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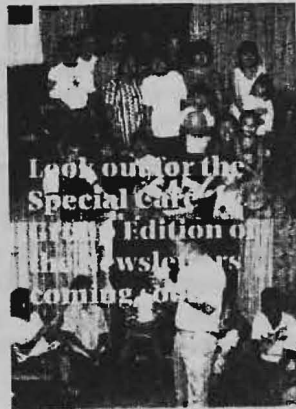
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WINE

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father!

The last months has seen tremendous human sufferings in Kosovo as well as in parts of Indonesia. The newspaper image of a man holding another man's decapitated head as a trophy truly jolted many of us out of our complacency as the happenings are not too far from Singapore. Life is indeed so fragile.

As Dr Solomon remarked in our last church retreat at Lanjut, that the church should not only teach people to live well but to die well also. He has a point.

Over the triple doorway of Milan Cathedral in Italy there are three inscriptions spanning the splendid arches.

Above one is carved a wreath of roses and underneath is the legend:
"ALL THAT PLEASURES IS BUT FOR A MOMENT".

Over the second is sculptured a cross and underneath are the words:
"ALL THAT TROUBLES IS BUT FOR A MOMENT".

While underneath the great central entrance to the main aisle of the Cathedral is the inscription:

"THAT ONLY IS IMPORTANT WHICH IS ETERNAL".

The brevity of life in contrast to eternal things should constantly be recognised. The Bible states--

1. Life is but a tale -- "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told" (KJV) Psalm 90:9. It does not take long to create a tale and the end of the story comes. Such is our brief life!

2. Life is but a pilgrimage -- "We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope" 1 Chronicles 29:15. A short journey; a brief pilgrimage through this world; like a moving shadow that quickly flits across the sands of time, then gone!

3. Life is but a hand-breadth -- "You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath"-- Psalm 39:5. God quickly answered David's desire to know "how fleeting is my life" which he expressed in Psalm 39:4. Contrasted to eternity--his days were the width of his hand! Contrasted to God, an eternal Being--"as nothing"!

4. Life is but a vapor -- "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes"--James 4:14. This is what God declares it is in relation to eternity. The next opportunity, watch the rise of vapor and its quick disappearance from sight. This is the brevity of your life says God.

5. Life is but a flower -- "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and it is cut down" KJV-- Job 14:1, 2. Brief, but troubled, was Job's comment of life and often it is our judgement too. Like a flower, now budding, then blooming, but suddenly gone! "Cut down!". It matters not which flower you think you are, from daisies to orchids, yet the "flower" we cherish and nourish with admiration is soon gone!



6. Life is but a tent -- "For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened,....."-- 2 Corinthians 5:4-- NIV. Note the context of this chapter and realize that your body and mine is no more than a temporary dwelling structure that soon shows the signs of wear and tear. Your body and mine is but the temporal dwelling place for the spirit and soul, just a tent! A vulnerable structure that is subject to the vicissitudes of life on earth, possibly with patches and wrinkles already showing.



7. Life is but as grass -- "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass" NIV-- Isaiah 40:6. 7 The scorching sun and the cold of winter both blight the tender grass, withering it away. How quickly it is destroyed! Everything may look green in life, but one blast from the breath of God can soon take us away! How uncertain is life

Thus the Scriptures vividly and accurately describe the brevity of life in contrast to eternity and One Who is an Eternal Being- GOD. Ask yourself the question- AM I PREPARED TO MEET MY GOD? You are, if:

1. You have acknowledged before God the truth of His Word, which declares you to be a lost guilty sinner in His sight. This is a universal fact-- "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"-- Romans 3:23; see Isaiah 53:6.

2. You have acknowledged that the Lord Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, is the only Saviour for you, having died on the Cross to shed His precious blood for your sins. "In Christ we have redemption, through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of HIS grace"-- Ephesians 1:7. See Isaiah 53:5; John 1:29; John 3:16.



3. You have accepted by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. "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. See Romans 10:9.

