

# CALVARY NEWS

A Bi-Monthly Publication Of Calvary Church

Issue No: 82

July-August 2003

PP 5911/3/2004

## Adversity: Friend or Foe

“When you are down to nothing, God is up to something”

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



*“Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, where the king’s prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.*

*But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

*And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.*

*The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph’s authority, because the Lord was with him; whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.”*

*Genesis 39:20-23*

God will never leave you nor forsake you, irrespective of where you are—in prison, in the fiery furnace, a storm or the lion’s den. If you are in a “pit” or are facing a “Potiphar’s house” experience, figuratively speaking, remember your predicament is not your destiny. When you are down to nothing, God is up to something. Hang in there for you are about to enter the “palace” experience!

**While fleeing from temptation, Joseph incurred the wrath of Potiphar’s wife who falsely accused him of rape.** Joseph landed in prison because he chose to live right for God and not because of his own folly and sin. Your “prison” experience may not be a literal prison but could be in the form of sickness, failure in business, tragedy, mishap, a bad relationship, etc. What do you do when you do not understand or do not see His hand? Trust His heart! Do not be afraid of trouble that comes your way. It could be the means for you to grow in maturity or to promote you

rather than to destroy you. The Bible says, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” ([Romans 8:28](#)).

**You may be scarred by troubles but**

**the scars need not necessarily be scars of defeat.** Champions are not without scars. I believe no one gets into heaven without some scars. David described how Joseph was taken to prison: “He [God] sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet

with fetters, he was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the Word of the Lord tested him” ([Psalm 105:17-19](#)). When Joseph arrived in the palace, he did not lose his scars on his feet and

## Champions are not without scars

neck. Jesus, when He returns, will be recognised by His nail-scarred hands. Scars are powerful testimonies of God’s grace and faithfulness in a believer’s journey through life.

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Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam  
praying for the mothers



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina  
Guneratnam sharing the message



Second and third generation Calvarites serving the Lord with their musical talents  
Left to right: Emelia Toh, Wong Lee En, Azalea Joy Lee, Mabel Wong

# You can bloom in all circumstances, seasons and at all times

By Carol Lim

“Her name was not given. She was an ordinary housebound wife but she experienced great miracles and divine provisions which were recorded in 2 Kings 4:8-37. How did it all happen? It started from a small act of kindness,” began Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam in her **Mother’s Day** message. She then used this woman’s life to illustrate many powerful principles to challenge all Calvarites to bloom wherever they are placed.

Before Sister Petrina (as she is fondly called), took the pulpit, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam read a recipe to make “A Love Cake For Mother”. He then affirmed the vital role that mothers play in society. Quoting United States President, Theodore Roosevelt, he said, “It is the mother, and the mother only, who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls, who are to be men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community, and occupies, if she would only realise it, a more honourable as well as more important position than any man in it. The mother is the one supreme asset of the national life. She is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or



The Carpenter’s Workshop (CW) Choir in Damansara Heights singing for their mothers while four of the girls did a dance

scientist.” He challenged the mothers in the various congregations to believe God to grant them the desires of their hearts before praying for them. The mothers were presented with gifts from the Church.

For those who had prayed for God to speak to them, Sister Petrina’s message must have been an instant answer to their prayers. In her own inimitable style, Sister skilfully showed that the way to receiving God’s miracles, protection and provision

The CW Choir and dancers in Cheras



## Jesus loves the little children

On Mother’s Day, 11 June 2003, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam had the joy of dedicating seven babies to the Lord at the 10.30am Worship Service at Damansara Heights. Praise God for parents who recognise the importance of bringing up their babies in the ways of the Lord!



ASHLEY RACHEL MOK ER-TZE  
Parents: Sean & Valerie Mok



DAVID CHAN ZHI YUAN  
Parents: Andre & Patrina Chan



LEONG WENG KIT  
Parents: Herbert & Jennifer Leong

was by giving and serving. In the case of the Shunammite woman, it began when she first cooked a meal for Elisha. She was being kind and the one meal became many meals, demonstrating her generosity. Rightly perceiving that Elisha was a man of God, she desired to build a room in her house for him to use whenever he visited. Elisha wanted to bless this woman and discovered from Gehazi, his servant, that she was childless and her husband was old. As a result, she conceived and had a son the next year. Sister Petrina drew a parallel, that when one gives to the Kingdom of God without ulterior motives, one cannot help but be blessed by God.

