



# Jurong Christian Church

A branch of the.....

Multi media ministry

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*claiming the jackpot in EuroMillions draw.*

*The modest pair are believed to have whisked their children off with them as they escape hundreds of desperate monetary demands.*

*A local postman from their home town of Largs, Ayrshire, in Scotland, told the Daily Mail: "The begging letters have already started coming. I delivered a pile of them today."*

*The couple who bagged the EuroMillions jackpot have gone into hiding after reportedly being harassed with letters begging them for a share of their £161m fortune.*

*Britain's biggest-ever winners Colin Weir, 64, and Christine Weir, 55, may have even been forced to travel abroad after*

*"But there are many more piled up at the sorting office. They are just addressed to 'The Weirs, Largs' and the manager is deciding whether to deliver them."*

I came across this piece of news in the Internet on 20 July 2011. It lead me to put into practice what I learnt from my workplace – the 5 Whys.

- Why did God allow them to win over \$300 million dollars when JCC is in need of some \$20 million for rebuilding?
- Why did they go public with their win?
- Why did they flee?
- Why choose a couple who were not willing to share their good fortune?
- Why not you and I?



Let's start with the last Why. It is the easiest to answer. It could not be you or me because we do not gamble. Unless Christians gamble, you or I will never be in this predicament.

We do not want to be judgemental on this couple. Maybe they are willing to share their good fortune but they do not want to be harassed, so they went into hiding. However, there are many people who are blessed but they do not want to share their blessings with others. *"My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth (Deut 8:17-18).* They may think that they got all their money through their own hard work and so do not owe anything to God.

This begs the question, "Why did God bless them, instead of me?" Maybe we should relook carefully at Psalm 73:12-13, 17 *"This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence..... till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny."*

I already suggested a reason why they had to flee, because they were harassed, but then why did they go public? According to the news, they wanted to let their friends and relatives know. They failed to take note of Proverbs 13:7, *"One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth."*

Finally we come down to the question of why this couple instead of JCC's Rebuilding Fund? Ecc 5:13 says, *"I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner..."* It is God's will that we do not suffer from hoarding wealth or be misled by it, *"the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful"* (Matt 13:22).

Brothers and sisters, *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."* (1Tim 6:17-18)

We will continue to trust God for His provision for our church rebuilding. Maybe in His mysterious ways, this couple flee to Singapore and on reading this article decide to share part of their blessing with us. Then we will have to rename the church to JCC – Jurong Colin & Christine, LOL.

Hope you are blessed to be a blessing.

*Martin Cheah*

# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

27 June to 21 July – Debra was home for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester break. Though we could see and talk to her everyday through Skype, there is a difference between Skype and having her with us at home. As I am writing this, she is on the plane on her way back to Brisbane. Shakespeare said, “Parting is such sweet sorrow...” (Romeo & Juliet Act 2) and we have to go through this sensation another 7 times over the next three and a half years.

During her 3 weeks in Singapore, she was well fed by her friends and relatives. She must have had numerous Japanese meals, Chinese and Western restaurant dinners and some home cooked meals as well. I guess if she had not gone away, she would not have had eaten so much over such a short time.



While she was home, she couldn't get acclimatized to the hot weather because she came back when Brisbane was having its cold season. However, she enjoyed eating out because over there, eating out is an expensive affair and most of the time they ate home cooked meals in Brisbane.



Even as she has to travel overseas to further her education, there is some tension in Singapore relating to the lack of educational opportunities for the Singaporean. There are insufficient university places for Singaporeans and there is also lack of places for Primary One children. Considering that there are many new schools and at the same time a slowdown in the population growth of Singaporeans, how is that possible?



However if it is God's will that our future generations will start life over in a new country, then we have to be prepared for it. (see Job 1:21b or Gen 12:1)

*Martin Cheah*

# BAPTISMS / CONFIRMATIONS

Sunday, 29 May

There were a total of 9 baptism/confirmation by Bishop Kee.

