



# The Vine

for internal circulation only

Vol 5/97 May 1997

## Pastor's Word

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Recently, one JCC member came to me and said, "Pastor, one day while I was praying, I began to speak in tongues!" What a pleasant surprise this sister had. Should we be surprised to receive spiritual gifts sovereignly given by God? Would you be stumbled if you receive the gift of tongues? Or any one of the many spiritual gifts mentioned in I Cor 12? Or would you be offended by God's intrusion into your blissful spiritual life? What if someone ministered to you by a spiritual gift, such as giving you a word of prophecy? Would you reject it, even if it could mean quenching the

Holy Spirit? Isn't the teachings on the spiritual gifts found in the Bible? I Cor 12 – 14; Roman 12: 3 – 8 and Eph 4: 7 – 16?

In trying to explain the unusual phenomena of the disciples speaking in tongues to the crowd on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, Peter quoted from Joel 2: 28 – 32:

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy..."

Prophecy, visions, dreams. These are the experiences of God's people in whom the Spirit indwells. Have you experienced any of these? Some godly people have spoken prophetic utterances into my life.

And I have seen them come to pass. What wonderful promises I would have missed if I have not opened my heart to God's servants to speak those words of promise and encouragement which have strengthened my walk with the Lord and my ministry.

We have just entered the season of Pentecost. This is the season when we focus our attention on the life of the Church which God has given birth by the Spirit through the blood of Christ. If you

have placed your faith and life in Jesus Christ, you are born of the Spirit. He is your Guide and Counselor, seek His direction and

wisdom. He is your Comforter and Advocate, seek His help and strength and encouragement. He will empower you to be a witness,

seek His presence. He is the promise of the Father (Acts 1: 4). He is the Spirit of Jesus. (2 Cor 3: 17).

I believe you can testify of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, long-suffering is seen through your life by other people. This glorifies our Father in heaven. Let us not only expect the Holy Spirit to transform our character, but also desire to experience His powerful gifts in our lives and through our ministry for God's glory.

May you experience the power of the Holy Spirit as you serve our Lord.

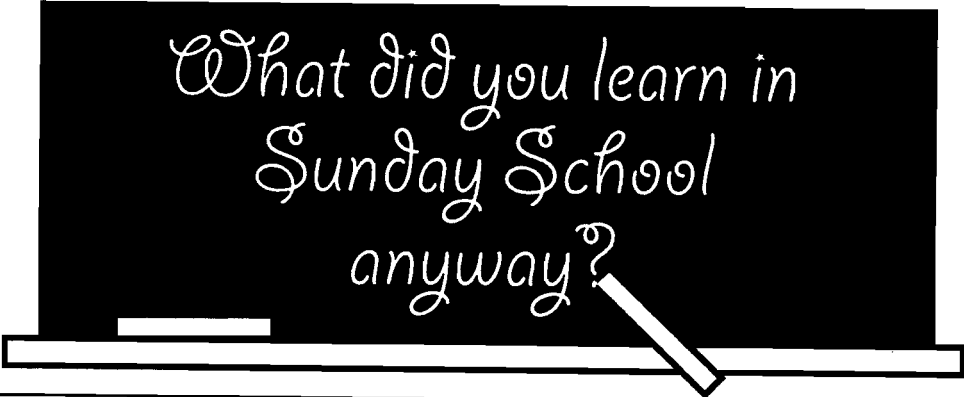
“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...”

(Joel 2: 28)

Pastor Fredric Lee

**Do you sometimes wonder if your child gets anything from attending Sunday school? You can be the key person in helping him retain and practise Bible truth.**

**One or two hours of Bible instruction a week is vital for your child's spiritual health. But compared to the many waking hours of influence from other sources, this is obviously not enough. Your encouragement, reinforcement of truth and additional guidance are essential to lead him in the right way.**



What did you learn in  
Sunday School  
anyway?

HELPING YOUR CHILD BENEFIT MOST FROM BIBLE TEACHING

## Encourage Faithful Attendance

Most Bible teaching that is given in a children's program covers a series of events or a theme. The teacher begins with a very basic truth, then builds from week to week. Your child not only enjoys seeing God's plan unfold as the events progress in the life of a Bible hero, he grows in his understanding of how God will work in his own life. But if your child misses a lesson he may miss a vital link in the study. He may lose interest because he cannot catch up in his thinking with the rest of the group or because he feels left out during the review game. Faithful attendance in

Sunday school is more important than you may have realized.