Sister Petrina also emphasised the faith showed by the Shunammite woman. She was able to declare that everything was all right even when her son had died on her lap! It was faith that enabled her to do that. God honoured her faith and

she returned home after staying away for seven years, she again experienced miraculous provisions. The fact that she called upon the king to request for the restoration of her property at the very moment Gehazi was recounting to him the miracle healing of her son, was proof of God's intervention. Sister Petrina highlighted that besides getting her land back, she also received back pay (all the income from her land during her absence). There was no doubt that it was God who provided for her and it all started with her doing something seemingly insignificant. No man can outgive God and when God is for you, you cannot be insignificant!

Sister Petrina challenged the Calvarites not to wait for better opportunities before they gave or served as they will never be in a "perfect" situation. The Shunammite woman had a need but that did not stop her from giving. Sister Petrina

said, "You do not have to wait until you are financially sound before giving or wait till the children are grown up before serving!" She also encouraged those who have "dead child" situations, i.e. hopeless situations—physical, emotional or spiritual, to believe God for miracles. Many thronged the altars in

response to their faith in God to restore and provide. 🙏



The CW Choir in Ampang



The CW Choir in Bandar Utama

her son was raised to life! Once again, she experienced a miracle. Then came Elisha's warning of an impending famine and she experienced God's protection from starvation. When

## Missionettes honour their mothers with "A Caribbean Celebration"!

The Calvary Refreshment Centre was transformed on the evening of 11 May 2003 when 66 mothers of the **Missionettes** let "their hair down" and enjoyed themselves with their daughters and the **Missionette Sponsors**. The worship of the 170 who were present was lively and the mothers sportingly participated in the programmes planned for them. Praise the Lord for mothers! 🙏

Mother-daughter teams were rewarded for their efforts in dressing to suit the occasion



ADRIAN SAM JUN HAO  
Parents: Sam Siew Mun & Christina



JOSEPH TAN  
Parents: Albert & Carol Tan



WONG QIAN HOONG  
Parents: Gary & Josephine Wong



GREG WONG PAUL ERNST  
Parents: Wong Leong Sang & Sherry

# It's great to be part of the family of God

By Byron D. Klaus



**“The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven.”**

“A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in evangelizing the world, worshiping

God and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.”

When each of our daughters was born my wife and I made sure that the finest medical services possible were present. But we weren't through with our responsibilities once the children were safely brought into the world. We created a home where their lives were nurtured and they grew up in a supportive atmosphere that provided security and encouragement as they matured. Similarly, to be “born again” into a redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ is to be birthed into a new life and a supportive family where maturity in a relationship with Jesus Christ can occur.

The word “church” conjures up a variety of images. Is the church a building where religious events take place? Is the church a club in which we choose to hold membership? None of these popular uses of the

term “church” can describe it exactly because it is, most importantly, the spiritual community that we are placed into upon coming

**It is crucial that we allow the Bible to be our ultimate reference point.**

to Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).

It is crucial that we allow the Bible to be our ultimate reference point. There are at least 80 descriptive images in the New Testament for the church. These biblical descriptions are not so much around institutional or structural terms. The clearest

**The church is a special group of people who are in relationship with God.**

biblical references focus on people who have been reconciled to God through the saving work of Christ and now together are a community/family that belong to Him for His redemptive purposes.

## **The nature of the church**

The church is a special group of people who are in relationship with God. God has initiated that relationship through the redemptive

work of Jesus Christ and is creating a community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that represents God's eternal purposes. Peter uses a poignant picture when he describes the church as the “people of God” (1 Peter 2:9,10, NIV). This term denotes a unique and special relationship with a community that represents God's purposes to the rest of the world. Peter describes the people of God as a “chosen people” and a “holy nation” focusing on the God-ordained identity of His people to represent Him globally. Peter continues His description of the “people of God” by calling them a “royal priesthood” and “people belonging to

God” with a divinely ordained purpose centered in the eternal redemptive plan of God.

The church is not meant to be either a cozy club or an end in itself. Believers have a significant part to play in completing God's work. To be part of God's family is a privilege and a responsibility. Regardless of the individualism rampant in our world, our faith in Christ includes being active players in communities of faith called and empowered by

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The **Life Group (LG)** is not only a place to gather for prayer, fellowship and Bible study. It is a place where individuals, having received care and nourishment, are encouraged to be a blessing outside the circle of the LG.