Baptism:



Ethan, Amy, Bernice Lee, Linus Tan, Clement Lim and Xiu Zhen

Confirmation:

Chantel Wan, Elayne Yam and Hartley



# WHAT ARE WE FEEDING OURSELVES!

## Finding the heart's true home.

The release of Kung Fu Panda 2, Pirates of the Caribbean (On Stranger's Tides) and Harry Potter (The Half Blood Prince 2) are some of my favourite movies. We feel the kick, the heat and the fantasies of watching movies with an exciting plot and hopefully, a good ending. We enjoyed it. Yes! We head back to reality and to our lives. What did we learn from it? Hokkien mee, Hainanese chicken rice, Japanese sushi, Tim sum, Burgers, French fries and the list goes on. Salivating? I always do. Singapore is a paradise of sumptuous food. How do I know what food to eat with the variety of choices and tempting advertisements of what is new in the market? Do we live to eat or eat to live?

As I am recovering from another operation recently, I realized that I should take only certain foods and tonics. This is best for me. I miss all my favourite foods! What I think is good for me, may not be the best for me. Face book, Twitter, Blogging, e-chat, sms, email are the "in" things in the market. You will see young girls and boys having an iphone or ipad nowadays. We can learn many things from the e-world. Are we looking and learning what is good for us? I am not IT savvy. Yet, I need to know what is happening to catch up with the times. What am I doing?

Exercise, housework (it is another form of exercise), developing muscles and toning of my figure, are important. Oh how slim I look! I must look presentable and good. Doesn't beauty present itself best if we are ourselves?

Sales and shopping, are part of our lives and the world around us. Do I look good in this dress? Sales at 70% off! Must buy? I work so hard every day. Shouldn't I pamper myself? I should buy another accessory to go with the dress and of course, matching shoes. How about that bag? Oh...  
*"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you. O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying 'What shall I eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"* Matt 6: 28-31.

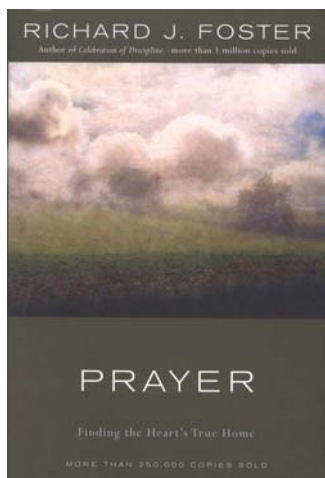
I remember that every time when I travel for work and I am away from home for a few days or a week; each time I lie in the hospital or when I am

sick, what comes to my mind? I pray and think of God and my family. Do I remember about what food or movies I missed or which bags I have not bought? No, not at all!

Many years ago, I was in a game at a church retreat, a sister-in-Christ said, “When all of you are playing and thinking about the solutions, do you remember to pray?” This remark stayed with me until today. Most of the time, I forget to pray. Do we always remember to pray before we do anything?

So, what are the things that matter to me? Do the things that matter to me, matter to God? I know that we are precious in God’s sight. One of the ways to know God is through prayers. When we know Him better, we know ourselves better?

Before I decide on anything nowadays, I learn to remember to pray. When I sometimes forget, I will try again.



A few years ago, I read a book, “Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home” by Richard Foster. This book caught my attention while I was praying about an article to pen. This book relates about the facets of prayer and the journey to knowing God through prayers.

I learnt to write my prayers in a book nowadays. Maybe someday, I can refer to my prayer book and give thanks to all the blessings from God and the moments that God is silent. And truly, we know that prayer is a love relationship with God. He is always there with you. Are you with Him?

I will continue to find my heart’s true home through prayer. Will you? Let’s pray.

**Editor’s Note:** The Editor has arranged with Joyce to borrow the books she wrote about for the English Library for the next few months so that The Vine readers can also read these books.

Drop by the English Library to borrow these books and also the many other books and CDs there.

**JOYCE TAN**



# GB ACTIVITIES IN JULY

9 Jul 2011 – The Girls' Brigade organized a GB Friendship Day, inviting one thousand elderly for a day of food and fun at the GB HQ in Upper Serangoon Road. JCC was involved through two companies, the 51<sup>st</sup> coy from Shuqun Primary School and 9<sup>th</sup> coy from Westwood Secondary School.