The church is a place of encouragement and hope. A place where your child can find stability in a very unstable world.

There he hears of love and forgiveness. He finds absolutes to which he can anchor his soul. The church is a place where he can cultivate Christian friendships. He needs friends who will not lead him into sin.

Help your child know where you place the greatest value. Develop in him the habit of regular attendance in God's house by your own example.

# Know Your Child's Teacher

A Sunday school teacher takes many hours throughout the year to prepare Bible lessons that will speak to your child's heart. He does this because he loves God and boys and girls. By knowing and sharing with this person

## The Most Important Teacher

YOU are the most important teacher in your child's life. What he hears on Sunday morning is only the beginning. What will you do to make the truth a permanent and practical part of his daily living?

Find out what portion of Scripture your child studied - either from his Sunday school paper or his teacher. Read the lesson and ask him questions about it. The most valuable questions are, "What does this mean?", "What does this tell you about God?" and "What does God want you to do?" Look for situations in the course of the week that will help the child apply the lesson in his life. For example: trusting God for a solution to a problem, praying for someone, confessing sin or obeying without complaining. Help your child to think

who is helping to shape your child's life, you can help him to be a better teacher.

As you see needs in your child's life, tell his teacher. The teacher will join you in prayer. He can also focus on biblical solutions in his teaching that will meet those needs. A teacher may never see results during one hour a week. Be sure to encourage him by pointing out areas of spiritual growth you observe in your child.

about God and His ways in all areas of life - home, school and play.

Truth can also be emphasized by observing the positive or negative example of others. Although you may carefully govern the television programs your child watches, the absence of any reference to God can be just as harmful as viewing evil. No reference to God, on TV or in real life, implies that he can be a good, moral person on his own; he can be happy and successful and does not need to think about his eternal destiny. **Make your child aware of this fallacy. Encourage him to put God first in his thinking and always depend on Him.**

By continually bringing the Sunday school lesson into focus throughout the week, you are saying to your child, "God's Word is the most important thing in life."

The Sunday school can teach, but you must train.

Do not let  
this Book of the Law  
depart from your mouth:  
meditate on it  
day and night,  
so that you may be careful to do  
everything  
written  
in it.  
Then you will be  
prosperous and successful.

(JOSHUA 1:8 NIV)

# Evangelism

Someone asked, "Does your Committee have a plan or strategy for evangelism?"

I answered, "Yes, we do have a plan, but you are our strategy – man and woman who have tasted the goodness of God's grace."

That's right! God uses man to reach out to man. He uses ordinary people like you and me to influence our own world, our very own society, culture and people we come into contact with everyday of our lives. The Apostle Peter reminds us, "You are a *chosen* people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light... live such good lives among the pagans that ... they may see your good deed and glorify God on the day he visits us." 1 Peter 2:9, 12. What do you mean by living such a good life that will glorify God? In his book *Evangelism as a Lifestyle* Jim Petersen has this to share about lifestyle evangelism:

- 1 Be graceful and truthful always in your speech and actions.
- 2 Do not have a reaping ONLY mentality in evangelism i.e. reaping before the field is ripe. We must recognize that evangelism is a

corporate effort and is a process, which includes planting, watering and cultivating. For those who are not ready, the road to the kingdom of God can still be long. Do not force.

3 Live a natural, friendly, Bible-centred lifestyle openly among non-Christians. However, do not try to be that perfect image for we are never perfect.

Otherwise, others will be discouraged.

4 Love and accept people as they are. Do not judge or think more highly of yourselves.

5 Remember that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict life, not us. You are only an instrument of God to make known the gospel. Do not put unnecessary burdens on yourself.

6 Change your lifestyle and schedules if necessary, for it takes time to build relationships. Are you too busy, even with Church activities? If you are, then you need to set priorities. Someone commented, "I'd like to be a Christian too, but look at you. I don't think I can find time!"

The Missions and Evangelism (M&E) Committee has drawn up a plan along

the line of lifestyle evangelism which can be illustrated by the flow chart I am sharing here. It is a simple plan in which through our tracting program, networking info form and public forum, we hope to establish contact and make known Jurong Christian Church in this neighbourhood.

We want to make friends with our neighbours. This opens the door for the gospel and you are part of this plan.

