





# Assistant Pastor Karen Seah Lee Pengt MOTHERS HONOURED!

other's Day was warmly celebrated on Sunday, 9 May 2010. At all our Services held that day, the mothers present were prayed for and received a special gift.

We were touched to see the Carpenter's Workshop (CW) kids expressing their heartfelt emotions treasuring and appreciating their mothers through a lovely video presentation. They thanked their mothers for the love, affection, caring, kindness, teaching, sending them to church and etc. The CW kids also sang a beautiful song, "Hey Mum I Love You," dedicated to all mothers.

We were overjoyed when Missionary Pooshani shared her testimony about how her mother accepted the Lord Jesus Christ after 15 years of prayers. She encouraged us not to give up believing, but to pray and trust in His faithfulness (Acts 10:31). She also shared that through the feeding programme in Sudan that our Church supports, 150 orphans experience hope, love, care, food and most of all Jesus. Some were baptised in water recently. God is at work in them and through them, raising up a new generation. Assistant Pastor Karen Seah Lee Peng's Mother's Day message was based on the account of a rich chief tax collector named Zacchaeus who heard about Jesus and desired to seek Him (Luke 19:1-10). Though he had a physical limitation it did not hinder him. He climbed up a tree in order to see Jesus. Among the hindrances we face today are our busy lifestyles which drain us physically and emotionally and the pursuit of God takes a back seat.

We were challenged to evaluate our relationships with God. Is God smiling with approval at our pursuits or rebuking us that we are out of His will? Can He entrust us with His dreams and visions or is He grieved by our dullness and apathy? We should position ourselves, take radical steps, break out from our comfort zones and go deeper in our walk with God.

When God interrupts our schedule and demands our attention, we are to recognise it, obey and respond quickly without hesitation. Zacchaeus quickly came down from the tree he was on when Jesus asked him to. Jesus said that He was going to stay at his house! The crowd complained that Jesus had gone to be a guest of a sinner. One of the factors that influence our spiritual walk is the people we mingle with—the "crowd influence". There are those who ignite our passion for God and those who sap our desire for Him. Pastor Lee Peng encouraged parents, especially mothers, to walk closer with God so they can have a stronger spiritual influence on their children.

Zacchaeus saw Jesus as He is, full of grace and mercy. His life was changed forever because of his encounter with Jesus. He made restitution to those he had cheated. How we see God will determine the direction of our spiritual life and influence our decisions. How we see Him will be reflected in the manner we portray Him in our lives.

In conclusion, Pastor Lee Peng encouraged us to seek God with all our hearts individually and as a Church because He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). In so doing, we will be able to see God as He is in the midst of storms, trials and tribulations and focus on His plans and purpose for our lives and the Church. The Holy Spirit moved mightily and many responded at the altars at the various Service locations. **+** 



# ladies' worship service MOTHER'S DAY **CELEBRATION** By Carol Weller



II the ladies who attended the Tuesday Ladies Worship Service on 11 May 2010 were blessed by testimonies of mothers who had felt the power and provision of God in their daily lives. They enjoyed a special song, "You Are," sung by Sara Soon and a delicious spread of food over lunch.

Siew Soo Lan, fondly known as 'Aunty Cheong', from the Chinese congregation testified that she was once a hot tempered person and had a lot of bitterness in her. She strictly forbade her children from converting to Christianity to the extent of disowning her eldest daughter, Lydia, who wanted to go to Bible School. In 1977, her youngest daughter died of leukaemia. She had many experiences with God during her daughter's illness and at the funeral, she and her husband accepted Christ. Her life has been dramatically changed since then. Today, she and her husband together with their six children and their families are serving God faithfully. Three of her children are currently serving in full-time ministry.

Angela Aw, a member of the Church staff shared her dilemma when she became a single mother in 1994. She felt she had only two choices: suicide or move on and bring up her children no matter what the cost. She chose to turn to God for help to raise her children. She sent them to Carpenter's Workshop and the many children's activities in Calvary Church to ensure that they were raised with a strong foundation in Christ. This faith has taken them through the years. She has experienced God's blessings in many ways. In 1999, she responded to a call to full-time service. Her parents who were initially worried about her decision saw the evidences of God's provision and faithfulness and they later gave their lives to the Lord.

Karen Sam shared about her call and passion to minister to the needs of 'special children'. Though not a biological mother, she is a 'spiritual mother' to many. She helped found HeART Club with Calvary Life Ministries and now works at Calvaryland pioneering the CCFILS (Calvary Centre for Independent Living Skills). She was candid in her sharing of the challenges she faced in working at the small town of Sungai Pelek. Today, she reaps the joy of seeing the children growing in and sharing their faith and the first graduate of the programme, Juen Yen, preparing for employment with a local company.

At the end of the Service, Assistant Pastor Shereen Wong invited the ladies to come to the altar to receive strength and grace from God. +





by Carol Weller

## bm workshop

# A WORKSHOP WORTH ATTENDING By Bernard Lee

**Should have joined earlier!**" "Very refreshing!" "Helped me tremendously. I can now use the right terms to share my faith.'

These were some of the many good remarks made on the Bahasa Malaysia (BM) Biblical Terminology Workshop, held on 8 May 2010, in Calvary Church.

The workshop started with an uplifting praise and worship in Bahasa Malaysia. The participants were then given a quick quiz where they translated 50 commonly-used English words in the Bible into BM.

There were humorous moments when the participants used wrong words and phrases to translate their salvation testimony from English to BM.

Towards the end, the participants were led to intercede for the BM speaking communities and to pray for the nation. Associate Pastor David Seah then challenged the participants to continue to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit in witnessing, sharing and praying.

The BM Workshop, held for the third time, has seen over 80 believers trained. Ten percent of these have gotten involved in the BM Ministry in these recent years. Puji Tuhan! +



ustralian evangelist Michelle Hamilton shared a powerful testimony at the Tuesday Ladies' Worship Service on 4 May 2010. At the age of 22, she treated her mother to an all-expenses paid holiday to the island of Boracay in the Phillippines. Unknown to her then, for three terrifying days, she would be clinging to her seven foot capsized "bunca" (canoe) in the South China Sea literally hanging on for dear life.

She did not know God then but in the midst of her ordeal at sea, terrified that she was going to die, Michelle remembered John 14:6, learnt when she was a child: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me," and she cried out to

#### By Audrey Kum

CITATION C

God to save her. And that began her encounter with God who spoke to her several times in what she referred to as a booming voice. Facing tropical storms and angry sharks, hunger and thirst, Michelle heard from God that she was not going to die and that He required her to have no fear but to have a 100 per cent faith in Him. Her faith was tested even up to the point of her rescue by the crew of a passing ship which she initially thought was actually going to pass her by without saving her! They finally stopped and beckoned her to swim towards them and she was rescued.

"Life," said Michelle, "is a storm." Her difficult experience in the South

China Sea was by no means the last "storm" she faced. She got married and had a son, Asher, who was diagnosed with autism. Again her 100% faith was tested. Praise God, after many challenging years, she testified that Asher was certified free of autism at the age of 14 and he is now sharing his testimony of God's healing power!

