

The Vine

A branch of the.....

Multi Media Ministry

2015 Aug

For internal circulation only

Volume 8/2015

The Vine Committee

Editor:

John Lee

jbislee@gmail.com

Printer:

Nick Wong

digi_ics@yahoo.com

Writers this issue:

John Lee

Peggy Lee

Clement Tan

James Candiah

Photos:

Martin Cheah

Nick Wong

HOM'S Reflections

The month of August was a blast – there was one blast after another all over the place. There were bomb blasts in Pakistan on 16 and 21 August, there was a bomb blast in Bangkok on 17 August and there were blasts in the Middle East also. Besides bombs, there were factory blasts in China on 13 August in Tianjin and on 22 August in Shandong.

On my way home after fetching Joo See from work, I noticed white smoke coming out of the car's bonnet. I thought turning off the air-conditioning could help but as we continued to drive on, the smoke was still coming out. As we were on Jurong Town Hall road, I decided to turn into the side road leading up to the old JTC building so as not to cause a traffic jam at that time of day. We then called the Automobile Association for towing service. After about 40 minutes the tow truck came and picked up the car and brought it to my mechanic at Pioneer Road.

Joo See went back home on her own while I accompanied the tow truck to the workshop. By the time I reached home it was already 8:30pm. We had a dinner appointment but it was already late and I didn't have a car to drive so we missed out on the opportunity to meet up with the original Jurong West CG shepherd and some of the other members from the old group.

Although we missed out on the dinner, we still felt blessed because we were able to stop the car. We could have been in a blast if we continued as the over-heated radiator might blow up.



In the month of August, we were also blessed with two large donations for the church rebuilding. One from our own member who put \$200,000 into the offering bag one Sunday. The other was from Lighthouse church whose pastors also came all the way to give us a cheque for \$200,000. Some of us may ask why God does not just give us one big lumpsum of \$6 million so that all our Fund Raising activities can cease. Perhaps, God doesn't only want to build His Temple but also our faith in Him. Like the manna in the desert, He may want us to trust Him each day for our needs and not to collect more than we need for the day. The article below speaks of putting our hope in His unfailing love.

Martin Cheah

THOSE IN WHOM GOD DELIGHTS

by Os Hillman

“His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.” – Psalm 147:10

Mammon and power are the ruling strongholds of the workplace. If you possess either of these, then you will be courted by those who serve the workplace in hopes of increasing market share. It is a competitive environment that often gives way to decisions and actions that are dictated by the financial bottom line.

A recent newspaper article stated that employers are requiring workers to put more time into their jobs, often requiring weekend work in order to be more competitive. For the Christian worker, this brings pressures on the family and will result in “lost market share” in the spiritual realm.

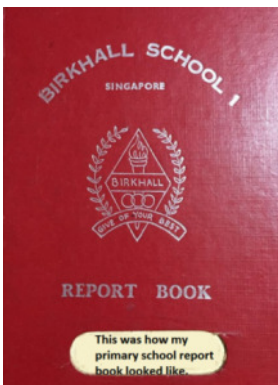
The Lord has a different measuring stick. The Lord is not impressed with your ability or what you can do for Him. Only one thing delights Him – people who fear Him and put their hope in His unfailing love. What does it mean to fear God and place our hope in His love? It means we acknowledge that God is the source of all that we are. He is the one who gives us the ability to work, plan, and execute. He does not want us to look to our abilities, but to His abilities. Sometimes it is difficult to balance these two perspectives. However, if we ask God to show us how to maintain this balance, He will do it. Put your hope in His unfailing love today. Then you will know that your heavenly Father is looking on you as a proud Father.

Celebrating SG50



Singaporeans are celebrating SG50, the 50th anniversary of Singapore Independence. Even visitors to Singapore cannot escape the ubiquitous SG50 logo tagged onto almost anything anywhere. Businessmen welcome the jubilee opportunity to come out with their SG50-branded products and tempting SG-50 offers to get people through their doors, hopeful that the customers would be blissfully immersed in a SG50-euphoric spending spree.

