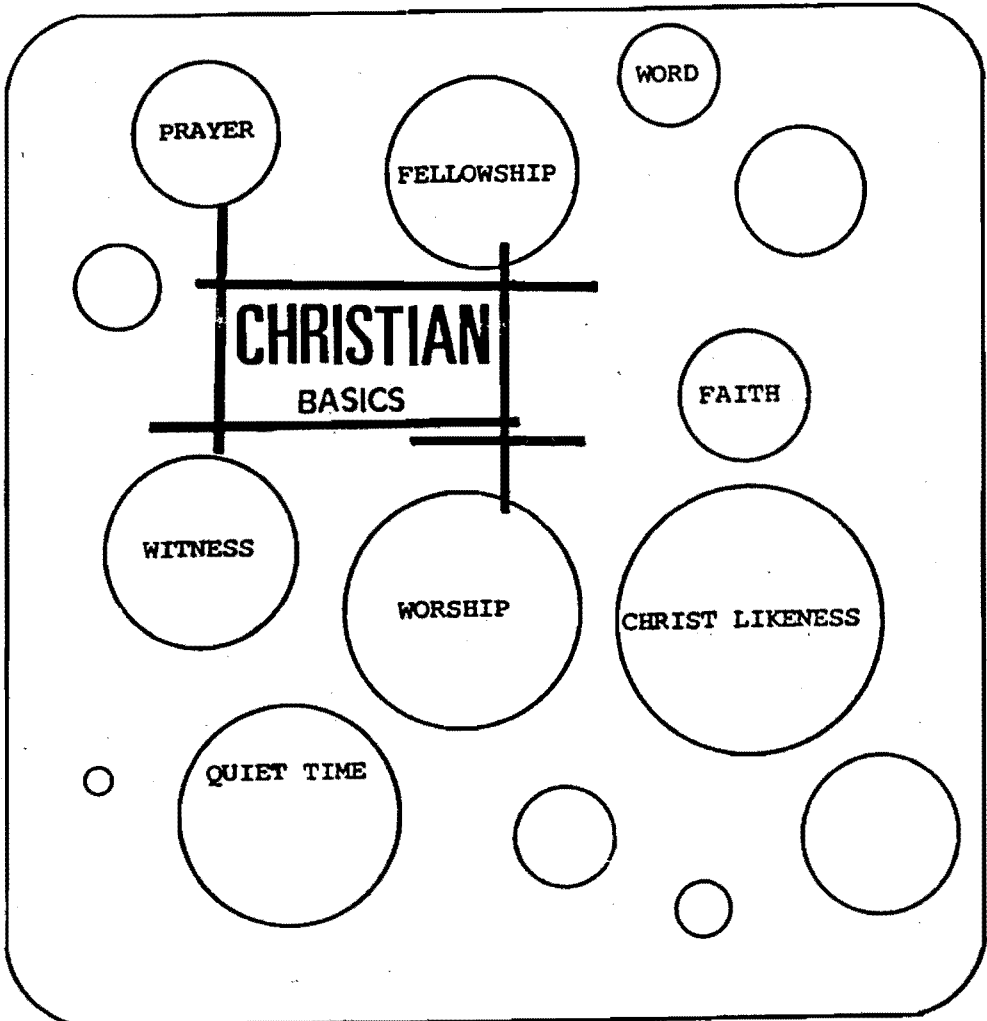


Christian Nurture



JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

OCT/NOV 1984



From the PASTOR

Introduction on Christian Basics

As I ponder over what I should write for this issue, the passage from the Book of Hebrews occurs in my mind -

".... by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity".

(Hebrew 5:12 - 6:1)

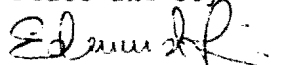
This is a very strong warning to all believers. We are warned not to allow ourselves to lag behind in our spiritual growth. In this passage, some were rebuked because they ought to be matured but instead they were not growing spiritually.

