



The Vine

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Pastor's Word

ARE YOU REVIVED?

God has indeed touched many lives in the 3 days of revival meetings in JCC. More than 50 people came forward for prayers. Most of them received a personal touch from God either through the word of knowledge, prophecy or healing. Some received counsel from Rev Philip Tan while others were 'slain' as they come under the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am glad that lives have been changed especially those who responded to God's call to renew their service. Remember the words of Isaiah (6:8) "Here am I. Send me!" Be encouraged to persevere for God will give you the strength to serve Him as you abide in Him daily through prayer and time of communion. You will enjoy the fruits of joy and peace as you experience the Lord's presence in your lives. This brings us to the emphasis this month.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

God is pleased when we honour Him with our lives. With our energy we serve

our brothers and sisters in JCC. With the money we give our tithes and offerings to enable the Church to fulfill the ministries of teaching the Word in our Sunday School & to our youths as well as the ministries in our Sunday Worship Services. Of course, a significant portion of the finance goes to the training and support of missions in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. With our talents we serve God through music, singing, planning, teaching and serving.

Stewardship is having a right attitude towards our lives - whose am I? Stewardship is being responsible towards our loved ones. Stewardship is treating our possessions as gifts from God for the purpose of His Kingdom. Through faithful Christian stewardship, we acknowledge that God is the owner of everything including our lives. Therefore, as it is expected of us, we honour God by practising good stewardship - wisely using everything according to the way He has planned. In fact, God revives you and me to serve Him, not for our sake.

VISION RETREAT

We can look forward to even more glorious ministry in 1998. Your Church Council and the pastoral staff have been praying and planning for 1998. We sense

that the Holy Spirit has begun reviving Jurong Christian Church and we want to move along with the wave of God. So we should not stop and be satisfied with where we are but pursue the spiritual revival until the whole church is renewed and continues to remain in the renewal. 1998 will be a year when we call upon God "Revive Us, O Lord!"

It will be our theme in all that we seek to do. We want to see individual lives empowered to effective ministry. We want to see a new enthusiasm in our ministry. We want to see brothers and sisters zealous for the Lord. We want to see the Church moving to impact our neighbourhood, our friends and loved ones with the Gospel. We want to renew our relationships with one another to build a fellowship bound by the love of our Saviour so that God's love can flow through us and the world will know that we are the disciples of Jesus Christ. We want to see a transparency in our sharing where people are treasured as Christ's redeemed so that there's no fear in our opening up to one another because we love instead of judge. We want to see intimacy among brothers and sisters in Jurong Christian Church.

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

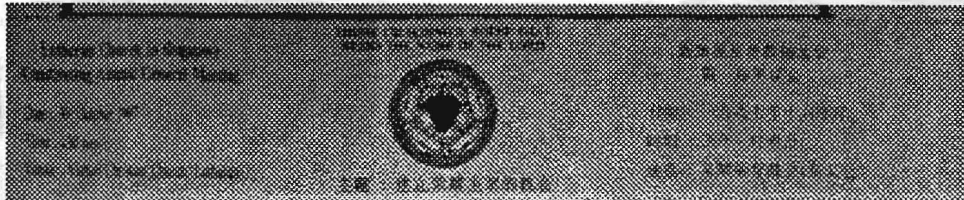
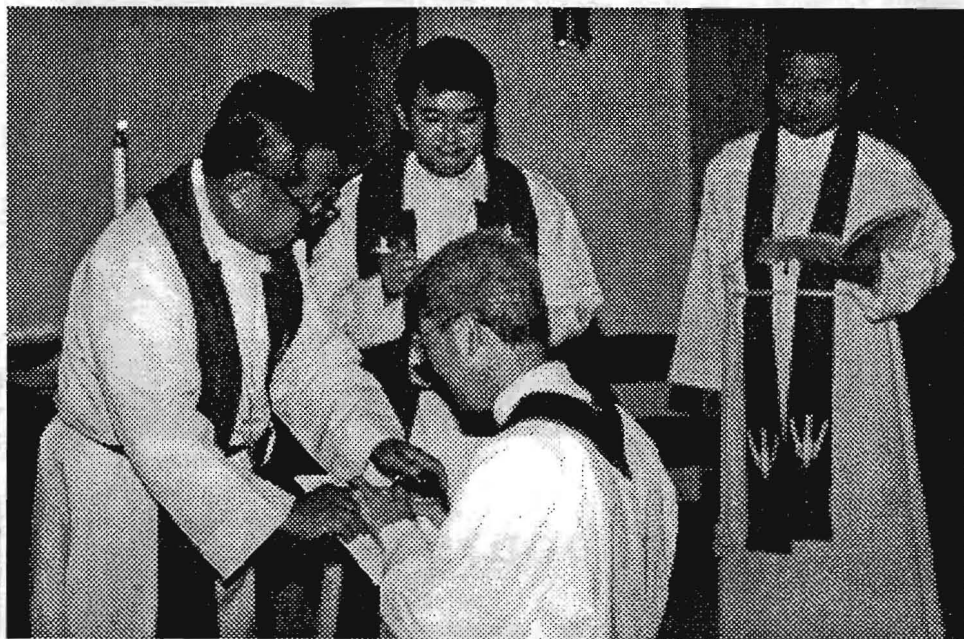
The 1st Annual General Meeting of Lutheran Church in Singapore was held on 30th October 1997 at Yishun Christian Church. At the meeting, delegates voted for a full-time Bishop which means that the person will not be assigned to pastor any congregation. The delegates also voted for a non-deficit budget for 1998. These are the results of the election:

Bishop	Rt Rev John Tan (Jurong Christian Church)
Secretary	Rev Lu Guan Hoe (Bedok Lutheran Church)
Treasurer	Mr Chong Yew Moi (Jurong Christian Church)
Chinese Clergy	Rev Peter Chong (Queenstown Lutheran Church)
English Clergy	Rev Fredric Lee (Jurong Christian Church)
Chinese Lay	Mr Chong Fu Kiong (Queenstown Lutheran Church)
English Lay	Mr Soon Hock Bee (Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer)

The above form the Executive Council.

SBC Board of Governors	Pastor Martin Yee (Jurong Christian Church)
TTC Board of Governors	Rev David Cheah (Bedok Lutheran Church)
St. Andrew's JC Board	Mr Michael Yuen (Queenstown Lutheran Church)
Board of Trustees	Rev Lee Tian Keong (Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer)
	Dr Leong Seng Kee (Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer)
	Mr Charles Chang (Bedok Lutheran Church)
	Ms Rita Wong (Bedok Lutheran Church)
Nominations Committee	Pastor Daniel Ang (Bedok Lutheran Church)
	Mr William Wong (Queenstown Lutheran Church)
	Mr David Wang (Bedok Lutheran Church)

Let us uphold these brothers and sisters in prayers as they serve in our fledgling Church for the glory of God. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to anoint our leaders for effective ministry. And let us unite ourselves as one Church in Singapore looking to Jesus to bring us into a new era of Church growth.





Good Neighbours Day 1997

We also unite ourselves with Christians all over Singapore to observe Good Neighbours Day on 30th Nov 1997. Eugene Seow, Coordinator of Goal 2 "Serve the Community" under the Vision 2001 writes: "It is tremendous to see what God is doing this day in Singapore. There is an openness that has surprised all. Openness in the lost to the gospel of Christ, openness in Churches to pray for one another and openness for Churches to work with one another. We are taking a step of faith this year to invite all Churches to come together to bring the blessing of God to our nation. We seek to do this by having the first nation wide Good Neighbours Day.

The Goal for this event is to encourage Christians to come out of their homes to do an act of kindness. This could range from

something simple like writing a card to appreciate your neighbour or to something more generous like inviting the neighbour to dinner or an outing.

We would like all Church members to do this act of kindness on the same day - 30th Nov '97. As we do these acts of kindness together, it will be a Blessing to the community. Let us unite in one act together, to serve and bless the community."

God is good! Let us praise Him for all that He has done in our lives. Let us count our blessings and honour Him with our lives and with all that He has given us. Let us move in step with the Spirit who leads us into His glorious plan for our lives and for Jurong Christian Church.

Pastor Fredric Lee

1 IN MARRIAGE - GOD IN

1 Peter 3:7 says

“You husbands likewise, live with your wives, in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life.”

