

CALVARY NEWS

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Worship as a lifestyle

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



An outstanding fact about the birth of Jesus Christ is that it was prophetic. It did not happen as a coincidence or an event that God decided at the spur of the moment. There are many Old Testament prophecies that tell us about His birth. God gave us many signs that will mark His birth.

The prophet Isaiah declared that Jesus would be born of a virgin: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us)" (Isaiah 7:14). The prophet Micah prophesied the place of His birth: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands in Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me, the One to be the Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

The Bible in Genesis 3:15 prophesied the purpose of His birth: "And I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Jesus, the Seed of a woman was

bruised by Satan when He died on the cross. He bruised Satan's head when He rose from the dead to be our Saviour. Today, Satan has no power and authority over those who believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. The Bible says, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8 NIV).

The Word of God is precious. It is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path (Psalm 119:105). Israel had failed to take heed of the Scriptures, and therefore only the wise men and the shepherds were at the stable where He was born.

There are three practical and essential truths to be learnt from the wise men from the East and the shepherds from the accounts in Matthew 2:1-12 and Luke 2:8-20 respectively.

Firstly, the wise men declared that Jesus is worthy of worship. They asked Herod, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2). Jesus is worthy of our worship. It took great effort on the part of the wise men to worship Jesus. It was not easy for them, as travelling was different and difficult. Today, we travel in air-conditioned vehicles and aeroplanes. Our difficulties are different. Have you found it very difficult to get up early on a Sunday morning or public holiday so that you can worship God at church? The wise men showed us that all the effort was worth it when they found Jesus and worshipped Him.

Worship includes tangible gifts. "And when they had come into the

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The E-Team fellowship and reflect on God's faithfulness

By Teresa Tan

Associate Pastor Timothy Ong welcoming everyone (left) and Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam giving the exhortation



On Saturday, 30 August 2003, the Evangelism (E-Team) held a fellowship for 40 personnel—the regular team members and those who have participated occasionally in Saturday Evangelism sessions.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam who was invited to give an exhortation, shared that in the early years of his ministry, the Holy Spirit impressed upon him that it is through missions and evangelism that Calvary Church will be blessed.

Is there a biblical basis to do evangelism? His answer was a definite, "Yes". Senior Pastor referred to John 4:1-10 which tells of the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well in Sychar. Jesus was going back to Galilee and the Bible says He *had* to go through Samaria. It was actually a longer way but He went because the Holy Spirit led Him there to witness to the Samaritan woman. Jesus showed us the importance of an individual soul by what He did.

Senior Pastor emphasised that Christians must evangelise. We must share about our salvation and God's love. The Church has provided an avenue for us to reach our community on Saturday afternoons. He encouraged us to have a burden for the lost and not to give in to laziness. He reminded us that Jesus travelled many miles in the heat to reach out to one soul. He concluded his exhortation by praying for all present.

The programme continued with five members of the E-Team presenting a skit showing how the team can minister to people with physical and spiritual needs. They then got everyone to sing the song, "God's Love Is So Wonderful", with actions.

Mae Yip shared how she experienced God's love and goodness in her life. This led her to desire to tell the lost of His love for them too. She recognised her need to be trained and therefore attended a School of Christian Growth course in personal evangelism and discipleship. This helped to give her the confidence to do personal evangelism which in turn has changed her life.

Gan Tion Chew and Adeline Koh up-dated the team with the following statistics:

| | Goal | Actual |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| January to August | | |
| Salvation/Redecation Decisions | 288 | 252 |
| Personnel Involvement | 24 | 15 |
| Tracts to be given out | 10,000 | 5,324 |

By God's enabling, the team believes that the above goals can be met. For a start, they have committed themselves to give out 1,500 tracts during their own time and to inspire others to join the Saturday Evangelism.

Before adjourning to the Calvary Refreshment Centre to enjoy sumptuous food contributed by the team members, Assistant Pastor Raymond Yong, the Pastor in charge of Saturday Evangelism, led in prayer and divided the team into groups to pray for the goals and the Ministry.

It was indeed a very beneficial and an encouraging afternoon. All glory and praise to God! 🙏



Senior Pastor praying for the team



The E-Team presenting a skit (right) and teaching everyone how to sing "God's Love Is So Wonderful" (below)



Bathing the Ministry with prayer



Hmm...that looks good...



More food!

Want to join the E-Team?

Contact Assistant Pastor Raymond Yong at 03-2099 7139

Life Groups—a multi-faceted ministry

Romans 12:5 tells us that Christ made us one body, connected to each other. What better way to experience and develop this connection than in the Life Group. The LG Ministry was highlighted during the four Sundays in September.

