

# The

# VINE

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# VINE

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father!. As I penned this article I noted with sadness the tragic attack on an Australian missionary Mr Staine and his two sons, Philip and Timothy, by Hindu extremists in India resulting in their being burnt to death. On television



news I saw vivid pictures of the effects of riots between Muslims and Christians in Indoneisa Ambon island which resulted in many deaths. From these incidents we can know that people can be religious, but not right with God! That may sound strange to you, but there are many religious people "hiding" from God. They may be sincere, but sincerity is not enough; they need the truth of God's Word. We need to bear this in mind as we seek to reach out as a community.

Some people think that they are Christians automatically because they had Christian parents. Others presume that attending church or being

BB/DTP Sengol Trip in  
December 1998 photos :



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baptized or partaking in Communion makes them Christians. These are all important but if they have never committed their lives to Christ, their efforts may be hopeless.

The Bible - from beginning to end - teaches that to be right with God we need a sacrifice for our sins: "Without shedding of blood is no remission of sins." Hebrews 9:22b. God has provided salvation through His Son who "once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." 1 Peter 3:18.

Trying to be religious without Jesus Christ as one's Savior can be like taking a drug that distorts a person's reasoning. It is a delusion to think that performing a religious duty can make us right with God. Even leading a respectable life can never erase our sins. We all need a Savior. The Bible teaches that salvation is God's gift which we do not deserve, nor can ever earn. The Lord taught that salvation is through faith in Him alone: "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." John 6:47.

The apostle Peter declared, "Through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10:43. The apostle Paul wrote of his Savior "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Ephesians 1:7. The apostle John testified, "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12.

God's Good News turns us from our own vain attempts to earn His pardon to Christ's complete salvation. John Wesley, the great evangelist of eighteenth-century England, strove for years to make himself acceptable to God by his own efforts. But he never found peace until he could say, "I trusted Christ and Christ alone for salvation. And an assurance was given me that He had taken away all my sins."

Are you religious, but not right with God? Then come to Him today - just as we all must approach God, as sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus Christ promises, "**He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**" John 5:24.



*Pastor Martin Yee*

# Holy Spirit Guides

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14).

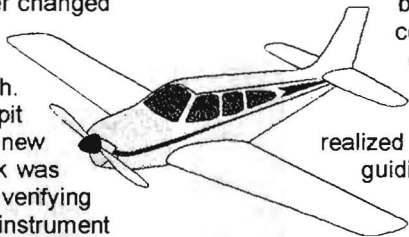
A young pilot had just passed the point of no return when the weather changed for the worse. Visibility dropped to a matter of feet as fog descended to the earth. Putting total trust in the cockpit instruments was a new experience to him, for the ink was still wet on the certificate verifying that he was qualified for instrument flying.

The landing worried him the most. His destination was a crowded metropolitan airport he wasn't familiar with. In a few minutes he would be in radio contact with the tower. Until then, he was alone with his thoughts. His instructor had practically forced him to memorize the rule book. He didn't care for it at the time, but now he was thankful.

Finally, he heard the voice of the air traffic controller. "I'm going to put you on a holding pattern," the controller radioed. Great! thought the pilot. However, he knew that his safe landing was in the hands of this person. He had to draw upon his previous instructions and training, and trust the voice of an air traffic controller he couldn't see. Aware that this was no time for pride, he informed the controller, "This is not a seasoned pro up here. I would appreciate any help you could give me."

"You've got it!" he heard back.

For the next 45 minutes, the controller gently guided the pilot through the blinding fog. As course and altitude corrections came periodically, the young pilot realized the controller was guiding him around obstacles and away from



potential collisions. With the words of the rule book firmly placed in his mind, and with the gentle voice of the controller, he landed safely at last.

The Holy Spirit guides us through the maze of life much like that air traffic controller. The controller assumed that the young pilot understood the instructions of the flight manual. His guidance was based on that. Such is the case with the Holy Spirit: He can guide us if we have a knowledge of God's Word and His will established in our minds.

