



## Jurong Christian Church

The Vine Committee

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## Editor's Word

May was a month I attended many funeral wakes, Young Kwang's mother's wake, followed by Tony's father's wake and in quick succession, Peter's mother's wake. The Dialect Ministry was activated in every instance. Seems like whenever there is a funeral, who are you going to call? The Dialect Ministry! This is the group of people who are working to get your old folks to know Christ, to fellowship with other Christians and in the end to send them off on their way home. Can this ministry survive with a few stalwarts holding the fort week after week while some have left for other ministries?

June is World Cup month and many people are physically or mentally in South Africa watching their favourite teams battle it out for a golden cup. June is also my birthday month and I received a book about a Chinese Christian called Bro Yun. Usually, I don't read books about Chinese Christians, eg John Sung, Watchman Nee and others because I am too westernized to understand their writings. However, when I began to read Bro Yun's book, I find it quite interesting as he compares the Western Christian to the Chinese Christian. I would like to share some excerpts from his book for your consideration. The following are all quoted (extracted) from the book **Living Water**.

**Chapter 1 Repentance** - *Instead of people hearing that God's kingdom is available to all those who are willing to forsake the world and wholeheartedly follow Jesus, thousands of sermons are preached every Sunday in which Jesus is presented as a Saviour only, but not as Lord and Master. People are told "Jesus will help you, bless you, forgive you and empower you." But very little is said about repentance, humility and sacrifice.*

**Chapter 3 Forgiveness** - *Bitterness is what happens to you when you will not forgive. Bitterness is to hold on to an injustice that has been done to you. The Bible indicates that when a Christian is destroyed by bitterness, it not only ruins them, but it ruins other people as well. (Heb 12:15) A bitter person tends to spread the poison in their heart to others around them. Friendships often break*

*up through bitterness, and then mutual friends are forced to choose sides, which leads to more trouble and pain.*

*The first time I was arrested for the gospel in China was very difficult. Somehow in my heart I thought that as a servant of God I was entitled to special treatment in prison. I did receive special treatment, but not the kind I was hoping for! I was severely beaten until my whole body was covered in blood and bruises, and much of my hair was torn from my scalp.*

*For a time I harboured bitterness against the men who had done this to me, but the gracious Lord Jesus taught me that there is absolutely no point in withholding forgiveness towards anyone, regardless of what they have done.*

**Chapter 6 The Person God Uses** – *Since leaving China I have come to see there is a serious misunderstanding among many Christians around the world when it comes to being a worker in God's kingdom. In the West, especially, the gospel has been intellectualized to such an extent that there is almost no mention of true faith and trust in Jesus anymore. Academic qualifications and speaking ability are held in high regard, while spiritual maturity, character and the call of the Holy Spirit have been relegated in importance and largely consigned to being irrelevant when it comes to God's work.*

*Some Christian journalists have even gone so far as to mock our plans, claiming that people from poor, uneducated farming backgrounds will never be able to serve God, and that only Christians with university degrees have a chance at fruitful ministry.*

*The way of the world is always to look at human credentials as the prerequisite for success. We look for the strongest, most attractive, most educated, thinking God's work can be accomplished through human effort. (1 Samuel 16:6-7)*

*After I left China, I discovered that pastors in the West have Mondays off and go on summer holidays every year. In China, the believers have no opportunity to take holidays, so the Lord graciously becomes our travel agent and books us in for a time of much-needed rest at a prison.*

There are many more teachings in this book but you will have to buy yourself a copy otherwise I may be accused of plagiarism.

Are you qualified to serve the Lord?

*Martin Cheah.*

# Cambodia Updates

Hi Pastor Anthony

Hope all things are well at JCC. Indeed I miss worshipping with the JCCians and always give thanks for JCC supporting me to come to Cambodia.

Recently I received a short devotion extracted from Max Lucado's – **Facing your Giant**. He mentioned this – Focus on giants – You stumble, Focus on God – Your giants tumble... I read this book before I came to Cambodia and it touched my heart deeply before I embarked on this journey.

I was once again reminded to take every opportunity to magnify God, instead of the problems we are facing.

