

# CALVARY NEWS

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## Keys To

## Rejoicing Faith

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

**“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”**

**Romans 5:1-5**

### **God wants you to be victorious.**

He desires that you win every time you are in “battle”, regardless of the circumstances. “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world—our faith” (1 John 5:4). God’s purpose and will for you is that you be an overcomer. In the book of Revelation, Jesus told the apostle John to write to seven churches. Jesus pointed out what they lacked and gave them the solution to come out of their sinful state. Jesus’ message to them was, “He who overcomes shall inherit all things and I will be His God

and he shall be My son (Revelation 21:7). If you are born of God, having embraced Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you are an

overcomer. He is able to give

you the victory no matter how bad your situation

may be. “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

### **The apostle Paul gives three reasons why nothing should get you down:**

**1. God is for you.** “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). You cannot lose if God is on your side. You and God are the majority.

**2. God justifies you in Christ.** “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies” (Romans 8:33). Satan is the accuser and he will bring all manner of accusations against you. But God has provided salvation through

the work of Christ on the cross. Jesus has paid the price for all your sins. “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

**3. Christ intercedes for you.** “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us” (Romans 8:34). At the worst of times, when you face severe pressures and temptations and you are unable, or have no desire to pray, Christ is interceding for you. And if Christ is interceding for you, how can you lose? You will be a victor. Therefore believe and rejoice!

**Let me share with you four keys to rejoicing faith, according to Paul in Romans 5:1-5.**

### **The First Key: Know your position.**

In Romans 5:1-2, Paul says: “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into His grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

*continued on page fifteen...*

# Introducing Our 2001 Deacons And

At the Stewardship Day on 23 March 2001, the members confirmed the ministry of Philip Tan Puay Koon, Han Joke Kwang and Patrick Wong Sing Fah as Deacons of the Church and Lee Tuck Heng and Clarence Ng Thiam Hock as the Auditors. A special note of thanks was recorded to outgoing Deacon Paul Yem Khai Peng who faithfully served as Church Deacon since 1972. Paul requested not to stand for election because of an imminent ministry involvement.

On 1 April, at the morning Worship Services at Calvary Church Damansara Heights, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam installed the newly elected Deacons together with the remaining four Deacons, Robert Selvaratnam, Lawrence Mak Siew Hong, Katherine Lee Lin Choo and Lum Siew Heng who are serving their second year of their term. The congregations of the Satellite Churches and the 5pm Worship Service also witnessed the installation via video. 🌿

## Senior Pastor is the New Chairman of CFM!

The Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) is the official representative of the Christian community in Malaysia to the government. It comprises the Catholic Church in Malaysia, Council of Churches Malaysia and National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) Malaysia.

On Saturday, 24 February 2001, our Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, currently NECF Malaysia Chairman, was elected the new Chairman of CFM for a two-year period beginning 2001. He replaced Archbishop Datuk Yong Ping Chung, who has served in the capacity for the last two biennial terms.

In his maiden speech, Senior Pastor Guneratnam said that for CFM to be beneficial and to fulfil its purpose, we must live the gospel, growing in love, trust and faith towards God and each other. He also said that CFM needs to be seen and heard as an advocate of the gospel and a vehicle for cooperation and fellowship.

We congratulate our Senior Pastor and rejoice with him over this new responsibility. Let us remember to uphold him in prayer as he holds a significant position as the leader of the whole Christian community in our country. Pray for God's wisdom and the Holy Spirit's guidance as he carries out his responsibilities. 🌿



## International Consultation On Globalisation

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam at Opening Ceremony, introducing the NECF Malaysia Council Members to the Prime Minister of our country, YAB Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who gave the opening address at the Consultation.

Globalisation is likened to the world becoming a global village where borders and restrictions are removed. The world is getting "smaller" all the time. This has an effect on the church of Jesus Christ. Where do we stand as Christians? Is the Gospel relevant? How can we meet the challenges of this changing world? **From 31 January to 2 February 2001, the World Evangelical Fellowship held an International Consultation on Globalisation** at the JW Marriott Hotel in Kuala Lumpur to address these issues.

As Chairman of NECF Malaysia which sponsored the event, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam gave the welcome address. He said, "We cannot let the world move into a supersonic jet and computerised age of IT while the church is left behind in the horse and cart or the bullock-cart age. We cannot bury our heads in the sand like an ostrich and believe all is well." "We hope," he added, "the call for this Consultation will challenge us to be at the cutting edge and also be a witness that we care and are concerned about the future and the relevance of the Gospel." He then prayed for God's blessing upon our rulers, our government, the Consultation, the international speakers and friends present. 🌿

## THE NEW CFM COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMAN

Rev. Datuk Dr Prince Guneratnam *NECF Chairman*

### VICE-CHAIRMEN

Bishop Antony Selvanayagam *Catholic Church in Malaysia*

*(Bishop of Penang)*

Bishop Datuk Voo Thien Fui *Council of Churches Malaysia*

*(Bishop of the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia)*

Rev. Dr Eu Hong Seng *NECF Vice-Chairman*

### HONORARY SECRETARY

Bishop James Chan *Catholic Church in Malaysia*

*(Bishop of Melaka-Johor)*

### ASST. HON. SECRETARY

Bishop Datuk Dr Peter Chio *Council of Churches Malaysia*

*(Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia)*

### HONORARY TREASURER

Rt. Rev. Tan Sri Datuk Dr C.E. Lim *Council of Churches Malaysia*

*(Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia)*

### ASSISTANT HONORARY TREASURER

Mr Samuel Ang *NECF Hon. Treasurer*

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Kong Yeng Phooi *NECF Hon. Secretary*

