

CALVARY NEWS

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Guidance from the Holy Spirit

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you the things to come” (John 16:13).

Jesus told His disciples that He would be going to the Father and that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. He also said that if He remained, the Holy Spirit would not come to them and that is not to their advantage. (John 16:5-7). Jesus in the flesh could only be in one place at a time whereas the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, is omnipresent—He can be everywhere at the same time. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit will teach, guide and reveal to them all truth and will empower them. He will give them gifts (1 Corinthians 12) for ministry and to edify the church (1 Corinthians 14). Let me share with you one of the most powerful ministries of the Holy Spirit. He will guide you. **I would like to mention seven ways how He will guide you.**

1. Through the Word of God

The account of the Ethiopian eunuch who was reading God’s Word illustrates the fact that the Holy Spirit speaks through the Word. Because of the Word of God, the eunuch believed and was baptised in water by Philip, the evangelist (Acts 8:26-40). Bible

reading is not an option for the believer. You need to read the Bible faithfully and systematically. The Bible is relevant for today. The Word brings life and gives hope. The Holy Spirit speaks to you directly and powerfully through the teaching and preaching of the Word. The Bible says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

2. Through gifts to the church

The Holy Spirit speaks through God’s gifts to the church, through His chosen vessels—the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-14). They expound the Word for your understanding. Attending church where the Word is preached is also not an option for the believer.

Hebrews 10:25 says: “...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” God can speak to you individually even when the message

is preached to many.

3. Through an audible voice

Jesus says that His sheep know His voice (John 10:4). When your parents call your name in a crowd, you recognise their voice because you are their child. Just as a child knows the parent’s voice, the child of God knows when God speaks. The Spirit of the Lord spoke to John and said, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2:7).

4. Through dreams and visions

Both Cornelius and Peter received visions on separate occasions (Acts 10:9-16). They obeyed God’s messages to them resulting in the salvation of Cornelius’ household. Daniel, Ezekiel, Joseph, even Pharaoh, an unbeliever, and Paul, among others, received dreams and visions. Pray and ask God for dreams and visions—the language of the Holy Spirit.

5. Through prophecy

The Holy Spirit edifies, exhorts and comforts you through prophecy. Paul says, “He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men” (1 Corinthians 14:3). Personal prophecy given to you

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Father's Day 16 June 2002


Calvarites come together to celebrate Father's Day

By Audrey Kum

Father's Day was celebrated at Dewan Wawasan, Menara PGRM, this year. The congregations from Damansara Heights and the Satellite locations quickly filled the hall. It was a great opportunity to meet up with friends who have been attending Church at different locations.

We were treated to special songs sung by the Sanctuary Choir and Worship Teams, a choir made up of fathers and also by the Carpenter's Workshop (CW) Children's Choir. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam prayed for the fathers present and the CW children presented souvenirs to them from the Church.

Special Guest Speaker Dr. Tom Phillips, Vice President of Training and Executive Director of the Billy Graham Training Center, USA, appropriately spoke on "The Greatest Father of All"—our heavenly Father—the eternal, spiritual source of our lives. He emphasised that God is concerned about our souls. Jesus, in Mark 8:36 asked, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" Our souls live forever. While it is tragic to lose our health, wealth, friends and reputations, we cannot afford to lose our souls. Jesus paid the price for our souls with His blood and by His death on the cross, He redeemed our souls. Dr Phillips left us with a question that we would do well to regularly ask ourselves: "How is your soul today?"

As Senior Pastor gave the altar call, many went forward to get their souls right with God. 



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam addressing the congregation



The Sanctuary Choir with the Worship Teams



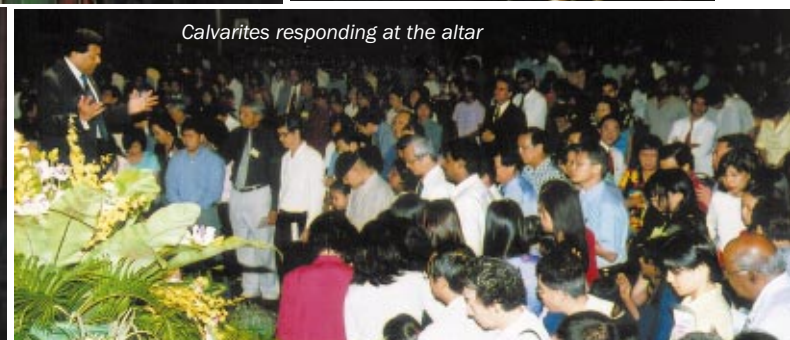
The Carpenter's Workshop Children's Choir



The Choir made up of fathers



Dr Tom Phillips



Calvarites responding at the altar

Precious Jewels

On 14 July 2002, at the 10.30am Worship Service five babies were dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam at Calvary Church Damansara Heights.