I realized God is always throwing stones into our life to create ripples on the water to bring us back to the shore of His love. So when we encounter a “big ripple” in our lives, it will also be the time that we will experience Him in a greater depth.

Actually I am quite scared as I have not experienced any form of stresses, tiredness, boredom, dreams or any thoughts of going back. It really is much better here than my life in Singapore where every day is a rush - for work, Church matters, BB meeting, cells, etc. No



need to wake up to run at sunrise, mornings with Boys and run at night to ensure my health is in check (now eat more healthy) and also doing house chores like mopping, sweeping and washing clothes... (still doing in BBLC, only washing personal clothing, sweep corridor and staff quarters daily. My staff and I wash all the curtains and made new ones, I look like housewife now! Centre is clean, only my dog Toffee is not, ha, ha! Mr

Sokun cooks well! I enjoy Khmer food already. We spend around US\$2 for two meals a day together with Toffee (he eats a lot and sleep a lot too).

I am enjoying this life free of rich and scheming clients and greedy and profit minded corporate people. Khmer people are not that bad after all, there is a saying that *people are more evil when they are rich and powerful than when they are poor*. So far still coping well with their short sightedness, relationship based practices, which is sometimes right and sometimes wrong. Their less driven nature and their Buddhist's based cultures/celebration may be a "shock" to come. If God is for us who can be against us? I am getting my sling ready (hope same as the one young David had).

Remember that I battled along with my mum with her last stage cancer for nearly four years and her departure, two minor strokes with my dad, did my part time poly/post dip, captain for three programmes, actively served in BB during my ITE, poly and till now, volunteering my time for BB Cambodia, YEP trips, flying all over Asia and Germany for works and sailed South China Sea with Navy, with my health once failing... God walked closely with me, He was there at every step I took, every place I been to, every pain I felt, every victory I achieved, He is always my pillar of cloud when my days are hot and my pillar of fire when my days are dark. BUT don't forget to pray for me. I will face the giants with your help (David was alone then)

Thank God for providing me good sleep as I didn't use mosquito net for past 6 weeks and was having great time with Him. Thank God for providing two wonderful staffs that I am able to work with. Most important, friends like my ex colleagues and friends from BB for visiting me. There will one more visit in June from friends



and also August there will be two YEP leaders coming to visit and going back Singapore with me. My Facebook also been added with so many new

found friends. Daniel, captain from NP Primer, told me they going to commit to come to BBLC for next two years and they just booked December slot for Christmas and New year. 6 primers received Christ during the Good Friday service in BBLC. Is it wonderful (God is simply amazing). They also offered my staff chances to come to Singapore to experience primer programmes. (I have Jonathans in my life, David only had one)

Thank God for BB officers that came to visit me, partnering with me. Thank God for YMCA for funding the tiling of three classrooms and the 5 second-hand laptops for the upcoming resource centre, JCC for praying for me, BB officers from 28th company for keeping me in the loop on what is going on in BB back home, YMCA for sending groups to support us. You all are “stones” that God blessed me with (I have bigger stones than young King David)



I was so thrilled that my BB company received third and fourth placing for Junior adventure quest and Silver honour roll for Senior BB Blaze. Our BB week hit target of \$17k this year! We got 5 baptisms and 2 confirmations during BB Enrolment. Thanks for blessing the ministry I served. God gives me comfort and joys in serving Him. We can't do it without the support of the church members. (I start my run toward the Giant, hoping for the same courage as young David ran toward Goliath)

Now I must stay focus in whatever I can do to honour Him in this land He leads me to.

Let us fixed our eyes on Him and Him alone ... and tumble the giants in our lives. I pray for JCC too, renewal of leadership, new pastor and new building to come.



Chak Mun =>

# The Taiwan Team

God has proved Himself the God of wonders not just by the crushing waves and huge mountains that we seen there but also a Buddhist university which was once named “Spiritual Desert” has students receiving Christ there. God is in control of all and every situations. In Phil 2:13 NLT version it says, “For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.” I witness God’s power working in me, giving me the wisdom and strength to lead the students in this trip and used me to share the gospel and bring the Taiwanese’ students to Christ. Through leading and living together as a team, God mold me in my emotional and communication capacity in relating to others and is still teaching me to love and rebuke people in love.