Archbishop Datuk Peter Chung *Catholic Church in Malaysia*

*(Archbishop of Kuching)*

Ms May Angeline Bones *Catholic Church in Malaysia*

Bishop Julius Paul *Council of Churches Malaysia*

*(Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia)*

# Auditors



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam praying for the Deacons and Auditors after they were installed



Left to right Back Row: Lee Tuck Heng, Lum Siew Heng, Patrick Wong, Lawrence Mak, Robert Selvaratnam  
Front Row: Clarence Ng, Han Joke Kwang, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, Katherine Lee, Philip Tan

# Caring & Nurturing By LGs

By David Seah

All of us can recall certain individuals who have made a difference in our lives. They were the ones who called us, prayed for us and encouraged us in our walk with the Lord. Newborn babes in Christ need to receive guidance along the Christian journey from someone who is more matured in the faith. We desire this discipleship and follow-up for all who come to know Christ!



Susan and Eddie Tan (far right) seated with Mr. & Mrs. Lim Eng Hoe. Edward and Rosalind Lee are standing behind

The J12 Principle launched in October 2000 by the **Life Group (LG) Ministry** ensures that each new believer in Christ will have someone to nurture and disciple them. To date, we are proud to testify that 32 individuals are under the discipleship of someone in the Life Groups.

The following are two testimonies by members who have been impacted by the caring and nurturing of LG members who have poured out their lives and believed in them.

## FUNG YIN

“ I have thoroughly enjoyed each and every discipleship lesson we have had thus far, especially the lessons on “Right Choices” and “Right Perspectives”. Through these lessons, God has given me a new insight into numerous vital issues such as the importance of making choices with divine guidance, forgiveness and repentance. With her spiritual insight, Helen Read, my discipler, helps me to deal with questions arising out of difficult issues.

The discipling process also provides me with the opportunities to receive loving correction and care from my discipler, especially during times of discouragement and personal challenges. Those wonderful moments of fellowship, sharing and praying with my discipler, aid in strengthening not only my faith in God but also our friendship. It is my prayer that many others will understand the significance of discipleship—to disciple or be disciplined—as it has made an impact in my life. ”

## EDDIE & SUSAN TAN

“ As both of us are retirees, we love to take morning walks and enjoy the fresh air in our neighbourhood. It was while we were doing this that we befriended a couple, Mr. and Mrs. Lim Eng Hoe, who later became our disciplers. They invited us to attend Calvary Church. Not long after that, we accepted the Lord and have been faithfully attending Church and a Life Group in Section 14, led by Edward and Rosalind Lee. We are now attending “My Faith” class on Fridays because of the encouragement of both these couples.

It is indeed wonderful to experience this new birth in Christ and to find such fulfilment in our relationship with those who are nurturing us. We want to thank our disciplers, our LG Leaders and members for their love and encouragement. ”

**If you would like to join a Life Group, do call 03-254 4948 ext . 135 or e-mail [pascare@calvary.org.my](mailto:pascare@calvary.org.my) for more information.**

# The Greatest Love Story

L.I.G.H.T. Fellowship Nite **10 February 2001** By David Seah

**Ninety-seven single-adults, adorned with scarves and ties (as was required of those attending), had a great time when they came for the first L.I.G.H.T. activity of the year.**

The meeting, entitled "The Greatest Love Story", started with icebreakers. Associate Pastor Richard Yun shared on the essence of the greatest love story—that of Jesus coming to rescue those He loved. Two persons rededicated their lives to the Lord.

After a sumptuous meal, the single-adults enjoyed the games and the group presentations. They went home reminded how much Jesus loves them. 🙏



Associate Pastor Richard Yun

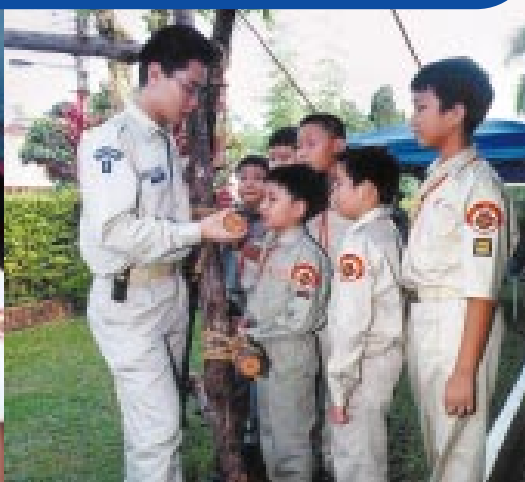
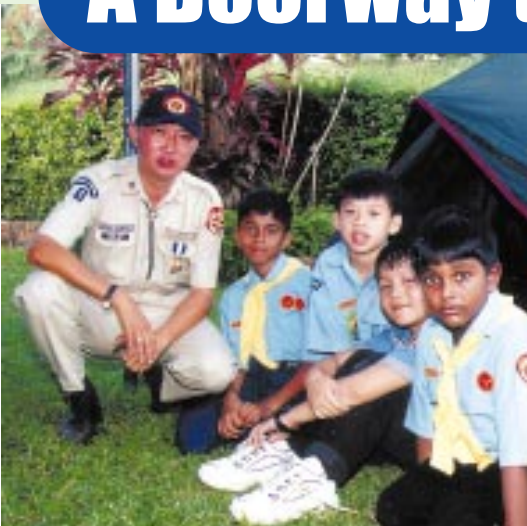


The three men and three ladies who were awarded for their dressing



## A Doorway to Adventure

By Jim Guneratnam



**In conjunction with our promotion and recruitment in the month of March, the Royal Rangers organised several activities to promote this Ministry.**

Among the highlights were the building of a suspension bridge and a signal tower as an attraction. The Trailblazers and Trail Rangers spent several days preparing the wood before a whole day of construction. It was an opportunity for the Rangers to practice and demonstrate their skills in rope craft and pioneering. A mock campsite, photographs and posters were also

displayed. Throughout the month, both young and old took the challenge to test their balance crossing the bridge. We had 12 new recruits attend our Royal Rangers meetings during the promotion.

