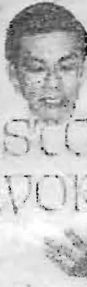


# THE VINE

for internal circulation

Vol 1/97 January 1997



ASTOR'S  
WORD

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

A blessed and fruitful 1997!

The year began with the national event of election. And we see how politicians present their vision, purpose and programmes. Upgrading was more than just an election issue. Upgrading our lifestyle is on most people's mind in upwardly mobile Singapore. This is fine as long as we are careful not to make our economic pursuit the ultimate goal of our lives. The Bible tells us:

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing,*

*we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

(1 Tim 6:6-10)

Let us learn a better way to live - the way of contentment. And let us beware of the lure of the god of money. Let us consider a more superior pursuit - the pursuit of godliness or to put it in our language the upgrading of our **spiritual life**. To help us achieve growth in our spiritual life, we need to have a clear vision and to have goals. Our Lord Jesus has a purpose: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" and "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." The Apostle Paul says, "I want to know Christ, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in His suffering, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to

the resurrection from the dead" and "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

The vision of Jurong Christian Church is one which you can adopt for your spiritual life - to grow in Worship, the Word, Fellowship & Witnessing. This is a long term vision. To achieve a vision, you need to have short term achievable goals for your spiritual growth. Of course, the role of the Holy Spirit is vital in our spiritual growth. He is our Counselor and Comforter. He alone is able to transform your life and cause you to grow into spiritual maturity.

For 1997, we shall be focusing on growing in witnessing and I have shared with you the reasons and approach from the pulpit. For January and February, the sermons will focus on this theme "Witnessing Christians." To be effective witnesses you need to cultivate a growing relationship with the Holy Spirit for He alone can empower you to witness (see Acts 1:8).

All ministry leaders who attended our last leaders' retreat have participated in discussing on working together on this theme. I want to encourage individuals, whether in caregroups or Bible study groups, to use the sermon points to apply biblical teachings of witnessing in your own lives.

I hope that you will keep praying and reminding yourself to witness to your friends, colleagues and loved ones. Many opportunities will be available come Chinese New Year in a few weeks time, especially for our Chinese brothers and sisters. Pray for wisdom and boldness to witness to our blessings of peace, joy and prosperity from our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the power of our Lord's blessings overflow through you to touch lives.

Pastor Fredric Lee

#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS....

In November 1992, we started producing The Vine in its A4 format. Now in January 1997, we have decided to go back to the half A4 format because the church secretary has expressed concern over the difficulty of photocopying the large A3 size paper which folds into the A4 format.

The A3 size paper tends to crumple in the photocopier when the machine is hot, causing a lot of paper jams.

We hope with the introduction of the half A4 format, we do not cause all of you to rush to the optician to get reading glasses. However your feedback on the new size is welcomed.

Although we have downsized our publication, we have maintained the quality of the articles, we do not unnecessarily shorten the articles to fit the page size.

May what we have produced help you to grow in your walk with Christ.

*Martin Cheah.*

# Racism

A recent remark against Asian immigrants by Australian independent MP, Pauline Hanson, caused great controversy in the region. Racial abuse against Chinese Australians has doubled, with many being spat at or threatened physically since the remark, according to a Chinese newspaper survey in Australia (Straits Times Nov 14, 1996). While most Christians think that they are free of such prejudice, that attitude may be present in more subtle forms.

## What is racism?

According to Webster's definition: It is a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capabilities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. The fact that 6 millions Jews perished at the hand of Nazi Germans in the Holocaust and the tragedies of Bosnia, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire loudly testified to this evil.

## Reasons why Christians should not indulge in racism?

1. The nature of man - human beings are all created in God's image, blessed by Him and are direct result of His creative work. All men have common ancestry in Adam.
2. The character of God - God is just and shows no favouritism (Romans 2:11). There should not be discriminatory distinctions among believers of various people groups or cultural orientations (Galatians 3:28).
3. The universality of sin - All are sinners and fell short of God's glory (Romans 3:23-24). Salvation is available to all through faith in Christ.

