



Jurong Christian Church

The Vine Committee

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Volume 9 and 10/2010

For internal circulation only

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Editor's Word

History is passing us by at a very fast pace. In a very short while, the last train will pull out of Tanjong Pagar Railway Station for the last time. I thought of asking my cell group to hop

on board for maybe the first and last time on a short trip to Johor before it is too late.

Another part of history has passed away as I write this. Our dear Minister Mentor's wife had just passed away. I pray that her hope was in the One who can bring her safely into eternal joy and peace, to a place where "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev 21:4)

Isn't life meaningless as things and people pass away and are forgotten as a new generation comes along? King Solomon said, "*For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die!*" (Ecc 2:16) What then is King Solomon's conclusion to life under the sun, "*here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*" (Ecc 12:13)

Do we still consider ourselves young and full of energy and that our final destination is something too distant to think about? "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) Indeed if we have passed our fiftieth birthday, we should consider that 70% of life has passed by. Psalm 90:10 states: "The length of our days is seventy years" on average.

If JCC were to go on for the next 50 over years, it is apparent that those of us over fifty are very unlikely to be around to see it through. Therefore it is very urgent for us to rise up new leaders who are around their thirties to carry JCC through to the next lap.

If you have the hobby of keeping aquarium fish, you will know that it is not advisable to change all the water at once. The fishes may die due to the sudden

change of water. I think the advisory is to change only 20% of the water with fresh water each time. Does this advice apply to change in the leadership of JCC?

Obviously JCC does not have to follow the fish tank rule because God is the head of the church and throughout history He has raised up leaders for His people. In the last 10 years, we have to thank God for the following leaders:

2000	Ronnie Lim	2006	Goh Young Kwang
2001	Ronnie Lim	2007	Tan Swee Leong
2002	Tan Swee Leong	2008	Tan Swee Leong
2003	Tan Swee Leong	2009	Tan Swee Leong
2004	Chong Wong Mui	2010	Thomas Tan
2005	Goh Young Kwang	2011	

Would we have a super strong leadership team if we had all these leaders in the council at the same season? We need a super strong council to carry us through the rebuilding phase of JCC and also a younger team of Joshuas to carry on until the end.

An ideal council for the coming years would comprise a mix of elder members acting as ministry mentors for a new generation of young leaders. There should be people with strong background in rebuilding the physical building and financing such an enterprise. I have a feeling that leaving these tasks to the pastors will hamper their true work - the ministry of the Word, and result in great confusion because building the physical is not their gifting. We should not expect our pastors to be able to understand the intricacies of the building industry if their previous jobs were not in project management.



Yes, JCC has a 43 year history and those who were part of it from its earliest days are now 43 years older. It is time for a new generation of leaders to step up to carry JCC on to the next 56 years of its history.

Martin Cheah

If Your Wife Wants To Learn To Drive, Don't Stand In Her Way....

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

– A Personal Journey



Travis Wong

My personal journey to knowing Christ has always been to me a special affair between me and the Good Lord. In fact, it took me a while to realize upon reflecting on my past that it's rather quite impossible for me to describe my relationship with Him unless I touch on the following topics:

- My Family
- Jurong Christian Church (JCC)
- The Boys' Brigade (BB)

The Beginning

The first step initiated by the Lord for me to know Him happened when I was just 4 or 5 years old. For some reason, my mum enrolled me in JCC's nursery or kindergarten class even though we were not Christians. (We lived in a flat just along Tah Ching Road where JCC is.) I recall that I cried for a few days when my parents decided to enrol me back in the PAP kindergarten a year or so later. And for the next 8 years, I lost contact with the church.

