



# The vine

for internal circulation only

Vol 3/98 Mar 1998

## *Pastor's* **WORD**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Warm greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This month is worship emphasis month. We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to all musicians, singers, choir members, ushers, bible readers, worship leaders etc for enriching our worship as a community in Jurong Christian Church. Thanks for your faithful service week after week. As a community of God we will again stress the worship of the one True God aright because in worship:

### **1. It Pleases God.**

If this were the only reason to worship God, it would be enough. King David, even in the most adverse circumstances, was able to get God's attention because he had learned how to worship. His Psalms of the Old Testament are definite evidence of his skill in worship. God is pleased, honored, and favored when we begin to focus on Him rather than the adversities.

### **2. It Produces Holiness.**

When we focus on personal problems, unfavorable circumstances, or impossible situations, rather than on the truth of God's Word; we will not produce holiness. We will, without question, produce fear, anxiety, resentment, and anger - but not holiness. Worship does produce holiness and that not only pleases God but makes room for the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Begin to worship God, even in the most difficult of circumstances and you will produce the Holiness of God and thus spiritual intimacy will be experienced as well as power when the Holy Spirit begins to intercede in your behalf.

The things of this world continually attempt to attach itself to our hearts. The mundane, the secular, the worldly, all affect us daily because we live in the natural realm. If we will take time to worship God, we can experience spiritual cleansing and purification from the effects of the world. Such worship will allow us to maintain intimacy with our Lord even in the midst of adversity; causing our heart to beat in harmony with the heart of God. It is accomplished through the worship of Him.

### **3. It Perfects Our Relationship.**

One way to renew your relationship with God is through worship. Your human spirit, if you are born again, has been created anew; I Cor. 5:17. The old man, (old nature,) is dead; see Rom. 6:6, Col. 3:9, Rom. 8:1-17, and Gal. 5:24. Thus you will never be any more spiritual than you are at the moment of salvation. Grow - perhaps; become more conformable to the image of Christ - most definitely;

become more Godly - without question; but never more spiritual. No matter the sin committed or the failures experienced, I John 1:9 is always available to the repentant heart: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### **4. It Prepares Us.**

Worshipping God causes us to think as God does. If practiced faithfully, we will likewise begin to see things as God does. Eventually we are able to hear God clearly when He speaks. Worshipping is an exercise affording spiritual fortitude. There may be a prolonged period of preparation just as it takes an athlete a long time to gain skill and strength, but the faithful will receive from God when they are prepared to do so.

### **5. It Disciplines Our Soul.**

As mentioned earlier, the soul is our mind, will, and emotions. According to James 1:21, this part of our being must be controlled through God's Word. As we worship, we find ourselves becoming more conformable to

God's Word because we are beginning to think as God. Focusing on God's Word as we worship allows us to hear from God more clearly and thus to become obedient.

The mind is generally filled with things secular. It becomes an act of discipline therefore to think things spiritual. Worshipping the Lord makes this possible and primes our mind, our will, and our emotions to receive the spiritual from God. As we worship God, the things of the world will not only become less acute, but the things of God will become more defined. Worship is a way of allowing the human spirit to lead the soul in obedience.

## **6. It Helps Us To Focus On God.**

Perhaps the greatest benefit of worshipping our Lord, is that it places Him out in front where He belongs. When we consider circumstances, we often question God's concern for us. "Why isn't He doing something about this? I thought God could do anything. Doesn't He know what I'm going through?" All of these thoughts are evidence of both considering circumstances and a lack of worship. The circumstances cause the Lord to be invisible.

Worshipping Him, on the other hand, makes Him visible and if practiced, it places Him out in front where He rightfully belongs. If you are at this very moment facing sadness, defeat, discouragement, or disappointment of any kind, begin to worship God and you will soon find Him projected as the sovereign Lord of your life.

May our worship as a community grow in maturity and holiness day by day. To God be the glory. Amen.

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## ***WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE YEAR 2000?***

According to the Straits Times, 20th March 1998, with only 600 days until the end of the century, it is too late to fix all the Year 2000 bugs in the US critical computer systems. The problem lies in the fact that on Jan 1, 2000, millions of computers that keep track of years as 2-digit numbers will roll over from 99 to 00, and treat the new year as 1900 instead of 2000.