Another avenue of promotion was through the Rangers/Parents Outing on 26 March 2001 where 168 Rangers, their parents and families gathered at "The Woods", Ulu Yam Perdana,

Selangor, in the morning for a day of activities, fellowship and fun. The Outing also served as an opportunity for the Commanders to meet with the parents to get better acquainted with the Royal Rangers programme, get feedback on their son's progress and contribute towards the development of the programme. 🙏

# Graduating To Adult Worship Service

**Thirteen-year-old Jan Wong from the Carpenter's Workshop (CW) Class CW2J and Karen Low, mother of 13-year-old Kenson Low, give us a glimpse of what the Commission Day on 18 February 2001 meant to the kids involved and their parents.**

## JAN WONG

"In a flash, it was our CW 2J Commission Day. Sadly, we would all be leaving CW. In the many years in CW, we have grown strong in the Lord.

After weeks of hard practice and work, 49 of us proudly presented a song entitled "Touching Heaven Changing Earth" with live music (provided by five of us!) and a dance by five girls. Most of our parents sat in the front pews at the 10am Worship Service at Damansara Heights, to have a better look at us, so neatly dressed. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam explained the importance of this Commission Day. Assistant Pastor Susan Tan then presented us to Senior Pastor who prayed for us to continue faithfully to come to the House of God every week to seek His presence.

**much maturity and confidence.** This was evident in the sampling of talents they showcased that morning. Through the testimonies and the video shown, it was evident that Calvary Church, through the CW programme, has been an effective partner to the parents in their nurturing of these kids.

**My son, Kenson surprised mom and dad with an e-mail appreciating our love and care as parents—obviously a positive outcome of a session on relationship with parents.** Only God can fully reward the many faithful teachers (like those who ferried kids every Sunday from the Satellite Churches to join the special graduating class in Damansara Heights) for their love and care but we parents deeply appreciate them for their investments in our children's lives." 🙏



**After the prayer, we were all recognised as adult worshippers of Calvary Church!** We felt excited and joyful to be able to participate in the adult services and programmes but we were also very sad to leave CW and our friends. We will remember all the happy and exciting moments when we had our lessons, graduation retreat, missions trips and all the fun times we had with our friends and teachers. But we will also not forget that God is with us always."

## KAREN LOW

"When your child reaches 13, it usually passes without event. But the Carpenter's Workshop Ministry marked it with a graduation ceremony for the boys and girls. The commissioning by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam signals the coming of age of the kids. They are now expected to leave the CW and join their parents in the Worship Services and attend the Teens classes under the School of Christian Growth (SCG).

**Thanks to God and the dedicated class teachers, Yee Yuet Hoh and Patricia Yem, this group exhibited**

## A Tamil-singing American?

By Ruth Lum

**Weeks before the Youth Evangelistic Meeting on 17 February 2001, the youth were told about Rev. David E. Stewart Jr's unique ability. It was difficult for us to imagine an American singing in Tamil!** Even though it was a youth meeting, a few adults were present.

Among them were two Indian men who were brought to the meeting by their boss! Bryan Mak led us in a wonderful time of worship and the beat of the songs had even the adults moving along to the rhythm!

The Speaker, Rev. Stewart Jr. began by singing two Tamil songs and he encouraged the audience to join him in some parts. He then spoke on the parable of the Prodigal Son. Many of us are like that prodigal son who ran away from his father. But God, like that father, does not turn us away from Him despite what we have done. He receives us with open arms when we acknowledge the error of our ways and we return to Him.

Many of the youth responded to the altar call with tears and they rededicated their lives to the Lord. There were five who gave their hearts to Jesus for the first time and the two Indian men were among them! Praise the Lord for a wonderful and powerful service. 🙏



# Precious Jewels

At the 10am Worship Service at Calvary Church Damansara Heights, seven babies were dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam. The parents took this opportunity to declare their desire to bring up their children in the ways of the Lord.

**Abbygail Shun Sue Anne** ▶

Parents:  
Christopher Shun  
& Choy Sook Leng



◀ **Clarrine Ng Lok-Yi**

Parents:  
Ng Wai Leong  
& Lai Choi Kuen



**Cathlyn Lee Ivy** ▶

Parents:  
Lee Eng Liew & Helen



◀ **David Wong Zhi Yang**

Parents:  
Arthur & Natalie Wong



**Joyce Ang** ▶

Parents:  
Rennie & Jane Ang



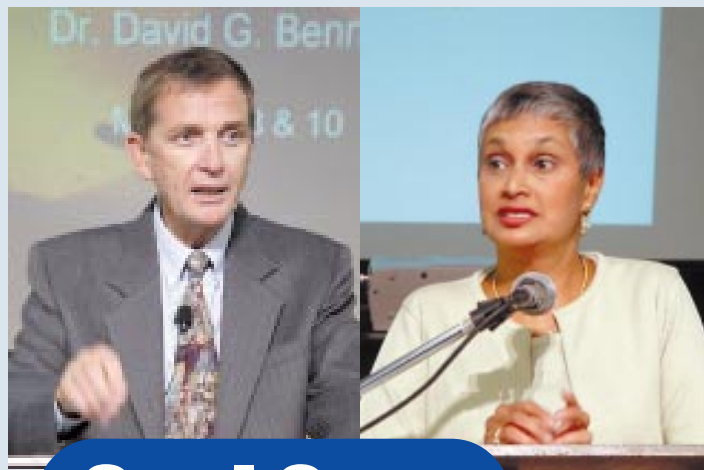
◀ **Leong Su Wynn**

Parents:  
Thomas Leong  
& Lim Hong



**Lydia Soong Choy Yen** ▶

Parents:  
Michael  
& Christina Soong



## Soul Care

Soul Care Seminar 7,8 & 10 March 2001

By Pam Guneratnam

**When a friend or a loved one presents us with a problem, we are often left feeling helpless. We desire to help but feel at a loss as to how best to provide the needed assistance. Sometimes we suggest counselling, but that may leave us feeling like we have absconded from the responsibility as a friend. What can we do? Surely as Christians we can do more.**