% Faith! In GOD

The ladies were moved by her awesome testimony and the sharing of God's promises from the Word. We thank God for six who responded for salvation and rededication. Most of the ladies responded for prayer to the call to have a 100 per cent faith in God! +

senior pastor's message

# MENTAL ATTITUDES FOR MY MIRACLE

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

f any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:5-8).

A miracle is supernatural and humanly impossible. We need the right mental attitude in order for us to experience miracles in our lives. Some situations do not require a miracle. However, when we do require a miracle, James gives us some good instructions to follow.

If we have an impossible situation or need, James says we can ask from God. But, we need to ask in faith. The Bible says God always honours faith (Hebrews 11:6) and He gives liberally without reproach or mocking or teasing us. What we need is the right mental attitude. An attitude is a mind-set, a way of thinking that determines your behaviour. What you think is what you believe. This will determine how you will conduct yourself. The Bible says, **"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he"** (Proverbs 23:7). If we think according to the Scriptures, we will have the faith to act and God will honour our faith and miracles will take place.

#### What should our mental attitudes be in order to receive our miracles? Firstly, be single-minded.

James says doubts will hinder your miracle from happening. Doubt is like the wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. There is no stability in the wave. Doubt is also like being lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. The Bible says, **"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth"** (Revelation 3:16).

Doubt makes us double-minded. Double-minded people will not receive anything from God (James 1:7-8). If we want to see God's power at work, we must have faith. Jesus did not perform any miracles where there was unbelief.

The Bible says, "Now He did not do many mighty works there [Nazareth] because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58). However, a person with doubts could be struggling to believe. Therefore, if we have doubts, we can pray for God's help. There was an incident where Jesus saw a great multitude around His disciples who were in a dispute with the scribes. Jesus was told by the father of a child with a mute spirit that His disciples could not cast out the spirit. He begged for Jesus' compassion and help. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23). If you have doubts, be honest with God and ask Him for help like the father who cried out saying, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). The Bible says, 'Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and said, 'Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!' Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, 'He is dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose" (Mark 9:24-27)

As a church too, we need to be single-minded in our obedience to God's Word for miracles to happen to touch our city and our nation. This is time also for personal miracles so that we can be effective witnesses for Him.

#### Secondly, have a submissive mind.

A submissive mind is a mind of servanthood. It is a mind of humility which acknowledges Christ's Lordship and practises biblical stewardship (Matthew 6:33). Jesus is our example. Jesus came to serve and taught His disciples to do the same, saying, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). He washed His disciples' feet. We read in the gospel of John: "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a

towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded" (John 13:3-5).

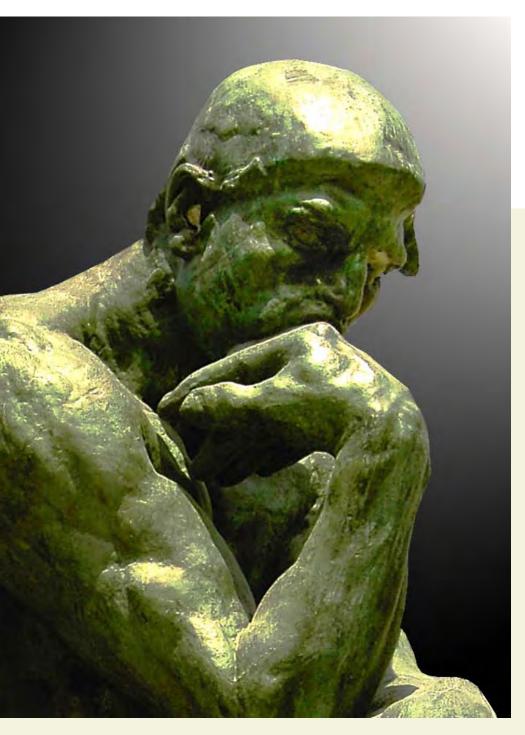
Paul exhorts us to have the mind of Jesus: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2: 5-11).

Jesus chose to humble Himself and became obedient even to the point of death. Now He is highly exalted above all other names. If we want God to work a miracle for us, we must be submissive to Him and listen to the Holy Spirit and obey Him.

A submissive mind also causes us to esteem others better than ourselves. Paul says, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). He also says, "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (Romans 12:10).

#### Thirdly, be spiritually minded.

We need to be spiritually minded because it pleases God. Paul says, **"To** be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity



"If we think according to the Scriptures, we will have the faith to act and God will honour our faith and miracles will take place." against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:6-8).

We need to be spiritually minded to receive our miracle as "the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

#### Finally, have a secured mind.

A secured mind is one that meditates on the Word of God. Jesus says,

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35). The Word of God is our security. It is the rock on which we stand. It shall not be shaken. Jesus says the house or life built on the Word will stand even when winds, rain and floods come (Matthew 7:24-27). Meditate on God's Word day and night and you will prosper in all you do. The psalmist says, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper" (Psalm 1:2-3). Paul says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Are you ready for your miracle? Renew your mind and think as the Bible teaches us. Embrace the right mental attitudes and have faith in God. Trust in Him and act in faith and your miracle will happen.+

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.

**MENTAL ATTITUDES FOR MY MIRACLE** is available in DVD at the Calvary Book Corner.





# CONTEMPORARY BY AUDITED

Faulty compasses

The day finally arrived for the inaugural Contemporary Service to be held at 5pm in place of our regular evening Worship Service. We could say that 11 April 2010 marked a 'historical' event for our Church.

The regular "older 5pm worshippers" wondered if they should be attending the Service. Would it be "too energetic" for them? Would the music be too loud and would they feel out of place? The young adults and youth on the other hand were looking forward to it with great anticipation.

So how did it turn out? Just like it was planned! The young people of the Church were given the opportunity to lead in worship clad in less formal attire as compared with their counterparts in the other Worship Services. As promised, there was a greater use of multimedia. The live feeds of the congregation in worship, of the musicians and the of the worship leaders shown together with the lyrics of the songs on the screens, created non-static images that the young people of today can relate to. A music video by Brooke Fraser singing "C.S. Lewis Song" prepared us for the message by Associate Pastor Steven Kum.

Pastor Steven's delivery of the sermon entitled "Found Godless" was enhanced by specially designed slides on the screen which cleverly and visually illustrated his main points. A whole series of thought-provoking signs were artistically placed on the platform as a back-drop of sorts from where he spoke. At one stage, he even plucked a relevant sign to emphasise a point! By the time he concluded his message which in essence said that the way

out of a "God-less" existence requires a genuine encounter with the Lord through the Holy Spirit, the people were ready to respond to the altar call.

Praise the Lord for the positive feedback about the Service. So did the older folk think they were coming back? Definitely! Were the younger folk excited with what the Lord has begun? Again a resounding "Yes!" We look forward to seeing how the Lord will develop this Service to His glory in the days to

come. If you know of friends and family that would enjoy worshipping the Lord at the Contemporary Service, please invite them to come with you! +

Live feeds

'State of the Heart' vs 'State of the Art'

Luke 18:15-29

Main points of the sermon cleverly illustrated

I will lay down my life, For the love sacrifice You gave to me



There is definitely something special about setting aside time to seek God together as a Church family. From 7 to 10 June 2010, about 470 Calvarites, their families and friends attended the Church Family Camp held at Pulai Springs Resort, Johor. We experienced the powerful ministry of the Word of God and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, word of knowledge and healing and deliverance.

