

# The **WINE**

Vol 999 SEP 99

By Edward ...

# **P**astor's **W**ord

Greetings to you in Jesus' name!

The Bible is God's Word to us. To us it is also the witness to the Christ Event. The word "Bible" comes from the Latin word "biblio" which mean "book". The Bible is a book to be read. Reading is important to our Christian development. But why read? In an age of MTV, audio-visuals (and reduced attention span) why read indeed?

Pastor Edmund Chan of Covenant Evangelical Free Church shares these insights recently as an address in the launching of a new Christian book by local author Huang Sabin.

" Allow me to share, from my own pilgrimage, the joy of reading.

Of late, I find myself reading books, not so much for the thoughts they give to me but rather for the thought they provoke in me; not in giving me something new to think about, but rather to show me a new way of thinking.

You see, in my youthful years, I read primarily for *information*; for knowledge, ideas and stimulating thoughts. In my thirties, I found myself reading primarily for *insight*; for new thoughts and new ideas. Today, at the dawn of my forties, I find myself reading primarily for *integration*; to meaningfully contemplate old thoughts in new ways. To reflect on them to add my own input and to make them my own. Thus, it seems that the best books, at this stage of my life, are those that remind me of the things that I had already known but have perhaps forgotten or ignored. And they do it with such clarity of thought and mastery of words, that I rediscover them within me in a fresh and profound way,

As such, I encourage people to cultivate the art of reading. And with it, the art of thinking and reflective living. As I reflect on my reading pilgrimage, I discover some helpful tips along the way:-

1. I had started out my adult reading habit by selecting 12 books I had wanted to read that year. Then I put them on a desk where I can see them daily and chart my progress in reading them through. I frequently ask my esteemed friends or mentors what they have been reading lately (or books that have impacted them) and put their recommendations in my reading list.
3. I read widely, from philosophical works to women's weekly.
4. I don't need to finish every book I read (not every book is worth finishing!).
5. I also engage in saturation reading. I read intensively on a single subject. Also, I have read through the Bible, in a single week, on several occasions.
6. I read at different pace for different books.
7. I keep an open mind. I believe that all truth is God's Truth. I read to learn.
8. I also keep a critical mind. I critique what I read by the Word of God. In some cases, I suspend judgment until I develop a deeper understanding of the subject and of God's Word on it.
9. I developed a personal system for marking books. My colour code is generally as follows: - Green (signifying 'growth') for insights; Orange ('gold') for well-phrased words; Red ('alert') for principles; Blue ('sky') for background information; Yellow - for general good points (or thoughts I want to mark but can't decide how to classify them!).
10. I don't just find time to read, I make time (redeem time!) to read.

In the words of Francis Bacon: 'Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested ... and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.'

Why read? I find reading a redemptive journey, a profound pilgrimage in the art of learning. And the art of learning enriches the art of living. In short, reading ennobles my thoughts, inspires my heart and enriches my life. "

**Pastor Martin Yee**

### **Are You Called?**

Are you called? Then find out how the men and women in the Bible were called.

God called Samuel (1 Sam 3) and Paul (Acts 9) by name. He presented Isaiah (Isa 6) with a need. Jonah (Jonah 1) and Deborah (Judges 4:4-9) were given a specific task in a specific place. God pre-arranged the path for John the Baptist (Mark 1:2-7). God sent someone to influence Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21). God had to keep on nudging Moses (Exodus 3&4).

# Forgiveness

Genesis answers TFFTFFFTFITFFITTTT

†  
12<sup>th</sup> September 1999: This morning, as the Bible reader at the worship service read the Old Testament lesson Genesis 50:15-21, my mind wondered off to Kosovo. When Bro. Jerry Lam referred to the story of Naomi in the Book of Ruth, my mind floated off to Kosovo. Why Kosovo in particular?