"Lord, as this new year begins, I choose to be sensitive to Your voice and resolutely committed to doing Your will."

Source : Neil Anderson Daily Devotional, Freedom in Christ Ministries, 1 January 1999.

# Listening to Messengers

Looking for a messenger is as ancient as life itself. We yearn for someone to tell us the truth, to point us to the One greater than ourselves. In turn, God has answered our questions with Himself.



Through prophets, poets, kings, and priests, He has spoken to us. Even the beloved Son served as a messenger, speaking only what the Father told Him to say (John 8:28).

God's messengers continue to cross our paths. He speaks through human mouths to help us grow in grace. The combinations of who God selects and how He uses them are virtually endless.

Discerning if the message is from God can be difficult. Keeping in mind the characteristics of God, these guidelines can help:

**Listen carefully.** Listen for what the person is actually saying, not for what you want to hear. Try not to color the message with prejudices, past pain, or personal issues. Don't interrupt. Concentrate on what's being said.

**Respond thoughtfully.** It's easy to thank someone who delivers a positive message, but also try to respond graciously to a person with criticism. Tell the person you'll consider the input, and try not to react by throwing back negative words.

**Consider the message.** Does the message "witness" within your spirit?

Does it fit your circumstances? After you've peeled away layers of pain, denial, or confusion, is there a kernel of truth in the message? If the answer to any of these is "yes", God may be speaking.

**Consider the source.** Is this message from someone you trust? Is it delivered in a spirit of love and concern? Remember that no messenger is perfect and that people with their own unresolved personal issues can speak God's truth to you.

**Check your attitude.** Is pride or disobedience making you resist the message? Perhaps pain or confusion? You may need to confess and deal with your barriers before discerning a message's validity.

**Check for confirmation.** Look for confirmation through the other ways that God speaks, such as prayer, impressions of the soul, the truth of scripture, other messages, spiritual gifts, and the extraordinary.

**Watch God move.** Often when you receive words from messengers, they explain what God is going to do. You don't have to run off immediately to make it happen. You can savor the message in your heart and watch God fulfill His words to you. If the messenger describes something you need to alter, God will enable you to make the change.

*Source: Adapted from His Gentle Voice by Judith Couchman, (c) 1998 [Multnomah (r) Publishers, Inc.]*

# The 4 Spiritual Laws

written by Dr. Bill Bright

## God's Love

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).

## God's Plan

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10).

*Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life?  
Because...*

## Man Is Sinful

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

## Man Is Separated

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23).

## He Died in Our Place

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

## He Rose From the Dead

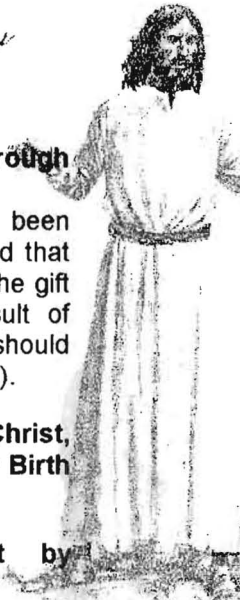
"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

## He Is the Only Way to God

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (John 14:6).

## We Must Receive Christ

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12)



### **We Receive Christ Through Faith**

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

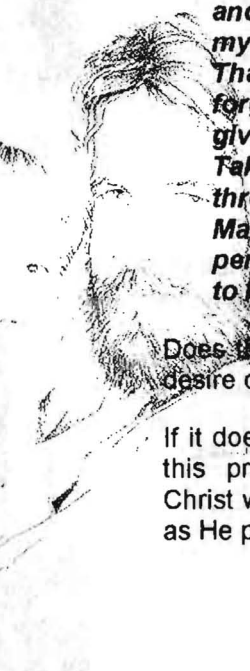
### **When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth** (Read John 3:1-8.)

### **We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation**

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20).