Racism or any discriminations in treatment shown by any Christians or churches will result in bad witness. It will engender hostility towards Christianity. We should recognise the worth of all individuals regardless of race as our God

does. Let the words of Dr Rev Martin Luther King Jr., in his speech at Washington D.C. on 28 Aug 1963 echo in our ears - "*I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character, I have a dream today!*".

Martin Yee

---

## Submit to Government

*no matter what type...*

## Socialism

You have two cows...  
and you give one to your neighbour.

## Communism

You have two cows...  
the government takes both of them and  
gives you some milk.

## Fascism

You have two cows...  
the government takes both of them and  
sells you some milk.

## Nazism

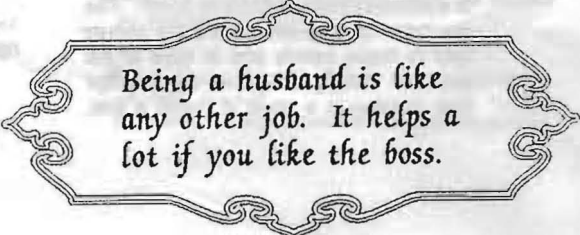
You have two cows...  
the government takes both of them and  
shoots you.

## Bureaucracy

You have two cows...  
the government takes both of them,  
shoots one, milks the other, and pours  
the milk down the drain.

## Capitalism

You have two cows...  
you sell one and buy a bull.



*Being a husband is like  
any other job. It helps a  
lot if you like the boss.*

# YOUR BELIEFS

# **CONVICTIONS** or

# **PREFERENCES**

As Christians we hold to a set of beliefs as taught in the Bible. However, we have to distinguish them and examine if they are convictions and not merely preferences. Some distinguishing features of convictions and preferences:

**Preferences change with circumstances and we are motivated to change under certain circumstances.**

Preference can be changed by:

- peer pressure - by friends and our close contacts
- family members
- threat of litigation (being sued)
- possibility of imprisonment
- thought of death

If a person's belief of God can be changed by any of these factors, what he believed was merely what he preferred, under given circumstances.

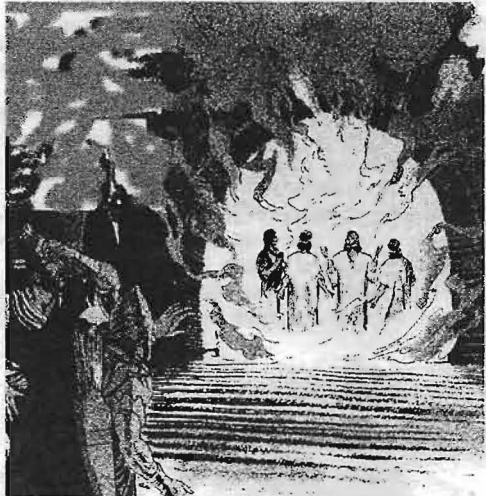
**Conviction does not change regardless of the circumstances.**

Convictions are not a matter of resolve or dedication but it is God given truth that does not change with circumstances or any of the above-mentioned factors.

Convictions have the following characteristics:

## **PRE-DETERMINED**

Convictions are not "spur of the moment" decisions. It is a premeditated response to a situation that was likely to occur. The conviction is deep-seated and the person hold to these beliefs and is sure of his position. People around us may change their position in a crisis or under a trial,



but a person with conviction is prepared to "stand alone". People with preferences will "follow the crowd."

Biblical examples of people who stood up for their convictions are Daniel and his 3 friends, Stephen, the first Christian martyr, the heroes of faith in Heb 11.1 who stood by the "conviction of things not seen."

## **NON-NEGOTIABLE**

Convictions are non-negotiable - they are not to be compromised. Daniel was offered a way out, if he would not worship God, he held firmly to his convictions and would not worship false Gods.

We have to ask ourselves the searching question of our convictions in the face of circumstances that requires us to

compromise or even to go against our beliefs.