By bringing their children to be dedicated to the Lord, the parents were publicly committing themselves to bringing up their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

Babies dedicated:

Michelle Joy Lim Jing Jin; Jaden Gan-Selvam; Renee Toh Cai Xin; Darylene Lum Jen Li; Mercy Hon Ai Neng 

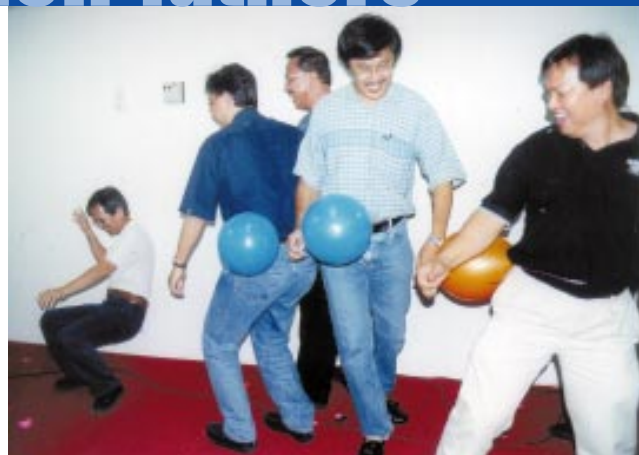
Michelle Joy Lim Jing Jin

Parents:

Lim Chin Tik & Annie Wong



The Rangers honour their fathers



The Royal Rangers Ministry organised a Father's Day programme to specially honour the fathers on the Saturday before Father's Day. A total of 42 fathers together with the Rangers, some mothers and siblings attended the event held at Elim Bungalow at 4pm.

The event started off with fellowship over light refreshments. This was followed by praise and worship led by Trail Rangers Victor Yee and Victor Yong and then spiritual food by Associate Pastor Richard Yun. His devotion entitled "The Candle Maker",

encouraged the fathers to carry on their responsibilities as godly fathers although it may be tough. Victor Yee then shared his testimony on how his father has always been supportive of him and his interests especially in the Royal Rangers programme. Commanders Jason Tan and

Kester Low then conducted the games time. There were four games played. The first had the sons trying to tie neckties on their fathers. The rest centred on games that the fathers used to play when they were young—"Balloon World Cup", "Bottle Caps" and "Arm Wrestling".

The games reminded them of their childhood days! Everyone, especially the fathers, had a good time that day. 🙏