The Lord met with us at every scheduled session as well as during our times of personal devotions and was in our midst as we fellowshipped with one another over meals and recreation.

Daily, the team of four alumni, namely Aaron Welk, Peter Blue, Brian Wall and Jireh Ang, from Northwest University, Seattle, Washington, USA, led us in worship, preparing us to hear from the Lord. Aaron Welk and Jireh Ang led the adults and youth in separate workshops on worship.

On the first night, after a good meal, we settled down in the meeting hall that resembled a huge tent, ready to hear what the Lord would say to us through Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam. We learnt about reinventing ourselves. The eagle, to whom God likens His people, needs to reinvent itself at some point of its life or it will die. It flies to a high and craggy place and faces the sun for 40 to 150 days, plucking off its feathers despite the pain. It washes itself clean and sharpens its beak against a rock for hunting. It waits for the feathers to grow before breathing into them to give them "life." Like the eagle, we Christians are to renew ourselves by seeking God, willing to put away old things. Preparation to serve God requires time. Likewise as we wait on God, the Spirit breathes on us to give us life. The eagle then secretes a fluid that covers its feathers, waterproofing and protecting them. Our covering is the blood of Jesus and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

We are to express the traits of the eagle and not other birds. We are to have the "I can" spirit of the eagle (Philippians 4:13). We must not have the attitude of condemnation or guilt (Romans 8:1) and finally we must be visionary (Acts 2:17). Senior Pastor's exhortation set the tone for the camp and we eagerly anticipated receiving more from the Lord through His servant, Dr Rajan Thiagarajah in the next five sessions.

From the feedback of the campers, we know that many were very encouraged and blessed by Dr Rajan's great use of Scriptures in his messages. He left us with several key thoughts such as Jesus is our Passover Lamb. Jesus Himself observed the Passover. He then fulfilled it and we must appropriate it by declaring who Jesus is and what He has done for us. The Hebrew word for Passover is pesach and means to "leap over." We can "leap over" our old circumstances into new spiritual levels and Dr Rajan says this will happen "faster than time." This is possible because it is natural for us believers to live in the supernatural!

Jesus is not just our Saviour and Lord but He has power over everything! Nothing is impossible with Him. All we need to is to put our faith in Him and believe.

In his teaching on Kingdom principles. Dr Rajan said we must seek God in His Senior Pastol Prince Guneratnam

"due order" (1 Chronicles 15:13). We are the generation to see God's due order expressed in the world. This is God's time and hour. God has not only given us wealth but the power and resources to produce wealth (Deuteronomy 8:1). Dr Rajan said, "The presence of abundance leads to the presence of giving."He also taught us about tithing and to see that it teaches us to honour, fear, worship and obey God and to identify Jesus as our High Priest.

We were reminded of the omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence of the Holy Spirit. At Dr Rajan's invitation, the campers raised our hands to enrol in what he termed as "The School of the Holy Spirit" so that we have unlimited power, divine revelation and will live daily in God's presence.

In the final session, we were taught that there is cumulative anointing from generation to generation (Psalm 133:1-3). The anointing oil changes us, brings salvation, gives us a consciousness of the resurrected Lord in our lives, gives us conscious dominion, and certain privileges and power and makes us a witness.

The youth and the adults were very blessed throughout the camp. It was very spiritually enriching and the time spent in worship, learning from the Word and in prayer at the daily morning watches and after sessions at the meeting hall brought many closer to the Lord. Friendships were renewed and new friends were made. In total (from the English, Chinese and Kids Camps), we have on record at least 11 who received salvation and 28 baptised in the Holy Spirit! If you missed camp this time, make sure you go for the next one! **+** *For more camp news, please turn to pages 12 to 15* 

family camp





# THE BEST CHURCH CAMP THAT WE EVER HAD! By Thong Oi Shiang

Right from the first session the Spirit of God was with the speaker, Rev. Susan Seow from Singapore, and with us. There was liberty and joy in our worship and praise. We sang and danced in the presence of God. The words that were spoken by our Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam and Rev. Susan sank deeply in our spirits. One by one, God removed the mountains and giants out from our lives. Sickness, financial challenges, relationship problems and fear were cast out. This was possible because of our renewed minds, renewed strength and the renewed fire of the Holy Spirit in us. Rev. Susan also shared on the reasons why some were not able to receive the Holy Spirit. This was because of lack of teaching, of faith and submissiveness.

She stressed the importance of the Holy Spirit in the building of spiritual life through God's way, for communicating with God and interceding for others who are facing spiritual warfare. She also taught us how to be continually filled by the Holy Spirit. God has also equipped us with His authority, power and love. She closed by saying "When ordinary people totally submit to the Holy Spirit, His power will enable us to do extraordinary things."

Praise God, at the altar, various ones responded to the call to be intercessors, to share the Gospel and to receive the gifts of healing, speaking and interpretation of tongues. Nine were baptised in Holy Spirit and three received salvation. Some received deliverance and healing. +



A special presentation by the kids to the adults

# MEGA SPORTS CAMP UNDEFEATED

By Alexandrea Alphonso & Susan Tan

The theme for this year's Kids Camp was "Mega Sports Camp (MSC) Undefeated". We learned that if God is with us no one can be against us. The Northwest University team of four Pastors from Seattle, USA, were the Kids Camp Speakers. They shared on five aspects of Undefeated life in Christ. "Obstacles in Life": Victory does not depend on the length of the battle but depends on Jesus; "Inside Problems": Inside problems can be more important than outside problems but God can conquer them; "Outside Forces": Storms are not always predictable but storms never surprise God; "The Final Battle": To be undefeated, you need extraordinary power and Jesus supplies the power to win the final battle and finally, "The Basic Needs": An unlikely hero may be the key to victory and God provides what we need for victory.

Being a Sports Camp, the 52 kids were placed in colour teams of Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. An exciting Opening Ceremony in a mini Olympic style kicked off the Kids Camp. Two games of basketball and futsal were organised during the morning sessions. The Blue team won followed by Red, Yellow and Green.

At each session, the Northwest team sang their way into our hearts and had the kids participating in the illustrations for their messages. They created much fun and laughter among the kids. After each lesson, the kids responded to God for help to live a victorious life in Christ. After the lesson on "The Final Battle", six kids received Jesus into their lives.

Being undefeated was the main point of the sharing as we sat around the campfire with the Royal Rangers. The four MSC Undefeated teams presented their cheers and were judged by the three judges, and Blue team took the lead.

The final session climaxed with the joy of 16 kids being baptised in the Holy Spirit. It finished off with the kids huddling with the coaches to write their testimonies of God's healing, the lessons learnt and the enjoyable time they had. They also worked on memorising the theme verse of Romans 8:37-39.