God's divine intervention – Back with JCC

When I was 13 years old, I was enrolled in Shuqun Secondary School. It was the last choice in my list of 6 schools and I only added it in because it was my sister's alma mater and I never really thought I could get a place in the school I chose. But I did end up in Shuqun Secondary School, so I was really upset. I had been heavily involved with the military band in my primary school days, and I had promised my parents that I would not again take on any co-curricular activity that would upset them with me having to spend a lot of time away from home. I did fairly well in school and my parents just preferred me to have more time at home after school. So imagine their consternation when I decided to join the 28th Singapore Boys' Brigade Company, another uniformed group which is also a Christian youth organization! I do not know why I decided to join the BB. It was months later in the 28th Singapore BB Company that I realised that it was actually sponsored by the church (JCC) where I had spent time in pre-school 8 years earlier. In short, I went to pre-school in JCC not by my own decision, was taken out of JCC after one year not by my own wish and years later was brought back to JCC via my secondary school CCA participation not as what I would expect. Although my parents were not enthused about my participation in the BB, moving one full circle back to the church from which they had taken me out, I only understood it years later as a miracle in my life. I hold firm the belief that the Good Lord truly

lay it in my heart that JCC is where He wanted me to be where I would come to know Christ.

Christian Education with the BB

No matter the reason (or lack of) to join the BB, it remains to this day the best decision I ever made in my teenage years. While my parents' pressurising disapproval to my joining the BB often left me distracted and discouraged, the BB and the bond I forged with fellow Boys kept me sane and honest. Frankly, I was hardly a good BB Boy (being horrible at leading and organizing events), but the BB definitely shaped my life in more ways than what I could possibly learn in classrooms and books. The instructions on character-building and Christian education, with the BB badge-work, were my constant motivation to attend every Saturday parade. While many young people (even now) might consider such lessons as dry and theoretical, a setting like this uniformed group really suited me to learn and absorb the lessons being taught. I started to care about other people more than just myself. I started empathising with others. I would spend time with younger Boys who might have personal issues of their own. I knew of one Boy whose parents were divorcing and another who had to work while juggling school and BB because of family situations. I even knew of one who was a good kid but succumbed to bad peer influence. While I was at that time still unable to relate how Jesus could care for me, all of these personal encounters with different Boys helped to reinforce the Christian Education I received and lay a foundation for constant character building, soul-searching as well as continuing understanding of the Christian faith.

My Spiritual Journey with JCC

When I was 17, I became more involved in church while still volunteering as a BB Officer. With the Christian education that I received in my 4 years as a BB Boy, I began to understand the relationship a Christian can have with the Father through Jesus Christ. I started to seek deeper understanding and intimacy in my relationship with the Father and thereby my relationships with the people around me. I began praying acknowledging God as Father and Christ as a King (among many more titles that described Him) and learning to live less by sight but more by faith. With the many friends I have in JCC and many more in the BB, I truly began to learn gradually how I can be a Christian in a family of non-believers and rely on my faith and identity in Christ to pull me through the struggles I face at times.

Does that mean I did not ever stray from my spiritual journey? Of course not! I became less active when I went to serve my NS. Even

though I did come back to JCC a few years after I left the army, I again became inactive again when my career demanded my weekends. A lapse in judgement in both cases were the result of my trying to take control of my life but in the end I realized that I have to surrender that control back to the Good Lord and further strengthen my relationship with Him.

The Present

To me, getting to know the Lord is a continuing journey that started 26 years ago when I was little and obviously oblivious to everything around me. Somehow a decision was made for me to come to JCC, and then leave the church, after which I was brought back to JCC through the Lord's intervention. And in my times with the BB and the church, I've learnt the tangibles and intangibles of the Christian faith from Scripture and with the help of the Holy Spirit. I've understood the meaning of commitment in all relationships through thick and thin – with my Father in Heaven through Jesus Christ; with my wife, whom I've dated since we were 16, a relationship still going strong after more than a decade because we have been committed to each other through the different transitions in our lives; and my continuing relationships with the people around me (past, present and future), which will remain firm in my testimony that I'm truly blessed and guided and loved. As my son grows up, I pray that he too will have a beautiful story to tell of his walk with Christ as I share with him about mine.

Baptisms and Transfers

On 26th September 2010, Pastor Andrew and his family transferred membership to JCC. On the same day, their youngest daughter, Tricia was baptized along with Zechariah Wong, son of Travis.



We want to welcome Pastor Andrew and family and Zechariah Wong into the family of JCC. May God protect and watch over you.



