DIOCESE OF KUCHING

Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church

CORNERSTONE

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TO BE A PEOPLE WHO PERSONALLY KNOW GOD AND ARE COMMITTED TO MAKE HIM KNOWN TO THE COMMUNITY

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VISION:

TO TAKE TABUAN JAYA AND BEYOND FOR CHRIST

MISSION:

TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS TO LOVE AND TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN TO OTHERS

Cover
Rt. Rev'd Bishop Datuk Bolly Lapok knocking at the main door of TJAC on Consecration Day

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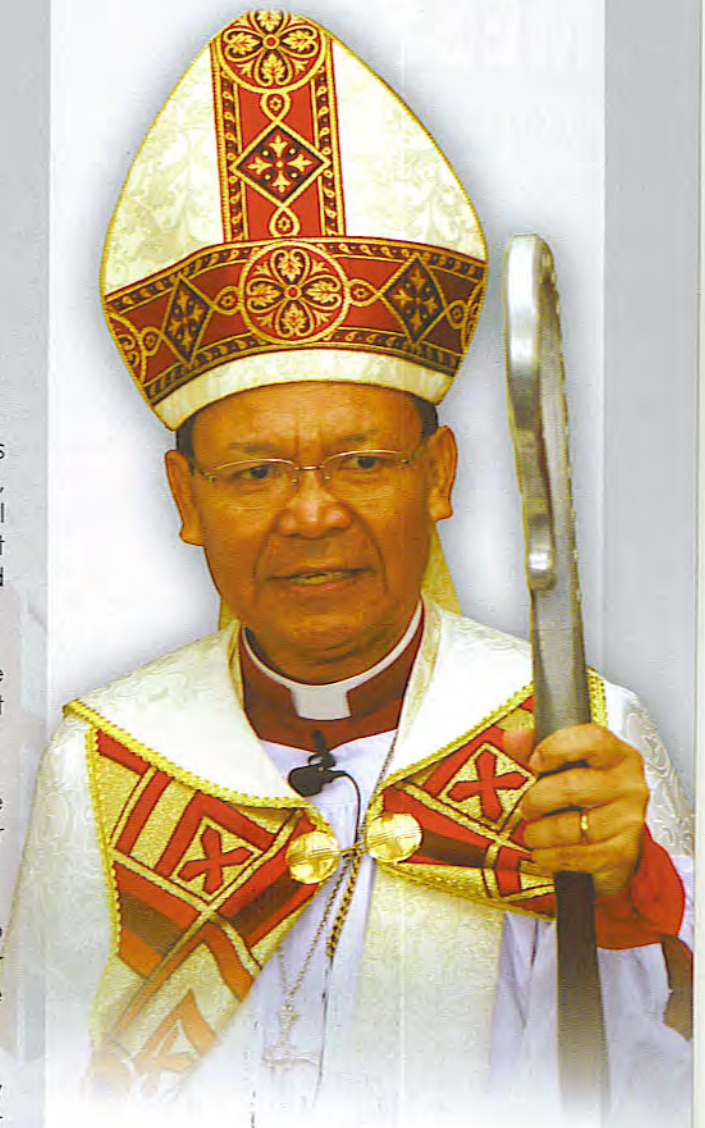
Acknowledgement
To all who have contributed reports, testimonies, articles, photographs, etc, we thank you.

Bishop Datuk Bolly writes.....



I have been emphasizing on the need of our congregations to maintain a proper balance amongst their worship, service, learning, outreach and fellowship. To say that Devil is lurking behind every bush to mislead Christians is to put it melodramatically. But how very tempting it is to be carried away and got sucked by any of the following extremes:-

- Some churches stress the worship experience to the degree that not much else happens in the church except some personal entertainment on Sunday morning.
- There are some churches that stress learning to the exclusion of actually doing anything. Such churches never practice what they preach.
- There are churches that practice service ministry to the exclusion of all else. They are active but lose their inspirational grounding. "Works" are valued over "the Word."
- A fellowship intensive church can be very warm and cuddly to its members yet quite exclusive and impenetrable for visitors. This is a closed communion.
- A church whose sole purpose is outreach runs the risk of valuing quantity over quality. Such a church places an emphasis on sales over souls.

The much vaunted characteristic of the Anglican Communion is in its claim to be a church that is both "catholic and reformed". Although at time the balance of via media position could land us into some frustrating tension, it is nevertheless creative and liberating.

I entrust our entire city Parishes, including Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church to act as vanguards of our tradition by their commitment to maintain a healthy balance in all their ministries.

