

CALVARY NEWS

A Bi-Monthly Publication Of Calvary Church

Issue No:78

November-December 2002

PP 5911/3/2003

The **Danger** Of Neglecting Your Salvation

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

"There are many who,
bit by bit and imperceptibly,
involve themselves in
some unsuspecting sin,
and suddenly awake to
a life of habitual sinful living."



"We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will" (Hebrews 2:1-4).

There is a teaching amongst some Christian circles that once you are saved, you will never lose your salvation. This teaching is not consistent with the Word of God. The Bible says, "...but he who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22). It is possible to repent, believe and confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour but if you do not continue in the faith, you can backslide. It is to the backsliders that the Bible says there is no way of escaping from the final wrath of God on Judgement Day. The Bible clearly warns of the dangers of neglecting your salvation. "If they escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.... Of them the proverbs are true: 'A dog returns to its vomit,' and 'A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.'" (2 Peter 2:20, 22).

Firstly, take note of the warning found in the letter to the Hebrews. "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away" (Hebrews 2:1). The word "we" refers to those who know and believe in Jesus. The warning then, is to the believer and not unbelievers. The word "must" emphasises the seriousness of the warning. There is no option to the believer as it says, "we must pay more careful attention" to the message or

truth heard and received. It is vital to take heed because you can drift away. To drift means to move somewhere gradually or slowly without a plan, to slip or glide. According to William Barclay, it is a thoughtless or careless act that allows your salvation to become lost. The danger of losing the gift of eternal life is not a sudden happenstance, but a slow drifting, slipping away. Therefore, be careful not to say, "Never mind, it's a little thing!" Solomon said it is the little foxes that spoil the vine. A Malay

proverb says, "Sedikit-sedikit, lama-lama menjadi bukit". The literal English translation is "Little by little, gradually becomes a hill". There are many who, bit by bit and imperceptibly, involve themselves in some unsuspecting sin, and suddenly awake to a life of habitual sinful living. Hence the need to warn believers of the danger of neglecting their salvation. The Bible says every sinner will be judged. You may have accepted Jesus a long time ago,

continued on page nineteen...

Calvary Royal Rangers Outpost one of the largest in Malaysia




Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam inspecting the Guard of Honour

In 1982, through the vision of our Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam and five men, the Royal Rangers Ministry at Calvary Church began in August with 25 boys in the Pioneers and Trailblazers Outposts. Meetings were held on Saturday afternoons at the education building. The next year, the Trail Rangers were added followed by the Straight Arrows and Buckaroos Outposts. From the beginning, the programme has provided both fun and opportunities to learn various skills for the boys. Under the guidance of our Senior Pastor and the able leadership of the Senior Commander together with the Commanders, the Outpost has grown and expanded to include many exciting programmes and events for the boys as well as the whole family. Today, we are one of the largest Outposts in Malaysia with 140 Rangers and leaders.

In conjunction with our anniversary, the Royal Rangers held a special celebration on 3 August 2002. The celebration began with a hi-tea fellowship at the Calvary Refreshment Centre before adjourning to the sanctuary for the main event. Our guest of honor for this event was Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam who was welcomed with a special Guard of Honor. The programme for the day included a slide

presentation of our history, songs and skits presented by the Commanders, devotion by Associate Pastor Steven Kum, our Chaplain, and a presentation of the new advancement programme to be implemented in 2004.

One of the highlights of this event was the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) ceremony for two of our Rangers, Derek Lim and Victor Yee. The GMA is the highest award that can be earned by a Royal Ranger and only 22 have been awarded thus far in Malaysia (See accompanying story on the facing page). Councilmen Lim Sew Hok was also recognised for faithful and dedicated ministry in the Royal Rangers for the past 20 years.

A total of 244 Rangers, parents and guests attended this event along with representatives from five other Outposts and the National Royal Rangers. We praise God for His faithfulness and blessing these 20 years and are looking forward with great expectation for even greater things to come in the Royal Rangers Ministry. 



The Commanders singing "We the Royal Rangers"



Outpost Commander David Dev Peter, Senior Commander Jim Guneratnam and Councilman Lim Sew Hok have each been with the Calvary Outpost for 20 years!



Alvin K. Nathan receiving the Junior Leader's Service Award

Looking for **Christmas** presents?

Come over to

Calvary Book Corner

Calvary Church Damansara Heights & Ampang

for the ideal gifts...

Christmas Cards, Books, Mugs, T-Shirts,
Bibles, Wrappers, Tapes, CDs, etc. etc.





Straight Arrows and Buckaroos



Pioneers



The congregation (including Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor Richard Yun) doing the actions as directed!



Royal Rangers Chaplain, Associate Pastor Steven Kum, sharing the devotion

National Commander Wong Hon Chong presenting the Gold Medal of Achievement certificates to Derek Lim and Victor Yee with their proud parents looking on



Our Rangers receive the Gold Medal of Achievement

The Gold medal of Achievement (GMA) is the highest advancement award in the Royal Rangers programme. In the past 20 years, only 22 Rangers in Malaysia have earned the right to wear this coveted medal.

The road to this day is not an easy one. It begins with the Trailblazers and Trail Rangers advancements trail. The requirements include seven advancement ratings that cover the four areas of a boy's development—physical, spiritual, mental and social.

In addition to the advancement, there are twelve compulsory award merits—Bible, Christian Service, Church, Camping, Citizenship, Nature Study, First Aid, Physical Fitness, Pathfinder, Weather, Wildlife and Wilderness Survival and seven elective merits that must be earned.