Both the Genesis passage and Naomi's story have in common the encouragement on the virtue of maintaining good affection with one another and the preservation of harmony with a forgiving spirit. A very noble, nay idealistic, instruction it must be in minds of listeners who are very ordinary people like you and me, not saints. When someone slaps you on the right cheek, pray tell me whether you would turn your left cheek to him as well without feeling like a fool. While the turning of the cheek may be an extreme example of humility and forbearance (difficult, but not impossible to put into practice), the story of intense hatred and vindictiveness in the minds of little kids in Kosovo as I read recently in *Newsweek* (September 6, 1999) rang a bell in my head as an example at the other extreme: "Do unto them what they did unto us with abhorrence!" A seven-year-old Albanian girl bragged about Serbs being forced out of their homes. A nine-year-old Albanian boy pulled out a toy gun-metal grey automatic pistol that looked large and frighteningly real, stating without hesitation his intention to kill Serbs when he grows up. Clearly, the children with impressionable minds are more in need of a lesson on forgiveness instead of hatred. I do not know what historically started the cycle of hatred between the Serbs and the Albanians. But I do know that a few months ago, the Serbs went on a cruel rampage against their arch-enemies, the Albanians; later the tables turned and now the Albanians have their chance to take revenge. Yet, I do not know when the tables may be turned again and the cycle of vengeance continues to eternity.

The purpose of this article is for us to reflect on where we stand between the extremes of "turning the other cheek with humility and forbearance" and making "Do unto them what they dare do unto us" the motto of our lives. Put aside Kosovo, Taiwan's two-states principle, East Timor's violence, Japanese atrocities during WW II, the Holocaust and any other high-profile international examples that may come to mind that we don't understand why forgiveness has to be a very remote entity. Think closer home about daily relationships between colleagues, between spouses, between siblings, etc. Perhaps, if we have the inclination to contemplate both, we will find that there is a common cause for the perpetuation of hurt and anger – the human cause, the unforgiving heart.

Indisputably, forgiving is never a piece of cake. One cannot say "Just forgive lah" and expect a quick softening of heart. You cannot expect that by quoting what Jesus said about "forgiving 70 times seven" and saying a silent prayer, then lo and behold you will find the hurt and anger melting away. A forgiving spirit does not come to us at an instant's command. We need to cultivate it, beginning first with a recognition of the difficulty to forgive and with a desire to embark on an ongoing process to change the heart with God's help to eradicate the confusion and ambivalence of our thoughts and feelings about the hurt – not by our own efforts alone. It does help if we have the foresight to see that anger directed against a person leads us nowhere and a vindictive act often begins a cycle sinking us deeper and deeper into the mire of hurt and anger. Retaining hurt and anger in our heart, there is no space for peace to settle down. If we recognise that comparatively, there is more to gain from forgiving than embarking on a war (whether of the cold or fiery variety), we will know better what to do.

Back to Genesis 50:15-21, Joseph's brothers upon the death of their father were afraid that Joseph might hold a grudge against them for their past wrongs. Labouring under a guilty conscience, the brothers did not just abandon hope and dwell under the shadow of jealousy towards Joseph, but picked up courage to humble themselves before him, confess their fault and beg his pardon. They even offered to be his slaves. Joseph could have accepted their offer to get back at them for

once selling him off. Instead, he saw their humanity and, with a great deal of compassion, confirmed his reconciliation and affection to them. He even assured them of the continuance of his kindness to provide for them and their children: He comforted them, and, to remove all their fears, spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 50:15-21 not only teaches us to render good for evil as exemplified by Joseph's excellent spirit when he forgave readily without setting any terms, but also teaches us to be ready to apologise and seek forgiveness for our own wrongs instead of enslaving ourselves by guilt. To this end, it would help if we can banish our own inability to forgive and forget, and thus remove a shadow in which we often live in suspicion of the sincerity and goodwill of others. It would have been worse off for Joseph's brothers had they retained the suspicions and jealousy towards Joseph in their hearts and harboured evil thoughts or hatred. Their initial fears of an unforgiving Joseph were unfounded.