Eventful September

There was the Fund Raising Dinner, Combined Leaders' Retreat, Moon Cake Outreach and the Visit to factories and Changi Prison museum. It was also the period when the Tamil Methodist service was re-launched in JCC.

This time around, JCC has a representative who is able to speak the language and appreciate the culture, therefore is able to break down any barriers which may have existed before. Pastor Andrew was a guest speaker at one of their services and I noticed an Indian brother from our English service bringing his

mother for the Tamil service. Indeed JCC is on the road to becoming a multi-lingual, multi-cultural church in Jurong, with services in English, Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese and Tamil, spanning from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm each Sunday.



Leaders' Retreat – 11th Sep



our model of servanthood leadership.

At the end of the session, he prayed for everyone individually and gave a word of revelation to everyone.

The speaker Rev Lee Tak Vui hails from Sabah. He spoke about Biblical Leadership and gave many examples from the life of Jesus





Fund Raising Dinner for Church Rebuilding – 4th Sep

The organizing committee booked seventy tables with trepidation but was filled with joy and thanksgiving when finally more than ninety tables were filled.

The night began at 5:30pm for many of the helpers and performers as they came in early to prepare the sound systems and practice their songs for one last time.

Typical of most Chinese dinners, this one was also not able to start on time as many of the people came in slightly late due to limited car parks problem.

Finally the dinner was under way and





the first item was Rev Chung singing “The Gift” in Mandarin. Not to loose out, our two English pastors also tried gamely to sing. The Dialect group, the Chinese choir, the youths and some individuals also sang.



Hopefully our guests and members enjoyed their meal and had a good time of fellowship and fun. Iris and Jim also celebrated

their mom’s birthday that night.



After all the accounts have been settled, the amount raised for the Rebuilding Fund amounted to more than \$70,000. It was not a bad first try.

We can do better the next time.

Moon Cake Dialect Outreach – 18th Sep



The Outreach Committee has been very active this year, having organized the CNY Home Visits in Jan, the Family Day in May and I hear, there will be a Christmas – Just for You party in Dec (keep a lookout for this).

The Moon Cake Outreach was also one of the events the Outreach Committee planned. There must have been over 300 people in the MPH that night enjoying the singing, dancing, games,

food, moon cakes and lucky draws.



Rev John Chin shared on the moon cake festival and its roots. He also gave a very good illustration of how a boy caught with drugs



pleaded with his girlfriend to take part of the blame so that he will not have to face the death sentence. The two of them were sentenced to 20 years in jail instead. **They hoped to be in the same jail cell to spend the 20 years together.**



Obviously it turned out to their disappointment. The boy went to the man's prison and the girl went to a woman's

prison. They were separated. He then suggested that this will be what happens when people go to Hell. They will spend an eternity suffering and separated. So there is no way to spend an eternity with your loved ones in Hell.

At the end of his message, he gave an altar call and a number of people came up.



During the dinner time there were many opportunities for sharing. I see a need to have a team of trained befrienders, who can effectively share the Gospel in such a setting.

We already have emcees, musicians, singers, dancers, helpers for all kinds of

physical work but we lack the ones who can do the spiritual work of reaping.



Were there any counselors with maybe a tract in hand to share the Gospel with our new friends? I think we were not even prepared to



at least take down the names of those who came up for prayer. Let's be ready the next time.

Dialect Outing to Factory and Changi Prison Museum – 25th Sep



Many people were pre-occupied on this Saturday, including myself, so the photos were taken by Roger. Don't you think they are well taken?



This is the 3rd outing organized by the Dialect Ministry for this year.

Two busloads of people went around Singapore visiting factories which produced food like otah, soon kueh and vegetables. Along the way, they stopped by at the Changi Prison Museum for a photo session and Changi Village for lunch.



I am sure the elderly enjoyed themselves because there were ample opportunities for them to do “marketing” and chit chatting with each other and the weather was fine most of the time.

