivery. Buying and selling are no longer for consumption; rather, they are the artificial means of money-play.

The play with the money in a pot (investing for the infinite term) comes to an end only when the last drop in the pot is eaten up by moths or when an Act of God forces an obliteration of the hoard.

In the realm of wealth management, even age and experience (such as those forming the distinguished pride of Barings Bank in London before its sudden collapse at the hands of a mere employee) are no assurance that all is well. The latest case of Société Générale’s €4.9bn fraud by a single trader is like history exacerbating itself. Size and international respect is also never a surety against a complete reduction to dust. Early bubbles of hot air with attractive numbers in financial reports are only biding time to burst. In the not-too-distant past, we had Lockheed and Chrysler bailed out by the government but subsequently collapsed nevertheless. Then, Enron, World-Com and Global Crossing came into grief. Early 2007, Nova Star Financial and New Century Financial (all famous names in the lending industry) imploded under the sub-prime weight. Today, Merrill Lynch, Citigroup and UBS, financial giants in the throes of utter woe, have to knock on Asian doors for life-saving blood infusion. Unfortunately, Temasek

Holdings and Singapore GIC can only help in a small way⁴. Looks like giant banks and big-time institutional experts that give professional recommendations to consumer investors badly need advice themselves on how not to fall into a deep hole.

At the individual level, does anyone you know happen to be an investor (speculator) in Jade Technologies eyeing a promising pot of gold with the company's group president's takeover offer? If the takeover had materialized, money would have flowed into the investors' pockets. Unfortunately, with the collapse of the takeover and the crash of the stock price to basement level⁵, money is gushing out. It is crystal clear that money in a market pool is always flowing here and there in different directions at different times. In the pool, there is not really any overall increase or decrease in valuable wealth. Put in another way, money comes out and goes in from pocket to pocket. (Money pooled and passed around in turn – is there any resemblance to the tontine schemes that our grandparents participated in for a quick and handy lump sum to meet urgent needs?)

A little consolation for ordinary non-greedy folks is the fact that whatever the figures that are blown away from the books, the real wealth on the ground in their possessions may still remain intact. For example, if a thousand houses in an estate drop in value from a million dollar each to half, the same estate of wealth is there. Does anyone seriously think that one thousand houses valued at one million dollars each by professional valuers can ever truly translate into one thousand million dollars in total, assuming that everyone seeks to convert the physical wealth to cash?

⁴ After selling US\$4.4b worth of stock to Temasek Holdings, Merrill Lynch might still have to write down another US\$10b to 15b, after a previous US\$7.9b. That was the estimate reported in Straits Times 31st Dec. GIC committed 11billion Swiss francs (S\$14.4b) to UBS and US\$6.88b to Citigroup. However, this aside, Citigroup still had exposure to US\$29b collateralised debt obligations (BT 17th Jan). As at beginning of Apr, UBS wrote down a further \$26.2b, and analysts are saying that GIC should take up UBS' rights issue as, otherwise, "it may see its 9 per cent stake in UBS diluted." (ST 3rd Apr). Depressing indeed!

⁵ Jade Tech shares plunged 71% (ST 8th Apr)

If all properties have their true quantified monetary values, then they should be convertible to the cash equivalent of their indicated worth. Unfortunately, the truth is that there won't be enough money in the world to buy them up. So taken altogether, a gigantic proportion of their measured worth on paper is actually nothing.

Credit and debt instruments, paper promissories, etc. are all human inventions that multiply according to demand (albeit superior to banana notes) banking on the promise of future (redemption) – not like physical scarce resources that are in sight and cannot be man-made at whims. In the stock market, companies are often overvalued by the share prices that chase prospective earnings. Hence, the so-called market capitalization of a company is often unreal when compared with the wealth that is actually realizable should the company close shop even in healthy circumstances. In the human world of greed, duplicity and self-deceit, a lot of so-called wealth is just created from thin air. It is easily blown away with just a whiff; what you see now, in a moment it is gone. It is illusory, quite contrasting the real tangible wealth in livestock, silver and gold like what Abram was said to possess in Gen 13:2.

Those who are not greedy have the ability to retain their wealth, but the covetous are the ones prone to be tempted out of their wealth like a dog that jumps into the water to get at “another” it sees there with a bone in its mouth.

