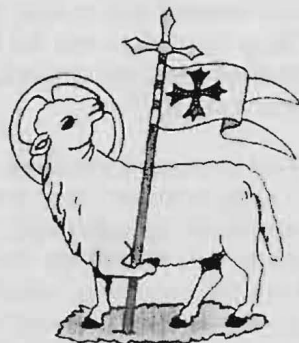


The VINE

Vol 4/99

Apr
99

for internal circulation only



This month we celebrated Easter. We also rejoice with those who are baptised, confirmed in their faith and have transferred their membership. Easter's most significant event is the Resurrection of Christ our Lord. If we can compare our spiritual status to our Singapore economy, to paraphrase Paul, if there be no resurrection we among the nation most broke. The concept of the resurrection in itself is a hope, the event is historical and its statement is a promise. This is in fact particularly true of eternal life as well, which of course, is why the resurrection is of such critical importance to Christians.

The challenge to maintain and celebrate this hope should pervade a Christian's life, The believer in the Lord is without excuse for being ignorant of the resurrection or ignoring its importance all together. When the Lord was resurrected and first showed himself to humanity, the first person to whom he revealed his everlasting nature was a woman; who appreciated him for who he was, and as an individual admired him for who he

11th Mission

trip to Senegal

For more in-depth reporting, look out for the M&E Newsletter coming out soon.

The complex block contains three black and white photographs. The top photo shows a large group of people, mostly children, standing in front of a building. The middle photo shows a group of people sitting on the floor in a room, possibly engaged in a community activity or meal. The bottom photo shows a man in a white shirt standing next to a vehicle. The text '11th Mission' is at the top, 'trip to Senegal' is written across the first photo, and the promotional text is at the bottom.

became. The first physical verification of the resurrection was that of a woman who wanted him to stay put on earth forever: John 20.17 "Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to me; for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God'".

Paul expressed personal experiential knowledge of the resurrection by saying: "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," Phi 3:10. John also speaks of eternal life throughout his epistles. 1 John1: 1-2 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us". We must develop confidence in God's promise of the resurrection. Listen to this:

Song Of Resurrection

"Because Christ lives, I too shall live!"
O glorious truth diviner
To think that resurrection life was His
And shall be mine

"Because Christ lives, I too shall live!"
I'll leave this lump of clay
And lift my wings to higher heights
On resurrection day!

"Because Christ lives, I too shall live"
With Him I'll ever be
Rejoicing that He broke death's chains
And set my spirit free!"

by Nat Olson

May the Lord grant us grace. Amen.

In the blessing and hope of resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,



Pastor Yee.

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE "DEMONICALLY POSSESSED"?

Can Christians be demonised? This is a serious question often asked by Asian Christians, as demonic phenomena are not uncommon here. Below is the view of Christian researcher Brent Gimsley of the Christian Research Institute, USA.

Can a Christian have a demon? The question is not merely academic. The answer affects the way a believer perceives his or her battle with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. In this article we will first examine the currently popular view that, while a Christian cannot be "demon possessed," believers may be "demonized." This means that (1) demons can reside within believers and exercise control over them, and (2) the appropriate method of dealing with this problem is to cast the demon out.

The second view to be considered (and, in this article, defended) states that a believer cannot be inhabited and therefore controlled by a demonic spirit since he or she is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This view does allow that believers may be externally "oppressed" by demonic forces, but maintains that resistance, not deliverance, is the

proper method of dealing with this problem.

Scriptures against Invasion of Christians

Is the Bible truly neutral on the subject of Christian demon possession? While Scripture does not address the issue directly, we submit that it does lay down certain truths and principles that militate against such a view. In fact, a comprehensive study of this subject in the New Testament should lead to one conclusion: citizenship in Christ's kingdom and demon possession are mutually exclusive concepts, because demon possession implies citizenship in **Satan's** kingdom.

The Plundering of Satan's Possessions.

As we saw above, those inhabited by demons are considered Satan's "possessions" which Jesus came to "plunder" through the establishment of His kingdom. By faith, all Christians are delivered from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into "the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18). It is therefore no coincidence that every occurrence of the word "demonised" (Greek "daimonizomai") and related terms

in the New Testament, and every exorcism recorded, appear to involve non-Christians, usually in the context of evangelism. The reality that "the kingdom of God is near" is demonstrated when Satan, the ruler of this world, can no longer hold on to his captives (Luke 10:17-20).