First: Live with your wife. The Greek term for 'live' is a compound word, meaning 'to dwell together' or 'to be at home with.' Peter is telling husbands here that they are responsible for

the 'close to-getherness' in the relationship. Providing a good living should never become a substitute for sharing deeply in life. The husband should understand every room in his wife's heart and be sensitive to her needs.

Second: Know your wife. The husband is exhorted to live with his wife 'in an understanding way.' This phrase literally means, 'according to knowledge.' This doesn't refer to the academic knowledge of her, but to a deep understanding of how she is put together. It involves perceiving her innermost make-up, discerning her deep-seated concerns and fears, and helping her work through them in the safety and security of your love. To live with her in an understanding way means to respect a 'weaker vessel'.

The woman is called the 'weaker part-ner', but this is not to be

taken morally, spiritually or intellectually. It simply means that the woman has less physical strength. The husband recognises this difference and takes it into account.

Third: Honor your wife. To 'grant her honor' is to assign her a place of honor. Authors Gary Smalley and John Trent define this word in their book *The Gift of Honor*.

In ancient writings, something of honor was something of substance, valuable, costly, and even priceless. For Homer, The Greek scholar, "The greater the cost of the gift, the more the honor." It signifies not only something or someone who occupies a highly respected position in our lives, but also someone high on our priority list.

That's how husbands are to treat their wives, to honor them by assigning them the top priority on their list of human relationships... in their schedule... and most importantly, in their hearts.

A Promise to Both Partners

Verse 7 closes with a purpose clause:

“So that your prayers may not be hindered.”

The husband and wife have an added incentive to live together in harmony - an effective prayer life. And what wonderful promise it is! Maybe this promise is enticing enough to motivate you to domestic harmony.

Well, how do you feel after reading this little message? Sometimes we know so much truth about Bible teaching but we fail to obey and put them into practice. We just have to put in the effort to work out the relationship. I just want to encourage you to 'press on', to establish a foundation for your spiritual life and relationship. Sure there are differences, but that is how God made us to be; imagine how boring life would be if we are all the same.

Continue to seek Him. You are united in Him, in Him you are one flesh.

by Tan Swee Leong

Is tithing Christian?

How Christian is the tithing of our financial resources to God in today's context?

By Allan Harkness

Often, Christians treat the tithe (equals a tenth) as their goal for giving – 10% of their income (with plenty of scope for argument about whether it should be from gross or nett income...!)

If the level is reached, we feel a sense of achievement, and perhaps even self-satisfaction – am I really giving away that much? In other words, the tithe is the level many aim at in their giving, regardless of the size of our income.

In the Old Testament times, tithes were produce from the land: seed, fruit, etc, or, from the flocks: sheep or goats, and reflected the means of livelihood of the donors.

To give a tenth was to acknowledge in a tangible way God's ownership of the land and its produce.

It appears that two or three tithes are mentioned:

* a tithe to the Levites (Num 18, Deut 14:27) of this, one-tenth was given to the priests;

* a second tithe (from the remaining nine-tenths) was consumed in a joyful

celebration in God's presence, and signifying a consecration of everything one had to God (Deut 14:22-26);

* a tithe for the poor - orphans, widows, foreigners, and others – which occurred only every third year (Deut 14:28-29)

For the Jews, there were also the thank-offerings at some festivals of the year, and special offerings as atonement for sins committed. These offerings were made to God as sacrifices of animals or grains – as described in Leviticus.

In the Old Testament, it is clear that giving to God is not considered a tip for services rendered at the standard 10% service charge. Tithes were not a charitable gift to God, nor were they a calculated sum for God to return proportionately. Rather, tithes were a duty of obedience: the givers were returning a portion to God who had provided for them and enabled them to prosper.

In fact, tithes were one part of the whole economic system of the Israelites that was geared to righteousness and justice, which included the restoration of the poor among them. Offerings, on the other hand, were voluntary gifts to God.

When the Israelites were said to be robbing God (Mal 3:8,10), it was not so much in the material things for they still belonged to God: but rather in the recognition that these things belonged to Him. Malachi condemned the people's attitude that what they had was theirs, by right, and not by grace from their creator-God.