Then permit the Spirit of God to inscribe deeply into your heart and life the indelible words to challenge your soul-- THAT ONLY IS IMPORTANT WHICH IS ETERNAL! LIVE FOR ETERNITY! Say with the apostle Paul-- "**for to me to live is Christ**"-Philippians 1:21.

Pastor Martin Yee

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE A "NON-COUNSELING"?

Psychological Sources.

Many of these occurrences could be attributed to psychological sources -- not only mental illness (which is no doubt a factor in some cases) but also the power of suggestion. In our longterm research of religious movements and phenomena, time and again we have run into a curious fact: intelligent people can become persuaded of improbable beliefs when striking manifestations issue from their own psyches or the psyches of others, or are experienced as external events. These beliefs range from elaborate conspiracies involving satanic ritual abuse of children, to UFO encounters, to past-life recall, to apparitions of Mary or signs in the heavens produced by Mary. In many of these and other cases a common denominator is a contagious anticipation -- often set into motion by the leaders of the event -- that such manifestations very well may occur.

It can be observed that phenomena will be cited in support of almost **any** belief, no

matter how unbiblical. There is much that we have yet to learn about the dynamics of our own minds, and some of these little-understood factors demonstrate a powerful capacity to lead people into psychological self-deception.

Satanic Deception.

If this explanation seems inadequate to account for some of the manifestations, there is a second possible source that could at times work in conjunction with the first. Just as it is possible that demonic as well as psychological factors could be involved in alleged UFO encounters, past-life recall, apparitions of Mary, and so forth, so in the case of Christians being delivered of demons.



Of course, this is exactly what the proponents of Christian deliverance argue to be the case. But just as **deception** would be Satan's true objective in the sensational phenomena cited above, so might it be with exorcisms of Christians. Clearly, the Devil would like us to believe he has

more power over us than he actually does.

It seems that demons would be capable of producing certain audible, mental, and bodily phenomena from a position external to the Christian in order to create the illusion that the Christian is, in fact, possessed. If they can convince believers that they have the power to control them, then such believers, though **actually** in control of their own wills, will grant the powers of darkness a degree of control by default. A Christian who resorts to deliverance sessions to gain spiritual victory rather than standing firm in the promises and provisions of Christ has already been greatly neutralized by the enemy.

Possessed, but Not Regenerate.

A third possible explanation is that the individuals truly were demon possessed, but were not truly believers. How does one determine who is and who is not a genuine Christian? Only God knows for sure the identities of His elect and the true state of an individual's soul (see, e.g., 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 Sam. 16:7; and the parable of the wheat and tares in Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43). In some cases the manifestation of wicked spirits could be one step along the way to genuine conversion.

We must conclude that it is impossible to ascertain for certain who is truly demon possessed and who is truly a Christian, since these questions have to do with the interior, unobservable conditions of individuals. It is therefore folly to base one's view on the **apparent** condition of Christians being demon possessed when the weight of New Testament theology (regarding the kingdoms of Christ and Satan) leans against that view.

DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

Some of the teaching on spiritual warfare proliferating today is biblically sound, but most is of decidedly mixed value. Sensationalistic teachings are replacing traditional evangelical doctrine regarding the Christian's battle with the Devil. Such doctrine always emphasized the protection Christ brings into the life of a believer, the defeat of the Devil by the preaching of the gospel, and the believer's victory through growth in sanctification. Evangelicals consistently taught that a Christian defeats Satan by submitting to God and resisting satanic temptation. Spiritual warfare was thought of as **moral** warfare — the armor of God consisting of those moral qualities that the Holy Spirit produces in a believer's life. The Christian was understood to be "victorious" over Satan by remaining faithful to God

despite all satanic oppression and temptation.

There is a grave danger in the syndrome, which sees a demon behind every problem in a believer's life. This mindset obscures our moral responsibility to walk in righteousness, and to "mortify the deeds of the body" (Rom. 8:13). The Bible never identifies sins such as lust, anger, and pride as spirits but rather as "deeds of the flesh." It instructs us to "put them all aside" (Col. 2:8), never to cast them out. If we "walk by the Spirit" we "will not carry out the desire of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

Certainly, the demonic realm works in concert with our flesh and serves to exacerbate its desires in an attempt to provoke us to sin. But this is demonic temptation or oppression, not demonic possession. It is an assault from outside that the believer is well equipped to resist and overcome (Eph. 6:10-18).

