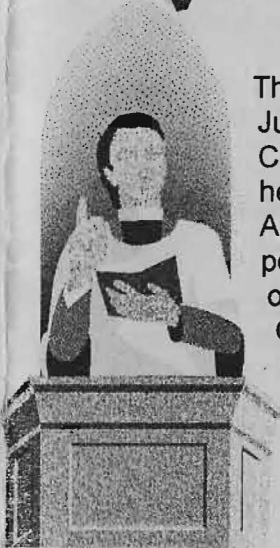


THE VINE

For internal circulation only

Vol 6/98 June 1998

PASTOR'S WORD



This month in June, Jurong Christian Church celebrates her 30th Anniversary. As a people of God, we ought to reflect on God's grace and work among us in the past 30 years. We are thankful to God for the pioneers of our church, the

missionaries, pastors, church workers and dedicated church elders who have unwaveringly committed themselves to serve the Lord their master. We are the fruits of their untiring labor of love. We must not forget our past and our heritage.

We also need to continue to trust God looking to Him to lead and guide us into the future. This millennium is also coming to a close, as we step forward into the next millenium let us remember the words of the Lord to Joshua " Be strong and courageous.... 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.... Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Jos 1:7-9. Indeed God has not given us a spirit of timidity but the spirit of power, of love and self-control (2 Tim 1:7).

The days ahead are filled with challenges - economic uncertainties, political upheavals and financial turmoil. With challenges also comes

opportunities. Let us be united in prayer and effort to develop the church for God's glory. Let us be a vibrant community that is worshipful, Bible-centered, caring and mission-minded, fulfilling our church vision statement to be a "community growing in Worship, the Word, Fellowship and Witnessing"

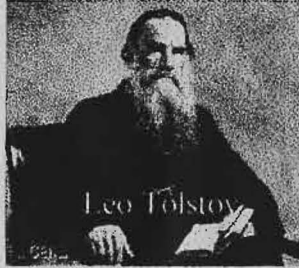
based on Acts 2:42-47. Our church motto will be "Glorifying God, obeying the Word, touching lives, saving souls" which encapsulates our

vision statement. Let us work together in love and unity that the Lord may be glorified through us. Shepherding the church is no mean task. I can now better understand why Solomon asked the Lord for wisdom to govern his people and to distinguish between right and wrong, see 1 Kings 3:9.

Sometimes as a pastor I can become so caught up with activities and programmes that I may forget my priorities. I am reminded of the amusing story

of the The Emperor's Three Questions by Leo Tolstoy." Do you know this story? The story goes like this:

One day it occurred to a certain emperor that if he only knew the answers to three questions, he would never stray in any matter.



1. What is the best time to do each thing?
2. Who are the most important people to work with?
3. What is the most important thing to do at all times?

The emperor issued a decree throughout his kingdom announcing that whoever could answer the questions would receive a great reward. Many who read the decree made their way to the palace at once, each person with a different answer.

In reply to the first question, one person advised that the emperor make up a thorough time schedule, consecrating every hour, day, month and year for certain tasks and then follow the schedule to the letter. Only then could he hope to do every task at the right time.

Another person replied that it was impossible to plan in advance and that the emperor should put all vain amusements aside and remain attentive to everything in order to know what to do at what time.

Someone else insisted that, by himself, the emperor could never hope to have all the foresight and competence necessary to decide when to do each and every task, and what he really needed was to set up a Council of the Wise and then to act according to their advice.

Someone else said that certain matters require immediate decision and could not wait for consultation, but if he wanted to know in advance what was going to happen he should consult magicians and soothsayers.

The responses to the second question also lacked accord. One person said that the emperor needed to place all his trust in administrators, another urged reliance on priests and monks, while others recommended physicians. Still others put their faith in warriors.



The third question drew a similar variety of answers. Some said science was the most important pursuit. Others insisted on religion. Yet others claimed the most important thing was military skill.