On completion of all the advancement requirements, there are another four steps before the candidate can qualify for this high honour. The candidate will need to read the "Royal Rangers Leader's Manual", write a 500 word essay on "The Value of Royal Rangers" and submit a statement of qualification together with his advancements merits to the National Royal Rangers Office.

The final step is an interview with the GMA review board consisting of members of the national and district staff. This interview is to ensure that

the candidate is qualified and able to represent the high standards of the Royal Rangers programme.

On the recommendation of the Senior Commander and approval from the GMA review board, the candidate will be awarded the Gold Medal of Achievement and be commissioned to the rank of Junior Commander.

On 3 August 2002, at our 20th Anniversary Celebration, we honoured two young men who have achieved this level of excellence.

Victor Yee Whey Sern is a Trail Ranger aged 17 years. He joined the Royal Rangers in 1992 as a Buckaroo and has been actively involved in the Royal Rangers Ministry. He has served as assistant guide and patrol guide, been runners-up in the Outpost Ranger of the Year, completed the Junior Leaders' Training Camp and earned the Junior Leader's Service Award.

Derek Lim Jin Xiang is a Trail Ranger aged 17 years. He joined the Royal Rangers in 1990 as a Straight Arrow. He has served as patrol guide and senior guide, been Outpost Ranger of the Year, National Ranger of the Year finalist, completed the Junior Leaders' Training Camp, earned the Junior Leader's Service Award and is a member of the Frontiersman Camping Fellowship. 🏆

Are you looking for a quiet, conducive place away from the hustle and bustle of life to seek the Lord?

Come to the
Calvary Prayer Tower!
Be refreshed and renewed
in God's presence.
Experience solitude in the
quietness of your surroundings.
Hear Him speak to you.

“I was introduced to the **Calvary Prayer Tower** by a close friend of mine at a time when I was in a terrible state of confusion. Faced with a difficult challenge, I had a major decision to make and I wanted God to speak to me. I sought the Lord at the Prayer Tower and felt His peace flooding my heart. It was there that the Lord spoke to my heart and helped me make a decision which I believe is in accordance with His will.

Since then, I have been going to the Prayer Tower as often as I can to seek the Lord. Each time after prayer, I feel very encouraged and recharged to face the challenges of the day. I am seldom anxious anymore because I know that God is with me and He will see me through each difficult challenge.” **Lawyer**



Calvary Prayer Tower

We are open:

Tuesday -Thursday (9am-5pm)

Friday (9am-6.30pm)

Saturday (9am-1pm)

Sunday (2pm-4.30pm)

For more information,
call us at

03-2092 1778 or

03-2093 3946 or

e-mail us at calpt@tm.net.my.

Life Groups tell others about Jesus

One of the four-fold purposes of the Life Group (LG) Ministry is to provide opportunity to witness in the community and neighbourhood. It is in the LG that the believers are encouraged to be a witness wherever God has put them. In conjunction with our evangelistic thrust at the end of the year, we have two individuals share with us their reason and motivation for evangelism:



Julie Wong (centre with white blouse) with her LG members

By **Julie Wong**

An Assistant LG Leader in a Petaling Jaya Home Life Group

“Evangelism to me is the love of God touching and changing lives for all eternity. Jesus’ command for me and for each one in the Life Group is to go and preach the gospel. Evangelism is to be done all year round - it is a way of life,

following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

On one occasion, Natalie, a LG member and I, visited a fellow LG member’s aged mother who was suffering from cancer. Natalie shared the gospel with her in Mandarin and had the

privilege to pray with her. This lady accepted Jesus before she passed away a few weeks later.

God answers prayer in the school, where I work as a teacher. One of the students in Form Four accepted Christ last year. Her younger brother followed suit to accept Christ this year. It thrilled my heart to see God’s salvation come upon them!

Another student who had accepted Christ, desired to see her family saved. The opportunity came for me to share with her mother and she accepted the Lord in April. Not too long after that, her brother accepted Christ as well. We are now believing for her father’s salvation.

God uses those who are available and each one of us is included in His plan. Even though evangelism is not an easy task, God has promised that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. To God be all the glory! ”



Shirley Wong (in black) with her LG leader Christine Chong (next to her) and other LG members

By **Shirley Wong**

A LG member in a Petaling Jaya Home Life Group

“When I first joined the LG, I thought it was to study God’s Word and have our prayers answered. Little did I realise that what I learned is not to be kept to myself, but to be shared with others.

Our LG Leader, Christine Chong, used to encourage the members to reach out to unsaved ones. We often visit the residents in nursing homes and

those patients of mine with whom I have shared at my physiotherapy centre.

Praise the Lord, our efforts are rewarded when we see them accepting the Lord.

I began praying and asking the Lord to lead me personally to share the gospel to my patients, as my LG Leader cannot be present with me all the time.

A day does not pass by without me

sharing testimonies of God’s reality in my life. Through this, my patients developed an interest to know who this Jesus is. One of them, after listening to my testimonies, asked to be prayed for. A miracle happened. She was healed of the pain in the neck which she was suffering from for more than two years. Before she left, she asked, “How can I pray to Jesus?” I taught her how to do so. Praise the Lord!

God has performed miracles of healing in my centre, and many have also come to accept the Lord as their Saviour. I know of four individuals whom I have shared Christ with this year, and they have accepted the Lord and are faithfully attending Church today.

Evangelism is not an insurmountable task and the responsibility of each believer is to share and touch lives wherever God has placed us. The best way to do evangelism is to start doing it! ”

The LG is a place where you can be encouraged to evangelise.