What about testimonials of Christian lives being made victorious through deliverance ministry? Even as Christians who

believe in the erroneous "healing in the Atonement" doctrine might still be healed because they trusted Jesus for their healing, so Christians who learn to trust Jesus for victory over the Devil can experience victory, even if they erroneously believe they were delivered of demons. But we have often found such misinterpreted victory to be fleeting, thus leading to a troubling dependence on deliverance ministry.



The teaching that Christians can be demonized turns our attention from God to Satan. It can inspire fear in the believer where he or she should experience confidence in Christ. As noted, it often makes

believers dependent on those with deliverance ministries to protect them from demons. It fosters a spiritualistic superstition that distracts the believer from both proclaiming the gospel and from personal growth in sanctification.

Perhaps the greatest danger lies in its methodology in determining truth. For, as we saw above, those who teach that a Christian can be inhabited by a demon place their experience above the teaching of Scripture and deny the sufficiency

of Scripture in the process. Once the church allows subjective experience to replace the objective test of Scripture on one issue, a precedent will be set for future issues. A theological Pandora's box will have been opened, leading to an epidemic of superstition and doctrinal deterioration.

We have seen, however, that Scripture never teaches that a Christian can be inhabited by a demon. Nor does it teach that there is any spiritual problem for which a Christian should undergo an exorcism. Therefore, we can confidently rest in the victory Christ has won over the demonic forces and we can trust God's resources in our battle against the world, the flesh, and the Devil. May God deliver us from this specious and divisive teaching, and may we use our spiritual resources in Christ and retain the sound teaching of our evangelical heritage.

Brent Grimsley holds the M.Div. from Denver Seminary, where he did extensive research in the New Testament. He currently works at a Christian bookstore in Denver.

Adapted by
Pastor
Martin
Yee.

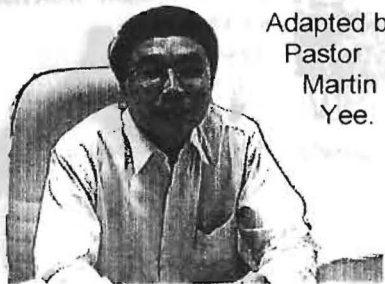
Lateral thinking

1. The maker doesn't want it; the buyer doesn't use it; and the user doesn't see it. What is it?
2. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?
3. Clara Clatter was born on December 27th, yet her birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
4. What is one thing that all wise men, regardless of their religion or politics, agreed is between heaven and earth?
5. In what year did Christmas and New Year's fall in the same year?
6. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?



Answers for Lateral Thinking:

1. A coffin
2. Mount Everest, it just hadn't been discovered!
3. Clara lives in the southern hemisphere.
4. The word "and".
5. They fall in the same year every year, New Year's Day just arrives very early in the year and Christmas arrives very late in the same year.
6. Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow.



Party In The Park

If I had to choose one word to describe JCC's outing at Bishan Park on 1 May '99, it would just be "FUN".

The JCCian family that turned up spanned three generations and there must have been about 60 to 70 participants. From afar we would have looked like a little hive of busy bees, merrily and busily moving about with a myriad of activities.



We started with a round of singspiration followed by a Treasure Hunt. It was more like a get-to-know-the-park hunt and a plot to get lethargic muscles into gear. To fill your bag with treasures, you literally had to comb the park. The clues were just all over the place --- a BIG place! Some clues were quite mind-boggling, so some grey matter exercise was also called for.

The kids had a whale of a time whizzing around on bicycles and rollerblades. The space spelled freedom for all of them. Just simply kicking a ball had a special flavour



because of the abundance of open and green space.