Associate Pastor Richard Yun



Jaden Gan-Selvam

Parents:
Paul Selvam Ratnam & Gan Wan Yeat

Renee Toh Cai Xin

Parents:
Toh Chun Hoe & Alice Oi

Darylene Lum Jen Li

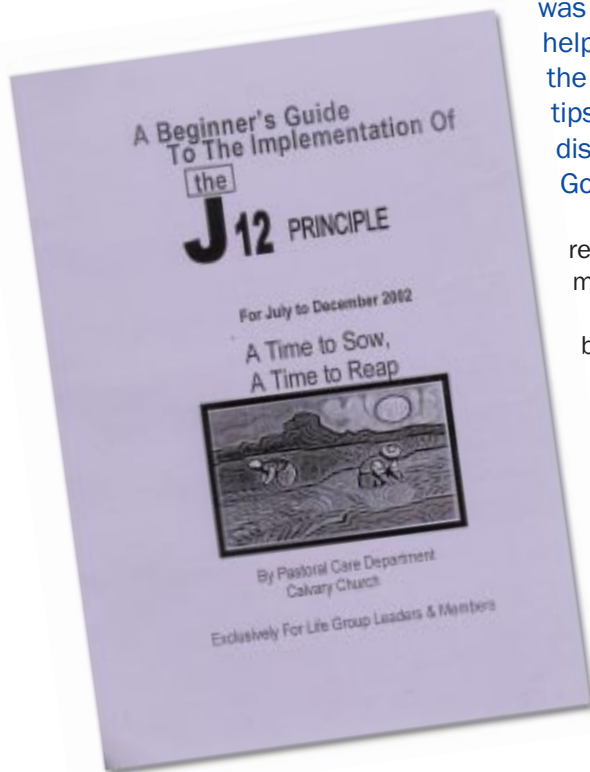
Parents:
Pascal & Grace Lum

Mercy Hon Ai Neng

Parents:
Hon Woei Loon & Liew Chooi Mei



A time to sow, a time to reap



“A Beginner’s Guide To The Implementation of the J12 Principle” was made available to each LG member on 1 July 2002. It is a tool to help each LG member to obey the Great Commission and be involved in the ministry to reach the community. The guidebook contains practical tips to help LG members to get started in witnessing, soul winning and discipling over the second half of 2002. Each LG member is to believe God for one soul to be saved by the end of the year.

Since the inception of the J12 Principle over two years ago, we have reaped a harvest of over 140 souls, mainly relatives and friends of our LG members. Seventy-nine are currently being disciplined on a one-to-one basis.

Here is a testimony of a LG telling us how they are reaping God’s blessing as they faithfully reach out through evangelism and discipleship.



The delight and discipline of discipleship

Testimony of Peggy Low and Veronica See
Co-LG leaders of Women’s LG (W016)

Our LG was one of two newly multiplied LGs in October 2000. The group began with six members but within two months, two members left to work in Singapore. Based on the encouragement in Acts 2: 41 and 47, we prayed and asked the Lord to add to our group. Every individual represents a precious soul that Jesus loves and died for. We asked the Lord specifically for unbelievers to be converted. By October 2001, a year later, the average attendance had increased significantly to 14 members. Such an increase is only possible when each LG member takes evangelism and reaching out to the lost seriously. Consistent telephone calls, visits and fellowships were made to establish friendships that resulted in a stronger bonding among the LG members.

Also, we have two members who are ready to go for LG leadership training. They have been nurtured and raised to become reproducing Christians who will reach and guide others. There are five new believers who are attending our LG regularly. In line with Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam’s exhortation to obey the Great Commission and to help our LG grow spiritually and numerically, we decided to teach the J12 Discipleship Course to all the LG members. The comprehensive study of all the discipleship topics has helped us grow in Christian maturity. The powerful principle of J12 is helping us to disciple our LG members whom we anticipate will disciple others.

We are excited with what God is doing in the LG. Through the J12 Principle, we know that we are able to reach and nurture many more ladies for His glory. 🙏

Intercessors interact

By Karen Seah

Associate Pastor
Peter Ong was
the emcee




Associate Pastors
Peter and Timothy,
Assistant Pastor
Susan Tan and
Calvary Prayer Tower
Coordinator,
Karen Seah, praying
for the intercessors
and their needs

Associate Pastor
Timothy Ong sharing
the message



For the 30 intercessors who attended the fellowship held in Elim Bungalow, it was an afternoon to remember. After a joyful time of worship led by Ong Meng Foong, Associate Pastor Peter Ong, the master of ceremonies that day, shared some praise reports from the Calvary Prayer Tower Ministry. This was followed by an encouraging testimony by Ho Sook May on how the Lord had called her into the prayer ministry and challenged her to keep the sweet hour of prayer every morning.

The highlight of the afternoon was the inspirational message by Associate Pastor Timothy Ong entitled "The Heart of Intercession". Matthew 6:21 says: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all because we are His treasure. The heart of God is with His people. As intercessors, we are exhorted to know the heart of God because that is the heart of intercession.

Recognising that the intercessors may have their own personal needs, each of them was asked to fill in a slip indicating the areas they needed prayer. The slips were then collected and Associate Pastors Peter and Timothy, Assistant Pastor Susan Tan and Calvary Prayer Tower Coordinator, Karen Seah, prayed for them. After the meeting, we adjourned for refreshments. It was indeed an afternoon well spent in the Lord's presence and in the company of people who share the same passion—prayer! 

If you have a desire to pray and intercede,
we encourage you to join us for our Saturday Intercession
at 2pm in the Calvary Prayer Tower.

For more information, call up Calvary Prayer Tower at
03-2092 1778 or 03-2093 3946.