The emperor was not pleased with any of the answers, and no reward was given. After several nights of reflection, the emperor resolved to visit a hermit who lived on a mountain and was said to be a wise man. The emperor wished to find the hermit to ask him the three questions, though he knew the hermit never left the mountains and was known to receive only the poor, refusing to have anything to do with persons of wealth or power. So the emperor disguised himself as a simple peasant and ordered his attendants to wait for him at the foot of the mountain while he climbed the slope alone to seek the hermit.

Reaching the hermit's dwelling place, the emperor found the hermit digging a garden in front of his hut. When the hermit saw the stranger, he nodded his head in greeting and continued to dig. The labor was obviously hard on him. He was an old man, and each time he thrust his spade into the ground to

turn the earth, he heaved heavily.

The emperor approached him and said, "I have come here to ask your help with three questions: When is the best time to do each thing? Who are the most important people to work with? What is the most important thing to do at all times?" The hermit listened attentively but only patted the emperor on the shoulder and continued digging. The emperor said, "You must be tired. Here, let me give you a hand with that." The hermit thanked him, handed the emperor the spade, and then sat down on the ground to rest.

After he had dug two rows, the emperor stopped and turned to the hermit and repeated his three questions. The hermit still did not answer, but instead stood and pointed to the spade and said, "Why don't you rest now? I can take over again." But the emperor continued to dig. One hour passed, then two. Finally the sun began to set behind the mountain. The emperor put down the spade and said to the hermit, "I came here to ask if you could answer my three questions. But if you can't give me any answer, please let me know so that I can get on my way home."

The hermit lifted his head and asked the emperor, "Do you hear someone running over there?" The emperor turned his head. They both saw a man with a long white beard emerge from the woods. He ran wildly, pressing his hands against a bloody wound in his stomach. The man ran toward the emperor before falling unconscious to the ground, where he lay groaning. Opening the man's clothing, the emperor and hermit saw that the man had received a deep gash. The emperor cleaned the wound thoroughly and then used his own shirt to bandage it, but the blood completely soaked it within minutes. He rinsed the shirt out and bandaged the wound a second time and continued to do so until the flow of blood had stopped.

At last the wounded man regained consciousness and asked for a drink of water. The emperor ran down to the stream and brought back a jug of fresh water. Meanwhile, the sun had disappeared and the night air had begun to turn cold. The hermit gave the emperor a hand in carrying the man into the hut where they laid him down on the hermit's bed. The man closed his eyes and lay quietly. The emperor was worn out from a long day of climbing the mountain and digging the garden.

Leaning against the doorway, he fell asleep. When he rose, the sun had already risen over the mountain. For a moment he forgot where he was and what he had come here for. He looked over to the bed and saw the wounded man also looking around him in confusion. When he saw the emperor, he stared at him intently and then said in a faint whisper, "Please forgive me."

"But what have you done that I should forgive you?" the emperor asked. "You do not know me, your majesty, but I know you. I was your sworn enemy, and I had vowed to take vengeance on you, for during the last war you killed my brother and seized my property. When I learned that you were coming alone to the mountain to meet the hermit, I resolved to surprise you on your way back and kill you. But after waiting a long time there was still no sign of you, and so I left my ambush in order to seek you out. But instead of finding you, I came across your attendants, who recognized me, giving me this wound. Luckily, I escaped and ran here. If I hadn't met you I would

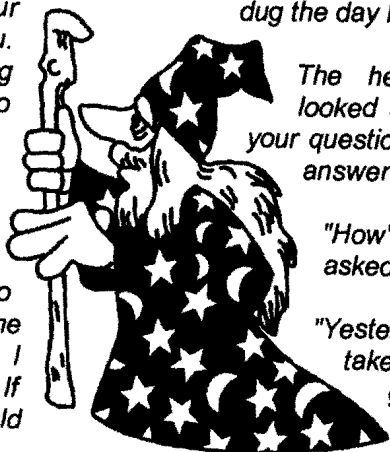
surely be dead by now. I had intended to kill you, but instead you saved my life! I am ashamed and grateful beyond words. If I live, I vow to be your servant for the rest of my life, and I will bid my children and grandchildren to do the same. Please grant me your forgiveness."