What does SG50 mean to you? If you are a young chap, you may have read a lot in the news and history books about how Singapore was in 1965 and how far she has progressed. However, your knowledge would not be like that of the older folk who actually had the knowledge in their experience of life from 50 years ago all the way to the present, and so they cherish the progress of Singapore (for her increased prosperity) or harbour ambivalence towards the negatives of increased stresses of life sans the feel of the kampong spirit of old.



When our first PM, the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, famously wept on National TV on 9th August 1965, I was not watching the TV. Two reasons: I was just a kid in Birkhall Primary School, and my family could not afford the luxury of a black-and-white television set.

I remember that I lived in a 4-storey block of flats at Stirling Road. From the back windows of my flat, I could see the True Way Presbyterian Church (Queenstown). My block of flats had no void deck, just like the neighbouring blocks. However, I enjoyed a great childhood, being free to go downstairs to play with neighbours' children of

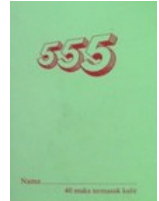
similar age every day after school which dismissed at 1 p.m. sharp. (No extra

school hours for remedial lessons or extra-curricular activities.) There was also an open-air badminton court in front of my block. I played skipping (with ropes made from rubber bands) and *five stones* with boys and girls together. Among the boys, we played *goli* (marbles). We played *hantam bola* (throwing a tennis ball at one another) in the open field, getting ourselves dirty with mud stains on our clothes and prepared for a scolding when we reached home.



Game of five stones

Although my family was poor, we could depend on the friendly neighbourhood provision shop to sell us provisions on credit, with the amount recorded in a small 555 notebook. It was based on trust, without need for security or guarantors. For larger purchases, the provision shop even provided free home delivery.



I can go on and on, but young readers who appreciate our past based on reading material won't really feel like what older folk feel about the 50 years of changes that have taken place. Today, children play games on computers (no more *goli* or *five-stones*). Housing blocks now have void decks, but kicking ball there is banned. How about playing soccer (a less hard-hitting game of ball than *hantam bola*) in the open fields? Sorry, the fields are well-manicured and contoured to be unsuitable for running about. You want to play badminton? Well, you may have to make the effort to place an advance booking for the court in a community club to play in comfy surroundings, and it is not free use like the old days. The old landscape was simple and uncluttered, without the modern trappings of economic vibrancy. The new life today is filled with a lot of innovative mindsets with progressive expectations and pressures.

Singapore has changed tremendously over 50 years. (The world has changed tremendously too.) Now, children eat expensive buns bought from famed bakeries without batting an eyelid when once upon a time my mother would buy a bun from a neighbourhood travelling hawker and cut the bun into halves or quarters for sharing among the children. Similarly, in my childhood, apples and oranges were meant to be divided and shared rather than eaten whole per person. Now, eating chickens and ducks is no longer a luxury only for special occasions. The ubiquitous "hawker" centres have replaced real hawkers (itinerant sellers of food) who, in the nostalgic days, would walk through the neighbourhood and announce their presence by making a tick tock tick tock sound using a short rod to hit against a bamboo stick. It was welcome sound to those playing mahjong in the homes. They could simply hail a hawker to place their orders for hot noodles to be delivered to their doorsteps in bowls which the hawker would later return again to collect back.

Taman Jurong Community Centre 1965



The 50 years of changes, with skyscrapers replacing low-rise buildings, can be viewed as impressive, unimaginable 50 years ago. Maybe you would like to note that on 9th August 1965, there was no Jurong Christian Church, and Tah Ching Road was then known as Taman Jurong 12.¹ The Taman Jurong CC

today was like what you see in the picture here.

Despite the positive spectacular changes in 50 years to the landscape of Singapore, there are unpleasant aspects from another perspective – the price of progress: The loss of childhood for today’s children (with study as preoccupation, late hours in school, homework, tuition, etc.), the loss of *kampung* spirit among neighbours, the proliferation of modern indulgences and temptations that are unhealthy, the increased difficulties in life, and so on.