Carpe Diem — Seize The Day

By Toh Yew Peng

The first Calvary Young Professionals activity was successfully held on 6 July 2002 with 50 young working adults who are aged 30 years and below in attendance. The talk, appropriately themed "Carpe Diem" (Latin for Seize The Day), was given by Patrick Wong. Besides having prolific training and development credentials in the business community, he is also a School of Christian Growth teacher and Church Deacon; positions he has held for many years. With this background, he was able to speak about time management through a Christian perspective.

He started the session by conducting an ice-breaker where participants were in groups to solve different time-related phrases. Then, one of the first issues that he impacted on the attentive participants was the scarcity of time resulting in the urgency and importance of time management. He then proceeded to bring the participants to a realisation of the important things in their lives and a simple way to prioritise. A tea break in between the sessions saw the participants fellowshiping and enjoying each other's company at the Calvary Refreshment Centre.

Assistant Pastor David Seah wrapped up the talk by reminding them that it is through the enablement of the Holy Spirit that we are able to reach our fullest potential. The Young Professionals desiring to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live for God's glory indicated their need for prayer by their uplifted hands.

The Young Professionals Life Group (YP LG) was introduced at the end of the gathering. The YP LG seeks to meet the spiritual, intellectual, social and recreational needs that are unique to the young working adults of Calvary Church. The Life Group also purposes to gather for interesting and lively discussions on topics on God, work, relationships and current events affecting their lives. Out of the 50 Young Professionals who came, 15 have indicated their interest to join the YP LGs. All in all, it has been a meaningful and exciting first gathering for the Calvary Young Professionals. 

Watch out for more events coming your way!

For more information on the YP LG,
please contact Pastor David Seah
at **03 - 2099 7135.**

Patrick Wong

Trying to solve the puzzle on the wall!

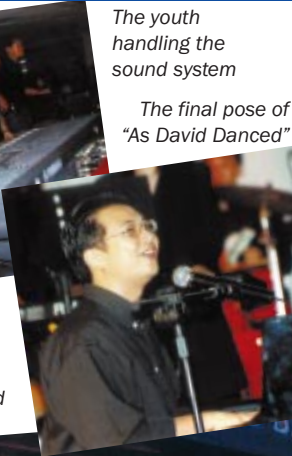


God's love is better than life!



The youth handling the sound system

Adrian Lee began the concert at the grand piano with the song he wrote, "All Blessing And Honour"



The final pose of "As David Danced"



Alvin Kang Nathan singing his composition, "How Can It Be"




By Jeannie Low

In his book "Finding God in Unexpected Places", Philip Yancey talks about how we can encounter God at the places we visit, or even in the midst of the mundane routines of life. Whether it is a look up in the sky on a starry night or while busily clicking away on a computer keyboard at work, we can be constantly amazed and transformed by the presence of God in all that we do.

After months of practices and much seeking after God in prayer and fasting, the Calvary Youth saw God at work on a typical Saturday, during the Youth Concert. The theme was "Better Than Life" (Psalm 63:3). Approximately 720 people turned up for the Concert. It began with a simple icebreaker and a video presentation. Then, a beautifully choreographed dance entitled "As David Danced" was presented by dancers who were evidently enjoying themselves dancing before the Lord. The Concert continued on with a powerful time of worship. Meaningful worship choruses were sung, some written by the youths themselves such as "All Blessing and Honour", "How Can It Be", the theme song "Better Than Life", "More Like You", "Now We Come", "All My Heart" and "With Everything". Youth in the congregation (these included supportive parents and those young at heart) were seen jumping and dancing joyfully in the Lord's presence!

Associate Pastor Steven Kum, our Youth Pastor, shared a short message and encouraged us to always seek God earnestly (Hebrews 11:6), so that we can encounter Him and be filled with more of Him. Praise the Lord for the altar response—six received salvation and six rededicated their lives to Him while many others sought God earnestly. All glory to God!

Throughout the entire Concert, Jesus Himself extended His invitation to all who were there—to be desperate for more of God in our lives, to encounter Him and be changed by His love for us. For just like the Psalmist David, we want to proclaim, "My lips will glorify You because Your love is better than life!" 