For example, the public forum has topics that are of public interest, such as parenting. You can attend not just to learn from the speaker, but to make friends and exchange your experiences. You can also sign up the networking info form. What this form basically does is to match someone who is in need with another who can provide help. For example, you can give technical advice regarding computer problems, and one of our contacts may happen to need assistance in booting up his system. With this form, the Church will be able to direct the contact to you for advice, thus once again creating the opportunity to make friends.

Do remember that evangelism is a corporate effort, each one of us at some point of time write a chapter into the life of another until he is ready to receive the gospel.

Earlier this year, we invited the Navigator to teach us how to do follow up. Those who have attended the seminar found the material "One to One Discipleship" very useful. This material is now available from the

M&E Committee and Church office. If you know a new convert and wish to do follow up with him, you could get a copy of the material from us. The M&E Committee will also be conducting a mission and evangelism course to assist our church members to be equipped in this area. It is our aim to help the person to be established in his faith and feel comfortable in his new environment. He should continue to have fellowship with us and receive nourishment through one of our fellowship groups, be it the Care Group, Lego Fellowship, Filipino Fellowship or Disciple Training Program. Finally, he will also become a disciple for Christ as our Lord has commanded us all to be. (Matt 28:19,20)

We encourage all our brothers and sisters to take up this challenge and be a part of God's redemptive plan. You do not need to be a Billy Graham or Luis Palau. Our task is to remain faithful to make known and help the person understand the gospel. To bring a secularized person to Christ requires perseverance and love. It means that we have to establish and maintain a relationship with him.

**S**ometimes, it is only this relationship that prevents him from rejecting the gospel and running away.

by YOCK MENG  
Missions & Evangelism  
Committee





2 Apr 97  
 Rev. Terry & Sally Kee  
 Bangkok 10110

It is with great joy and gratitude to the Lord that I write this letter. Over the weekend of March 16, Sally and I went to the new preaching place of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eastern Province of Chanthaburi with Ms. Sudachit Soonphan. Chanthaburi is a major seaside province about 260 km from Bangkok and 110 km from Rayong.

It was a great joy for us to witness and be involved in Ms. Sudachit's baptism in Singapore at Redeemer Church in 1990. After being disciplined in the Good News Centre at Beach Road for three years, she studied at the Lutheran Institute of Theological Education for four years and graduated with a Bachelor of Theology.

Her desire to plant a church using her home in Chanthaburi was approved by the Executive Council. Now officially employed as an evangelist of the Lutheran Church, she is kept busy with getting her home ready for the dedication Service scheduled on 6 April. Please pray for her and the evangelization of the community in Chanthaburi.

The Lord knows and grants us the desires of our hearts!

One week after Sally expressed to me her thirst for news from Singapore, we received a surprise gift through the post. It was the weekly edition of the Straits Times. We do not know the identity of the person who subscribed for us, but we are thankful to him or her and to God for granting us our wishes. The papers are much appreciated not just by us, but by Sis. Ang Bee Yan too.

Both of us are now in the midst of the first Bible module in our studies. In addition to the study of New Testament Vocabulary, we are learning the formal language used in prayers. We plan to study the second Bible module and are praying that it will be offered next month.

Thanksgivings!

For the visit of Terry's mother and family over the Chinese New Year period and for allaying her fears over our safety. For making it possible for Terry to return for a short visit and for the selection of a HDB flat in a good location. For helping Terry in his first Thai sermon shared in Chanthaburi on 23 March.

For the visit of Rev. and Mrs. Nelson in early March. It brought us much encouragement.

Prayers!

That God will continue to grant us favour in His sight, as well as the sight of the members of Latprao Lutheran Church which we have been attached to since March.

It is getting hotter in Bangkok. Please pray for our health and that we will adapt to the heat in Bangkok.

In closing, let us be reminded of the love of God as expressed in the giving of His Son to die for us as well as His power in the raising of Jesus from the dead. With that in mind, let us go forward with Him, do His will, and let Him do the impossible for us.

Please pray for us as we will for you, that we will continue to trust in His love and power. That we will not reject His plans for us. That we will go forward with Him and let Him do the rest for us.

Yours in Christ's love

*Jerry Kee*

26 March 1997

Dear brothers- and sisters-in-Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Time really flies. It has been six weeks since my arrival in the "land of smiles" - Thailand. To me, Thailand is a familiar place as I have been here on several mission trips during the past few years. In addition, my ministry with the locals at Thai Good News Centre (my field education attachment during my studies in TTC) has provided excellent opportunities for me to be acquainted with the Thai culture, language and Christian worship.