The assumption throughout Scripture is that one might have God dwelling within, or Satan, but not both. For example, the apostle John assures his Christian readers: "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is **in you** than he who is **in the world**" (1 John 4:4). It is reasonable to infer from this that he who is "in the world" cannot also be "in you."

Temples of the Living God.

The indwelling Holy Spirit makes the believer a temple of the living God. Paul exhorts the Corinthian Christians not to be bound together with unbelievers on the grounds that they are the temple of God -- and harmony between light and darkness, Christ and Belial (Satan), and the temple of God and idols (which Paul associates with demons in 1 Cor. 10:19-20) is impossible (2 Cor. 6:14-18). How then would God, who is greater than Satan, allow a demon to reside with Him in His temple?

In the parable of the man repossessed (Matt. 12:43-45), the unclean spirit returns to the "house" from which he'd been driven out and, finding it unoccupied, resumes residency with seven spirits more evil than himself. We may legitimately conclude that, had he found his old dwelling occupied (by the Holy Spirit), he would not have been able to regain possession of the man.

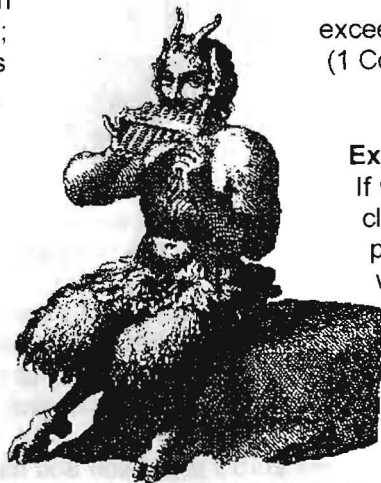
Sealed and Kept by God.

The indwelling Spirit also means that believers are sealed by God as His possessions and kept for the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13-14). Although the believer is in spiritual warfare and therefore is still subject to the influences and assault of Satan (Eph. 6:10-18), his or her status as a child and possession of God sets definite limits as to what the powers of darkness can do. 1 John 5:18 states that "He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him." No evil angel can separate the true believer from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:38-39).

A Conspicuous Absence.

In light of the clear scriptural fact that Satan is limited in what he can do to believers, it is significant not only that we find no possessed Christians in the New Testament, but also that there is no practical

instruction on exorcism within the church. The epistles are certainly not lacking in teachings on spiritual warfare. But though we are frequently warned of the dangers of satanic attack, the method of dealing with the Devil is always the same: **"Resist** him, firm in your faith..." (1 Pet. 5:9; cf. Eph. 6:10-14; James 4:7). As Ice points out, "Never are believers said to respond to Satan or demons by casting them out, which is always the remedy in the New Testament for a demon possessed person. Instead, for the believer the command is always to stand or resist, which is the counter to an external temptation by Satan and the demonic."



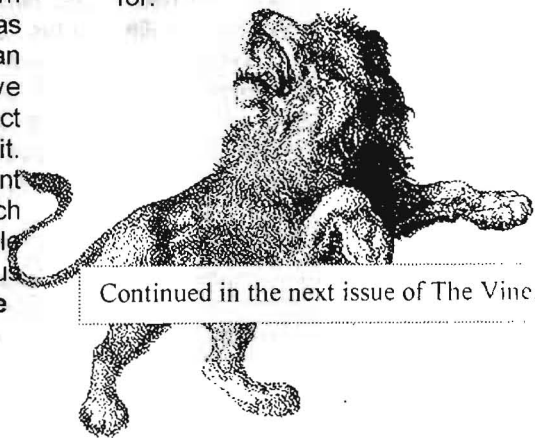
This is a valid argument from silence. For if deliverance is as important to victorious Christian living as its advocates would have us believe we can rightly expect the New Testament to deal with it. Ice and Dean make this point forcefully: "We believe that such silence speaks volumes...the Bible clearly claims to give us **everything pertaining to life and godliness** (2 Peter 1:3) and is **adequate to equip us for every good work** (2 Timothy

3:17)... those who teach Christian possession are by implication denying the sufficiency of Scripture and are going beyond its authority by promoting their own. They have forgotten the warning of Paul: '...that in us you might learn not to

exceed what is written....' (1 Corinthians 4:6)."