The not-so-young had all the opportunities to be young and



many seized the moment. The men had a shot at football with the senior ones pitching their skills against the young adults. There was much huffing and puffing amidst shouts of excitement and frantic instructions to teammates. Offsides were tolerated as the field was devoid of a proper boundary. The referee was shouting tips to the underdogs, but no one was bothered. They just added to the heap of FUN.

The ladies and kids also had a chance to show their mettle at an old time favourite



--- Baseball. All required bases were quickly set up impromptu with makeshift materials like sticks and newspaper.

Everyone took turns to whack the ball



with the bat but most of the FUN came about after the batting. There were mad scrambles for the ball, and thrills reached a dizzy height in the endless friendly squabbles over where the ball should be thrown and who was out of play or not. In the process, many of us harvested new crops of freckles by courtesy of "Mr. Sunny" but every speck was worthwhile in return for the refreshment.

All in, it was a wonderful outing. It was yet another occasion to give thanks to our heavenly Father for his blessings of fine weather and a good time for the JCCians. Amen.

Iris Goh



SPOT THE BALL CONTEST

Mark your winners, you think the ball is in and say the word "SPOTS!"

The Editor, The Vine
Jurong Christian Church
2 Tah Ching Road
Singapore 618744

Cut out the form and paste it on a postcard with your name and address on it. Closing date - 31st May 1999

**PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN TO
THE 1ST CORRECT ENTRY
DRAWN ON THE 1ST JUNE '99**

Attending Church



Have you encountered occasions when you don't feel like attending church? Once in a while, some people miss a church attendance for one reason or other: National Service duty, have to keep an appointment, sick, a rare show on TV not to be missed, etc. Obviously some reasons are more acceptable than others and some are totally unacceptable. For the encouragement of all Christians, let us take a look at the good reasons

that justify a serious mind for church attendance. It is up to individuals to compare these with the reasons 'available' to them for non-attendance and decide in which direction the balance tilts for or against going to church.

- ◆ Psalm 100:4-5 tell us to "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." If God is worthy of our thanks and praise, surely He is worthy of our worship. If it is expected of us to enter His gates with

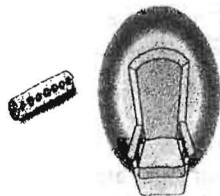
Thanksgiving

rather than a frown, surely attending church should be a much-desired experience.

- ◆ Psalm 27:4 declares, "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." Who is called a Christian who doesn't seek Jesus? What better alternative is there than to find the Lord and worship Him in His holy place, the church.

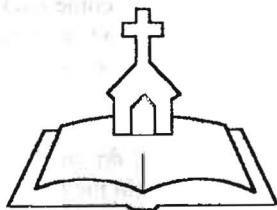


- ◆ Hebrews 10:25 (TLB) cautions: "Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near." Note the emphasis by the word "especially".



◆ In Matthew 18:20, the Lord promises His presence when believers meet: "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

- ◆ Psalm 122:1 says, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Any invitation to go to church is worthy of rejoicing, for it bespeaks of the freedom to worship the LORD. "Let us go" - Yes, we may go as we wish. Think of our brothers and sisters in Christ in some places who are persecuted just by the mention of the word "church". They have the desire to go, but they are hindered. We have the freedom to go; shouldn't we treasure this freedom to worship and proceed with enthusiasm to accept the invitation to go to the house of the Lord?
- ◆ Ecclesiastes 5:1 advises, "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong." So we go to church to listen and be wise.
- ◆ Habakkuk 2:19, 20: "Woe to him who says to wood ... or to a lifeless stone, 'Wake up!' Can it give guidance? ... But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him." We go to the church to meet God and seek His guidance.



The 7 Days of Creation

By Martin Cheah

The Holy Bible mentions that a day is like a thousand years to God. "For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that just gone by..." Psalms 90:4. "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." 2 Peter 3:8.

Some scholars have calculated based on the Holy Bible how long we have been on this Earth. It may surprise you to know that by the year 2000, we would have been on this planet for 6,000 years. Two thousand year periods also seem significant. From Adam to Abraham was 2000 years and from Abraham to Jesus, another 2,000 years. Now we are nearing the end of another 2,000 years. What can we expect?