If you are interested to learn how to evangelise effectively, come join a LG today.

For more information, please call the Pastoral Care Department

@ 03-2099 7103 (Carol Lim) or 03-2099 7134 (Wai Leng) or e-mail to pascare@calvary.org.my.





*Committed to His Call,
Compelled by His Love...*

30
Years of Faithful Service

Celebrating the 30 years of ministry
of Senior Pastor Datuk Dr Prince Guneratnam
and Senior Associate Pastor Datin Dr Petrina Guneratnam
in Calvary Church, Kuala Lumpur

God uses ordinary people to do the extraordinary for His glory

Calvary Church chose 8 September 2002 to celebrate
the 30 years of dedicated and faithful ministry of Prince and Petrina Guneratnam as our
Senior Pastor and Senior Associate Pastor, respectively.
In this day and age, where it is common for people to have many career changes in their
working life, their continuous service as pastors for three decades
in one single church is rare indeed.

L to R Deaconesses Katherine Lee, Bernadette Tay, Deacons Lawrence Mak, Dr Lum Siew Heng, Edmund Read, Han Joke Kwang and Patrick Wong awaiting the couple's arrival



The Royal Rangers and Missionettes ready for the arrival of Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam at Menara PGRM



By Audrey Kum

Thank you Senior Pastor & Sister—

Preparation for this celebration began months ahead and picked up momentum as the day drew nearer. In true Calvary Church tradition, the Organising Committee worked with the Pastors, the Deacons, the Church Staff and the lay leaders and they gave opportunities to the members to be involved and do everything with excellence!

Senior Pastor and Sister (as Pastor Petrina is affectionately called), while observing our preparations, often reminded us of the true focus of the celebration—that of praise and thanksgiving to our faithful God who does great things through lives that are yielded to Him. The Church at Damansara Heights and the Satellite locations came together in the morning to do just that at the Thanksgiving Worship Service, at Dewan Wawasan, Menara PGRM. God uses ordinary people who give their lives to Him, to do extraordinary things for His Kingdom. This theme surfaced time and again during the Service—in the Opening Anthem, “Ordinary People” sung by the Calvary Sanctuary Choir and in the video presentation, “Committed To His Call, Compelled by His Love” and also in the commemorative book of the same title.

Senior Pastor and Sister being greeted by the Guard of Honour



Enjoying the food at the reception before the Thanksgiving Service

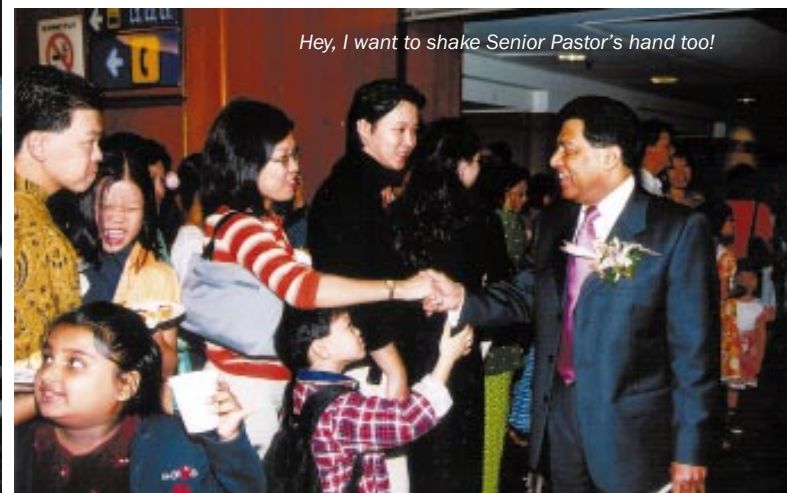


God bless you Pastor!

The Ushers were waiting in line to greet the couple at the fourth floor.



Hey, I want to shake Senior Pastor's hand too!



"Thank you Sister Petrina..."



we love and appreciate you!

A gift from the Filipino Ministry



...from all of us."



More greetings...



The Carpenter's Workshop children wave hearts in welcome

That morning, the Calvary family went down memory lane. Many had never seen Senior Pastor and Sister in their early years of ministry. In the video presentation, Rev. Dr Robert Lim, Founding Pastor of Evangel Family Church, Singapore, warmly highlighted another side of Senior Pastor's personality—one that liked to play pranks and enjoyed a good laugh! Many were touched and encouraged by Pastors of Elim Assembly, Singapore, Rev. Dr Fred and Sister Margaret Seaward's description of Pastor Petrina's willingness to face persecution for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Honorary Pastor, Dr Delmer Guynes who flew in specially for the occasion with his wife, Eleanor, was the Master of Ceremonies that morning. Many Christian leaders from around the world including the National Heads of

various denominations sent congratulatory messages. The glowing remarks by Rev. Thomas E. Trask, Chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship and General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, USA, and that of Rev. Tommy Barnett, Senior Pastor of Phoenix First Assembly, Arizona, via video, confirmed to the Church that Senior Pastor and Sister are also highly regarded overseas and their ministries have been and are far-reaching. Dr Sobhi Malek, missionary in France, thanked them for their support and contributions towards his ministry to a special people group. Sister Seaward was visibly moved when she shared that when she and her husband undertook to take Sister as part of their family during her early years as a Christian, they did not have any idea how greatly God would be using her life. Once again, we were reminded how God works through lives that are yielded to Him.