A total of 58 Pre-believers attended the evangelistic events and heard the Gospel(4 Spiritual laws)•26 out of the 58 received Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, 13 from evangelistic events and 13 from personal evangelism.

In this trip, our team went to HuaLien (花莲), the eastern part of Taiwan to reach out to the university students there. We went to National Dong Hwa University (国立东华大学) with 2 zones, Meilun(美伦区)and Shoufeng(寿丰区), and Buddhist Tzu Chi University (佛教慈济大学), a Buddhist campus. We partnered with the Taiwan Staff and students there to carry out evangelistic events and personal evangelism (street-witnessing) throughout our 3 weeks of trip. We met up with our pre-believer Taiwanese’ friends to have lunch with them and shared the gospel to them daily. During the Evangelistic event, we presented our Singapore delicacies like Laksa, Rojak, Curry chicken and Bandung. We also worshipped God through songs and introduced Singapore culture via playing games with



them. Besides, We also presented skits as well which were some testimonies of our team members that how God changed his/her life, and we ended off with an altar call and a response song after that. At the last part of the program we formed into small groups to share Gospel to them intentionally.

God has worked powerfully through our testimony and gospel sharing that many have come to know the Lord through the Evangelistic



events and one-on-one meet up. The most encouraging Evangelistic event was the last event at Buddhist Tzu Chi University. Campus Crusade started at this Buddhist campus because of one medical professor who prayed for



this campus for 3 years for Christian' students in that campus to rise up and God answered his prayer when one Christian student approached him after knowing that the medical professor was a Christian. The Taiwan staff told us that this campus was called to be a spiritual desert where it was so hard for students to believe in Jesus

because of the spiritual climate there. Amazingly God moved in that campus and 3 students came to receive Christ that night as their personal Lord and Savior. The Taiwan host were so touched that he encouraged the crusaders and the Singapore team to trust God that He is a God of wonders! Since there are students who came to know Jesus in the Buddhist school, God can and will work in other Taiwan campuses and even in Singapore campuses! These sentences really melt our hearts. God does not just stop there, even as we come to our last week of the trip, God sent contacts whose hearts that are soften and almost every day that week there are 2 students who prayed and received Christ each day. The results have also spurred the Taiwan crusaders to share their faith boldly to their classmates.



*Zhi Qiang*

# BECOMING A MIGHTY MAN

by Os Hillman

"All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him." - 1 Samuel 22:2

Have you ever felt that you could accomplish a whole lot more if you had more talented people around you? Perhaps you are in an office and think that some of your fellow workers don't quite measure up. Imagine what David must have thought in the years following his anointing by the prophet Samuel as the next king of Israel. He spent the next many years running from King Saul. Now God was beginning to bring men to support David. But what kind of men? The down-and-out. God gave David not the elite or the sophisticated; He gave him those who were in debt and discontented with life. David turned those men into the best fighting men of their day. In fact, David never lost a battle during his entire reign as king of Israel-quite a feat for a bunch of no-name, lowlifes! Some of those men became an elite group known as David's Mighty Men. These were the elite of the elite, the Navy Seals, the Few Good Men, the Green Berets. Whatever you call them, they were exceptional warriors.

Jesus took a few men who weren't exactly the cream of the crop either. He built His life into these men, which resulted in 12 men who turned the world upside down. Are you one of God's mighty men or women? Are you investing your life to build other mighty men or women? David and Jesus set the example of what can be done when we invest in others. God does extraordinary things through men who have an extraordinary God. Ask God to use your life to be a mighty man or woman for a cause greater than yourself. He delights in such prayers.

**KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR THIS, IT IS COMING SOON.....**



The image shows a ticket for a fund-raising dinner. On the left, there is a vertical red bar with the text "TICKET NUMBER 10001" written vertically. To the right of the bar is a graphic of a red cross standing on a purple and pink rose. The text on the right side of the ticket is as follows:

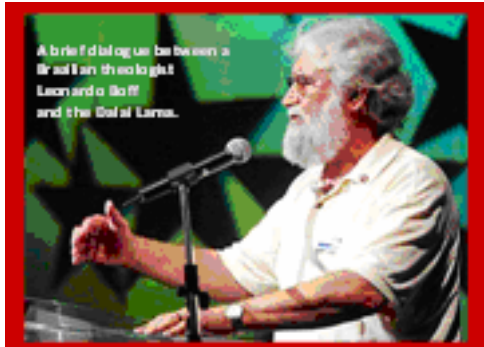
JCC Fund Raising Dinner for Rebuilding of Church  
**裕廊基督教会建堂筹款晚宴**  
JOY GARDEN  
SAFRA Jurong Club  
333 Boon Lay Way #3A-02  
Singapore 649848  
(Opposite Jurong Point/Boon Lay MRT Station)

ADMIT ONE  
Saturday 4 th September 2010 7:00 pm sharp



# ***YOUR RELIGION IS NOT IMPORTANT***

A Christian sister emailed me a PowerPoint presentation which she received from a Buddhist colleague. Here is a transcript of the presentation, which is available on the Internet:



- A brief dialogue between a Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff and the Dalai Lama. **YOUR RELIGION IS NOT IMPORTANT** Leonardo is one of the renovators of the Theology of Freedom.
- In a round table discussion about religion and freedom in which Dalai Lama and myself were participating at recess I maliciously, and also with interest, asked him: “Your holiness, what is the best religion?”
- Which surprised me because I knew of the malice contained in my question. He answered: “**The best religion is the one that gets you closest to God.** It is the one that makes you a better person.” I thought he would say: “The Tibetan Buddhism” or “The oriental religions, much older than Christianity” Dalai Lama paused, smiled and looked me in the eyes ....
- To get out of my embarrassment with such a wise answer, I asked: “What is it that makes me better?” He responded: “Whatever makes you more compassionate, more sensible, more detached, more loving, more humanitarian, more responsible, more ethical.” “The religion that will do that for you is the best religion”
- I was silent for a moment, marvelling and even today thinking of his wise and irrefutable response: “I am not interested, my friend, about your religion or if you are religious or not. “What really is important to me is your behaviour in front of your peers, family, work, community, and in front of the world.” “Remember, the universe is the echo of our actions and our thoughts.”
- “The law of action and reaction is not exclusively for physics. It is also of human relations. If I act with goodness, I will receive goodness. If I act with evil, I will get evil.” “What our grandparents told us is the pure

truth. You will always have what you desire for others. Being happy is not a matter of destiny. It is a matter of options.”

- Finally he said: “Take care of your Thoughts because they become Words. Take care of your Words because they will become Actions. Take care of your Actions because they will become Habits. Take care of your Habits because they will form your Character. Take care of your Character because it will form your Destiny, and your Destiny will be your Life ... and ... **“There is no religion higher than the Truth.”**”

Not a bad presentation, I thought. Undoubtedly, the Buddhist friend who shared the PowerPoint (probably extracted from video on YouTube) wanted his/her recipient to hear the views of the Dalai Lama on religion. The fact that such a sharing can take place openly without offence is a testimony of the religious harmony in place in the society. I always welcome such a sharing on religious viewpoints (without offence) between persons of unlike faiths. Sharing is a two-way street. It does help to develop better understanding of one another’s religious convictions in a multi-religious environment. Whether in the end one party to a sharing buys into the other’s opinion or rejects it, or both agree to disagree, it bodes well if good sense prevails in a civil discourse instead of hurt sensitivities.

As I viewed the PowerPoint presentation, I marvel at the humility of the Brazilian theologian and the intelligent answers by the Dalai Lama to the questions posed to him that were somewhat prickly. More significantly, neither party in the conversations held any offence. The record of the “brief dialogue” between two eminent religious persons would have been more illuminating if there is more detail about the theologian’s response to the Dalai Lama. Did he, for example, express his positive reception of the Tibetan’s religious leader’s apparent acknowledgement of the existence of God when the latter said, **“The best religion is the one that gets you closest to God”**?