In the New Testament, instead of stressing on tithing, Jesus and the writers emphasise:

- * the need for spontaneous generosity in response to God's limitless giving (eg. Luke 21:4; Act 11:28-30; 2 Cor 8:1-3, 7-9; 9:5-10; James 2:15-16, 1 John 3:17);

- * the need for individual decision on the amount, without external pressure (eg 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:5,7);

- * the blessedness of giving (eg Acts 20:35); and

- * the consequence of giving as being the glory of God or Jesus Christ (eg 2 Cor 8:19; 9:12-13)

(adapted from M.J. Harris, in Dictionary of New Testament Theology).

Giving and tithing seen in this light present the average Singaporean pew-sitter with four challenges:

- * Giving to God is a responsibility Christians have as a loving expression of their commitment to God.

- * Giving to God is expressed by giving to those who have needs (eg 1 John 3:17) – needs which exist in a local church or needs that exist beyond our geographical proximity.

- * While it is quite proper to support the needs of our own fellowship, giving to God has broader scope.

The brother in need whom God challenges us to provide for, may be people or para-church organisations committed to expressing the Kingdom of God and drawing people into active citizenship of the Kingdom.

The brother in need may also be people or organisations which may not specifically be Christian, but which are committed to addressing the big kingdom issues of our time – issues like poverty, injustice, oppression and war. Or the brother in need may simply be a literal neighbour, fellow-worker, or total stranger you meet in the course of your daily life.

- * The level of giving will differ from Christian to Christian. Responsibility lies with those who have more to share.

Tithing, or giving, in terms of numbers of dollars often absolves those who have greater resources from giving sacrificially and generously from the assets God has provided them.

(Slightly abridged from IMPACT/Dec-Jan 91. Allan Harkness was a lecturer at the Discipleship Training Centre.)

PUBLIC FORUM "TEACHING YOUR CHILD MENTAL ARITHMETIC"

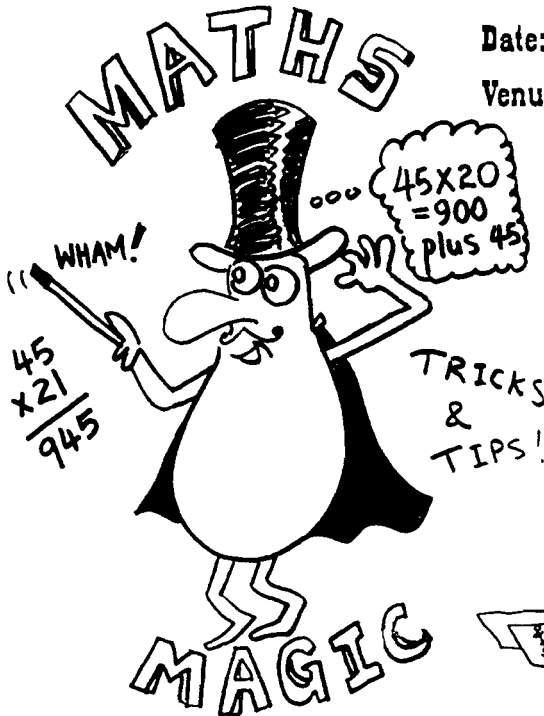
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.

Date: 29th Nov 1997, Saturday

Venue: Jurong Christian Church

2 Tah Ching Road,

Singapore 618744



THIS FORUM HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL ARITHMETIC IN THE NEW MATHS SCHOOL CURRICULUM. TIPS ON HOW YOU AS PARENTS CAN BUILD YOUR CHILD'S CONFIDENCE IN NUMBERS AND HOW YOU CAN TEACH THIS ESSENTIAL MENTAL ARITHMETIC SKILL FOR YOUR CHILD TO ENJOY MATHS !!!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
For further information,
call: 2652807

GOOD

30TH
NOVEMBER 1997

NEIGHBOURS

Day

IF YOU DO NOT
KNOW YOUR
NEIGHBOURS,
HOW ARE YOU
TO LOVE THEM?



Is prayer?

just for heroes of the faith?

When we read the stories of great men and women of faith, we may think, 'These people were 'super-spiritual'. My prayers could never be answered like that. But look at how Scripture describes Elijah: 'Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit' (James 5:17-18).

