

The Vine Committee

Editors:

Martin Cheah
mart5003@yahoo.com
John Lee
jpblee@gmail.com

Printer:

Nick Wong
digi_ics@yahoo.com

Writers this issue:

John Lee
Lissa Low
Derrick
Poh Kiat
Amos
Bernice
Roger Tan
Joo See

Photos:

Martin Cheah
Darren Ng



The headline news over the last few days have been very disconcerting to Christians and have increased the wrong impression that the people of the world have about Christians. The usual "Christians, also like that!"

has surfaced again. The people of the world expect Christians to be like Jesus Christ, "*one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.*" (Hebrews 4:15b)

Sometimes, we Christians also have the same perception, that pastors and leaders are above temptation and are sinless. We forget that the Holy Bible clearly states that, "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) All, includes everyone, pastors, leaders and all the people. Do pastors and leaders mislead the flock by claiming that they are without sin? Do Christians give the rest of the world the impression that they are sinless? Let me clearly state that Christians are **not** without sin but rather sinners who "are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24)

In the last issue of The Vine, I mentioned about how people are turned off by the church today because they are made to feel like sinners. Unfortunately, they are sinners but we make them feel worse for it because we give them the impression that we do not sin. Then when we are caught in a sin, it gives people an opportunity to say, "Christians also lie and cheat." Is it only I who get the impression that when a non-Christian sins, everyone thinks that it is the norm? They are just being human?

Prior to this, a number of headlines did not make any waves, there was the case of the 44 or more men caught in a sex scandal followed by a number

of high profile sex scandals involving sex for business. Perhaps in these cases, the people listened to the Holy Bible's injunction, "*If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone.*" (John 8:7b) This was a human failing and we can all understand and accept it without any "Tut, tuts"?

So I believe our approach should be to align ourselves with sinners, to have dinner with them, to talk to them, to visit them, like Jesus did. We should not keep them at arm's length for fear of being stained by them, that is what the Pharisees did. However we should pray that we "*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*" (Colosians 4:5-6)

By no means am I making a judgement of this matter, I am just looking at the impact this news has on the non-believers and the Christian's response. We should not let this situation stop us from reaching out to the people of the world. We should acknowledge that we, including them, are all sinners, in need of God's mercy and grace.

Perhaps in all the hoohah, you may have missed the news that our dear ex-PM's brother, Freddie Lee, just passed away. You might have noticed in the family's obituary notice that there was a Bible verse 2 Timothy 4:7. There is still hope that our ex-PM will one day believe and be able to receive the promise in the following verse, 2 Timothy 4:8, "*Now there is store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day.*"

I read somewhere:

"Conflict is a given in a fallen world. I wish I could say the church is immune, but that's clearly not the case. That said, there are many ways we can choose to respond to conflict. I've seen huge conflicts settled masterfully by level heads, and I've seen tiny issues lead to church splits. Many times, the only difference between the two is the way in which the conflict is handled. Did the church form factions? Did people gossip and sling mud? Or did they address one another with love, respect, and gentleness that turns away wrath (Prov. 15:1)?"

May we indeed live a Christ-like life as what the world expects of us, to be slapped and turn the other cheek. God's grace and mercy be with us all.

Martin Cheah

Your Testimony

by Os Hillman

"I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony." - John 3:11

Over the last several years I have seen two distinct types of Christian workplace believers. One type enthusiastically teaches their Bible knowledge to others. These people, though they may be genuine in their motive, lack one essential ingredient to being effectively used by God - a testimony. The second type of people I have encountered has a genuine testimony of what God is doing and continues to do in their lives. This was the case in the early Church. Men and women were able to give powerful testimony of events and experiences that could only be explained as a work of God.

God desires to build a testimony in each of us. Each of us is one of God's chosen vessels to reflect His power in and through us. When others see this power reflected, they are impacted because they cannot explain that power. God desires to frame your life with experiences designed to reflect the character and nature of Christ. Sometimes these events can be very devastating, but they are designed to reveal His power in and through us.