The inability of two parties to strike a peace accord is often also due to a lack of ability to accept the circumstances of suffering in humility and in recognition of God's sovereign will. Hurt, not by people but by circumstances, can severely test a person's threshold of tolerance for a real iniquity or an imagined affront due to the work of envy in our minds. The example of Naomi (*see Ruth 1*) must be thought provoking. She was a suffering woman: a distressed housekeeper in a foreign land (v. 1, 2), a pitiable widow who had lost two sons to boot (v. 3-5), a perplexed mother-in-law who parted with one daughter-in-law with sorrow and took with her another in fear when returning to her own country (v. 6-18), and a destitute woman who depended on the charity of friends (v. 19-22). She took all afflictions in her stride, all that seemed to be bitterly against her, yet working for good. Tribulation works patience.

Reading Jesus' instruction "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt 5:44), what comes to mind is that our enemies could be:

- Persons who have really hurt us
- Persons whom we think have hurt us

- Imaginary enemies due to our inability to reconcile with a situation

Therefore, what we need to do to check our spleen is not just magnanimity and love, but also a true understanding of reality. Like Joseph, instead of revenge, we see the human side of our "enemies" and reflect on our own humanity, submitting ourselves to the reality of a divine purpose in all events and so surrendering to God our desire for vengeance. Even a bad boy like the Prodigal Son can be forgiven.



Marco Longobardi (1979-1982),  
Original: The Legend of the  
Prodigal Son

*John Lee*

*Hello,*

*Chua Sook Chuen*

*Bussing Bill & Nancy Erick*

*We were glad to meet you. We  
welcome you in the community of  
Jurong Christian Church.*

*May God bless you all!*





NEW BEDFORD, Mass. - Newspaper photographer Mike Valeri thought he had a good shot of a cloudy sunset over Padanaram Harbor. Readers of *The Standard-Times of New Bedford* saw something more heavenly. Laura Morse called to congratulate Valeri for capturing an angel floating in the clouds. Valeri hadn't

noticed the angelic figure before, but was swayed when he clicked his negatives and the image seemed even clearer. The newspaper ran the photo again Oct. 18 and asked readers what they thought.

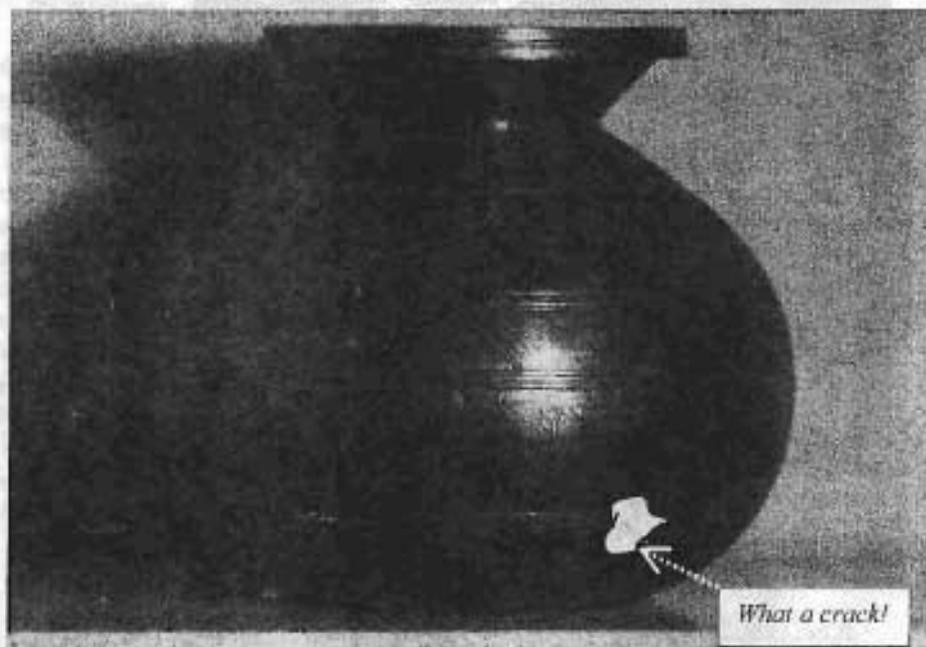
## ANGELS - GOD'S ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS

When Abraham prayed, God sent angels to rescue Lot before destroying Sodom. (Gen.19) A group of angels were sent to protect Jacob when he was fleeing from Laban. (Gen.32:1-2) God sent his angels to provide Elijah with food. (1 Kings 19:5-7) Elisha was protected by a multitude of angels. (2 Kings 6:7) When Hezekiah prayed God sent his angels to protect Jerusalem. (2 Chron.32:20-21) Daniel in the lion's den said, "My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions." (Dan. 6:22) Daniel also had visits from the angel Gabriel. (Dan. 8:15-16 and 9:3,20-23 and 10:2,13)

In New Testament times, an angel was sent to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. (Luke1:11-13) Angels brought the news of Christ's resurrection. (Matt 28:5) Angels were present when Jesus was taken up to heaven. (Acts 1:10-11) An angel helped Peter out of prison. (Acts12:5-10) John received his vision from an angel. (Rev.1:1)

Is the picture possible? From the biblical accounts, it would seem that in all the angelic events mentioned above, the angels were visible to our Bible heroes.

# Wanna Be a Cracked Pot?



Most would say "No" and naturally prefer to be a perfect pot that doesn't leak. Who would want a cracked pot that can't do its job properly? On Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 99, Sis. Ewe Ewe shared with us a touching story.

We were all attending the Sunday School Teacher's get-together at JCC premises. It was a treat for all the teachers. About 30 - 40 of us turned up. We warmed up with some singing.

This was followed by Ewe Ewe's sharing which I found to be very meaningful.

She basically delivered a challenge for all of us to serve with motivation and dedication. She pointed out that the current team is amazing due to the variety of talents that we have. This was when she shared the story of the cracked pot (see box):

## A Cracked Pot

*A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made.*

*But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.*

*After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream, "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."*

*"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"*

*"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.*

*The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."*

*Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.*

*The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."*

*"Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His table. In God's great economy, nothing goes to waste."*

[http://members.tripod.com/yfc/fav\\_forwards/cracked\\_pot.htm](http://members.tripod.com/yfc/fav_forwards/cracked_pot.htm)

Not many of us have 'perfect' qualities like the other pot. God made each one of us unique to serve him in a multitude of ways. Some of us are good at certain things that others are not.

If one is willing, God will use us mightily. Ewe Ewe was frank about the onerous responsibilities of a Sunday School teacher. It is not a job to be taken lightly. Many parents

expect us to fulfil the spiritual needs of the child. The children should be taught the Word but more crucially, they must apply them, not only now but carry through to adulthood. She observed that we have a sizeable number of kids at Sunday School but a much smaller group of youth in the congregation. What happened to them? What can we do about it? Are we willing to put in more concerted effort to make a difference?

More teachers will certainly help. If one is not too comfortable about teaching, there are many other useful roles. For those already in the job, we need to remember the significance of our role and continually strive to make our programmes creative and meaningful for the children. As part of her plan to hone our skills, I've I've hopes to conduct training for the teachers.

All in, it was a pleasant night with good food and good company. Everyone enjoyed good fellowship during "makan" time with many little groups chatting merrily away while tucking into curry chicken, fried rice, fish, etc.

Eric Goh

## The Book of Beginnings Test your knowledge on Genesis

Answers below are True or False.