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree **intellectually** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an **emotional** experience. We receive Jesus Christ by **faith**, as an act of the **will**:

JESUS



### **You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer** (Prayer is talking to God)

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

*"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."*

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?

If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

# Riddle #1

Adam, God made from the dust,  
But thought it best to make me first.

So I was made before the man,  
A part of God's most holy plan.

A living "soul" I became,  
But Adam failed to call my name.

I did my Maker's law obey,  
Nor ever went from it astray.

Thousands of miles, I go in fear,  
But seldom on earth do I appear.

For purpose wise, which God did see,  
He put a living "soul" in me.

A "soul" from me God did claim,  
And took from me the "soul" again.

So when from me the "soul" had fled,  
I was the same as when first made.

Without hands or feet I go,  
I travel on from pole to pole.

From my presence a rain does fly,  
A cloud I form beneath the sky.

I labor hard by day, by night,  
To fallen man I gave great light.

Thousands of people, young and old,  
Did by my death great light behold.

No right or wrong can I conceive,  
The Scripture I cannot believe.

Although my name therein is found,  
They are to me an empty sound.

Now when these lines you slowly read,

Go search your Bible with all speed.

For that my name is written there,  
I do honestly to you declare.

Answer :

# Riddle #2

Five hundred begins it,  
Five hundred ends it;  
And five in the middle is seen;  
The first of all letters,  
The first of all numbers,  
Have taken their stations between;  
And if you correctly this medley can  
spell,

The name of an ancient king then it will  
tell.

Answer :

# Riddle #3

My center is nothing;  
My first is my last,  
And when the long ages  
Are over and past,  
Then vengeance divine  
Shall devour me and mine.

Answer  
:



# Bible Quiz and Riddles Competition

To promote active Bible research and study, JCC Christian Education Department is organizing this Quiz Competition with collaboration from THE VINE. All JCC members and worshippers are eligible to participate in this Quiz competition. The winner of the competition will get a prize and the answers will be subsequently published in THE VINE. Points will be awarded as follows:

Each Quiz question correctly answered 1 point  
Each Riddle correctly answered 3 points

Submit your answers to Pastor Martin Yee.  
Closing Date: 31st March 1999

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1 Who told Abimelech the parable about which a tree became king? a Gideon c Ebed b Gaal d Jotham		11 Location of the first Gospel promise? a Genesis 3:15 c Ruth 4:14 b Exodus 20:1 d Psalm 23:1	
2 What did God make on the third day of creation? a animals c stars b plants d sky		12 Why was Moses not allowed to enter Canaan? a He broke the stone tablets c He married a Cushite b He ate pork d He struck the rock	
3 How many sons did Jacob have? a 6 c 11 b 10 d 12		13 Which judge was able to rescue Israel because he was left-handed? a Othniel c Gideon b Shamgar d Ehud	
4 Was Moses allowed to view the promised land of Canaan? a Yes b No		14 Who led the Israelites into Canaan? a Moses c Ehud b Caleb d Joshua	
5 Who was the mother of Abraham's first son? a Sarai c Zilpah b Rebekah d Hagar		15 Who was Moses' sister? a Jotham c Zipporah b Zilpah d Miriam	
6 The birth of which judge was announced by the angel of the Lord? a Gideon c Jephthah b Samson d Barak		16 Which of Gideon's sons killed all but one of his brothers? a Jotham c <del>Zipporah</del> <i>Abimelech</i> b Gaal d Ebed	
7 How long did it rain during the flood? a 20 days c 40 days b 30 days d 50 days		17 Who was Ruth's first husband? a Boaz c Elimelech b Kilion d Mahlon	
8 Who told Moses to choose able men to help ease his responsibilities? a Reuel c Jethro b Aaron d Miriam		18 What was the length of Noah's ark? a 200 cubits c 400 cubits b 300 cubits d 500 cubits	
9 Which people tricked the Israelites into thinking that they were not Canaanites? a Amorites c Hazorites b Amalekites d Gibeonites		19 How long was the people and animals in Noah's ark? a about 6 months c about 12 months b about 9 months d about 18 months	
10 What did the people of Israel make while Moses was on the mountain? a a silver cow c a statue of man b a golden calf d a golden goose		20 His father said to him, "He will comfort us in our labor." a Abraham c David b Seth d Noah	
		21 Who became Ruth's husband? a <del>Seth</del> <i>Boaz</i> c Jesse b Obed d Edom	