Every one of us has a testimony. What would others say your testimony is today? Can others see God's work in your life? Is your testimony one of Bible knowledge only? Are things happening in your life that can only be explained as God? These can be problematic questions for each of us. Ask God to build a testimony of His life in and through you today.

MY TESTIMONY

By Lissa Low

I read Martin Cheah's long-term wish (as stated in the Multi-media ministry report for JCC's 44th AGM) that members of JCC would write their personal testimonies for the Vine. He has the intention of compiling it into a book to be given out as a souvenir at the official opening of JCC's new building in time to come. I thought this a good idea and would like to encourage brothers and sisters to support this endeavour.

With this in mind, I share my testimony to add to his collection and I want to give all glory to God for His faithfulness and unfailing love to me.

I was born in a Buddhist family in Malaysia and was a very sick child till I started school. My parents thought of giving me away to my aunt, believing that a change of hands might heal me. Thank God that my grandfather opposed, and so I remained in the family. I visited many doctors, was given all sorts of medicine; ate mice, rabbits, turtles and kingfishers; and visited mediums who let me drink ashes of “charmed yellow paper” mixed in water. I was taken to the temple and asked to crawl under the table of the “nine-emperor deity”, but that still did not heal me. I was very frightened and always had nightmares after each visit. These went on for six years.

My mother told me that all my sickness was gone when I started school. I attended a Catholic school and every day I learned about Jesus in our civic and catechism classes. I believed Jesus healed me as I was listening to his stories every day even without me asking. I was taught to pray the “Hail Mary” and the “Lord’s Prayer” every day during my primary school years. I did not read the Bible because I did not have one at home. I believed in Jesus as the God I knew who preaches about love. I was not frightened and did not have nightmares anymore. I would pray every night before I sleep and always had a peaceful sleep.

I backslided during secondary school when I stopped attending catechism classes as it was not compulsory. I was contented to have one subject less to study.

After my studies, I came down to Singapore to work and missed my family in Malaysia. I was brought to Jurong Christian Church by my boyfriend (now my husband). I remembered my God from young – one who is loving and trustworthy, and who healed me. Away from my parents and siblings, I felt comforted by God’s presence in my life and did not feel alone anymore. I accepted Jesus as my Savior in one of the evangelistic meetings in JCC. Since then I have experienced His love, faithfulness, mercy, grace and goodness in many areas and trying periods of my life. Thank God for His unfailing love that led me back to Him.



OUR JCC COMBINED RETREAT EXPERIENCE

Poh Kiat:

Our family's first combined retreat turned out to be such a blessing. I came back renewed by the worship & God's Word; refreshed by our awesome closeness to nature; rejuvenated by the fellowship and recharged to live out this blessing with others. I see Christ in the lives of our beloved brothers and sisters from both English and Chinese congregations; including our pastors and the retreat and worship committees. Surely this unity is fragrance, satisfying to the heart of God and good for us to maintain.



A couple of days before the retreat, I attended the funeral of one of our church brothers from the Chinese congregation. At the funeral his wife testified that Jehovah Jireh will be her husband & anchor of strength to move on. It is not the 'how' or 'why' that matters anymore but the 'who' in her life that is important. Her decision to let God be her security in life and depend on Him daily, living out the Christ-like life has left a deep impact on me.

Kin Cheong:

I enjoyed most the worship experience of singing praises to God in Hokkien, Mandarin & English. This is a glimpse of heaven where different races and languages of people come together in one chorus to worship Him.

Once again I learnt to pray with a humble heart and to yield my spirit to Him daily to walk in His absolute will. I recommit my desire to be a blessing to others in the market-place, by living a Christ-like life by His power and grace.

Thank God for the opportunity to befriend and be encouraged by brothers & sisters from both English and Chinese congregations. Interestingly, each of us in my family was spending more time mixing around and with our "kakis" during the retreat rather than gluing ourselves together in our family.

Bernice:

I learnt to focus on Christ and not on sin and to fall in love with Christ with the correct attitude. I think throughout this trip my relationship with Christ was also strengthened and I felt closer to Him in Spirit.