Representatives of all the Departments and Ministries of the Church formed the passage to lead the couple to

Dr David Yonggi Cho, Pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church in Korea, which has the largest congregation in the world, was the guest speaker. He said in his message that God has blessed the ministry of Senior Pastor and Sister because God had specially chosen them as messengers of His Word. His hand is upon them and no one can stop them when God Himself sends them. They are people full of the Holy Spirit, able to touch many lives because the Holy Spirit flows through them like a mighty river. They are people of vision and faith, daring to dream and believe God despite difficulties and restraints. They are people of prayer and the Word of God. They are people of integrity, faithful to each other, to their family, the Church and society at large and finally, they are kind, loving and merciful. In describing them, he was also giving us an example to follow if we too, desire to have God use us to bless His kingdom.

Calvary International Ministries (CIM), a non-profit and international ministry was established in recognition of Senior Pastor's many years of evangelistic fervour and ministry. Its mission is to preach the Gospel to all nations, to research and publish materials on church leadership and missiology, to encourage and train pastors, leaders and missionaries,



The placard bearers welcome the couple into Dewan Wawasan



The Worship Leaders, the Worship Team, the Sanctuary Choir and the Calvary Worship Orchestra



Dr. Delmer Guynes (above) launching Calvary International Ministries (CIM).



The congregation responding by committing to pray for and to support the Ministry



Senior Pastor and Sister signing the Memorandum to officially launch CIM



their seats in Dewan Wawasan. These are just some of the 38 groups involved...(more on the next page)

Dr. David Yonggi Cho sharing the message

Dr. Cho and Senior Pastor praying for the congregation



Dr. Sobhi Malek

Sis. Margaret Seaward



The congregation in Dewan Wawasan (above and right) and in the overflow hall



to assist churches in developing their missions programme, to conduct evangelistic rallies, missions and church growth conferences and to help coordinate relief projects for humanitarian needs globally. Senior Pastor and Sister signed the Memorandum to officially launch CIM, witnessed by Missions Director, Associate Pastor Peter Ong and Missions Treasurer, Aric Low. Dr. Cho, Dr. Guynes, the Deacons and Associate Pastors also participated in the ceremony.



Deacon Dr Lum presenting Senior Pastor with the commemorative book



Deaconess Katherine Lee presenting Sister with flowers



Every family received a copy of the commemorative book after the Service

Church Secretary, Patrick Wong and Deacons Dr Lum Siew Heng and Katherine Lee presented gifts to Senior Pastor and Sister on behalf of the Church. Among the gifts was a commemorative book specially produced for the occasion. It records the growth of Calvary Church since they became the Pastors in 1972 with about 120 in the congregation. Today, Calvary Church and her Outreaches minister to more than 7,000 people! It tells the story of two ordinary people who willingly obey a great God who never fails them, a God who does exceedingly abundantly above all they can think or imagine. A copy of the commemorative book was given to each family present that day. Dr Cho then led in a prayer of dedication for the couple and the congregation sang "I Offer My Life" as a fitting response to a faithful God.

Thank you Senior Pastor Prince and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam for being committed to His call and compelled by His love these 30 years!

We love and appreciate you!

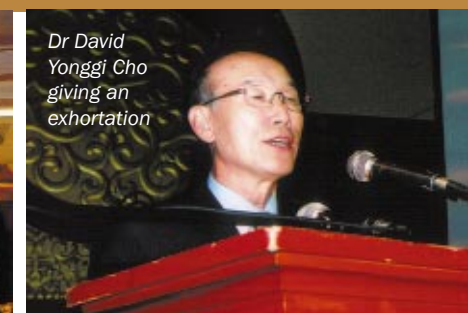


Church Secretary, Patrick Wong, ushering Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam into the Royal Ballroom



Associate Pastor Christopher Lee and the Worship Team leading us in worship

And the celebration goes on...



Dr David Yonggi Cho giving an exhortation

occasion and welcomed everyone before Associate Pastor Peter Ong led in prayer. Associate Pastor Christopher Lee and the Worship Team then led us to worship our faithful Lord Jesus Christ, preparing us to receive the exhortation by Dr David Yonggi Cho.

Calvarites, friends and well-wishers filled the Royal ballroom

The celebration of the 30 years of dedicated and faithful ministry of Senior Pastor Prince and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam continued into the evening. The Royal Ballroom of the Palace of the Golden Horses was filled with Calvarites and friends from near and far.

Ripples of laughter could be heard as the Ballroom filled up. Even though many had already seen the PowerPoint presentation that brought them down memory lane, at Dewan Wawasan before the Thanksgiving Service held at Menara PGRM in the morning, they were still

tickled by the many pictures they saw of themselves and the Pastors and friends from 30 years ago!

The congregation gave Senior Pastor and Sister a standing ovation as their arrival was announced by Associate Pastor Steven Kum. Deacon Han Joke Kwang acknowledged the



Senior Pastor appreciating Dr Cho for his participation in the celebration

Using the illustration of the potter and the clay, Dr Cho succeeded in helping us realise that our lives are like clay in the hands of the Great Potter, God. God's intention is to mould us into His image. Like the potter who cleans the clay, mercilessly knocks it, anoints it with oil and places it in a fiery furnace, God washes us by the blood of Jesus, disciplines us, anoints us with His Holy Spirit and puts us through difficult trials in order that we may emerge as beautiful and valuable vessels, fit for His use. While we applauded Senior Pastor and Sister on this special occasion, he reminded us that they are where they are today as a result of many hours of being broken by God. They have passed through the "furnace" these 30 years and are now valuable vessels that are not only "marketable" world-wide but they bring praise to their Maker through their lives and their ministries. We too can be worthwhile vessels. God has a plan for everyone of us. On that note, we were shown the video, "Committed to His Call, Compelled by His Love", that gave us an overview of the way the Potter has used His vessels, Senior Pastor and Sister over the span of 30 years at Calvary Church.