## Life Group (LG) In Action: The Joy Of Being A Blessing!

Here is a testimony of a LG Leader who, together with his group, has experienced the joy of participation in the work of God.

“ Having been in the ushering ministry for some years, this year’s Easter was pleasantly different as I encouraged my LG members to serve together as a team. This opened the door for the new members to be a part of the Ushering Ministry and to learn from other LG members who were ‘seasoned’ ushers. Below are some testimonies from my LG members:

**Wendy Hong:** My tiredness was overcome by the joy and unity that came from serving as an usher during the Easter presentation.

**Steven Ng:** It was a new experience! Furthermore, it was wonderful serving together as a LG. I was really blessed by the unity of the group.

**Jason Tan:** Not only was ushering new to me, smiling is not something I do by nature. However, things seemed to change overnight. Serving together with my LG Leader and members, I found ushering fulfilling and more exciting than my computer games!

**Lee Bee Peng:** Serving together as a LG enhanced my first experience as an usher. I could really feel the strength, unity and bonding of the group. I was very glad to be a part of the team.

**Wesley Yee:** I appreciate serving together with the LG this year and was greatly encouraged to see all the new members involved! Following the excitement of serving as usher during the past Easters, I decided to be a regular usher in the Church.

It was good to serve together as a Life Group. I believe serving together always enhances group unity and cultivates good team spirit which helps in the development of the LG. As a Head Usher in the Church and a Life Group leader, nothing brings more joy than to see my team members growing in their participation. The LG members who served together as ushers during Easter Presentation 2003 with me were Stephanie Foong, Jeff Chow, Wesley Yee, Thompson Foong, Jonathan Foong, Stephanie Lee, Wendy Hong, Steven Ng, Tham Kok Meng, Lee Bee Peng and Jason Tan. It is already very fulfilling serving the Lord in the Church but it is even more enriching when your LG serves together with you!

”

**NICHOLAS GAN**

Taman Billion Life Group



*The group that served as ushers in the Easter presentation with their LG leader Nicholas Gan (front row middle)*

“Are you interested to be involved in a ministry in the Church but do not know how?”  
Join a LG today and you too can experience the joy of being a blessing!

**For more information, you can call the Pastoral Care Department at 03-2099 7135.**

All set for an adventure!



Mount Kinabalu shrouded in mist

## Kinabalu Expedition

# The Royal Rangers reach new heights!

By Jonathan Lim

The Royal Rangers led by Outpost Commander Chin Yoke Yee made a trip to Sabah in May with a mission—to experience God's wonderful creation and scale Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Southeast Asia.



Yum, yum...

### DAY 1

On 12 May 2003, seven Leaders, seven Rangers and three other Calvarites gathered at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and boarded a flight to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. After touching down, we checked into our apartments, then had a sumptuous seafood dinner before getting some sleep after the long journey.

### DAY 2

We arose at 6.30am to prepare to go whitewater rafting. It was a two-hour bus ride to Beaufort, then another two-hour train ride to the start of our rafting journey down the Padas River. The train ride was a real eye-opener for many of us for it brought us to the interior of Sabah. We saw for ourselves how remote some parts of East Malaysia were and how the locals carried out their daily activities. Ferrying goods and going to school by

the bone-numbing train was a daily routine for many of the locals. Truly we can be thankful for our blessings. Reputed to be the best whitewater rafting in Malaysia, we all had an enjoyable time braving the rapids before being treated to a BBQ.

Hey, wait for us!



### DAY 3

We had breakfast near the jetty before taking a boat to Sapi Island, where we were to go snorkelling. After a 20-minute ride, we arrived and soon enough, were enjoying God's creation underwater as we "ooh-ed" and "aah-ed" at the schools of fish swimming around us. The water was very clear that



Whitewater rafting—an exhilarating experience!



God's creation underwater

day and we were able to see the corals and the marine life that depended on it. We enjoyed the snorkelling so

much that we were rather reluctant to leave. That afternoon we travelled to Kinabalu Park. Associate Pastor Richard Yun joined us at the park around dinnertime and shared Psalm 121 with us. He encouraged us to hold on to it as we climbed up the mountain the next morning. We packed for the trek and hit the sack early so we would be energetic the next morning.

