

CALVARY NEWS

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The Secret to Fruit Bearing Is Abiding

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you” (John 15:4, 7).

The secret of successful living is knowing your God-given identity—who you are and the purpose for living. In chapter 15 of the Gospel of John, Jesus spoke of the Vine and the branch. The branch describes the Christian’s relationship to Jesus Christ, the Vine. You are the branch and you are to bear fruit such as the fruit of holiness, godly character, giving, witnessing and worship. This truth was addressed or dealt with in the previous issue of the Calvary News.

Now then, knowing the secret of successful living, what is the secret to fruit bearing? The secret to fruit bearing is abiding. The word “abide” or “remain” is mentioned eight times in verses one to eight in chapter 15 of the Gospel of John. Jesus emphasised that as long as you abide in Him, you will be fruitful. There is tremendous power in abiding. What then is abiding and how does one abide? When you confess and repent of your sins and acknowledge Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, you are united with Jesus. However, being united with Jesus does not guarantee communion with Him. There ought to be dependence and fellowship on a day to day basis. It is a two-way relationship where there is giving and receiving. He is the Vine and you are the branch. As the branch, you do not have to struggle to bear fruit. His life will flow in you and His life will produce His fruits in your life.

There is a distinction between spiritual and carnal or natural fruits. Sometimes, the natural characteristics of a person can be mistaken for the spiritual. For

instance, some, by nature, never get ruffled, disturbed or shocked easily. They are able to keep their cool and remain calm even under crises. This does not necessarily mean that they have the fruit of the Spirit found in verses 22 and 23 of chapter five of Galatians. There are also people who seem to be happy all the time whether it rains or shines. They are simply “happy-go-lucky” by nature. Do not be mistaken about these natural traits and conclude that this person is abiding in Christ.

How do you know if the fruit is of a spiritual nature? You cannot produce spiritual fruits on your own. It is beyond your ability. However, when you experience it, you will recognise that it is something that comes from divine enablement, from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the fruit will always be godly in nature. When others taste the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit, they will recognise God’s work in your life and know that you depended on and had fellowship with God.

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Senior Pastor giving opportunity for questions after Deacon Han Joke Kwang had moved to adopt the resolution to purchase the property

Overwhelming majority in favour of the resolution

Members praying, worshipping and rededicating themselves for God's service before the meeting was adjourned

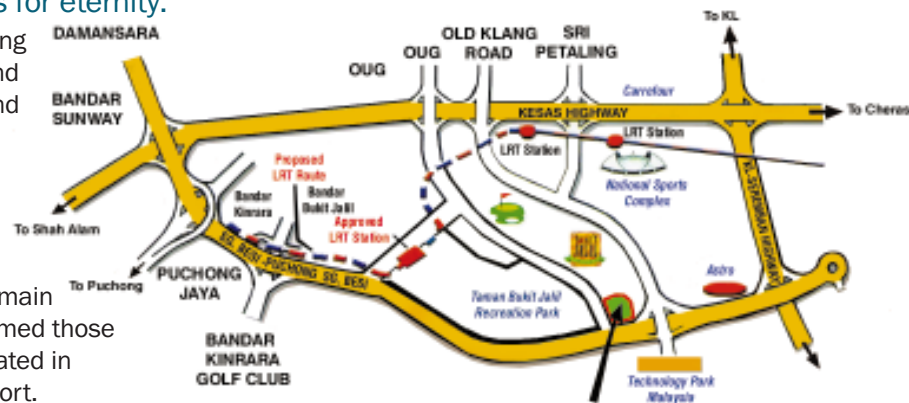
Calvary Church approves the purchase of a parcel of land in Bukit Jalil to build our new church building!

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam told the Church members who attended the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on 24 January 2003 at 8.15pm that the meeting would be a historic event for the Church. The Church has been looking for a suitable parcel of land to build the new church building for a long time. And by God's grace, a choice plot of land has been found! The decisions made by those present at the EGM would have far reaching results for eternity.

Senior Pastor then gave an exhortation by reading the account of Elijah's victory on Mount Carmel, found in 1 Kings 18:30-39 before our Church Treasurer and Deacon for Church Business gave an excellent and clear presentation of the background of the events and work that had been done by the Church, culminating in the Board of Deacons' decision to table the resolution to purchase the property for the Members' consideration. After highlighting the main criteria for the land that the Church needs, he informed those present that a suitable parcel of land had been located in Bukit Jalil, next to the Bukit Jalil Golf & Country Resort.