Martin Cheah



CONTRACEPTION

Most teens don't use protection, a pharmaceutical company's survey reveals. Obviously, something needs to be done to lick this bad statistics. However, I don't know what should be done. Should we teach the teens more about contraception (thereby raising the ire of moralists who argue that doing so would be tantamount to giving encouragement), or avoid the topic of contraception in school sex education by just focusing on sexual responsibility via pre-marital abstinence, warning them of the dire consequences of diseases or unwanted pregnancies? Doing the latter will certainly raise a different protest from the non-moralists who argue that it will not lick the problem produced by basic sexual instinct (or the base instinct to taste the forbidden fruit). Here is a further shocking statistic revealing the base instinct at work: On average last year, 2 babies per day were born to girls not older than 19 years of age.

In the Philippines, the intractable quarrel between the State and the Church on the use of contraception needs no introduction. The opposition to contraception on religious ground resulted in the high rate of unintended pregnancies and the insurmountable population growth – a very very huge burden on individuals, families and the country. Would the problem be solved by the advocacy of contraception? Take a look at another country – China – where family planning policy is heavily administered via the promotion of contraception. This is not government secret, but an open admission. The result is the low rate of population growth leading to social problems (e.g., unbalanced male:female ratio, an ageing population with under-replacement). Singapore with her very successful stop-at-two policy of old is also facing some similar social problems.

The above exposes one fact – no matter how people try to intervene on a matter pertaining to human procreation, be it encouraging contraception to limit unwanted, unintended or undesirable births; or to discourage contraception so as to hearten lovebirds with the sexual freedom of choice without condemnation, a big problem in one form or another ensues. Imagine what happens if contraception is banned like opiates. Will appeals to self-control via education work against instincts that are basic or base? On the other hand, if contraceptives are freely distributed like candies to whoever wants them, with long queues forming overnights by kiasu people who would not want to miss out on anything on the house, will it mean that a battle is won without another battle looming?

6 October 2010 is World Contraception Day. It is a campaign with a noble mission “to improve



awareness of contraception to enable young people to make informed decisions on sexual and reproductive health.” Supporters of the vision that every pregnancy is wanted would certainly be pleased if on this day manufacturers of contraceptives sponsor the free distribution of their products everywhere. It will immediately generate curiosity even among the ignorant to inquire “What is this?” and “What is it all about?” The goal of education on the subject is instantly served far and wide.

I wonder whether people of the opposite school of thought would come out with the idea of an inaugural annual World No-Contraception Day next year on a beautiful easily-remembered date: 11.11.11 (11th November 2011) with the noble vision of educating people on the harms of promoting contraception – viz., it defiles the links between sex and marriage, between sex and reproduction, and between contraception and abortion even if it is a fine line that makes the last of these links. On that Day, over-the-counter sale of contraceptives will be banned, immediately generating inquiring questions that lead to information on the subject being instantly served far and wide.

Now, if you ask me what I think about contraception, I can sweat a whole bucket without being any wiser what stand I should take – whether I should bend towards the government’s view that teaching contraception is ok (tolerable even if it indirectly encourages sexual liberty since there are teens who simply can’t help themselves to abstinence outside marriage); or, as a Christian, I should be more inclined towards the historical, evangelical and conservative perspectives on contraception for birth control. Following is a debate between For-Contraception and Against Contraception. After reading through it, let me know whether it makes you any wiser.

F: Whereas abortion involves the taking of an unborn life, and could well be classified as murder, contraception is worlds apart. It is not something of recent birth, but practised since the dawn of history and is currently a practice of international recognition.

A: Whatever its acceptance by the international community, birth control is still unjustifiable from the Christian standpoint of abidance by God’s principles. The Creation Order had marriage for companionship (Gen. 2:18, 24) and procreation (Gen. 1:28) and nothing else. Ps. 127:3-5 and 128:3 even specifically encouraged large families.

F: The ordinance of God for man to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth has already been fulfilled by the fact that the earth is now well populated. Moreover, contraception itself does not totally rule out the carrying on of the

human race through Planned Parenthood. The words of Psalms as you have quoted might be relevant during the days of David when mortality rate was high compared to our present age of scientific and medical advancement. With today's burgeoning population, Christians cannot fail to be mindful of their social responsibilities. If birth control is not established, the result may be of a family growth beyond the capability of a couple to manage, which has its ripple effect culminating in social ills. This would be a greater evil than the choice of contraception, if the latter is evil at all, and would not be glorifying to God.