Yours in His Service

RT. REV'D DATUK BOLLY LAPOK

MESSAGE
from the Priest-In-Charge

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all of you in the Wonderful Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It has been almost a year since we as the Family of God have moved into and celebrated the completion of our new Church building by holding the Christmas Day Service on 25th December, 2008. It was a significant day as we remember our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who came into the world to become our Saviour and to reconcile us with Him and with one another. Let us as Christians always remember who we are in the Lord. We thank God for His abundant blessings upon our Church for the year 2009. As we draw near to Christmas, I pray that the festive occasion will be a meaningful time for all of us in experiencing His Holy presence as well as His love, peace and joy surrounding us when we celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ - our Wonderful Saviour.

Let us also remind ourselves the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is the event that set heaven singing because Jesus, God's only Son became a human being like you and me. On Good Friday He sacrificed Himself to be crucified on the Cross so that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life. Truly, when we are saved and experience His marvelous grace of peace through forgiveness, then the carol "Joy to the world! The Lord is come." becomes meaningful to us as we sing it. Christmas began with the Perfect Gift and that is God has given us His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. God's gift to us shows His love – He gave His Son so that we might live forever through Him (1 John 4:9). Jesus Himself is our Greatest Gift. May we sing joyfully and give Glory to our New Born King, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

During this joyous season, let us thank God for our mother Church, St. Faith's Church for being willing to release thirty-five pioneers nearly thirteen years ago to plant another church in Tabuan Jaya with the Vision, "To Take Tabuan Jaya and Beyond For Christ." Indeed, we see the vision of a new church birth into reality through much prayers and all the hard works. However, as the Family of God, let us remind ourselves that our spiritual Vision is on-going and we are to reach out to the thousands in Tabuan Jaya so that they may know our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ personally and many more will be greatly blessed like us, when they become Christians.

Once again, I take this opportunity to remind everyone of our Church members that during our Church Leaders' Retreat recently, we have started to proclaim that we are "Moving Towards An Effective Cell Church" and the theme for next year is 'The Year Of Fruitfulness'. We always have to remember that Jesus is the true vine and we Christians are the branches. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the true source of lives and blessings. My hope is that we will continue to abide in Jesus, the true vine through His words so that in due time we will bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. And the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22). The fruit of the Holy Spirit is actually the expression of God's character. In fact, during Christmas time, we always greet each other with the love, joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that through prayers and studying of God's words during our daily devotional time, we will be able to reflect the Christ-like nature more in our daily lives. Determined to live up to this godly character as our lifestyle, I believe that we can be a better witness to bring prebelievers to know God personally. As a local Church in Tabuan Jaya for Christ, let us keep the New Commandment and focus to fulfill His Great Commission. Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Command should be our First Concern, so that more souls will be saved, His Kingdom be extended and our community can be transformed to become a peaceful society and living in racial harmony.

Finally, my family and I would like to wish you and your family members a very blessed Christmas and New Year 2010, filled with the love, peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Chrrist..

In His Love,

Rev. Kenny Tan
(Priest-In-Charge)

An Exclusive Interview with Rev. Kenny Tan, the First Priest-in-Charge of TJAC

Q1. How long have you served and where as a Priest? What would be your greatest challenge as a Priest?

Ans. I have served the Lord as a full time Priest for over 23 years. I served as a School Chaplain from years 1985 to 1988 covering over twenty Secondary and Primary Schools in the First and Second Division of Sarawak, then in year 1989 to 1991 I served in the Parish of Simunjan and Betong. In the year 1991 I was transferred to serve as Priest-in-Charge in St. John's Church in Sibu, after this I served in St. Margaret's Church in Brunei for seven years till year 2003. In 2004 I served as Priest-in-Charge in St. Columba's Parish, Miri until the middle of 2008 when I was called by Bishop Datuk Bolly Lapok to transfer to the new Parish Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church in Kuching. I was subsequently inducted as the first Priest-in-Charge in this Parish at the beginning of year 2009. The greatest challenge in my ministry was when I was called to be the Priest-in-Charge to a Parish with the mandate of cross-culture Evangelism amongst the rural congregation.

Q2. What inspired you to become a Priest and served God?

Ans. I received the calling from God to be a full time Pastor. I did receive a vision and that was through the Parable of the lost sheep as told by Jesus in the Bible. In fact God seemed to impress me that out of one hundred I have called you to reach out the ninety-nine lost sheep and out of one thousand to reach out to nine hundred and ninety-nine. Therefore with this vision and God's grace, I am strengthened and empowered to serve as a Pastor for over 23 years.