The Mega Sports Camp ended with a Closing Ceremony of praises, testimonies and prize giving, followed by a nice, cool ice-cream party. The theme verse recital by each team determined the winner of the Mega Sports Camp. Tasty chocolate gold coin medals were awarded to all campers. The champion team, Blue, was presented with special handmade medals.

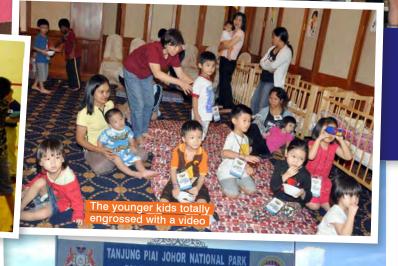
Twenty-six younger kids from nursery age to six years, had their share of MSC Undefeated lessons and fun with their 28 huddle coaches teaching and caring for them. They were given treats of handcrafts, games and videos to make the camp meaningful and enjoyable for them. +

with a happy volunteer

eaching the "Lawn Mower" song they learnt from the North eam to the Rangers who joined the session that night







PONTIAN RAMSAR SITE 1289

PENGHUJUNG SELATAN



# kids and royal rangers camps

# ROYAL RANGERS ANNUAL CAMP By Jim Guneratnam

The Royal Rangers had the opportunity to experience the great outdoors at this year's Calvary Family Camp with our Annual Camp organised as part of the Family Camp programme. They enjoyed the camp with their families and participated in the exciting activities planned as part of the Annual Camp. The emphasis was on appreciating God's creation and nature study. The venue of the camp at Pulai Springs Resort, Johor provided an excellent setting for this.

The Rangers made their own aquariums and were given fish to keep for the duration of the camp. They decorated their aquariums with various stones, shells, water plants and other items. They were taught how to properly care for the fish and how to maintain the aquariums. After learning about various kinds of trees and plants and how to identify them by their bark, leaves, seed and flowers, they walked around the resort, identifying the various trees and plants. The highlight of the camp was a visit to Tanjung Piai, a national park at the south most tip of Malaysia. The Rangers were able to observe various trees, plants and wildlife native to the mangrove forest.

On the final night of camp, the Royal Rangers had a campfire that included all the children who attended the Kids Camp. After a fun time of games and cheers, the Northwest University Team concluded the campfire with a spiritual challenge for all to commit their lives to God. On the final day of camp, the Rangers were rewarded for their participation in the camp by receiving their nature Study Merit. The Rangers went home with a new appreciation of God's creation and nature and a renewed commitment to serve Him. +



# SIKAP MENTAL UNTUK MUKJIZAT SAYA Oleh Pendita Senior Prince Guneratnam

C etapi apabila di antara kamu ada yang kekurangan hikmat, hendaklah ia memintakannya dari Tuhan, yang memberikan kepada semua orang dengan murah hati dan dengan tidak membangkitbangkit, maka hal itu akan diberikan kepadanya. Hendaklah ia memintanya dalam iman, dan sama sekali jangan bimbang, sebab orang yang bimbang sama dengan gelombang laut, yang diombang-ambingkan kian ke mari oleh angin. Orang yang demikian janganlah mengira, bahwa ia akan menerima sesuatu dari Tuhan. Sebab orang yang mendua hati tidak akan tenang dalam hidupnya" (Yakobus 1:5-8).

Mukjizat adalah luarbiasa dan mustahil dari pandangan manusia. Kita memerlukan sikap mental yang benar agar kita dapat mengalami mukjizat-mukjizat di dalam kehidupan kita. Ada beberapa situasi yang tidak memerlukan mukjizat. Akan tetapi apabila kita memerlukan mukjizat, Yakobus memberikan kita beberapa tunjuk ajar yang baik untuk diikuti.

Jikalau kita mempunyai suatu situasi atau keperluan yang mustahil, Yakobus berkata kita boleh meminta daripada Tuhan. Tetapi, kita perlu meminta dengan iman. Alkitab berkata bahawa Tuhan selalu menghormati iman (Ibrani 11:6) dan Dia memberi dengan murah hati tanpa mencela atau mengolok atau mengusik kita. Apa yang kita perlukan adalah sikap mental yang benar. Sikap adalah suatu pemikiran, suatu cara berfikir yang menentukan perlakuan kamu. Apa yang kamu fikirkan adalah apa yang kamu percayai. Ini akan menentukan bagaimana kamu bertindak. Alkitab berkata, "Sebab seperti orang yang membuat perhitungan dalam dirinya sendiri demikianlah ia" (Amsal 23:7). Jikalau kita berfikir mengikut Firman Tuhan, kita akan mempunyai iman untuk bertindak dan Tuhan akan menghormati iman kita dan mukjizat akan berlaku.

#### Apakah sikap mental kita yang sepatutnya untuk menerima mukjizatmukjizat kita?

Pertama, mempunyai ketetapan hati.

Yakobus berkata keraguan akan menghalang mukjizat kamu daripada berlaku. Keraguan adalah seperti gelombang laut, diombang-ambingkan oleh angin. Tiada kestabilan dalam gelombang. Keraguan juga adalah seperti suam-suam kuku, iaitu tidak dingin atau panas. Alkitab berkata, **"Jadi** karena engkau suam-suam kuku, dan tidak dingin atau panas, Aku akan memuntahkan engkau dari mulut-Ku" (Wahyu 3:16).

Keraguan menjadikan kita mendua hati. Orang yang mendua hati tidak akan menerima apa-apa daripada Tuhan (Yakobus 1:7-8). Jikalau kita mahu melihat kuasa Tuhan bekerja, kita mesti ada iman. Yesus tidak melakukan apaapa mukjizat apabila ketidakpercayaan wujud. Alkitab berkata, "Dan karena ketidakpercayaan mereka, tidak banyak mujizat diadakan-Nya di situ" (Matius 13:58). Akan tetapi, seseorang yang ragu mungkin bergumul untuk mempercayai. Öleh itu, jika kita ada keraguan, kita boleh berdoa untuk pertolongan Tuhan. Terdapat suatu kejadian di mana Yesus melihat orang ramai berkerumun di sekeliling pengikut-pengikutNya yang berada dalam pertelingkahan dengan para alim ulamak. Yesus telah diberitahu oleh bapa kepada seorang anak yang ada roh bisu bahawa pengikut-pengikutNya tidak dapat menghalau keluar roh jahat itu. Dia merayu untuk belas kasihan dan pertolongan Yesus. Yesus berkata kepadanya, "Katamu: jika Engkau dapat? Tidak ada yang mustahil bagi orang yang percaya!" (Markus 9:23). Jikalau kamu mempunyai keraguan, bersikap jujurlah dengan Tuhan dan minta pertolonganNya seperti bapa itu yang berseru sambil mengatakan, "Aku percaya. Tolonglah aku yang tidak percaya ini!" (Markus 9:24). Alkitab berkata, "Ketika Yesus melihat orang banyak makin datang berkerumun, la menegor roh jahat itu dengan keras, kata-Nya: 'Hai kau roh yang menyebabkan orang menjadi bisu dan tuli, Aku memerintahkan engkau, keluarlah dari pada anak ini dan jangan memasukinya lagi!' Lalu keluarlah roh itu sambil berteriak dan menggoncanggoncang anak itu dengan hebatnya. Anak itu kelihatannya seperti orang mati, sehingga banyak orang yang berkata: 'la sudah mati.' Tetapi Yesus memegang tangan anak itu dan membangunkannya, lalu ia bangkit sendiri" (Markus 9:25-27).