### CONFIDENT

People with convictions are confident in what they believe. Daniel's 3 friends response to King Nebuchadnezzar's decree to fall down and worship the image of gold was swift and confident, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Dan 3:16-18

### Lived out

James 2:26 says, "faith without works is dead." Jesus taught, "let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" Matt 5:16.

We need to live our a lifestyle consistent with our professed beliefs. If we believe that the Bible is the Word of God and the only source of truth, and has the answer to deal with life problems. What do we do about that belief?

1. Do we read scripture daily?
2. Do we read as much of Scripture as we read the newspaper?
3. Do we spend more time watching TV than reading the Bible?
4. Do we look at the Bible to find answers to problems?
5. Do we take the teachings of the Bible and live them out? obey them irrespective?

It is our answer to these questions that determines if our beliefs in God's Word is a conviction or merely a preference.

Tan Swee Leong

Faxed from U.S.A.

from: J.O'Donell-Danbury Hospital  
Outpatient Chemical Dependency  
Treatment Service

For ALL of you that have children... regardless of their ages.

Warning to Parents.

A form of Tattoo called "Blue Star" is being sold to school children. It is a small piece of paper containing a blue star. They are the size of a pencil eraser, and each star is soaked with LSD.

The drug is absorbed through the skin simply by handling the paper.

There are also brightly colored paper tattoos resembling postage stamps that have the pictures of the following: Superman, Mickey Mouse, clowns, Disney characters, Bart Simpson, Butterflies, etc.

**EACH ONE IS WRAPPED IN FOIL. THIS IS A NEW WAY OF SELLING ACID BY APPEALING TO YOUNG CHILDREN! THEY ARE LACED WITH DRUGS!**

If your child gets any of the above, do not handle them. These are known to react quickly and some are laced with STRYCHNINE.

Please feel free to reproduce this article and distribute it within your community and work place. Get the word out about this danger to our children.

Please copy and post at your workplace, give to friends, send a copy to your local schools.

This is very serious, young lives have already been taken. This is growing faster than we can warn parents and professionals.

*The above fax was dated 16 June 1996. It was received by Sis Khoo Ewe Ewe from a friend. We have not been able to verify the veracity of the source nor have we seen any signs of these tattoos reaching our shores.*

*It could very well be another form of chain letter, but if it is real then we should heed its warning.*

# DECEMBER 1996 NEWS IN BRIEF

by Martin Cheah

School visit to the children's home. Then there was the traditional Christmas eve service followed by the home to home caroling. On Christmas day, there was the baptism and transfer of membership. Francis and Geok Wah also got married on Saturday, 28th December. To cap it off, there was the "Watchnight" service on the 31st December.

**SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER**

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT CUM CELEBRATION**

About 200 adults and children attended, performed and celebrated this occasion. There were some first timers in our midst. Skits, dance and songs were presented by the various ministries including the Choir, Sunday School, DTP, Care Groups, Girls' Brigade, etc. The newly formed Filipino Fellowship presented for the first time in JCC a Filipino song followed by a folk dance routine. Heard in the audience, "Kuku look so funny!"

The items presented were truly polished acts, with costumes ranging from ladies in Indian saris, Filipino costumes to man in a Bible, children in gift wrapped boxes, teens in various costumes of biblical times. The acting was classic and sometimes funny (maybe not intentionally).

It was a fun night and I am sure many would have like an encore. The celebration ended with a fellowship snack meal at about 10.00 pm.

## **FRIDAY, 20 DECEMBER CAROLING AT JURONG EAST MRT**

The JCC choir conducted by Doris Ho sang at the Jurong East MRT station on Friday, 20th December from 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Joining the choir were the Jurong East Care Group distributing tracts to the passers-by.



Although most of the crowd passed by, some did stop to enjoy the singing and one or two actually stayed for the whole performance. After the singing, Peter had the opportunity to speak to one of the audience who stayed to the end.