After the resolution to give approval to the Board of deacons to purchase the aforementioned property had been moved and seconded, Senior Pastor gave opportunities for questions. The resolution was put to vote by a show of hands. It was overwhelmingly supported by the majority and thus Senior Pastor declared that the resolution was adopted!

Using 1 John 3:18 encouraging us to love in word and in

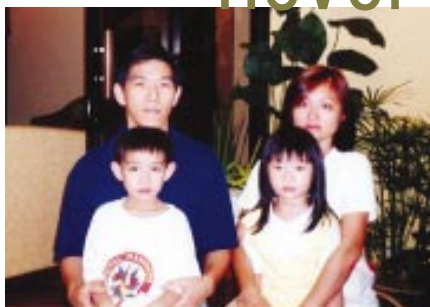


The site for the new church building

deed and the parable of the Good Samaritan, Senior Pastor challenged those present to pray that many will respond in giving to help the Church purchase the land.

The meeting ended with corporate prayer, thanksgiving, worship and rededication of oneself for God's service and a closing prayer by Associate Pastor Steven Kum. 🙏

God is always on time— never too early and never too late



Kem Keong and his family

The Life Group (LG) Ministry is a place where lives are touched and opportunities given to serve the Lord. Those who have been touched, cannot help but offer to serve. The following is a testimony of a LG member.

YAW KEM KEONG, from a LG in Bandar Utama

Ever since we registered our children to a school in Petaling Jaya, we had the intention of moving our home to that area, having stayed in Kepong for many years. We viewed a number of properties but to no avail.

Together with the LG and our family members, we prayed and sought the Lord on the possibility to move to PJ. We knew He wanted us to wait for His timing, not ours.

We had viewed many potential houses, only to find them not satisfactory. Subsequently, we viewed a house with a price which was beyond our budget. We could not make an offer as we could not afford the house. We told the real estate agent the price we could afford, which was substantially lower than the market price. Moments later, she conveyed the offer to the house

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The Holy Spirit Can Change Your Life

By Edgar Lee

“All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.”

“The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance.”

“Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and dedication unto God.”

Baptism in the Holy Spirit makes a difference. Peter, the gifted but often impetuous and sometimes undependable disciple of Jesus, is a good example. Disheartened by the arrest and impending conviction of Jesus, Peter denied the Lord three times (John 18:15-18, 25-27). But a few weeks later, Peter was baptized in the Holy Spirit and radically changed (Acts 2:4). Then he courageously stood before a confused and skeptical crowd and preached one of the great sermons of all time, winning 3,000 to Christ (Acts 2:41).

Indeed, the Bible teaches that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a vital experience for all Christians. Mark’s Gospel quotes John the Baptist: “I baptize you with water, but he [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:8, NIV). Each of the other three Gospel writers takes

up the same promise using similar language (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16; John 1:33). Just before His ascension, Jesus personally assured His disciples, “For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5), a promise dramatically fulfilled in 120 believers on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). After Pentecost, Peter encouraged the awestruck crowd, “Repent and be baptized. ...And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off” (Acts 2:38,39).

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Baptism in the Spirit is described in several ways. John the Baptist and Jesus spoke of “baptizing” in the Spirit (Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5). Jesus also described it as “power from on high” (Luke 24:49). Luke referred to being “filled” with the Spirit (Acts 2:4). Peter called it the “gift” of the Spirit (Acts 2:38). In other passages, the Spirit “fell” (Acts 10:44; 11:15, KJV), people “received” the Spirit (Acts 10:47; 19:2), the Spirit was “poured out” (Acts 10:45), and the Spirit “came” (Acts 19:6). The terms are most often verbs that stress the purpose, power and activity of the Spirit.

Since a number of biblical words are used for this overwhelming encounter with the Spirit, it is important to select one for our

doctrinal statements that enables us to accurately communicate the biblical reality. The verb “to baptize” (Greek, *baptizo*) was prominent on the lips of Jesus and His followers. It is an intensive form of the word *bapto* that meant “to dip in or under,” i.e., “to immerse.” *Bapto* was often used for dyeing cloth where it is necessary to totally immerse the fabric in the dye. “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” has rich biblical precedent and a striking sense of immersion to describe a powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit.