Automated teller machines, card-key access systems and even the clock-thermostats that run heating and cooling systems could be affected, experts say, but no one is sure.

The question is, "Are we prepared for the year 2000?"

# THE 7 Deadly SINS

by Rev Dr Kang Ho Soon & Leslie Quah

... Continued. from previous issue

## ANGER (Mk 3: 1- 6)

Anger in itself is not a sin. Anger is primarily a God-given instinct for survival. When we are threatened or angry, our senses are heightened, and are therefore able to better defend ourselves. Anger can be a positive and creative force.

### 3 types of anger:

1. Wrath of God. God being righteous, must be angry when confronted with sin or sinfulness. If God closes an eye to sin, He can no longer sit as Judge over all the world.

This wrath must be balanced with the steadfast love of God. This love caused Him to provide the way of escape from His wrath - through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. Righteous anger. This is anger at the sight of injustice. In the healing of a paralytic on a Sabbath, we see Jesus displaying righteous anger. Here was a man under immense suffering, and the Pharisees were so caught up with their laws and righteousness that they were unable to help the paralytic. To them, Sabbath-keeping was more important than a fellow human's relief.

Righteous anger can be a creative force. When we see par-

ticular groups being unfairly treated in society, when we hear the cry of the starving millions, when we look at political systems that suppress and oppress people, we must be incited to anger. This is anger that mobilises us to do something positive.

3. “I” anger. This is anger at being hurt. The Pharisees were angry at Jesus for exposing their hypocrisy. Their egos were hurt. And so they went out and plotted His death.

When is anger a sin?

There is provision for anger. In Ephesians 5 Paul said “If you are angry...” But while anger and sin are separate, anger can lead us into sin. Therefore, we must set a time frame to our anger. Paul in the same verse advised us not to dwell on our anger but to resolve issues leading to anger.

Answer to Anger

1. Recognise anger. Know yourself and know what makes you angry. I get angry when I

see hypocrisy or bullying. Some are more likely to be angry when they are tired or hungry.

2. Refuse to react. He who flies into a rage seldom makes a good landing. Most of the time we would not act sensibly when we are angry. Take practical steps to handle the anger — take a walk, drink a cup of cold water, etc.

3. Reflect. Ask the following questions:

- a) Am I wrong?
- b) What is the other side of it?
- c) Why is the person behaving in this way?

4. Reconcile. Take some measures.

- a) Wait a little while.
- b) Apologise if necessary
- c) Negotiate for a common ground.
- d) Forgive. Anger and forgiveness cannot reside together.

Get rid of anger. No more shouting or insults. No more hateful criticisms of any sort. Instead

# THE 7 Deadly SINS

be kind, tenderhearted to one another. Forgive one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

## **GREED** (Lk 16: 19 - 31)

Greed is a spirit which drives us to want more and more, to accumulate, to hoard, to withhold, to grab all for ourselves. The man driven by the spirit of greed is the man who is not able to love, not able to share, who is compelled to get more and more for himself.

A story was told of a man in Alabama in USA who attempted to murder his wife. He did not succeed and his wife was taken to a medical centre, bleeding profusely. There the doctors

managed to stop the flow of blood. But she died of blood clots in her lungs a few days after her discharge. Her husband sued the hospital for 2.5 million US dollars.

A man driven by the spirit of greed cannot know God because God is love. Greed is the spirit that drives the rich man in the story of Lazarus. The rich man dressed himself in the most expensive clothes, lived in great luxury and he walked past the poor man Lazarus without even seeing him. Yet Lazarus was sitting right at his doorsteps.

And so the winner ended up a loser.

The rich man was materially rich but spiritually poor. He could not see his own poverty because his money had given him a false sense of security, and blinded him to his weak spots.

But greed does not confine itself to the rich. Greed is not measured by the size of a man's account but by the spirit of his life. The poor too can be greedy.

### Answer to Greed

Love. The Lord's table reminds us of the greater spirit of love. We are reminded of John 3:16 - For

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son ...

We are reminded of Jesus, God's Son whose body was broken for us, whose blood was shed for us. We cannot overcome greed by fighting it. But as we allow the love of Jesus to fill us and as we share with the Lazaruses around us, as we learn to love God and people, greed will have no place in our lives

(To be continued...)

