

# CALVARY NEWS

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## Mercy saw me

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



“Sin had stolen my dignity  
and all my self-esteem;  
But I was made brand new again,  
When mercy looked at me.”

“Beautiful, that’s how mercy saw me,  
Though I was broken and so lost,  
Mercy looked past all my faults;  
The justice of God saw what I had done,  
Mercy saw me through the Son,  
Not what I was, but what I could be,  
That’s how mercy saw me.”

*Extracts from the song, “Mercy Saw Me”  
by Geron & Becky Davis*

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

**God blesses and answers prayers on the basis of His mercy and not on the basis of a person’s merits.** The Bible describes us as lost sheep and Jesus Christ as the good Shepherd who came to seek and to save those who are lost. You did not find Jesus. He found you. The religious try to reach god and expect to be blessed according to what they do for their god. Similarly, the Christian who serves the Church just to receive rewards is no more than a modern-day Pharisee. Jesus said, “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20). The Bible says, “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

**What is mercy?** Paul uses the word “mercy” in many of his greetings. “To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ

Jesus our Lord” (1 Timothy 1:2, NKJV). The sequence of the words “grace, mercy and peace” is significant.

**Grace is God’s attitude towards the sinner—an attitude of love.** You do not deserve His blessings but because He sees you through the eyes of grace, He is compassionate and merciful. Grace brings about mercy.

**Mercy is the act of God as a result of His love for you.** A sinner attends an evangelistic meeting, repents and receives Christ. While he is delivered from all his sinful habits, another, attending the same meeting and who is self-righteous, may receive nothing. Why is one set free and the other not blessed? It is because God’s blessings are given on the basis of His grace and mercy and not on how many times you pray or how well you pray. Mercy executes the love of God to heal, to answer prayers, to forgive and to bless.

**Peace is the result of grace and mercy.** The peace that Jesus gives is

not like what the world gives. When the world gives peace, it is given on the basis of materialism and happenings. When God gives peace, it is given on the basis of grace and mercy.

**There is a beautiful illustration of mercy in the Old Testament.** God gave the blueprint for the Tabernacle. It consisted of the Outer Court, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. There is a piece of furniture called the Ark of the Covenant or the Ark of the Testimony in the Holy of Holies. The ark is a gold covered box with two gold cherubim on each end of the lid. God said to Moses, “You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark; and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I will give you. There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are upon the ark of testimony, I will speak with you of all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel” (Exodus 25:21-22, RSV).

*continued on page fifteen...*

Introducing our

# Church Deacons & Auditors for 2002

At the **Stewardship Day on 22 March 2002**, the members present confirmed the ministry of **Katherine Lee Lin Choo, Lum Siew Heng, Lawrence Mak and Edmund Read** as Deaconess and Deacons of the Church for a two-year term. They also confirmed the ministry of **Bernadette Foo Fong Lian** as Deaconess for a one year term replacing Philip Tan Puay Koon who stepped down because of work assignment overseas. **Lee Tuck Heng and Clarence Ng** were confirmed the **Auditors for the year 2002**.

On 24 March 2002, at the Morning Worship Services at Calvary Church Damansara Heights, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam installed the newly elected Deacons together with the remaining two Deacons, Patrick Wong Sing Fah and Han Joke Kwang who are serving the second year of their term. The congregations of the Satellite Churches and that of the 5pm Worship Service witnessed the installation via video.

Senior Pastor Guneratnam specially acknowledged and thanked Philip Tan and Robert Selvaratnam, who did not stand for election, for their faithful service and contributions. 🙏



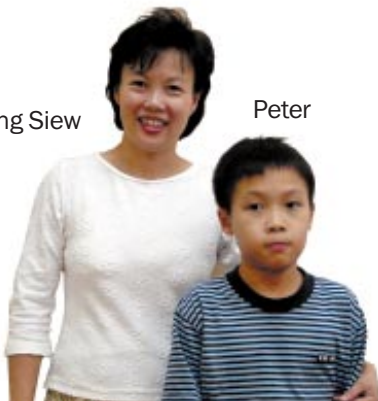
*Left to right Front Row: Clarence Ng, Han Joke Kwang, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, Katherine Lee, Bernadette Foo  
Back Row: Lee Tuck Heng, Lum Siew Heng, Patrick Wong, Lawrence Mak, Edmund Read*



*Senior Pastor Guneratnam praying for the Deacons and Auditors*

Tong Siew

Peter



We thank God for the **Carpenter's Workshop Ministry** in our Church and for the faithful teachers who do their best to look after the children whom God has placed in their care. A parent, **Mrs. Lim Tong Siew**, tells us how grateful she is to God for caring CW teachers.