The above situation can also happen in JCC if we are not careful. I am sure we do not want to experience such a devastating state in our spiritual life. Thus we are not to take for granted that all christians will grow progressively. Like a child who will not grow well if he is not given the proper food. So, likewise, we need to be fed properly for our spiritual vitality. This is what this newsletter, 'Christian Nurture' and the church hope to do.

In this current issue, we will deal with the Christian Basics. We do not assume that all members of our church are progressing spiritually on the same level and degree.

Therefore, the approach we take is to start from the very basic in our christian living.

Peace and Joy



CHRISTIAN BASICS

Christian Basics, as the word 'Basics' implies refer to the fundamental ingredients of the Christian life (Heb 6:1) the elementary teachings of Christ.

This includes our daily quiet time with God, a regular prayer time, constant fellowship with fellow Christians, active witnessing and worship.

Underlying these, one needs to be grounded in the right teaching and understanding of God, the Bible, mankind and sin, the person and work of Christ, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the Church and the last things.

Just as plants cannot grow without roots, a Christian cannot grow without a solid and proper foundation - Christian Basics are the foundation for Christian growth.

Paul, in 1 Cor 3:1-3ff, rebuked the Corinthian believers for they can only be given milk not solid food for they were not ready to receive solid food. Without Christian Basics, a Christian cannot expect to eat the "solid food" of maturing in Christ through trials and persecutions.

Christian Basics are the "roots" from which a Christian is grounded. Before one can start doing quiet time, one has to know God. Getting the doctrines right is the key to getting everything else right. This holds true for every single area of Christian life- worship (Jn 4:23), witnessing (Acts 17:11), discipleship (Jn 8:31), Christian relationships (1 Cor 12:12), daily walk (Eph 6:5-9); at every point, living begins with right thinking.

A Christian, a child of God cannot stop short at the point of conversion. Conversion is the beginning of eternal life from now to eternity. If anyone, professes that he is saved and need not continue to grow as a believer of Christ, then his faith is doubtful for in Col 1:21-23, Paul reminds us that we have to continue in the faith. and not move away from the hope of the Gospel.

Col 2:6 :- Reminds us that "as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

In walking in Christ, we have to spend time with Him - through our quiet time. The word of God is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16). At the same time we need to have a correct view of the Bible. This is a basic issue we have to grapple with. Without a complete trust in the Bible as the fully inspired word of God, we would be unable to spend quiet time with God. For we would be so busy trying to figure out what is the Word of God and what is not.

We can summarise this as follows:-

Basic Beliefs

Basic Practical Aspects

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1) Accepting the whole Bible as the fully inspired Word of God (2 Tim 3:16). |) | 1) Quite Time with God. |
| |) | o God communicating to us through His Word |
| 2) The doctrine of God - His attributes, His plans, His nature, His character. |) | o Communicating to God through prayers. |
| |) | |
| 3) The understanding of the person and work of Christ |) | 2) Worship |
| |) | |
| 4) The understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit |) | |
| |) | |
| 5) Mankind and Sin |) | 3) Active witnessing |
| |) | |
| 6) Salvation plan of God |) | |
| |) | |
| 7) The last things |) | |
| |) | |
| 8) The Church |) | 4) Fellowship with fellow Christians |

The Chart shows that our basic beliefs affect the practical aspects of our Christian faith, highlights the Christian Basics that all Christians ought to have.

Can a Christian grow apart from the Word of God? The Word of God "is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path" (Ps 119:105), without which we Christians would be groping in darkness without a guide. Similarly, in our normal and natural relationship with God, we ought to talk to Him freely at all times (Phil 3:6-7), 1 Thess 5:17, Col 4:2). Just as we talk to our friends, we need to talk to God, even more so for our relationship with Him is one of a Father and child. As we communicate with God and He with us, we would want to worship Him and this is rightly due to God, our creator who deserves all praise and worship. Jn 4:23 tells us that those who truly worship God would be those that He would "seek to be His worshippers". "No man is an island" - this is even more true with Christians, as we are encouraged to fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42 (Heb 10:25) for encouragement, sharing, support, bearing one another's burden.