The Only Thing
That Is
Constant Is
Change -
Heraclitus

Change – for better or worse – is unavoidable. Heraclitus of Ephesus (a Greek philosopher) used the term *Logos* (λόγος) to refer to *order* and *knowledge* that bind our existence. What he said that everything changes and nothing stands still applies to the physical, intellectual and moral spheres. By the Gospel of John, *Logos* (λόγος) proceeds from God and is incarnate in Jesus. What this means is that every change in the world, in the universe, happens not by chance but by divine will. The order in the world and universe is beyond our control, and our knowledge of things happening is greatly limited by our human faculties.

Time past has laid down imprints in our lives, but our lives are set to continue by our active breath, with laughter and tears, on rough and smooth roads, to harvest the improvements we aspire for.

God loves us. He has guided us through the past 50 years that we have reasons to celebrate for His glory – NOT for the glory of man – and we look to Him to continually pull us forward into the next 50 years and beyond with a heart of thanksgiving and praise.

¹ <http://remembersingapore.org/>

As we celebrate Singapore Year of Jubilee, a word worth pondering about is “Jubilee”. Let me quote two passages from the NIV Bible:

The Sabbath Year

The Lord said to Moses at Mount Sinai, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. – Lev. 25:1-4

The Year of Jubilee

*“Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate **the fiftieth year** and **proclaim liberty throughout the land** to all its inhabitants. It shall be a **jubilee** for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. **The fiftieth year** shall be a **jubilee** for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. For it is a **jubilee** and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields. – Lev. 25:8-12*

In the Bible, the Jubilee year has the following attributes:

- It is directly related to Sabbath, being a year prescribed as the 50th year – the year at the end of seven cycles of Sabbath years.
- It is a consecrated year when liberty is to be proclaimed throughout the land.

Note that the concept of Jubilee is not about a single 50th year. It is about a cycle of 50 years, such that many Jubilees came and went in the history of ancient Israel, from the time of Adam. Each Jubilee is a time to reflect, and a time to be conscious of significant events that may happen. For example, Abraham’s birth took place on the 40th Jubilee, the Exodus on the 50th and the death and resurrection of Jesus on the 80th. We do not know how many more Jubilees there will be until the second coming of Christ and what will be the momentous events at each of the future Jubilees. Similarly, for this “Little Red Dot” as a land of opportunities from the legendary founding of Singapura by

Sang Nila Utama, through the official founding of Singapore on 6th Feb 1819² by Sir Stamford Raffles, to the Proclamation of Independence of Singapore by Mr Lee Kuan Yew to ...

While in celebratory mood for SG50, it is important for us to foster a reflective vein to meditate on what significant benediction God has ready for us. Beyond this Jubilee, our PM Lee already has thought about what blessedness we will have as he looks from this “base camp of SG50” to “50 years on, on our Golden Jubilee”. He said in his National Day Message 2015:

*“50 years on, on our Golden Jubilee, we will gather again at the Padang. We will sing “Majulah Singapura” proudly, and recite the National Pledge. We will rejoice in the success of our last five decades, and commit ourselves anew to work together as one united people, regardless of race, language or religion, to build Singapore, so as to achieve happiness, prosperity, and progress for our nation.”*³

Let me pose this question again: What does SG50 mean to you?

Let me also share someone’s view as posted in a blog:

*“What SG50 means to me: SG50 is a milestone and celebration of the jubilant success of Singapore. Feel especially thankful for our forefathers who believe in this country and persevere to build up this nation that we are proud to call home. This is Singapore and this is home truly. Happy birthday Singapore :)”*⁴

Do not be confused by the changes around us. In fact, given that the only thing that is constant is change, let us be prepared to catch more changes to come in the days, months and years ahead. Be sober to count the blessings, and be prayerful as we seek God for more of His grace to lead us forward regardless of whatever challenges we have to face squarely.

Challenges are meant to be grappled with if we want a better future for the nation – it is not for us to avoid and be laid back with simple hope that all things will be well throughout the land, banking on past achievements without our active concern and participation to attain our aspirations for a Singapore that will continue to be a great home. We

² “This date is recognized as the official founding of Singapore.” – http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_131_2005-01-03.html

³ <http://www.pmo.gov.sg/national-day-message>

⁴ https://www.celebratesg50.com/en-US/isubmission/1035972131447210863_10161887

need to apply wise thinking and accountable action at important decision points.