"The Carpenter's Workshop (CW) Ministry has been and is still a tremendous blessing to my children. The teachers in CW have a genuine and dedicated desire to plant and nurture God's Word in the hearts of the children.

One of my children, Peter, who is ten years old, is autistic and has what is commonly known as Asperger's Syndrome (AS). Individuals with AS have tremendous difficulty in areas of social

## A parent appreciates the CW teachers

interaction, communication and learning. Hence Peter found it very hard to enjoy CW classes and often cried about having to go to Church on Sundays. This situation became acute when he was promoted from the Junior to the Senior CW class as he had grown very attached to his teacher, Yu Sok Lin. His social inadequacies resulted in his being left out of many of the older kids' activities. His constant and most agonising prayer was, "Jesus, please give Peter a friend in CW."

I shared his problems and torment with his CW teachers, Cynthia Ponniah and William Cheong. I gave them some write-ups about his condition. They responded to him with compassion and love. Adjustments were made so that he could receive one to one interaction with the teachers. His CW class kids were encouraged to be more understanding of Peter's behaviour. Due to his difficulty to learn in a group situation, the teachers made sure that each Sunday,

one of them would take Peter aside during Bible study to give him a simple run-down of the day's lesson. As William puts it, "So that if nothing else, Peter will know in his heart that God loves him."

Do you think their efforts matter? Recently, I asked Peter, close family aside, whom he considers to be his favourite adult? There is a long and highly competitive list of adult friends that he can choose from but he looked at me briefly and said, "Teacher William and Teacher Cynthia!" Since AS individuals are unable to pretend, I am guessing that they mean a lot to Peter.

Psychologist Dr Tony Attwood, who works with AS patients worldwide, said that "this world is an alien planet for the AS individual." However, I believe that with the love and efforts of people like our CW teachers, children with disabilities like Peter can learn to live in this world with a measure of dignity, love and acceptance, just the way God has made them." 🙏

# Life Group members find Family Camp a blessing

Every year, many of our Life Group (LG) Leaders, their LG members and families look forward to the Church Family Camp. They have found it to be a time when fellowship is strengthened, they are physically refreshed and most of all, their spiritual life is renewed. Here are testimonies from three individuals who tell us how the Church Family Camp has blessed them.

## LILY WEE, a L.I.G.H.T. LG Leader

It is often at the Church Family Camps that I am reminded of how good God has been in my life. His Word has enlightened me in many ways. God always does a new spiritual work in my life at Camp and I am blessed!

Being a LG Leader, I decided to encourage my LG members to attend the Camp. I wanted very much for them to come to know God intimately and experience God's spiritual work in their lives. I was very glad when two of them, Annabbel Lily and Yu Chian Chian, decided to attend Camp for the first time.

Annabbel said, "I am new to the Church. I made many friends at the Camp. Now when I go to Church, I feel like I belong to a family. That's what Camp has done for me. I was so blessed that I am now looking forward to the next Family Camp!"

I was encouraged and blessed that both Annabbel and Chian Chian enjoyed the Family Camp.

Chian Chian Lily Annabbel



Melvin Park Shirley



## FERGUS LIM, a LG member

Family Camp 2001 was indeed a memorable time for me and my parents. The messages spoken were interesting, inspiring and relevant to our daily living. After having heard the messages, my parents, Mary and Philip, and I had much to talk about together as a family. We were able to know and understand each other better.

I have also personally been reminded that we need to allocate time for God in our daily lives. I realised that I need to prioritise my time and realign my values to God's.