Associate Pastor
Steven Kum giving
the altar call after his
message



“Go...You’re His Light”

Matthew 5:14, 16 By Christopher Ling

Church Challenge 28 June 2002

God gives His people moments of great opportunity

As a Church, we need continually to renew the commitment of our lives to live for and serve God not only with our finances but in all aspects of our daily living. We need to reach out and possess our God-given moment of opportunity. This stirring challenge set the stage for the first of the three Missions-related services in the closing days of June, this year.

The Friday night service included special numbers presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Adult Ensemble as well as a brief news update presented by the Calvary Missions News Network (CMNN)—obviously tailored after its more illustrious media counterpart.

Rev. Sam Johnson then took the pulpit, beginning by calling on the congregation to be constantly on the lookout for that “one moment of great opportunity” which he believes exists in everyone’s lifetime.

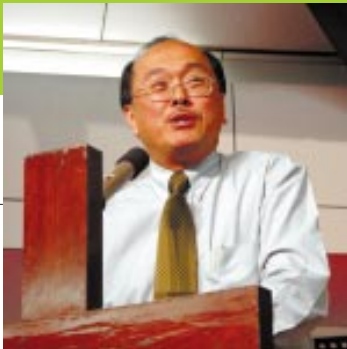
Articulating his way through an extensive line-up of Old and New Testament personalities, from Moses all the way to the thief on the cross—who all had their moments of great opportunity—he encouraged us to seize that moment that God provides us with.

Being a dynamic communicator, Rev. Johnson had little difficulty in engaging the ears of the congregation. One could not help but notice that the conviction, with which he preaches, stems from a deep-rooted compassion that

he feels for the lost.

Having served as a pastor and missionary to Europe the last 30 years has also given Rev. Johnson many a story and personal experience to recount. He currently serves as the vice-president of Mission of Mercy, a ministry to underprivileged children of Europe and Africa.

In conclusion, Rev. Johnson told us an amazing story of a lady who ended up with a month’s supply of groceries from a supermarket without paying anything for



Missions Director, Associate Pastor Peter Ong

them simply by her absolute obedience to what God had told her to do. The life-changing principle of hearing God’s voice, listening to Him and obeying Him—no matter what—applies to us all. And we too can look forward to moments of great opportunity in our lives.



Our very own newscasters: Dolly Chye and Samuel Yap



Individuals responding to a call to full-time ministry

Praying for the team going to East Malaysia on a missions trip

Youth Challenge 29 June 2002

Calvary Youth challenged to share their faith



Rev. Sam Johnson



Youth indicating their willingness to be involved in youth missions

Saturday afternoon presented Rev. Sam Johnson with the task of challenging the 119 young people who attended the youth meeting, to get immersed in the work of missions.

Prefaced by two insightful personal testimonies given by Sheryl Chong and Cheryl Mohan, Rev Johnson spoke with an ease evident of his ministry in years gone by as a Youth Pastor in Sioux City, Iowa and his subsequent work with Teen Challenge in Portugal.

Urging the young people from the beginning to “keep the long view in mind” and not to allow “current problems” to plague

them, he proceeded to highlight the following three points using the brief epistle written by Jude:

1. The defence of the faith is ours to make. Verse three asks us to contend earnestly for the faith or vigorously defend it. Only a defence of faith in the Lord Jesus will stand in eternity. In contrast, Cain, when trying to defend (and possibly regain) an earthly position as an elder brother to Abel, merely succeeded in becoming the first murderer in the history of mankind.

2. The dedication is mine to offer. Verse 20 talks of “building yourselves up in your most holy faith” whilst verse 21 says, “Keep yourselves in the love of God.” We are to stop dedicating

someone else’s abilities, time and talents. It is time that we dedicate ourselves completely to God.

3. The demonstration is God’s to give. Verses 24 and 25, familiar to us as a Benediction, also speak of God’s all-encompassing love for us. It is He who will enable us to defend our faith in Him and keep us from falling in the process because God is “crazy” about us.

We praise God for the one soul who received salvation and the two who rededicated their lives to the Lord. A missionary offering was collected to sponsor a seminar/youth evangelistic meeting in Medan, Indonesia, in the latter half of the year.

Faith Promise Challenge 30 June 2002

Following the Good Samaritan’s lead

Faith Promise Renewal Sunday has always been regarded as an important event in the Church calendar. As a fitting conclusion to a weekend of services focused on the work of missions, the exercise of Faith Promise Renewal allows each member of the various congregations of the Church to be actively involved in God’s work.