A hundred and fifty people attended the three sessions conducted by Dr. David and Juliet Benner. Their message—all of us need soul care; the good news—every Christian can provide it. Soul care comes in many different forms—proclaiming the Word, preaching, guiding someone to make wise choices or helping someone to heal from emotional hurts which is a form of counselling. However, the focus of the seminar was on Spiritual Direction as a form of soul care.

Another word for Spiritual Direction is accompaniment. The focus is not on finding a solution to a problem but rather attending to the work and presence of God in a person's life. As a Christian, we believe that God's presence is always with us even when we go through the dark valleys of life and that everything works together for good for those of us who love God and desire to do His will. Therefore, as Spiritual Directors we can help people recognise and be attentive to God's presence in the midst of their struggles, hurts and pains. Case studies as well as extensive notes were used to illustrate the skills involved.

The Soul Care Seminar was organised by **Calvary Life Ministries (CLM)**, the counselling arm of Calvary Church. CLM organises annual counselling seminars for Christian counsellors as well as for the Church at large. The seminar was followed by a retreat for the lay counsellors. It is the desire of each of the CLM counsellors that we provide the best of Christian counselling and spiritual direction is part of what we do. **If you would like to know more about CLM, please call us at 03- 253 8776 or 03-253 8637.** 🙏

**Please refer to page 12 for more information about CLM.**





By Audrey Kum

**“GO CHANGE THE WORLD!” was the message that came across over and over again at Calvary Church’s Easter presentation this year.**

The first scene brought us to the throne of heaven to witness God the Father saying to the Son, “Go change the world...Your light will pierce the darkness...Your life will lead the way. Their only hope in a Saviour.” Since February, the 350 cast, comprising the choir, soloists, dance and drama teams have been faithfully coming together weekly and more often as the time drew nearer, to practice and ensure that this message of salvation and God’s love would be clearly communicated.

While these did their part, another 1,500 others conscientiously served as ushers, altar workers, grounds and security personnel, intercessors, sponsors, technical and construction/ dismantling crew, etc. The congregations via Life Groups, tracting teams, Departments, Ministries and individually, distributed over 160,000 tracts inviting the city of Kuala Lumpur and beyond to this event. And what a spectacular event it was!

We were overjoyed to see the Putra Stadium being filled to capacity! Over the three nights, a total of 18,800 witnessed a biblical account of

Jesus’ life and mission on earth—to give those who believed in Him the right to become children of God.

The audience held their breath as they saw 4 angels in mid-air and Gabriel, the arch angel slowly descending from a great height before he proclaimed God’s plan for Mary and Joseph to bring forth God’s Son to the world. And was that a real donkey that Jesus was riding on? All these details including the spectacular lighting effects worked well with the singing, dancing and acting and drew much appreciative applause from the audience!

The Holy Spirit was speaking in different ways to each one as they watched scene after scene. Some were encouraged to fight Satan’s temptations like Jesus did; some felt faith well up within them as they watched Jesus heal the sick and some were overwhelmed with praise and gratitude as they saw how the innocent Saviour suffered at the hands of those who tried Him, mocked and tortured Him.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam brought the Word each night



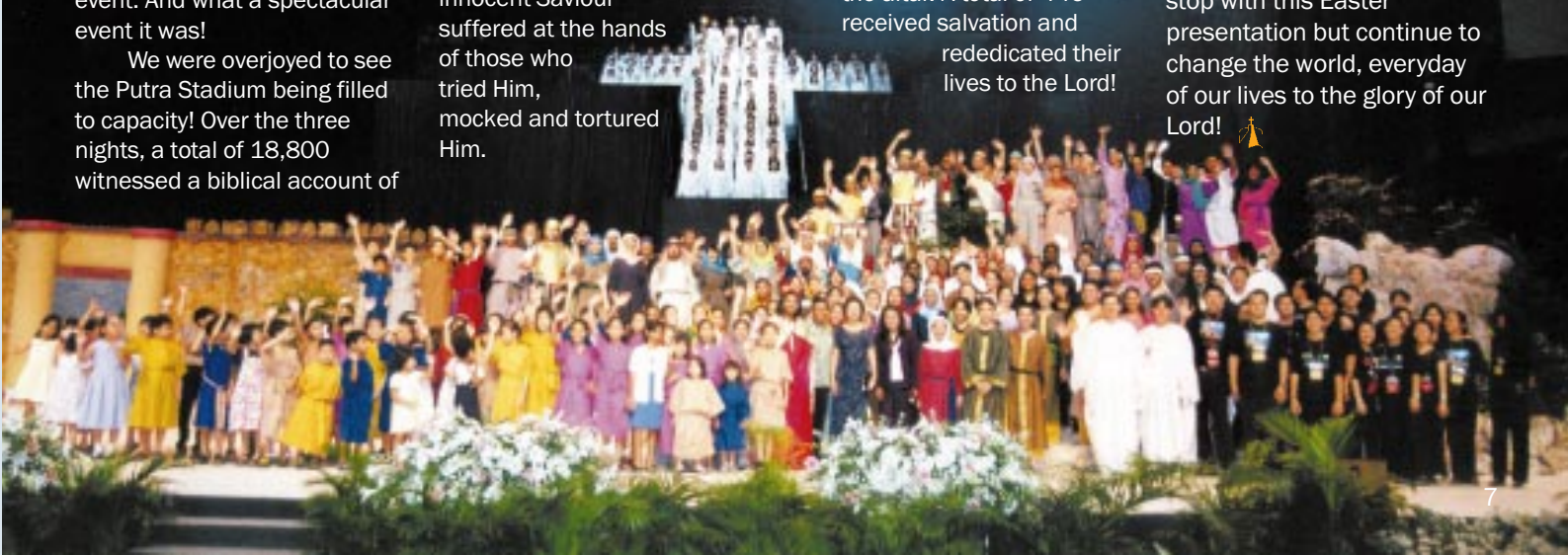
Belinda Ho interpreting the message into Cantonese