I noticed Martin Yee also speaking to a young man who showed some interest in the goings-on. We cannot evaluate how much we achieve from this activity but we have carried out the Master's will to plant the seed. Maybe some one else will harvest what we have planted that night.



TUESDAY, 31 DECEMBER

## **WATCHNIGHT SERVICE**

This is the first time I have attended the Watchnight service after a lapse of many years. I remember a time when the church was only half filled for this service. To my pleasant surprise, I found that the sanctuary was almost completely filled. Then the testimonies were few and far between but now it was flowing one after another with some people almost coming up at the same time to share their experience of God.

Although I have had my share of blessings from the Lord, I did not go up to share it. But I thank the Lord for blessing me with the testimonies of my brothers and sisters in JCC who went up to share their experience of God's hand in their lives.

SATURDAY, 21 DECEMBER

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMES VISIT**

The Sunday School visited the Children Society Convalescence Home at Woodlands on Saturday. It was a new experience for most as the teachers and students mingled with the inmates of the home. These children were lacking in parental love and a number of them clung on the teachers seeking for a hug and a show of affection.



The highlight of the day was the performance put up by the Sunday School children and also the surprise inclusion of a clown act, performed by Dorothy Ow. Presents were distributed to the children and then food was served.

We had never experience visiting a home for children before and maybe we can learn from this experience and be more prepared when we do it the next time. Gathering all the children in one big hall together made control almost impossible. Maybe we should have divided them into smaller groups, then it would be possible to control them.

SATURDAY, 28 DECEMBER

## **WEDDING OF FRANCIS AND GEOK WAH**

The newsletter committee rejoices with Francis and Geok Wah on their wedding. Geok Wah made a beautiful blushing bride to the surprise of many who have only seen her in her simple garb of T-shirt and jeans every Sunday.

It was only later at the Watchnight service that I learnt that the couple were down with flu on their wedding day and they thanked God for bringing them through the exhausting ceremony and rituals of wedding.



Congratulations! Don't forget to continue working on the newsletter after your honeymoon.

# Christmas Celebration Dec 1996

JURONG EAST  
CARE GROUP



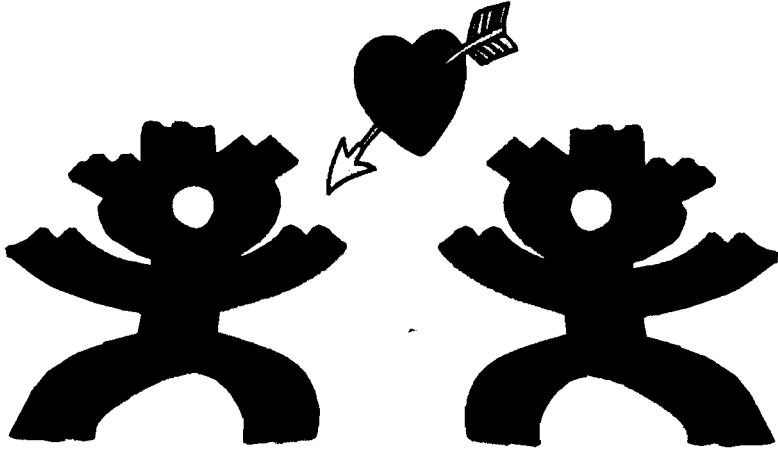
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL



## Photo Story



# Homosexual practices



by Martin Yee

## Introduction

In the USA, the incidence of homosexual practices in the general adult male population is approximately 3.3 %. Among women the range was about 1-3 %. (Unable to obtain figures for Singapore). In May 1995, a Church of England panel recommendation that the phrase "living in sin" be abandoned caused a furore in the Christian world as it hinted at a loosening up of the church's traditional stand against homosexuality.

## Definition

Homosexual practice may be defined as adults 20 years and above, having sexual contacts occasionally or fairly often with the same sex. But some may not be exclusively homosexual throughout their lives.

## The ELCA position

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has restrictions on ordination. They view that sexual activity is appropriate only between heterosexuals in a marriage bond. This would preclude an openly gay man or lesbian from seeking ordination, unless he or she commits to a life of celibacy.