Just as the Word, Prayer and Fellowship are the basic elements in a Christian life, Witnessing is by no means optional - in fact it is imperative (Mt 28:18-20). We ought to remind one another that witnessing is not merely "sweet and smooth talk" that is pleasing to the ears, in reality it is actually our very lives at stake - people observing our lives and we bear witness not by mere words but by our actions - our very nature that is renewed by Christ's death on the cross. People turning the world upside down (or is it right side up) - not words alone.

The importance of Christian Basics need not be stressed further. They are the very essence of Christian life from which we spring forth to greater things and greater fulfilment into the Christian life.

How are we able to attain or possess such Christian Basics? First of all, the basic beliefs must be taught and learned from God's Word. The Church leaders hold the responsibility to teach these truths. Studying of God's word is an expression of loving the Lord with our minds (Matt 22:37). True thinking and understanding are as valid an expression of our response to God as true actions and true speech are as significant in bringing glory to the God of truth. The practical aspects must then be cultivated into our daily living. It takes pain, effort, and a denial of the flesh. This is no easy process for it is something that have not been part of us but as Paul says "Put on the new self", there need to be the effort and will in removing the old self and putting on the new Life in daily devotion and worship to God together with fellowshiping and active witnessing. When we fail, we need to even seek the Lord for the strength and desire to want to commune with Him. Remember that while it takes the will and effort on our part, the Holy Spirit will give us the power to overcome the temptation of not doing them.

Ting Ching puts it, "Personally (the doctrine & basic beliefs) helps me to have a clearer picture of the one whom I worship. Brought me to a deeper appreciation and reverence for Him. Helped me not to treat Him so loosely or take Him for granted. Helped me in my principles of living."

As for me, knowing God for who He is brings upon me a great responsibility especially in my daily Christian walk with Him that I am constantly aware of my shortcomings. I need to stop and think - "Is this pleasing to God?". In the area of witnessing, it helps me crystallise my beliefs not only to the person that I am sharing the gospel with but it serves as a reminder to myself as to who and what I believe. It gives a new assurance and trust in God as I share His power and love. Through witnessing, I have experienced the joy which God gives when I see sinners turning from the evil ways to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This adds a new dimension to the abundant life that Christ promised in Jn 10:10 - "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

By Yin Leng & Ting Ching

Introducing...

Our Theological Students

TENG TING CHING joined Operation Mobilisation in 1980 for two years of short term missionary work in Pakistan. While in the mission field, she felt the need to be adequately equipped for handling His work and upon her return decided to enter into full time theological study at the Singapore Bible College. She is now in the second year of the 3 years Diploma in Theology course.



The course deals with the essentials for a full time Christian worker and includes topics such as Christian Education, Children Ministry, Doctrine of Man, Life of Christ, Language Basics (Hebrews and Greek), Interpretation of the Bible, Authority of the Scriptures, Public Speaking, Personal evangelism and other foundational studies. At present, Ting Ching does not have any specific plans for service after completion of her studies but her heart will be in cross cultural mission, that is working as a missionary in a foreign country.

Her advice to those intending to enter full time Theological Study is first that there must be a very clear calling from the Lord. If it is not in the will of God then that person may not find the grace to pull through with all the work and can become a rather negative experience and a real burden. Secondly, one must be prepared to work hard and have a willingness to learn and a teachable spirit which allows God to develop the character.

Ting Ching sees herself in the realms of spiritual warfare as sometimes her studies may cause her to neglect service in other areas such as fellowshiping with others and her own spiritual walk with God. She would appreciate if we would continue to pray for her in this area.