The emperor was overjoyed to see that he was so easily reconciled with a former enemy. He not only forgave the man but promised to return all the man's property and to send his own physician and servants to wait on the man until he was completely healed. After ordering his attendants to take the man home, the emperor returned to see the hermit. Before returning to the palace the emperor wanted to repeat his three questions one last time. He found the hermit sowing seeds in the earth they had dug the day before.

The hermit stood up and looked at the emperor. "But your questions have already been answered."

"How's that?" the emperor asked, puzzled.

"Yesterday, if you had not taken pity on my age and given me a hand with digging these beds,



you would have been attacked by that man on your way home. Then you would have deeply regretted not staying with me. Therefore the most important time was the time you were digging in the beds, the most important person was myself, and the most important pursuit was to help me."

"Later, when the wounded man ran up here, the most important time was the time you spent dressing his wound, for if you had not cared for him he would have died and you would have lost the chance to be reconciled with him. Likewise, he was the most important person, and the most important pursuit was taking care of his wound."

"Remember that there is only one important time and that is now. The present moment is the time over which we have dominion. The most important person is always the person you are with, who is right before you, for who knows if you will have dealings with any other person in the future? The most important pursuit is helping the person standing at your side."

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us make it our pursuit in life to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. The

Apostle John admonishes us "We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen cannot love God, whom he has not seen." I John 4:L19 -20. Let us be a worshipful and caring community by the help of God. Amen.

Pastor Martin Yee

Theology of the Cross

Extract from Encarta 97

Luther asserted that Christian theology is the theology of the cross rather than a theology of glory. Human beings cannot apprehend God by means of philosophy or ethics; they must let God be God and see him only where he chooses to make himself known. Thus, Luther stressed that God reveals his wisdom through the foolishness of preaching, his power through suffering, and the secret of meaningful life through Christ's death on the cross.

Financial Advice From The Bible

Where do material blessings come from?

Deuteronomy 8:18 "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

Can money get in the way of more important things?

Wealth can become the centre of our life and take God's place. Jeremiah 9:23-24, "This is what the Lord says: 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord."

Wealth can give us wrong attitudes about material things.

Luke 12:15 "Then [Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

It is unwise to make financial success a priority.

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and Money."

I Timothy 6:9, "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."



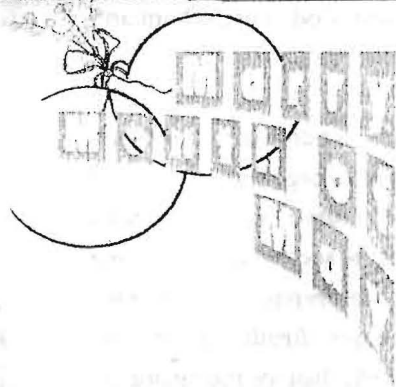
Holy Matrimony of
Pastor Anthony Loh &
Mei Ling on 9th May



Pastor & Mrs Martin Yee
at Vow Renewal Service
on 23rd May 1998



Couples who renewed their wedding vows



Lining up at the altar from oldest to youngest married couple

Cutting the cake



Congratulations
to all the couples



From oldest to youngest
married couple



SENGOI

18-22 March 98

m i s s i o n t r i p

Read Sis. Julie Kao's account of her trip to the Sengoi villages, and be encouraged to pray for the Sengois.

At last, I was able to make it to the Sengoi Mission Trip this year! When Wilfred went to Sengoi in 1992 and shared about his time there, I was motivated to go on a mission trip myself. Actually, I had already made plans to visit the Sengoi villages in September last year, but we were not able to go. I realised then that I could plan, but unless the plans were entrusted to God, they would fail. Therefore, this time, I fervently prayed because I wanted to experience first-hand what mission exposure is all about. I also wanted our two daughters to see and learn about how others live.

On the first day, upon Pastor Sin's request, the mission team re-enacted a simple wedding ceremony. The villagers were very amused when they heard us responding in the Sengoi language. Prior to this, the Sengois did not realise the significance of the Christian wedding ceremony and I trust that through the presentation, they have come to know that marriage is serious and sanctioned by God.