However, shockingly, in 1993, a committee of the church prepared a draft statement which stated that the Bible did not condemn homosexual relationships. This was met with strong response from 21,000 members, the majority who are against it.

## Lutheran bishop who defied the ELCA position

A Lutheran minister recently installed as bishop of 150 congregations in California said he performed three gay weddings despite the denomination's edict against such ceremonies. Paul Egertson, 59, said the same-sex rites he held at his North Hollywood church "were done with dignity and reverence, not as publicity stunts to change people's minds". Egertson said that 10 other Lutheran pastors and four bishops in Southern California conduct wedding rites for homosexuals.

He acknowledged that the services violate the official position of the ELCA that "there's no Biblical basis" for the blessing of a homosexual relationship. But Egertson also praised pastors and congregations serving homosexuals for trying "to explore the best ways to provide pastoral care". Egertson has welcomed homosexuals and lesbians members since 1985.

## The Biblical passages pertaining to homosexual practices

There are several passages in the bible that Evangelicals see as explicitly against sexual relationship and contacts with people of the same sex. The passages include Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9; and 1 Tim 1:10.

### **The problem with homosexual practices**

To seek sexual fulfilment outside of the heterosexual arrangement is to violate the order of creation. The homosexual act does not contain within it the possibility of the willingness to procreate. God's command to human "...be fruitful and multiply..." (Gen 1:28) is thus ignored. It is an implicit denial of one of the good ends to which God has ordered sexuality. Also it is unable to generate a new centre outside of itself around which a family grows, develop and serves society.

### **The arguments for homosexual practices**

Various dubious arguments have been put forward support of the legitimacy of homosexual practices. Below is a selection of such arguments:

#### **1. Helmut Thielicke's Theory.**

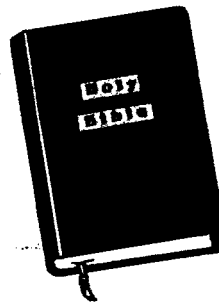
Helmut Thielicke describes the theory that every person has a M(man) component and a W(woman) component of different proportions. The goal of Eros is to discover someone with the corresponding M-W proportions. If, say, a man has a 60% M and 40% W the woman must have 40% M and 60% W in order to harmonise. However if a man has a 50% M and a 50% W proportion or a greater than 50% W, then no woman but only a partner of the same sex will suit him.

This view cannot be substantiated by biological realities and it treats the psychological domain of masculinity and femininity as the final arbiter of what is possible and permissible in human sexual relationships.

#### **2. Controversial interpretations of the Bible passages relating to homosexual practices**

- 2.1 Some suggest that the Old Testament condemnation of homosexual practice (Lev. 18:22, 20:13) had more to do with ritual impurity than morality and Paul's condemnation of such practices (Romans 1:26-27) was directed at heterosexual persons committing periodic homosexual acts and not at homosexuality in general.
- 2.2 Others suggest that the same-sex acts mentioned in the Bible were not what is meant by homosexuality today, and therefore, Scripture is actually indifferent to such practices of today.
- 2.3 Still others suggest that homosexual acts between men were prohibited by the Old Testament because they represented an improper use of semen. So it is not the act itself that is the problem, but the fact that such acts resulted in a misuse of the male seed.

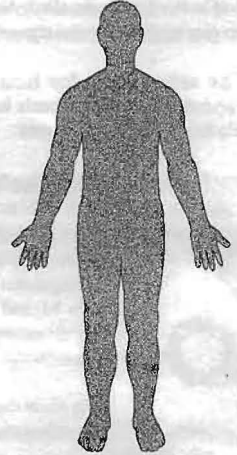
But it is clear that Scriptures condemned homosexual behaviour itself and not just the consequences of such actions.