1. Cattle and flying/creeping animals were created before man.
2. Eve sinned when she ate the apple in the garden of Eden.
3. The serpent told Eve to eat of the tree of life.
4. Adam was the one who gave names to every living creature.
5. God put Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden, and put angels with swords of fire at the gate to keep them from coming back in.
6. Noah brought all the animals into the ark two by two (in pairs).
7. Noah and his family were in the ark for 40 days and nights.
8. God left the sign of a "rainbow" as a promise that he would never again destroy the earth by a flood.
9. Noah cursed his son Ham for looking upon his nakedness.
10. Mankind had never eaten any kind of meat until after the great flood.
11. The famous "tower of Babel" was built in Canaan's land.
12. Abraham's firstborn child was named Isaac.
13. Sodom and Gommorah were actually only two of four or five cities that God destroyed with fire and brimstone.
14. Isaac's son Jacob, was actually one of two twins.
15. Jacob had twelve sons (the fathers of the 12 tribes), and a daughter.
16. Joseph was Isaac's favorite son, and he made him a coat of many colours.
17. While in Egypt, Joseph married an Egyptian priest's daughter.

(Answers printed elsewhere in The Lion)

Recently, Brother Lee Chee Meng, handed me a book entitled **"A Divine Revelation Of Hell"** written by "Mary K. Baxter." He said that it is very easy to read and very exciting. He finished reading it within a week. Exciting, indeed it was! After reading through half the book, I was reminded that Hell is real. Satan is deceitful. Many souls were lost and led astray. My colleague often jokes about forming "kaki" for her mah-jong games, when they meet again in Hell. And many people including myself, thought that once we leave this earth, suffering and pain ends. But it is not true, in Hell, sufferings, pains, cries and torments continue through eternity. The writer, Mary was brought down by Lord Jesus to experience and see the various parts of hell. It is worse than the one you saw in "Haw Par Villa" with so many dark pits and smelly rotten flesh. Even unrepentant Christians were seen in Hell. In one part of the book, Mary asked the Lord about the woman in a pit, who cried to Jesus for deliverance from the flames, this is how it goes:

Jesus said, "Woman, you are still full of lies and sin. I called you, but you would not hear Me! True, you were a member of a church, but being a member did not get you to Heaven. Your sins were many, and you did not repent. You caused others to stumble at My Word. You would not forgive others when they hurt you. You



pretended to love and serve Me when you were with Christians, but when you were away from Christians, you lied, cheated and stole. You gave heed to seducing spirits and enjoyed your double life. You knew the straight and narrow way".

"Yes, you said you loved Me with your lips, but your heart was far from Me. You knew the ways of the Lord and you understood. You played with God and God knows all things. If you had sincerely served God, you would not be here today. You cannot serve Satan and God at the same time".

Judgement begins in the house of God. Do you think that I am blind that I cannot see and deaf that I cannot hear? You, who hold the truth in unrighteousness and line your pockets with silver and gold at the expense of the poor, Repent! I say before it is too late. Pray that you may be an overcomer.

Behold I am preparing a holy army. They will do mighty exploits for me and destroy your high places. They are an army of holy men and women, boys and girls. They have been anointed to preach the true Gospel, to lay hands on the sick and to call the sinner to repentance. Working men, housewives, single men, single women and school children. They are common people for not many noble have responded to My call. In the past, they have been misunderstood, mistreated, abused and rejected. But I have blessed them with boldness and

holiness in spirit. They will begin to fulfil My prophecy and to do My will. I will walk in them, talk in them and work in them.

During one of the nights in hell, Mary together with Jesus stopped before a group of demons singing and chanting and praising Satan. They seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely. Jesus said, "I will let you hear what they are saying."

"We will go to this house today and torment those that are there. We will get more power from Lord Satan if we do this right," they said. "Oh, yes, we will cause a lot of pain and sickness and much grief to them all. They began to dance and sing evil songs of worship to Satan, glorying in evil."

A demon said, "We will have to watch very carefully for those who believe in Jesus, for they can cast us out."