The Promise of the Father


“I am going to send you what my Father has promised,” Jesus told His disciples (Luke 24:49, NIV). Jesus could have referenced any number of Old Testament teachings on the Holy Spirit, who often came to energize people for God’s service. For example, God put His Spirit on 70 elders to equip them as leaders under Moses. When the Spirit came on them, they prophesied (Numbers 11:25,26). “I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” was Moses’ own prophetic response (Numbers 11:29). Through Ezekiel, God promised, “I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 36:27). Still later, Joel prophesied, “And afterward,

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owner, and to our surprise, she confirmed that the deal was done in our favour!

The house owner even agreed to give us an unusual five long months to arrange for financing. We were overwhelmed and immediately knew that God had answered our prayer. Furthermore, His timing is always right —never too early and never too late, just in time for our children to begin their school term.

As a family, we are reminded not to be attached to earthly things as we are sojourners. Seeking Him first, offering our lives as living sacrifices and being good stewards of the things He gave us, are our utmost priorities.

Thus, on 4 January 2003, together with our LG, we celebrated God’s goodness and testified that our home will be used for His Glory. All honour be to God! 

You can be a blessing today, with that which God has given you.

If you are an owner or a main resident of a property, a house or an office lot, **you can be a LG host.**

For more information, **please call the Pastoral Care Department at 03-2099 7134 or 03-2099 7135.**

We are more than willing to help you serve as a LG Host.

Everyone's A Winner

By Toh Bee Cheng

Even from the time of the registration, the children knew that **Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2002** was going to be different. Adopting a different concept and style, VBS 2002, with its theme, "Everyone's A Winner", attracted a total attendance of 560 children. This year recorded the largest registration of 134 children who were either non-believers or non-church attendees. By the end of VBS, 146 accepted Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. Seventy-eight rededicated their lives and 76 received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Thirteen followed the Lord in water baptism. They were baptised in the Elim bungalow swimming pool, in the presence of their parents and friends.

VBS 2002 broke away from the five-day concept and became a four-day programme from 2-5 December 2002. The children were divided into five teams (Red, Blue, Green, Yellow and Purple) and each team was led by a boy and a girl captain and had a team mascot and cheerleaders. The teams competed in various relay games and even the memory verses were incorporated into the competition. Bible lessons were integrated into the various games.

The Royal Rangers, carrying the Malaysian and Christian flags, started off the opening ceremony with their spirited rendition of



Experiencing God's grace in times of uncertainty

Assistant Pastor David Seah and his wife, Karen (Coordinator of our Calvary Prayer Tower Ministry) share with us their testimony of God's faithfulness as they face the challenges of parenthood.

"What? Our newborn baby has. . . can you please say that again, doctor?" *Incontinentia Pigmenti*. . . a rare genetic disorder, characterised by unusual patterns of discoloured skin." Some children with this condition develop fits or other physical complications such as poor vision, dental problems, slight paralysis, etc. However, for most patients, it is purely a cosmetic problem.

Faced with the grim facts, our initial reaction was one of shock and a little disbelief. Could it be a wrong diagnosis? Four doctors could not have made a mistake; no, not when the symptoms associated with the condition were present.

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Assistant Pastor David Seah with wife, Karen and baby Natalie



blessed the children during “Bible Discovery” sessions as he shared messages based on the life of Joseph. The children learnt to place their confidence in God’s Word and they learnt that they could be winners despite

unfair circumstances as was depicted in the life of Joseph.

Following the Bible lessons, the children were divided into two groups— Juniors: four to seven years and Seniors: eight to 13 years. Interesting lessons called “Experience It” reinforced the lessons. Memory verses were taught using visuals. The children made the effort to memorise the verses in order to score points for their respective teams. The Juniors benefited from watching a video entitled “Joseph and the Colourful Coat” while the Seniors were treated to testimonies from world class

“When the Saints Come Marching In”. The teams then trooped in with their team mascots and cheerleaders. VBS 2002 was officially declared open when Associate Pastor Richard Yun received the games torch from Andrew Yem and lighted the “cauldron” in the sanctuary. After a time of worship and praise, Justin Tiew and the Carpenter’s Workshop (CW) Choir led the children in the theme song, “God’s Winning Ways”.

Everyday, VBS began with praise and worship in the sanctuary. A short “experiential lesson” was incorporated while a game was used to introduce the Bible lesson of the day. Pastor Richard

sportspersons who testified that knowing and obeying Jesus were more precious than winning Olympic gold medals. As part of the programme, the Royal Rangers gave a presentation and the CW2J class presented a skit. There was also a poster designing competition based on the theme, “Fruits of the Spirit”. The children displayed such great creative talents until the judges had difficulty awarding the points!