Condensed from IMPACT/Aug-Sep 86  
(Original Title: The Seven Seditious Sisters)

# THE 7 *Deadly* SINS

# HE ONCE WAS BUT NOW IS Lost Found

as recounted by Juria Ang

*The miraculous journey of a stroke patient – from the shadow of death in the Intensive Care Unit of a hospital into the light of eternal hope in Jesus Christ*

Prayers work wonders! I want to thank the prayer chain of Jurong Christian Church for praying faithfully for my father. God has been faithful in answering our prayers.

In mid-December, my brother called me from Kuala Lumpur saying that my father had a fall in the morning, was unconscious and admitted to a hospital. He was confined to the Intensive Care Unit. The doctor diagnosed that he had a stroke and, in fact, this was the second attack. After one week of hospitalisation, he was discharged. However two days later, he had severe diarrhoea and had difficulty in breathing. He was re-admitted to the hospital and the doctor diagnosed that he had contracted pneumonia.

I could not visit him due to my new job in my company. Therefore I waited till Christmas and took the opportunity to fly to Kuala Lumpur. Traditionally, I would spend my Christmas with my own family in Singapore. This time, I missed the homemade Christmas dinner, which I always loved.

Upon my arrival at Kuala Lumpur airport my brother picked me up and we went directly to the hospital. At the hospital, my father was lying in the ICU. He was semi-conscious and unable to recognize any of his family members. In such a situation, prayed for him and hoped for the best. It looked like he was running the last lap of his life. With the sense of urgency, my second brother prayed



and shared with him the gospel, and told him that Jesus was the only way to salvation. With sincerity, we continued to pray for him. Eventually, he was able to indicate his agreement to accept Jesus as saviour and willingly prayed along with my brother for the acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

During my stay in Kuala Lumpur, we managed to find a Pastor Lim from a Lutheran Church in Sunway Lagoon Estate through the help of an ex-JCC member to follow up on this matter. The following day, we visited him in the hospital. While he was awake, we reaffirmed with him that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and asked him whether he would believe. This time, he was indecisive because of one hindrance; he felt that it was burdensome for him to accept Jesus as his eldest son might strongly oppose. I assured him that I would discuss this matter with my brother. Interestingly, my brother did not interfere, therefore leaving my father to his own free will. After the hindrance was removed, my father personally had no objection to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

The following day, Pastor Lim and I went to visit him in the hospital. While he was still awake, we wanted to be assured that he had sincerely accepted Jesus. With his consent, Pastor prepared a simple service for him in the hospital. Witnessed by my mother, brother and sister, he was baptised.

When we visited him at home during Chinese New Year, he was in a better condition, except that he was unable to walk. His condition had gradually improved. Lately, my brother told me that he could now stand up and walk. He could even climb up the staircase. We were elated. We had not much opportunity to communicate with him but am glad that in his present condition, he is very happy and can even go out for breakfast with my brother's family.

We express our gratitude to the Lord for his mercy, love and healing power upon my father. Normally, a serious stroke patient has little chance to be active again. However, the Lord has healed my father and shown mercy to him. Not forgetting the intercessory prayers of Jurong Christian Church, we would request you all to continue to pray for this new convert that his spiritual life will grow and he could be a good testimony for other members in the family. We believe that God has a purpose for him.

My father is now attending service at Pastor Lim's church and his testimony was shared to encourage members of the congregation and glorify God. Today he is a happier man and with a sense of value and purpose in life.

Saint Paul wrote in II Cor 5:17: "Therefore, If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come."

Amen.

*in memory of the late Mrs P S George.....*

**TO KEEP THE  
FAITH, AS THE  
LATE MRS P. S.  
GEORGE DID**

The hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ is all we need to be assured of our final resting place.

Paul wrote to Timothy in II Tim 4:7-8 of the path he took for the sake of the Gospel. The rejection, the physical sufferings and his horrid death were not the end of life. "Now there is in store for me...", the beginning of v. 8, tells us of his confidence that the next phase upon his physical death would be the prize of the "crown of righteousness" from the Saviour. As Christians, the Bible tells us that there is no death. We have eternal life through Jesus

Christ.