Amos:

Like a loving Father, God wants nothing less than the best for us, His children. There is nothing in this world better than Christ and that is what God wishes for us, to be



like Christ. I am extremely blessed that I am predestined to be like Christ. May God help me to live out this Christ-like identity BY FAITH, trusting that God will conform and transform me into his likeness.

For it is said in Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by FAITH in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

All glory be to God as both English and Chinese sections continue to bond and seek the Lord together with the same vision of living out a Christ-like life.



Bintan Retreat – Living a Christ-like Life

“Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.” (Luke 5:15)

Jesus became very popular; He became very busy. What did He do? The next verse of Luke tells us that “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

I emphasise the word “often”, which makes clear that retreating to a place away from the usual busyness and stresses of harried activities for physical re-composure and spiritual re-invigoration was not just a one-time happening, but a repeated endeavour even for Jesus. (Refer also Luke 4:42)

Jurong Christian Church had a retreat to Bintan (Indonesia) from 13th – 16th June. Retreat Chairman, Bro. Teo Chee Haw, said, “God’s sacred purpose in the creation of mankind is for us to be like Christ. This is the theme of our retreat and the vision of JCC.”

To start with, by taking the time-out from our usual activities is following in the footsteps of Christ. Calling time-outs from time to time is a necessity to keep our life (in both physical and spiritual senses) in the pink. If Christians



are busy, winning accolades for their industriousness in the world, but have no time to be away for rest, recreation and prayer from time to time – to get an overwrought soul back in order, refreshed and re-energised to be effective in serving God – their lives wouldn’t be well-nourished like that, would they?

The Bintan Retreat was a first for JCC to have 200+ participants including members from the English, Chinese and Dialect sections and family members, as well as 35 from Yishun Christian Church. English, Mandarin and Hokkien harmoniously intermixed in the services, and the genuine spontaneity of everyone in worship and sharing, showed up our unity of purpose to be

Christ-like as in the prayer of Rom. 15:5-6, to “follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

It was a great feeling the sense of belonging to one body as everyone accepted one another despite their differences. The lodging with air-conditioning and great sea views was good, so was



the food with vegetables, meat, soup, fruits, etc. Did all eat enough? Someone jested that he didn't; but our speaker, Rev Dr Philip Tan, had more food prepared – spiritual food for the soul. Due to the “no tapao” (no takeaway) custom, I could not bring back any from the buffet table for you to savour; but at least here I can share a few delectable morsels that Dr. Tan dished out from the pulpit.

Since the Fall of Man, the balance between God, man and creation was thrown into disorder. Disharmony ruled in human relationships. Note the enmity between Cain and Abel, followed by Jacob and Esau over birth-right; and then Jacob's son, Joseph, being sold by his brothers into slavery. These are but just a few examples of the disunity among God's people. It was under David that Israel became united, a great and prosperous kingdom; and Jesus is sometimes referred to as “Son of David”. All scholars agreed that the Kingdom of David was the most glorious, a golden-era kingdom. Rev Dr Philip Tan pointed us to the Psalm 133:1-3:

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

*² It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.*

*³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—
Life forevermore.*

This Psalm is called the “Psalm of Ascent” – As David sang it, he was rejoicing at the sight of Jews in unity, probably a sight he took in from the vantage position of his palace overseeing the Jews joyfully and congenially ascending towards the temple on a hilltop. “Behold” suggests something extraordinary to draw attention to, an outstanding contrast of the present harmony with the past conflicts. As they climbed the hill, the sweat on their brows was like “precious oil”, exuding fragrance apropos for the harmony unembellished, pleasant to the eyes and ears. It was like the “dew of Hermon” – dew enabling plants in Israel’s dry weather to flower and bear fruit. So it is with God’s people in harmony, pleasing God and bringing forth fruits, and being able to look forward to the blessing of everlasting life commanded by God. Only those living in harmony looks forward to everlasting life.