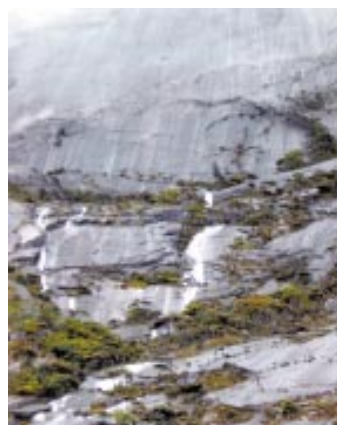
### DAY 4

The trek up Mount Kinabalu was the highlight of the trip. From the Park Headquarters, we would have to trek up six kilometres to Laban Rata rest house at a height of 3,272 metres,

before climbing to the peak the next morning. We started out at 9.30am. Along the way, it began to rain. Combined with the strong winds and the increasing altitude, it was a tough challenge for us but we were determined to reach our destination. By 3.30pm, all of us had reached Laban



*The team before setting out to Laban Rata. Left to right— Front: Chin Yoke Yee, Derek Lim, Sam Sin Gern, Samuel Soong, Samuel Yee, Wee Liang-Shyen, Cheah Siew Ying, Faith Tan, Loh Chee Wah, Eddy Law, Back: Jamie and Jim Guneratnam, Benjamin Khoo, David Peter, Jonathan Lim, Samuel Sham, Edwin Marsden, Associate Pastor Richard Yun, Leong Yew Loong*



*Sheer rock faces at Laban Rata*  
Rata where the temperature was slightly below 10 degrees. Boy, were we glad to know that there were heaters in the dorms. We were all under the covers by 8pm.

## DAY 5

We woke at 2am and found that it was still drizzling. The rain had not stopped since we arrived at Laban Rata the day earlier. We all knew that were in for a tough climb. After devotion and prayer, we left the rest house for the peak at 2.30am. Along the way, the rough weather conditions and our different levels of ability split us up. Ten of us made it to the peak. Some had to turn back due to the extreme weather conditions and altitude sickness—breathing difficulties, dizziness and nausea.

Those who made it to the summit, discovered that the beautiful sunrise we expected was not to appear. We only saw grey mist and fog all around us with winds blowing in excess of 80 kilometres per hour. The

to Poring Hot Springs to spend the night. We were treated to dinner along the way and were able to relax in the hot springs afterwards. Before heading off to bed, we gathered together and shared our experiences on



*Left to right: Commander Leong Yew Loong, Trail Ranger Wee Liang-Shyen, Faith Tan and Outpost Commander Chin Yoke Yee*



*Descending the mountain...*

temperature was just above freezing and we were greeted with small hailstones instead of a sunrise. We did not stay long because it was so cold that our hands had gone numb. The only evidence that we had reached the summit was a signboard that said 'Low's Peak' (4,095 metres), the highest peak in Southeast Asia named after the first recorded ascent by Sir Hugh Low. Still, overcoming all the difficulties and the extreme weather conditions made the ascent of Mount Kinabalu even sweeter. The satisfaction of knowing we have conquered the highest peak in the Southeast Asia was too much for words to describe.

We then trekked back down to Laban Rata, packed up and trekked all the way back to Kinabalu Park Headquarters. We travelled

the mountain and how God had helped us in many different ways. Encouraged by the testimonies, we listened to Pastor Richard as he shared the second part of Psalm 121 with us. Indeed, some of us said that the verses in Psalm 121 were what kept us going to reach the peak. Soon afterwards, we went into our different rooms and managed to get a good rest.

## DAY 6

The next morning, we arose and some of us walked to the hot springs just to enjoy one last dip, before going to visit a waterfall nearby. We took a bus back to Kota Kinabalu where we boarded the flight back home. We thank God for journey mercy.

This trip has truly been a wonderful experience for all of us and we would like to thank the different ones who made it possible. Lastly, praise be to God for what He has accomplished through us. Quoting from Psalms 121:1-2 : "I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Indeed, He has helped us in many different ways. 🙏

# Calvarites make “new believers” feel at home

Through the years, we have realised the importance of immediately contacting everyone who responds at the altar calls after our Easter Presentations. On 3 May 2003, we had the joy of meeting up with some of these who were able to attend a special gathering organised for the purpose of introducing them to our Church and our various programmes that may be helpful to them in their Christian growth. Praise God for a fruitful afternoon! 🏹