Alternative Explanations

If we do not accept the claims of Christian possession, what are we to make of the many dramatic experiences reported by numerous other Christians? We don't doubt the reality of many such experiences, but the interpretation these teachers give them is not called for.



Continued in the next issue of The Vine.



On Easter Sunday, 4th April 1999, I observed the holy baptisms from the pew with interest. It brought back sweet memories of my own family's baptisms one year ago.

Dr. Daniel Bloomquist baptized my children and me on Easter Sunday in April 1998. My wife, June had her church membership transferred too.

After our baptisms, I gave a short testimony. I thanked God for saving my son Timothy's life and gave an account of what happened. Two weeks before our baptism, he fell off the baby cot from a height of 3 feet and hit his head onto the tiled floor with a thud, watched helplessly by my mother, daughter and myself. The doctor told us to monitor his condition for 72 hours and to send him to NUH immediately for brain scanning if necessary. There was no need to take medicine except for some cream to apply to his bruises. I called Pastor Yee the next day for the church to pray for his healing.

If not for the Lord's protection and miraculous healing, he would not be present for the holy baptism. My mother, a non-Christian, can testify that our God not only saved my son but also healed him completely by the end of the second day. (She told me while I was frantically examining his head for injuries that she felt our God had saved him and she did not think he suffered a bad fall. Thankfully, the swelling on his head subsided completely by the end of the second day). Without doubt, God heard the prayers by Pastor and many concerned brothers and sisters in Christ. He answered! We are grateful to them for their love and support at a crucial time. Ever since, I always give thanks to God for His blessings every time this incident comes to mind. I am grateful to the Lord for His grace and mercy.

My mother has yet to be converted, and I continue to pray for her salvation. However, she is not against Christ. In fact, she gave me her blessings when I wanted to accept Christ, and allowed my daughter to lay hands on her and pray for her.

Many times too, our Heavenly Father has shown my wife and me that He is faithful to all His promises.(Ps 145:13b). For instance, when June recently discovered that a colleague had brought false accusations about her work to their superior, she did not confront her. Instead, we prayed and trusted the Lord to protect June. (Rom 12:17-19). Our God not only protected her but her efforts were subsequently recognized and rewarded. Thanks to God!

Our Lord Jesus has set an example for us. As the perfect obedient Son, His total dependence upon the Father was demonstrated on many occasions. (Matt 26:39; Lk 6:12-13; Jn 7:28-29). Moreover, His thankfulness was constant (Lk 22:17, 19, Mk 6:41). Let us therefore follow Jesus and by faith continue to depend on God fully for His grace, constantly giving Him all the glory and thanks. (1 Th 5:18).

Leong Kok Wah

How To Overcome An Economic Crisis

1. Know that God is your provider.

One of the names of God is Jehovah Jireh, meaning that He is your provider. God will provide for you. You have a covenant with God.

"My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:19

2. Know that God wants you to have abundance at all times.

Psalms 23:5; 31:19; 36:8; 132:15; John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Leviticus 26:5; Isaiah 30:23; Joel 2:24; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 14:20; Ephesians 3:20

Read the above scriptures. They are just a few of the many scriptures that promise you abundance.

3. **Look at Jesus and not the circumstances.**
Hebrews 12:2; Psalms 18:35; 57:1; Psalms 63:7; Genesis 28:15; Isaiah 41:10

4. **Give all your burdens to the Lord.**
1 Peter 5:7; Luke 12:7; Philippians 4:6-9

5. **Ask God for wisdom and favour.**
James 1:5-8; Luke 2:52

The wisdom of God will show you how to get out of your present situation. The favour of God will give you special considerations where needed.

6. **Cut unnecessary spending but increase giving to God.**
In the scriptures, we see examples of famine. During famine time, God instructs the people through the prophet to give. The result is multiplication and abundance. During economic crisis, the devil will do his best attempt to make you fearful in the area of giving to God. Giving to God releases the provision of God.
1 Kings 17:9-16; 2 Kings 4:1-7, Malachi 3:10; Matthew 14:15-21

7. **Stop listening and giving heed to fearful reports.**
The bible states:
"Neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid." Listening to fearful reports can make you fear other peoples' fear. That's why Jesus said, "Be careful of what you hear." Mark 4:24 You need to hear reports of faith that come from God and His Word. Romans 10:17

Remember! God is with you and in you. Joshua 1:5-7; 1 John 4:4

8. **Speak and think the words and thoughts of God.**
By faith, speak abundance.
Romans 4:17, Mark 11:23

9. **Don't speak an economic crisis in your life but the answer.**

Speak blessings of prosperity over you, your family, church, town, city, nation and region.