Nightly, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam spoke simply and clearly that Easter brings the message of forgiveness, hope and victory over fear. As he gave the invitation, 596 lives were changed as they responded at the altar. A total of 446 received salvation and rededicated their lives to the Lord!

Everyone of us felt that all the hard work, late nights and sacrifice were worth it all!

God commissioned Jesus to “Go change the world!” Jesus in turn has commissioned us, His church, to do likewise. May we not stop with this Easter presentation but continue to change the world, everyday of our lives to the glory of our Lord! 🙏



# Go change the world!

Photographs by Bonnie Bautista, Kenneth Hiew and Audrey Kum

In His sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed blessings on those who are true and faithful, kind and merciful. ▶

The people received literally, a touch of heaven when Jesus touched their lives, bringing healing and life. His love changed their lives and they would never be the same again. ▼

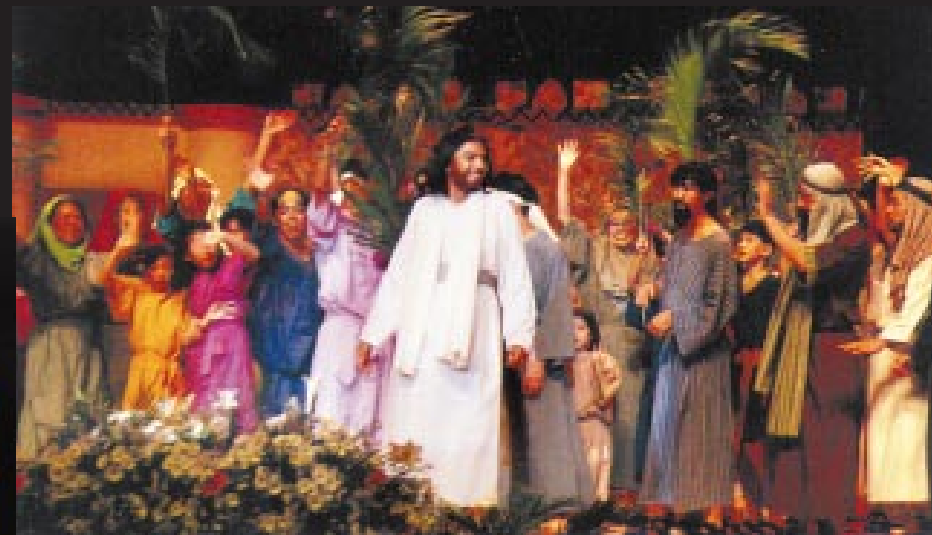


Satan tried to divert the Master from fulfilling the Father's plan. He was unsuccessful. ▼

Jesus then began His earthly ministry. He called 12 men whom He empowered to change their world. ▼



They cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" ▶



▶ How they cheered His every miracle. How they loved Him.

From the very throne of heaven, the Father said to His only Son, "Go change the world! Your light will pierce the darkness, Your life will lead the way. Their only hope is in a Saviour." And Jesus became flesh to live among us as was proclaimed by arch angel Gabriel to Mary and Joseph. ▶



▶ The Storyteller telling the story of Easter to the children.



How quickly things can change. From calling Him their King, they were now questioning what His kingdom would mean. Unaware that His earthly mission was nearly completed, His closest friends spent one last evening sharing the Passover Feast with Him. ▶



Jesus is tried by the Sanhedrin and by Pontius Pilate. ▼



The Son showed His anger when He saw what the people had done to His Father's temple. They had turned it from a house of prayer into a robber's market place! ▶

Jesus cried, "It is finished!" and then He died. ▼



In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus cried to the Father to glorify Himself through His Son. ▶



Judas betrays Jesus. ▶


The crowd that cheered "Hosanna" now cried, "Crucify Him!" ▶





# He's alive! Rejoice!



Sin, where are your shackles? Death, where is your sting? Hell has been defeated.   
The grave could not hold the King!



Let all heaven rejoice!  
The King is alive!




## Combined Easter Worship Service



Dedicating their lives to the Lord for Him to use as He wills

Calvary Church held our Worship Service at Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil for the first time on Easter morning. The combined congregations came together to worship the risen Lord and Saviour!

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam took the opportunity to let the Church and Executive Committee know how much he appreciated their hard work, dedication and commitment to ensure that the Easter presentation would be a success.

In line with the theme of "Rejoice...It's Easter!" Senior Pastor encouraged us to obey Jesus' last words before He went to heaven. We are to go into the world, exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit and bearing His fruit to make disciples of those around us. 