When I first met the Sengois, I could not identify with them as Christians

because they looked like Malays. However, during the "wedding ceremony", while we were praying, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me that we were actually one big family. The Sengois are my brothers- and sisters-in-Christ. I realised that no matter where they are, God is with them and He loves them too.

Our team leader, Brother Yock Meng, wanted to organise a camp for the Sengoi children, complete with meals. So on the second day, in Pastor Sin's home, we prepared *bee hoon* for about 50 people. Brother Khoo was our Chief Cook. (Just for the record, he was from Outward Bound.) It was quite an achievement to prepare a big meal with the stove's unpredictable flame and limited utensils. (Pastor Sin requested for kitchen utensils such as *kwalis* and *ladies* from the Sengoi people).

We managed to finish cooking and arrived at the 19th mile village at 1.30 p.m. for lunch. The children enjoyed their meal; some even came back for the third round. I think they enjoyed the orange squash even more.

After lunch, we adjourned outdoors for the worship and lesson time. Wilfred narrated the story of "Noah and the Ark" with Gernsey, a trainee pastor attached to Pastor Sin for one week, providing the translation. Thereafter, the children did some handwork based on the Bible story. The three children in our team (Debbie, Hui Ling and Hui Wen) were the group leaders during games time.

While there, one Sengoi lady told Pastor Sin about a man who was

will go back to their former ways. Thus, we really have to pray that they can be strong to fight against the evil one.

Sariah, whom our church is supporting, is one of the Sengois and she understands the people well. Mrs Sin is very encouraged by her assistance in the ministry. She asked us to pray for Sariah as she faces a lot of persecution and trials because of her belief.

On the third and final day of our stay, we had breakfast with the Sins

No matter where they are, God is with them and He loves them too.

possessed. (We saw this man walking around.) He would go into the forest in the middle of the night, claiming that there were voices calling him. His father could not stop him, and asked Pastor Sin for help.

On our way back, we stopped by the home of a Sengoi lady who was ill. The door to her room was closed and her father barred us from entering, so we prayed for her in the hall. Mrs Sin told us that spiritual warfare is very real. Whenever things go wrong or there is illness, some of the Sengois

and Gernsey at the Lakeview Campsite. There, we spent quite some time sharing, praying and encouraging one another. Do continue to pray for the Sins as they felt that their ministry with the Sengois was not progressing.

Although this trip was a "working" holiday, I felt that it was worthwhile, if only to see the happy and trusting faces of the children when we were with them. Their earnest worship of our Lord will linger in my memory for a long time to come.

JULIE KAO

LETTER FROM SENGOI EDUCATION MINISTRY

From: Kuan Siew Bee
 L.C.M.
 Sengoi Education Co-ordinator
 20th May 1998

To: Pastor Michael Christian
 Jurong Church in Singapore

Re: Financial Support for Full Time Worker in Education Ministry

Sir, we write with much gratitude and thankfulness for your magnanimous support and prayers towards the Sengoi Education Ministry.

Sir, at this juncture I wish to draw your kind attention to the need for a full time indigenous worker in education ministry. And we want to thank you for your financial support towards this worker.

We have identified Sister Sariah Ali who had been involved in this ministry for the past five years, as our worker. She started as a full time worker since February 1998.

Remuneration per month	-	1998: RM 500.00
		1999: RM 600.00
		2000: RM 700.00

JOB CLARIFICATION

- a. The full time worker will be involved in the kindergarten ministry as a class teacher. She will also be supervising the spiritual, physical and mental development and progress in the child.
- b. She will conduct tuition classes for the Sengoi school-going children.
- c. She will be teaching their people lessons on Personal hygiene and cleanliness. This will be conducted on regular basis at all villages.
- d. She will also be involved in the Children Ministry (Sunday School).
- e. Conduct Bible Classes at the villages and women's meeting.
- f. Assist in all other spiritual programs.

Once again, I want to thank for the support you have shown and pray that your church will continue to support this worthy ministry. May God bless you all.