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
22 In which month of the Hebrew year was the Passover held? a 1st c 7th b 3rd d 12th		33 Female judge mentioned in the book of Judges a Deborah c Miriam b Jael d Ruth	
23 What happened to a man who was found gathering wood on the Sabbath? a He was banished c He was beaten b He was stoned d He was chided		34 Who said, "God will provide Himself the lamb for the burnt offering?" a Abraham c Jacob b Isaac d Joseph	
24 Who was the son of Lamech? a Noah c Jared b Methuselah d Shem		35 Jacob's youngest son, born in the Promised Land, was named: a Dan c Naphtali b Benjamin d Joseph	
25 What is the name for the seventh day of the week? a the Sabbath c the Tertiary b Day of Atonement d ephod		36 What is the significance of the blood of the Old Testament sacrifices? a atonement of sin c ceremonial washing b dedication to God d the process of dying	
26 Who was Jacob's favourite wife? a Leah c Rachel b Bilhah d Zilpah		37 Which judge had 30 sons who rode 30 donkeys? a Tola c Jair b Ehud d Shamgar	
27 Which woman married King Xerxes? a Esther c Rebekah b Ruth d Leah			
28 God commanded the people of Israel to tithe. A tithe is: a 5% c 15% b 10% d 20%			
29 What was Lot to Abraham? a brother c son b uncle d nephew			
30 On what day of creation were the stars made? a second c fifth b third d sixth			
31 On what day of the creation did God make the birds? a second c fifth b fourth d sixth			
32 How many times a year were the men of Israel to appear before the Lord? a One c Three b Two d Four			



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# Riddle #4

Four heads have I, but body none,  
And without any legs I run.  
'Midst bliss supreme my lot was cast,  
And joys that could not be surpassed.  
Yet these delights did I forsake,  
And far away my course I take;  
Yet, while I wander far or nigh,  
Still ever in my bed I lie.

Answer :

# Riddle #5

In the water, in the air, and in the busy brain,  
Busy once, but nevermore to hate or love again;  
One of five, all like itself, in deadly deed united,  
And yet delivering those in whom the LORD of Host delighted.

Answer :

# Riddle #6

It is a word I love to hear,  
Though not of English birth;  
A gentle word that fitly falls  
From hapless sons of earth -  
From patient souls that seek and love  
The help which cometh from above.

No plainer words, no simpler words  
To baby lips belong;  
For turn this way, or turn it that You cannot  
turn it wrong,  
Any yet the holiest lips were heard  
To utter first this simple word.

Two letters make this simple word; But oh!  
how much they mean,  
They touch on earth, they soar to heaven  
They span the gulf between;  
To speak it humbly it brings no shame  
To those who seek their father's name.  
In many a bosom fondly nursed,

Answer :

# Riddle #7

A fiery serpent is my first.  
When Jesus came for us to die,  
He crushed this deadly enemy.  
My second is a city's name,  
Where Israel's host was put to shame.  
Because my first still unrevealed,  
Was lurking in their camp concealed.  
Upon my whole, pronounced by heaven,  
The knowledge of my first was given.  
The chosen people gathered round,  
And trembled at the dreadful sound.

Answer :

# A P L E A F O R F I S H I N G

Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches any fish?

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after month after and year after year these men, who called themselves fishermen, met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing.