Sebagai sebuah gereja, kita perlu

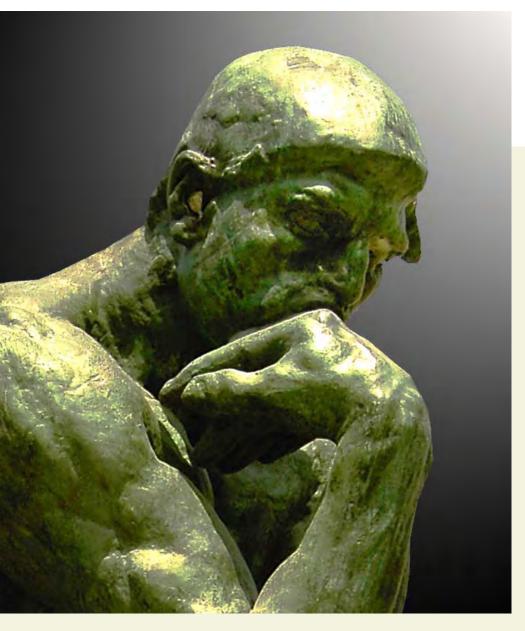
bersatu hati dalam ketaatan kita kepada Firman Tuhan untuk mukjizat berlaku untuk menjamah kota dan negara kita. Ini juga adalah untuk mukjizat peribadi berlaku agar kita boleh menjadi saksi yang berkesan untukNya.

### Keduanya, kita perlu mempunyai pemikiran yang rendah hati.

Pemikiran yang rendah hati adalah pemikiran yang rela melayani. Ia juga adalah pemikiran yang mengakui ketuanan Yesus dan mengamalkan pengurusan harta Alkitabiah (Matius 6:33). Yesus adalah contoh kita. Yesus datang untuk melayani dan mengajar pengikut Nya untuk berbuat yang sama, kata Nya, "Sama seperti Anak Manusia datang bukan untuk dilayani, tetapi untuk melayani dan untuk memberikan nyawa Nya menjadi tebusan bagi banyak orang" (Matius 20:28). la membasuh kaki pengikut Nya. Dalam injil Yohanes: "Yesus tahu, bahwa Bapa-Nya telah menyerahkan segala sesuatu kepada-Nya dan bahwa la datang dari Tuhan dan kembali kepada Tuhan. Lalu bangunlah Yesus dan menanggalkan jubah-Nya. Ia mengambil sehelai kain lenan dan mengikatkannya pada pinggang-Nya, kemudian la menuangkan air ke dalam sebuah basi, dan mulai membasuh kaki muridmurid-Nya lalu menyekanya dengan kain yang terikat pada pinggang-Nya itu" (Yohanes 13:3-5).

Paulus menggalakkan kita untuk mempunyai pemikiran Yesus: "Hendaklah kamu dalam hidupmu bersama, menaruh pikiran dan perasaan yang terdapat juga dalam Kristus Yesus, yang walaupun dalam rupa Tuhan, tidak menganggap kesetaraan dengan Tuhan itu sebagai milik yang harus dipertahankan, melainkan telah mengosongkan diri-Nya sendiri, dan mengambil rupa seorang hamba, dan menjadi sama dengan manusia. Dan dalam keadaan sebagai manusia, la telah merendahkan diri-Nya dan taat sampai mati, bahkan sampai mati di kayu salib. Itulah sebabnya Tuhan sangat meninggikan Dia dan mengaruniakan kepada-Nya nama di atas segala nama, supaya dalam nama Yesus bertekuk lutut segala yang ada di langit dan yang ada di atas bumi dan yang ada di bawah bumi, dan segala

### senior pastor's message



### "Jikalau kita berfikir mengikut Firman Tuhan, kita akan mempunyai iman untuk bertindak dan Tuhan akan menghormati iman kita dan mukjizat akan berlaku."

#### lidah mengaku: 'Yesus Kristus adalah Tuhan,' bagi kemuliaan Tuhan, Bapa!" (Filipi 2:5-11).

Yesus memilih untuk merendahkan Dirinya dan taat sampai tahap kematian. Kini Dia disanjung tinggi atas segala nama. Jika kita mahu Tuhan melakukan mukjizat untuk kita, kita perlu tunduk kepadaNya dan mendengar akan Roh Kudus dan taat kepada Nya.

Pemikiran yang rendah hati juga membuat kita menganggap orang lain lebih baik daripada diri sendiri. Paulus berkata, **"dengan tidak mencari kepentingan sendiri atau puji-pujian yang sia-sia. Sebaliknya hendaklah dengan rendah hati yang seorang menganggap yang lain lebih utama**  dari pada dirinya sendiri; dan janganlah tiap-tiap orang hanya memperhatikan kepentingannya sendiri, tetapi kepentingan orang lain juga" (Filipi 2:3-4). Dia juga berkata, "Hendaklah kamu saling mengasihi sebagai saudara dan saling mendahului dalam memberi hormat" (Roma 12:10).

### Ketiganya, hendaklah mempunyai pemikiran rohani.

Kita perlu ada pemikiran rohani kerana ini akan menyenangkan hati Tuhan. Paulus berkata, **"Karena keinginan daging adalah maut, tetapi keinginan Roh adalah hidup dan damai sejahtera. Sebab keinginan daging adalah**  perseteruan terhadap Tuhan, karena ia tidak takluk kepada hukum Tuhan; hal ini memang tidak mungkin baginya. Mereka yang hidup dalam daging, tidak mungkin berkenan kepada Tuhan" (Roma 8:6-8).

Kita perlu mempunyai pemikiran rohani untuk menerima mukjizat kerana **"tetapi manusia duniawi tidak menerima apa yang berasal dari Roh Tuhan, karena hal itu baginya adalah suatu kebodohan; dan ia tidak dapat memahaminya, sebab hal itu hanya dapat dinilai secara rohani"** (1 Korintus 2:14).