MRS EDMUND LIM nee CHOY YIN LENG is a third year Bachelor of Theology student at the Singapore Bible college and will graduate with a Degree in Theology. If you think theological study is a mere mass of theology, then listen to what Yin Leng has to say. " I should say the scope of the course is quite wide and we have specific subjects under broad headings such as Theology, Church History, Biblical Books (New and Old Testament), Art of Preaching, Sermon Preparation, Biblical Language, Christian Education. As an example

Christian Education would cover subjects such as Ministry to Children, Youth Ministry, Christian Marriage etc and I find these subjects not only useful but helpful for they are very practical issues affecting my life too. Church History is not a dead subject and I regard it as a real eye opener for in knowing the past, I now understand the church today, her traditions, her views, why the various denominations, what the meaning of Protestantism is, why we have creeds etc. In studying some of the books of the Bible, many practical lessons are highlighted and we are constantly challenged in our walk and relationship with God." The course offers an optional subject, in which she chose to study Greek, this helps her to interpret Bible passages in the New Testament.

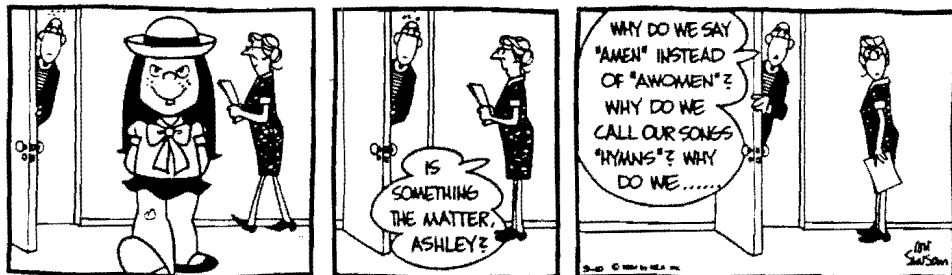
The course prepares her to serve in many areas of church work but being the Pastor's wife and inclined to teaching, her plans upon graduation would be to complement Pastor in his pastoral duties. She feels that the church can help by giving them opportunities to share what they have learnt and of course by prayerful support especially in the area of discipline as well as not to take the Bible as a mere textbook.

Yin Leng is convicted that God has called her to full time service and to equip herself for the ministry she is undergoing the training at the Singapore Bible College.

Her advice to those intending to join full time theological college is " First of all you must be sure of His calling and examine your motives. One should not take this as an "escape route", just to be occupied because one has nothing better to do. Personally, I feel that Singapore Bible College has a heavy emphasis on the academic performance and unless one is sure of His calling, she/he may give up easily in the face of advancing "darts" like assignments, presentation and solid theological views and thoughts.

Do continue to pray for Yin Leng as she fulfilsher role as student, mother, housewife and Pastor's helpmate.

DO YOU KNOW WHY ???



Have you wondered ???

If the things of the world continue to fascinate us more than the things of God
What right do we have to claim heaven as our inheritance?

If our desires are not for the things of God,
what makes you think that you would be able to spend eternity with Him?

If we seek not the kingdom of God here on earth
what makes you think you will find your place in the eternal Kingdom of God?

If we get bored praying, worshipping and studying God's word
What makes you think you won't be bored in heaven?

If we have yet learnt how to love and trust the Lord now
What makes you think that when you meet him you would be able to love and trust Him more?

If spending time with God and doing His work makes us feel burdensome
What makes you think that you will be able to obtain the joy in the Lord when we spend eternity with Him?

If you have not been spending time speaking to Him in prayer
How then shall you speak with Him in eternity?

If you have not been reconciled with your brothers and sisters on earth
How then can you spend eternity together?

For

How are we able to spend eternity with someone we do not know well, someone whom we are yet to have complete trust, someone whom we have yet to desire to love with all our heart, our soul, our mind?

If being in God's Kingdom,

Serving Him
Loving Him

is not heaven
eternity in His presence won't be otherwise

For

Heaven is where God is

by: Tan Swee Leong

Do you know that the Book of Isaiah can be compared to the Bible ?

The Bible has 66 books, Isaiah has 66 chapters

The Old Testament has 39 books, the first section of Isaiah has 39 chapters

The New Testament has 27 books, the last section of Isaiah has 27 chapters.

The Old Testament covers the history and sin of Israel, so does Isaiah 1 - 39.

The New Testament describes the Person and ministry of Christ, so does Isaiah 40 -66.