People who seem to have vast riches on paper don't bat an eyelid to pay \$10 000 for a concoction of dessert presented in a diamond-encrusted chalice; but for the “poor”, a few dollars for a similar dessert in an ordinary cup is equal wealth to satisfy.

When a rich man produces a good crop through hard work, it should be good for consumption, for sharing among neighbours, and what goes round will come round. When you have a house, you use it for dwelling, not for keeping vacant to collect cobwebs or to keep pouring money into

its maintenance without actually having any use for the house. Surely, you don't go around collecting houses or wealth without utility to your life.

It is not surprising that to different degrees (from 1% to 99%), we are all guilty of hoarding riches, like the warning in James 5:3.

The wealth that we possess and put to its good utility value is not part of the hoard. However, we would be like the rich fool in the parable that Jesus told in Luke 12:13-21 for that percentage of our wealth that is laid up (instead of shared with people in need) to give us the false comfort of saying, "I have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." You may just have plenty of rice grains stockpiled to give you the comfort of having enough to last you through a food crisis; it is vain comfort for your tummy when much of your stocks go to feeding weevils. If it does not rent one's heart to think of how a selfish action chases prices up without increasing real wealth, and also deprives the poverty-stricken of their staple food, then I do not know what would. Pray that the world has more poor wise than rich fools.

It is better we store up less but is rich toward God.

We neither need to exchange our bank accounts for cowrie shells nor emulate the naked simplicity of the Wolani as a way of life. Civilizations are, after all, so superglued to their intelligent invention (money) that it is impossible to get unstuck without tearing the fabric. However, the primitive tribes' resourcefulness to maintain their existence and survivability in corners of the world today, hemmed in overwhelmingly by modernization, is a testament of the fact that the so-called progress of man carries with it tremendous excesses that serve a lot of superfluous wants, way beyond the true needs that can be adequately met by nature's (God's) provision. Alas! Instead of managing the invaluable nature and using it responsibly, we are destroying the wealth of the world to our own peril.

John Lee

Girls' Brigade



30th March, three companies of Girls' Brigade had their Enrolment Service at

Enrolment 2008

JCC. It was a large turnout of young girls from three schools around Jurong, the biggest contingent was made up of the juniors from Shuqun Primary School. As you look at this picture, you can see that they can fill up the MPH. Pray that one day, they will do so.

Indeed the harvest is plentiful, are you willing to labour with the GB officers to reap the harvest?



Boys' Brigade

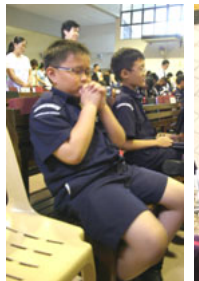


13th April –

The Junior and Senior boys of Shuqun Primary and Secondary Schools, respectively, were gathered at JCC for their Enrolment Service.



The parade was precision and the food was sufficient. Even some of the ex-BB boys came back to give support and encouragement to the event.



Will Your Anchor Hold?
 When our eyes behold the gath'ring night,
 The city of gold, Our home, our bright,
 We shall anchor fast to the heav'n-ly shore,
 With the storms all





Thank God I don't have to serve in the Council because the young people volunteered to sit in.



Which one should I choose?



Samuel T.

PULSE

5th Anniversary Celebration



More Photos...



Josel – the star of the show



Tonight is a time of reminiscence, a time of thanksgiving and also a time of celebration!

It's a time of reminiscence! As we look back at all the familiar faces in our 5 years of Pulse Ministry, for many of us, I'm sure it's definitely not those Bible lessons you remember. Neither is it the sermons by Pastor Anthony. But more so the fun and laughter from our very first Pulse camp to the one we had last December at PGP, the fond memories of the Easter Outreach musical, the excitement of burying our very own Pulse time capsule, the joy of knowing we are blessing others by collecting food supplies in the Food-from-the-Heart project and even more so the solid friendship you've forged among yourselves through all the activities and interaction within your cell groups and the whole Pulse Ministry. But for some of us, it's a time to reminisce the struggles and challenges we've been through in establishing our present-day Pulse Ministry, including what we have now called the MPH. It wasn't easy, but we've seen how God has worked wonders over the past 5 years.