Every day that God has given us, He retains the breath of our lives for what purpose?

Now I look at the Chinese translations of “Jubilee” and “Year”:

- Jubilee = 欢乐 = happiness = 禧
- Year = 年
- Therefore, “Jubilee Year” = 欢乐年 = 禧年 (as Jubilee Year is normally called in Chinese)

Looking through an alternative language (in this case, Chinese) is a simple way for myself to grasp that a Jubilee year is indeed a year to be joyous, a year for celebration – a fact that can be ascertained by a more scrupulous exegesis of Scripture with all the wonderful tools you may have and prefer to use for Bible Study.

To me, SG50 is cause for rejoicing as we savour the sweet taste of our progress. Without losing myself to revelry, I must balance my mind with the cognizance of significant events near and far – good and bad – stirring, as we read in the newspapers every day. Change is in the offing, for better or worse. I agree with Heraclitus of Ephesus that this is unavoidable; yet, we cannot avoid the responsibility to be alive to happenings and be positive influencers for all that are good for Singapore and for the world.



As Logos (λόγος) proceeds from God and is incarnate in Jesus, let us pray for the Lord’s benediction.

John Lee



Fund Raising Calendar 2016

Much work had been put into this project to raise funds through sales of a calendar with recipes from JCC members. Please support this calendar project.



THE FUTURE – THE END OF TIME

More than 25 years ago, I knew some Christian friends who refused to get a credit card because they did not want to be part of a cashless society. However the credit card has been here for so many years and we have still not gone into a cashless state. Cash is still king. However there was another worry these Christians had about the eventual implantation of a chip into our right hand or forehead. Without it we would not be able to buy things. Where did they get these ideas from? Was it from some computer whiz kid in 1990 who could predict what technology would achieve in 2015?

Seriously, I don't think they got these ideas from any computer genius but from a computer illiterate apostle. More than 2000 years ago, the apostle who could not even describe a helicopter predicted that one day in the future these things would happen. He described a helicopter in Revelations 9:9-10 as "They had breastplates like breastplates of iron and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails with stingers like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment...."

So while we think nothing is happening, we must not be like the frog in the slow cooker thinking he is having a warm bath. Though as Pastor Andrew mentioned, we do not know when the end will come, we must know the events that will take place before the end comes. We must be prepared for wars, earthquakes, persecutions, false prophets and the anti-Christ besides other events. One such event is of course the implantation of a chip on our person. The apostle described in Revelations 13:16 what the chip was, "It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark...." How soon will this happen, I don't know, but I saw a video on WhatsApp which reports that a microchip the size of a grain of rice has been developed and is being tested in Sweden, which can be implanted into your hand as a personal identification device (PID). (See article below.)

At this moment in time, no one is being forced to have the implant but surely like the IU device in your car, all will need to have it one day. When that day comes, will we have a choice? There is a warning in Revelations 14:9, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury...." Of course other than the risk of carrying the mark of the beast on your hand, there are other obvious risks. Thieves will chop off your hand as a means of getting your PID to access your ATM account. Gone will be the days when you only lose your ATM card and some money.

However, I do not think this will be a worldwide event. Only 1st world countries have the computer infrastructure to implement such technology. In Singapore and especially in the Jurong Lake District, where we are, this technology may be

frighteningly close as we hear of our zone being used as a testbed for a smart city. Perhaps Zewen made the right choice to head to a 3rd world country like Cambodia where such technology is still far from realization.

What can we do in the face of these coming events? Revelations 14:7 says, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgement has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." We are reminded, "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus..... Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..." Revelations 14:12-13.

The end times will not be easy for Christians but we must endure like the early church during the 1st century persecutions. The future may sound scary but the final triumph belongs to God and "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes..."

Martin Cheah

Office puts chips under staff's skin

Want to gain entry to your office, get on a bus, or perhaps buy a sandwich? We're all getting used to swiping a card to do all these things. But at Epicenter, a new hi-tech office block in Sweden, they are trying a different approach - a chip under the skin.