The young girls from Shuqun sang a Hokkien song for the old folks. They also attended to the needs of the old folks by escorting them to the toilets, serving them food and drinks and also playing with them. They were so enthusiastic to serve that when volunteers were called, they were one of the first to step up. Unfortunately, they were not selected due to their young age.



11 Jul 2011 – Shuqun Primary School had a GB Day and the girls were again on hand to help raise fund through selling of books, cards and toys. In all, they managed to raise slightly more than \$300.



As I attended both these events, I am moved by the eagerness of these young girls to serve without reservation. May this attitude of service, serving not for reward but for love of God and man, remain with them throughout their lives. I am also touched by the unsung heroines who serve in the GB every Saturday, burning all their weekends. May they be blessed by seeing their charges grow up into good Christian women.





30 Jul 2011 - The GB girls of 51<sup>st</sup> Coy organized a Sandwich Making contest at the school canteen. Six teams chopped vegetables, sliced bread, ham and sausages and spread butter, jam and cheese on to bread to come up with an artistic sandwich platter.



The judges were partial to hygiene so teams which did not use gloves lost a lot of points. The judges noted that there was a lot of



wastage due to the bread being cut into shapes but could not quantify the wastes so did not take it into account.



*Martin Cheah*



**BREAD ART**

# Becoming CHRISTlike....

The Bible makes it clear that the goal of our lives is to become like Christ. The apostle Paul challenges us to "present everyone mature in Christ" (Col 1:28).

Growing into the stature of Christ is a life-long process, not an event. A conversion experience only initiates the process of restoration; It means we have said 'yes' to the plan and direction GOD already had in mind for us. Growing in spiritual maturity takes time. We may not be aware that at least 17 years elapsed between Saul's (Paul) conversion on the Damascus road and the time he penned his earliest epistle - hardly a sudden transformation.

Where do you stand in your journey to becoming Christlike? Becoming like HIM is a spiritual exercise, an ongoing discipline, a commitment to continuous conversion with the help of the Holy Spirit. We are called to take off the lingering habits of our old selves and put on the ways of a new self that is ours in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). Paul goes on to say, "it is GOD who is at work in you, enabling you....."(Phil 2:12-13). This is why daily devotions are so important-we grow spiritually when we make time daily for GOD to inspire our passion and enable our readiness to live in Christ. We should ask, 'What does my daily spiritual practice consist of?' It should be designed to help us along the road to growing in HIS likeness.

Becoming Christlike is also a partnership. We don't arrive there without encouragement from one another. That's why the body of Christ is so important. In Hebrews it is written, we are "holy partners in a heavenly calling" (Heb 3: 1) and exhorts us to "see to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God" (Heb 12:15).

May GOD help us in our daily walk with HIM and continuing growth in Christlikeness. And may we express this in our daily living to HIS praise and glory.

*James Candiah*

## **BB Founder's Award**

JCC is proud to announce that Samuel Chong of the 28th BB Coy was awarded the BB Founder's Award for his outstanding achievements. The Founder's Award is the highest and most prestigious award in the Seniors' Programme. Our heartiest congratulations to Samuel!

# News Items You Might Have Missed

Jul 23, 2011

## 'I've no God - and am proud of it'

### Humanist Society grows as more who don't believe in a God seek like-minded people

By Yen Feng

A GROWING number of people here who do not believe in a God have banded together, determined to be unapologetic about being non-religious.

Registered as the Humanist Society (Singapore) last October, their ranks have since expanded from 10 to 100 registered, fee-paying members.



*The Holy Bible proclaims in Psalm 14:1 and Psalm 53:1*  
***THE FOOL SAYS IN HIS HEART,  
"THERE IS NO GOD."***

*Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. (Matt 11:25)*

*Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. (1Cor 1:20-21)*

As we pray for all people, please say a prayer for these people also.



# BB @ Bo Tien Home

30 Jul 2011 – The Boys' Brigade junior and senior boys spent an afternoon with the elderly residents of Bo Tien Home. The junior boys went to the home to entertain them with songs and games while the senior boys took them out for a stroll to Sentosa.



The Dialect Ministry joined the junior boys at the Bo Tien Home to help break the ice with the elderly dialect speaking. It was a fun time as the boys and the elderly took part in the games. It is very encouraging to see the boys taking care of the elderly and also to see the elderly enjoying themselves.