Ok, a brief dialogue is a brief dialogue that one may not ask for too much out of it. Nevertheless, it is a good starting point for interested persons to carry on the friendly conversations with a view to growing better insights. Let me pose again the Brazilian theologian’s question, “What is the best religion?”

According to the Dalai Lama, the best religion is the one that gets you closest to God. This begs a follow-up question: “Is it Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, ...?” By human logic, what is best to one may be the worst to another; so by the Dalai Lama’s opinion, if there is a religion X that brings Tom closest to God and a religion Y that brings Mary closest to God, both X & Y qualify as “best religions” in respect of the individuals. There is no absolute. One

may wonder whether the "best religion X" and the "best religion Y" bring both Tom and Mary closest to One God or different gods. I don't know whether anyone who views the PowerPoint would conclude that there is one God or multiple gods, or how one might think about some atheistic (no-god) religion.

I cannot agree more with the wise words of the Dalai Lama that **there is no religion higher than the Truth**. Unfortunately, I could not find any attempt by the dialogue participants to mark out the Truth from their different perspectives. If they had done so and had it recorded, it would definitely enlighten me more. May it be said that the dialogue was left open for us to continue the conversations to find out the Truth that no religion is higher than. The questions I like to pose to myself and for any interested person to contribute his/her opinion for my information are:

- **What is the "best religion" that would get me closest to God?**
- **What is the Truth that I ought to seek?**

**The message I glean from the Bible is that there are many Thomas-es who don't know where they are going, so how can they know the way? (John 14:5) Jesus' answer, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Jesus is the way that gets one to God. Jesus is the Truth.**

With many religions in the world, each claiming to teach the truth, it is important for a person to seek the Truth and know what it embraces, failing which the consequence is one's own. If different religions teach contradictory "truths", and they variously get individuals closest to the gods that are conflicting, surely it cannot be that all are right although it may well be that all are wrong. What then is the right One – the Truth?

**It is good for people to ask questions about religions and be willing to listen to the answers instead of having ears stitched up and minds pre-programmed to rebuff all and sundry. By questioning and seeking, hope is that the Truth will be revealed and be accepted.** However, it is dire for one's future (call it destiny, fate, providence or by any likeable term) to simply "don't bother" or be dismissive with "I am not interested" assertions until it is too late for one's eternal fulfillment. I see no wrong for me as a Christian to courteously invite a person of another religion to Church or talk to him respectfully about Christianity; it is up to him to accept or decline according to his free will without feeling offended. SIMILARLY, I should not be offended by a person of another religion talking to me about his religion or inviting me to his place of worship although it is

according to my free will to accept or decline without feeling offence. **This is one way of I look at the golden rule of doing to others (sharing things about my faith) what I do not mind them doing to me (sharing their faith), with each of us retaining our freedom for personal decisions. I strongly believe that no religion can be forced on anybody – if acceptance is coerced, where is there any heart conviction to speak of and hence where is the value?**

For the record, I have ever stepped into a synagogue, temple, mosque and Roman Catholic Church. SIMILARLY, people of non-Christian faiths have also ever stepped into Church. This is religious harmony at work. It is nice if people of different faiths could freely talk with courtesy, agree or disagree without offence instead of telling each other to "shut up and mind your own faith." Anyone of any religion wants to talk to me?

Respectfully differing from the Dalai Lama, I hold this view:

"Your religion is important for me to understand as much as I think my religion is important for you to understand – at least for the sake of peaceful co-existence on the basis of mutual understanding."

I prefer others not to be dismissive of my Christian faith as unimportant just as I do not dismiss others' faiths as unimportant. I welcome people of other faiths to share with me what they understand of their own faiths; likewise I won't want to stand on ceremony if other people welcome me to share with them my faith.

In conclusion: **YOUR RELIGION IS IMPORTANT.**

*John Lee*

*If you think you are too Young to be in the Council, consider these people:*

- Perpetua (the courageous early martyr) was only 22.
- Athanasius of Alexandria was 29 when he argued successfully for the divinity of Christ at the historic Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- Martin Luther was in his early 30s when he nailed his 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg .
- John Calvin was just 26 when he penned his landmark tome, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- Charles Spurgeon was only 19 when he was called to take the pastorate of London 's famed New Park Street Chapel, the largest Baptist congregation in all of England at the time.
- Missionary Jim Elliot and musician Keith Green both died before 30.