### 3. The Biological Basis arguments

There are biological arguments that have been forwarded in support of homosexual behaviours. The proponents hope to provide an acceptable excuse for homosexual behaviours in that they were born that way and thus are released from ultimate responsibility of being that way. The three main biological arguments are:

- 3.1 **Genetic evidence** - it is believed that homosexuals had a higher incidence of homosexual siblings than heterosexuals. Concordance rate of such behaviour has been compared in monozygotic and dizygotic twins. But the results are not conclusive and the genetic factors themselves are insufficient explanations for the development of homosexuality.
- 3.2 **Prenatal neurohormonal hypothesis** - this hypothesis is based on the assumption that sexual differentiation of the gonads and the brain is determined by neurohormonal interactions that occur between the middle of the second and end of the fifth month of gestation. If there is too little testosterone present during this critical period of gestation, one is likely to develop a female pattern in external genitals as well as the brain. Male homosexuality may thus be the result of feminization of the brain. This hypothesis has not been fully verified.
- 3.3 **Neuroanatomical evidence** - this is based on the belief that the brains of homosexuals are structurally different from those of the non-homosexuals. Various parts of the brain have been suggested by various researchers for example INAH-3, suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN), patterns of functional cerebral symmetry and so on. But evidences so far argue against any single brain structure causes homosexuality.



#### Summary

The Bible is the Christian's ultimate guide in matters of faith and practices. Its condemnation and prohibition of homosexual practices stand despite the many arguments of men put forward as we have seen earlier. But sadly many denominations seem to be compromising on the traditional positions against homosexual practices. May God have mercy on us all. Amen.

#### Bibliography:

1. Journal of Psychology and Theology, 1995, Vol 23 No 2, p 89-90.
2. Evangelical Quarterly Journal, EQ 67:1 (1995), p 82-83
3. Internet website ([http://www.revmedia.com/st\\_francis](http://www.revmedia.com/st_francis)), 6th July 1996.



Look out for  
**THE BETHEL SERIES**  
Starting in January 1997



# PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

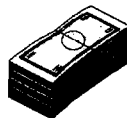
Read each Bible passage indicated, then circle the choice or choices you think best answer the question. Don't look at the answers until you've marked all the questions.

- Malachi 3:8-12. What promises does God make to tithers in these verses:
  - An overwhelming blessing
  - No suffering
  - Protection against losses due to "circumstances"
  - A better job
  - Material riches
- How does God look on those Israelites who withheld their tithe?
  - As shrewd financial planners
  - As robbers
- Luke 6:38. How does God decide whether to use a big scoop or a small scoop when he blesses us?
  - He uses the same size scoop for everyone.
  - If we use our big scoop, he uses his big scoop. If we use our small scoop, he uses his small scoop.
- Corinthians 9:6. Principles of sowing and reaping include:
  - A single seed planted produces a plant bearing many seeds.
  - Sowing lawn seeds sparingly produces a full rich lawn.
  - Sowing lawn seeds generously means you'll have to mow a lot.
- Corinthians 9:7. So long as we give a full tithe, our attitude in giving it isn't important. True or False?
- Corinthians 9:8-11. In response to our generous giving, God will give us enough to:
  - Purchase a new red Porsche
  - Meet all our needs



c. Be generous in the future

- Philippians 4:15-19 The promise that "my God will meet all your needs" is tied to a covenant of giving and receiving in God's ministry. True or False?
- Haggai 1: 2-11 Why does God withhold blessings from his people?
  - Just to watch them squirm
  - To be faithful to his principle of sowing and reaping
  - To teach them to put giving to God first
- Matthew 6:21-24. How can a person tell whether he or she is serving God rather than Money?
  - By the size of the VISA bill at the end of the month.
  - By the size of the paycheck
  - By the amount of the gift to the church
  - By the ratio of the paycheck total to the gift to the church
  - By the number of cars in the driveway.
- Luke 21:1-4. The lessons of this passage are:
  - The poor are being exploited in giving to God more than they can afford.
  - God is pleased with the love represented by the widow's gift.
  - Two tiny copper coins given out of sacrifice are worth more to God than a bundle of cash given without sacrifice.