KidGames began at 2pm daily and this time proved to be the most challenging and competitive time for the children as the teams competed against each other for every precious point. It was surprising to see how competitive the younger children were. The competition for the older ones was intense! However, it was good to see that the children were obeying the rules and enjoying themselves tremendously.

The closing ceremony started with the marching in of the teams. The results were announced and Red team emerged the overall champion of VBS 2002! As the Malaysian and Christian flags were carried out, Pastor Richard declared VBS 2002 closed and the “fire” in the “cauldron” was “put out” and “Taps” was blown. At the last note, the stage exploded into a time of celebration of dance and music led by the CW Choir with their vibrant dance performance of “Jesus My Saviour”.

We can only thank God for what He has done through the VBS. The children were blessed spiritually and enjoyed themselves. Certainly, they have learnt that there are no losers in God’s kingdom and that everyone is a winner in Jesus Christ. A big thank you to all our teachers, volunteers and those who have been a blessing to the children in VBS. Those of you who have yet to help out in VBS, do try to make it in VBS 2003 and let God open your eyes to His wonders!

Walking into the new world of parenthood was a challenging experience, and in our case, it was unnerving at times because we knew not what was ahead. Uncertainty... it hung like a dark gloom in the air. Will this precious baby of ours develop the complications? Will the unsightly boils and blisters on her tender skin ever disappear? Her left eye—was that a confirmed ‘squint’?

There were many questions to which there were no immediate answers. Perhaps there will never be answers. But were answers what we really needed? Evidently not. More

than anything else, we needed God’s grace as we walked through what seemed like the dark night of faith. Attending to the many issues at hand and dealing with the struggles within were exhausting at times. God had to bring us to the point where our hearts were totally at rest in Him. The recognition that He loves our baby far more than we do gave us a deep assurance that God will and He is able to do what is best for her.

He has already begun a good work and He will bring it to a glorious completion. At this juncture, Natalie, now a year old, is growing very well with

normal vision and marked improvements in her skin condition. We thank Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, the Pastors, family, friends and the Church staff for standing together with us in prayer. While we trust God for Natalie’s complete healing, we are reminded time and again of something that is of far greater eternal value than the miracle of healing. And that is the importance of imparting the precious truths of Jesus to this bundle of joy God has given us. That is without a doubt, the best gift that we could ever give to her.



Lessons in being a modern Samaritan: Three skits reminding us to put hands and legs to our prayers and to love in deed and not just with our intellect

Dr Mary and Dr Paul Wangai

Our CMNN news anchors in action again

Various groups being commissioned to reach our community for Jesus

Don't tell me how big your problems are; tell how big your God is!

By Audrey Kum

How does one begin a new year? Some make resolutions to live a better life. Some just carry on from the old without thinking much about what lies ahead. Then there are those who recognise the need to seek the Lord for His direction and strength to face the challenges of the New Year. Hence, from 9 to 11 January 2003, many Calvarites made their way to Calvary Church Damansara Heights to attend the Missions Revival Meetings to hear from God through His servants, Dr Paul Wangai, Jr and his wife, Dr Mary Wangai who hail from Nairobi, Kenya.

Thursday, 9 January 2003 Hanging By A Thread

Dr Paul Wangai introduced God as a specialist in removing problems. Speaking confidently, he said, "God is a big God. When God is in control, nothing can go out of control." If we have problems, we are to tell the problems how big our God is.

When we sin, Dr Wangai said that God should strike us dead but because of His great grace and mercy, we are not immediately consumed. Sadly, as we continue in our sins, we often do not even realise that the Lord has left us as He did in the case of Samson. He warned us not to take sin lightly as Satan is out to destroy us.



Missions Director, Associate Pastor Peter Ong, giving the altar call on Thursday evening

On the first night, Dr Wangai related the story of Samson found in the book of Judges. Samson was born to Manoah and his wife who was childless until the angel of the Lord told her that she would conceive a son. Samson was to keep the Nazirite vow. He was not to drink wine or fermented drink, not to eat anything unclean and not to cut his hair as he was set apart to God.

But Samson was soon to break these vows. As Dr Wangai related the incidents that brought Samson's downfall, we had our first taste of his story-telling skills. He told the tales vividly and we could just see Samson killing the lion, eating the honey from the unclean carcass and allowing himself to be tricked by Delilah into revealing the secret of his great strength.