The Church is the Bride of Christ – an analogy of our relationship with Christ as a union. Rev Dr Philip Tan asked, “Are we ready to meet our Bride – being a church of unity?” We were reminded of a time when a proposal was put before the JCC Council to have the church carpark segregated into blue and red zones for different groups. Such was an example of a flagrant breeding of disunity on the verge of threatening the life of the church. Fortunately, good sense prevailed and the proposal was jettisoned. Disharmony hurts the heart of our Lord, and this contrasts starkly with the beauty of a church in unity. Like the Davidic Kingdom in harmony, how good and how pleasant it is for a church that is united and a testimony of a life in Christ. Before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed, “I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.” (John 17:11)

Jesus was concerned about the unity of His disciples. He prayed to the Father for unity. We believe in the Trinity. Jesus prayed that “they may be one as we are one.” This tells us our priority for a Christ-like life.

JCC has come a long way throughout its history dotted with experiences of accords and discords from time to time. We will be celebrating our 45th anniversary this year. The unvarnished spontaneity that we displayed for the

retreat (by way of the different sections of the church harmoniously labouring together to make it a reality and a success) and at the retreat (by the natural ease with which we displayed an inclusiveness for all ages and languages) was noticed by our guest speaker, Rev Dr Philip Tan, right at his first session with us. He commented with approval, “Behold, a golden era has come to JCC ...” A church in harmony implies a church entering a golden era. As God prospered the Kingdom of David, He will prosper us and command to us the blessing – Life forevermore.

Refreshed by the Retreat, to live a Christ-like life:

- At the personal level,
- At the family level,
- At the Church level and
- At the market-place level.

It is a long march. It is not easy, but it is not impossible. For those of us at the retreat, we know that we have taken in a lot (the above are but just a few morsels) and are in the process of digesting the substantial intake. For those of you who missed the retreat, you can start planning not to give the next one a miss.

God bless Jurong Christian Church in this golden era of church unity modeled on Christ-likeness!

John Lee

RETREAT DEVOTIONS:

Romans 8:28-29

1. Does God work for the good of only those who love Him or everyone? What are the implications?
2. God has predestined us to be in the image of His Son but why does it say that He conforms us? Does God force us?
3. What is our proper response to God's calling to conform to Christ-likeness?

2Corinthians 3:12-18

1. What are some areas that Singaporeans tend to glory in (our pride and joy)?
2. Why do we find it difficult to give up these temporal glories? Why is it so hard for us to be more heavenly minded?
3. How can we turn to godly living and a heavenly mindset → Christ-likeness?

Ephesians 4:11-16

1. Did God give the ministry gifts to all the people, ie the congregation? What are the implications of saying that it is given to the full-time workers or to all the members?
2. Why are these gifts given? What are the implications?

GOD'S PROGRAMME

I thank God for a great experience in planning this combined Retreat. Months back, Christopher challenged me to join the committee in taking care of logistics. Without much hesitation, I agreed as I thought that it would not be hard as I would just have to use my muscles. It was at the first meeting that I realised that I was to head the whole programme for the retreat. I was taken aback but nevertheless smiled in agreement. After that, I went home and thought through it, many times wanting to give up but God sent many people to encourage me.

I have seen God working miraculously in many ways. Firstly was my approval of leave. During one of the retreat meetings, when Chee Haw asked the committee whether all our leave had been approved, I kept silent. In fact, I had not dared to apply leave on those few days, because my boss had instructed that no one was allowed to take leave in June as it would be a busy month for the company. But I prayed and asked God to soften my boss' heart. The next day, I went to him and he agreed! He even encouraged me to do well in this retreat and gave me his prayer blessings.

Secondly, I saw how God worked in the midst of his people. I thanked God for the great turnout for this retreat. Prior to the retreat, none of us knew what God was going to do. We did not have a good early response and felt anxious. After much prayer for wisdom, God granted His blessings to bring the great number of His people to this retreat. It was amazing. Praise the Lord!



Many times I had no faith in myself and God, but God spoke to me through brothers and sisters in Christ that I should not give up. I must press on and finish the race. Isn't this what God wants us to do? During the first day of the retreat, I saw the tiredness of the participants as we led the ice-breaking games. The large room was a bit stuffy as the air-con took some time to cool it. I was grateful for Hannah and Theresa who persevered despite the discomfort. However, I was not much encouraged by the slow response from the crowd that was not according to my expectation. I fretted and sobbed as I was resting in the room. Some negative thoughts came to me in my disappointment. God lifted me up once again in the sermon and I asked myself whether I was truly living this life like Jesus. After that, we were supposed to have a programmes meeting. I was dismayed when one

of my team members came to me and said, “It is late, so we have to postpone the meeting to the next day.”