## MELVIN WONG, a LG member

I was not sure whether my leave would be approved for me to go for the Church Family Camp 2001. After much encouragement from my LG Leaders, Park Dong Jin and his wife, Shirley, I signed up by faith. God was faithful and my leave was subsequently approved.

Being my first Family Camp, I did not know what to expect. However, upon hearing the testimonies of my LG members who attended past years' Family Camps, the excitement grew within me. I was not disappointed.

The Camp provided many opportunities to foster friendship with a few Church members that were around my age. I also spent considerable time with Park's family. I really enjoyed the fellowship and sharing of testimonies of what God is doing in our lives.

I have learned much through the messages. It was at the Camp that I was able to be more focused on Jesus and left all my worries behind. At each session, I felt the presence of God very near. It was truly a refreshing time for me. God has spoken to me concerning the area of my ministry involvement for the coming year.

Mary Philip Fergus



These individuals and many others have found the Family Camp rewarding and refreshing.

**Sign up for the Family camp 2002. Go to the Counter today to register!**



For more information, kindly call the Pastoral Care Department at 03-2094 6012 ext. 139.

# Church leaders empowered to shine

The Leadership Conference was held at Calvary Church Damansara Heights this year. A total of 266 leaders of the various Departments and Ministries of the Church as well as our Outreach Pastors registered for the Conference which commenced on the evening of 14 March.

**Session One** began at 7.30pm. A time of worship prepared us for an enlightening session entitled "Guided By A Purpose". Our invited speaker, Rev Joel Edwards, General Director of Evangelical Alliance, United Kingdom, used John 13:3 as his text and pointed out three important questions pivotal to Jesus' ministry on earth, that leaders need to ask themselves: "Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going?" These questions lead to important conclusions; the first being self-assured leadership based on a sense of calling from God. The second is putting the past behind us by using our history to positively shape our future. The final is knowing where we are going because we have a vision and a mission.

The next day began early with breakfast and a time of fellowship. The sessions that followed were based on the book of Nehemiah, using his experiences as case studies. In **Session Two**, entitled "Imparting A Vision", Rev. Edwards highlighted the various facets of having, sharing and implementing a vision. In his teachings, our speaker presented many useful management principles and illustrated his thoughts with actual examples of top companies in the world.

In **Session Three**, Rev. Edwards spoke on "Nurturing The Team" where practical pointers were given on servant leadership and team building. The three sessions gave much food for thought to the participants. After a sumptuous lunch, the leaders gathered in small groups according to their Departments and Ministries. Opportunity was given for personal evaluation, feedback, sharing of their thoughts and for prayer.

**Session Four** was combined with the Friday School of Christian Growth and Prayer Meeting. It was opened to the Church. Rev. Edwards spoke on "Walking In The Spirit". He

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam welcoming and appreciating the leaders for taking time to attend the Conference



Rev. Joel Edwards keeping the attention of the participants with his clear and well-delivered messages



An ensemble from the Ladies' Life Groups presenting a song on Friday morning



The Chinese and L.I.G.H.T. Life Groups singing a Chinese song on Friday evening.



The Men's Life Group declaring that the Lord is above all on Saturday morning



Opportunities were given for worship at the Conference



A section of those at the altar at the open session on Friday evening



The leaders evaluating themselves and discussing how they can improve



Senior Pastor Guneratnam with "volunteers" he picked to illustrate his message!



gave us an interesting perspective of what a Spirit-led life and leadership should be. And he mentioned that to walk in the Spirit is to walk extraordinarily in the ordinary.

The final sessions took place on Saturday morning. In **Session Five**, Rev. Edwards taught us the

importance of "Passing On The Torch".

Successful leadership must encompass the mentoring and raising of future leaders. He also shared on the role of Christian leaders in maintaining community relationships and lifting up the name of Jesus in the light of

the "September 11" tragedy in the United States of America.