Samson's strength was not really in his hair but in his loyalty to God. When we sacrifice our loyalty to God, we relinquish His blessings. Dr Wangai urged us to search our hearts. Are we playing with sin and addicted to sin? He said, "You can cheat some people some of the time but you cannot cheat God anytime." God gave Samson a second chance and we read today that he is included among the giants of faith found in Hebrews.

That night, the altar was open to those who recognised that sin had entered their hearts and wanted to honour God once again with their lives.

Seeking God who is bigger than their problems at the altar on Friday evening

Friday, 10 January 2003 Lord, Do it Again

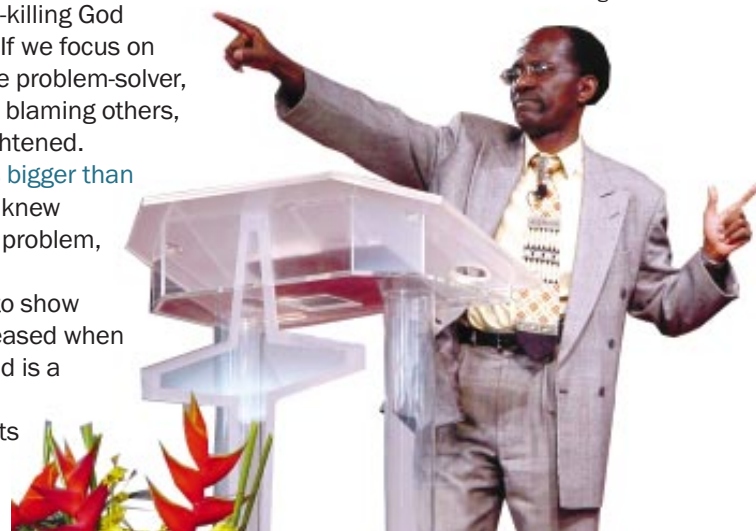
By the second night, we were already expecting to be treated to more vivid tales. We were not disappointed. This time, we were told the story of David and Goliath found in the first book of Samuel, complete with sound effects. Dr Wangai described Goliath in great detail. We could almost see this huge giant with a bad, hateful and condescending attitude before us. But Dr Wangai reminded us to focus on the giant-killing God instead of the giant. If we focus on problems and not the problem-solver, we end up giving up, blaming others, complaining and frightened.

However, God is bigger than our problems. David knew this. The greater the problem, the greater was the opportunity for God to show His power. God is pleased when we exercise faith. God is a specialist in dealing with impossible giants in our lives. David knew that the

battle was about God and not about him. He trusted God and was not disappointed. Dr Wangai pointed out that it does take courage when you do things for God but we have the assurance that God always rescues His children.

Once again, the altar was full. Those with problems brought them to God, trusting Him to work out what seemed impossible to them.

Dr Paul Wangai



Saturday, 11 January 2003 The Lady With the Red Rose

On this Saturday afternoon, Dr. Paul and Dr Mary Wangai told us about the ministry they are involved in back in Kenya. Both of them, who are medical doctors, felt the compassion of God for those suffering with HIV/AIDS. God had touched the couple's lives and they started New Life homes to help give the babies literally new leases in life. Viewing picture after picture of scrawny looking babies near death, we were encouraged to

While waiting for her, he caught sight of this vision of beauty approaching him and he was attracted to her. However, as there was no red rose on her lapel, he kept on waiting until he saw this elderly, grossly overweight and unattractive lady with a red rose. His heart sank but being the gentleman that he was, he approached the lady while he lost sight of the beautiful woman who had earlier caught his attention.

The story had a happy ending. Because he kept his commitment, he was rewarded. The lady whom he was



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam praying for those at the altar on Saturday afternoon

see the difference that love and medical care brought to these precious ones. Within months, these babies, some of whom were left to die, looked so chubby and healthy. Many were adopted by couples from all over the world.

The final story told by Dr Wangai was rather romantic in nature. It was a tale of a soldier who was drawn to a woman he never met. He had read a book from a library, on which she had written notes and was so impressed by this unknown woman that he traced her whereabouts. He corresponded with her over a period of time and finally made arrangements to meet her. With great excitement, he looked out for a lady with a red rose.

supposed to meet turned out to be the vision of beauty. She had given the rose to the other woman who was to tell him where to find her only if he made contact and was kind to her despite her unattractiveness. He had passed her test!

And the lesson we could learn from this story? A committed heart is measured by actions. We claim commitment to God but do we turn our backs on those who are unlovely, who are ignored and rejected by society? How much we really care is shown by what we do and not how much Scripture we know. What are we going to do for God?