Before welcoming Rev. Sam Johnson to the pulpit, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam reminded the Church that the Faith Promise

programme is a key to our involvement in missions. Missions work by our Church in places as geographically diverse as Nairobi, Kenya, Vancouver, Canada and locally in Gemas, Johor can continue and be further strengthened by faithful giving. He further reminded the Church to be willing and obedient to the call of God.

Rev. Sam Johnson spoke on compassion and defined it as the love of God when it makes contact with human need. He presented three qualities of genuine, life-transforming compassion, making reference to the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

Compassion is practical. God’s love compels the believer to do something to help the one in need as seen in the response of the Good Samaritan towards the physically injured man by the roadside.

Compassion is universal. The Priest, who was the first to walk by, had the educational qualifications but did nothing to help the injured man. The Levite (helper to the Priest), who would have been the closest linguistically and culturally to the man to be able to minister to his needs effectively, also did nothing. It took the Samaritan, a man from a different culture and racial background, to minister



Rev. Sam Johnson

to the needs of the dying man.

Compassion is costly. There is a price to be paid in bringing God’s compassion to His people and it involves moving out of our comfort zones. The Priest and the Levite were unwilling to pay the price. However, it was the Samaritan who was willing to do what was necessary to ease the suffering of the man by the roadside.



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam leading in prayer for the Faith Promise partners

Rev. Johnson pointed out that too often, we merely respond to altar calls, telling God that we would heed his call. However, when the call actually comes, we give excuses not to go. When the opportunity arises for us to serve, we are nowhere to be found. Whose lead are we following? That of the Priest, the Levite or the Good Samaritan?

That Sunday, a Missionary offering was taken in aid of one of four homes for HIV-infected babies in Portugal. We praise God for the 2,721 individuals from Damansara Heights and the various Satellite locations who made Faith Promise pledges.

Kids exercise faith

We praise God that 604 of the Carpenter’s Workshop children committed themselves in faith to give to the work of missions!



Our missionaries to Kenya, Tony (below) and Christine Phang (above) telling the kids about their work in Kenya.

Those really are God's words



“The Scriptures Inspired: The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.” One of the choruses I sang as a child in Sunday school is indelibly impressed on my mind:

“The B-I-B-L-E.” This little chorus asserted that the Bible was the book for me, the Word of God upon which I could stand. In the years that have passed since childhood, I have found that the sentiment of that chorus is true—God has spoken to us, that speech is recorded infallibly for us in the Bible, and we can stand on that Word alone.

We use several designations to define what we mean by “the Scriptures.” For instance, we call them sacred writings, and in so doing we are in agreement with the view of the ancient Hebrews and early Christians. When Paul assured Timothy that the Scriptures were invaluable for life and service, he referred to them as the Scriptures, or the “writings,” the same way in

which the nation of Israel referred to those sacred writings by which they lived (2 Timothy 3:14-17, NIV). These writings are sacred because of their divine source; they are the product of Almighty God through human authors. They are sacred also because of their value to humans; they provide for us the knowledge of God that is necessary for our salvation.

The Bible provides authoritative guidance to humans, not only for salvation but also for the direction needed for living this life. Other authoritative sources, such as the church, tradition and reason, are valued in their respective places, but the Bible is the ultimate authority by which Christians live their lives. The Word of God is life itself. The life that is provided by the

Word of God is not merely adequate, it is abundant and full. The riches of the kingdom of God in the present are found and experienced in the Word of God, providing preparation for the future complete expression of the kingdom of God.

The Bible is one book, divided into the Old and New Testaments. Several factors clearly set forth the unity of the two Testaments. There is a common theme to be found in both the Old and New Testaments—the plan of God to redeem fallen humanity, focused on the sending of His Son to be the Redeemer. There is evidence of a common author, God himself, speaking through chosen human authors to make known His will. The prophetic utterances and their subsequent fulfillment also link the two

Testaments. The story of Jesus, especially as told by Matthew, is replete with examples of fulfilled prophecies, including the miraculous nature of and place of His birth and the flight into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod (Matthew 1:22,23; 2:5,6,14,15).

God has chosen to reveal, to disclose, himself to humans, without which we could not know Him.