It's a time of thanksgiving! In Greek, thanksgiving is called eucharistia. The heart of the word is charis, which means grace. The heart of the word charis is chairō, which means "to rejoice".

Thanksgiving means to rejoice in God's presence for blessings received freely from Him. It is joy expressed in word and deed toward God for His grace. Our Pulse Ministry is moving towards Loving God and Loving Man. Just as we should acknowledge and thank God for His grace and faithfulness, I'd like to now acknowledge certain people without whom you wouldn't be sitting here this evening:

Uncle **Swee Leong** – Being a strong advocate of the vision to establish a youth ministry in JCC

Uncle **Wong Mui** – significant role in the building of the MPH

Uncle **Wilfred**

Uncle **James Tan**

Rev **Martin Yee** – our church pastor then who supported the youth ministry

Pastor **Anthony** & Uncle **Patrick** – grooming of youth leaders

And to the rest of the adults, who have the interest of the youths at heart and have lent your support all these years, fellow youths, let's thank them once again.

A few days back someone told me, "Benedict, go and check out my blog." I was wondering "for what". But when I went to take a look, I was simply amazed by the number of people that were involved in the planning of this Pulse Anniversary. This someone not only gave

thanks to God for His grace, but also remembered almost everyone who had helped make this evening a reality. From Pastor Chang, to the planning committee and to many of you here, youths and adults included, this someone remembered you all. But let's also remember this someone whose passion for the youths led her to

persevere to bring us this Pulse Anniversary night. On behalf of everyone here, I thank you Josel.

Lastly, it's a time of celebration! With all those memories and thanksgivings, let's truly enjoy ourselves and celebrate Pulse's 5th Anniversary! Thank you.

The PULSE Ministry was started in the year 2003 when God placed a vision in the hearts of His people to groom and build up the younger generation.

The vision for the ministry – “Heartbeat of God, Heartbeat for man” – clearly set the direction which God had in His plan to grow the young ones towards the Kingdom and to extend the Kingdom through the ministry of the youths.

Five years have gone by. After five years of perseverance, five years of living through faith being tested, we now get to taste the fruit of the labour. Yes, seeds were sown and some had fallen by the wayside. Thankfully, the seeds that fell on fertile soil have produced good fruit. We see how the childishness of kids has in the course of time given way to the enthusiasm and energy of grown-up youths. We see how promising youth leaders are maturing in service and continuing their good work as they transit into adulthood.

The youth leaders planned for a dinner celebration at Qian Xi Restaurant (Tanjong Katong Complex) on **19th April 2008**. Before the event, those who went for the dinner might have expected food to be the main item on the menu with a side offering of drinks. They were not quite right. Though the food was good and drinks were free-flowing (sans liquor), the programme of entertainment put up by the youths – a long puppet show by Min Hui and Xiu Feng, a skit with a beautiful message put up by another group of youths, games with prizes, etc. – showed that a lot of effort had been put in to make the event a success. The youths made and executed the celebration plan with amazing confidence and talents.

PULSE coordinator, Benedict Lee, had a special word of appreciation for Josel who headed the event's planning committee – Her hard work, passion for the youths, thoughtfulness in acknowledging the large number of people involved in planning, and humility in remembering to give thanks to God for His grace all did not go unnoticed.

John Lee

DO YOU LOVE GOD – AND SACRIFICE FAMILY?



How much do you love God?

Jesus instructed in Matthew 22:37 that you should “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

If you have to choose between God and the people you love in this world, who will you love more? Will you put God first? If your family stands in the way of your love for God, will you sacrifice your family?

To say “Love God and sacrifice family” is to make a very strong statement. It will most likely make some people be in awe of the depth of “love” you have for God; yet, it will also cause a multitude to look askance at the rectitude of your thoughts and action.

Truth is that though we love God very much, we also love our family very much. The two loves are not mutually exclusive. In fact, the more you love God and follow His teachings, the more your life testimony will exude this love that grows your capacity to love the people around you more, including your family.