### Akhirnya, punyailah pemikiran yang stabil.

Pemikiran yang stabil adalah pemikiran yang selalu merenungi Firman Tuhan. Yesus berkata, "Langit dan bumi akan berlalu, tetapi perkataan-Ku tidak akan berlalu" (Matius 24:35). Firman Tuhan adalah jaminan kita. Ia adalah batu sandaran kita. Ia tidak boleh digoncang. Yesus berkata bahawa rumah atau kehidupan yang dibina atas Firman Tuhan akan kekal walaupun datangnya angin kencang, hujan lebat dan banjir (Matius 7:24-27). Renungilah Firman Tuhan siang dan malam. Pemazmur berkata, "Tetapi yang kesukaannya ialah Taurat TUHAN, dan yang merenungkan Taurat itu siang dan malam. la seperti pohon, yang ditanam di tepi aliran air, yang menghasilkan buahnya pada musimnya, dan yang tidak layu daunnya; apa saja yang diperbuatnya berhasil" (Mazmur 1:2-3). Paulus berkata, "Janganlah hendaknya kamu kuatir tentang apapun juga, tetapi nyatakanlah dalam segala hal keinginanmu kepada Tuhan dalam doa dan permohonan dengan ucapan syukur. Damai sejahtera Tuhan, yang melampaui segala akal, akan memelihara hati dan pikiranmu dalam Kristus Yesus" (Filipi 4:6-7)

Adakah kamu bersedia untuk menerima mukjizat kamu? Perbaharuilah pemikiran kamu sebagaimana Alkitab mengajar kamu. Milikilah sikap mental yang benar dan punyailah iman dalam Tuhan. Taat padaNya dan bertindak dalam iman dan mukjizat kamu akan berlaku. +

# senior pastor's message



文:古纳南主任牧师

1 你们中间若有缺少智慧的.应当求那厚赐与众人、也不斥当求那厚赐与众人、也不斥责人的神.主就必赐给他。只要凭着信心求.一点不疑惑;因为那疑惑的人.就像海中的波浪.被风吹动翻腾。这样的人不要想从主那里得什么。心怀二意的人.在他一切所行的路上都没有定见"。(雅1:5~8)

奇迹是超自然而且是人不可能成就的。为了在我们的生活上经历奇迹,我们 需要正确的心态。有些情况并不需要一个 奇迹。然而,当我们需要一个奇迹时,雅 各给了我们一些很好的指示去遵循。

如果我们有一个不可能的情况或需 要,雅各说,我们可以求告神。但是,我 们需要凭信心求。圣经上说神永远看重信 心(来11:6),并且他厚赐予我们,也不 斥责或嘲讽,或戏弄我们。我们需要的是 正确的心态。态度是一个思维方式,一种 决定你的行为方式的思维。你思想的是什 么,你相信的也是什么。这将决定你自己 的行为举止。圣经上说:"因为他心怎样 思量,他为人就是怎样"(箴23:7)。如 果我们的思想与圣经一致,我们将有信心 采取行动,神必看重我们的信心和奇迹就 会发生。

#### 我们的心态应该是怎么样才能得到我们 的奇迹?

#### 首先,要有专一的心。

雅各说疑惑会阻碍你的奇迹发生。疑 惑是像海中的波浪,被风吹动翻腾。浪潮 是没有稳定性的。疑惑也像温水,不冷也 不热。圣经上说:"你既如温水,也不冷 也不热,所以我必从我口中把你吐出去" (启3:16)。

疑惑使我们心怀二意。心怀二意的人 将不会从神得到任何东西(雅1:7~8)。 如果我们要看到神的能力作为·我们必须 要有信心。在那不信的地方,耶稣并没 有行任何奇迹。圣经上说:"耶稣因为 他们不信,就在那里(拿撒勒)不多行异能 了。"(太13:58)。然而,一个疑惑的 人可能挣扎要相信。因此·如果我们有疑 惑·我们可以祈求神的帮助。有一次耶稣 的门徒在与文士辩论,他看见许多人围着 他们。一个被哑巴鬼附着的孩子的父亲告 诉了耶稣,他的门徒不能把鬼赶出去。他 恳求耶稣的怜悯和帮助。耶稣对他说: " 你若能信,在信的人,凡事都能"(可9 :23)。如果你有疑惑,向神坦诚,祈求 他的帮助好像那父亲一样,他喊着说: 我信,但我信不足,求主帮助!"(可9 :24)。圣经上说:"耶稣就斥责那污鬼 '你这聋哑的鬼·我吩咐你从他里头 说:

出来,再不要进去!'那鬼喊叫,使孩子 大大地抽了一阵风,就出来了。孩子好像 死了一般,以致众人多半说: '他是死 了。'但耶稣拉着他的手,扶他起来,他 就站起来了。" (可9:24~27)。

作为一个教会·在我们服从神的话语 上我们需要专一·以致奇迹能发生来触动 我们的城市和我们的国家。这也是给个人 的奇迹以便我们能为他作有效的见证人。

#### 其次,要有一个顺从的心。

一个顺从的心是一个作仆人的心态。 这是一个谦虚的态度,承认基督的主权 和实践圣经的管家职份(太6:33)。耶稣 是我们的榜样。耶稣来是为了服事和他 教导他的门徒也这样做,说:"正如人 子来,不是要受人的服事,乃是要服事 人,并且要舍命,作多人的赎价"(太20 :28)。他洗门徒的脚。我们在约翰福音 读到:"耶稣知道父已将万有交在他手 里,且知道自己是从神出来的,又要归到 神那里去,就离席站起来脱了衣服,拿一 条手巾束腰,随后把水倒在盆里,就洗门 徒的脚,并用自己所束的手巾擦干"(约 13:3~5)。

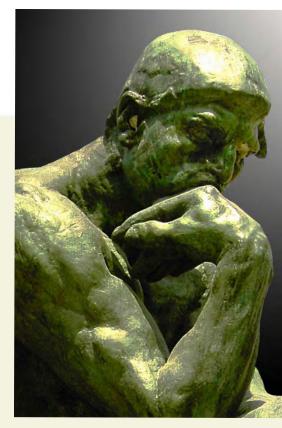
保罗劝告我们要有耶稣的心。"你们 当以基督耶稣的心为心。他本有神的形 象,不以自己与神同等为强夺的,反倒虚 己,取了奴仆的形象,成为人的样式。既 有人的样子,就自己卑微,存心顺服,以 至于死,且死在十字架上。所以神将他升 为至高,又赐给他那超乎万名之上的名, 叫一切在天上的、地上的和地底下的,因 耶稣的名无不屈膝,无不口称耶稣基督为 主,使荣耀归与父神"(腓2:5~11)。

耶稣选择谦卑自己,成为顺服甚至到 了死的地步。现在,他被升为至高超乎 万名。如果我们想要神为我们成就一个 奇迹,我们必须顺从他,并听从圣灵和 服从他。

一个顺从的心也使我们尊重别人比自 己更好。保罗说,"不可贪图虚浮的荣 耀;只要存心谦卑,各人看别人比自己 强。各人不要单顾自己的事,也要顾别 人的事"(腓2:3~4)。他也说,"爱 弟兄,要彼此亲热;恭敬人,要彼此推 让"(罗12:10)。

#### 第三,要体贴圣灵的心。

我们需要体贴圣灵,因为它是讨神喜 悦的。保罗说:"体贴肉体的就是死;体 贴圣灵的乃是生命平安。原来体贴肉体 的,就是与神为仇,因为不服神的律法, 也是不能服。而且属肉体的人不能得神的 喜欢"(罗8:6~8)。



"如果我们的思想与圣经 一致,我们将有信心采取行 动,神必看重我们的信心和 奇迹就会发生。"