Every session was an eye-opener. Participants were blessed as they were not only motivated but had learned many practical things that will be useful in their ministry and personal lives. To top it off, in **Session Six**: "The Way Ahead—Unity", Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam wrapped up the conference with a call for unity as we serve together to bring the Gospel to the lost. As he gave the final altar call of the conference, the leaders responded, presenting themselves to God to be empowered to shine, ready to be used for the advancement of His kingdom. 🙏



## Of Storms and Prayer Partners

By Bernice Narayanan

Ruthanne Garlock is an author of 14 books on Prayer and Prayer Partners. Her approach to "Getting Through Tough Times" at the **Women's Rally** on 6 April 2002 at Calvary Church Ampang was certainly appreciated.

Storms or tough times are a norm in every believer's walk. It is a time when God can work through us and in us. God sends us "storm warnings" which we are quite apt to miss because we are too busy or preoccupied. And at other times, because of our tendency to rationalise what He says to us. Like Jonah, some of us rebel against God so He sends a storm to point us in the right direction and to change us. Most of us, like Jesus' disciples, forget that Jesus is in the storm with us. And just like the disciples, we



Hearts being prepared to receive the Word at the Women's Rally

experience God in a new and different level when we look to Him to still the storm.

Ruthanne also spoke at the **Tuesday Ladies' Worship Service** on 2 April 2002. Taking Deborah's "Partnership" with Barak in

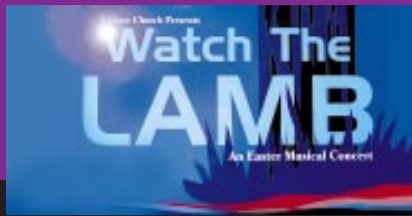
chapter four of Judges as her text, she shared on the importance of prayer partners. God brings prayer partners together that are not alike. Nevertheless, we must come into agreement with each other. This is much



Ruthanne Garlock

easier when we are willing to give in a little so that much can be accomplished.

"To agree" means to be in harmony or to sound together. Linking this to a symphony, she said the success of the symphony is attributed to the conductor. Likewise, our agreement is with the Holy Spirit who is the conductor. We must keep our eyes on Him and adhere to His leading. Simple yet powerful. 🙏



8pm 29-31 March 2002 Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil

# Watch the Lamb

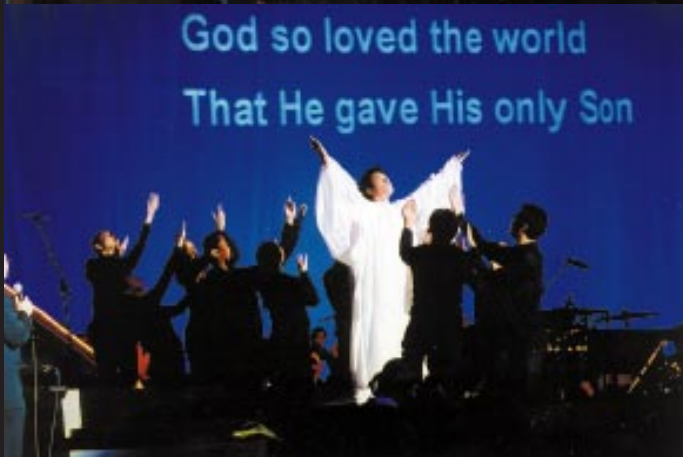
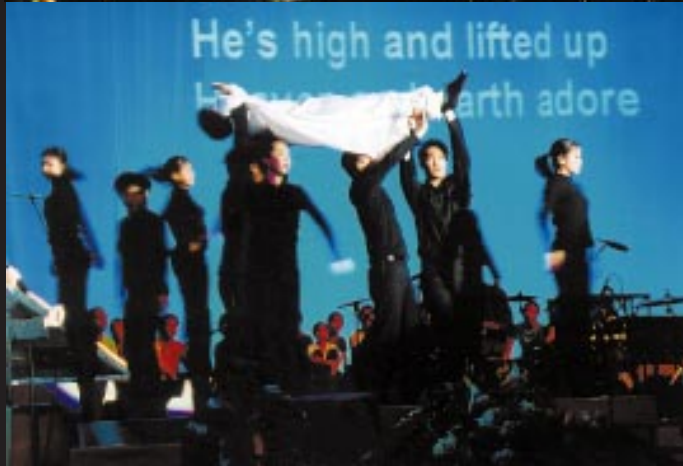
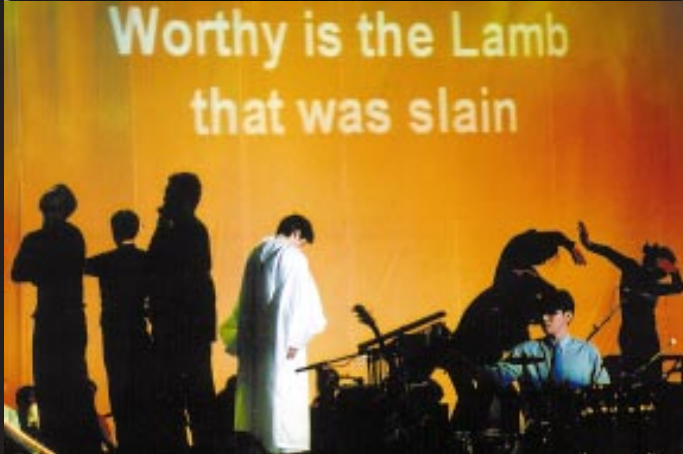
By Audrey Kum

