

The Vine Committee

Editor:

Alicia Wong

Writers this issue:

John Lee

Alicia Wong

Mission Team

Photos:

Martin Cheah

Mission Team

Cover Photo:

Cambodia Mission

Team Trip 0117



**Brother
Martin
Writes**

Playboy founder, Hugh Hefner died at age 91 on 27th September 2017. Do we envy his long life, his riches and having all the beautiful women surrounding him.



Hours after his death one of Russia's leading clerics declared "Hefner went straight to hell." Is that too judgemental? Ezekiel 18:27-28 says, "But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. Because he considers all the offenses he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die."

Hefner was born into a Methodist family and although he did not believe in the God of the Bible, he believed in a Creator God. He did not follow God's Laws in the Bible but lived a life of love. He loved so many women, he can be compared to Solomon, who had a thousand wives. At the hour of his death, did he turn back to the God of the Bible? In an Internet article, it was mentioned, "Well into his 80s, Mr Hefner continued to edit his magazine and did his best to maintain his swagger as the unflappable, unstoppable and unrepentant king of the Playboy way of life." Your guess is as good as mine.

However, I am not writing about a hero but to refocus those who envy the lives of the rich and famous to a Biblical perspective. Read Psalm 73:3-17: *"For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny."*

From my office to the toilet is quite a distance without shelter. Recently, I met a colleague from the Sales Department and asked him for some umbrellas so that I can provide my team with shelter for that long walk to the toilet. He graciously gave me a couple of Heineken golf umbrellas and I placed one in a common umbrella stand outside my office. Two days later, the umbrella disappeared, presumably stolen. When I told my superior, she said that I had tempted people to steal by placing the umbrella there.



I guess that when a person publishes a magazine like Playboy, he is tempting people to sin. *"If anyone causes one of these little ones--those who believe in me--to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."* – Matthew 18:6

Truly such a powerful temptation would be the undoing of many men. But in the case of Joseph and Potiphar's wife, he stood firm, *"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* (Genesis 39:9) Because Joseph's heart was set on God, he was able to resist this potent temptation. It would be wonderful if we all had a testimony of unwavering resistance to sexual temptation like Joseph.

During the time of the Old Testament, and during the era of Playboy, it was still possible to avoid the temptation because you had to go to it to get tempted. Remember, Joseph could run away? However in this Internet age, when pornography is all around and in the airwaves, how can we win the battle? I don't have the answer, but I have a suggestion, declare that you are under-age. So whenever you are asked to confirm that you are above 18 years old, declare that you are below 18. The temptation would pass you by. John Lee mentioned that I was advocating telling lies. When I wrote that sentence about under-declaring your age, the thought crossed my mind too. What do the readers think? The consequences of declaring your age will be opening a floodgate of pornography into your PC.

Martin Luther once said about sexual desires, "You can't stop birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from making nests in your hair." Whenever you find a flock of birds flying overhead, you should run away to avoid having birdshit on your head. People will not knowingly park their cars under a tree with many birds in it. So perhaps the real solution is to run away and avoid all sources of temptation.