#### Thanksgiving

I thank the Lord for providing me with good accommodation (safe, convenient, reasonable rate and Christian environment) through the kind assistance of my Thai friend, Ms. Nantiya Petchgate. I moved into the place on the very day that I arrived in Bangkok. My landlady and her family are Christians. I am very pleased with the place where I am residing.

#### Language Studies

Since my arrival in Bangkok, I have been learning the language myself using a book given by my church friend, Diana. I commenced my language studies in Union Language School on 6 March 1997. There are four missionaries and six Japanese in my class. I have numerous opportunities to share my Christian faith with my Japanese classmates. My basic knowledge of the Thai language has greatly facilitated my understanding of the lessons. I thank the Lord for providing a good teacher in module one. Thus far, the lessons have been interesting as the teacher coaches with great enthusiasm. The emphasis is on the use of the language in conversation. Therefore, we have been learning practical examples. With each new lesson, I am able to build on my existing vocabulary and speak more Thai with each passing day.

#### Church Visitation

Being a new missionary, I have not been assigned any specific ministries yet. My main focus is on language studies. The Hong Kong missionary, Ms. Anita Chan, is my mentor for my first three months in Bangkok. Presently, I am visiting the various Thai Lutheran congregations in Bangkok. Generally, I am able to follow the order of service and to grasp the gist of the message. It would probably take a while before I can comprehend the message fully. Thus far, I have visited our Lutheran congregations at Laksi, Lad Phrao, Sukhumvit Soi 50, and Soi Amon.

You may get Ms. Ang Bee Yan's address in Thailand from the LCMS Singapore District Office.

### Missionaries' Seminar

With effect from this year, the Lutheran Mission in Thailand (LMT) has been organising various seminars for the missionaries. The first four seminars were:

- 1) The Structure of LMT and ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand);
- 2) Independent Churches in Thailand; 3) The Significance of Religious Festivals in Thailand, and 4) The Lutheran Resources in Discipleship Training.

These seminars have been most useful and informative. They will certainly equip me for my ministry in Thailand.

### Missionaries' Prayer Meeting

Thus far, I have attended two LMT missionaries' prayer meetings. At the first prayer meeting, I have the opportunity to learn from the veteran and newer missionaries about their thoughts and feelings on what is lacking in our Thai Lutheran worship services.

The missionaries highlighted the importance of teaching the church members about the significance of Worship and Liturgy.

### Prayer Requests

Prior to my arrival in Thailand, I have been advised to be cautious about my personal safety in Bangkok. My landlady has imposed the "curfew" of 2200 hours. I wish to thank all of you for upholding me in your prayers. So far, the LORD has watched over me and protected me. I appreciate all your prayer support. Please pray for the following:

- a) Pray for the LORD's protection whenever I travel, especially during the 30 minutes' walk to school.
- b) Pray for wisdom and guidance in my language studies.
- c) Pray that the LORD would prepare and equip me for the ministries which I will be involved in.
- d) Pray for my parents' salvation.
- e) Pray for the LORD's leading and guidance in the coming General Assembly (22 to 24 April 1997). Pray especially for the election of a new bishop for ELCT.
- f) Pray for the Missionaries' Conference (25 to 27 April 1997): spiritual renewal, good fellowship and renewed vision. Pray that there will be a smooth transition of leadership when the present chairperson of LMT departs from Thailand.
- g) Pray for good response to the new intake in the coming academic year at Lutheran Theological Institute of Education (LITE).
- h) Pray for the spiritual growth of all the church members of our Thai Lutheran congregations.

With every good wish in the Lord

In His Service,

Ang Bee Yan



BRINGING

# New Life

TO THE OLD



REACHING THE ELDERLY FOR CHRIST

(Rev Oh Beng Kee, a minister who truly understands the mindset of the elderly, is passionate about reaching out to the Chinese around the world. Here are extracts from his insightful presentations on October 30, 1995 and January 26, 1996 at two Network forums entitled "Reaching the Elderly for Christ".)

## Barriers of Concern

In a fast-paced society like Singapore, we often do not spend enough time with our parents.

Many of us speak English and have difficulty expressing ourselves in dialect. This leads to a lack of communication which often creates misunderstanding.