Immediately, I went to the lobby and sat there by myself. God was dealing with me on what I was going through. Suddenly, sister Emma came to me and asked me how I was? I shared with her what I was thinking and also the solution. I told her that at the rate that we were going, no one would turn up for the outdoor games the next day. I suggested scrapping the plans. After chatting for ½ an hour, I told her that I was tired and wanted to rest. So I walked away. She came chasing after me and said, “Why not we pray?” I agreed although my heart was still faithless. After that, I went to have my own devotion and sing the retreat theme song. Then suddenly I poured out my concerns to God. God asked me when the last time I had prayed constantly. “Do you trust me or yourself? Are you leaning on your own understanding? Do you want to truly follow after me? I confessed all my thoughts to Him and finally felt peace. And the outdoor games went well with enthusiastic participation.

Finally, I want to thank my programme team for putting in so much effort in making the retreat a great one. Actually, the team did much more than logistical work. It was not by our own might but by the power of God that the programmes went well. Still, at the human experience level, I felt blessed to work with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from the Chinese and English sections – including Emma, Hannah, Theresa, Sacharrissa, Jeffery, Jacqueline (Huiling) and Kang Wei. Indeed when there is unity, our God will definitely do something greater.

All Glory be to God!

Roger Tan

The retreat was a great success with participants ranging in ages from children to senior citizens. Among them, the hard work of the youths and young adults was very impressive because they contributed a large part of the energy and enterprise, without which the retreat would not be half as enjoyable. The retreat committee has received many positive feedbacks. In the ice-breaking games conducted bilingually, I was myself in this group (comprising members from both English and Chinese sections) that came up the top scorer. It was so much sweat, and so much hilarity and fun; the more tired we got ourselves, the sweeter the rest that came afterwards. Many thanks to the Retreat Committee and working teams. To our young people who gave so much of their time and energy, I say, “加油!” – You are our promising leaders of tomorrow. May God continue to bless His servants abundantly for their faithfulness. – *John Lee*

OUR GOD IS MIGHTY TO SAVE

When Debra first went to Brisbane she stayed with a Lutheran Pastor and family. After 9 months, she and her housemates decided to have a change of environment. They went to view a newly-built townhouse which they liked very much. They approached the agent who contacted the owner. At first the owner agreed to rent to them but before the contract could be signed, he changed his mind.

Debra and friends were very sad. She contacted me to pray for her. I prayed and asked God to soften the heart of the owner to make him change his mind. Praise be to God, he really did and they managed to rent the house and signed the contract for 6 months. After staying for about 4 months, one day the agent informed Debra that the owner had decided to put the house up for sale and told them to look for another house.

Debra was very sad she told me that the timing was wrong because she had to prepare for examination and at the same time to look for another house. I told her we will pray and ask God for direction and intervention. I prayed and God spoke to me in Isaiah 59:1

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear”

After I read this I told Debra about it and we really felt the peace of God. The agent put up the advertisement and on 2 occasions there was an open house. Debra mentioned that nobody came to view the house at all. So 1 week before the end of June, the agent informed Debra and her friends that the owner has decided to continue renting the house to them and they signed the contract for another 6 months. All praise, glory and honour be to our GOD, indeed **HE IS MIGHTY TO SAVE, AMEN !**

Joo See

A BATTLE TO AVOID **(LAND vs. WATER)**

WIND and SUN were having a quarrel, each boasting itself as stronger than the other. They decided on a challenge to see who would be the first to get a passer-by to remove his cloak. WIND tried mightily, but the harder the effort the tighter the passer-by clung to his cloak. So SUN won. – *Aesop fable*

If FIRE and WATER were to have a fight, which do you think would come out the winner? A super-volcano has a massive eruption, spilling fire and brimstones, shaking up vast areas of LAND and then unleashing giant tsunami waves. Millions of lives perish. Yet, in the end, all combustions expire as flood waters recede into the seas. In other words, FIRE dies off but WATER still stays put in its natural domicile (the seas and oceans) awaiting the next opportunity to act up.