As we work with these elderly people, we realize that we don't see some of the faces of the people we had seen on our previous visits. It is a realization that we are mortal beings with a finite time span. If we do not see them now, we may never see them again.





# CHURCH RETREAT - JUNE 10-13

A group of more than 60 people gathered at Boon Lay Shopping Centre on June 10. It was around 10.30 pm and we were all excited because we were going to take a VIP Bus trip to Malaysia for the Church Retreat. Maybe it was this very excitement which prevented many of us from having a good sleep throughout the journey. Although there were some delays at the customs, it was to be expected, and we were cleared relatively quickly.

The rest of the journey was uneventful as the scenery was just total darkness until we reach the pitstop at Yong Peng. It was about 12 midnight when we got off to have supper. We continued our journey and reached our destination at Colmar Tropicale around 6.00 am in the morning.



There, at the crack of dawn, to greet us was our hardworking Retreat Committee. We were ushered to an open area to have breakfast and then followed by our first talk on the Posture of Hearing by the retreat speaker, Rev Lee Tak Vui. The rooms were only available sometime after lunch.



Over the next few days, we were taught the different postures of Learning, Humility and Teaching. The lessons came in handy during the skits where a number of teams regurgitate it to the audience to the amusement of Rev Lee.

Though we were up in Berjaya Hills, the weather wasn't very cold and actually you will perspire after a walk. There are a number of activities that you could take part in, eg. horse riding, bowling and



swimming or a visit to the Japanese garden or the Organic farm. However, without the church retreat, I think it would be a boring place for a family on holiday. The fun of the night of skits is a memorable one for

me. It reveals how much JCC got talent.

There were activities for the elderly, youths and adults. An opportunity for filling up the Generation Gap came during the



skits, where all and sundry took part as teams. Even the children were taken care off by an Australian couple. The food was good and we had more than we could eat.



Already, next year's retreat committee have been formed and they have a big challenge to do better than this one. I hear that it is going to be a combined retreat with the Chinese Section, a logistical challenge also.







## GONE HOME

1 Aug 2011 – Mr Lim Teck Ann, an elderly brother, went home to the Lord. Who is he you may ask? Well, he was that elderly gentleman who always came in a wheelchair and sat in the front few rows next to Mr George. At his wake, we found out a little more about him. He was a prodigal according to his relatives, at a young age, he had been reached by the Salvation Army but he grew up and led a wayward life. He was a prison warden at the Pulau Selarang prison camp. However, he was a good man who provided for his family and in his later life when he came back to the Lord, his main concern was for his family's salvation.

Out of the thousands of photos that I have, I cannot find even one of Mr Lim. He led a quiet life and was not in the limelight. Many of us only knew him by sight but God knows him personally. Even as we will not see him again in this world, we know that we will meet again and that is what he wants for his family who have yet to receive Jesus Christ.

## LCS MISSIONS

Jul 2011 – At the LCS Missions Committee meeting, Wilson from the Seafarers Missions told us about a group of Taiwanese fishermen which they are trying to reach out to. The ILSM is applying for permission from AVA to open an office at Jurong Fishery Port for these fishermen to visit and make use of the facilities while they are in the port.

The life of these tuna fishermen is very tough as they normally sign on for a 3 year stint and they are out at sea for a stretch of 1 year at a time, coming back to port for only about 5 days before going out again for another year.

Pastor Jimmy also shared about the difficulties of preaching in Mongolia without a permit. Some missionaries have been deported when caught.

Pray for our missionaries.





# رحلة ๓๒๒ ไลต์ทีม ๓๓๓

On Thursday, 16 June, the advance team which consisted of Christina Ang, Pastor Anthony, Gary Lee, Sook Hwee and I flew to Siem Reap, Cambodia by JetStar airlines. We stayed in a hotel and during the next two days we travelled around with Zewen to see various ministries and bought rice for them. The BB Boys arrived later on 18 June. We all stayed in the BBLC (Boys' Brigade Learning Center) on that day. The following day, 19 June, we went to the St John Church (Catholic) Children feeding center. The center was at the outskirts of Siem Reap. We travelled far into the unknown and found out that the center was at the end of a road. The Boys presented songs with action to the children and Christina Ang shared the Creation Bible story. After the songs presentation and sharing,



we served rice soup (looked like porridge) to the children. The children ate their rice and we then began to do balloon sculpturing and gave them away to the kids. The following day on 20 June at the BBLC, our BB Boys taught the youths who were attending the BBLC classes to do handicraft and balloon sculpturing. They also played games with the youths. Surprisingly, the Cambodian youths are into Facebook as well. They exchanged their emails with the BB Boys. We give thanks to God for the safe journey throughout.