Video presentations, buntings and posters were among the tools used to create a wider awareness of the benefits of belonging to a LG. A total of 116 people responded to attend a LG.

Apart from the publicity during the Worship Services many LGs organised their own special events to reach new ones.

The **LG in Taman Gemilang** had a special fellowship and invited five new people. Through the fellowship and sharing of God's Word, two non-believers asked for prayer and testified that God had touched them.

Bukit Antarabangsa LG had a similar event and had three visitors. Those who came enjoyed the interaction, fellowship and prayer time together. At least one of the visitors expressed the desire to attend LG on a regular basis.

The **LIGHT & Young Professional LGs** went for an Outing to Paya Indah Wetlands. After a fun-filled day of activities; i.e. batik-printing, boat paddling, cycling and fellowship, eight new ones responded to attend the LG regularly.

The **Indonesian LGs** held a Special Lunch and Cooking Demonstration, and attracted 15 first-time visitors. At the end of event, six accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour!

Real spiritual growth is never an isolated and individualistic pursuit. Maturity is produced through relationship within a community. Come and join a LG and you will be blessed! 🙏

The Taman Gemilang LG leader Nicholas Gan praying for a member



The LG singing "Bergandingan Tangan"— linking hands in the love of the Lord



The Bukit Antarabangsa LG

The LIGHT & Young Professional LGs at Paya Indah Wetlands: paddling in a lake (left); trying their skills at batik painting (right)



The Indonesian LGs at the Special Lunch and Cooking Demonstration



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

Blessed by the devotion before setting off to Malacca



Indonesian and Filipino Life Groups

First Indonesian and Filipino LGs' outing to A' Famosa, Malacca

By Linda Pang

Eighty-three participants came together for the first Indonesian and Filipino LGs' outing to A' Famosa Resort, Malacca on 9 August 2003.

Assistant Pastor David Seah shared the devotion and reminded the people who God is, and that He can meet their needs. Associate Pastor Timothy Ong prayed for God's blessing and protection before they proceeded to Malacca.

The participants were thrilled by the animal shows held at the Resort. They even had the opportunity to be on the Safari Ride and watched wild animals from a near distance in a tram.

Besides the fun and fellowship, one participant accepted the Lord and 24 others rededicated their lives.

The following are some of what the participant said:

"It is thoughtful of the Church to provide such an opportunity for us"; "I enjoyed the trip thoroughly, I'm refreshed spiritually and found new friends"; "My working life in Malaysia will not be complete without this trip!"; "Having been on this trip, I am considering to extend my work in Malaysia, if my employer permits" and "I thank God for my employer!"

All in all, they were thankful to have the opportunity to participate in this outing. Truly it was a wonderful trip! 🙏



Whatever will elephants do next?



The group at A' Famosa

What does the future hold?

By Jim Railey

“The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church.”

“The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years.”

“There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, that destroyed the twin towers in New York City, killing thousands, altered our thinking in many ways. Many since that day have reconsidered the question, what does the future hold? People struggle to determine what is ahead for us as a nation. Believers are refocusing on what lies ahead for the church.

A major part of the questioning comes from the frustration of trying to predict what events will occur next in the order of time. With the outbreak of anthrax, the arrests of some accused of being part of terrorist networks, and the repeated warnings of possible future attacks, the concern for the future grows. The harsh reality is that the future is unpredictable and beyond our ability to know beforehand.

While that is true, there are some certainties revealed in the Bible about the future that can be known and believed. Without trying to set dates for when future events are to take place, we can rest

The world is not careening out of control toward its own destruction; rather, God is working to move human history toward the time when He will send Jesus Christ back to this earth.

assured that God does have the ultimate outcome of human history in His providence, that He will bring it to pass in His time, and that He has made known enough of His plan to give us guidance and comfort.

The second coming of Christ is the major future event to which this

entire world is pointing. The first coming of Christ is the focal point of all human history; His second coming will be the consummation of human history. God’s great plan, revealed first in creation, will be complete when Christ returns. Scholars note that the second coming of Jesus Christ is spoken of more than 300 times in the New Testament, making it a certain event, creating hope in the hearts of all believers. The world is not careening out of control toward its own destruction; rather, God is working to move human history toward the time when He will send Jesus Christ back to this earth.

Christ’s return will also mark the resurrection of the dead—when the believing dead are rewarded with eternal life in God’s presence and

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The Stars explore Malacca

By Angela Aw

On Monday, 8 September 2003, 35 girls from the Missionettes Stars Club accompanied by five Sponsors explored historical Malacca.