Answers: 1. a and c; 2. b; 3. b; 4. a and c; 5. False; 6. b and c; 7. True; 8. b and c; 9. d; 10. b and c

HOW DO YOU RATE?: 3 to 5 wrong look more carefully. 1 to 2 wrong good. All correct no excuses.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

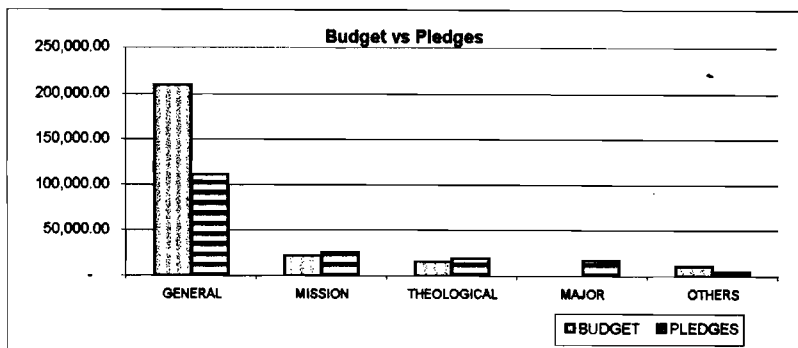
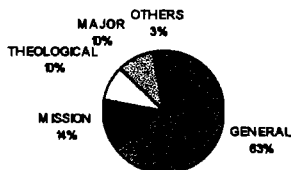
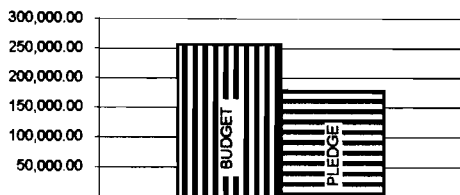
This is a brief update on the pledges received up to Sunday, 5th January 1997. The latest update we have received 72 out of a possible 120 pledges, ie about 60% of JCC members. Of the \$256,874.24 budgeted for next year, we have received \$178,695.96, which is 70% of the total amount required.

From the way the remaining pledges are coming in, it would seem that we can expect no more pledges to come in. The remainder of the members will probably put their tithes in loose offerings. This means that the loose offerings per week must amount to \$1,311.12 (Christmas/Easter offering of \$10,000) for us to breakeven in 1997.

It is difficult to achieve based on previous years records where the average loose offering is about \$811 but with God's help we can still manage. As your treasurer, I urge you to pray.

## BUDGET vs PLEDGES FOR 1997

	GENERAL	MISSION	THEOLOGICAL	MAJOR	OTHERS	TOTAL	Loose plus Festive Offerings	Estimated Net Deficit
BUDGET	209,286.24	21,802.00	15,326.00	-	10,460.00	256,874.24		
PLEDGES	111,030.00	25,759.92	19,340.04	17,342.04	5,223.96	178,695.96	52,172.00	(26,006.28)
	(98,256.24)	3,957.92	4,014.04	17,342.04	(5,236.04)	(78,178.28)		



From the above charts and figures, you will notice that the shortfall is mainly in the General expenses of the church. The Mission and Theological accounts have received pledges above their budgets.