Associate Pastor Steven Kum leading in worship



Associate Pastor Peter Ong, on behalf of Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, warmly welcoming everyone



Getting to know our new friends



Associate Pastor Timothy Ong introducing various Ministries of the Church



More fellowship over refreshments graciously sponsored by TT Resources Bhd at the Calvary Refreshment Centre

## Our God answers the prayers of His saints!

We thank God for the wonderful altar responses in the Easter evangelistic meetings held in Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil on 19-20 April 2003. A total of 217 people responded for salvation and rededication. **Here are some testimonies from different individuals who have experienced God's awesome power at work in their lives and in the lives of those they have been interceding for.**

In Luke 18:1, Jesus exhorts His disciples to pray always and not give up. Indeed, we will reap the fruits of our labour in prayer if we faint not. The following testify of the result of perseverance in prayer:

“I have been submitting the names of my brother and his wife for prayer for a long time. Not too long ago, my sister-in-law was a victim of a snatch thief. In her distress, she prayed, “Jesus, if You will help me recover my handbag with all the documents, even if I lose my money, I will believe in You.” Later, she received a call from someone informing her that her bag was found. She was directed to a field behind a petrol station to claim her bag. She went and true enough, her bag was found with all the documents intact except for the money. As a result of the incident, my brother and his wife accepted the Lord. Since then, they have been attending church together with their children.”

“My father has never been to church although he came for our Easter presentations twice. During the Easter evangelistic meeting this year, I asked my father if he would like to respond to the altar call. He was very willing. My Life Group leader, Ruth, who was with us, further asked if he would like to accept Jesus as His personal Saviour. He agreed without any hesitation. He then said the sinner's prayer. Praise the Lord! Since then, he has been coming to Church and is now attending Richard Lee's Life Group in Damansara Kim. He is very touched by the warmth of the Life Group.”

Jesus declares in Matthew 17:20 that the faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. Truly, a simple act of faith viz. inviting someone to an evangelistic meeting may turn out to be God's divine appointment with that individual that will alter the entire direction of his life. In faith, the following persons prayed and reached out to their loved one/friend and God moved in a marvellous way:

“My brother-in-law rededicated his life to the Lord during Easter after turning his back on God for the bigger part of his life. He accepted the Lord when he was a youth and was actively involved in church. However, when he became successful, he forgot about the Lord. It was only in the last one or two years that he made some efforts to come back to church. I invited him to the Easter Worship Service and he came. After the service, I had the privilege of leading him in a prayer of repentance and rededication to the Lord.”

“Not too long ago, a friend introduced to me a lady who was going through a difficult time. She had stopped going to church for some time. She attended my Life Group a few times and I invited her to the Easter presentation. She came together with her husband. The Lord touched them that night and they responded to the altar call. She rededicated her life to the Lord and her husband had a born-again experience.”

Psalm 37:5 (The Living Bible) declares, “Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it and he will.” In spite of her busy schedule, the following individual purposed in her heart to serve God and commit her work to the Lord. He heard her prayers and blessed the company she works in:

“When I participated in ‘A Timeless Love’, it was the first time I was involved in the choir. During the presentation week, I was having a stressful time in the office doing a procurement exercise, sourcing for computer notebooks. As I am not a ‘computer buff’, I found the exercise extremely difficult. I prayed hard and committed the entire project to God, asking for His wisdom and favour upon me and my office. Despite my busy schedule, I was able to make it for all the rehearsals that week. On Monday, a wonderful surprise awaited me at the office. One of our computer vendors had presented us with a free computer server! My boss was awe-struck as he had never experienced such generosity from anyone in all his years of service. It was truly God's favour and blessing and certainly beyond what I could even ask or imagine!”



Have faith in God, obey His Word, persevere in prayer and commit everything to Him—you will experience His awesome power in your life and in the lives of those you are praying for! 🏹

Faith and obedience go hand in hand. When we obey God's commands, we have the confidence that He will answer our prayers as the Scripture declares, “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:22, NKJV). The following intercessor acted in obedience to God's Word and God honoured the desire of her heart:

“During the Intercessors' Briefing on Dedication Night, we were challenged to believe God for a specific personal need to be met besides interceding for others. As I prayed and fasted, I felt God challenging me to seek forgiveness from an individual whom I have wronged many years ago before I was a Christian. I sought the Lord for wisdom and strength as two earlier attempts to reconcile had failed. He gave me the courage and boldness to contact the person. Praise the Lord, this time I was able to receive forgiveness from the individual concerned and even had the opportunity to share what God has done for me since I became a Christian. I went home rejoicing because I was finally liberated from the chains of the past.”