Felicio de Costa, whose company is one of the tenants, arrives at the front door and holds his hand against it to gain entry. Inside he does the same thing to get into the office space he rents, and he can also wave his hand to operate the photocopier.

That's all because he has a tiny RFID (radio-frequency identification) chip, about the size of a grain of rice, implanted in his hand. Soon, others among the 700 people expected to occupy the complex will also be offered the chance to be chipped. Along with access to doors and photocopiers, they're promised further services in the longer run, including the ability to pay in the cafe with a touch of a hand.

On the day of the building's official opening, the developer's chief executive was, himself, chipped live on stage. And I decided that if I were to get to grips with this technology, I had to bite the bullet - and get chipped too.

The whole process is being organised by a Swedish bio-hacking group which was profiled by my colleague Jane Wakefield recently. One of its members, a rather fearsome looking tattooist, inserted my chip.

First, he massaged the skin between my thumb and index finger and rubbed in some disinfectant. Then he told me to take a deep breath while he inserted the chip. There was a moment of pain - not much worse than any injection - and then he stuck a plaster over my hand.

Before trying my chip out, I wanted to know more about the thinking behind it. Hannes Sjoblad, whose electronic business card is on his own chip and can be accessed with a swipe of a smartphone, has the title chief disruption officer at the development. I asked him whether people really wanted to get this intimate with technology.

"We already interact with technology all the time," he told me. "Today it's a bit messy - we need pin codes and passwords. Wouldn't it be easy to just touch with your hand? That's really intuitive."

When I tested my chip, I found that it was not all that intuitive - I had to twist my hand into an unnatural position to make the photocopier work. And while some of the people around the building were looking forward to being chipped, others were distinctly dubious. "Absolutely not," said one young man when I asked him if he'd sign up. An older woman was more positive about the potential of the technology but saw little point in being chipped just to get through a door.

But Hannes Sjoblad says he and the Swedish Biohacking Group have another objective - preparing us all for the day when others want to chip us. "We want to be able to understand this technology before big corporates and big government come to us and say everyone should get chipped - the tax authority chip, the Google or Facebook chip." Then, he says, we'll all be able to question the way the technology is implemented from a position of much greater knowledge.

I've returned to Britain with a slightly sore hand - and a chip still under my skin which has my contact details on it. Not that useful, but no doubt more sophisticated chips will soon replace wearable technology like fitness bands or payment devices, and we will get used to being augmented. All sorts of things are possible - whether it becomes culturally acceptable to insert technology beneath our skin is another matter.

Rory Cellan-Jones

BB CARES visited Bo Tien Home residents and took them on an outing



The 28th BB Company Juniors (Primary School) visited Bo Tien Home on 25 July, and then took the residents on an outing organized by the Seniors (Secondary School) to Jurong Bird Park on 1 August. We thank God for giving us yet another opportunity to partner with Bo Tien Home for our BB CARES activities.



'CARES' here stands for 'Community Activities Rallying Everyone to Serve'. We were so glad to have the dialect ministry coming on board during the visit to present some



songs, with Deacon Peter sharing a message on Love. The Junior Boys also played some games such as bowling with the residents for a time of fun and bonding, and gave out goodie bags containing some hygiene items such as towels, powder and combs to each of the residents as gifts.



Since it is SG50 this year, we decided to bring the residents to Jurong Bird Park where there was a promotional discount on admission. We noticed that there were more residents who can communicate in English and Mandarin, making it easier for our Boys to interact with them. If you haven't already seen the video done by our talented Ricky, you can check it out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1GLkN05Ayk>

(Our dear Wee Siong was the Boy who kept fanning the uncle☺)

Here's what our NCO i/c had to say after the outing:

"My experience for BB CARES (2015) was tiring yet fun when we visited the Jurong Bird Park with the residents from Bo Tien Home. It was enjoyable because we got to see a variety of birds with the residents.