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam prayed for the many who knelt before God at the altar.

The portrait of Calvary

By Audrey Kum

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam encouraging us to enlarge our faith



Senior Pastor leading in prayer for the Faith Promise partners



Fred Wangai, elder son of the Wangais, reciting a passage from Isaiah 52 to 53



When you entered the sanctuary on **Faith Promise Sunday**, 12 January 2003, did you, like me, wonder about that small clay pot on the table near the pulpit? Why was it there? When Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam took out a hammer, broke the pot to pieces and then brought out a larger and more beautiful glazed pot, understanding dawned. Unless we break the existing “mould”, we would not be able to get a new and larger “mould”. Senior Pastor had made his point clearly. We were encouraged to enlarge our faith in God even as we were preparing to make our Faith Promise pledges that day.

Dr Paul Wangai, Jr who was our Missions Revival meetings speaker the past three days, invited us to go with him to God’s art gallery to view the portrait of Calvary. It seemed like everyone who saw it could not remain dry-eyed. He described the scene in such a way that we could just imagine the anguish experienced by Jesus as He hung on the cross. The artist, according to Dr Wangai, painted details that told us the extent of pain and suffering Jesus went through—a dog nearby representing dogs known for trying to dismember the legs of the crucified, a vulture hovering, waiting to devour His flesh and eyeballs, the ants and insects crawling through the orifices of the body, the blood drawn by the crown of thorns, the seven inch nails that drove through Jesus’ wrists, the clawed hands....

Indeed, one cannot see this portrait of Calvary and remain the same. This was God’s supreme demonstration of His love for us. When we see this portrait, we can only worship God. We cannot repay Him but we can respond by giving Him our lives for Him to use as He pleases.

Praise God for the 2,849 (including children) who expressed their love and trust in the Lord by committing themselves to be partners in faith for missions. 🙏

CW children participate in missions giving

Associate Pastor Richard Yun speaking to the younger CW kids



Gunapooshani with the older CW kids



It was not only the adults who made Faith Promise pledges on Sunday, 12 January 2003. The Carpenter’s Workshop (CW) children also believed God to help them give towards missions. Praise God for the 621 children who made pledges in faith. 🙏

Children reminded that they have a big God!

While the adults were attending the Missions Revival meetings in the sanctuary from 9 to 11 January 2003, the kids attended their own **Children’s Missions Revival meetings** at the Elim bungalow.

Our missionary-in-training, Gunapooshani, challenged the kids to focus on Jesus instead of their problems just like blind Bartimaeus did. Praise God for the many who responded by giving God their problems and for the three who received the baptism in the Holy Spirit! 🙏



CW Choir presenting a song

Head, Heart, Hands

Dr Mary Wangai challenged a group of women and a handful of men to use their head, heart and hands for Jesus.

She spoke of Tabitha from Joppa who was known for her good works and charitable deeds.

She asked those who attended the **“Morning Tea with Dr Mary Wangai”** on Saturday, 11 January 2003 what they were known for in their community?



She encouraged them to use their talents to be a positive influence for Jesus.

She stressed the importance of prayer and abiding in Christ if they wanted to bear fruit for Jesus and to make an impact on their community. 🙏

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I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions” (Joel 2:28).

Even in the Old Testament, the coming of the Spirit was expected to be an empowering experience with visible personal and public results. The Old Testament expectation included a powerful inner orientation to love and obey God. In addition, it especially anticipated a prophetic quickening of the speech of the people of God.

The Day of Pentecost

The immediate fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, as well as those of John the Baptist and Jesus, came on the Day of Pentecost. There suddenly came a sound like wind and the appearance of fire, reminiscent of God’s mighty acts of old (Acts 2:1-3; Exodus 19:18). All 120 believers “were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4). They immediately began to declare “the wonders” of God” in the various languages of their hearers that they had never learned (Acts 2:11). It was this mystery of praising God in other tongues that Peter unraveled for the skeptical crowd: “This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy’” (Acts 2:16,17). Baptism in the Spirit, with speaking in other tongues either stated or implied, occurred over and over again in the Early Church as the biblical record makes clear (Acts 4:31; 8:17,18; 9:17; 10:44-46; 11:15; 19:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10,28; 13:1; 14:5,18,27; Ephesians 5:18,19).