They visited the Butterfly Park, the Crocodile Farm, A'Famosa and the surrounding square-Stadhuys, St Paul's Hill and the Malacca Sultanate Palace. And the girls had the opportunity to taste the famous chicken rice balls of Malacca! It was a first-time experience for many of them. The owner of the restaurant showed them how these rice balls were made.

The day's programme ended

Trying out the famous chicken rice balls!



At the Crocodile Farm

with an eye-opening "Malacca River Cruise-Ride" along the "muddy waters". Besides viewing the different landmarks, they were amazed by the many iguanas that live under the houses!



Enjoying the "Malacca River Cruise-Ride"

This outing was one of the Adventure Programmes planned for the Missionette girls to widen their knowledge and to appreciate different individuals who have left "marks" in our history. The Sponsors encouraged the girls that God can also use them to leave marks in other people's lives. We certainly thank and praise God for good weather and a safe trip. 🙏



The Rangers camp in the highlands

By Jim Guneratnam

The Royal Rangers Annual Camp was held at the Jabatan Hutan Sungai Pauh, Tanah Rata in Cameron Highlands from 11 to 13 September 2003. The Camp was open to all Royal Rangers aged eight years and above (Pioneers, Trail Blazers and Trail Rangers) and their friends.

Sixty Rangers and Commanders camped in tents and enjoyed their brief taste of outdoor life. They visited the BOH plantation and tea factory, went on a nature hike and participated in various camp activities. The highlight on the concluding night was a campfire with the theme, "Be Fruitful" and a BBQ.

This was the first camp that was organised in the highlands. It was a wonderful experience camping under pine trees in the cool weather. We praise God for blessing us with excellent weather throughout the camp.

The various programmes and activities were built around the camp theme, "Be Fruitful in Every Good Work". The Rangers even dressed up in "fruitful" costumes for the campfire. Associate Pastor Christopher Lee and his wife, Pam, ministered during morning devotions and night services.

After a satisfying camp that provided for their spiritual, physical, mental and social needs, the Royal Rangers went home looking forward to the next exciting event. 🙏



Associate Pastor Christopher Lee

Pam Lee

What does the future hold?

the unbelieving dead are forced to spend eternity apart from God. The power of death, which now brings fear and the pain of separation, will then be defeated. The powerful resurrection life of Christ will transform these mortal bodies, giving to them the state of incorruptibility (1 Corinthians 15:35-58).

The Assemblies of God, along with many other churches, believes that the second coming of Christ will occur in two phases, separated by a time of severe judgment upon the sinful world. The first phase of the second coming of Christ will be His coming to take the church out of the world before the outbreak of His judgment. This event is known as the rapture of the church. Although the word rapture is not a biblical word, the concept of the removal of the church is a principle message of Scripture. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 2:1.)

The church, comprised of believers from all peoples on the earth, has been promised escape from the future wrath of God upon the unbelieving world. The apostle Paul asserted that the resurrected Christ “rescues us from the coming wrath” (1 Thessalonians 1:10, NIV), because “God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9). The future for the believer contains the promise of being either raised from the dead or being taken directly into the presence of God. What a blessed hope.

The two phases of the second coming of Christ will be separated by a terrible time of judgment upon the sinful world. Instead of the world becoming more devoted to Christ, the world is becoming more sinful, and God will bring His judgment on this condition. This period of time is usually designated as the Great Tribulation. The Book of Revelation, the Bible’s final book, graphically

depicts the nature of the Tribulation as being the outpouring of God’s wrath. The sinful world that refuses to bow before God and accept Him now will be judged for the refusal to do so. The images and figures of Revelation indicate the terrible nature of the judgment for sin. God will display His righteousness in the final dealing with the rebellion of humankind that began in the Garden of Eden.

**In the face of the fear
that torments our neighbors
about the future
we should live in faith,
testifying to them that
our God has everything
in His control and that
He will bring about the plans
that He has had
from the beginning.**

The revelation of Christ, at the end of the Tribulation, will be the second phase of the return of Christ to this earth. At this time His coming will be very public and physical, described by John in this way: “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him” (Revelation 1:7).

Revelation 19:11-21 tells of this triumphant conquest over the sinfulness of the world. Riding on a white horse, the victorious Christ will destroy the wicked with the sword that comes out of His mouth. The Tribulation will be brought to an end, the judgment of God will be completed, and the world will experience a time of peace known as the millennial reign of Christ.