我们需要体贴圣灵以便得到我们的奇迹因为"属血气的人不领会神圣灵的事, 反倒以为愚拙,并且不能知道,因为这些事惟有属灵的人才能看透"(林前2:14)。

#### 最后,要有一个稳妥的心

一个稳妥的心是一个默想神的话语的 心。耶稣说,"天地要废去,我的话却 不能废去"(太24:35)。神的话语是我们 的保障。它是我们站立的磐石。它必不动 摇。耶稣说建立在神的话语上的房子或 生命总不倒塌,即使风吹,雨淋,水冲 (太7:24~27)。默想神的话语。诗篇的 作者说:"惟喜爱耶和华的律法,昼夜 思想,这人便为有福!他要像一棵树栽 在溪水旁、按时候结果子、叶子也不枯 干。凡他所做的尽都顺利"(诗1:2~3) ·保罗说:"应当一无挂虑·只要凡事 藉着祷告、祈求和感谢,将你们所要的 告诉神。神所赐出人意外的平安,必在 基督耶稣里,保守你们的心怀意念"(腓 4:6~7) •

你是否为你的奇迹作好准备?更新你 的心思意念和按圣经教导我们的来思考。 采取正确的心态和信服神。信靠他和凭信 心行动,你的奇迹就会发生。十

(以上經文是採用中文聖經和合本)

### water baptism

# 七月份

日期:25-7-10 讲員:翁有富牧师 时间:下午五点正 地点:伯特利楼

#### 祈祷强调周

日期:4-7-10-10-7-10 主题:祷告欢乐 经文:尼12:43上

**宣教强调:信靠神和结常存的果子 宣教强调星期五** 讲员:James Hudson Taylor IV 日期:23-7-10(五) 时间:晚上7点半 地点:加略山教会(大堂)

**结果子:关于宣教的对话** 日期:24-7-10(六) 时间:早上9点-11点 地点:加略山教会(大堂)

**信心奉献更新主日** 日期:25-7-10 主题:信靠神和结常存的果子 讲员:James Hudson Taylor IV (平常聚会时间和地点)

#### 八月份

**中文聚会** 日期:29-8-10 讲員:杨海宏牧师 时间:下午五点正 地点:伯特利楼

**申请浸礼及会籍 浸礼及会籍课程** 日期:14-8-10(六) 时间:下午一点半

#### 浸礼聚会

日期:15-8-10(日) 时间:下午五点正 地点:加略山教会(大堂) 报名截止日期:4-7-10(日)

# **BAPTISED** IN WATER!

raise the Lord that 20 individuals were baptised in water at the Contemporary Sevice on 18 April 2010 at Damansara Heights! On 13 June 2010, another seven were baptised in water. We thank God for each one of them, who by this act of obedience, publicly declared their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. +



Left to right, front row: Yvonne Chow Yee Mun, Chai Kae Jun, Chai Kay Ley, Mok Zhuang Sui, Mok Zhuang Lin, Jonathan Choo Kam Kitt; Julian Choo Kam Hong, Jason Choo Kam Whye Second row: Francis Lai Wei Yow, Chai Kok Keong, Beatrice Lai Wei Chun, Mok Zhuang Yu, Mok Chek Keng, Justin Choo Kam Khuen, Rebecca Phan May Ling, Choo Wai Yu Back row: Tan Ee Laine, Rita Chan Mee Feong, Irene Lian Ai Ling, Penny Lum Kah Pheng (Membership only), Felicia Leong We Yee



Left to right: Reshedaren Selvanathan, Jeffrey Loh Yoke Tong, Justin Chow Hun Shearn, Jeremy Ng Jeack Ceen, Alexander Christopher Lee, Mary Gheeta James, Matthew Christian Lee

	DAMANSARA HEIGHTS (DH) 8am + 10.30am	AMPANG/ DH 10.30am/5pm	CHERAS 9am	DAMANSARA PERDANA 10.30am
<u>}</u> *4	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	at 8am and 10.30am		
11	Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Associate Pastor David Seah	Associate Pastor David Seah
18	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
25	James Hudson Taylor IV	James Hudson Taylor IV	James Hudson Taylor IV	James Hudson Taylor IV
august	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Peter Ong/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Rev. Kevin Smith	Rev. Kevin Smith
au 8	Rev. Kevin Smith	Dr Delmer Guynes/ Rev. Kevin Smith	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
15	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Associate Pastor Steven Kum water baptism	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Steven Kum
22	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Peter Ong/ Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Associate Pastor Richard Yun
29	Associate Pastor David Seah	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong/ Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Peter Ong

#### **BAHASA MALAYSIA FELLOWSHIP** Sunday | 12.30pm

#### 25 JULY 2010

speaker ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID SEAH venue **BETHEL HALL** 

#### 29 AUGUST 2010

speaker ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID SEAH **BETHEL HALL** venue

# Water Baptism & Membership

#### WATER BAPTISM/ **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

date 14 AUGUST 2010, SATURDAY time 1.30PM

#### WATER BAPTISM **SERVICE**

date 15 AUGUST 2010, SUNDAY time 5PM

Closing Date for submission of forms: 4 July 2010, SUNDAY

\* communion

### announcements

# MISSIONS EMPHASIS

## TRUST IN GOD AND BEAR FRUIT THAT LASTS

#### FRIDAY 23 JULY 2010

#### **MISSIONS EMPHASIS FRIDAY**

time	7.30PM
venue	DAMANSARA HEIGHTS
speaker	JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR IV
-	Special Missions Presentation and Testimonies

#### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME: BEAR FRUIT THAT LASTS**

**speaker** Pastor Janey Hii Changing the lives of children through her Mission trips to Cambodia



#### SATURDAY 24 JULY 2010

#### **BEARING FRUIT: A DIALOGUE ON MISSIONS**

Dialogue with James Hudson Taylor IV on how Business Professionals can impact Missions time 9-11AM

venue DAMANSARA HEIGHTS

#### SUNDAY 25 JULY 2010

#### FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY

TRUST IN GOD AND BEAR FRUIT THAT LASTS **speaker** JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR IV Regular Service times at regular locations

#### **CARPENTER'S WORKSHOP**

AGENTS FOR CHANGE Usual times and locations



JAMES (JAMIE) HUDSON TAYLOR IV is the great-great grandson of Missionary James Hudson Taylor, the founder of China Inland Missions (now named OMF International). He was born in Taiwan and studied at the Seattle Pacific University and Asbury Theological Seminary. After serving in the OMF in the US and as a Pastor in Boston he moved with his family to live in Hong Kong in 1996. He continued to serve in OMF and since 2008 has been the Director for Mobilization in Chinese Ministries there.

Come and listen to the perspective of a man from a family with many generations of burden for the lost in China. James IV has himself a unique vantage point on how God is working to transform the Asian region. Let us gain an invaluable insight into how God can use us, an Asian Church, to leave a lasting impact on our nation and our neighbours in this region.

#### CHINESE FELLOWSHIP Sunday | 5pm

#### 25 JULY 2010

speaker ASSOCIATE PASTOR TIMOTHY ONG venue BETHEL HALL

#### 29 AUGUST 2010

# speakerASSOCIATE PASTOR RAYMOND YONGvenueBETHEL HALL

Bring your Chinese-speaking family and and friends. Call Associate Pastor Timothy Ong at 03-2092 1778 for more information.