A: The passages of Psalms indicate no time element and could therefore be as relevant today as in the time of the Psalmist especially when the exhortation is generally in accord with the fundamental eternal principles of God. Birth control as justified by social conditions is often being unquestionably upheld by couples who are ever eager for the convenience of sexual fulfillment without the attendant responsibility for a heavier household load. This is tantamount to an act of escapism from reality, not forgetting that the prevailing social conditions so alleged to be unfavourable for large families are in fact the very human development out of sin and which has passed down through generations and become clouded with time and by human self-deceit. Granted that children are God's heritage (Ps. 127:3), then surely they would be well taken care of by Him who gives them (Gen. 33:5) if only we are obedient unto God and not pursuing our own selfish will in working against God's Providence. God with His wisdom would not give a couple more than what they can manage, so the children are indeed blessings and not burdens, for He that sends mouths will send meat if we trust in Him.

F: But isn't sexual fulfillment the lawful enjoyment of couples in marriage as clearly expressed by St. Paul in 1 Cor. 7:5? If this is so whereby there could be no limit to it within marriage, lest they be tempted by Satan for their incontinency, then there must be some form of birth control since the multiplication of children cannot possibly be carried on indefinitely as sexual fulfillment. Contraception is acceptable with restraint to prevent it from being abused for sexual liberty. Apart from health considerations of repeated childbirths, contraception may also be desirable on other medical grounds.

A: A Christian essentially lives a life in Christ, in spiritual truth. He is already dead to the flesh. Submission to sexual relations not for the ultimate purpose of procreation as in God's Providence for one's sexual instinct but simply to fulfill the desire of the flesh is therefore contrary to fundamental spiritual doctrine. While 1 Cor. 7:5 is an instruction on sex as a lawful enjoyment of married couples, let's not lose sight of Paul's qualifying verse (1 Cor. 7:6) that he spoke by permission and not of commandment, which means that whatever embodied in the verse 1 Cor. 7:5 does not have the force of an injunction. As I

stated above, the social conditions being used to justify birth control are actually the very product of sinful man and so it is evident that such a justification which has the effect of clouding God's Creation Order is of questionable credence. Due to human perpetuation of sin through generations, the present state of social situation becomes practically "irreversible" whereby we are compelled to accept the norm of small families. We are compelled by the social situation of our own making. Even if by the grace of God this norm is permissible, this permissibility would still not in any way imply that contraception is the ordinance of God whereby married couples are given full liberty at their disposal. Family planning can be achieved by abstinence and not necessarily by contraception. A true Christian should let the Lord have control of everything (including sex), seeking His will alone. Contraception by artificial means (sterilization, pill, IUD, spermicides, etc.) interferes with the natural functioning of the body system. The body as the temple of the Holy Ghost has to be accorded due respect. Furthermore, it is not impossible to imagine the possibility of chance fusion of reproductive cells being disrupted by contraception. This then would lead to the greater controversy of life-taking (abortion) basing on an equally controversial question of when life begins.

F: You first argued that birth control is against God's principles for human fruitful multiplication. If you have your way, then your suggestion of abstinence is also a form of human determination of family size, little different from contraception. God has appointed priests to be the judges on controversial matters (Deut. 17:8-10; 2 Chron. 19:7-8, 10; Eze. 44:24). On the issue of contraception, Church leaders recommend either abstinence or the rhythm method. This goes to show that contraception itself is permissible, although one has to guard against its abuse (such as inadvertently giving tacit licence to teens to experiment with sex outside of marriage) so long as it does not adversely affect or interfere with the natural functioning of the body system as also implied in your argument. The credibility of artificial contraceptives is a matter of subjective personal or medical opinions, and therefore cannot be simply and wholly swept aside. Paul in 1 Cor. 7:5 recognises the danger of one being tempted because of incontinency, and hence abstinence can only be temporary.