True to the promises of the Old and New Testaments, these early believers were transformed into powerful witnesses as the Lord had promised (Acts 1:8). Led by the apostles who were personally trained by Jesus, ordinary men and women received not only the baptism in the Spirit but they also began to manifest the gifts of the Spirit required for powerful witness of word and deed. In one generation, with powerful

witness, preaching and “signs following” (Mark 16:20, KJV) they carried the gospel of Christ to the known world.

Our Doctrine

We seek to maintain the biblical emphasis on Spirit baptism. We believe one should be “born again,” or “regenerated” by the Spirit (John 3:3,5; Titus 3:5). We also believe one should be baptized in the Spirit. Baptism in the Spirit is distinct from and subsequent to the new birth. Such subsequence may, of course, be momentary and hardly noticeable as in the case of Cornelius’ household (Acts 10:44-46), or it may be more obvious as in the case of the Samaritan and Ephesian believers (Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-7).

Initial Evidence


The Old Testament makes it clear that the Holy Spirit gives inspired speech, which He often uses to signal His presence (Numbers 11:25,26; 1 Samuel 10:10). In the New Testament, when the Spirit baptized believers, they spoke with other tongues (glossolalia), the presence of which was taken to be a sign of their baptism in the Spirit (Acts 2:4; 9:17; [see 1 Corinthians 14:18] 10:46; 19:6) and a sign of God’s salvation to all nations (Acts 2:5-11). Peter’s Jewish companions recognized that the Spirit had baptized Cornelius’ household when “they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God” (Acts 10:46). Thus we have understood that, then and now, speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit. Obviously, further evidence of the Spirit’s fullness must follow in godly living and effective service.

Power to Witness

Prominent in God’s purposes for Spirit baptism is the equipping of believers for witness to Christ. Jesus instructed His disciples, “Stay in the city [Jerusalem] until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49) and added, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Power for witness also flows from the Spirit’s gifts (*charismata*) for the work of the ministry (1 Corinthians 12:7-11); Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:7-13; 1 Peter 4:10,11).

Progressive Sanctification

While baptism in the Spirit is not primarily for personal sanctification, it is an encounter with the Holy Spirit who has an important role in progressively bringing believers to godliness and maturity through His power to crucify ungodly impulses (Romans 8:13) and cultivate moral virtues, the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23).

For early believers, Christian faith without a powerful consciousness of the Spirit’s baptizing power would have been incomprehensible. Thus, Assemblies of God founders taught, “All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 

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This is a fourth 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.

Some think that to abide, you do not do anything. You just yield or surrender. To abide then, is to be like a glove. All the glove has to do is to allow the hand in the glove to do whatever it likes or wants. The hand represents Jesus who does whatever He wants with you. The glove does nothing except surrender! This is a misconception and is not totally correct. As a glove, you are passive and without will, just like a robot being controlled by another. You are denying the person God made you to be. This is a very dangerous way to live. God does not ask you to be a robot nor did He make you one. However, there is a certain amount of truth about the glove and hand illustration in the area of yielding and abandoning oneself to God—in that you make the choice to do so. It is your will to do the will of God in your life.

Abiding is not passive. It involves yielding and an act of your will. As you yield and will to do the will of God, God enables you. When you obey and do as He instructs you, God works through you. Paul said, “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God

who works in you to will and act according to his good purpose” (Philippians 2:12-13). Abiding is two fold. You make a choice to obey the will of God and God will work in you. This gives you the strength to do the will of God. Your obedience to God’s will produces the fruit of the Spirit.

Confession is necessary in abiding. Iniquities will hinder your communion with God. “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2). Confess your sins and be cleansed. Make sure nothing hinders or breaks your relationship with God. It is important that you come before Him in earnest confession. God sees your heart. There must be true repentance—what you say must correspond with what is in your heart. “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth” (1 John 1:6).

Abiding is also praying and meditating on the Word of God. The Word of God reveals the will of God. “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14). The better you know the Word, the better you pray. Learn to meditate on the

Scriptures. This involves not just reading the Word but reflecting and thinking about what it is saying to you. Jesus said, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you” (John 15:7). Take time to come before God in prayer but be careful that you do not approach Him demanding, “Give me! Give me! Give me!” The best posture to come before God is as a humble servant seeking His will by asking Him to remove anything that will hinder your communion with Him and expressing your willingness to obey Him. In the Bible, you will find many wonderful examples of people yielding themselves to God, some with tears, some in sackcloth and some who waited before God with fasting. Some seek God for hours without asking for anything but just desiring God. They become people that produce a hundred, sixty and thirty fold to the glory of God (Matthew 13:8) and “Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them” (Matthew 7:20).