Isaiah 55:11 - Think God's thoughts and Word; they will give you peace.

Isaiah 26:3-4; Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:3; 2 Corinthians 10:4&5, Philippians 4:8

Praise God - Hebrews 13:8; Psalms 148 & 149

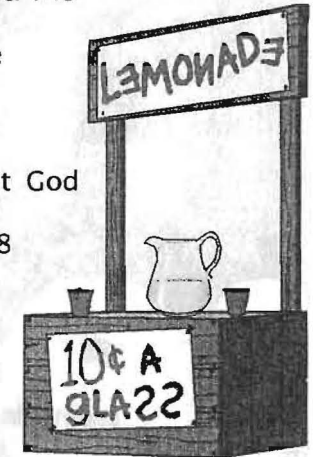
10. **Pray for the peace and prosperity of the nation, city, leaders, etc.**
1 Timothy 2:2; Jeremiah 29:7

11. **Know that you have the faith to trust God and that you have the victory.**
Romans 12:2; 1 John 5:4; Proverbs 3:5-8

12. **Open your eyes for opportunities.**
During an economic crisis, God gives His people opportunities. He has opportunities for you.
Genesis 41 - Joseph and Pharaoh

May God Bless You!

(Email: By Pastor Vernon & Margaret Falls)



**Welcome to
our Fellowship
Mark Chou & family**

Don't miss out on this event . . .

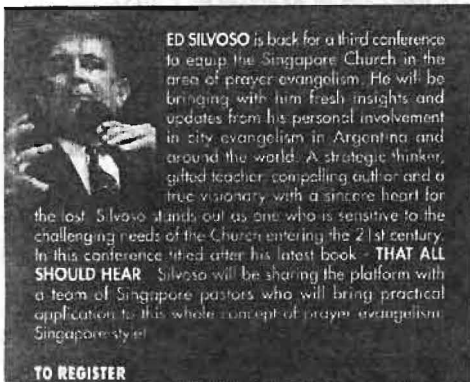
PRAYER EVANGELISM SINGAPORE-STYLE

ALL hear

27-29 Apr 1999

8.30 am - 5.30 pm

Spore Indoor Stadium



ED SILVASO is back for a third conference to equip the Singapore Church in the area of prayer evangelism. He will be bringing with him fresh insights and updates from his personal involvement in city evangelism in Argentina and around the world. A strategic thinker, gifted teacher, compelling outlier and a true visionary with a sincere heart for the lost, Silvaso stands out as one who is sensitive to the challenging needs of the Church entering the 21st century. In this conference titled after his latest book - **THAT ALL SHOULD HEAR** - Silvaso will be sharing the platform with a team of Singapore pastors who will bring practical application to this whole concept of prayer evangelism (Singapore-style).

TO REGISTER

- There are **ADMISSION PASSES** for \$250.00 at your own church or any of the designated outlets. Payment by cash only.
- This **ADMISSION PASS** is the only valid ticket for entry, entitling you to all conference materials.
- There will be no refund, under all circumstances.
- There will be no replacement for lost admission passes. You are advised to re-purchase a new pass in order to gain admission into the conference venue.
- You are on your own for all food and drink needs. But no food and drinks are allowed into the conference venue. You may want to consider fasting (1-Noal, Partial, Total).
- Admission passes will be available at all designated outlets up till Friday, 23 April 1999.

TOPICS

A LOVE SINGAPORE Equipping C

- 1 **The Love Singapore Story**
- 2 **Prayer Evangelism:** Luke 10 expanded
- 3 **Prayer Evangelism:** Mobilizing Families and Releasing Children
- 4 **Radical Holiness, Radical Living**
- 5 **Love Singapore:** Profiling Your Community for Effective Prayer Evangelism. How One Church Is Doing It!
- 6 **Love Singapore:** How One Community is Winning Together
- 7 **Love Singapore:** A Cell in Every Block. How One Church is Breaking New Ground
- 8 **Love Singapore:** This Land is Mine! How One Church is Discovering Power of Territorial Commitment
- 9 **Love Singapore:** Everyday Evangelism Everywhere for Everybody
- 10 **Love Singapore:** Marching Orders for a New Millennium

SINGAPORE LIGHT-UP '99

The Love Singapore leadership, invite you once again to join together as members of ONE Body to saturate our nation with prayer! Yes, **April 30** is the great **SINGAPORE LIGHT-UP**. On this one night, we will lay aside everything to seek the face of God for a spiritual awakening and mighty revival-harvest in our land.