It must have been difficult for the organisers to decide whose tributes we would get to hear that night, as there were many to choose from. In the end, we heard from Rev. Bob Houlihan, President of Mission of Mercy, Bishop Dag

Citibank, Singapore, Rev Deborah Chien, our missionary in Canada, Rev Ronnie Chin, Senior Pastor of Revival Centre and General Treasurer of the Assemblies of God Malaysia and Tan Sri Khoo Kay Peng, a prominent businessman. Their tributes are a good representation of how many of us feel about the couple.

from God's anointing, Senior Pastor has a wide range of skills—from pastoral, to administrative to financial. He is extremely hardworking, very insightful and a fantastic negotiator. He also noted that Sister has a sense of balance and godly perspective of issues that perfectly

Clockwise: Pam Lee, Amelia & Jim Guneratnam, Rev. Dr Fred & Margaret Seaward, Sister Petrina & Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Tan Sri Khoo Kay Peng, Shigemasa Shigaki, Dr. Delmer & Eleanor Guynes and Associate Pastor Peter Ong



Heward-Mills, founder of Lighthouse Church, and Rev. Paul and Margaret Schoch, Missionary Evangelists via video and from Dr Wirachai Kowae, Senior Pastor of Bangkok Evangelistic Centre and Dr Yukio Funatsu, Senior Pastor of Kanazawa Christ Church in Yokohama, Japan who were present that evening. These praised God for the couple's ministry and expressed their congratulations and appreciation of them.

Then there were those who sat and grew under the ministry of Senior Pastor and Sister at Calvary Church—Philip Tan, currently with



L to R: Rev. Dr Robert & Rev. Dr Marion Lim, Dr Lalitha Lum, Katherine Lee, Rev. Dr Vincent Leoh (General Superintendent, Assemblies of God, Malaysia), Rev. Wong Kim Kong (Secretary General, NECF Malaysia) and Bishop Anthony Selvanayagam (Bishop of Penang)

Philip was saved under their ministry and claims that it was in Calvary Church that he received his best leadership training through involvement in various Ministries. He counted it a privilege to serve alongside the fine couple when he was a Deacon for a number of years. He noted that apart

complements the vision and dynamism of Senior Pastor. He appreciated her wise counsel, prayers and encouragement during his most trying moments involving his career, last year.

The Lord bless all of you!

Senior Pastor and Sister Petrina wish to express their deepest appreciation to each one, especially those who carried the responsibility of making the occasion a memorable one.

Truly, the Lord was glorified and we can all praise Him for His faithfulness.

Rev. Deborah, who runs a mission in what is known as the “war zone” in Vancouver that reaches out to countless drug dependants, alcoholics and the homeless, greatly appreciated the fact that the couple was “always

models of integrity and she considers them her friends and not just her Pastors.

Rev. Ronnie, who first came to Calvary Church in the 70's, appreciated the ministry at the altar that is very much a part of the Church. From his involvement

Rev. Deborah Chien

Tan Sri Khoo Kay Peng

Rev. Ronnie Chin



Dr Wirachai Kowae

Dr Yukio Funatsu

Philip Tan

during those early years under Senior Pastor and Sister elicited much laughter from those present as many could identify with what he shared. In a nutshell, he appreciates that they are human like the rest of us, recognises that they are definitely called and anointed by God and most of all, he is encouraged that both their children, Pam and Jim, have also joined them in full-time service at the Church. He praised the Church for organising the celebration to honour the couple, as gratitude is a Christian virtue.

years and the couple has since become very good friends to both him and his wife. He sits on some Boards of Christian organisations with Senior Pastor and has seen how he is greatly respected for his visionary input and advice. And Tan Sri Khoo considers Sister a perfect role-model for his daughters because of her humble, sweet and godly temperament!

The final tribute that night came from someone very dear to Senior Pastor and Sister. Their eldest granddaughter, Azalea Joy Lee performed a beautiful violin solo, aptly entitled, “My Tribute” in their honour. Our hearts welled up with praise for Almighty God for the things He has done in and through the lives of Senior Pastor and Sister these 30 years.

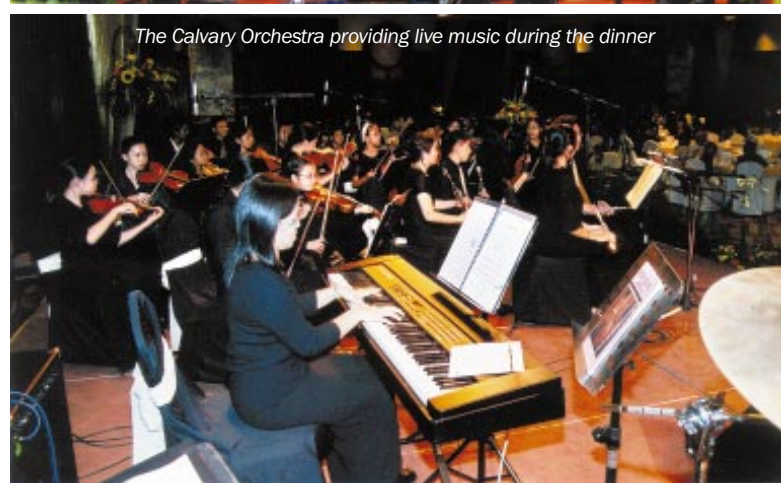
They have shown us what God can do with ordinary lives yielded to Him. Now, it is up to us to yield our lives to God and let Him use us for His glory. 🙏