About 71% of the Earth's surface is covered with WATER, as much as 97.5% of which is owned by the seas and oceans. Add to this the melting glaciers. Is it any wonder that when LAND and WATER have a fight, puny LAND simply has no chance? When you look at the Earth from the moon, you can see the Earth looking like a whole ball of WATER with only a small LAND mass in the midst. WIND is moving air, and nearly 90% of the moisture in the air comes from the vast WATER mass on Earth. With its humongous body, WATER's influence on the rise and ebb of air pressures (hence, storms and hurricanes) due to atmospheric heating and cooling is enormous.

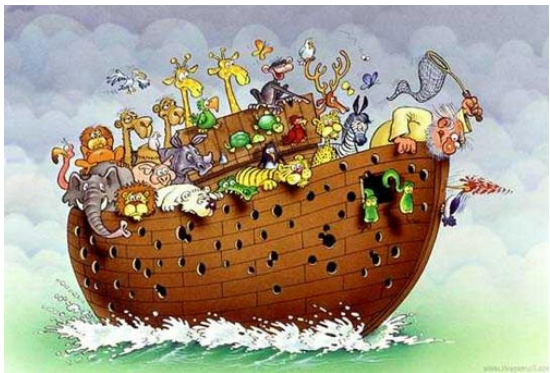
God put man on LAND, fishes in the sea and birds in the air. Are we better off than the birds of the air and the fishes of the sea as a survivor when WIND, SUN, FIRE and WATER decide to battle it out for supremacy? Escalating temperatures, earthquakes, typhoons, killer waves, etc. unleashed as battle weapons will put man's armoury (nuclear arms, whatever) to shame. To put it simply, man would simply have no effective weapon to wield in defence of LAND. We can think of sinking LAND and rising WATER; can anyone imagine rising LAND and sinking WATER?

In Genesis, we read of God being grieved by man's wickedness whereby he sent a great flood to inundate LAND. That was an act of God to punish man. Now, every time we talk of natural disasters, we talk of them as Acts of God. When WATER becomes angry against man for his destructive ways (in denuding forests,

increasing greenhouse emissions, wanton destructions, playing God ...), and decides to vent, will it be rightfully attributable to act of man or Act of God?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” Then God let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds. He also let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. Finally, God made mankind to rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. (Gen. 1)

LAND and WATER have their rightful places in the creation plan of God. The plants and living creatures have their rightful places to call home. When man becomes over-ambitious, the natural balance of God’s creation becomes upset. In the beginning, man would have no knowledge of good and evil; he could just obey God and things would be well. Unfortunately, once he tasted of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, his conscience became compromised and he began to make judgment on good or evil according to his limited knowledge (contrasting God’s omniscience) to be at odds with God’s plan.



Earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and rising temperatures due to global warming are more frequently in the news that they are no longer news but expected outcomes of man’s behaviour. The mass of WATER in the oceans is in the region of 10^{18} tonnes. Recognising this as we compare the puny size of habitable LAND area with the vast oceans, we know how a battle between LAND and WATER will

play out. It has already played out in history as evidenced by the numerous underwater cities and ruins discovered. Recall also the Great Flood with only an ark afloat in the midst of overwhelming WATER engulfing the whole LAND. Predictions have it that Bangkok is at risk of being swallowed up by the sea in 2030, and Dubai (despite its lavish Palm and the World project) will follow suit; just two examples out of dozens, of LAND being threatened by WATER if man does not do the right thing. Interestingly, the power of WATER is manifest by its ability to give as well as take away. For example, according to Wikipedia, New Moore Island “emerged in the Bay of Bengal in the aftermath of the Bhola cyclone in 1970, and disappeared at some later point.”

How safe are we in Singapore from enemy WATER if we do not make it fully our friend? The Chairman of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) says that parts of Singapore may be submerged by 2100, which is less than 90 years away. Our grandchildren or great-grandchildren will have to deal with this head-on if we do nothing about it now.