Year after year they carefully defined what fishing meant, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

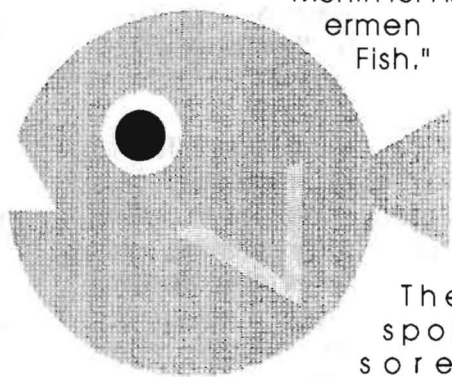
## B E T T E R M E T H O D S

Continually they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better defi-

by *John Drescher*

(Posted to *Alt.religion.christian*)

nitions of fishing. Further they said, "The fishing industry exists by fishing as fire exists by burning." They loved slogans such as "Fishing is the task of every fisherman," "Every fisherman is a fisher," and "A fisherman's outpost for every fisherman's club." They sponsored special meetings called "Fishermen's Campaigns" and "The Month for Fishermen to Fish."



They sponsored costly nation-wide and worldwide congresses to discuss fishing and to promote fishing and hear about all the ways of fishing, such as the new fishing equipment, fish calls, and whether any new bait was discovered.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called "Fish-

ing Headquarters." The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however: They didn't fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a Board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. All the fishermen seemed to agree that what was needed was a Board, which would challenge fishermen to be faithful in fishing. The Board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the idea of fishing in faraway streams and lakes where many other fish of different colours lived.

Also the Board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

## T R A I N I N G C E N T R E S

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centres were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years

courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology. But the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters which were filled with fish.

Some spent much study and travel to learn the history of fishing and to see faraway places where the founding fathers did great fishing in centuries past. They lauded the faithful fishermen of years before who handed down the idea of fishing.

## P R I N T I N G H O U S E S

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment, and programs to arrange and to encourage meetings to talk about fishing. A speaker's bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing.

Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. But like the fishermen back home they never fished.

Like the fishermen back home they engaged in all kinds of other occupations. They built power plants to pump water for fish and tractors to plough new waterways. They made all kinds of equipment to travel here and there to look at fish hatcheries. Some also said that they wanted to be part of the fishing party, but they felt called to furnishing equipment. Others felt their job was to relate to the fish in a

good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen.

Others felt that simply letting the fish know they were nice and loving neighbours, and how loving and kind they were, was enough.

After one stirring meeting on "The Necessity for Fishing," one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported that he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honoured for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience

to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen's General Board as a person having considerable experience.

## T A L K I N G A B O U T F I S H I N G

Now it is true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their

fishermen's clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen, yet never fished.

They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were

they not following the Master who said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men?" (Mark 1:17)

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who didn't catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be! Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn't fishing?

**THINK ABOUT IT! Are you fishing?**

# Helping To Know Your Neighbours

In 1999, the Church is going to embark on Lifestyle Evangelism. How do we go about it? There will be courses organised by the Care Groups as well as the Mission and Evangelism Committee.

But before all these take place, let me give you a short introduction about your neighbour – the person you are most likely to evangelize to.

## HINDUISM

Your Indian neighbour is most likely a Hindu. There are about 700 million Hindus in the world. The vast majority live in India. Hindus believe in **reincarnation**, which means that your soul is reborn in another body, human or animal, when you die. This cycle of death and rebirth is called **samsara**. The aim of a Hindu is to break free of this cycle to reach



**moksha**, or salvation. There are 4 ways a Hindu can follow to reach moksha :

1. Devotion – prayer and worship;
2. Knowledge – study and learning,
3. Right Action – acting selflessly;
4. Yoga – meditation

Most Hindus believe in a supreme spirit called Brahman. The 3 main gods are Brahma, the creator, Vishnu, the protector, and Shiva, the destroyer. It is believed that Vishnu has come to earth ten times, in ten different forms,

or **avatars**, to save the world:

- Matsya – the fish
- Kurma – the tortoise
- Varaha – the boar
- Narasimha – the man-lion
- Vamana – the dwarf
- Parashurama – the warrior
- Lord Rama
- Lord Krishna
- Buddha
- Kalki – the rider on the white horse, who is yet to come.