## It's great to be part of the family of God

the very presence of God giving visible testimony to God's eternal purposes.

Paul regularly describes the church as the body of Christ. This metaphor is used in his writings in Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians

## Paul regularly describes the church as the body of Christ.

12:12-26 and Ephesians 4:11-16, 25-32 to express the fact that the church is not merely a sociological entity or just a group of people who think alike. The body of Christ is a fellowship of interdependent believers that commits itself to representing Jesus Christ in every nook and cranny of common life.

The church, of which you are a part, is simply not an ordinary community. It is a group of people who participate in a divine communion and literally is the place that the presence of God dwells. Such a community/people cannot be taken for granted and is the place that God has ordained redemption be most graphically lived out (2 Corinthians 5:20).

## The purpose of the church

What does the church do? What is the divine purpose of the church? As the church we are to be the community of God's people that brings glory to God.

We fulfill our purpose as the church as we worship God together (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:6-8). We worship God for who He is as the Creator and Sustainer of all creation (Colossians 1:16,17). We worship God for what He does because the redemptive actions of God, that are seen most clearly in Jesus Christ, testify to the true nature of the God we serve (John 3:16).

The vibrancy of Pentecostal worship is the crucible in which we gain a glimpse of the eternal agenda of our Lord. We see who we are in

comparison with who He is and we are humbled by the fact that He has redeemed us. We are overwhelmed that He would commission us to be people who bear witness to the world of His redemptive purposes.

We fulfill our purpose as the church as we participate in mutual edification and spiritual growth in the context of the community of believers. Ephesians 4:11-16 makes

quite clear that the context for every believer to learn what it means to follow Jesus is in

relationship with fellow believers. Living as a "Lone Ranger" Christian who refuses to be in relationship with fellow believers is a biblical impossibility. The pure light of God's grace given to each of us at salvation is refracted into its visible and varied forms of grace in the diversity of spiritual gifts that edify the whole community of believers together (1 Corinthians 12:1-11).

We fulfill God's purpose as we act as an agency to evangelize the world. We direct our efforts under the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to those who have yet to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Acts 1:8). Following Jesus' clear example and command, we bear witness to the redemptive work of God in Christ (Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:20).

## Leadership for the ministry


While the reality of Pentecost is that all believers are now called and empowered for ministry (Acts 2), the Lord has provided that there be leaders gifted to prepare God's people for effective service. The spiritual giftedness for leadership described in Ephesians 4:11-16 does not create an elite class of Christians, but it does recognize and set apart (ordain) gifted men and women for a particular role. The task of these gifted leaders is to be

at the forefront of equipping the believers in the congregation to effectively serve the Lord. The context of the local church is that place where spiritual leaders bring the believers to maturity. The effectiveness of that local congregation depends much on the Holy Spirit-anointed leadership that serves there. These spiritual leaders should be viewed as gifts from God to strengthen the church for its calling.

## Application

A deep appreciation for God's marvelous and mysterious creation, the church, is more important than ever. We live in a world that clearly values self-expression and human autonomy. Yet God's alternative is to have communities of people (local

## The church is a community of the King that invites people to come and encounter Jesus Christ...

churches) that are led by spiritually gifted men and women. These local churches, called and empowered by the very presence of God, are to give visible testimony to a Redeemer God through their worship, love for one another and vibrant evangelistic efforts. The church is a community of the King that invites people to come and encounter Jesus Christ, be part of the family of God and participate in God's redemptive mission. 

*Byron D. Klaus is president of Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri.*

*This is the sixth 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.*



Helen Read



Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng Lay Swee \*



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam

# Designs—Desirable & Disastrous

By Patreen Wong

The Women's Fellowship meeting on 5 April 2003 kicked off with an ice-breaker that literally had participants scrambling to form groups and discover various types of "ice". Each group was given a quiz with clues, the answers of which all ended in "i-c-e". For example, a 5-letter ICE that makes you thirsty was "j-u-i-c-e" and a 4-letter ICE that makes you itch was "l-i-c-e". At the conclusion of the game, participants squealed with incredulous laughter as final answers were read out.