The secret of successful living is to be a fruit-bearing believer and to bear fruits, you need to abide in Jesus. Are you abiding? You can to-day! 🙏

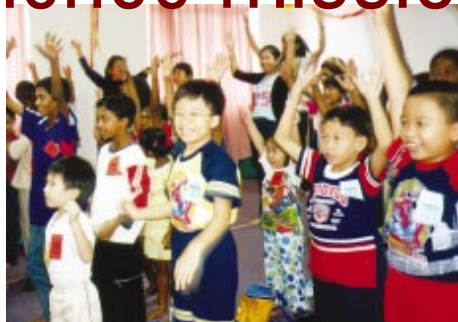
All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

Missionettes Girls Only club experience missions work

By Daniela Selvam



The Girls Only team



The kids enjoying the worship session



The kids responding at the altar

The **Missionettes Girls Only** club organised a missions trip to our outreach Calvary Praise Assembly in Bandar Puteri Puchong from 16 to 19 December 2002.

Eleven girls aged between 15 to 18 years and two Sponsors, ran a Vacation Bible School (VBS) programme to reach the children in the community in Puchong Jaya for Jesus. We were involved in teaching the lessons, handicraft and memory verses, leading in worship, assisting in preparing

refreshment and lunch, putting up decorations and child minding during the recreation at Shah Alam Water World.

Fifty-two children registered for the VBS and 41 responded to the altar call for salvation and rededication. Sixteen children were baptised in the Holy Spirit.

It was indeed a mission trip which

saw us serving in partnership with the Holy Spirit who gave each of us the strength, ability and wisdom to touch the life of every child. We give all glory and praise to God for a successful trip. The experience in missions work has enriched the girls’ spiritual lives as we encountered Jesus in a personal way. 🙏

“Awesome!”
“God moved.”
“Jesus touched me.”
“I could feel His presence.”
“I now know for sure that He loves me.”

These expressed just some of the feelings of the youth who attended the **Calvary Youth Camp 2002** from 9 to 11 December.

By Jennifer Tang



Youth challenged to “Stand their ground”



Our camp theme was “Stand Your Ground” (Ephesians 6:13). In all, we had four sessions at our campsite, Air Keroh Country Resort. On the first evening, Pastor Dale Lim, our camp speaker, gave the 200 campers a life-transforming sermon entitled “The What Ifs of Life”. He urged us to break away from the prison of “what ifs” by forgetting the former things and not dwelling on the past if we really wanted to experience the fullness of God. The altar was packed with young people weeping as they lay their past before the Lord. Many fell under the power of the Holy Spirit.



After group devotions and a scrumptious breakfast, we had our second session. The sermon title was “Come Follow Me”, taken from Matthew

to the call.

After the session, a variety of workshops on team and relationship building were conducted. The campers had a

wonderful time participating in the different activities. Circles were formed. Newspapers were used. Toes were being stepped on. Laughter was heard throughout the campsite as the campers were taught how to work together to build each other up in the Lord. During our free time in the afternoon, we had indoor games as well as outdoor activities such as basketball, swimming and soccer.

On the final night of camp, there was an air of excitement among the youth as we filled the hall. Once again, God moved mightily as Pastor Dale spoke on “God’s Greatest Blessing—the freedom

19. Pastor Dale challenged us to put our priorities right and to put our lives right with God. That morning, 13 young people responded to the call of full-time ministry; some for the first time while others were reconfirming their obedience



from the dominion of sin”. He reminded us that we can never be set free by our own efforts and only through the Holy Spirit can we be empowered to do the things we ourselves cannot do. When the altar call was given, almost half of the campers responded. The Holy Spirit was moving so powerfully in the hearts and minds of those who responded that the session was lengthened

beyond our scheduled time.

We had our final session after devotion and breakfast. The sermon was entitled, “Destiny Opportunity”.

Pastor Dale said that “destiny opportunities” do not come all the time. He said the greatest destiny for man and woman is that they serve God wholeheartedly.

Later, we had a time of reflection and testimonies of what the Lord had done in our lives at camp. God’s Holy Spirit had moved among us, touching, healing and changing lives. Five people responded for salvation and six received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. All in all, each one of us was tremendously blessed in some way.

As we “stand our ground”, we know that the Lord will continue to work in us and through us to impact our generation for Jesus. To God be the glory! 🙌



Camp speaker
Pastor Dale Lim



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