The New Testament begins with the ministry of John the Baptist, the second section of Isaiah (Chap 40) begins by predicting this ministry.

The New Testament ends by referring to the new Heaven and the new Earth, Isaiah ends by describing the same things, (compare Is 66:22 with Rev 21:1-3.)

THE BIBLE, THE TRULY AND WHOLLY INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.

Prayer

the need of the hour



BY SAMMY WEE

To some prayer is a time where you say some nice things to God, not unlike the greetings one gives to a friend on the road. To others it is a time when they present to God a long list of "I want" similar to that one takes for shopping and waiting (sometimes impatiently) for almost immediate answers as one waits for his goods over the sales counter. Yet to others, it is a way of escape from the troubles they meet in life - a kind of spiritual make belief with little conviction of the true nature of prayer.

What then is prayer? I recalled being much blessed with having a godly Sunday school teacher a few years ago when I first became a Christian. Every Sunday, without fail, he would before concluding his lesson call for a time of silence after which he would say, "lets now spend some time to talk to God", whereupon he would lead us in giving thanks and praising God for the lesson we had just learned, for our families, church, parents and many others, even for the little birds that sing in the trees. Often, listening to him make me picture a loving father eagerly taking his child in his arms and gently listening to every little word he utters, and ever more gently replying him in the softest of gestures and words. Such then is one very important aspect of true prayer. In its simplest form it is talking to God. It is communication with our Heavenly father who walked and talked daily with our parents in the Garden of Eden. It is a channel

by which we know God and is known of Him. Indeed, a brief study of any one who knew God intimately always resulted invariably in one fact - they were men and women of prayer, who knew God not only through Scriptures but also through instant communication with Him.

Our highest example is our Lord Jesus who arose a "great while before day and went out to a lonely place and there he prayed" (Mark 1:35) He whose life was often pressurised by the multitude of needs around him, who ministered from dawn to dusk, considered his daily communication with the Father an utmost priority. Indeed he had also shown us the secret of his success in ministry - to first know God and then to make Him known.

SOME LIGHTER MOMENTS

A young girl went to her pastor and confessed that she feared she had incurred the sin of vanity. "what makes you think that?" asked the Pastor. "Because every morning when I look into the mirror I think how beautiful I am."

"Never fear, my girl," was the reassuring answer. "That isn't a sin, it's only a mistake."

The sermon was very long one morning and little Samuel was getting restless by the minute. Suddenly, he blurted out to his mother, "If we give him the money now, Ma, will he let us out?"

The sermon went on and on in the heat of the Church. At last, the Pastor paused and asked, "what more, my friends can I say?"

In the back of the church, a voice offered earnestly: "Amen."

Q: Why are there so few men with whiskers in heaven?

A: Because most men get in by a close shave.

THE 23rd CHANNEL

The television is my shepherd; my spiritual life doth want

It maketh me to sit down and do nothing

It leadeth me besides men of no faith

It restoreth my desire for worldly pleasures

It requireth all my spare time and keepeth me from doing the will of God, because it presenteth so much foolishness which I must see.

It increaseth my knowledge of nonsense and keepeth me from the study of the Word of God.

Yea, though I live to be hundred, yet the viewing of my television shall have first place in my life as long as it doth operate for it is my closest companion.

Its sound and its pictures, they comfort me.

It presenteth foolishness and folly before me continually and keepeth me from surrendering my whole life unto God.

It anoints my mind with seeds of corruption and fill my head with vanity, which profiteth me nothing; my cup remains empty

Surely, no good things will come of my life, because I am devoted to my television, which leaveth me no time to serve God acceptably; thus I will dwell in the house of confusion forever.

By Joseph Bakke

"I WILL SET NO WICKED THING BEFORE MY EYES." Ps 101

adapted

Personal Evangelism

Is life boring? Do you wish you have something interesting and meaningful to do? Try personal evangelism.