Two testimonies followed the worship session led by Helen Gan. The first was by Helen Read, Managing Director of a manufacturing firm. She spoke of how God had raised her from humble beginnings to where she is today. The tough financial difficulties coupled with family and personal challenges that she had to face made her days very long and full of sorrow and loneliness. She learnt the importance of a network of good friends who were there for her. Her best friend is Jesus. Her faith in Him helped her to carry on and enabled her to realise her dream of launching her own label. She said, "Today, I have 12 shops selling my label...what a change for someone who used to spend her afternoons sewing buttons."

The second testimony was by Datuk Dr Ng Lay Swee, President of Tunku Abdul Rahman University. She spoke of the main influencing factors in her life bringing her to where she is today. She put her faith continually in Jesus, prioritised her life's goals according to biblical principles and prayed much. She was amazed to see how God engineered circumstances in

**After**

**Before**



Angeline Mun shows how a change of clothes that suits the body shape can transform how a person looks!



Ladies shopping for a good cause!

concluding that God is the most magnificent Designer and His ultimate creation is man. We are made in God's image and likeness and created for His purpose. He has an individual plan and purpose for each of His children.

The organisers of the meeting endeavoured to keep the session short so that the ladies could go shopping. Several companies donated brand new clothing and handbags for sale at this

function. Prices were set well below retail costs in order to bless the ladies and did they have a field day. The money was designated for the sponsorship of

the Church sanctuary flowers. Praise God! 🌺

her life and career to promote her to where she is now. It is very evident that God's hand was in both these women's lives.

After the testimonies, Angeline Mun, an image consultant, elaborated on how knowing one's body type would enable a woman to best choose designs to flatter herself. With the help of Leong Lai See and Lucy Anne Yeong, Angeline demonstrated how a change of clothes could transform a person.

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam wrapped up the session by

**note**

Anyone wishing to **sponsor sanctuary flowers**

can do so by putting a designated offering in the offering bag.

Please write **"Sanctuary Flowers"** on the envelope.

\* On 7 June 2003, Datuk Dr Ng Lay Swee was conferred the *Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM)* which carries the title *"Tan Sri"* by His Majesty, our King, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin in conjunction with his 60th birthday. **We congratulate her and praise God for His blessing upon her!**

## Adversity: Friend or Foe



**Whenever you go through trying situations, it could be that you are being tested by the Word.**

God gives everything in promise form. God's promises have principles to be lived. When the

### Adversity leads to achievement.

principles are tested, you face problems. The problems come with God's provision as a result of your faithfulness. Therefore stand on His promises and say, "God, this is what you said" and He will be true to His Word. Like Joseph, when you remain faithful to God and continue to do the right thing, you will come out victorious because of God's mercy. "But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy..." (Genesis 39:21).

#### Adversity leads to achievement.

Joseph's life was full of adversities. With every adversity, God brought him nearer to the realisation of the dream that He gave him. All the adversities were stepping stones that led to his appointment as Pharaoh's right hand man at the age of 30! The thing that you think will kill you could be the very thing that promotes you and brings you closer to God.

**On one occasion, the disciples of Jesus were in a boat when a storm came.** In that storm which could have destroyed them, they saw Jesus walking on water. Peter asked, "Can I come too?" Jesus permitted Peter to walk on water because He wanted Peter to know

that the very thing that he thought would kill him could be brought under his feet, that is, he could overcome the adversity. Therefore do not be afraid of adversity. God can turn your predicament into profit. Have faith in Him and let Him lead you.

**It is natural that you will be doubtful and discouraged when you face trials.** You wonder if God still loves you. Be prepared to deal with such negative emotions. Do not be afraid or let the devil condemn you. Doubt is not unbelief. When you do not believe, it means that you choose not to accept the truth and you reject God. However, when you doubt, your emotions are unsettled in the face of what you are confronted with. You have doubts because you are human—you are not sure.

**Even great men and women of God have doubts.** Let us look at

three biblical examples. Firstly, the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor" (Judges 6:12). But Gideon was doubtful. He queried, "Oh my Lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the

there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11), also doubted if Jesus was the Christ.