Dr. Glen Cole from the Assemblies of God, USA

By Kenneth Hiew



# Men's Breakfast Fellowship

Tropicana Golf & Country Resort 3 March 2001

More than 120 men gathered at 8am for the Men's Breakfast Fellowship to hear Dr. Glen Cole. Edwin Marsden, Divisional Leader of the Men's Life Groups (LGs) took the opportunity to introduce the Men's LG and their activities and plans. Kenny Cheah and Ronnie Lew shared how joining the Men's LG changed their lives.

Dr. Cole underscored the importance of the men attending the Men's Life Groups. He illustrated this with the account of Thomas who failed to attend the "Life Group" meeting where Jesus appeared to His followers after His resurrection (John 20:19). It was from this incident that Thomas became known as "Doubting Thomas". However, Thomas redeemed himself at the next "Life Group" meeting where Jesus removed his doubt by asking him to touch His hands and His side.

Dr. Cole further shared that the LG is a place where the spiritual family of God meets. It is where they can be honest with each other, connect with one another and share secrets without fear. He used the following acronym to elaborate this:

<b>F</b>	<b>Foundation</b>	The family is the foundation stone of our civilisation and is God's institution.
<b>A</b>	<b>Available</b>	Family members are always available to each other.
<b>M</b>	<b>Men</b>	Men are to head their families and be examples.
<b>I</b>	<b>Inspirational</b>	The family is where we are built up and inspired to grow to higher levels.
<b>L</b>	<b>Lasting/Loving</b>	The family is where lasting, caring and loving relationships are found.
<b>Y</b>	<b>Yoked</b>	The family is yoked together with a common purpose to win the world for Jesus.

In conclusion, Dr. Cole encouraged the men to be involved and to participate in the Men's LG activities and be a blessing to others. The men were blessed and responded by making commitments to do that. They then adjourned for a good breakfast followed by a bowling and golf session with Dr. Cole!

For more information about Men's LG, please turn to page 12

## Join The E-TEAM!

By Carol Lim

Sharing the love of Christ is not an option. It is not just the job description of missionaries, pastors and evangelists.

Christ has given YOU the privilege to bring in the harvest of souls! You need help? We suggest you join the E-Team (Evangelism Team) that goes out every Saturday. You will be among friends, fellow Calvarites who have a heart for the lost, just like you. Be encouraged by the following testimonies!

### RICHARD TAN

In August 1999, when I was a free thinker, I agreed for my wife to invite the E-team and the Sg Long Life Group members to my home for a gathering on condition that I did not have to join in the singing! Over refreshments, Gan Tion Chew, an E-team member whom I had just met, shared with me about God. I realised that I did not have inner peace and was living a selfish life. When Gan asked me if I would like to invite Jesus into my heart, I said, "Yes." The E-Team members surrounded me and my wife seated next to me. I later learnt that they were interceding for me throughout Gan's witnessing.

Nine months later, in May 2000, God delivered me of my smoking habit. I thank God for answering the prayers of

many brothers in Christ and family members, including my five-year old daughter! She asked me one Sunday morning, while we were in the car about to go to Church, "Daddy, daddy, I pray for you everyday and why do you still smoke?" Touched by her statement, I paused and cried silently in my heart, "Oh God, please help me answer her prayer!" A week later, I fell ill and lost my appetite. When I recovered and went back to work, I found that my craving for cigarettes was gone! After 18 years of heavy smoking, God has helped me kick this habit. Praise and thank God for His goodness. Praise God too for the salvation of my mother, sister and father-in-law. I have joined the E-Team and am sharing my personal testimony as a witness for Jesus Christ.

### SOPHIA CHAN

I have always desired that everyone I know, especially family members, accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. I could not sit back and just enjoy God's goodness and the promise of eternal life in heaven knowing those who do not hear the Gospel will end up suffering eternally in hell. But much as I wanted to share the Gospel, I was held back by fear and embarrassment. This caused me to join the E-team. As I partnered the more experienced team members, I learned how to share the Gospel. Now I am confident to witness as I depend on the Holy Spirit who is the One who saves. I feel God's love and grace each time I witness and God's Word comes alive in me.

We meet every Saturday at 3pm at the Education Block Room 1 for prayer before going to the "mission field" from 3.45pm to 6pm. Contact Assistant Pastor Raymond Yong at 03-255 2620 ext. 139 for more information.

# 歡喜信心之要訣

(文：古納南主任牧師 譯：林俊新)

「我們既因信稱義，就藉著我們的主耶穌基督得與上帝相和。我們又藉著祂，因信得進入現在所站的這恩典中，並且歡歡喜喜盼望上帝的榮耀。不但如此，就是在患難中也是歡歡喜喜的；因為知道患難生忍耐，忍耐生老練，老練生盼望；盼望不至於羞恥，因為所賜給我們的聖靈將上帝的愛澆灌在我們心里」（羅五1-5）。

上帝要我們得勝。祂渴望你每一次在「爭戰」時，無論在什麼情況之下都能得勝（約壹5:4）。上帝的目的和旨意是要你作得勝者。在啟示錄，耶穌吩咐使徒約翰寫信給七間教會。耶穌指出他們所缺乏的是什麼，並給他們脫離罪惡的方法。耶穌帶給他們的信息是，「得勝的，必承受這些為業：我要作他的上帝，他要作我的兒子」（啟廿一7）。你若是從上帝生的，已經接受耶穌基督為你的主和救主，你就是得勝者。祂能使你得勝，無論你的情況是何等的惡劣。「然而，靠著愛我們的主，在这一切的事上已經得勝有餘了」（羅八37）。