Apart from the 3 main Hindu gods, there are thousands of other gods and goddesses.

When Hindus visit a temple, they perform a ceremony called **puja**. They offer flowers, fruit

and sweets to the deity in return for his or her blessing. A priest sits near the image of the god or goddess in the

inner sanctum of the temple. He takes their offerings and does the puja for them. Then he marks their foreheads with a red sign of blessing, called a **tilaka**.

Hindu sacred books include the Vedas, Upanishads, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana.



## ISLAM

Your Malay neighbour is a Muslim, a follower of the prophet **Muhammad**, who lived in Arabia about 1,400 years ago.

The Muslim believes that God sent many prophets to teach people how to lead good lives from the time of Adam, the first man, onwards. Muhammad is the very last prophet whose words summed up all the important teachings of those who had gone before him.

Muslims believe that Jesus (Isa) was a true prophet and great teacher but not

the Son of God. They also believe that he did not die on the cross

The 5 pillars of Islam represent

1. Belief - Allah is the only God and Muhammad is His true Messenger.
2. Prayer - 5 times a day.
3. Alms - giving to charity.
4. Fasting - one month each year.
5. Pilgrimage - if he can afford it, a Muslim should make a trip to Mecca.

The Muslim sacred book is the Qur'an. Because they believe the Qur'an to be God's actual words, Muslims try to learn at least part of it in the original Arabic. Many Muslims can recite all the 114 chapters by memory. Someone who has learnt the whole Qur'an by heart is known as a **hafiz**.

For an animal's meat to be **halal** it must be killed by having the main vein in its neck cut with a sharp knife while the butcher pronounces the name of God. This is to show that the life of one of God's creatures is not being taken thoughtlessly. **Haram** items include anything made from a pig

Cremation is forbidden since the dead will have their bodies restored to life at the Day of Judgement. The body is buried with the face turned towards Mecca.

## BUDDHISM

Your Chinese neighbour could be either a Buddhist or a Taoist. Buddhists make up about 400 million of the world's population. Buddhism began with the teachings of a man called Siddhartha Gautama who lived

in India about 2,500 years ago. He realised that people suffered because they were never content with what they had. They always wanted more. Buddha travelled round India teaching people how to overcome unhappiness. He taught people to follow the Middle Path between the extremes of luxury and hardship. The individual was to realise the truth for himself and Buddha's teachings were only meant as a guide to help him.

The Middle Path is also called the Noble Eightfold Path. Then there is the 4 Noble Truths :

1. Life is full of unhappiness;
2. Unhappiness is caused by greed;
3. There is a way to end unhappiness;
4. The way to end unhappiness is the Middle Path.

Buddhists believe in the power of **karma**, which means that good actions lead to being reborn closer to **nirvana**.

Lotus flowers are symbols of goodness and purity. The flower rise above the



mud to bloom on the surface of the water.

Buddhists do not believe in an all-powerful God. The Buddha did not want to be worshipped as a god.

In their everyday lives, Buddhists follow a set of guidelines called the Five Precepts :

1. Not to harm any living thing;
2. Not to steal;
3. To control sexual desire;
4. Not to tell lies;
5. Not to drink or take drugs.

The Buddhist sacred books are called the **Pali Canon** (Thervada) and **sutras** (Mahayana).

With this short introduction which I gleaned from books I borrowed from the Children's section of the National Library at Jurong East, I hope we can learn to understand our neighbours and maybe build bridges to them.



*Martin Cheak.*

*A man was given a medal by his fellow townsmen for being the humblest man in the community. Next day they withdrew the award because the man wore the medal.*