Praise the Lord for the 724 who responded at the altar over the three nights of the presentation of "Watch the Lamb"! Of these, 251 received Christ for the first time and 247 rededicated themselves to the Lord while the others came for healing and for other needs. In total, more than 18,000 people were exposed to the great love of the Father who sent Jesus, His only Son, to be the sacrificial Lamb for their sins.

Rehearsals began in early February. There was no full-scale drama this year. Instead, a Singing Cross made up of 163 singers, 70 dancers, a worship ensemble of 14 people and 11 musicians providing live music, worked together with Ray Boltz, our guest singer, to bring across the message of Easter. Some came expecting to see live donkeys, lambs etc. but instead were treated to something different altogether.

Three-time Dove Award-winner, Ray Boltz, has a goal—to always perform music that would allow his audiences to see Jesus. And we thank the Lord that he did just that. His song "Thank You" which he wrote for his pastor, brought tears to many eyes and the audience could be heard singing along with him. "The Hammer", which he sang accompanied only by the guitar he played, convicted many hearts of the need to change as we too asked ourselves, "Does He still feel the nails each time I fail Him. Am I causing Him pain?"

The song "Watch the Lamb" was the springboard from which Ray gave his altar call each night. The giant screens helped the audience see as they heard him sing of a man, Simon of Cyrene, who asked his two young boys to watch the lamb that they were bringing to sacrifice at Jerusalem—a sacrifice to atone for their sins for one year. They must not lose the lamb as they could not afford another. But in Jerusalem, they were caught in the charged atmosphere of the crowd that sought to crucify Jesus and the lamb ran away.



Ray Boltz singing "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb" with the Singing Cross

Ray told the audience that the boys had a choice. They could either run away in shame because they did not keep their father's command or they could go to him and confess what they did. They ran to their father and he embraced them and told them to "watch the Lamb" on the cross—the Lamb that was already slain for the forgiveness of their sins. The Bible says all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Each night, as Ray urged the people to run to the Father just like the two boys ran to their father, streams of people came to the "altar" to ask Jesus to forgive them and to receive His love and the promised eternal life.

The dancers clearly depicting the love of the Father who sent His only Son to die for the sins of mankind lost in darkness.

The worship ensemble with the Singing Cross and the musicians leading the people to worship the Lord Jesus



Giant screens helping to communicate the message of the love of God



Ray Boltz, from Munice, Indiana, USA, singing about his best friend, Jesus



The people coming to the Father at the altar

Photographs by Kenneth Hiew and Bonnie Bautista



# Watch the Lamb

Praise God for the many who came to the presentations despite heavy rain!



Hallelujah! Jesus arose and is alive today!