Personal evangelism is nothing complicated. It is not really difficult. Just a willing obedient heart and correct motivation. The motivation is simple too. Love for others. Because God love us and we know God loves others too, we tell them. Personal evangelism just means to present God's love and salvation on a person to person basis, be him a friend or stranger. It is also a command of God to proclaim the Gospel to every living soul, so at the same time it is doing God's will. Pretty meaningful isn't it?

Now you may ask, "How to do it, I am not sure." Well it is nothing complicated. You do not need a diploma or a degree to start off. Just a willing faithful heart and a zeal to learn. A few practices and observing how others do it, and Hey Presto! - you can do it too.

To start off perhaps, make an appointment to join the evangelism team one of the Sundays; as soon as possible. The key is to GO. Instructions and materials will be made available to you. Training is hands-on experience and best of all - FOC (free of charge). Absolutely no course fees collected. Incredible but its true. So be seeing you the next trip to reach out to the lost souls, Just hop in - it will be an ADVENTURE you will not forget.

" For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

By Martin Yee



IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to
spend a day or two

If He came unexpectedly, I
wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your
nicest room to such an
honoured Guest,

And all the food you'd serve
to Him, would be the very
best,

And you would keep assuring
Him you're glad to have
Him there

That serving Him in your own
home is joy beyond
compare.

But when you saw Him
coming, would you meet
Him at the door

With arms outstretched in wel-
come to your Heav'nly
Visitor?

Or would you have to change
your clothes before you
let Him in,

Or hide some magazines and put
the Bible where they'd
been?

Would you turn off the radio
and hope He hadn't heard

And wish you hadn't uttered
that last, loud, hasty
word?

Would your family conversation
keep up its usual pace,
And would you find it hard
each meal to say a table
grace?

Would you sing the songs you
always sing and read the
books you read

And let Him know the things on
which your mind and
spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you
everywhere you'd planned
to go,

Or would you maybe change your
plans for just a day or
so?

Would you be glad to have Him
meet your very closest
friends,

Or would you hope they'd stay
away until His visit end?

Would you be glad to have Him
stay forever on and on,

Or would you sigh with great
relief when He at last
was gone?

It might be interesting to
know the things that you
would do

If Jesus Christ in person can
to spend some time with
you.

NEWS

Church Plan

The Church Plan comprising of various cell groups have started their meetings in the middle of August. Response has been most encouraging and 50 members are meeting in various localities throughout the week. We truly thank God for the vision, the partnership in this work, the participation in the Body life, the sharing in Fellowship. Let us continue to press on even as we all realise that we are all so intimate and vital part of each other.

Nursery

It was felt that during worship service, children made a lot of noise and run around, disturbing the adult worshippers. The nursery's aim is to look after the children during worship. So far, ten people have offered to help in the nursery, they will each take turns to look after the children.

Follow Up Program

The program led by Sammy Wee, who is at the moment recruiting follow up leaders. This program caters to newcomers as well as for church members. Sammy will work hand in hand with the Cell Group leaders. The follow up program will last about 6 months. Please see Sammy if you want to be a part of this work in helping your younger brothers and sisters grow in the faith.

Bro Ho Chee Kong & Family

Brother Ho Chee Kong and family has emigrated to the US. We bid them farewell even as they settle down in the new country. We wish them God's continued guidance, care and provision.

New Member

We welcome into the family of God, Brother James Lam, who was baptised on 23 September 1984.

MAY THE LORD BE WITH HIM ALWAYS.

Yishun Work

The Lutheran Church had planned earlier to expand the work in Singapore to cover the northern parts of Singapore in the new towns of Yishun. However, the LCMS was unable to tender for the church site as approval for financial support from the US was not obtained. However, LCMS still plan to start some work there, through a kindergarten and child care centre.

World Vision International

World Vision Int'l, Singapore has written us a letter.

It tells us that people are dying from hunger in Africa.

It only takes about \$50 to provide a lifesaving margin of 30 days for 5 desperate people. Take a moment and read the letter posted at the notice board. Dr McMillin lives with the hunger and hardship of that stricken part of the world shares this crying need.