The Boys felt sociable when we interacted with the residents to bond with them. It was tiring because we had to push the residents on wheelchairs up steep slopes. We had to be careful and to take care of the residents' safety. We also managed to catch both the Amphitheatre and Hawk Arena shows despite the crowd. I want to thank God for giving us great weather, as it was neither too sunny nor rainy. I felt that the outing was a success and we look forward to the next time!" - Malcolm Ng, sec 2 BB Boy



Unfortunately for this year, not all the residents could go for the outing. Three of them were not too well and had to stay back. I remembered 'Wheelchair Uncle' didn't go for the outing because he didn't rest well. After we arrived back at the Home, he told me: 我没用, 他们有用 ("I'm useless, they're not") and pointed at the Boys. I felt heartbroken after listening to him even as I tried to console him.



Nevertheless, we thank God for His blessings. We pray that God will continue to use the BB Boys to touch the lives of these residents.

We thank the BB Boys for their effort to take care of the residents. And Thank You too, for your continual support of the BB ministry as part of JCC all these years.

Clement Tan



Dialect Ministry – Great Excursion Time!

Going on excursions has become a regular feature of the Dialect Ministry. The senior citizens in our midst are always eager and excited whenever an outing is announced. They are happy, and it makes me happy too to see their sweet smiles. It is always my pleasure to take leave from work to feel the blessedness of being with the happy folk on any outing that is organised for them.



We must thank God for His ready blessing of suitable weather on every occasion of our outings. This time, on 19th August, when we visited the Gardens by the Bay, it was fine weather too. It was another blessing that we had the SG50 promotion of free admissions for senior citizens whereas

visitors below 60 years old had to pay only \$10.

It was a very pleasant experience in the cool, climate-controlled glass Flower Dome.

The multitude of huge flowers and weird and wonderful plants from diverse climates around the world were a gorgeous sight to behold, stunning us all by their beauty that we – young and old – could simply enjoy without taxing ourselves intellectually on their botanical details.



In another temperature-controlled glass dome is the Cloud Forest, with a waterfall descending a 35-metre tall “mountain” that is covered with plants from tropical highlands.

It was nice to take in an aerial view of the mountainside vegetation as we leisurely strolled along two walkways that are perched high up.

Once at the foot of the “mountain”, the waterfall cascading down provided a good backdrop for photo taking, while enjoying the cool mist and the soothing sound of water.

Since the Gardens by the Bay was the only place we visited in this excursion, everyone had a relaxed time exploring the Domes and the surroundings, with a lunch break in a comfortable sheltered area. Thankfully, the place was easy to move about, even for persons on wheelchairs.



At the end of the tour, there were only appreciative comments. Everyone had a good time, looking forward to announcement of the next excursion.

There will be more excursions to come as God continues to bless the Dialect Ministry. If you missed this one, make sure you don't miss the next.

Peggy Lee

I am not sure where James Candiah is at this moment because he calls me from all over the world but here is one of his latest articles for The Vine - MC

"WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOLINESS? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOLY?"

In 1 Peter 1:13-16, Peter writes to believers, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" Peter is quoting from Leviticus 11:44 and Leviticus 19:2.

First, let's look at God's Holiness. What does it mean that God is Holy? References like 1 Samuel 2:2 and Isaiah 6:3 are just two of many examples that talk about God's Holiness. In other words, it is absolute perfection. God is unlike any other (see Hosea 11:9), and His Holiness is the essence of that "exclusiveness." His very being is completely absent of sin (James 1:13; Hebrews 6:18). He is high above any other, and no one can compare to Him (Psalm 40:5). God's Holiness pervades His entire being and shapes all His attributes. His Love is a Holy Love, His mercy is Holy mercy, and even His anger and wrath are Holy. These concepts are difficult for humans to grasp, just as God is difficult for us to understand in His entirety. However, it's not surprising that this is the case. How can we as finite beings fully understand God who is infinite?