We look at things differently from the elderly. They tend to base their views and methods on experience, while we thrive on what we read or learn. These different approaches often create conflicts and misunderstanding.

Elderly people are concerned that no one will pay respect to them when they die. They think Christians have no filial piety.

The elderly often have deep-seated beliefs in Chinese tradition and religion.

Elderly people are very concerned about "losing face". They will never admit an

interest in Christianity especially if they have expressed disapproval of it.

Most of the elderly fear going to church. They consider it a disgrace to their family to be seen in a Christian church. They think that church is for the highly-educated and rich and because they themselves might not be well-educated, they consider it a loss of face to be with these people.

## How Can We Build Bridges?

### Sense the urgency.

Death can come to the elderly at any time. Don't wait till your parents are seriously ill before you try to bring the Gospel to them. It may be too late.

### Acts of love.

You must first build a good relationship with your parents before they will listen to you. Show them your love in practical ways like buying them food, being sensitive to their

needs, being concerned about them and talking to them.

## **Live out your faith.**

Whatever you say to your parents will be remembered. Watch what you say, especially about topics relating to your faith. Be careful not to confuse them by complaining about problems in the church.

## **Listen.**

Elderly people love to have others, especially their children, be around them, to listen to them. They have a tendency to talk about the past and re-live past glories because they do not have a future to look forward to. Listen to them patiently and make them feel good about themselves by affirming them.

## **Show affection.**

Elderly people need affection from others. Hug them or put your arms around them often.

## **Don't fight about money.**

Give willingly to your parents. To them, your gift is a demonstration of filial piety and love. Usually, the elderly will save the money and give it back to you eventually.

## **Offer to pray for them.**

When they seem troubled or are sick, let them know you will pray for them. People are more willing to welcome

anyone who can help them when they are in trouble. Offering prayer is also a way of showing your concern for them.

## **Reconcile.**

If soured relations exist, be the one to seek reconciliation. It doesn't matter who is right or wrong. Tell them you are sorry. This could be the start of healing in a relationship

# Bringing The Message Home

## **Show Respect.**

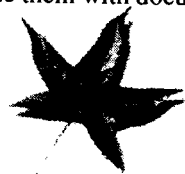
Be sensitive and respect their beliefs. Use illustrations from their own beliefs to explain ideals to them. Use yourself as a reference point. For example, "I am a sinner", "I do not worship idols because..." and not "You are a sinner", "You will go to hell."

## **Be persistent.**

Don't make sharing the Gospel a one-time effort. Keep at it. Don't be discouraged by strong opposition in your first attempt. Their protest usually becomes weaker with each renewed effort.

## **Don't preach doctrines.**

Keep your Gospel message simple. Don't confuse them with doctrines.



## Help them Understand sin.

Use an indirect approach to convey sin. Do not offend them by telling them they are sinners. To the Chinese, sin means committing crimes like robbery or murder. They believe most people are essentially good. Talk to them about sin in your own life such as misdeeds or wicked thoughts. Tell them everyone is a sinner. Let them come to their own realization that they are sinners too. Use simple analogies. For example, sin is like an illness. If you do not cure it, you will die. There is only one way to cure sin - through forgiveness from God, which is possible by Jesus' death for our sins.

## Explain concept of an Only God.

Use examples to explain this concept. For instance, there can be only one head in a family or nation. Otherwise, there will be chaos.

## Worshipping God in spirit.

The Chinese think Christians do not believe in spirits. Tell them that we believe that the God whom we worship is Spirit. Explain that there is also an evil spirit, which is the devil. We choose to worship one or the other.

## Dealing with idol worship.

Don't condemn your parents for worshipping idols or say their idols are



# New Life

evil. Use good illustrations to help them see idol worship for what it is. For example, tell them that if you start praying to religious symbols, you could be indirectly worshipping the devil. Explain that the devil likes to be worshipped as God and may possess things that you pray to.

## Give them relevant materials.

Leave Christian literature lying around the house. Use materials that they are likely to be interested in, such as videos or cassettes. They may not show interest in them in front of you because it is a "loss of face" but they may listen to them or view them privately.

## Find the right church and be there for them.

Bring them to an appropriate church where the Gospel is being preached and where there are people whom they will be able to relate to. If you bring them to your own church, make sure you sit with them throughout the service. Drop your duties for the day if you have to. Don't leave them alone because they will feel alienated. They will not want to go to church again if they have had a bad experience.

