

JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE VINE

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From the Desk of Your Pastor

Since I have just returned from attending the *Asia Programme of Advance Theological Study (APATS)* symposium in India, I thought it would be helpful to share with you something about the trip.

<p>Inside this issue</p> <p>To God be the Glory</p> <p>Dont' Worry About Food</p> <p>Santa Claus</p> <p>Read what our youths have to say</p> <p>The person behind the hymn : Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Help! Help! and more!</p>
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First, allow me to give you a brief background about APATS and the LWF (Lutheran World Federation). APATS is a department of the LWF. As its name suggests, APATS is concerned with the upgrading of theological studies and its proper applications in Asia context. LWF is a federation in which most Lutheran Churches, in our case the LCMS, is a member. Its head office is in Geneva, Switzerland. The task of the LWF is to assist Lutheran Churches around the world by acting as a resource centre and coordinator for international programmes.

The theme of this symposium is "Theology and Christian Spirituality". And the sub-themes are as follows :

- 1) Spirituality and Theology
- 2) Lutheran Spirituality
- 3) Comtemplative versus Active Spirituality
- 4) Spirituality and the Congregation.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Joo See Martin and I have been married for 5 years, and during the last 3 years, we found it impossible to conceive. Then in February 1990, I discovered that I was pregnant. It was truly a miracle from the Lord, for I heard a small, still voice telling me that Martin has been praying and God has answered his prayers.

In March 1990, my doctor told me that my baby was not growing, and he recommended that my pregnancy be terminated. This was a terrible blow to us. However, God in His plan intervened by getting my sister-in-law to fix an appointment for me with another doctor to get a second opinion. To our great relief, the doctor confirmed that the baby was indeed still growing and should not be aborted.

I changed doctor and continued with the pregnancy until about the 31st week, when the doctor discovered that I had pregnancy-induced hypertension, and recommended that I be admitted to SGH. Thus, I once again changed doctor and was warded in SGH for about 3 weeks under strict observation.

Finally on the 34th week of my pregnancy, the doctor felt that it was necessary to perform a caesarian section to deliver my baby as my blood pressure could not be maintained.

My baby arrived into this world on 31st August 1990 - 6 days before the 6th year of our marriage. Though small, she was otherwise healthy and we thank God for that.

Even after the birth of the baby, my blood pressure did not go down, and I became quite depressed. I pleaded with the Lord to allow me to return home, and He answered my prayer. My blood pressure came down unexpectedly, and I was allowed to go home, but my baby had to remain in the hospital's Neonatal Ward.

Although we did not know the reason why God wanted the baby to remain in hospital, we prayed that He would allow her to come home to us soon. She started to put on weight in a dramatic way, and by the end of about 3 weeks, she was discharged. I do not know if we broke any records, but it was certainly evident that God was merciful and generous to us. We continue to pray for the other babies that are still in the Neonatal Ward that God would let them rejoin their parents soon!

If I would to count the number of miracles from this incident, indeed it would be too many, but there was one other blessing which I did not mention above. It is the blessing of knowing that there were so many of you concerned and praying for us and even visiting us. Thank God for you!

Martin

Indeed I count myself blessed to have this child. In the beginning, I was reluctant to have children but Joo See's love for children 'infected' me and after all those years of marriage, I finally decided that I too wanted a child - but it was not easy. Pressure began to build up from friends and relatives and I began earnestly to pray for a child.

Even after knowing that Joo See was pregnant, there was this constant fear of losing the child, and I just kept praying. There was also a fear of having a sub-normal child and I kept on praying even harder. Thank God that He has blessed us with a normal, and beautiful baby girl.

I had hoped for a boy but God in His wisdom has given me a girl, and now after more than a month, I would not want to trade my girl for a boy. I love her because she is the flesh of my flesh. I guess God does not answer all our prayers, only those that are according to His will. Praise God!

Dedicated to all Pastors

Pulpits on Sundays but
Always on call everyday for
Services to God and to man in
Trying hard to convince
Others who stand to condemn and
Resist accepting Jesus as
Saviour! Amen!