# TURN YOUR LEFT CHEEK

It is common life experience that a spirit of vengeance more often than not protracts a conflict rather than solves any dispute. Instead of melting anger and bringing about reconciliation, hatred passes down – sometimes even to the extent of continuing from generation to generation. It does no one any good.

## What does Jesus have to say?

This is recorded in Matthew 5:39, ***“But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”***

This command is hard to swallow; nay, impossible to obey. Yes, it is so if you read it literally. Actually, as in any language, the use of imagery to convey a message is not unusual. Here, Jesus is using figurative language to compare and contrast. This is obvious from the word “But” at the beginning of the Bible verse and the verse that precedes it, 5:38, ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’”***

Instead of resisting the slap on the right cheek (interpreted by some commentators as a back-handed slap, an insult rather than real physical violence), bear with it. Instead of retaliating (eye for eye, tooth for tooth) and thus spiraling the confrontation to the extreme of reciprocal violence unimaginable, wouldn’t the opposite extreme of acquiescing with the left cheek look much better? John Calvin puts it succinctly:

*“When wrong has been done them (believers) in a single instance, he (Christ) wishes them to be trained by this example to meek submission, that by suffering they may learn to be patient.” – “Harmony of Matthew, Mark and Luke” (Calvin’s NT Commentaries)*

From time to time, we may be offended by people. Our pride may be hurt, but no bones broken. Considering our rightful choices, vengeance is definitely not in the list. Vengeance begets vengeance. There are occasions when patience and love as true disciples of Christ contribute better to peace and reconciliation. Patience and love will not add fuel to fire, although it may require a bit of a thick skin (in common human parlance).

For serious infractions when love and patience alone is not adequate, the offended may deliver the offender to an impartial judge (for e.g., the authorities as God’s servants; Romans 13) for a fair hearing of facts and decision on the appropriate punishment. Personal emotions, bias and anger should not come into play. The spirit of vengeance should still be kept at bay; repaying evil for evil, out of the question.

*John Lee*

***“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:44-45***

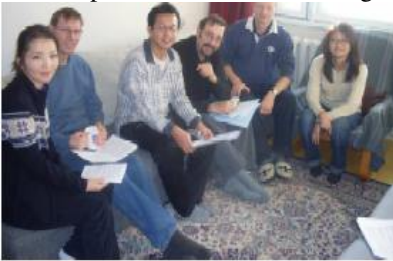
# *Our harvest fields...*

## **MONGOLIA** by Pastor Jimmy Khoo

OMF, the mission agency we go with, that provides the training and preparation, puts a strong emphasis on language learning. OMF believes that to learn the language is to learn the culture also, which is the key to effective ministry.



Besides our language class, we also home-school our children, Joseph(11 years old) and Janice(8 years old). Together with other missionary kids, they would be in the home-school centre where they would do their own studies and come together for art, sports and creative learning.



We are worshipping at Bayariin Meede Church, the Mongolian church pastored by Pastor Puje. We also pop by an international church from time to time, where a few Singaporean families worship. We are slowly discovering more about the varied missionary works that are around and the challenges the Mongolian people face.

## **CAMBODIA** by Rev Dr William Chang

Project Daily Bread (Feeding) Programme. Kg Chhnang is one of the poorest provinces of Cambodia. Many children have only one meal a day. We plan to feed about 200 such children and adults a meal a day for 5 days a week. For starters we are feeding about 50 children and a few adults because of budget constraint. Each meal cost half US50 cents.



Project Love at First Sight Dr Yining organized a cataract camp which benefited 30 elderly. This particular project has made the presence of Christ and our God felt among them, especially the elderly. In Singapore, it would cost about \$3000 per patient. But it cost us USD50 (SGD 70) only! Our doctors not only do it free but also bear their own expenses.