# Handling Tricky Situations



## **Can your Jesus have the power to pierce Himself or cut His throat without harming Himself or protect you if you do that?**

Don't say, "Yes, He can but He doesn't want to." Say that if Jesus were to do all those things, you would not worship Him anymore because He cannot be God. God is love and would not do things to hurt Himself or His children.

Use the illustration of a parent who loves his child and would not dream of harming the child. Refer them to the Chinese

belief that our bodies were given to us by our parents. If we harm ourselves, we are not honouring our parents.

Similarly, God gave us life through these bodies and as a Father who loves us, He would not want us to harm ourselves. Give examples from Scriptures of demon-possessed people who cut or hurt themselves deliberately.

## **Your grandmother says to you: "I cannot accept Christ because I want to go where my dead husband is."**

Tell her you know how much they love each other. But you don't know where he is now. If he did not know Jesus, he would probably be in a place of suffering. He would not want her to join him because he loves her. He would be pleading with her not to go where he is. The Chinese know that when they are in

a place of suffering, they would not want their loved ones to share the same fate.

Therefore, if your grandmother says she loves him, she would listen to him. She would know that it would only add to his agony if she joined him there. Read her the story of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31).

## **Christians have no filial piety. They do not worship their ancestors or pay their respects.**

Remind them that when they pray to their ancestors, they usually ask for answers to prayers or solutions that will meet their needs. Explain that it is because we have filial piety that we do not pray to our ancestors. While they were living, they

had already given so much to us and we do not want to bother them with more requests now that they are dead.



The weather that 1st May morning was clear and the skies promised a hot humid day. Most of us were punctual and we left the church in two buses, with several families driving to Marina South on their own. Just like any family outing, the ones most excited were the children. They really looked forward to the picnic and the games... and the wide open space to run around and fly kites.

We arrived at 9.45 am and started the sing-along, followed by some games. Most of us joined in and enjoyed ourselves so much, it seemed we were having our "second childhood".

Soon after, it was time for our lunch and chitchat. We were treated to some lively background music from Joo See and her choir members (plus the 'potential' members). Their leading male vocalist was Peter Cheong rendering the Hokkein version of 'I Will Follow You'. As I looked around (often searching for my two sons), I noticed that everyone was engaged in one thing or another, or at least with someone else.

Before long, it was the time to get to know one another better. There was a quiz with personal questions to gauge how well we know our members. Some details were not even answered correctly by their spouses!

# "Go Fly A Kite!"



by KHOO EWE EWE

By the way, those who were there that day got to know intimate and interesting details about Patrick's embarrassing moments, a certain sister's very systematic bathing style, starting downwards from the neck, etcetra...

The highlight of the outing was the Kite Making Session. We were to discover the hidden talents of the JCC kite makers! Interestingly, I noticed how we were all so different in our own way of making the kites and flying them. There were the very patient ones who wanted their kites to look good. Appearance being so important, they actually labelled their kite. Others concentrated on the aerodynamics of their kites. A functioning kite that flies is presumably the most important.

Some did quick jobs and tried flying them immediately. These were the trial and error type.

Anyway, we may be so different, but the beauty of it all is that Christ loves us all the same. We are all in the family of God.

We really had a lovely time getting to know and catching up with one another, instead of the usual "hi-bye"s on Sunday mornings. Indeed, we had lots of fun as His family. Everyone enjoyed themselves, thanks to the hard work of Ting Ching, Michael, Anthony and their organising committee.

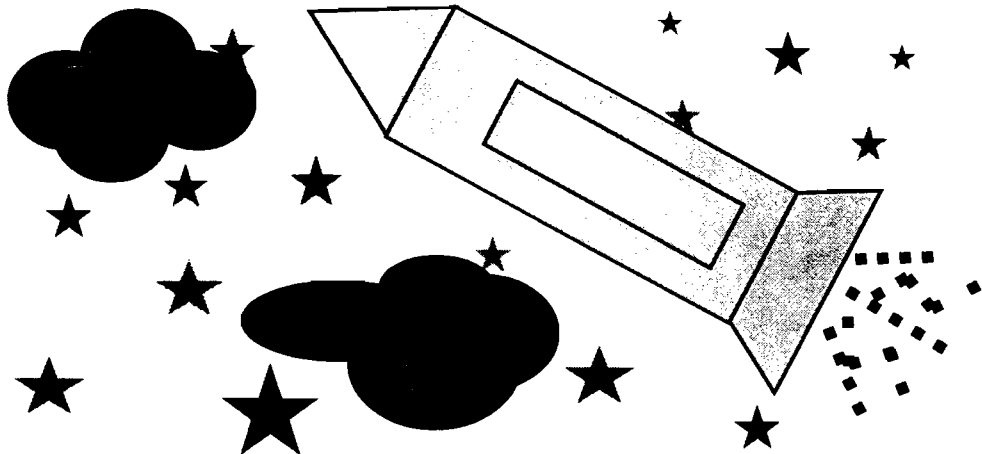
For the record, some kites could fly so high, while others simply refuse to at all