Written by Crystal Khoo

Santa Claus - Where did it come from?

Walk through the streets of Belgium in early December, and you will see a captivating sight: small groups of children going from house to house, singing short rhymes called "St. Nicholas songs." Householders respond to the charming youngsters by rewarding them with fruit, candy or money.

The occasion? "St. Nicholas Day"! In the United States and other lands, "St. Nicholas" or "Santa Claus," is connected with Christmas day. But in Belgium, the bearded "saint" has a day of his own. Indeed, "St. Nicholas, whose day of festivity falls on the sixth of December, is one of the most popular "saints" in Belgium and the Netherlands. Many a church, chapel, street or housing quarter has been named after him. He is traditionally known as "the great friend of the children" who readily distributes gifts to them on his feast day.

The evening before that holiday, the young children place one of their shoes or slippers near the chimney while they sing their little hymns. They have been told that "Saint" Nicholas and his black servant (called Black Peter) will arrive that night by steamship from Spain. Afterward, the "saint" will ride his gray horse across the rooftops, followed by Black Peter, who carries a

rod and a large bag containing toys and sweets. Nicholas also brings apples, nuts and other produce of the field. Often he leaves a kind of brown, spiced biscuit, which are baked in special, cleverly designed shapes.

The recipients? Children who have been good during the past year. The disobedient ones, though, will supposedly get the rod; or worse, they may be put into Black Peter's bag and carried off! Understandably, then, the children are eager to appease these nocturnal visitors. Thus a glass of gin awaits the "saint", and a carrot or a few sugar cubes are laid ready for his horse.

Many parents in Belgium consider "St. Nicholas Day" the most joyful time of the year. They delight to watch the expectant faces of their little ones who are eager to find out what the "good saint" has brought them! So they pass on the legends to their offspring, little knowing where these customs originated. If they knew, perhaps they would be shocked.

In Protestant areas of Germany, the Catholic "Saint" Nicholas was replaced by the more neutral "Father Christmas." The pagan elements, however, remain clearly discernible to this day. Jesus Christ said that "true worshippers will worship the Father with spirit and truth." (John 4:23).

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

© my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear, Now to his temple draw near,

Joining in glad adoration!

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

Last issue, we brought you the story of how Charles Wesley who wrote the song Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, grew up, toiling always to please God. This issue, we featured the story of Joachim Neander.

Joachim Neander couldn't help it. Jesus Christ had just become real to him. The joy that filled his soul had to overflow in songs of praise. No matter if his Reformed Church for 150 years had confined itself to singing psalms set to metrical tunes. No matter if the heads of his church believed that people could not properly worship God using words written by men and women but must use only words from Scripture. He, Joachim Neander, had to express his joy, and so he began to write hymns of praise. His own church turned its head to begin with, but the singing Lutherans enthusiastically welcomed his hymns. Slowly the Reformed Church recognized what it was missing, and their people began to sing Neander's hymns as well as those of others.

What had preceded Neander's outburst of song? Though he was fifth in line of distinguished clergymen in his family, young Neander had decided he would have none of what he considered a stuffy life. Instead, when he was 16 he began to really 'live it up'. Then when he was 20 something happened. He had talked two fellow students into going with him to a service at St. Martin's Church. The three had intended to gather fresh material to laugh and scoff at later. But Neander had not reckoned with the power of the Holy Spirit. When the pastor, Theodore Under-Eyck, preached that day the result was that, as one commentator expressed it, "he who came to scoff, remained to pray".

In the decade that followed Neander wrote 600 hymns, most of them hymns of praise. And as he dared give expression to the joy he knew, he freed the people of his church to use the words of others and their own words to express their love.

Joy

Keep your enthusiasms, and forget your birthdays -
formula for youth!

**There are no uninteresting things, there are
only uninteresting people.**

Do you see difficulties in every opportunity
or opportunities in every difficulty?

Diner: 'Do you serve crabs here?'

Waiter: 'We serve anyone; sit down.'

One of the great arts of living is the art of forgetting.