使徒保羅以三個理由解釋無論什麼事都不能叫你失敗：

1. **上帝是為你的。**「既是這樣，還有什麼說的呢？上帝若幫助我們，誰能敵擋我們呢？」（羅八31）。若上帝是為你的，你就不會失敗的。你和上帝聯合就必能得勝。

2. **上帝在基督里使你稱義。**「誰能控告上帝所揀選的人呢？有上帝稱他們為義了」（羅八33）。撒但是那控告者，牠會提起各種各類的控告來為難你。但是上帝已經藉著基督在十字架上的工作預備了救恩。耶穌已經為你還清所有的罪債。（徒四12）。

3. **基督為我們祈求。**「誰能定他們的罪呢？有基督耶穌已經死了，而且從死里復活，現今在上帝的右邊，也替我們祈求」（羅八34）。在最艱難的時刻，當你面對重大的壓力和誘惑，沒有能力或不想祈禱時，基督正為你祈求。如果有基督在為你代求，你又如何會失敗呢？你將成為勝利者。因此要相信和歡喜！

讓我依照保羅在羅馬書五1-5的教導與你分享四個歡喜信心的要訣。

## 第一個要訣：認識你的地位

在羅五1-2，保羅說，「我們既因信稱義，就藉著我們的主耶穌基督得與上帝相和。我們又藉著祂，因信得進入現在所站的這恩典中，並且歡歡喜喜盼望上帝的榮耀。」保羅鑒定了三項重要的事實，是關於你身為信徒的地位。

**第一，你已經因信稱義。**罪將你與上帝隔絕，但是上帝的救恩解決了罪和隔離的問題。上帝賜給你祂的兒子耶穌，為你的罪流血受罰。當你相信耶穌時，你不但罪被赦免，而且有如無罪。這正如法庭宣告你無罪釋放一樣。當上帝看你，祂視你是毫無過失，因為耶穌擔當

了你的罪（弗一4-5）。「上帝使那無罪的，替我們成為罪，好叫我們在他里面成為上帝的義」（林後五21）。你已經因信被稱為義，有如亞伯拉罕一樣當他相信上帝的時候就被算為義（羅四3）。

**第二，你得與上帝相和。**在你未信主前，你因心里悖逆與上帝為敵。你過著自我的生活。可是上帝召喚你，當你相信耶穌時你與祂的關係得到恢復。你被重生在上帝屬靈的家中。你作上帝的孩子得與上帝相和。「你們從前遠離上帝的人，如今卻在基督耶穌里，靠著祂的血，已經得親近了」（弗二13）。

**第三，你因信得進入祂的恩典中。**認識你已經被稱為義及得與上帝相和，你就能夠來到祂面前。你現在得進入上帝的恩典中得到你所需要的恩惠。（來四16）。知道你有權利來到上帝的面前，你可以相信上帝是不會使你失望。你可以為你一切的需要來信靠祂。

## 第二個要訣：堅忍和讓忍耐完成它的工作。

保羅在羅五3-4說，「並且歡歡喜喜盼望上帝的榮耀。不但如此，就是在患難中也 是歡歡喜喜的；因為知道患難生忍耐，忍耐生老練，老練生盼望；」上帝不要你仍作小孩。祂要你長大成熟。祂要你有敬虔的品格。品格是不容易培養的因為人的心是有罪和反叛的。地位和頭銜是不能產生品格的。不因你是什麼人，而是你的為人。上帝容許困難，苦難和逼迫的到來，不是要害你，而是為了培養你的品格，若你能夠堅忍的話。因此，不要在壓力之下就很快地放棄。雅各說，「但忍耐也當成功，使你們成全、完備，毫無缺欠」（雅一4）。

在舉重的冠軍賽中，一個能夠舉起最重量的人，他就是勝利者。他站好姿勢把手握住棒，為舉重先作好準備。最後，他將重量舉起直達到肩膀的高度，要得勝他就必須將它舉高越過他的頭。一旦他成功，他會立刻將它扔下。當生活壓力來臨時，不要像舉重者一樣將「重量」扔掉。反而，要堅忍，忍耐和克制。堅忍是能在壓力下持續到底和不放棄或放開。當你負起重壓之時，上帝也賜給你力量去克服和得勝。你經常所面對的壓力可來自肉體—貪欲，驕傲和肉體的情慾；來自世界—屈服於屬世俗之壓力，貪婪和不依靠上帝，及來自那惡者—試探和偶像崇拜。

## 第三個要訣：明白盼望的作用

不信者有句諺語說，「坐以待斃」。這樣的盼望是何等的令人灰心失望—他們所盼望的是死亡！但是對基督徒來說，「…盼望不至於羞恥，因為所賜給我們的聖靈將上帝的愛澆灌在我們心里」（羅五5）。當你的信心受到考驗時，最重要的是你不可失去盼望。「信就是所望之事的實底，是未見之事的確據。古人在這信上得了美好的證據」（來十一1-2）。信心和盼望是孿生的。要成

為得勝者，你不能只擁有其中一項。你的信心是建立在上帝的話語之上。盼望能給你想象力使它實現。

如果你沒有盼望，你將會失去你的信心。撒但因此要攻擊你使你逐漸喪失你的盼望。當一個人失去他的健康，他行動就不方便。當他失去健康時，他就變為無能。當他的盼望被奪去時，他就停止下來，沒有能力活動。當耶穌在曠野受到試探時，祂的力量是祂對上帝所說的話抱有盼望—「經上記著說」。你要對上帝的話語有信心，並對祂所應許的抱有盼望。你必須要有信心的盼望。

## 第四個要訣：領會上帝的愛

當你遇見困難時，撒但會暗示是上帝並不愛你。不要讓牠成功地使你懷疑或質疑上帝。反而，祈求聖靈以祂的愛來充滿你。「誰能使我們與基督的愛隔絕呢？…然而，靠著愛我們的主，在这一切的事上已經得勝有餘了」（羅八35-37）。保羅說，「…因為所賜給我們的聖靈將上帝的愛澆灌在我們心里」（羅五5）。