CC: Bishop John Tan
 Bishop Gideon Chang
 Mr Chan Ah See (Manager)

Yours in His Service

Siew Bee



An Update on the Y2K bug situation found in the Straits Times on 7th May 1998. The CIA is concerned that "Millions of computers and embedded chips - some of which are central to financial markets, air-traffic-control systems and even running elevators and heating systems in office buildings - cannot distinguish between 1900 and 2000 because years have been expressed in two-digit shorthand in old programs."

The CIA is quoted as saying: "I think most people are again assuming that things are going to operate the way they always have. That is not going to be the case."

Here are some advice given to CIA employees:

1. To pay their accounts early next December to avoid possible processing problems.
2. To keep cash on hand in case ATM failed.
3. To have extra blankets ready in case of a blackout on a cold New Year's Eve night.

The CIA estimates that "most Pacific Rim countries were maybe

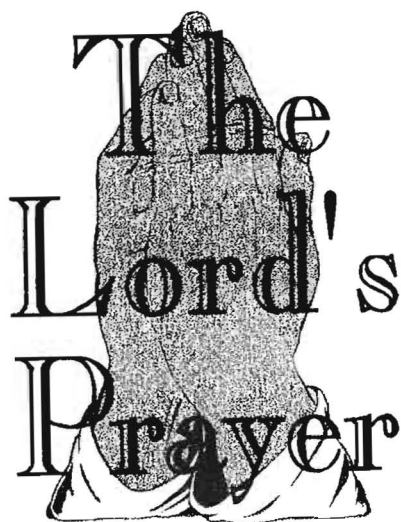
nine months to a year behind in terms of where the work (correction of the Y2K bug) should be."

I have a program to test if your computer is year 2000 compliant. I tested my home computer, which is a 486 DX 33mhz PC, it failed the test.

Martin Cheah

Website Wisdom

- ☺ The E-mail of the species is more deadly than the mail.
- ☺ A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
- ☺ You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
- ☺ Too many clicks spoil the browse.
- ☺ The geek shall inherit the earth.
- ☺ A user and his leisure time are soon parted.
- ☺ Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use the Net and he won't bother you for weeks.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,

Never forget that you are God's child through Jesus Christ, you are praying to a Father who couldn't love you more than he already does.

who art in heaven,

is a reminder that God is sovereign majestic and omnipotent.

Hallowed be thy name.

Worship God and praise Him when you come to Him in prayer.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Submit your will to God's. Put His will first in your life.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Lay out all your concerns, whether big or small. If you need a miracle, ask for it without shrinking back.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Be sure you're not the obstacle; confess your sins, receive forgiveness. Live with a forgiving spirit towards others.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Pray for protection from evil and victory over temptation.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

End your prayer with more worship. Acknowledge that everything in heaven and earth is God's.

Amen.

Let it be so.

Extracted from "TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY" by Bill Hybels. IVP

Reasons For Unanswered Prayer

Extracted from "TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY"
by Bill Hybels.

PRAYERLESSNESS

You do not have because you do not ask God. (James 4:2)

UNCONFESSSED SIN

Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

UNRESOLVED RELATIONAL CONFLICT

If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar.

First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. (1 John 2:9)

SELFISHNESS

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)

UNCARING ATTITUDE

If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered. (Proverbs 21:13)

INADEQUATE FAITH

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the LORD: he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. (James 1:5-8)



CONCLUSION

Our requests may be right. The timing may not be the problem. But when our lives are wrong God says, "Before I grant your request, I want you to grow. Put that sin away. Change your attitude. Reconcile that relationship, repent, receive forgiveness."

A WARM WELCOME
to

Geovani Faulve
Chee Wai Sum, Angie
Lim Siok Lian

It was our pleasure to know you when you
joined us for worship and fellowship in
May.

Happy Birthday
to
Jurong Christian Church

On the occasion of its
30th Anniversary Celebration
on 28th June 98.

May God continue to bless the
Church, in the name of our Lord
and Saviour Jesus Christ.