Isaiah 54:1-3 will be our prayer focus for this year's Light-Up. With a global crisis that is widening and deepening beyond economics, what should we do as a people called by His name? This April 30th Singapore Light-Up is a tangible expression of our concern for a confused world. Through our prayers, we convey a message of Hope and Restoration. Christ is the ultimate answer to all the challenges we face as a nation, in our families, in our businesses, and in our communities.

The Light-Up also provides a wonderful opportunity for churches in Singapore to arise in dynamic faith. Faith for the salvation of our

families. Faith for national revival. Faith for community transformation. Faith for bold and godly leadership. Faith for harvest breakthroughs all the way! So, don't miss it!

This year, the Singapore Light-Up will again be broadcast on FM **105.5**. There will be worship music from 7.30pm, as believers gather themselves at their various prayer points. Then at 8.00 pm sharp, we will begin the Light-Up with a full ninety minutes of guided prayers and praise. We end promptly at 9.30 pm.

By definition, each prayer point must consist of at **least 2** believers committed to pray through the entire time of the broadcast. They may meet just about anywhere as long as they are able to receive the broadcast clearly and follow the flow - at home, in the void deck, in the office, in schools or campuses. A good strategy would be to position prayer points in the very places where your church is intending to pioneer a new work - new cells, new preaching point, new counselling centre - as an outreach into the communities.

Opening Prayer

Singapore Light-Up

SOVEREIGN GOD, we bow before You tonight in reverent awe. We praise and honour You for Your mighty deeds and plans for Singapore. Yet Lord, we ask for even more of Your plans and purposes to be accomplished in and through us. Do this, not just in individual lives, but in families, in communities, in our churches and the entire nation.

SOVEREIGN GOD, through our prayers birth a greater hunger and passion to see Your work of reconciliation and redemption take place. Lord, prepare us for the harvest. Enlarge our churches. Stretch our vision. Lengthen our bridges into our communities. Strengthen and build up our leadership for the task.

We declare, we will not lack. We say, we will not hold back what You want to do in and through us. Raise up a new generation of apostolic and prophetic teams that will establish Your kingdom in our nation and the nations beyond. Lord, cause these teams to become bridges of hope and healing to all who need Jesus.

Tonight, O SOVEREIGN GOD, we ask for Your spiritual breakthrough in every way. We commit our time of prayer to You, right now Release Your power and let Your presence fall. Let Your will be done in us. In the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

Closing Prayer

LORD OF ALL, we rise up to declare Your word in Isaiah 54 over our nation, and every people group we represent. We will begin to sing and burst into joy because You will enlarge us. We will stretch wide. We will not hold back. We will spread out to the right and to the left, and settle in the cities of nations. We will not lack for anything because You will provide. Your unending love and covenant of compassion will cause us to remain steadfast and persevere.

In righteousness, You will establish us. Future generations will be taught by You. Great will be the peace on this nation and the nations because of You.

We say today we will move from barrenness to fruitfulness. From crisis to victory. From lack to overflowing provision. . . because of Your great Name.

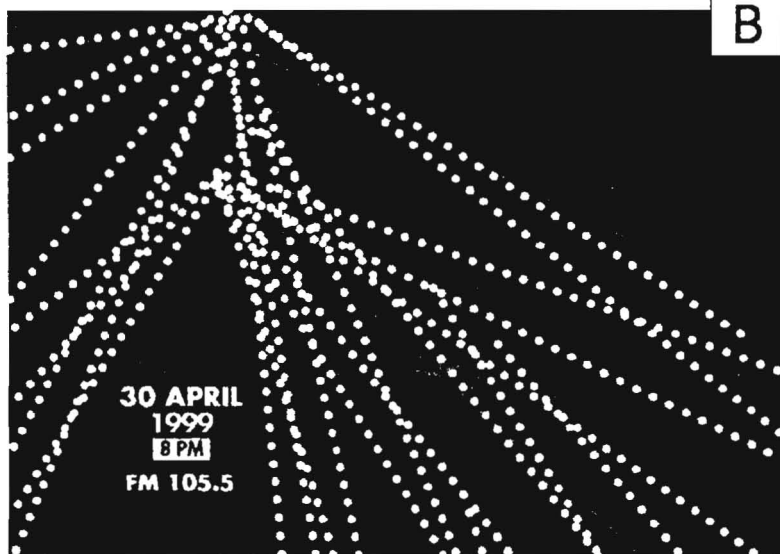
Lord, in the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us fulfil our Antioch calling so that the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of Your glory. In Jesus mighty name, we pray. Amen.