Next, what does it mean for us to be holy? When God told Israel to be holy in Leviticus 11 and 19, He was instructing them to be distinct from the other nations by giving them specific regulations to govern their lives. Israel is God's chosen nation and God has set them apart from all other people groups. They are His special people and, consequently, they were given standards that God wanted them to live by so the world would know they belonged to Him. When Peter repeats the Lord's words in 1 Peter 1:16, he is talking specifically to believers. As believers, we need to be "set apart" from the world unto the Lord. We need to be living by God's standards, not the world's. God isn't calling us to be perfect, but to be distinct from the world. 1 Peter 2:9 describes believers as "a chosen generation", "a royal priesthood", "a holy nation", "a peculiar people". These are facts! However, for these facts to become reality, we need to live out our day-to-day lives in the manner which Peter expounds to us in 1 Peter 1:13-16. As we walk in obedience to His Word with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will grow in His Holiness.

Holiness only results from a right relationship with God by first believing in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. If we have not placed our faith in God's Son alone to save us from our sins, then our pursuit of holiness is in vain. So, we must first make sure we are born-again believers (see John 3). If we truly are believers, then we recognize that our position in Christ automatically sets us apart from the world (1 Peter 2:9). After all, we have a relationship with the living God! Then we must daily live a set-apart life, not trying to "blend in" with the world, but instead living according to God's Word by studying the Bible - diligently, fervently, passionately.

Apart from the command given by God that we are to be holy as He is Holy, why is it imperative that we are to be holy? Why is God so adamant in wanting His people to be holy?

The answer becomes clear in Hebrews 12:14 -

"Follow peace with all men, and HOLINESS, without which no man shall see the Lord."(KJV)

An intimate relationship with God in Christ and observance of His Word will birth holiness into the natural realm. He has already provided this by faith in Him as you were given everything needed to live as Christ in this world (1 John 4:17, Galatians 5:22-25). This is why, as believers, we must pursue holiness; letting His truth and life-giving Spirit change us from within. Letting what is on the inside of us match what the world sees, a life set apart, sanctified and holy. Without it, others will not see the Lord working in us.

This is an amazing truth! God has sanctified us and set us apart. He has given us everything we need to live a holy life. We respond by pursuing holiness in every aspect of our walk with Him. By His Word and by His Spirit we are changed and everyone around will experience the result of our sanctification!

The Biblical reference of Hebrews12:14 cuts 2 ways -

- 1) by growing in His holiness, we "see" God at work in our lives and His Hand over every area of our existence, and we know for sure He has our best interests in His heart;
- 2) by our inward transformation, the world "sees" our Lord at work in us, sanctifying and purifying us in His holiness and, as a consequence and by His grace, drawing others unto Him through us, His holy people.

Let us ALL consider His Word seriously! And conduct ourselves in fearful reverence unto Him, resolving to be a delight in His sight. We can only truly grow in "Christ-likeness" if we first seek to grow in His Holiness by seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness.

Written in His Love from His holy city of Jerusalem.

Shalom

Rabbi (Dr) James Candiah

Missionary – Kong Chak Mun (Zewen)



From BB Captain to Missionary in Cambodia, our brother Zewen has been called. Many of us do not get such a calling or we pretend not to hear it. Unlike Jonah, Zewen did not flee from His calling.

Zewen was commissioned by Bishop Terry Kee on 22nd August and flew off to Cambodia almost immediately the next day.



Bible Memory Verses

Matthew 25:36

...naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'



Deuteronomy 1:31

and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.'



Proverbs 13:11

Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, But the one who gathers by labor increases it.



Romans 14:19

So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.



JCC Dialect celebrates SG50

Sunday 9 Aug 2015: The Dialect Team celebrated SG50 with a toast to Singapore's Golden Jubilee. It was early on that Sunday morning when some of the Dialect members came to wash the glasses which were to be used for the toast. As circumstances would have it, there was a water pipe issue and there was no water at 101 to clean the glasses. However there was still water from the roof water tank to the Ladies toilet so the ladies were able to wash the glasses.



When the glasses were washed, it was decorated with a SG50 logo. Bottles of sparkling juice were left in the refrigerator



to chill. After the service, the people came out as usual for their fellowship meal and were surprised to find the Dialect DLT with wine bottles in their hands ready to pop the cork.

A rousing "Happy Birthday Singapore" was sung as the corks began to pop.



The DLT then went round the tables filling up the glasses with sparkling juice and toasting with the people. It was a memorable occasion which you can watch on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzn9ttNgQmU>