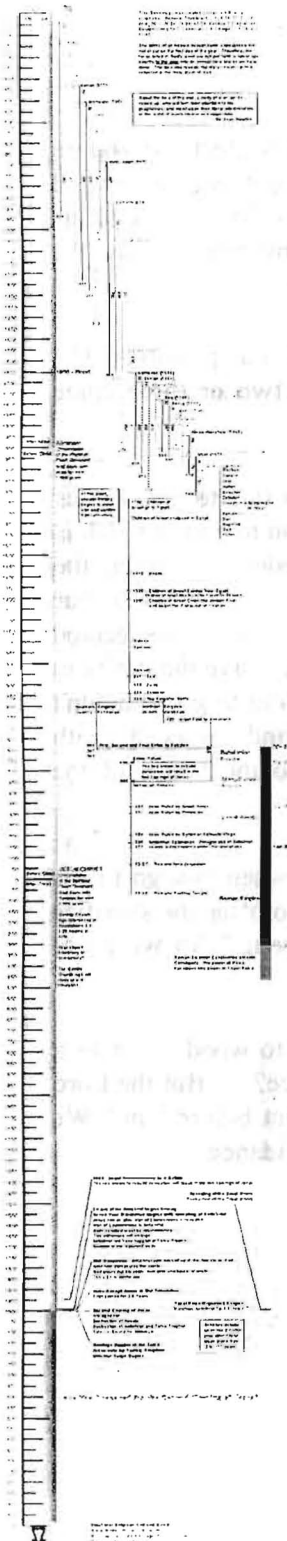
At the end of the 6,000 years, will we then come into the last 1,000 year of peace as mentioned in Revelations 20:2 "He (Jesus) seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years."?

Will all these 7,000 years make up 7 days to God? Is it like His first creation as mentioned in the Genesis account? Are all the signs around us pointing to the close of the age? Does Y2K refer to "Yesus 2nd Koming"? (Just joking!)

All these signs are important but what is most important is "Are you ready?" Have you gone out to gather in the harvest so that you won't return home empty-handed? Are you praying for the salvation of your loved ones? Or are you sitting around hoping that Jesus will not come back so soon, waiting for the property market to turnaround, waiting for the CLOB issue to be settled, waiting for the war in Kosovo to be over? Are you just waiting?

Don't just wait, do something. Join the Retreat! Join the Prayer Walk! Join the Door-to-door Tracting! Stand up and be counted.

**IF YOU NEED A LARGER VERSION OF THE
TIMELINE CHART, GIVE ME YOUR E-MAIL
ADDRESS - MARTIN CHEAH.**



Why I Join The Retreat

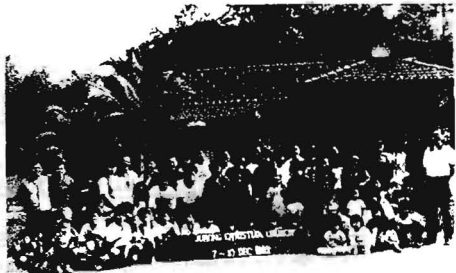
Why do we go for retreats? Frankly, for all the wrong reasons. We go because we like the fellowship of our brothers and sisters of JCC. We need to take a break from our busy schedule at work. It is well organised and all activities planned out for us. We do not want to disappoint the organising committee. It is a church activity and therefore we should get involved or participate.

What then are the right reasons for going on a retreat? My colleague gave me his reason. His reason for going on a retreat is to get away from the noise to a quiet place to meet with God. Whatever the costs, he is willing to pay to meet with his Maker, to sit at His feet and to hear His Word. If we think that going for a retreat is one of the above wrong reasons I gave then that makes going for a retreat, a waste of money or time.

Was there any record of God's people going on a retreat in the Bible? I think the first incident of a retreat is when God told Pharaoh, "Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert." (Exodus 5:1). Then Jesus and his disciples made many retreats to spent time alone. (Mark 4:10,34)

Can any Singaporean truly say that they can find time to be alone with God in their busy schedule? If you cannot find time to go then you certainly don't have much time to spare to seek the voice of God. Who knows if this will be the last retreat before the Millennium? You may not have found God in the last few retreats but don't give up trying. "If you seek Him, He will be found by you." (2Chronicles 15:2)

by Martin Cheah.