During that time Christ will rule on the earth in righteousness and peace. This is based on the teaching of Revelation 20. Satan and his lieutenants will be unable to torment and tempt humans. At the end of the period of 1,000 years there will be a final rebellion by Satan, a rebellion that God defeats with force, assigning Satan and his

minions to the lake of fire from which they never find release.

The ultimate answer to the question, “What does the future hold?” is the establishment by God of new heavens and earth. Revelation 21 and 22 describe the provision of God for a dwelling place for himself among those who have believed on Him and received the reward of being in His presence eternally. The present order of things will give way to the miraculous provision of God. This sin-affected world will yield to the blessedness of a new world without the taint of sin. Sickness and death, war and hatred, violence and cruelty—all of these will be no more in God’s final plan for humankind.

While we are not able to set dates for the fulfillment of God’s intentions for the future, we can know with certainty that the future holds the return of Christ both for His church and to judge the world, the reign of Christ on earth for 1,000 years, and the new heavens and earth. In light of these certainties about the future, how should we be living today? Peter answers this question very clearly: “You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming” (2 Peter 3:11,12). In the face of the fear that torments our neighbors about the future we should live in faith, testifying to them that our God has everything in His control and that He will bring about the plans that He has had from the beginning. Armed with the hope that burns brightly within us, we must light our world, drawing people to Christ.

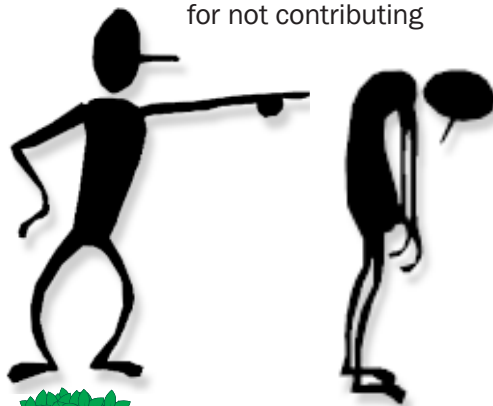
Jim Railey is professor of theology and chairperson of the Bible and Theology Department at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri.

This is the final installment 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.

Marital problems getting you down?



“ I thank God for CLM. I have been married for more than 20 years. I have five children. My wife and I used to argue even over petty matters. We would argue in front of our children. She blamed me for not helping her in household matters and she had to bear the burden alone. She also blamed me for not contributing



financially. She complained she had to pay for everything.

I dislike having to wait for others. Most of the time, my wife would be late for appointments. Then we would argue and we would have a ‘cold-war’ (refuse to talk to each other) for weeks or even months. It came to a point that I felt I was a stranger in my own home. I could not be bothered about what was happening at home. I’ve also accused her of having an affair with her client.

The last argument we had was in March this year before we were recommended to seek counselling at CLM by our family friend.

We had four sessions of counselling. The counsellors listened to what both of us had to

say. They handled the matter in a very professional manner. They did not say who was right or wrong. They advised us to look at the problem from a different perspective. They also helped us to communicate more and now we spend more time together. Our family relationship is much better and we would now discuss and talk over any arising problem.

We are glad we sought counselling at CLM. We will definitely recommend CLM to others who need help. We will pray that this ministry will grow and be a blessing to the surrounding community and the needy.

Thank you and God bless.”

Promotions Manager, 45 & Company Director, 44
Husband & Wife



Calvary Life Ministries Giving You Hope, When Life Hurts

Call Jeannie or Alice at 03-7710 3360 to make an appointment. All communication is confidential.

Unit 20-2 (1st Floor) Jalan PJU 8/5G, Bandar Damansara Perdana, 47820 Petaling Jaya

Web: www.clm.org.my Email: clm@clm.org.my

“ At a time when my life appeared to be hanging by a thread, the prayer support of your Prayer Tower intercessors was most comforting and encouraging. ”

“ I was desperate. I knew not who to turn to. Your phone number in a college magazine caught my attention. I was glad I called. Your prayers gave me hope and direction. I am now back in church. ”

Troubled? Confused? Hopeless?

If you need someone to stand together with you in prayer,
call us at 03-2092 1778 or 03-2093 3946
or e-mail your prayer request to us at calpt@tm.net.my.