I know because mine didn't!



# High Flyers!

by CHONG YEW MOI



The time was 8.30 am. I should have been on my way to work.

But that day was different.

I was in church in jeans and T-shirt. And I was not alone. 30 other young and old had gathered in JCC in high spirits.

That day was Labour Day and our church had organised a picnic at Marina South.

After all of us were seated on the groundsheet, we did our songs and games. One of the games that Ting Ching and her committee had prepared was the Paper Aeroplane Making Competition. The objective was to see whose aeroplane could fly the furthest.

Each team's aeroplane came in various shapes and sizes. Some were long and wide, looking more like rockets, while others were the opposite - short and stout. Luckily, appearance was not the determinant of the competition.

While some planes could cruise in the air aimlessly, others simply flew like falling leaves. My plane belonged to the former category, albeit flying in the opposite direction. So, it eventually ended up first in the tally, counting from the bottom.

Another highlight of the picnic was the Kite Making Session. The young and old worked together to make paper kites, before lifting them into the breeze. One could actually see our kites soaring high in the air against the Central Business District skyline.

For the adults, flying these kites must surely have brought back those fond childhood memories.

At the end of the picnic, we were all exhausted, but definitely glad that we had made new friends and got to know each other better. Grateful to Ting Ching and Company for making this picnic a success, we look forward to more of such activities.

# CHURCH OUTING REPORT

by Martin Cheah

May 1st, 1997 JCC had its first outing for 1997 at Marina South. Altogether, about 60 persons attended, some were friends and relatives of our members.

We began the day at 8.45 am, met at church and proceeded to Marina South in 2 buses. It had been raining the previous day and the ground was damp. There were dark clouds over the sea. However as we proceeded with our activities, we had so much sunshine that I came back with a tan. I looked so red, my colleagues kept insisting that I had a few beers too many.



What's so unique about this outing compared to all the others that I have attended so far is that we had a kite making competition. The people were really absorbed in making their kites and also flying them. For a time, we forgot ourselves, our age, our status in life, we were just kids out to fly our kites - higher than the rest. You could see some women making the kites instead of their menfolk. I don't know who the eventual winner was, but I know that the first to get his kite into the air was Kong Chan Seng.



There is one observation to be made about this outing, the absence of the youth. Young people in the age group of 16 to 26 years were noticeably missing from this gathering. Could it be the exams were on? Or worse - a generation gap has developed? Even in the planning for this year's retreats, there seem to be an age barrier involved. There is the Youth Camp, presumably for the young adults. Then there is the Sunday School Camp for the children. Does that automatically mean that the Church Retreat is for the oldies? Though we cannot force the young people to like what their elders like nor can we force the older people to like the Macarena (although I think some of us do appreciate it). We should try to get involved in each others activities so that a gap would not exist.



In summary, it was a good outing. "God hath not promised skies always blue" (song 61 Blue Book) but on this occasion He did. I hope that in the next outing, which I presume will be sometime in August, we will see some of the youth in our midst.

**CHURCH PICNIC -  
1ST MAY 1997 AT  
MARINA SOUTH**

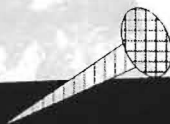


**KITE MAKING, SINGAPORE STYLE**

**ON HIGHER PLANE**



**ON HIGHER PLANE**



# NOTICE

You may have already noticed some changes in our recent issues of **The Vine** ✿.

Yes, most of the layout were done with the **Macintosh system.**

As most of your manuscripts are word-processed with the **PC**, your articles in **discs** should be saved as **Text Only** files for our easy conversion.

Also, always submit a **hard copy** of your articles. While we **trust** in **God** always, it doesn't always work the same way with **computers!** ; )