OM Pre-Christmas Camp

OM will be having its pre-Christmas camp from 3-10 December 1984 in Malacca. The camp will emphasize the Word of God, Practical Evangelism and Missions. Those interested, please see Pastor Lim, further details are available on the notice board. Sister Ting Ching and Molly who have been in Mission with OM will be happy to give you more information.

New Addresses

Tai Kim Keong

Blk 373 #09-210

Clementi Ave 4

Singapore 0512

Tel : 775 6909

Thomas Ang/Jim Lee

Blk 119 #05-262

Bukit Batok West

Avenue 6

Singapore 2365

Tel : 563 5306

Fellowship

There will be a Christian Fellowship on 27/10/84 at 7.30pm. We will be featuring a show called "JONI" - a quadraplegic girl who was injured in an accident and how God uses her to proclaim His word.

in closing....

As we grapple with Christian Basics, sometimes we begin to realise that in our Christian life, we have not systematically and faithfully held to the basics of our beliefs and the observance of things we are taught as well as using them as a foundation from which we are able to go on in the Lord.

As we stop and think, we begin to realise how much we have gone on beyond the Basics. Is our relationship with God intimate - are we in close and loving communion with Him - in prayer, study, meditation - is He in our thoughts, in our being, our everyday situation? Have these basics become the basics of our lives, our basic beliefs, our basic attitudes, our basic motivation, our basic lifestyle?

For them to become so basic in our lives, we have to uproot the things of the world and of the flesh that may have become basic to us. We need to put them to death, for our basic human nature may be the very hindrance for the Christian Basics to take root in our lives. We need to press on to know the Lord (Hosea 6:3) by allowing God to become a vital part in our lives, by allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell in us - This calls for surrender; surrendering of things that may draw us away from God or prevent His indwelling - it may be our job; studies, leisure, attitudes, our hopes, our desire and allow God to work for the transformation of our minds through His Word, through prayer, through faithfulness and obedience, through discipline, through Christ-likeness in our whole outlook.

This means a lot of hard work and a readiness to allow God to make and mould us. It may be difficult, painful, heartbreaking but through it all, we will be renewed, transformed and eventually, glorified.

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us".

Romans 8:18

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READER	USHERS	COMMUNION USHERS	OFFERING CHARGEHAND	SONG LEADER	ORGANIST
Nov 4	Sammy Wee	Martin Yee	James Sum Chan Foo Tuck		Mary Kao Dandy Lee	David Ng	Chan Bee Fong
Nov 11	Tan Swee Leong	Ooi Bee Hong	Tan Joo Huang Jessie Cheong	Esther Lim Danny Wee	David Lim Mr Daniel	Teng Ting Ching	Chan Bee Fong
Nov 18	Martin Yee	Peter Cheong	Ow Yuen Peng Chan Mee King		James Tan Tan Pei Pei	Kaleen Heng	Chan Bee Fong
Nov 25	P S George	Mrs Daniel	Eu Boon Hoe Ng Ah Seng		Ng Joo Liang Lilian Lee	Tai Kim Keong	Betsy Cheong
Dec 2	Wilbur Kao	Mary Kao	Ong Day Wah Alice Tay		Khoo Hock Lai Danny Wee	Chong Wong Mui	Chan Bee Fong
Dec 9	Francis Low	Lim Yin Leng	Ivan Ho Lim Cheng Teck	Esther Lim Danny Wee	David Lim Mr Daniel	Chin Yew Neng	Chan Bee Fong
Dec 16	Sammy Wee	Martin Yee	Tan Pei Pei Ong Siew Hong		James Tan Dandy Lee	Kaleen Heng	Julie Yow
Dec 23	Tan Swee Leong	Ooi Bee Hong	Ow Yuen Peng Ho Sook San		Ng Joo Liang Lilian Lee	David Ng	Chan Bee Fong
Dec 30	P S George	Peter Cheong	Tan Joo Huang Jessie Cheong		Mary Kao Tan Pei Pei	Molly Lim	Chan Bee Fong