Tan Sri Khoo decided to check out Calvary Church when his friend, Dr. Peter Tong invited him to attend the Church. His first impression was that Senior Pastor looked like Elvis Presley! He gave himself one year and soon admiration and respect for the Guneratnams grew and his spiritual life also grew. That one year he gave Calvary Church has stretched to 25

Calvary Youth presenting “With Everything”



The Calvary Orchestra providing live music during the dinner



Deaconess Bernadette Tay presenting the couple with a gift from the Church

there for her”. Often, when she encountered difficulties, she would ask, “What would Pastor do in this situation?” and the answer would be the solution. They are great role

in the Christ’s Ambassadors to his studying in the Bible Institute of Malaysia till he pioneered Revival Centre, he received much teaching that inspired his life. His accounts of his learning experiences



Azalea Joy Lee dedicating “My Tribute” to her grandparents

Sister Margaret Seaward, Sister Petrina and Senior Pastor appreciating the special by Azalea



There is **one** true God: **Father, Son and**

“The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent ‘I AM,’ the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”

“The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God.”

Christians believe there is one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is both one and three at the same time. For that reason, we speak of God as Trinity, and our belief in God as Trinitarian.

Illustrations

Many illustrations have been used to help understand the Trinity. The egg is one but is also composed of shell, white and yolk. Water may be present in three ways: liquid, steam or ice. A triangle is one but has three sides. Space is a unity but is three dimensional with width, length and depth. The human mind is one but has memory, understanding and will. While none of these illustrations is really adequate, they may be useful to show that the God who creates these kinds of tri-unity in nature may himself be characterized by tri-unity. What the Bible says about God must determine our belief.

The biblical witness

God revealed himself to Israel as one God, establishing monotheism (belief in one God) in sharp contrast to the polytheism (belief in many gods) of Israel's pagan neighbors. The ancient creed that God gave to His people to express their faith is called the Shema: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one” ([Deuteronomy 6:4](#), NIV). The Israelites were to recite it regularly and faithfully teach it to their children ([Deuteronomy 6:7](#)). Centuries later, Jesus, as a boy, learned that lesson and himself taught, as did the Jews of His day, that God is one ([Mark 12:29](#); [John 5:44](#)). Likewise, the New Testament letters show that early Christians believed and taught “there is no God but one” ([1 Corinthians 8:4](#); see [James 2:19](#)).

However, biblical belief in one God differs from that of other religions. The Old Testament hints in many ways that while God is one, His being is far more complex than might at first appear. For example, in addition to the activity of God in the creation story, the Spirit of God is also at work ([Genesis 1:2](#)) and often appears thereafter in the Old Testament. We also read about the Angel of the Lord ([Exodus 23:23](#)) who seems to be a divine Person. God's visit to Abraham shows Him in the company of others ([Genesis 18:2](#)). One of the Hebrew names for God, *Elohim*, that appears hundreds of times in the Old Testament, is plural in form. The Old Testament uses plural pronouns of God: “Let us make man in our image... “ ([Genesis 1:26](#); see also [3:22](#); [11:6,7](#)). More than one divine Person is found in the conversation of Psalm 45:6,7: “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever...therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions” (see also [Isaiah 48:12-16](#)). None of these texts and narratives alone proves that God is triune. Taken together, they do suggest that the one God is in some way also plural.

In the New Testament, we are immediately confronted with a threefold manifestation of God. At the baptism of Jesus, the Spirit of God descended upon Him and a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased” ([Matthew 3:17](#); see also [Mark 1:9-11](#); [Luke 3:21,22](#)). The baptismal narratives apparently intend to show that three divine Persons were simultaneously present and acting — the Father, who spoke from heaven; the Holy Spirit, who descended in the form of a dove; and Jesus, the Son of God, who, after His baptism in water, received the Spirit. The baptismal formula lists Father, Son and Spirit as distinct Persons ([Matthew 28:19](#)), as do many other New Testament texts ([Romans 1:1-4](#); [1 Corinthians 12:4-6](#); [2 Corinthians 13:14](#); et al).

Moreover, the New Testament regularly identifies the Father as God ([John 6:27](#)); Jesus, also called the Word, as God ([John 1:1](#)); and the Holy Spirit as God ([Acts 5:3,4](#)). Each of the three is shown throughout the New Testament to have the attributes, or qualities, of deity such as omnipotence (all power), omniscience (all knowledge), and

omnipresence (everywhere and always present).

Each of the divine Persons often has a distinct role and is more prominent in one aspect of our redemption. The Father is associated with the plan of salvation ([Ephesians 1:3-6](#)). The Son assumed a human body in the Incarnation ([John 1:14](#)) in order to reveal God to us and die on the Cross as a substitute for our sins ([Ephesians 1:7,8](#)). The Holy Spirit applies the work of salvation in the new birth ([John 3:5,6](#); [Titus 3:5,6](#)) and is our faithful witness and guide ([Romans 8:14-16](#)). In carrying out the work of redemption, the Son submits to the Father's will ([Mark 14:35,36](#); [John 17:4](#)) and both the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to believers ([John 14:16](#); [16:7](#)).