A: Birth control by abstinence or natural rhythm method when applied with good judgment by the leading of the Spirit in determining appropriate family size is different from artificial "manipulation" of the body system for convenience of sexual fulfillment. We may go on arguing until the cows come home, but let's still not act contrary to our conscience (Rom. 14:23) but meditatively seek the Lord's will, not forgetting that whatever the interpretation for permissibility must be distinct from being the ordinance of God. Permissibility is a concession; ordinance, a binding rule!

The question of contraception has been a controversy for generations. The above debaters' should not be the last words. I do not know whether you are blessed to join the debate to throw more light on the issue so that I may know better what should be the right stand. By the way, here are the reasons given by teens for not using contraception in a street interview by RazorTV:

“Too lazy” “Too embarrassing” “Spoils the mood”

So if the For-camp wins the debate, it will make no difference to the way the indifferent teens go about sowing and picking up wild oats. On the other hand, if the Against-camp wins the debate, it becomes another reason that these teens will give for their lack of interest (not with sex, but with protection).

Looks like dealing with the teens is like governments dealing with their countries at the macro-level – Encourage or discourage contraception and headache in one form or another hangs around. Even scary pictures of consequences (think: cigarette packs) won't scare them out of their carefree attitudes.

I leave it to you to decide whether you wish to join the debate, but somehow I have the hunch that few (if any) would as it is already a fact that most readers are shy of writing to the press (oops, I mean The Vine). ☺

John Lee

CAMBODIAN PASTOR IN SINGAPORE

Pastor Daniel was in town recently and we entertained him and his family at the Mid Autumn Outreach and also the Factory Tour. Hope he enjoyed his stay in Singapore.



When he spoke during a presentation at QLC, I was surprised that his spoken



English was very clear. Too bad he did not share his ministry at JCC. Maybe next...



101010

10.10.10 – triple perfect tens, a day that comes by only once every century. Not only that, it is a Sunday; thus giving many couples another “perfect reason” to hold their weddings on this day. Apart from happy couples, no prize for guessing right that it is a great auspicious day for the hotels and restaurants too, as they reap a bumper income from the opportunistic increase in prices.

10.10.10 should also be a manifold-perfect day easy to recall as a Day of Prayer as the 24/7 Prayer Movement and the Micah 2010 Campaign collaborate to mobilize 100 million Christians to uphold the global poor in prayers. However, in the midst of our fixation on the beauty of the date, do we remember the less privileged in the world?

If you ask about the significance of the number 10 in the Bible, here is the “best answer” from Yahoo!Answers:

10 Brothers (Genesis 42:3)
10 Cubits (Exodus 26:16)
10 Years (Ruth 1:4)
10 Loaves (1 Samuel 17:17)
10 Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)
10 Talents (Matthew 25:28)
10 Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
10 Minas (Luke 19:12-27)
10 Horns (Revelation 12:3)

10 is expressive or typifies:
Magnitude (Daniel 1:20)
Remnant (Amos 5:3)
Completion (Daniel 7:7-24)
Perfection (Luke 19:16-24)

We may add the 10 Commandments as the perfect 10 to the above list.

No matter how you look at the date 10.10.10, it is still just an ordinary day to many people who find no reason to celebrate as they wake up in the morning, do what they have to do through the day, sleep and then wake up on the 11th to another day of routines.

Whether the day brings special blessings or unusual adversities to different people in different places, thank God that nothing bad happens on this binary day to computer systems around the world.*

John Lee

*101010 is a binary number equivalent to forty-two.

Success Is Relative. The more The Success, The more The Relatives.

The Gifts of God

On Christmas Eve in 2006, when I was baptized, I understood how it felt being accepted into His family as a child of God through an open declaration of affirming my faith in Him. On 26 September 2010, I got a glimpse of how proud the Father was of His son our Lord Jesus Christ when He was baptized at the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13-17). It's a feeling that I believe only parents can empathise with and more so with me, who did not have approval from loved ones to be a Christian.