The wisest thing for man to do is to scale back on his nature-destructive ambitions. Cut back on destructive habits. Hope that the day will not come when people can only live on the mountains (or just in an ark) as habitable LAND's surface shrink substantially under the onslaught of all-conquering WATER.

The battle between LAND and WATER – who will win? Is there a need for the battle? Why not both live in peace as friends?

John Lee

HAPPENINGS

27-6-12 Discipleship Education Class on Genesis Chapter 1 was conducted by Samuel Tan for the adults. All of us found it interactive, informative and well paced. Some may find it reminiscent of a Sunday School lesson but I tell you even highly paid trainers, like Ron Kaufman, use such activity in his training methods.



So join us every Wednesday and learn the Word of God, taught by our own home grown talent, in the way a highly paid trainer would, but for free.



4-6-12 During the Kids' Camp in June, the kids were brought to St Luke's Home at Jurong East to bring cheer to the elderly there. The children were taught to sing a number of Dialect songs to perform for the residents of the home. Both the kids and the elderly were touched by this effort.



I hope that the kids learnt more than just the Bible stories from the camp. Hopefully they learned how to apply the lessons to helping the less fortunate.



You can watch their performance at Youtube:

<http://youtu.be/QjsXXqrz0OI> and <http://youtu.be/k8UdB2HzQg>

HAPPENINGS

17-6-12 The Dialect Ministry celebrated Parent's Day in collaboration with the Dance Ministry and Youth Ministry. Probably for the first time in the Dialect Ministry there was this combination of effort to reach out to our dear elderly.



The Dance Ministry did a flag dance to a Chinese piece of music. This was followed by the youths doing a skit about getting in Heaven by good works. Obviously, the message was that one could not get to Heaven by good works. However, maybe the message may have come



across wrongly that one can still make a choice after one is dead.



Hopefully, the elderly got the main message that Jesus is the only Way to Heaven and they should accept Him now. The preacher Rev



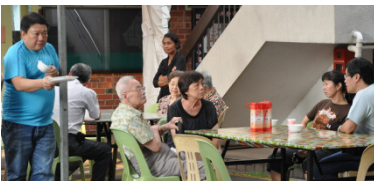
James Lim

gave an altar call and a number of hands shot up. We are unable to tell who had just received Christ and who were just re-committing themselves to Christ. Nevertheless



we are joyful.

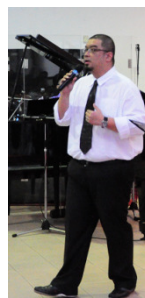
May God be merciful. Watch at:



<http://youtu.be/3HDRtpsEfy0>

HAPPENINGS

1-7-12 JCC celebrated its 45th Anniversary with a combined service for the Mandarin, English and Dialect congregations. The 3 congregations filled up the MPH and the sanctuary. The 3 people groups were closer than ever after the recent combined church retreat which fostered good relationships between the different congregations.



The Mandarin and Dialect choirs gave a presentation of songs and the sermon was in Mandarin, translated into English and Hokkien. A unity of the diverse languages in JCC celebrating its 45th Anniversary.

Watch this on Youtube: <http://youtu.be/wHo8ThS-l-s>



HAPPENINGS

7-7-12 The wedding of Samuel Tay and Angeline You. After many years of importing husbands or wives, this is one wedding where the couple had grown up in JCC. Indeed it is a very rare occasion to find couples from within JCC finally tying the knot. I remember only of Joseph and Pei Ern. This was not so in the early days of JCC where many couples, eg. Wilfred & Julie; Sammy & Lena; Jim & Michelle; Yew Moi & Sek Hoon, were from the church itself.

The day began with sunshine but around the time of the wedding service, there were dark clouds forming. The bridal car was an open top Mercedes. Thank God, for holding back the rains.



This is the first wedding service performed by Rev Anthony Loh, who just obtained his license 6 days ago. A good job done and many more to come. The beautiful bride and the handsome groom, a perfect couple, gave some stirring speeches and also sang beautifully. The food was good and the weather fine.



May all their days be as beautiful and happy as today.



Martin Cheah