## The Calvary Family celebrates Easter together

By Audrey Kum

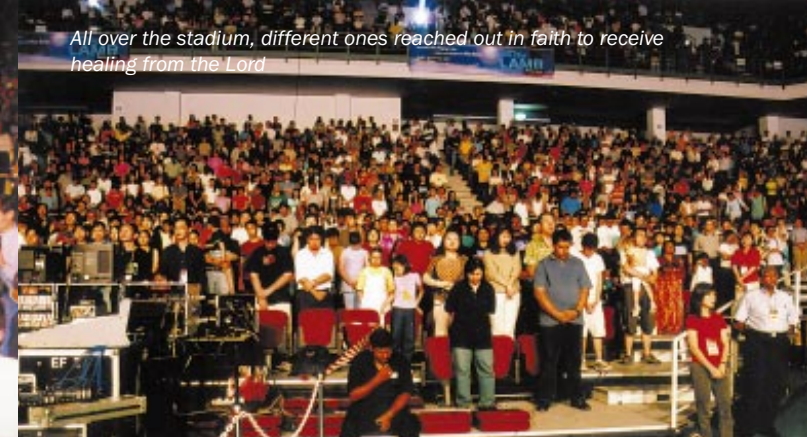
The Calvary Family from Damansara Heights and the Satellite locations came together to celebrate Easter at Putra Stadium at the combined Easter Morning Worship Service held at 10am. "Watch the Lamb" Project Advisor, Associate Pastor Peter Ong took the opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts in bringing their loved ones, colleagues and friends to the "Watch the Lamb" presentations. He specially acknowledged the sacrificial services of the various Executive Committee members and their supportive families, and all who had a part to play as ushers, altar workers, first-aiders, grounds and security personnel, the production cast and crew, technical crew, those who helped with hospitality, publicity and promotion, construction (and those who will help in dismantling), intercessors, those who distributed leaflets and put up posters and many others who helped in various ways. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam then presented gifts to appreciate our invited guest singer Ray Boltz, Wayne Francis, vice-president of Mission of Mercy and Richard Morpurgo who accompanied him here.

In his Easter message, referring to the three-fold appeal of the angel to the women who went to the tomb to see Jesus (Matthew 28:5-7), Senior Pastor encouraged us not to allow fear to hinder our living a victorious life. Instead, we are to have faith in Jesus who can help us live above our fears. We are also to go quickly to share this good and glorious news with others. Jesus Himself has promised to go with us.

That morning, many went to the altar to give their fears to Jesus, to receive Him as their Lord and Saviour and to dedicate themselves to be messengers of the Gospel.



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam praying for those who came to the altar



All over the stadium, different ones reached out in faith to receive healing from the Lord



Joyously praising the risen King through spirited dancing in the finale: "King of Glory"



Photographs by Kenneth Hiew and Bonnie Bautista





# Learning to build lasting friendship



A picture with the L.I.G.H.T. Pastors, Assistant Pastor David Seah (far left) and Associate Pastor Richard Yun (centre)



Participating in one of the group activities

On 2 February 2002, 72 single-adults came dressed in bright floral outfits in accordance with the theme for the fellowship by the **L.I.G.H.T. Ministry**. The whole place was brightened up by their colourful attire!

Fun time began with an ice-breaker that helped everyone to get to know one another. A lively time of praise and worship followed.

Associate Pastor Richard Yun's devotional thought was on building lasting friendship. He quoted Proverbs 22:11 which says: "He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend." He also shared thoughts on friendship from Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

Apart from a right relationship with God which will enrich and ensure a lasting friendship with

others, Pastor Richard advised us to be genuine as a friend and allow time for friendship to develop. We are to love our friends enough to confront their mistakes. We are also to have Jesus as our

best friend and Lord of our lives. When an altar call was given, nine rededicated their lives to Jesus.

After a sumptuous meal, we had group activities which were focused on friendship. At the end of the meeting,

the single-adults exchanged friendship bands with friends that they made that evening. Everyone was blessed to have made new friends! 🙏



## Royal Rangers Commanders and parents meet

By Jason Tan

On 23 March 2002 the parents of the **Royal Rangers** and the Commanders came together at Elim bungalow for a time of informative interaction, an exchange of thoughts and fellowship.

The Royal Rangers Ministry is a family experience. The programme not only affects the boys but their whole family. This meeting was for parents to be informed of what the Ministry is about, what the boys are involved in and how they, as parents, can participate in the development of the boys and contribute to the success of the Ministry.