In the preceding verses of that chapter (James 5:13-16), we are told to pray when we are suffering, when we are cheerful, when we are sick, when we have sinned, and for 'one another. We are then told that 'the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much' (v16).
*4) Prayer is one of the ways we make ourselves ready for the return of Jesus Christ.

Luke 21:34-36 says, 'But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will be as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.' As believers living in the last days, our lives should be characterised by watchfulness and prayer (see also Mark 13:32-33).

With Faith

But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.' Hebrews 11:6

Prayer is the key that, in the hand of faith, opens to us the unlimited resources of heaven. God is willing to reveal Himself to us in a remarkable manner. The reason, however, that we do not see greater evidence of His power is that we lack faith. Were God to answer some of our faithless prayers, it would astonish us. When we go to God in earnest, blending faith with our perseverance in presenting our petitions, answers will come.

Not everything we ask...

Not everything we ask God for will be granted just as we hope. Even though we may have had faith, God knows better than we do what is best for us. When we ask for something that God knows is not best for us to have, He will answer our prayer, but it may be in a different way than we expected.

At a time of great discouragement in his life, Elijah asked God to let him die. Instead of allowing him to die, God gave Elijah more work to do. A short time later, he was taken to heaven in a flaming chariot. (See 1 Kings 19:4; 2 Kings 2:11). Just think how different things might have been if God had answered Elijah's prayer just as he asked. Every prayer that is presented to God in faith and with a true heart will be answered. Such prayer is never lost; but to claim that it will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire is presumption. God is too wise to make a mistake and loves us too much to give us anything that is not for our good. If we have, in the honesty of our hearts, asked anything that God sees will not be good for us, He may withhold the thing desired but in its place give the blessing we most need. 'For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.' Psalm 84:11

why should we

intercede

for others

When should we intercede for others in prayers:

* so that they may stand perfect & complete; that they can do the will of God. Col 4:12

* so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Jn 14:13

* so that they may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him. So that they would be fruitful in every good work. So that they would increase in the knowledge of god. So that they would be strengthened with all might according to His glorious power. To have all patience. To have long-suffering with joy. Col 1:10, 11.

* to have the eyes of their understanding enlightened. So that they may know what is the hope of His calling. So that they may know what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. So that they may know what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. Eph. 1:18,19

* so that we may lead a quiet & peaceable life in all Godliness and reverence, because this is good & acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour. Because God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim 2:2-4

* so that they may approve the things that are excellent. That they may be sincere without offence till the day of Christ. So that they will be filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Phil 1:10-11

When we are interceding for others, we should pray:

* that the love of others may abound still more & more in knowledge and all discernment. Phil 1:9

* that God's people would receive a spirit of wisdom. Eph 1:15-17, 23, Col 1:9, James 1:5, Psalm 13:3

* that their faith should not fail Lk 22:32

* that they may be filled with knowledge of His will Col 1:9

* that they may receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15

* that the unconfessed & unrepented sins of God's people & even those who persecute us, accuse us & spitefully use us, will be forgiven. That God would have mercy on them.

'Father forgive them for they know not what they do...' Lk 23:34

We should also pray that God would bless them with favour & strength. We should pray that God would forgive all their iniquities & transgressions, and not just the faults that they've made against us personally.

We should pray and intercede for others:

* As Hezekiah did. (2 Chron 30:17-20)

* As Moses did. (Deut 9:25, 26)

* As Paul did. (2 Tim 4:16)

* As Stephen did. (Acts 7:60)

* As Jesus Christ did. (Luke 23:34)

'If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.' (John 20:23)

'If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life...' 1 Jn 5:16

WHY JOIN CARE GROUPS? WE NEED MORE FELLOWSHIP AMONG THE BRETHREN!

*Source Acknowledgement:
Perry W. Phillips,
Winchester, Va.*

Above all others in the world, brethren share something most precious in common...A special intimacy...even more important...Jesus Christ. We need more fellowship among brethren!