# TRUE CHRISTIAN UNITY

*by James Candiah, Ever with THE LORD*

Today, unwary Christians, including many evangelicals, are entrapped in the ecumenical snare, believing the slogan used by the ecumenists "That they may be one"(John 17:11) to be our LORD'S injunction to the Church to come together. Their strategy is: dialogue, patience, fellowship, cooperation, unity. They contend, "let's work, pray and worship together. Eventually, all differences will disappear and unity will materialize. The one over-riding concern is unity at all costs. This mode of argument has no scriptural foundation. Nowhere in the New Testament is there any command that we must be friendly, uncritical and tolerant in areas of doctrine and truth.

## True Unity

GOD'S Holy Word speaks of another kind of unity. It is of those who are 'born again' of the Spirit (John3:5), are partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet 1:4), have been quickened to new life (Eph 2:1), are new creatures (2 Cor 5:17), fellow citizens with the saints, and belong to the household of GOD (Eph 2:19). Obviously, such a unity cannot come about by man's effort. It's part and parcel of our precious salvation in JESUS CHRIST - through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Christian unity is of those who have received the Gospel, who belong to CHRIST, having been called out of the world, they are not of the world. They know ('yada') GOD, are keeping HIS WORD and believe that GOD sent JESUS CHRIST. The apostle Paul in his epistle to Ephesians sheds



more light on this unity. They are in CHRIST of those chosen in HIM before the foundation of the world (1:4), who were predestinated unto the adoption of children (1:5), redeemed through HIS blood and have forgiveness of sins (1:7), who have heard the Gospel of salvation, have trusted in HIM, and are sealed with the Holy Spirit (1:13). They form the body (1:23), CHRIST being the Head (1:22). In HIM, they have fellowship (3:9) and unity, as the family of GOD (3:15).

This kind of unity is way too precious and must be protected at all cost.

## **Causes of Disunity**

A common cause is the tendency to look to men and not focusing on the LORD. This leads to formation of cliques or factions. The Corinthian church is a case in point. Paul in his letter states, "For it hath been declared unto me....that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of CHRIST. Is CHRIST divided?..."(1 Cor 1 :11-13).

An even more important cause of disunity is false doctrine. When such doctrine infects Christians, two things happen: (a) their unity, one with another, is broken; (b) their unity with CHRIST is also broken. How important it is then, to segregate our Church from the inroads of false doctrine. A church built upon the WORD of GOD remains rooted---steadfast and secure, its people united as one family.

A third group of causes of disunity is described in Ephesians 4. These are the sins of pride, impatience, lack of love, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil-speaking, malice and such-like. When members fall into these sins, the peace and harmony of the whole congregation suffer. There is no unity. Insubordination and a spirit of self-importance can also swiftly erode the unity within the church. There must be a spirit of humility among members, "submitting one to another in the fear of GOD"(Eph 5:21).



## **Safeguard Our Unity**

What can we do to safeguard and preserve unity in the Church? We, as members of HIS body, should give attention to the instruction of the WORD. It is the LORD'S will that all believers should remain united (John 17). In Ephesians 4:1-6, Paul is explicit in saying what true unity entails. It is not just about being friendly, good-natured and coming

together for some good cause. GOD'S WORD elevates it to the highest realm of the blessed Holy Trinity. We should be united as GOD is ONE.

If we value our Christian Unity, we must constantly fix our eyes on JESUS and not on any man. The moment we shift our attention to man, we are in danger of becoming disunited. Let us look only to JESUS, the author and finisher of our faith.

# THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Chaos Theory in Mathematics states that there is a possibility of an underlying order in seemingly random data. For example, prime numbers are apparently limitless and random. If you lay out 1000 sequential positive integers on a rectangular grid and circle out the primes, you will notice that the primes are haphazardly spread out. Try the same experiment with the aid of computer software to zoom in on an array of a million integers, 10 million integers, or more; you may then notice the primes clustering in patterns within the set of positive integers.

If the universe of numbers that is relatively easy to handle with computers is too huge for you to extract a picture of order or to fathom the massive hidden information awaiting discovery, what level of intellect would you need to grasp the breadths and depths of the planetary systems, the galaxies, the vast cosmos and the infinity of space beyond the universe? Telescoping backwards to the atoms and the sub-atomic levels, forget about electrons orbiting the protons like planets orbiting a star, but puzzle over hadrons and quarks. Sometimes, I sense that physical designs in nature bear a picture of 3-dimensional fractals akin to such shapes in 2D. From quarks to quasars, the wisest man on Earth can only be mind-boggled by so much that he cannot understand. Will the know-all stand out among the crowd?