Though indeed three Persons, the Trinity yet reflects a deep unity. Jesus frequently said such things as, “I and the Father are one” ([John 10:30](#)) and “I am in my Father” ([John 14:20](#)). He promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in His disciples and yet affirmed that He, too, would be in them ([John 14:16-21](#)). The regular linkage of their three names throughout the New Testament shows that they cannot be separated. If separated, they would be three gods, which is certainly not biblical.

The uniqueness of Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme manifestation of the Triune God to humankind. Always present with Father and Spirit in eternity, the divine Son became fully human as Jesus of Nazareth for that purpose ([Matthew 1:23](#); [John 1:1,2,14](#); [Hebrews 2:14](#)). “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father,” Jesus said ([John 14:9](#)). “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. ...The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word” ([Hebrews 1:1-3](#)).

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” ([Colossians 1:15](#)). Our Lord, fully human and fully divine, “appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself” ([Hebrews 9:26](#)).


Holy Spirit

Our statement

Though it says much about our Triune God, the Bible does not give a full explanation of His nature and inner relationships. Therefore, it took the Early Church several centuries to compare all the biblical texts, weigh their meanings, and agree on a statement. By the fourth century, the creeds (statements of belief) stated that God eternally is one divine essence manifested in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three are not to be confused but neither can they be separated or divided. They are eternally equal in their divine nature but in their redemptive work the Son is subordinate to the Father and the Spirit subordinate to the Father and the Son. We in the Assemblies of God affirm historic Trinitarian doctrine in our Statement of Foundational Truths.

Importance

The doctrine of the Trinity is important because: (1) It best explains what the Bible teaches about God. (2) It shows how God's nature can be love (1 John 4:16) since long before there were angels or human beings to love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit existed in perfect fellowship and love for each other. (3) It best explains how God brings to pass our salvation since one Person of the Trinity, Jesus the divine Son, became human to reveal God, die an atoning death, and be resurrected on our behalf. (4) It sharply distinguishes Christianity from other faiths—both those who believe in one God and those who believe in many gods.

The Trinity is, and always has been, a mystery. If we were capable of fully understanding God, we would be His equal. Therefore, we take what the Bible says by faith and follow the wisdom of the historic church as it has been illuminated and guided by the Holy Spirit. 

Edgar Lee is vice president for academic affairs and professor of spiritual formation and pastoral theology at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

This is the second 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.

Share your story in the market place

By Shereen Wong



Jeri Malek

It was enjoyable as well as a refreshing time for the 123 women who came on a Saturday afternoon to Calvary Church to hear about sharing one's story in the market place.

The meeting started with a vibrant time of worship by Stephanie Foong. Two women then shared how their faith in Jesus helped them in their work place. Helen Gan, a businesswoman, related how her Christian faith and principles helped her put priority in her client's interest before her own, thus enabling her to give her best to God. This has opened opportunities for God to bless her with more business. Bernadette Tay, a lecturer, shared how the Lord taught her to wait and allow Him to work out situations that were initially not favourable for her. Both praised the Lord for His faithfulness to them and for blessing the fruits of their labour.



Passing on the lantern—a symbol of passing on God's love and light

A group of women then presented the song "Pass It On". Lanterns were lit and passed on to other women to symbolise that once we have experienced God's love, we want to pass it on. It was a beautiful sight.

Jeri Malek (a missionary to a special people group) referred to the story of the five loaves and two fishes in the sixth chapter of John. She described how Jesus received what a little boy offered to Him and turned something small to something with significant impact. When the boy saw the crowd of needy (hungry) people, he gave what someone else had given him—his five loaves and two fishes. After Jesus had blessed that, there was more than enough to feed 5,000 men.


Similarly too, we all have something which someone else has invested into our lives. We can take that and offer it to Jesus in a simple childlike manner. Whatever we have, be it time, money, talent or knowledge—and it may be just enough for us alone—but it is not too small or insignificant for Jesus to use to meet the needs around us.



"Lord Jesus, I give you my life to use as you please..."

Jeri Malek often felt like the little boy with only something someone else had given her. She learnt to put whatever she had in Jesus' hands and when He blessed that, the results were miraculous. She explained that whenever we keep what we have to ourselves because we are afraid that it would not be enough, then it will only be enough for us. We therefore have to learn to give what we have to Jesus. Jesus was not looking at the little boy's lunch but at his attitude towards what he had. She encouraged us to hold loosely whatever we have and to offer that to Jesus to use.

She concluded by testifying how the Lord enabled her to start a Bible club for an unreached children's group in Spain, a Bible club for street kids in France and a Women's Bible Study group in Africa. She urged the women present to simply give what they have to Jesus and experience the miraculous in their lives.

While most of the women had a delightful time of fellowship over refreshments, some took time to learn to make ribbon roses and greeting cards. It was an afternoon well spent. 

but if your heart is not right with God and you are living like an unbeliever, if you die today as a backslider, there is no way of escaping the final wrath and judgement of God.

Secondly, consider the warning found in the familiar story of the rich young man who asked Jesus, "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?" Jesus told him, "Obey the commandments" (Matthew 19:17) and the young man promptly declared that he had kept all the commandments ever since he was a boy. Then Jesus said, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21). "When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth" (Matthew 19:22). Jesus was not saying that wealth is sinful but He was simply asking, "Who is first in your life?" Jesus was emphasising the importance of having the right priority. You have to put God first to have eternal life. This man thought he was doing everything that was pleasing to God. He never realised that as he pursued material wealth, it gradually became the master of his life. His great wealth instead of God had become his priority. The Scripture said he was sad and walked away (Matthew 19:22). Beware of how subtly sin can creep into your life. God is not "dethroned" in your life overnight! It is a slow process. It is a kind of drifting that brings you into the bondage of sin.