In Matthew 4:21, Jesus called James and John, sons of Zebedee, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” And they immediately followed Him leaving their aged father behind. One with fertile imagination might conceive of the father ‘cursing’ them for being ‘unfilial’ to leave him alone to handle the family fishing business. On the other hand, the positive-thinking persons get to see the contrary; i.e., Zebedee, the loving father, readily and cheerfully released his children to the service of God. In the process, with the discovered capabilities of hired help to fill the manpower gap, the business flourished with God’s blessing. James and John loved God more than their own father. Yet, their decision to follow Jesus did not amount to a forsaking of the interests of their father or the family business. Even though they loved Jesus more (in some relative sense), they did not cease loving their father more (at least for his willingness or non-obstruction in letting them go.) While James and John walked away to follow Jesus, there is no suggestion in the Scripture story that they walked out on their father.

When you love someone wholeheartedly, you will show your love in your actions. You’ll want to spend more time with the person. Actions speak louder than words. If you love God very much, you’ll wholeheartedly do His will, give your offerings and deliver your faith promises cheerfully, all the



more when you see the Day approaching, and you'll know you will be richly rewarded as you have done the will of God. You will also read the Bible diligently and spend time alone with Him regularly. You will be willing to bear His cross and follow Him.

Jesus says in Matthew 10:37-38 that "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son and daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me"; yet, in Ephesians 6:1, Paul says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Clearly, loving God does not mean abandoning the love for our parents. As said above, the two loves are not mutually exclusive. (A man's love for his wife and his love for his mother are not mutually exclusive. You may perhaps think of other examples of 2 loves that can be held steady simultaneously.)

God loves us more than we love Him. If not, He wouldn't have sent His only Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. This is LOVE, not that we loved God, but that He had loved us first. Our love could never measure up to His great love, and the only thing we can show our love for Him is by loving one another, including loving our family. Understanding this is fundamental to our hope for God's love to be made complete in us. "Follow Jesus and abandon family" is certainly not what the Lord wants of his disciples.

John Lee



Dialect Ministry showing love to Seline's dad on his 80th birthday celebration on 24th April 2008.



email from Down Under....

Ian and Merryl Holland with their teen daughter, Meaghan, came from Australia and worshipped in JCC for a few months this year. The Jurong West Care Group had the privilege of having them in fellowship with us. Now, they have returned to Australia, they also remember fondly their time with us. Here is an excerpt of an email from Australia dated 18th April:

Meaghan was welcomed back to her skills training centre, but she has been finding it difficult to get started in the mornings since it is quite cool here and bed is nice and cosy! She also returned to Bocce on Sat and was given a rousing welcome.



Ian is still catching up with all the mail, family members, and mates which is usual for him after a prolonged absence.

I worked a 12 hour shift in the Nursery on Wed night and was really tired. (Hate to say it, but I'm feeling my age!) It was great being back with work colleagues and especially the babies and their mothers. My job was mainly helping mothers with feeding and looking after their premature infants.

My older daughter, Kirsten, celebrated her Birthday yesterday. We hope to go out to lunch with her and her partner this weekend - he also had a Bday this week. My son, Malcolm visited for lunch, and Andrew and his wife, Jenny visited after their antenatal checkup. Our youngest son came for dinner last night and we shared a roast - 1st roast since leaving for Singapore in Jan!

Am missing the Hawker stalls, the friendly noise of people chatting together etc, but not the heat and humidity. .

I thought of you all at JCC on Sun morning as I returned to 8am service with about 50 people instead of 200! However, the message is the same as God's love is shown to us in so many different ways.

Will look forward to hearing from you.

Merryl

Thoughts from Ching Ming Festival



Should Christians bow or kneel before the altars of the deceased?

Should they hold the incense and kowtow? Are they able to help prepare whatever paraphernalia supposedly for the deceased, like what is commonly termed “hell notes”?

Should the living keep the token money wrapped in red paper and the red thread that comes with it, both purportedly being able to ward off bad luck?

In some families that are steeped in Chinese traditions of ancestor veneration, Christian members of the household may at times be put on the spot to choose between abiding by the expectations of their stern elders (or else be deemed as unfilial) and staying clear of the practices that are incompatible with Christian beliefs.

What can Christians do so as not to offend their living relatives or family members who are pre-believers?

