

The Vine This Month

Editor:
Alicia Wong

Writers this issue:

John Lee
Peggy Tan
Jonathan Teo
Tracy Teng
Teh Kean Peng
Alicia Wong
Joyce Tan

Photos:
Martin Cheah
Teck Chai
Nick Wong

Cover Photo:
Baptism on 20th May



**Brother
Martin
Writes**

What would you do if you had 284 handbags? Well you could carry a different handbag a day but wouldn't it be a great bother to keep changing handbags? My wife has at least 5 or 6 handbags, some for special occasions, some for work and some

for marketing. However, whenever she changes handbag she sometimes forget to change all the items she is carrying inside to the other bag. So sometimes she forgets her handphone, MRT card or house keys.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 says, "*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.*" This is why people always need more and more. Just one dollar more is the cry of the unsatisfied greedy heart. *The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep.* Ec-

clesiastes 5:12

Rev Anthony mentioned in one of his sermons last month that the number one question he gets at his baptism classes is, "How much must I pay?" I asked a newly baptized person if that was true and he said, "Well if you join as a member anywhere, you are expected to pay membership fees, so it is a logical question to ask." The Bible does say that you shall count the cost of discipleship, read Luke 14:25-33.

Perhaps we should mention that it is not a membership fee to be paid but rather a joyful duty to give. Giving is an individual matter before God as He enables and leads us to give. 2 Corinthians 9:7a says, "*Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart.*" We should not be pressured to give more and more money.

Giving should bring us great joy, and it should not be something that we do reluctantly. 2 Corinthians 9:7b says that we should give "*not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*" The Scripture plainly states if we have the ability to give, then we should give. 2 Corinthians 8:12 says, "*For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.*"

So if you find that you have more than you will ever need, it is best to give the excess away for you have been blessed to be a blessing.

Martin Cheah