However, for the many weeks prior to that day it had been a period of excitement and debate. For one, as much as we were excited, we were also concerned how Zechariah would react that morning. "Will he slap away Bishop Kee's hand when he baptizes him and mark his forehead with a cross," I would say half-jokingly to my wife because my boy will do that whenever he's unhappy. He also does not react well to going out on mornings. We also did not know how he will respond to the congregation because in some cases, he will get really scared occasionally with large crowds. All these concerns turned out unfounded that day though, albeit he did grab my spectacles (something he does all the time), which was the least of my worries.

What really baffled me was the debate regarding infant baptism. When I was a young Christian, we had discussions and studies regarding this but I never thought that it was such a big issue. Every Christian I have openly announced of my boy's baptism responded with different opinions. While some felt that I might be overcompensating as a father because I did not have approval from my parents when I was baptized and therefore overeager to not let my child go through the same dilemma, most people who did not agree with infant baptism seem to prefer to let my child decide for himself when he gets older; a topic of pro-choice or Christian by birth versus by faith. It became a big topic for my wife and I to talk about for a few weeks and this is what we believe and decided to go ahead with Zechariah's baptism:

Parents as Sponsors

My boy was a little over one year old when he was baptized. During the course of about 12 months, my wife and I, as parents, have decided (and debated/argued) over how to best take care of Zechariah. We would decide what cute clothes he should wear when we go out, when he should take solid food after months of taking milk, the schedule of his feeds and sleep, when we should take him to the doctor from minor ailments to flu; all the decisions parents have to make because our boy cannot make all these decisions on his

own. And all will agree with us having to do that as parents, even if sometimes the decisions turn out to be imperfect. Yet some will prefer that we should hesitate on making quite frankly the single most important decision for our son; the gift of salvation through baptism and the invitation of Holy Spirit in his life. As sponsors for his baptism, we may be making that decision on his behalf, but like all decisions we make or do not make on his behalf, it is the best decision we truly believe and know we have made, considering that we are just as responsible for his physical and emotional needs as for his spiritual life.

Gift of Salvation as Truth

Having Zechariah as our son is a great gift from our Father because He freely gave us this duty to be his parents at a time when we did not plan for one. The gift of salvation that He has freely given us and Christians around the world, to us, is just as priceless as Zechariah is dear to us. Why do we love? It is because God, who is Love, first loved us and continue to love us. (1 John 4:19). It is **THE TRUTH** regardless of how much we understand the extent of His love or any other love we can try to logically reason. It is the truth regardless of the extent of our faith, however young, even when we do not understand. The same applies to His gift of salvation. Whether Zechariah consciously believes or not, God freely gives His Holy Spirit to him and all who are baptized, however young or old, first to the least (Acts 2:38-39). However, when we apply our own logic and reasoning to His gifts, we end up discussing, debating or disagreeing on things.

Whatever discussions or debates that happened prior to Zechariah's baptism, all I can remember is this though: On 26 September 2010, Jessica and I glowed with pride as we saw our dear boy be baptized and I caught a glimpse



of the pride God had of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ when He was baptized. It's definitely quite simply the most important decision a parent can make for his/her child, one my wife and I will gladly take responsibility for as he continues to grow, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Travis Wong

The Back Page

16th Oct – The Dialect Ministry met at Peter’s House to set up the Dialect Leadership Team with Head Of Ministry, Peter Cheong and pastoral staff, Bro Teo Swee Hai, helming the team.



The day began with songs of praises, followed by Pastor Anthony giving some directions for the ministry and Peter assigning roles to the various members. After lunch, the team continued with the discussion and plans for 2011.



One of the matters discussed was the change of timing for the Dialect Service so as to have more time for changeover for the Tamil service.



Pray for the team as they

plan for the coming years ahead.

While we were meeting, we received news that Yew Moi and Wong Mui’s mother had passed away in the morning. We prayed for the family that they will receive God’s peace in their hearts at this time of sadness at the sudden passing of their beloved mother.



These are some of the last photos I have of the dear lady when she came to join us for the Moon Cake Outreach. Pastor Andrew had an opportunity to serve her a cup of water. (Mark 9:41)



My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. (Psalm 62:1)

Scheduled LWM Mission Trips to Cambodia in 2011

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12 - 20		21 - 1			16 - 24	6 - 16		15 - 23		