Calvary Prayer Tower

We are open:

Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

Friday 9am-6.30pm

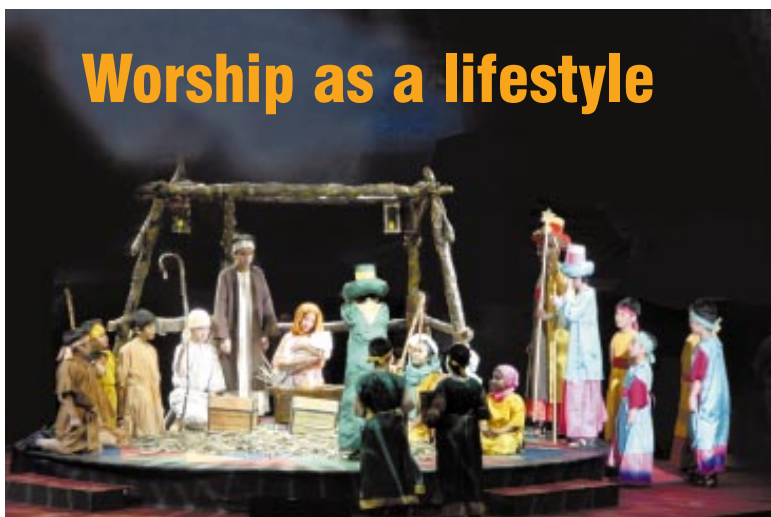
Sunday 2pm-4.30pm

house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11). There is something

even far more precious than gold that you can give to God. That something is you. God is not looking for gold because if He wants gold, He can create it. God is looking for you. Are you willing to say, "God, here am I"? God will not force you to give yourself to Him. You make the choice of whether you want to or not. Jesus wants you to choose to worship Him and to say, "Here am I. Take me Lord." Your singing, testimonies, praise and thanksgiving are like sweet incense to the Lord.

Secondly, the wise men submitted and obeyed the will of God. Herod told the wise men to return to the palace to tell him when they had found the Child. But after they had found Him and worshipped Him, they did not do as Herod requested because God had warned them not to. "Then being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way" (Matthew 2:12). The wise men submitted to the voice of the Lord and not the voice of any other. Willingness to submit and obey is vital to the progress and success of your Christian life. The blessings of God rest on those who obey Him. Those who disobey bring trouble upon themselves.

Jonah was not willing to obey God when he was asked to go to Niniveh and preach repentance. Jonah chose to go his own way. As a result, he not only brought trouble upon himself but also upon those who were with him. Lot's wife was not willing to obey the warning not to look back as she fled from



Sodom and Gomorrah. She was turned into a pillar of salt. When you are unwilling to obey God, you cause adverse circumstances to come to your life.

However, when you are willing to submit to God, you are blessed. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac. When he willingly obeyed, he found out that God was the provider. Just as God did not rob Abraham of his son, God will never allow you to fail when you do His will. You will find God's favour in your life. He multiplied Abraham's descendants as the sand on the seashore and He will multiply His blessings upon you. God instructed Joshua to get the men of war and the priests to march around the city of Jericho for seven days. All it took to bring down the walls of Jericho was their obedience! The Israelites must have been ridiculed when they marched around the city but they obeyed. God blesses those who have faith and works (James 2:22-23).

Thirdly, the shepherds spread the Good News—(what they had witnessed). "Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child " (Luke 2:17). The shepherds had seen Jesus and they told others about Him.

You may not be able to say like the shepherds that you personally saw the baby Jesus but you can share your personal testimony—how Jesus came into your heart and forgave your sins and you were born again. You can share how He has

changed your life and given you the strength to overcome your bad habits, your hot temper, jealousy and bitterness. Spread the good news of what Jesus has done for you. Be His witnesses.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is coming back again. Do not let history repeat itself and miss the Second Coming of Jesus. Take heed of the prophecies

in both the Old and New Testaments. This time, He will not come as a baby but with great power as the Lord of lords and the King of kings. How do you live your life? Do you live it in the joy and hope of the soon return of Christ? Be excited about His coming. Serve and worship Him.

Determine in your heart today to follow the examples of the wise men and the shepherds. Worship Jesus not only in church but as a lifestyle by submitting to the will of God and being a witness everyday and in every way. 🙏

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

KidSCAT

takes centrestage with its first ever presentation
featuring a team of 41 talented kids between the ages of 8 and 13.

GOOD KINGS

come in small packages



date:: **saturday, 6 december 2003**

time:: **3-5pm**

venue:: **main sanctuary,
calvary church damansara heights**

JOIN US as we revisit a delightful children's musical about the story of Josiah
who became King of Judah when he was just 8 years old.
God uses people of all ages as they seek His wisdom and guidance—and are obedient to Him.

Good Kings Come in Small Packages

is a children's presentation which is suitable for the entire family.



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

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

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