The first reason for such fellowship is our sharing. You see, fellowship is sharing. The Greek word for fellowship is KOINONIA, and it literally means participation... it means partnership. Christians are involved together in the greatest partnership ever contrived. Especially since its origin is founded in God himself. To receive the greatest benefit from that partnership each brother MUST participate. A business partnership will not last where there is distrust between the partners. Marriage...the greatest partnership, will not last when there is a failure to commune, communicate, or participate with the other partner. Why should we think that the sanctity of the church would be any different?

Without fellowship there can be no love! Without fellowship there can be no zeal! Without fellowship there can be no care! Without FELLOWSHIP the church DIES!

It has been said that, "FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT", but the very little time we spend with one another

would indicate that we have developed contempt far sooner than we have familiarity. God wants us to fellowship... Paul wrote to the Corinthians saying: "God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." (1 Cor 1:9 NIV)

Apparently, God desires us to be in fellowship with His Son. John added: "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3 NIV)

In addition to fellowship with Christ and His apostles the Bible teaches us that the early church fellowshiped with one another. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."(Acts 2:42 NIV)

Finally, the key ingredient to the success of that fellowship was defined by the Holy Spirit through John saying: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7 NIV)

More fellowship among brethren will provide a greater familiarity and knowledge of our brothers' NEEDS. There should be nothing more crucial

to us than the well being of our Brethren. Paul wrote: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." (Phi 2:1-2)

Our very first purpose is to be united with Jesus Christ... Why is it then that we think that is obvious concerning our lives, but virtually ignore the relationship of others with the Lord? Our fellowship will be enriched when we find comfort in the love of Jesus Christ... Comfort that will not appear if we fail to find comfort in one another. Fellowship will become rich when we have developed what Paul here calls the "FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT."

Paul encouraged the brethren to be of a single mind, and single love, to have one spirit and a single purpose. All of these things we desperately need to encourage in the church today... but, at the same time we should not be side-tracked by our brothers' immaturity, but encourage their growth. Paul said of himself: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of

me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Phi 3:10-14.

Paul recognized his imperfections and developed a sense of forbearance toward his brothers. Consider all of the sins that he identified in the church at Corinth yet he instructed the brethren to withdraw fellowship from only one individual. Let us develop a sense of forbearance... while we teach and



fellowship with our brethren growing together toward perfection in Jesus Christ.

We do indeed need the fellowship, but we must be very careful not to use the word fellowship when we are really "socialshipping".

Edited by Martin Yee

OCT 97

Rev. Terry & Sally Kee

Phra Khanong, Bangkok 10110

Dear loved ones in Singapore

Greetings to you in the most Blessed name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ.

Much had happened here in Thailand in the last couple of months. The Baht floated and crashed. The price of petrol increased for the tenth time last week within a period of three months. Many small factories were closed and many people lost their jobs. It is estimated that the number of people who lost their jobs by the end of the year would hit three million and there are many more who suffered salary reductions. There are news of suicides in the local papers everyday and a dramatic increase in the crime rates. Please pray for the situation here in Thailand and for us as we seek to minister in their midst.

Politically, the government survived a no-confidence motion and debate. The new constitution, which paves the way for political reforms was approved by both Senate and Parliament. The next eight months are crucial for Thailand as they appoint Constitution Court judges and draft the various organic laws, including those for the National Counter Corruption Commission etc. Please pray for the Lord's sovereign guidance for the nation.

Both of us passed the pre-examination test and are now in the midst of stepped-up preparations for the examinations scheduled 6 December 1997. In addition to our daily morning classes, all students taking the examination at the end of the year are required to stay back three times a week in the afternoon for additional preparations. Please pray for us.

Terry is still preaching about twice a month and leading a Bible-study on 1 Samuel in Laprao Lutheran Church. He will also be responsible for 3 workshops in the Lutheran National Youth's Leaders camp from 23 to 25 October. Please pray for strength and time management. We are thankful to the Lord that the school had granted Terry the permission to be back in Singapore for the 1st Annual General Meeting of the Lutheran Church in Singapore on 30th October and thereafter to participate in the Reformation Service as well. He is looking forward to meeting many of you there. Sally is progressing fine in her study and is seeking the Lord regarding her roles in the ministry of the Church and missions here in Thailand. Please pray for us.

May the Lord God bless you abundantly in all good things beyond what you can think or imagine.

Yours in Christ's love,
Rev. Terry Kee & Sally