The Butterfly Effect exemplifies the unpredictable possibilities (or predictable impossibilities) in a chaotic system. What this theory claims is that when a butterfly flaps its wings, the perturbation will be amplified to set off a windstorm half a world away. Or, as a meteorologist once remarked in a scientific paper, “one flap of a seagull’s wings is enough to alter the course of the weather forever.” Far-fetched?

The El Nino exhibits the Butterfly Effect: A small rise of  $0.5^{\circ} - 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the Pacific Ocean temperature is enough to set off climatic disasters (monsoons and droughts) in faraway places. A seemingly insignificant and harmless event can be magnified manifold in dire effects.

If nature in its chaos does exhibit the predictability of certain massively disproportionate outcomes of random incidents, should we not also be mindful of the potential inexorability of far-reaching outcomes due to small man-made events in the chaotic human world?

A little wild experiment here, a little irresponsibility there; man has been tinkering with nature here (in the name of science for human advancement) and exploring destructive forces there (for human annihilation in the name of self-defence preparedness) – it is not unimaginable that a teeny-weeny happening somewhere (“cleverly” explained away as trivial) might have a disastrous upshot elsewhere some time. There are too many ways that foolish man can press a self-destruct button without salvation.

*John Lee*

“If the earth does grow inhospitable toward human presence, it is primarily because we have lost our sense of courtesy toward the earth and its inhabitants.” – Thomas Berry

# Happenings in May/June



16 May

## **Installation**

Pastor Andrew Thinagaran

Council: Richard Lee, Derrick Lee, Yew  
Moi, Thomas Tan and Joseph Liang

23 May

## **Confirmations:**

Jonathan Goh, Winston and Ryan Neo,  
Erina Yam, Hannah and Diana Koh

## **Baptisms:**

Helen Sim, Gabriel Lim and Amos Lee

9 May

## **Baptism @ Dialect Service**

Mdm Ang Bee Geok

20 June

## **Baptisms:**

Lisa Foo, Tan Lam Bee and Wing Ter



# DESARU DURIAN TRIP

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 29, 2010 – It was 7.00 am in the morning when over 50 people, mainly elderly, gathered at JCC. Their objective was to make a trip up to Desaru in Johor Baru to eat durians and see fireflies. It was an enjoyable trip but I am not here to recount all the events of that long day which ended at 10.30 pm when we finally reached JCC that same night. My purpose is to share with you the blessings and protection we received from Our Father.

If you will recall, the day before, Friday, there was such a heavy downpour that many parts of Singapore were flooded, including parts of Jalan Boon Lay. However, on that particular Saturday, it was very fine sunny weather. The ground was dry which made it easier for the elderly to walk in the gardens of the fruit farm and ostrich farm. It also made it possible to push Auntie Ang in the wheelchair. Furthermore, if it had rained, the firefly expedition would have had to be cancelled but instead, we had a nice clear starry sky and even a semi-eclipsed moon to shine on our boat ride in the totally dark river. I remember that on the following day, Sunday, it was raining in the morning.



Passing through the customs was also quite smooth so that we were able to reach back in Singapore about an hour earlier than expected.

One incident did shock us somewhat. Auntie Lily from the Chinese Section had a bad fall at the firefly station. We were in the middle of nowhere, no medical facilities and there was a swelling on her forehead. When we have nowhere to turn, we turned to God and prayed. She managed to complete the trip and even to view the fireflies but on her way back to Singapore, we received message that her legs were also hurt, so much, that she had difficulty in walking. We prayed even more. Thank God, the next day, Sunday, she was back in church for the Dialect Service walking on her own.



God is indeed good to us and we continue to pray that those pre-Christian friends and parents that came along for the trip will be blessed through our fellowship over the meals, especially the durian binge session. May God make a way for them to come to Him.







# Family Day - May 1st