只要你活著，從肉體，世界和魔鬼而來的壓力會向你發出挑戰。但是贊美主，你藉著基督能夠戰勝。相信和歡喜！讓喜樂成為你的信心的表達。

(以上經文是採用中文聖經和合本)

## 五月份

### 中文聚會

日期：27-5-01

時間：下午五時正

地點：以琳樓

慶祝母親節

## 六月份

### 中文聚會

日期：24-6-01

時間：下午五時正

地點：以琳樓

慶祝父親節

### 禱告週

日期：24-6-01 — 30-6-01

經文：恆切地禱告…歡喜

（羅十二12）

### 申請浸禮及會籍

#### 課程

日期：16-6-01（星期六）

時間：下午二時三十分

### 浸禮聚會

日期：24-6-01（星期日）

時間：下午五時正

地點：大堂

報名截止日期：27-5-01

# Keys To Rejoicing Faith



**Paul identifies three important facts about your position as a believer.**

**Firstly, you have been justified by faith.** Sin separates you from God but God's salvation deals with the sin and separation. God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to take the punishment for your sins with His precious blood. When you believe in Jesus, you are not only forgiven but it is as if you have not done wrong. It is like you have been acquitted in the court of law. When God looks at you, He sees you as blameless because Jesus took your sins. "...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will (Ephesians 1:4-5). "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). You have been made righteous by faith in the same way Abraham was counted as righteous when he believed in God. "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness (Romans 4:3).

**Secondly, you have peace with God.** Before you were a believer, you were an enemy of God because of rebellion in your heart. You walked in your own ways. But God reached out to you and your relationship with Him was restored when you

believed in Jesus. You were born into the spiritual family of God. As a child of God, you have peace with God. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

**Thirdly, you have access by faith into His grace.** Knowing you have been justified and have peace with God, you can come before Him. You now have access to God's grace to meet all your needs. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Knowing you have the right to come before God, you can believe that God will not fail you. You can trust Him for all your needs.

**The Second Key: Persevere and let patience have its perfect work.**

Paul says in **Romans 5:3-4**: "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope." God does not want you to remain a child. He wants you to grow up and be mature. He wants you to have godly character. Character does not come easily because the heart of man is sinful and rebellious. Positions and titles do not give character. It is not who you are but what you are. God allows troubles, hardship and persecutions to come, not to destroy you, but to develop your character if you persevere. Therefore, do not quickly give up under pressure. James says, "But let patience have its perfect

work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:4).

In a weightlifting championship, a weightlifter who can lift the heaviest weight is the winner. He takes his position and places his hands on the bar in preparation to lift the weights. Finally, he picks the weights up to his shoulders and to win, he has to lift them over his head. Once he does that, he immediately throws it down. When the pressures of life come, do not throw the "weights" off quickly like the weightlifter. Instead, persevere, endure and be in control.

Perseverance is the ability to stay under pressure and not give up or let go. As you carry that weight of pressure, God gives you the ability to overcome and be victorious. The pressures that you constantly face can come from the flesh—greed, pride and lust of the flesh, from the world—pressure to succumb to worldliness by being covetous and independent of God, and from the devil—temptations and idol worship.

**The Third Key: Understand the operation of hope.**


Unbelievers have a saying: "Cross my heart and hope to die." What a dismal picture of hope—their hope is to die! But for the Christian, "...hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5). When your faith is tested, it is important that you do not lose your hope. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony" (Hebrews 11:1-2). Faith and hope are twins. To be a winner, you cannot have one working without the other. The foundation of your faith is the Word of God. Hope gives you the imagination to see it happen.

If you do not have hope, you will lose your faith. Satan therefore attacks you to erode your hope.

When a man's wealth is taken away, he is hindered. When his health is taken away, he is crippled. When his hope is taken away, he comes to a stop and is made inactive. When tempted in the wilderness, Jesus' strength was His hope in what God said—"It is written." You must have faith in the Word and hope in what God has promised. You must hope in faith.

**The Fourth Key: Appreciate the love of God.**

When you face difficulties, Satan will suggest that God does not love you. Do not allow him to succeed by doubting and questioning God. Instead, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with His love. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:35-37). Paul says, "...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5).

**As long as you live, the pressures of the flesh, the world and the devil will challenge you.** But praise God, you have the victory through Christ. Believe and rejoice! Let joy be the expression of your faith. 

*All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.*



# Leadership Conference

Great spiritual food from Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam and Rev. Dr Glen Cole

Ministry at the altar

Awana Genting Golf and Country Resort 4-6 March 2001

Great physical food too for the 337 (leaders and their families) present!



Praying for one another

By Audrey Kum

Rev. Dr Glen Cole, District Superintendent of the Northern California and Nevada District Council of the Assemblies of God, USA and our Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam were the Conference Speakers. The physically refreshing climate at Awana was conducive for the leaders of the Departments and Ministries of the Church and the Outreach Pastors to receive spiritual and mental refreshing.

**Over the almost two-day Conference, Rev. Dr Glen Cole encouraged the leaders to practice the persistent faith of Joseph and the courageous faith of Gideon.** He directed us to learn from Jesus, who portrayed the life of a servant-leader

and had all the qualities needed by a mentor. Dr. Cole encouraged the 210 leaders to identify gifts in people they were working with and then give them opportunities to use the gifts for the glory of God. From the

example of Noah, he gave us principles to follow when building people of faith.

**We were reminded that we are not just to run the Christian race but we must finish it.** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam taught us

how to do that from his observations of how Paul lived. He urged us to be willing to obey the Lord in all circumstances. The leaders and their families greatly benefited from this short but well-planned retreat! 🙏



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