I'm sure our BB Boys and BB officers who went on the trip have learned a lot, knowing that in Singapore we are very fortunate to have a good education system, shelter and clean water to drink. We have learnt to appreciate the things we have in Singapore and not to take things for granted.

I have gained a real-life experience throughout the trip. I have heard stories and seen photos showing poverty over there in Cambodia. Indeed, there is a great need for shelters, roads, food, clean water and especially education for the children and youths. But I realize most of them



are happy with the simple things they have. This is unlike in Singapore, where the children and youths have so many choices and are still not satisfied.



Christ's kingdom is advancing through the Boys' Brigade in Asia. The works done in the Boys' Brigade are not in vain. It

has been said that the ministry of the Boys' Brigade (and Girls' Brigade) is at the very front line of evangelism. There are billions of young lost souls out there in the world, and God by His sovereign grace, established the Boys' Brigade ministry to open a way for the Youths to enter in and to be reached. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few! Ask the Lord of harvest to send workers into His harvest field. God has a harvest field in this Boys' Brigade ministry. Young souls have entered into this field, what are you doing about it? There is a great pool of young unbelievers in this ministry. The lives and souls of the Youths are at stake. We hope that they will come to know God (not so much of knowing about God, but to really KNOW God) at this stage of their lives, for we do not know what will happen in their days ahead. Therefore let us continue to work and harvest this field that God has sent us to, knowing it is about the advancement of His kingdom.



...The Lord Jesus Christ gave His Church the task of going into the world to make disciples of all nations. The Boys' Brigade exists to assist us in the work, and particularly to advance Christ's Kingdom among Boys...

*Wen Wei*

# BEFRIENDING FOREIGN TALENTS

Recently we conducted our workshop (on reaching other cultures in America) in the Community of Grace Church, Richmond, Virginia. The chairman of their Mission Commission is a police captain named Hal Moser. On the Monday after the workshop, Hal routinely stopped by his favorite up-scale grocery store to get a cup of his favorite up-scale coffee. But this time he walked into the store with a different set of lenses. For the first time he saw an Asian working behind the sushi counter. Hal thought, "I wonder if the material Jay and Jan shared really works?"

He decided to give it a try. He walked up to the sushi-maker, said good morning, and asked the gentleman his name and where he was from. Hal learned his name was Win, and that he was from Burma, and that he's been in the U.S. for three years. Hal proceeded to ask Win if anyone had welcomed him to America. Win looked at him with a quizzical look on his face and said, "No! Not at all. No one." Hal then reached his hand over the counter to shake Win's hand and said, "Then that gives me the privilege to be the first to welcome you to the United States. Welcome Win." And then Hal hurried off to work.

The next day Hal stopped to see Win and to get his coffee. Upon seeing Hal, Win walked around the sushi counter taking off his protective gloves. He grasped both of Hal's hands and asked him to come to his home for dinner. Now that must have been quite a scene. Hal is about 6-2 and Win is short. Hal was in his uniform with captain bars on his collars and Win was in his apron.

The following week Hal and Shelly went to Win's home. Over dinner Hal asked Win how many friends he has made in his three years in America. Win responded, "You are my best friend."

Hal and Shelly are now off-and-running in a cross-cultural ministry with a Buddhist family from an unreached people group (Burmese) that is listed on the Joshua Project website as 0.07% Christian.

Reaching the unreached right at home. No plane fare necessary, no U.S. passport necessary, no inoculation shots necessary.

And this is just one story among a ton of others!

## **JAY BELL**

Director of Internationals USA, Grace Brethren International Missions

# JCC 44TH ANNIVERSARY

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 – A combined service to celebrate JCC's 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary with unity of the body.



Service with a smile....