**Two tragedies in life: One is not to get your
heart's desire. The other is to get it**

Don't let the seeds spoil your enjoyment of a
watermelon. Just spit out the seeds.

**Growing old is no more than a bad habit
which a busy person has no time to form.**

You grow up the day you have your first
real laugh - at yourself.

**The only consistently bright life is the
persistently right life.**

Interesting people are people who are interested.

Bores are people who are bored.

It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow.

Yes, it's pretty hard, the optimistic old
woman admitted. I have to get along with
only two teeth - one upper, one lower - but,
thank godness, they meet.

**People are lonely because they build walls
instead of bridges.**

Some cause happiness wherever they go;
others whenever they go.

**Any person who is always feeling sorry
for himself, should be.**

I do not feel any age yet. There is
no age to the spirit.

All people smile in the same language.

To be without some of the things you want
is an indispensable part of happiness

A Letter from the Youth Fellowship

We like to thank the Vine for this opportunity to share with you a little of our Youth Fellowship Ministry.

Less than half a year ago, the Youth Fellowship was formed. A small, yet faithful committee headed by Philip Lok, was set up to oversee the activities planned for the youths. Our ministry aspires to help young Christians strive towards maturity in Christ and to cultivate biblical values. In addition, we hope to help our members to develop leadership qualities.

So far, four areas of work have been identified:

1. To nurture youths with the aim of attaining Christian maturity.
2. To reach out to non-believers with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. To train and equip members for future leadership in the church.
4. To establish a strong and lasting relationship among young people.

In the area of nurture, we have Bible Study once a month and we invite speakers to our gathering for devotions. There are also topical discussions in groups so as to encourage participation.

Activities such as games, sports (like Captain Ball, Treasure Hunt etc.) and excursions are organised to help youths 'release' their energy as well as provide them with a healthy outlet.

A trip to Malaysia in December will be organised. We intend to make this trip a time for relaxation and getting away from the crowd and the hustle-bustle of city life.

We hope that through all these programmes, we can foster greater interaction among ourselves and attract more to join our fellowship. So to all young people, we welcome you to our fellowship. Do look out for more information about the programmes in the Sunday Service Bulletin.

Pray for us, and do support us in our work!

*Contributed by Yock Meng.
Thanks also to Amy for the
compilation.*

Oct 5	Election Day	Philip Lok
Oct 10	Film Show	
Oct 19	Sisters' Night	
Oct 26	Bible Study & Care Group (Christian Mission)	Pastor Chang
Nov 2	Potluck Supper Talk - Christian Perspective	Wong Mui
Nov 9	Theme Talk on Jonah	Richard Tan(TTC)
Nov 16	Bible Scavenger Hunt	Yew Neng
Nov 23	Bible Study & Care Group (Prayer)	Pastor Chang
Nov 30	Cottage Meeting	

To help youths to discover biblical principles which will eventually developed into personal convictions

"Yock Meng"

Before YF came along, JCC youths were not "united". Now through the YF, we got to know more youths of our age group also inject more energy among the youths in JCC. There are lots of interesting programmes guaranteed to make you grow physically and spiritually

"Yat Wah and Peter"

feedback:

youth fellowship

YF is suitable for spiritual-building, and character-forming. I find the youths much closer now also enjoyed the short bible-studies

"Rodney"

YF has brought together many young people together. As a result, youths have become more matured Christians and there are less backsliders.... Join in the fun and become a YF member!

"Irwin"

Well, there is often not much chance to talk to people after service, but through YF, I got to meet people of my age group. I believe there are still many youths out there who are not in YF. Maybe they are busy, or perhaps Friday nites' meetings are not suitable for many

"Betty"

Pastor's Message (cont'd)

There were papers presented on each of these topics. And these were reacted with discussions and questions. The programmes also include case studies of appointed countries and visitations. The main concern or purpose of this symposium is the contextualization of the gospel in Asia context. By this, we mean the finding of a common platform in all these Asia religions with Christianity, so that the gospel presented from this platform could be clearly understood with all its dynamics therein.