Lord Jesus also told Mary that He has charge His angels to keep His people from these evil spirits, and their works do not prosper. He also protects many of the unsaved, even though they do not know it. He has many angels employed to stop Satan's wicked plans. There are many demons in the air and on the earth. He had allowed Mary to see some of these demons, but others cannot. That is why the truth of the gospel must be preached to everyone. The truth will set men free, and He will protect them from the evil. In His name there is deliverance and freedom. He has all power in heaven and earth. Do not fear Satan, but fear God.

While walking through Hell, they came to a place called outer darkness. There were weeping and gnashing of teeth, a utter hopelessness was felt in this place. A giant angel about thirty feet tall with no wing had a large disk in his left hand and was turning slowing and lift up high ready to throw it. There was a fire in the middle to the disk and people were swimming in and out, over and under the flaming waves. On the outside of the disk was the blackest of darkness. Only the light from the flames in the disk illuminated the night air. In that light I saw people trying to swim to the edges of the disk. Some of them would almost reach the sides when a suction force from inside the disk would drag them back into the flames. Their forms turned to skeletons with misty-grey souls. This was just another part of hell.

Mary wondered what this angel going to do with the disk. Jesus could read her thoughts and said, "This is outer darkness. Remember that my Word says, *"The children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

"Lord," Mary said, "You mean your servants are here?"

"Yes," Said Jesus, "servants that turned back after I called them. Servants who loved the world more than Me and went back to wallowing in the mire of sin. Servants that would not stand for the Truth and for Holiness. It is better that one never

starts than to turn back after beginning to serve Me."

"Believe Me," Jesus said, "if you sin, you have an advocate with the Father. If you repent of your sins, I will be faithful to cleanse you of all unrighteousness. But if you will not repent, I will come in a time you think not, and you will be cut off with the unbelievers and cast into outer darkness."

### ***And a vision for the future***

Mary saw a large beast sat on a large throne. All the people obeyed the beast. She saw spiritual horns growing from his head. They reached into and out of every place on earth. The beast took upon himself many positions of authority and many offices, and he become great in power. He deceived many people. The rich and the famous were deceived as well as the poor and disfranchised. Small and great paid homage to the beast. He brought a large machine into an office and put his mark on it. There was also a "big brother" machine that could see into homes and business. Only a single machine of this type existed, and it belonged to the beast. The part of the machine that was located in the homes of the people was invisible to the naked eye, but it could and did report to the beast every move the people made. On his forehead were the numbers 666.



Mary saw another man in another office become very angry at the beast. He demanded to talk to him. He was yelling at the top of his voice. The beast appeared and seemed very courteous as he said, "Come, I can help you take care of all your problems."

The beast took the angry man into a large room and motioned for him to lie down on a table. The room and the table reminded her of a hospital emergency room. The man was given anaesthesia and wheeled beneath a vast machine. The beast attached wires to the man's head and turned on the machine. On the top of the machine were the words, "This mind eraser belongs to the beast, 666."

When the man was removed from the table, his eyes had a vacant stare, and his movements reminded her of zombie in a movie. There was a large blank spot on the top of his forehead and his mind had been surgically altered so that he could be controlled by the beast.

The beast told him that he was to obey his every command and picked up a small object and attached it to the man's shirt. He was instructed by the beast, "You will work and not get angry or frustrated, nor will you cry or be sad. You will work for me until you die. I have many like you that I control. Some lie, some kill, some steal, some make war, some have children, some run machinery, and some do other things. Yes, I control

everything." An evil laugh came from him.

The man was handed papers to sign and he gladly gave all his belongings to the beast. What happens when this living dead man went home to his wife, read for your self.