The meeting commenced at 3pm with a time of praise and worship led by Commander Jason. Vivian Goh (mother of Trailblazer, Jeremy Goh) then shared of how Jeremy's involvement with the Royal Rangers has helped him to be more confident and spiritually-conscious, especially in school. This was followed by an exhortation by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam. He emphasised the importance for parents to rely on the Holy Spirit so that they could be good examples to



Parents and Ranger Commanders being exhorted by Senior Pastor their children as God uses them to reveal Himself to this generation. He thanked the parents for their involvement in helping their sons to develop into godly men.

# “In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice”



At a Morning Watch during the recent Prayer Emphasis week

“Knowing God...the motive for prayer” was the theme for our first Prayer Emphasis Week for the year 2002. From 3 to 9 March, a total of 229 believers attended the **Morning Watch** from 7am to 8am. Many discovered the benefits of spending time before the Lord at the very beginning of the day during this period. The following testify how they have been blessed:

## **John and Doreen Thomas** (from our Cheras Satellite Church)

“We praise and thank God for giving us the strength to rise up early and be able to attend the Morning Watch. We had planned to come for at least three mornings but by His grace, we were able to come for five! Gathering with fellow believers, worshipping the Lord and interceding for various needs has been such a wonderful experience. We know that by His grace, the results of our prayers will be greater than the effort we put in. Glory be to God!”

## **Bernice Low**

“During the “Morning Watch” and night prayer meetings, the ten minutes of silence to seek the Lord beyond words, requests and thoughts increased my desire to have a more intimate relationship with my Father. I desire to know Him more and the time of prayer has helped me tremendously. I am blessed because I came. Praise God!”

## **Dolly Chye**

“I have been so rewarded by the privilege to come for the morning and evening prayer sessions, especially the “Morning Watch”—to awaken the dawn with so many others (Psalm 57:8) and to be a part of the community of faith that seeks the Lord with disciplined earnestness. It is a testimony when witnessed by family, friends and employees of other faiths.

The opening of the Church for prayer gave me a structured opportunity to make this Lent season before Easter, a precious time of remembrance of the Cross, of thanksgiving for my own salvation and a time of shared prayer for the salvation of loved ones. It made me feel special to be a Christian and to be a part of this Church!

You too can be blessed by attending the **Morning Watch** for a time of worship, waiting upon the Lord and prayer.

We meet at the **Prayer Tower** every **Tuesday** from **7am to 8am**.

Contact the Prayer Tower at **03-2092 1778/2093 3946** if you have any enquiries. 🙏

Senior Commander Jim Guneratnam then explained the different aspects of the Royal Rangers Ministry, highlighting some of the major events for the year, including our **Field Day on 21 April**, the **20th Anniversary Celebration on 3 August** and the **Annual Camp from 12-14 September 2002**. After this, the Commanders of the various Outposts interacted with the parents of



Prince Guneratnam



Parents meeting up with their children's Commanders



Fellowship over food

the Rangers from the respective Outposts, to inform them of what their children are learning during the weekly Sunday sessions so that they could reinforce what was taught, at home. The meeting concluded with a time of fellowship and food. 🙏

# Mercy saw me



**The ark was a symbol to the Israelites of God's presence with them.** The children of Israel carried the ark wherever they went. The ark also contained the Ten Commandments (Tablets of Testimony), speaking of God's righteous requirements (the Commandments). God understood man's poverty and inability to meet His requirements. Therefore He provided a mercy seat and placed it above the ark. God's meeting place with man was where the mercy seat was placed. This was where Moses, after he had offered the sin offerings, would go and God talked to him from the mercy seat. If not for the mercy seat, man would have no way to come into God's presence and to fellowship with Him.

## **Who is the mercy seat today?**

Jesus Christ! "God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement (propitiation, NKJV) through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished" (Romans 3:25). "Sacrifice of atonement" or "propitiation" means an act of God to cover (man's sin) or show mercy. Today, the only way you can come and enter the presence of God is on the same basis—by the mercy of God. And what you have is better than the symbol of the mercy seat. You have Jesus Christ, your propitiation. "For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every

way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement (propitiation, NKJV) for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:17-18).