YF Committee

<i>President</i>	Yat Wah
<i>Vice-President</i>	Yock Meng
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ivy
<i>Secretary</i>	Colina
<i>Publicity Offr</i>	Peter
<i>General Affair Offr</i>	Betty
<i>Recreational Offr</i>	Irwin

NEWS Round-Up

Our news round-up for this issue, kicks off with the well-deserved retreat for the Sunday School's Teachers. This retreat was held at the East Coast PA Campsite in late June.

The Youth Sunday held on July 8, saw more youths than usual serving during the worship service. On top of this, fresh-faced members from the Youth Fellowship presented several songs of celebration. The Youth Fellowship has been meeting regularly for devotions, sharings and fellowship on Fridays evenings.

On 27 July, our church celebrated its 22nd anniversary. Lunch was provided for all, and the favourite food was no doubt the curry chicken. No prize for guessing the sermon for that day - it was aptly about the Porcupine Syndrome.

The turnout for the 6 consecutive showing of Dr James Dobson films was a miserable 10 people or less, for each sitting. However, those who were there have certainly picked up some effective christian parenting tips. These practical tips would have been difficult to learn through books.

It is quite a shame that many missed Dr Dobson's talks because he is such a renowned child psychologist and has even been personally recommended by ex-President Ronald Reagan. His talks have indeed touched the lives of many, including ours. The 6 shows titled 'Strong-Willed Child', 'Shaping the Will without Breaking the Spirit', 'Father Looks Back', 'Young Child', 'Adolescent' and 'Heritage' have been shown in our church every Saturday night since Aug 25.

Church's Corporate Prayer Meetings held twice over the last 2 months saw more than 20 prayer warriors each time. It was a joy to see so many who are concerned to pray for each other and the church's ministries. If you care too, do join us in these sessions on the last Wednesday of each month.

The very warm Friday nite of 31 August was a night to remember. It was the ordination of our dear Pastor. Among the many guests and witnesses to this event were the Bishop, LCMS Exco and representatives from churches from all over M'sia and S'pore. Many of our brothers and sisters from the Chinese and English congregations were also present.

NEWS ROUND-UP

(cont'd)

Our very first adult Sunday School was launched on 16 September, and it will continue for another 7 weeks. This class is being conducted by Dr Ola Telluan, a lecturer from SBC. For those who are interested to take in more solid food, it is still not too late to attend.

Some 20 members were 'down' at the Changi Beach over the Deepavali holiday. Most of them went canoeing and were all definitely 'roasted' under the hot, hot sun. Anyway, it was a fun-filled day with some 'gorilla' and 'oh-oh-oh' thrown in.

On the whole, I felt that these recent events have been much more fulfilling and have contributed to our spiritual knowledge, if not growth. Well, if you have missed them for some reason or another, do look out for more activities coming your way turn to next page to find out!

help corner

Know anyone who is looking for a HDB flat in Taman Jurong? Grace and Daniel have a flat for rent! Please call 758 2972.

Anyone interested in renting a room near CBD? MRT also nearby, and the rent is cheap (neg.). Please call Se Ping or Kim Keong at 224 3949.

Wanted : Someone to handle PA System. Qualification : JCC regular and some experience in similar equipment. If you qualify, see Pastor Chang.

Note : All are welcome to make use of this free 'advertisement' in this column. Please place your 'ads' with Yew Moi.

coming events

OCTOBER

Sunday
8.30am

Adult Sunday School taught by Dr Ola Telluan

31

Reformation Day Worship Service

NOVEMBER

Sunday
8.30am

Adult Sunday School taught by Dr Ola Telluan

17

Christmas Family Party

Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner

24
6.30pm

Christmas Eve Service

24
7.30pm

Carolling

24
8:45pm

Christmas Day Service

DECEMBER

25

Thanksgiving Nite

31

Recently, I came across a book "Growing Christians in Small Groups" by John Mallison. Two areas which I wish to share with leaders and members of our Care Groups and other small groups such Youth Fellowship, Bible Study Group, Choir and etc., from this book are :-

- (1) The Basic Purposes of A Christian Group, and
- (2) Keys for Effective Small Groups

I think it is so important for all our groups not to deviate from the basic purposes which are :-

- (1) To worship and obey Christ
- (2) To live under the authority of God's Word
- (3) To be havens of hope
- (4) To foster fellowship
- (5) To bring people to a living faith in Christ
- (6) To minister to each other
- (7) To prepare each other for mission in the world.