*Martin Cheek*



## CHURCH SEASONS AND LESSONS FOR 1997 (JANUARY - JUNE)

DATE	CHURCH SEASON	1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
5-Jan	2nd Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18	John 1:1-18
12-Jan	The Baptism of our Lord	Isaiah 42:1-7	Acts 10:34-38	Mark 1:4-11
19-Jan	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
26-Jan	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5,10	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
2-Feb	4th Sunday after Epiphany	1 Samuel 1:21-28	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
9-Feb	The Transfiguration of our Lord	2 Kings 2:1-12a	2 Corinthians 3:12-42	Mark 9:2-9
16-Feb	1st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 22:1-18	Romans 8:31-39	Mark 8:12-15
23-Feb	2nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 28-10-17 (18-22)	Romans 5:1-11	Mark 8:31-38
2-Mar	3rd Sunday in Lent	Exodus 20:1-17	1 Corinthians 1:22-25	John 2:13-22
9-Mar	4th Sunday in Lent	Numbers 21:4-9	Ephesians 2:4-10	John 3:14-21
16-Mar	5th Sunday in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 5:7-9	John 12:20-33
23-Mar	Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)	Zehariah 9:9-10	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1 - 15:47 or Mark 15:1-39
30-Mar	The Resurrection of our Lord (Easter Day)	Isaiah 25:6-9	1 Corinthians 15:19-28	John 20:1-9 (10-18)
6-Apr	2nd Sunday after Easter	Acts 3:13-15, 17-26	1 John 5:1-6	John 20:19-31
13-Apr	3rd Sunday after Easter	Acts 4:8-12	1 John 1:1-22	Luke 24:36-49
20-Apr	4th Sunday after Easter	Acts 4:23-33	1 John 3:1-2	John 10:11-18
27-Apr	5th Sunday after Easter	Acts 8:26-40	1 John 3:18-24	John 15:1-8
4-May	6th Sunday after Easter	Acts 11:19-30	1 John 4:1-11	John 15:9-17
11-May	7th Sunday after Easter	Acts 1:15-26	1 John 4:13-21	John 17:11b-19
18-May	Day of Pentecost	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39a
25-May	The Holy Trinity	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	Romans 8:14-17	John 3:1-17
1-Jun	2nd Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Mark 2:23-28
8-Jun	3rd Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 3:9-15	2 Corinthians 4:13-18	Mark 3:20-35
15-Jun	4th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 17:22-24	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	Mark 4:26-34
22-Jun	5th Sunday after Pentecost	Job 38:1-11	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Mark 4:35-41
29-Jun	6th Sunday after Pentecost	Lamentations 3:22-23	2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-14	Mark 5:21-24a 35-43 or Mark 5:24b-34

**Tony : "My college has turned out some great men."  
Daisy: "I didn't know you were a college graduate."  
Tony: "I'm one they turned out!"**



**Golfer: "The doctor says I can't play golf."  
Caddy: "Ah, he's played with you too, huh?"**

## CHILDREN'S HOME VISIT

It was a fine Saturday afternoon. When my parents, two brothers and myself reached the church, the bus was already there. I chose the back seat while my parents and brothers sat in front. The air-conditioned bus was fully packed with no vacant seat when we set off for the Children's Home somewhere near Woodlands. There were many more members of the church (adults and children) who went there by their own transport.

It did not take us long to reach our destination. I was told that the Home housed 33 children. Some of the little ones were still sleeping in their cots when we reached there. We, the visitors, far outnumbered the children in the Home. The staff of the Home was on hand to welcome us and we settled down in a large room with a stage in front. The children of the Home also assembled in the room, and they were poorly dressed. When all were ready, our Sunday School children took to the stage to sing some songs. We also presented some skits and the audience was appreciative as they showed by their applause.

After the skits, one of our Sunday School teachers took to the stage with her face painted like a clown. She showed the children how to make animals using balloons. The children were all very eager in reaching out for the balloons. The adults assisted the children in making the animals and some of the children were rather anxious to have their turns ahead of others. I could see the disappointment in the faces of the little ones when their balloons



burst. However, the balloons were not the only thing they enjoyed. They were also given Christmas presents and packets of titbits. The behaviour of the children was spontaneous. There were some jostling and disagreements between them, but I was also surprised that they were well-trained to hand over the presents to their guardians without being prompted. As for the titbits, they were quick to unwrap them and finish them off in no time.

Later in the afternoon, it was refreshment time. There was a lot of things to eat. The children of the Home ate inside while some of us from the church ate at the playground outside and, after eating, played among ourselves for a while before leaving the place. We had an enjoyable time at the Home. My visit to the Home also opened my eyes. I realised how fortunate I am to have a warm family, unlike the children of the Home who have no parents to look after them. Now, I treasure my parents even more.

Benedict Lee