*Our Lord is a merciful God. He gives us a choice to choose, whereas the beast controlled the mind of those who served him. Jesus is so rich in love and always ready to receive us with open arms. Don't keep Him waiting, go to Him now and ask Him to forgive us for things that He asks us to do, we didn't do and the things that we shouldn't do but keep on doing.*

As I read through this book, I appreciate and give thanks to the Creator more and more; He made this world so beautiful for our enjoyment. Of course Heaven is the best! It is for eternity. Lord Jesus promised in Matt. 11:30 "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Remember, He is always with us accomplishing the task He has entrusted us to do.

Pastor Yee's Comments:

*The views contained in the book reviewed above do not necessarily conform to the beliefs of the Lutheran Church.*

Editor's Comments:

*We believe that Dorothy has a love for God, which translates into a love for her fellow man, which compels her to share such a terrifying vision. We believe that there is a Hell but we do not know if it is as described by the author Mary Buxtor.*



Before marriage, a man yearns for the woman he loves.

After marriage, the "y" becomes silent.

When a newly married couple smiles, everyone knows why.

When a ten-year married couple smiles, everyone wonders why.

My wife told me to be more affectionate, so I got two girlfriends.

A husband said to his wife, "No, I don't hate your relatives. In fact, I like your mother-in-law better than mine."

How do most men define marriage?

A very expensive way to get your laundry done free.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.



# LATEST NEWS

Sunday, 19th September 1999.

After delivering a sermon on Philippians 1:21-30, Bro Khoo Teng Choon went home and had lunch. He was to return later for a



Council Meeting but during lunch, he could not eat and showed symptoms of a heart attack. He rushed to hospital in a taxi. Upon arrival at the A&E, he was immediately attended to and the ECG showed that indeed he was having a heart attack.

The doctor in charge called for an immediate procedure. Mrs Khoo then activated the Prayer Chain at 5.00pm.

By 7.00pm when I visited Bro Khoo, he was still in the Coronary Care Unit (CCU), with various tubes running into him. The procedure was successful and he was able to talk to us normally although he could not move due to all the connections to his body.

Thank God for healing Bro Khoo and thank God for the means he has given us through the Prayer Chain to call upon Him in times of distress.



Sunday, 12th September 1999.

The choir had a farewell dinner for Ann Lin, who will be leaving for Melbourne, Australia after her wedding on Saturday, 25th



September 1999. The group gathered at the restaurant around 7.00pm and had dinner and conversation until we were the last customers left. The



restaurant staff had to give us hints that it was late by asking us to settle the bill.



## Farewell Ann



# Social Concern

## in the Community



KC has been desirous in expressing Social Concern to the community in practical ways. To further strengthen this concern, the **Community Outreach Ministry** has been formed to oversee this task. The Social Concern Ministry seeks not only to support those in need financially but also to express our love and concern to them in practical ways, to meet spiritual, emotional and other practical needs.

A policy has been drawn up setting out the objectives, procedures and administration of the ministry of Social Concern. Members who wish to express their concern through financial support should channel their offerings and gifts to the Social Concern Fund. Whilst members can encourage others to support a particular need, they should not raise funds from members of KC for individual cases of social concern needs. The Social Concern Fund provides for the centralized pooling of funds that can be managed and administered for individual cases of need. The Community Outreach Ministry will consider individual cases and make recommendations for approval by the English Council.

The Pastor together with members of the Community Outreach Ministry will review each individual case, make home visits to the applicant and recommend the support needed.

Social Concern extends beyond the financial needs, to spiritual, emotional, social and other practical helps. The Bible speaks of pure and fruitless religion as providing to those in need in practical ways (James 1:27). James further reminds us, "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well, keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?" (James 2:15,16)

The Bible instructs us to live out our faith for "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17). Let's live out our faith and be partakers of expressing social and Christian concern to those in distress, in need, facing unexpected circumstances. Let's be a community reaching out and touching lives.



*Those interested in the ministry or want to have a copy of the Social Concern Policies, please approach the Pastoral Staff or members of the Community Outreach Ministry (Chan Yock Meng, Peter Cheong)*