These are the various keys for effective small groups :-

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) Determine the aim of the group | (8) Make a covenant with each other |
| (2) Plan to grow | (9) Make all study relevant |
| (3) Plan optimistically | (10) Pastor each other between mtgs |
| (4) Train leaders | (11) Avoid isolation |
| (5) Use informal situations | (12) Serve to live |
| (6) Meet regularly | (13) Hold regular leaders' meetings |
| (7) Have a pattern for each meeting | (14) Evaluate regularly |

The vicar and his wife had left for a conference abroad, forgetting to give instructions for the banner which was to decorate the hall at the Christmas Carol Concert, the following weekend. The secretary of the Mother's Union was astonished to receive a telegram from France which read simply:

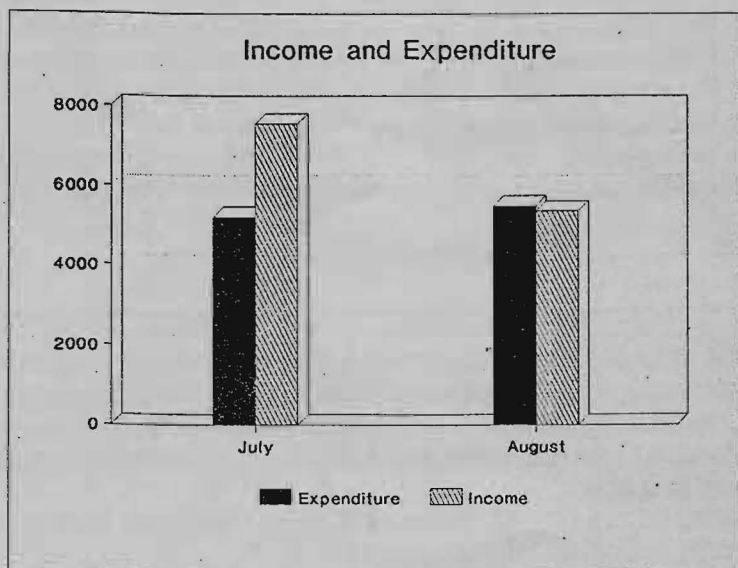
"UNTO US A SON IS BORN. NINE FEET LONG AND THREE FEET WIDE. REV AND MRS JOHNSON."

SPLIT TREASURY

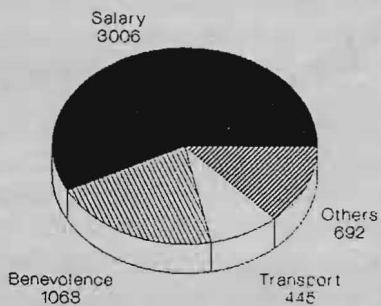
by Yew Moi

The split of treasury in the church was formally implemented on 1 July 1990. In the month of July, the English Section Ministry gained a surplus of \$2,350, but incurred a deficit of \$130 in August. The following diagrams show the income and expenditure status and the breakdown of expenditure for the two months.

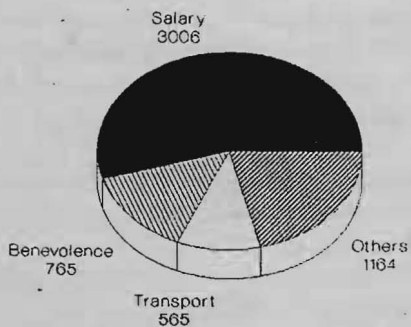
With a foreseeable increase in expenditure owing to an increase in manpower and major maintenance expenditure, this Ministry will require a larger income. The monthly income is targeted at \$8,000. May God helps us to attain this target.