#### How do you deal with doubt?

Find a place to seek the face of God. Search the Scriptures and call upon His name because He will always answer you. Feed your doubts with the truth of the Word. Believe what you know and doubt what you doubt. Trust God who is all knowing. He knows the beginning to the end. Doubts flourish in the dark. Run to the Light—run to Jesus. And when you are discouraged, remember what Jesus said in Luke 18:1, "...men always ought to pray and not lose heart." Do not give up. Pray instead of blaming God, your circumstances or other people for your situation. Keep doing what you know is right and in the will of God. Persevere. God always answers prayers that are in line with His will.

**No matter what you feel, know that God has not forsaken you when you go through adversity.**

When you are down to nothing, God is indeed up to something on your behalf. Your part is to continue to walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God and you will be strengthened with all might according to His glorious power.

**Feed your doubts with the truth of the Word.**  
**Believe what you know and doubt what you doubt.**

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

*The above message is one of a series of eight messages preached. You may order a set of all the messages in either cassette tapes or audio CDs at RM 30 from the Calvary Book Corner.*

Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites" (Judges 6:13). Note that God did not cast Gideon away even though he expressed doubt.

Secondly, Sarah doubted. "Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed with herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?'" (Genesis 18:11-12). It was a laugh of doubt. Thirdly, John the Baptist whom Jesus described thus: "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women

June 2003 marks the first anniversary of the Family Support Group for ADHD/LD ('Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Learning Disability') under **Calvary Life Ministries (CLM)**. The group aims to support parents in their efforts to parent and care for special needs children by promoting awareness regarding children and adults with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), Dyslexia, Specific Learning Disabilities, Dyspraxia, Aspergers Syndrome, OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) ODD (Oppositional Defiance Disorder), Gilles De La Tourettes Syndrome and other related "hidden" disabilities.



# Parent helped by ADHD/LD Family Support Group

The group is led by Kay Lim, a counsellor in CLM as well as a mother of a special needs child. It is a self-help group where parents share experiences, information and resources with one another. This is a community service of CLM which seeks to share the burden of special needs parents as stated in Galatians 6:2 which exhorts us to "carry each other's burdens" that we might "fulfil the law of Christ". The following is a letter from a grateful parent:

**Dear ADHD/LD Family Support Group,**

**We heard about your group three months ago and we want you to know how much you have helped us deal with our child's problems.**

**We are the parents of a learning disabled boy.** Our son is seven years old and has started attending formal school this year. Up until recently we were at our wits' end trying to understand, discipline and manage him. Throughout his kindergarten years the teachers found his behaviour disruptive and his ability to concentrate almost nil. He constantly fought with other children and has virtually no friends. When we sought the advice of our doctor, he assured us that our son was a healthy, intelligent and slightly overactive child and that he would settle down as he grew older. However he did not settle down, but as he grew his behaviour became aggressive and demanding. When he began standard one this year, the headmistress spoke to us about his "bad" behaviour and poor concentration in class. We were desperate for an answer! A parent told us about your support group and invited us to one of your monthly morning coffee meetings.

**Initially we could not see how the group could be of any help to us, as we thought our son was just an overactive child.** The speaker for that day's meeting was a child psychologist who spoke about children with learning disabilities. We realised that our son could be suffering from one of the disabilities described by him. During the question and answer session after the talk, we were able to raise our concerns. As a result we scheduled an appointment with a child psychiatrist who did a thorough assessment. We now know that our child's extremely difficult behaviour is called Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and he also has some difficulty with communication and perception. We agreed to start him on appropriate corrective measures, which include medication, behavioural management and speech therapy. His behaviour has improved markedly in the past three months and we, as parents understand him better.

**We appreciate the Support Group for being there for us.** During the monthly meetings, we learn about the various aspects of learning disabilities, ADHD and different approaches taken by professionals, parents, teachers and therapists to help such children.

**We find the resources of reference books and tapes provided to members of the group extremely helpful.** We do gain so much just talking to other parents because we can share experiences in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

We hope that parents who are facing such problems can get the support and help we have received from your group.

**Thanks again.**

The support group holds meetings once a month, with professional speakers, topical discussions, and social get-togethers in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Also available: Specialist reference library; regular email contact/support.

**For more information contact:**

Calvary Life Ministries (CLM), Unit 20-2 (1st Floor), Jalan PJU 8/5G, Bandar Damansara Perdana, 47820 Petaling Jaya.  
Tel: 03-7710 3360 Fax: 03-7726 3315 Email: [clm@clm.org.my](mailto:clm@clm.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: [email@calvary.org.my](mailto:email@calvary.org.my)

Printed by Calvary Church Press

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

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