Indeed, we have not found God; He has found us, and that is the exciting truth of Christianity. He has revealed himself in the world that He created, in the constitution of human beings, and in the flow of human history. These aspects of His revelation, however, pale in the light of the disclosure of himself made in Jesus Christ. Before His death Jesus made sure the disciples knew that in seeing Him they had seen the Father (John 14:9-11), and the writer of Hebrews called Jesus the “radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being” (1:3). To make sure that we would not miss Him, God took upon himself human flesh and lived among us.

Though we do not now see Jesus in the flesh, as did the disciples, we have the revelation of God in human words. God chose to inspire humans to write about Him to ensure that we could encounter Him. While we do not know what verbal symbols God uses in heaven, for us He has chosen to use the language of this earth. We may not have been able to understand the communication system of heaven, but we can know the manner in which He has chosen to communicate with us—our language. In this way His revelation can be transmitted and preserved through time.

The process by which God has allowed His revelation to be encapsulated in human language can be described as plenary-verbal inspiration. Paul declared to Timothy

that “all Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16), which aptly shows what is meant by the concept of inspiration. The Bible is the very product of the breathing out of God through human vessels. Peter described the origin of Scripture and identified the same two elements: “Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

Both Paul and Peter point to the successful work of God the Holy Spirit to inspire the writing of the Scriptures so that in their entirety they fully declare the Word of God to us. God chose to employ human authors for the activity of writing His revelation in human language. In using them to write Holy Scripture He did not violate their humanity, but engaged them fully in the process. Making use of their vocabularies and writing styles, God moved upon the biblical writers so that they wrote His will for succeeding generations to read.

The work of the Holy Spirit upon those human authors was so mysterious and powerful that, without His dictating what they were to write, they did write what He wanted written. The words they chose to use in actuality were the precise words that best conveyed the will of God. Thus, God worked to ensure that the message was not lost in the process of flowing through human authors.

With such an involvement of God in the writing of Scripture, it is not surprising that we describe God’s Word as infallible. The Word of God contains such force that it will accomplish its intended purpose. The prophet Isaiah noted, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever” (40:8). The infallible Word of God is totally correct. There is no possibility that the Bible will ever mislead us because it tells the truth in every assertion it makes.

The Assemblies of God maintains that the Bible is “the authoritative rule of faith and conduct.” This is very similar to Paul’s assertion that the Bible is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Scriptures tell us what we are to believe and we must be careful to allow the Bible to judge our beliefs. Our manner of living is not decided upon by a comparison with that of the world. Rather, the Bible speaks to us about the way we conduct ourselves as ambassadors of God in this dark and dying world. When confronted with situations that bring distress and sorrow into our lives, we turn to the Bible and in it hear the Word of God bringing comfort and strength.

We may no longer sing the children’s chorus “The B-I-B-L-E,” but the truth that it declared is still to be considered. The Bible is the Word of God and provides that upon which we can stand no matter what happens in the world around us. In the Bible, God still speaks to us, and we hear Him as we worshipfully read it.



Jim Railey is professor of theology and chairperson of the Bible and Theology Department at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

This is the first in a series of eight monthly articles on the 16 Foundational Truths of the Assemblies of God, written by faculty of Assemblies of God Theological Seminary for the Pentecostal Evangel.



Guidance from the Holy Spirit

concerning the future, is given as a confirmation of what the Lord has already spoken to you.

6. Through your conscience

When you listen to your conscience, it gives you the cutting edge. The Holy Spirit convicts you of the laws of God through your conscience. This is what happened to the accusers of the woman who was caught in adultery and brought to Jesus. Jesus said, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first" (John 8:7). "Those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing in the midst" (John 8:9). The Holy Spirit can guide you through your conscience.

7. Through circumstances

God speaks through circumstances. He may guide your circumstances to open a door for you or to close it. The Bible says, "See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it..." (Revelation 3:8). However, when the adversary hinders you from entering the open door, exercise your faith and speak to the "mountain" to be removed. The Holy Spirit will guide you and give you wisdom.