Expenditure for July 1990



Expenditure for August 1990



LIBRARY REPORT

by Martin Cheah

There has been a drastic drop in the number of visitors to the English Library lately. Could this be due to the lack of good books and tapes?

From previous records, we noticed that it was the Children's books and the music tapes which were attracting people to borrow from the Library. However, these are limited in supply and after some time, most people would have gone through all that is available, and thus would not have anything new to borrow.

But what about the rest of the books and message tapes? These books and tapes were generously donated by some of the Church members, and should also be read or heard. There are many good books on our shelves, and members should browse around and pick up some to read. The purpose of the Library is not to store old books, but to spread the Good News.

The Librarians would like those members who had found a book worth reading to do book reviews so as to recommend them to their friends. Those who found some tapes encouraging, should also do tape reviews. These reviews would be published in the Church's newsletter. For those who have come across a good book or tape which is not found in the Library's collection could also make recommendations to the Librarians to include them in the Library.

We must not forget that the Pen is mightier than the sword, and that the enemy is using it more effectively than us. There are lots of magazines and books and even tapes which can influence our minds to do evil. These are all around us, and we can so easily obtain them that it is to our peril if we do not combat them. Would it be better to listen to a tape which contain subliminal messages and read a pornographic book? How many of us have not found enough time to listen to a christian tape or read a christian book, but still have time to listen to rock music or read a best seller?

Okay then, do not be just a member of the Library, but a reader of christian books. Offer your book or tape reviews for the good of your fellow members.

"..... and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God" Deuteronomy 17:19.

don't worry about food by Gina Kuan

Where do you go for lunch after the worship service every Sunday? Do you have problems finding good tasting food to fill your stomach and yet not put a hole in your pocket? Then follow the trail to good and cheap food with me

The first stop is about two bus-stops down the road from JCC at a place which is commonly known as Market #1. Most Sundays, you will find some of our members around here tucking into some really tasty dishes eg. Fishhead Mee Hoon, Fried Tang Hoon or Food with Rice, from one of those hawker stalls there. The prices are very reasonable. This particular stall is right at the back of the Hawker Centre and is diagonally facing Burger King.

It was introduced to me by Mr Khoo Teng Choon, and a small group of food kakis have patronised it regularly each Sunday after the service. If you like to discover the place for yourself, join us one of these Sundays.

An African preacher, speaking on the text "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul", argued that people can lose their souls by being too charitable. His congregation were astonished, but he went on to explain:

"Many people attend church, hear the sermon and, as soon as the service is over, divide it among their fellows - this part for that man, and that verse for that woman, and such and such a warning for Mr X, and this particular challenge for Mrs X - on and on they go. In this way, they give away the whole sermon and keep none for themselves."

PERSONAL

The stork has just begun its busy delivery! Joo See and Martin Cheah have their lovely Deborah in September, while Betsy and Martin Yee have their Issac boy, also in September. Both Nancy (and Ronnie) and Grace (and Daniel) have a boy - names unknown at time of writing.

Wedding bells rang for Dawn and Cheng Teck at the Queenstown Church while Lisa and David have theirs in our very own church. Both couples were married in September, and are probably still honeymooning.

Members who celebrated their birthday in August were Azel Low, Seline Ng, Se Ping, Kenton Lee and Dan Lee. The September boys and girls, men and women were Margaret Lim, Amy Low, Matthew Ow, Ek Hoe, Kim Keong and Swee Eng.

Do look out for Wong Mui (10th), Mrs Khoo(14th), Mr Saw(16th), Alfrena Ho, Faith Chang and Thomas Tan(all 26th), and Charis Chang(27th), whose birthday fall in October!

Also not forgetting the November 'kids' : Li Yin(9th), Amy Saw(9th), Gerald Khoo(11th), Teik Keat(12th), Yin Peng(15th), Anne Chow(19th), and Chui Yin(24th).

The December 'babies' are: Yew Moi(7th), Gabriel Tan(9th), Catherine Ng(16th), Christina Ang (23rd) and Ronnie Lim(27th).

The real, real babies are Timothy Ow and Nancy Lim who were born on the LAST DAY of the year!!

- Ed -