The late Mrs P. S. George will always be remembered as a person with a simple faith. Her words, "All I can do is to pray for you", will always be cherished by many of us. She was a woman of prayer, even towards the end of her earthly life. Lying on the hospital bed, she had confidently assured us that her faith in Jesus Christ had substituted the pain and agony of death, eagerly looking forward to be with the Lord. Her never-ending testimonies of His love portray His likeness.

Like it or not, we are also in the race. Tough it may be, shedding tears most of the time, we are also to be reminded, just as the late Mrs George did, to keep

the faith and be living testimonies of His goodness and mercy.

*Michael Christian*

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"*

Psalms 116:15



*In Fond  
Memory of Mrs  
P.S. George*

Many of us in JCC knew Mrs P. S. George well, a gentle and beautiful lady

with a joyful personality and a charming smile that easily drew many young and old towards her.

To me, Mrs P. S. George was not just someone who possessed many fruitful qualities; she was also my spiritual mother. Though she did not give birth to me, surely she was there with me whenever I needed her for my spiritual, physical and emotional needs. Whenever I had problems or doubts, I would turn to her for solace. Unlike some people, she was never inclined to give a lecture or dish out a long list of advice. Rather, she had a wonderful way of showing her love, comfort and consolation through listening with heartfelt empathy, at times sharing her tears as well. After hearing you out, she would

say, "Let's pray about it." Yes, not only would she pray about it, she would also keep in touch helping whichever way she could till the problem was solved. She made the verses in James 2:14-17 come alive.

This reminds me of an occasion some years back when I was in deep emotional stress so much so that I refused to speak to and see anyone, but chose to be by myself to solve my own problem. To my amazement, she called me, full of compassion and care, and told me that even though I didn't want to visit her, it was alright; but at least she wanted to hear my voice to make sure I was OK. As she had been interceding for my family and me, she felt in her spirit that I was in pain and wanted to comfort me. Through this,

our bond of love and compassion for each other strengthened.

Many times ever since I knew her, I never failed to thank God for bringing such a wonderful mother and her family into my life. We had been with each other battling problems, sorrows and pains; and we had been rejoicing together during times of happiness.

To be a loving, hard-working wife and mother of two boys was never easy for Mrs P. S. George. Yet, she still spent a lot of time praying for many whom she knew had problems and needs. Even in spite of her own problems, she was a patient listener and counsellor. She loved spending most of her time interceding with God,

even on her death bed, for loved ones, lost ones, and even missionaries whom she did not know. Many church friends, neighbours and relatives who visited her were encouraged and blessed by her strong faith in God. I can boldly testify that many of her powerful prayers had borne fruits. She had been a source of influence to many new and old Christians in developing their faith in God. Many of these Christians are now faithfully serving God.

I feel that Mrs P. S. George was a woman who lived a life pleasing in God's eyes. Though I am sad that she is no longer around, I am also happy that she has graduated to a better place where right now she is rejoicing face to face with Jesus, her Saviour and

King in heaven. I believe she is still interceding for us there. I will always remember the treasured moments I had with her: times of pain, sorrow, joy and problems we spent together. Surely I know I will meet her again one day face to face with Jesus at our side in heaven.

Amen!

*Betty Kanselya*

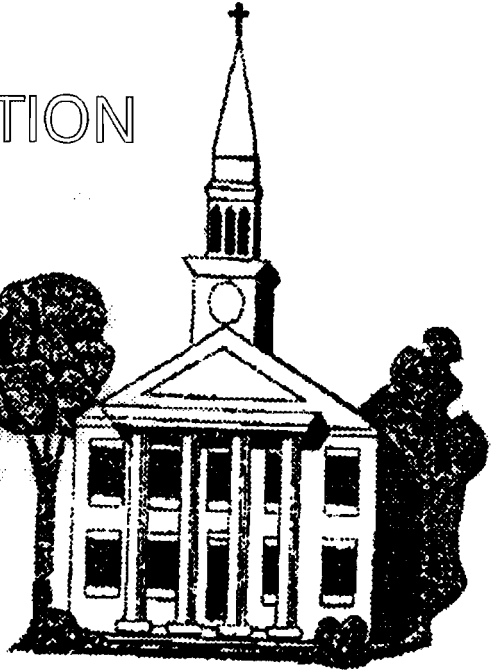
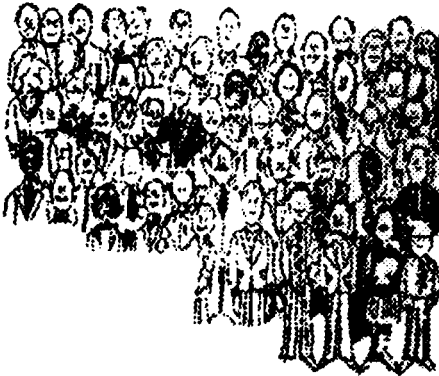