The above is the Opening and Closing prayers for the Singapore Light-Up on FM105.5. There will be 5 prayer items for building bridges in the family; to the community; to the Nation; to the unchurched and to the unreached peoples. For more details, get it from the pastors or the editors of The Vine.

We hope that you will see the harvest and respond with open houses, inviting friends and members to join you in prayer for the lost. Use the enclosed forms to indicate your response and also to solicit prayer items from your neighbours and friends. May the Lord give you the boldness and vision to fulfil His Great Commission.

• SINGAPORE LIGHT-UP •

B



DEAR NEIGHBOUR:

We are a group of Christians who are part of Love Singapore-Jurong Christian Church _____ name of church. As citizens, we share a patriotic love for our nation. We desire peace, progress and prosperity. On Friday, 30 April 1999, from 8 pm to 9.30 pm, we are uniting in prayer to bless our nation.

- *If you have any specific needs you want us to pray for, please write your request at the back of this flyer. Then drop it at the address given.*
- *If you wish to join us, do contact us at the number given. Or simply tune your radio to FM 105.5 [30 April at 8 pm] which will be broadcasting this synchronized prayer meeting. Thank You. May God bless you!*

DEAR NEIGHBOUR: Please drop your prayer request at my address given below:

You may contact me:

Name of Prayer Point Leader

at this number:

Home Tel. of Prayer Point Leader

YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS

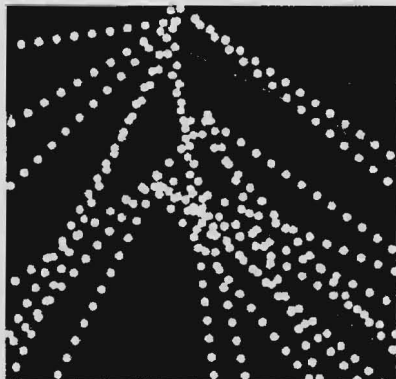
Please state your prayer request clearly:

FOR EXAMPLE:

1. Pray for my son, David (7) who is always sick with cough and cold. He's also asthmatic.
2. Pray for me. I always feel tired and I have a lot of worries and fears.
3. Pray for my husband who was retrenched and is still looking for a job. Pray for my family finances. We are struggling.

YOUR NAME _____

CONTACT NO. _____



• SINGAPORE LIGHT-UP •

Be part of this history-changing event!

APRIL 30 '99

Tune in to FM 105.5 from 8 pm to 9.30 pm. Join thousands of Christians across the island in synchronized prayer for our beloved homeland, Singapore!

COUNT ME IN!

- I will **OPEN** a prayer point. *I will personally arrange for one or two friends to join me.*

My Name _____

My Church Jurong Christian Church

Contact _____ [W]

_____ [O]

_____ [P/Up]

MY PRAYER POINT LOCATION

Estate _____

Block/Unit No. _____

Street/Road _____

Postal Code _____

- I will **JOIN** a prayer point. *Please assign me to a prayer point nearest my home.*

My Name _____

My Church _____

Contact _____ [W]

_____ [O]

_____ [P/Up]

MY HOME ADDRESS

Estate _____

Block/Unit No. _____

Street/Road _____

Postal Code _____

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHURCH OFFICE.

Bulletin Bloopers

ACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENTS TAKEN FROM CHURCH BULLETINS (not JCC)

1. Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.
2. Thursday night - Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
4. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
5. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Belzer.
6. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
7. Tuesday at 4.00pm there will be an ice-cream social. All ladies giving milk please come early.
8. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
9. The service will close with "Little Drops of Water." One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.
10. Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.
11. The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.
12. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The editors have always tried not to commit such blatant blunders in The Vine, but if we do, we are only human.