Now that you know the Holy Spirit will guide you, you need to make sure you know His voice. The following account, recorded in the Bible about Daniel, is a beautiful illustration that prepares you to know the voice of God. There are four facts that need to be noted in this account.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and he wanted to know what it meant. None of the astrologers, magicians or sorcerers could interpret the king's dream. The king was angry

and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed and they also sought to kill Daniel and his companions. Daniel 2:14-19 describes Daniel's response:

"Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; he answered and said to Arioch the King's captain 'Why is the decree from the king so urgent?' Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven."

Firstly, desire God's will. Desire is a motivating force. Desire can cause you to sin or to do the will of God. Daniel had a desire to seek God for the interpretation so he boldly asked the king for time. When you seek God for guidance, you need to make time to understand the Word and to receive God's revelation. Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 5:7).

Secondly, have an obedient heart. Daniel lived a life of obedience. "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" (Daniel 1:8). His obedience had to do with food in this instance but it was clear that his obedience applied to all areas of his life. Daniel did what was pleasing to God and God blessed him and gave him wisdom (Daniel 2:46-49).

Thirdly, pray. Do what it takes to hear His voice. Daniel was a praying man (Daniel 6:10). Daniel took time to pray. He prayed and sought prayer support from his friends. You too need the prayers of other believers. Take advantage of opportunities to pray with others whether in large or small groups. God answers prayer. "Call to

Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).


Fourthly, be a worshipper. Daniel was a worshipper. Daniel blessed God for the revelation given to him. When you worship God, He will communicate and relate with you. It is the will of God that you worship God. Jesus said, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve" (Luke 4:8).

In conclusion, let me mention three hindrances that can cause you to miss the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Firstly, when circumstances are not in your favour and you are filled with fear, you doubt whether you have heard correctly from God. At such times do not let fear hinder you but exercise faith. Faith is the only currency that will buy in God's economy. God told Joshua that He would divide the waters of the Jordan for the children of Israel as soon as the priests step into the water (Joshua 3:13). But you want the waters to divide before you would step in. Believe first, then you will see. Do not let your circumstances cause fear to hinder you from God's will and purpose. Obey Him and He will give you the victory.

Secondly, being religious can also cause you to miss what God is saying. The religious have a form of godliness but do not manifest God's power. They may look spiritual, be rational and democratic but all these do not mean that they are right. When Israel went to the Prophet Samuel and demanded for a king, they missed the will of God when they chose what the majority wanted. Today the challenge is, be led by the Holy Spirit and not by "kings" in your life, the way of the majority.

Finally, do not take short cuts to hear from God by asking others to pray for you and finding out from them what the will of God is for you. It is like hiring a receptionist to receive your calls. Pick up the telephone yourself and hear directly from God. He will honour the time you devote to Him by revealing His purpose and will for your life.

God loves you and He wants to guide you each step of the way by His Holy Spirit. 

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

Filipino Life Groups celebrate the Philippines Independence Day



The Filipino Choir singing "Dinggin Mo", conducted by Kay Lim, Filipino Ministry Coordinator



The Ampang LG (F003) with their LG leader Chin Sok Mei (front right)



The Damansara Heights LG (F001) with their LG leader Kay Lim

The Damansara Heights LG (F002), with their LG leader Maria Lourdes (in front of flag), performing their skit




By Kay Lim

The Filipino Life Groups held a combined service on Sunday at Calvary Church Ampang to celebrate the Philippines Independence Day (12 June). A prayer in song for the nation and people entitled "Dinggin Mo" meaning "Hear us", was sung by the Filipino Choir. Associate Pastor Timothy Ong, in his message on "Seeds" (Matthew 13:1-9), encouraged the congregation not to allow negative 'seeds' to discourage us in our walk of faith and trust. Instead, we must let good 'seeds' help us draw strength and joy in our daily living.

Associate Pastor Steven Kum called all those who were Philippine nationals to come to the altar to represent their nation as prayers were offered for the Philippines, its government and its people.

As part of the programme, lunch was served. After that, three Life Groups (two from Damansara Heights and one from Ampang) participated in a Skit Competition with "Unity" as the theme. Everyone was a winner that day. The teams portrayed unity in the nation, the family and the Life Groups. The judges of the competition were Associate Pastor Richard Yun, and Church Deacons, Edmund Read and Bernadette Tay. Pastor Timothy presented the prizes.

The celebration and competition successfully improved bonding and unity among the Life Group members and we praise God that through this, five individuals received Christ into their hearts! 



The LG members from Damansara Heights and Ampang interacting over lunch



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