**No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life,.... nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Romans 8:38-39**

NEWS FROM

# SENGOI EDUCATION



**T**hank God on 4th of Feb we started our Sengoi kindergarten with twenty children. On 13th of Feb increased to twenty-five. Children are divided into two classes.

- 1: Senior with ten children (Sis Sariah)
- 2: Junior with sixteen children. (Sis S. Bee)

Classes are conducted from Wed to Fri Time 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pastor Sin provides transport to the kindergarten 19th mile. Returning home, we take bus. Pastor Sin also helped us to make tables for children to study.

Below are the names of the children and their villages.

19th Mile: Adi, Anila, Asabusli, Norla, Norsila, Osman, Sarah, Siti, Salina, Saima, Susali, (Alang, Rizam they only came once, please pray for them.)

20th Mile: Jamil, Hock, Tina, Latamanita.

22d Mile: Alang, Johari, Julia, Hendry.

24th Mile: Joe, Sirah, Norla, Pom, Pi, Talip, Tom, Zumail.

Please pray for above children, so that they will come regularly to our kindergarten and have wisdom to study. Sister Sariah cooks special food for children once a week the children enjoy it.

Thanks for your support and concern. It is impossible to start the kindergarten without your support. We want to thank God for answering all our prayers, because in Jan there was poor respond from the children. But now we have twenty-five children. We prayed hard and God helped us with this Bible verse: "if you ask anything in my name, I will do it." Jn 14:14. Please pray for our Sengoi Education Planning, so that the work can continue to carry on by God's grace and power.

Please pray for the following:

I) Women's Fellowship will be started this week.



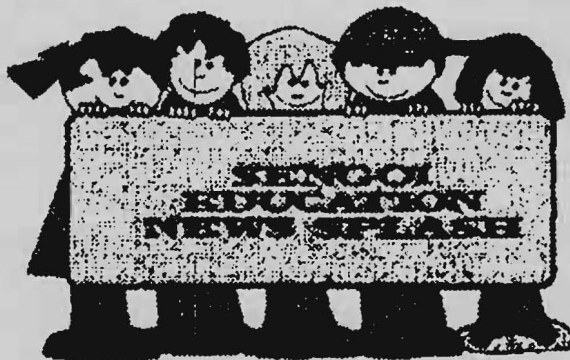
"If you ask anything in my name, I will do it"  
Jn 14 : 14



II) Selection of Council Members in March, that they will cooperate and take part.

May God Bless you All

Prepared by S. Bee  
8-2-98



NEWS FROM

SENGOI EDUCATION

LCMS-BALAKONG CONGREGATION  
TEL : 03-9611595



**UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH BALAKONG**  
**無拉港信義會合一堂**

301, Balakong New Village,  
Sungei Besi,  
57000 Kuala Lumpur.

10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1998

Pastor Martin Lee  
Jurong Christian Church

Dear Pastor Yee,

RE : LI HUI JUAN MEDICAL FUND

Greetings In the Jesus' Name!

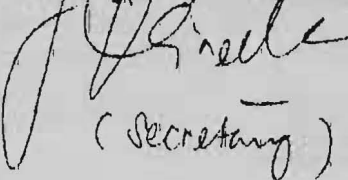
We, as the congregation of Balakong Unity Lutheran Church, wish to express our sincere thanks for your congregation's concern & love and contribution (SGD620-00 OCBC BD#143299) towards sister Lee's medical fund.

Thanks & praises to be God's; Sister Lee is recovering well and every Wednesday she still going for medical check up at Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

Let us continue to remember her before the gracious Lord and may God's riches blessing be upon you and your congregation.

Once again, thank you very much.

Yours In Christ,  
Balakong Unity Lutheran Church

  
(Secretary)