Consider this third warning. When teaching about the cost of discipleship, Jesus said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). You are not fit for the kingdom of God when your look causes you to sin and go after sinful pleasures. Remember the story of Lot's wife? Despite being warned, she turned and looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt immediately.

Fourthly, consider Jesus' warning addressed to the Church of Ephesus in the book of Revelation. Although it was a church praised for its good works (Revelation 2:2-3), Jesus said, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place" (Revelation 2:4-5). Do you boast about how disciplined you are in giving, at serving and doing as a believer? But all these can be in vain if your first love for

Jesus is missing. Whatever reason you may have and no matter how legitimate it may look, if it robs you of your first love for God, it can cause you to backslide.

The warnings to believers are very clear—do not neglect your salvation. If those who violated and disobeyed the message spoken by angels (the Mosaic Law) received judgement, how can those who ignore the message of salvation announced by the Lord Himself not be more severely judged? "For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who have heard him" (Hebrews 2:2-3). Therefore, if you believe in Jesus and then turn your back on Him, there is no way you can escape the wrath of God in the end.

The writer of Hebrews says, "How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?" What makes our salvation great?

1. The nature of your salvation.

Salvation brings you into a relationship with God as your heavenly Father. Once you are saved and your sins have been forgiven, you are able to come to God in prayer and ask Him to bless and anoint you in Jesus' name.

2. The means of your salvation.

God paid a high price for your salvation—He made the biggest bid—His only begotten Son—so that nobody can outbid Him for you (John 15:13). Jesus died for you on the cross to forgive your sins and purchase a place for you in heaven. There is no other way to be saved but by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

3. The witness of salvation.

Firstly, Jesus Himself testifies that He brings you salvation. He lived, died on the cross and on the third day was resurrected. The coming of the Holy Spirit is proof of His resurrection. He told His disciples that He would be going to the Father and that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. Speaking in tongues after being baptised in the Holy Spirit is a powerful witness of the believer's salvation. Secondly, the changed lives of the Apostles and believers confirm His salvation. And thirdly, God Himself, through the power of the Holy Spirit, performs signs and

wonders to prove His salvation.

Here are five biblical steps that will help you safeguard your salvation:

1. Appropriate the blood of Jesus daily.

Stay under the blood. It was under the covering of the blood that the first born of the children of Israel escaped death. "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:14).

2. Continually draw near to God.

Pray everyday. If you do not know how to pray, join organised prayer meetings or attend a fellowship near you, where you can learn to pray in small groups. "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience..." (Hebrews 10:22).

3. Gather often with God's people.


"Let us not give up meeting together; as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). You may not always feel like coming to fellowship or to pray, but you will be encouraged and rejuvenated spiritually when you do come.

4. Endure hardship as God's discipline.

"Endure hardship as discipline: God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?" (Hebrews 12:7) If there is no pain, there is no gain. You need to persist and persevere after the things of God.

5. Be a doer of the Word.

Do not just be a listener. Obey God. Do what He has revealed and wants you to do. "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).

The challenge is, "...he who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22). We do not backslide overnight. It is a slow process. Therefore, do not neglect the wonderful gift of salvation. "Be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (Deuteronomy 6:12). 

All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

27 July 2002

The Golden Eagles had a field day!

By George Cheah

They were walking and praying; they were worshipping and singing... An unprecedented number of Golden Eagles (GE)—over 90 of them—did a prayer walk along the 100-metre laterite road at the 15-acre site of the proposed Calvaryland in Sungei Pelek, Selangor.



The Golden Eagles all set to enjoy their outing!



That Saturday, the GE worshipped God at the site, led by Associate Pastor Timothy Ong. Winslow Wong, Administration Manager of Calvaryland, briefed them on the progress of the Calvaryland project. Even before the expected completion of Phase 1 of the project by December 2004, many of the GE have already shown tremendous interest in serving in various capacities as part-time volunteers and full-time care workers! According to Winslow, Calvarites of all ages are needed to serve as partners in the on-going development of this project.

The highly edifying prayer walk and time of worship was part of a field trip organised by and for the GE. They had a sumptuous 8-course lunch at a restaurant by the bridge that spans across Carey Island, while watching schools of *ikan haruan* swimming by the edge of the restaurant. After Carey Island, the GE relaxed in the two buses and a van that brought them to the scenic Bagan Lalang Beach for a late afternoon stroll.

Calvaryland ringing with worship, prayer and praises to the Lord...



At Putrajaya



Winslow Wong, Calvaryland Administration Manager and Yow Kit Yen, Coordinator of Calvary Caring Ministry, who went on the trip to look after the GE, enjoying lunch with them.

The exciting itinerary ended with an evening visit to Putrajaya, which, by night, was an awe-inspiring sight. Armed with snacks and drinks that were provided, they enjoyed the walk around the park area. At about 8.30pm, they arrived at Calvary Church, all completely safe and sound, though somewhat tired. The GE thank and praise the Lord for His blessings throughout the trip.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.calvary.org.my>

CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)
CHRIST-CENTRED EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY

2, Jalan Damansara Endah, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel: 03-2095 2620 email@calvary.org.my

Printed by Calvary Church Press

37, Jalan 8/152 Taman Perindustrian OUG, Batu 6, Off Jalan Puchong, 58200 Kuala Lumpur.