Graduation of Bro Anthony Loh

*Congratulations on the completion of
your 9 month training at Campus
Crusade's Great Commission Training
Centre. Keep up the good effort in
winning souls and touching lives. May
the Lord Bless and keep you always.*

*— Pastor Martin Yee —
— Hong Christian Church
(English Congregation)*

*Look up to Anthony for his humility and
willingness to learn. He and his wife,
Marilyn, have shown a lot of care and
concern for us. Thanks for all the fruit
juice and delicious dinners!*

— Fellow Staff-in-training —



Our missionary, Anthony Loh graduated from Great Commission Training Centre on 17th April 1999. One of the first things he is going to do is go to Japan on a mission trip.

Pray for his trip to Tokyo from 17th May onwards. Pray that many Japanese will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior through the street evangelism organised by Campus Crusade.



**THE GRADUATION OF
BROT ANTHONY LOH
AT THE GREAT COMMISSION TRAINING
CENTRE
ON 17TH APRIL 1999.**

**Yang Xu &
David Yong**

WE REMEMBER

It is a sad day for JCC as we see the passing on of 2 dear brothers. **Mr You Ser Chang**, who was attending the Chinese congregation passed away on 28th April and **Mr Chong**, who is Yew Moi and Wong Mui's father, passed away on 5th May.

The first time I met Mr You was in the football pitch at Jalan Kayu. We were playing a friendly match against the Thai Good News Centre. After a long time, I suddenly saw him in our English service and exchanged greetings but could not remember where I have met him before. Then suddenly he appeared in my office delivering some stuff. We chatted a bit and then I remembered where I have met him before. I told myself that if I meet him again, we would have a longer conversation. But we never met again. Even now I still cannot believe that he is gone home. He looked so much fitter than me.

Mr You Ser Chang leaves behind a wife and 3 young daughters. I think as members of the same family of JCC, we must remember "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.." (James 1:27)

I have never spoken to Mr Chong before and probably would not be able to because I am not able to converse in Chinese.

His death was also a surprise because all I heard was that he was to undergo an operation to remove some stone from the



gall bladder. When his condition took a turn for the worse, I was reminded of God's promise in Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -- you and your household."

Thank God for His grace which was given to Mr Chong, who accepted Jesus before passing on. For those of you whose family members are non-believers, trust in God's faith-fulness to keep His promises.

Surely we will meet our 2 brothers again when we reach the other shore but for now may we share in the grief of the families they leave behind.

VOTE FOR JESUS CHRIST

Time Magazine is allowing us to vote for Time Magazine's Person of the Century, which will be in their December 1999 issue.

Current Status as at last week was:

1. Adolf Hitler
2. Mohandas Gandhi
3. Elvis Presley
4. Billy Graham
5. Pope John Paul II
6. **Jesus Christ**

To vote → get to the Internet to
<http://www.pathfinder.com/time/time100/toppersonmain.html>

Certainly the world must have gone wrong if Adolf Hitler is voted the Person of the Century. **Christians, let us lift up the name of Jesus.**

coming soon...

Come and support our soccer team, which has made it to the finals of the LCS Soccer Tournament. They are going in as the underdogs against a very fancied Thai team. No matter which side wins, all the glory goes to God!

16TH
MAY
1999
4.00
pm

Soccer
Finals

JCC vs TENC



ADMIT ONE

Are you ready to go into battle? Before we send in the troops, we must walk over the enemy territory and observe his movements. We must saturate the area with prayer so that our ground troops can have an easier job of door-to-door tracting.

Will you join us on Sunday, 30th May 1999 after the service? Prepare yourselves by mediating on God's Word and His promises.

Jesus has won the war but we must fight the battles against the retreating enemy.



Church Retreat '99



10 - 14 June 1999

Sign up now...