# **PRAYER** EMPHASIS WEEK PRAY REJOICING

#### 11-17 July 2010

"Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy." Nehemiah 12:43a



# TWISTING THE TRUTH By Wong Ming Yook

he May SCG Open Session was held over three Fridays, 7, 14 and 21 May 2010. We watched a video teaching series entitled Twisting the Truth by Andy Stanley, the Senior Pastor of North Point Community Church with a congregation of 22,000. In Session 1, "All is not as it seems," Andy Stanley laid the basis for the series and provided the Christian perspective on how the unseen spiritual world impacts our seen world by comparing the unseen to the world of germs. While the world of germs is invisible to our eyes, we nevertheless acknowledge that there is such a world because of how it impacts our lives and health. In a similar manner, there is an invisible spiritual world that affects us physically, emotionally and relationally too.

At the heart of this invisible spiritual world stands a deceiver (John 8:44). Jesus identifies this deceiver as a murderer. His agenda is to destroy what is valuable to humanity, such as relationships, communities and so on. The world is his domain, or the place where he exerts power and influence. How he influences the world is through twisting the truth: his method is deception. If we can understand this basic fact, then we will understand why there is so much confusion and distortion of reality in our world today.

The reason for this deceiver's hostility towards the world over which he holds power and influence is because he is the devil, the adversary and God's arch enemy. All he does through deception and twisting the truth is because of his enmity towards God. When we succumb to his deceptive lies, our view of reality and truth becomes distorted, leading us to make destructive decisions. We become rebels against God's truth and ways.

In two areas, our perspective of reality is greatly challenged: authority and suffering. **Session 2,** "Says Who" was on how we relate to the issue of authority based on Paul's teaching in Romans 13:1-7. Our normal response is to evaluate everything before we submit to what we agree with. If we disagree with the rule, we ignore, disobey or disregard it. But our attitude towards authorities placed above us is a spiritual issue. Obeying the authorities is not just a matter of staying out of trouble. Rather, we obey because it is the right thing to do. Obedience to authorities is an expression of our obedience to God Himself, since it is God who appoints authorities over us.

Session 3, "Facing Forward" dealt with the issue of pain and suffering. Stanley based his teaching on Romans 8:18-32. Wanting a context to understand pain and suffering is something we all need. But this can be satisfactorily understood only through the lens of God's plan in human history. Death and a broken world were the result of sin, but God's purpose is to bring about the fullness of salvation, wholeness of body and complete freedom from the presence and power of sin. However, we live in the "now" when we experience God's redemptive love and healing, but are still subject to pain, suffering and ultimately death: we were born into a broken world. In the future, we will experience complete liberation and salvation. But "in the meantime," God helps us in our weakness as we wait for what is ahead.

These teaching sessions helped us to think through the maze of ideas that surround us. They gave us clarity into the Word and purposes of God for life today.



## pastoral life groups

om left: Kok Keong, Beatrice and Key Ley; Kae Jun (front)

# **REACHING PEOPLE**

eaching and inviting potential believers to the Life Group and to the Church is part and parcel of being a Calvarite. We have seen loved ones, relatives, friends and neighbours accepting Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Here is a powerful story of a Calvarite and her neighbour:

#### **JACQUELINE FAM**



"When I asked my then neighbour, Beatrice, how she spent her Sundays, her reply was that she is busy chauffeuring her children to activity classes.

Recognising that Beatrice places a high value on her children's development, I suggested that she should bring her children to Church where they can hear Bible stories, learn to sing songs, meet new friends and have their character developed.

With much persuasion and encouragement, Beatrice finally agreed. So, on one Sunday, my husband Daniel and I brought Beatrice and her family to Church. They enjoyed the experience. Subsequently, Beatrice started attending a Life Group (LG) held in my home.

Recently, Beatrice was baptised in water. You can imagine my joy when I witnessed her water baptism. What multiplied my joy was the fact that her immediate and extended

onne and Franci

family members were also baptised in water! Praise God for keeping His promise that "we shall reap what we sow."

#### **BEATRICE LAI**

"One one Sunday in 2004, I came to Calvary Church upon the invitation of my neighbour, Jacqueline Fam. God touched my heart subsequently and

I received Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. Jacqueline also invited me to her LG.

Since then, in the LG, I have been blessed by the good teaching of our LG Leader, Carol Weller. I was hungry for God's Word and grew in the Lord. I also guided my two children to pray and read the Bible. The Lord has always been there for me and brought many godly people to encourage me especially during difficult times.

In 2008, I invited my brother, Francis, and his wife, Yvonne, to Church for Mother's Day. To my surprise, Francis and Yvonne came. They then started to attend Calvary Church occasionally. God had begun to soften their hearts. Later that year, they too gave their hearts to the Lord!

I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with my father before he passed away at the beginning of this year. The Lord is so awesome. He touched my father when I prayed for him. I will never forget dad's facial expression which was so positive and reassuring. Dad went to be with the Lord peacefully.

On 18 April 2010, I thank God I got baptised in water, together with my husband, Kok Keong, our children, Kae Jun and Kay Ley. Francis and Yvonne were baptised in water too! (Please refer to the report on page 19.)

All praise and glory be unto Him." +

this year. The Lord n I prayed for him. I ich was so positive rd peacefully. sed in water, children, Kae Jun tised in water too!

EXTREME

The Lord keeps His promise. You and your household will be saved. "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" (John 4:35). Invite your loved ones and friends to the Church and to the LG today. If you want further help on how you can do so more effectively, call the Pastoral Life Groups Ministry at 03-7728 6000 ext. 333 and 322.

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missionettes,

ociate Pastor F

sharing devotion

Peter Ong

Missionettes boys and girls presenting "This is the Day"

# REJOICE By Yap Sze Foong & CELEBRATE

Sponsor Julie Yap sharing her testimony

total of 211 people attended the 29th Missionettes Award celebration held on 17 April 2010 at Damansara Heights. The Girls Only girls led in worship and Associate Pastor Peter Ong shared a brief devotion. Badges and awards were given out to the girls and boys from the respective Clubs. They presented a skit and two lively special numbers. The Honour Stars presented a dance entitled "Trading my Sorrows." This year, one Rainbow (Nicholas Lucas), three Prims (Abigail Gomez, Hon Ai Neng and Isabella Wong) and seven Stars girls (Alicia Gomez, Anjuli Phang, Ashley

Neng and Isabella Wong) and seven Stars girls (Alicia Gomez, Anjuir Hang, Keney Lai, Joanne Ten, Mok Zhuang Lin, Pang Kang Shin and Sheena Joy Sivam) received Honour awards. Sponsor Julie Yap and daughter, Yap Sze Foong shared testimonies. Sze Foong was the first Girls Only Graduate to receive the Silver Medal of Honour

award. The Awards Celebration concluded with a word of prayer by Associate Pastor David Seah. Lee Jen Wei (left) and Yap Sze Foong giving a keyboard and violin recital

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam praying for the Honour Girls



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2, Jalan Damansara Endah, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)

CHRIST-CENTRED EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY

Tel: 03-7728 6000 email@calvary.org.my