**Satan has brought condemnation into the lives of many.** Some are not in Church because they say that it is no use praying or looking to the Lord. They believe that God cannot help them because they have done so much wrong. Even believers are deceived. They fail to understand that God relates to man and provides for him on the basis of mercy. Sin, whatever the size, is sin and all sin leads to death. The Bible says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God's grace is available in your imperfections, sicknesses, pain and struggles. God sees you as one who cannot help yourself because you are born in sin. You will live in sin and if not for the grace of God, you will die in sin. Only His mercy can save you. He can forgive, cleanse and heal you. Remember you are blessed not because you merit the blessings of God but because of God's grace in your life and your faith in Him.

**It is your faith that pleases God and not your works of righteousness.** Jesus says in Matthew 5:20 (NKJV): "For I say to you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." This does not mean that you are to be passive and not do any good works. The Bible does not advocate laziness! The Bible says that faith without works is dead. When you serve God, you do not depend on your own ability but on the Holy Spirit. "'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty" (Zechariah 4:6). Paul said, "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10). In Romans 3:27, Paul writes, "Where

then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but that of faith." The author of Hebrews says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

**Faith is necessary for mercy to function.** When you come to God you must come believing that Jesus is your propitiation. His blood has cleansed you and when you come to Him, He hears you, heals you and blesses you because of His mercy. When blind Bartimaeus heard about Jesus and that He was passing by, he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mark 10:46). Jesus saw his faith and said to him, "'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight" (Mark 10:52). Mercy saw his sickness, the blindness, the sin and mercy saw his faith. You too can be made whole because of your faith in Jesus Christ. When He comes your way and you believe what you hear about Him, you will find salvation. "To all who received (believed) him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

## **Do you need the mercy of God?**

Come to Jesus daily. "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:14-16). 🙏

All Bible quotations are from the New International Version unless otherwise indicated.

# Building a godly heritage

By Sheila Daniel



Jim Weidmann dramatically describing family relationships in a crisis—they can snap easily like a rubber band when stretched or be flexible like a “bungee” rope

**Over 200 people signed up for this seminar aimed at helping parents be intentional about building a godly family foundation.**

The speaker, Jim Weidmann, serves with Focus On The Family as Vice-President over the Heritage Builders Ministry and is the father of four teenagers himself.

In the first session, Jim presented parents with the principles for building a godly heritage. “Faith,” he said, “is caught and not taught.” He described three areas that make up a family’s heritage—the spiritual, social and emotional legacy passed from parent to child. Parents were asked to evaluate their own heritage in these terms.

Jim then offered four areas through which parents provide a sound foundation for their family heritage. The first is a family fragrance, which is creating an aroma of love in the home. The second is traditions—handing down stories, beliefs and customs in order to establish and reinforce a strong sense of identity in our children. The third is a compass of truth which is the establishment of a standard for normal,



Time was also given to the attendees to determine how they would apply what they learnt in their own family situations

healthy living against which attitudes, actions and beliefs are measured. The fourth, family moments, is looking for opportunities in life’s daily moments to impress spiritual truths upon our children.

In the afternoon sessions, Jim concentrated on teen issues. “Understanding Your Teen” dealt with the importance of parents understanding the issues facing their teenagers and how these influence their behaviour. In the session on “Parent-Teen Relationships”, Jim identified the elements in developing and maintaining a strong relationship with teens during the adolescent years. The session on “Teen Discipline” offered practical ways of disciplining teens without losing their respect or compromising the relationship. In his final session on “Spiritual Training of Teenagers”, Jim identified opportunities to teach, model and encourage a teen to pursue his faith.

Through the day, Jim Weidmann not only gave us much useful information but also his valuable insight as a parent who has been intentional about his children’s spiritual heritage for the past 11 years. In summary, the three most important things we can do as parents for our children would firstly be to pray—it is the source of our wisdom, strength and hope. The second would be to build the relationship with our children—take time and effort to know them. Thirdly, to model—live the example of a godly life for them to follow. 🙏

**Tapes of the above sessions are available for sale. Call 03-2094 1312 for more information.**



Attendees were given time to evaluate themselves



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