Filial piety is very important in a traditional Chinese family. Time-honoured concepts of 二十四孝⁶ and teachings on 不孝有三，无后为大⁷ bear this out. Filial piety extends beyond the grave and is held in deep reverential regard by the living. The children must love and respect their living parents. When the parents pass on, they must also pay their respects by providing offerings to take care of the deceased’s welfare in the afterlife. During the Ching Ming Festival, ancestral rites come alive at the clans’ graveyards, in temples where the urns containing the deceased’s remains are kept and in homes with ancestral tablets. To the traditional Chinese, the rites are a symbol of family continuity extending across the boundary between life and death – continuing relationships not broken by death.

One of the practices in funeral rites is bowing before the deceased’s altar to show respect, and offering incense. Christians are confronted with the question of

⁶24 [examples of filial piety](#) (selected by 郭居敬 [of the Yuan Dynasty](#))

⁷ Of three major offences against filial piety, the greatest is not to have a male heir.

whether bowing to an altar is an act of worship as the deceased is considered to have entered the spirit world. Only God is to be revered and worshipped. Bowing to living parents in a show of respect is different. In Genesis 33:3, Jacob bowed down to the ground seven times before his brother Esau; and in Exodus 18:7, Moses bowed before his father-in-law Jethro. Therefore, I feel that we Christians should not bow to our ancestors. However, I know that there are some Christians who view a light tipping of the head as doable, as a visible show of respect with no sentiment of worship in the heart and no holding of incense sticks.

During the recent Ching Ming Festival, I visited an ancestral shrine to pay respects to my late grandparents and relatives. In that ancestral shrine, there are pictures and urns of Christians & Buddhists all placed together in the same hall. There were incense burning and people praying, except that the descendants of the Christian ancestors did not follow in that kind of practice. Christians were free to decide for themselves whether they wanted to enter the shrine to show their respects for their ancestors. If the deceased had been a Christian, his name would definitely be in the Book of Life, and he would have already checked into the heavenly home regardless of where the earthly remains of his body are kept. So Christians could still pay their respects at the same place just like the others, only without burning incense or any act that suggests a communion with the spirits. I saw a deceased couple's urns – the wife's has a cross inscripted (indicating that she was a Christian) but not the husband's.

It is possible for Christians to keep their faith and yet not offend their non-Christian relatives in the matter of showing respect for ancestors. Showing respect, expressing remembrance, is distinctly different from ancestral worship. Usually, family members and relatives show better understanding and acceptance of the Christian who, by some simple act, shows his memory of the ancestors than of the Christian who insensitively sweep aside totally – lock, stock and barrel – all the ancestral practices as irrelevant.

What then are the acceptable ways for Christians to show respect to the deceased and their family at a funeral wake or during a memorial service? Here are some ideas that I have no qualms about:

- Send a wreath or a condolence blanket, or even flowers.
- The Christian may stand before the portrait of the deceased and observe a moment of silence with the head lowered as a sign of respect. He may pray silently to God for blessing of the deceased's family, asking Him to

comfort them through the bereavement. (No need to bow 90 degrees like a Japanese.)

- Do not show too much happiness and chat like you are attending a party as this may be seen as disrespect to the deceased as well as the family members. Jesus expressed sadness at the grave of Lazarus and He wept.
- At the wake, it's not necessary to take the red thread or the small red wrapper with a coin inside, as we have already got journey mercy in Christ Jesus.
- Washing of our face with the bucket of water strewn with flowers is not necessary. This is also a symbol of warding off any evil spirit or misfortune associated with a funeral. But it's fine if we wash our hands just for cleanliness.

These are just some basic things I would do. It would be beneficial for readers to share their views.

Sally Lee



Cambodia Nite

2nd April 2008 – JCC Mission Committee organized a Wednesday

night event to promote Cambodia Missions. The night started out with a fun game similar to the TV program “Are you smarter than a 5th Grader – Khmer Version”. Following this, 2 sisters shared their testimonies about the Cambodia Trips and then Rev Dr Chang shared a short devotion followed by a vision of the Cambodia Missions in the years to come.



The people were challenged and many responded in various ways, going for mission trips, prayer and financial support, help in organizing mission programs, eg Mission Month.



At the end, Cambodian food was served, prepared by some sisters. I am quite sure the people enjoyed the food because there were not much leftovers.



Notice the new make-over Missions Notice Board at the Fellowship Hall on the ground floor. Step by step we are moving forward. Let's move together.



Mission Committee members