Q3. Would you like to share with us your concept of a "Family Altar"? Is this your way of a family unity?

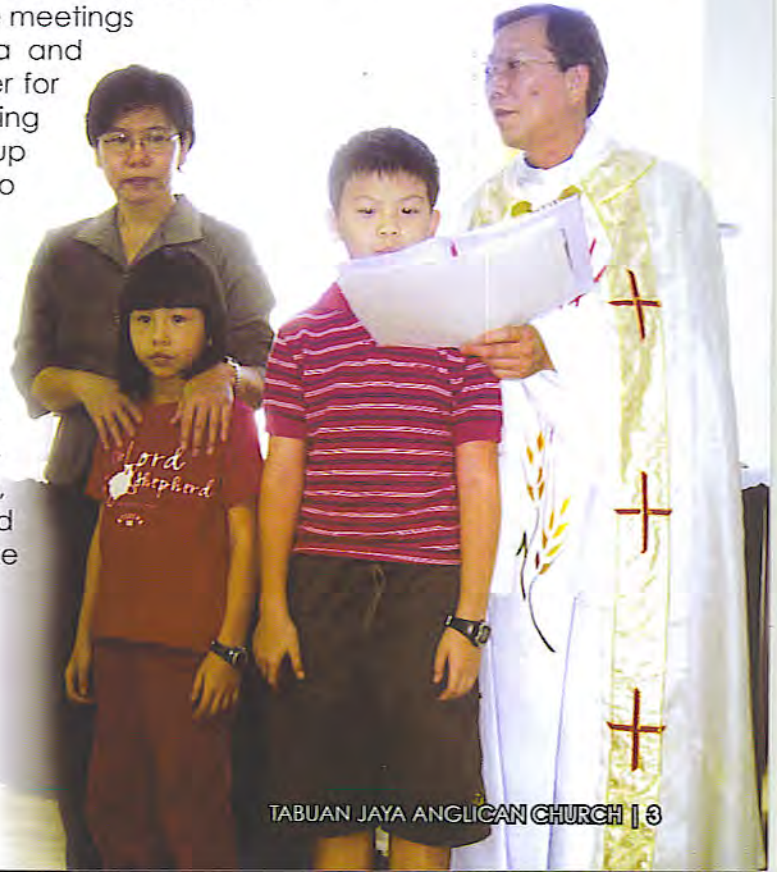
Ans. The concept of "Family Altar" simply means that as a Christian family I need to spend time with my spouse and children to have devotional time with God at least once a week to seek God's guidance and direction as well as to pray for the well-being of our family, Church and nation. We believe that as we pray together, our family will stay together to serve the purposes of God.

Q4. Would you like to share your vision for TJAC?

Ans. At this juncture, our Home Cell Group Leaders and Interns meet regularly each month to discuss and plan together for new strategy so that we will be able to move as a Family of God towards the vision of an Effective Cell Church. The Cell Church system is actually a care group system where most of the Church ministries will be merged into the Cell system. This will cut short a lot of time for various committee meetings and emphasize more on cell group agenda and that is every week, inwardly we meet together for nurturing and equipping and outwardly reaching out to the pre-believers. I see in the cell-group everybody is important and has the potential to be equipped as a leader to disciple others.

Q5. Share with us about your family, where and how you met your wife? Does your family adapt well here in Kuching?

Ans. I have a lovely wife Victoria and we have two wonderful children Kelvin and Jacqueline. We met each other while I served as the Priest-in-Charge in St. Margaret's Parish in that little town, Seria. My wife and children have slowly adapted to the new environment in Kuching and they like to better know the people here.



THE OPENING & CONSECRATION OF TABUAN JAYA ANGLICAN CHURCH

"It is easy to become a Christian by just filling in all the necessary documents, fulfill all the requirements and rites and you are a Christian", said Bishop Made once when he preached at St. Faith's Extension Centre, (SFEC) Tabuan Jaya. "To be a Christian has never been easy", he continued.

True, it has never been an easy journey for the 30-odd brothers and sisters who took a step of faith, with the blessing of the then Vicar of St. Faith, Kenyalang Park, Reverend Edmund Paleng. They were commissioned and set out to chart the course for the planting of a new Anglican church in Tabuan Jaya. Their vision is "To Take Tabuan Jaya and Beyond for Christ". They were literally uprooted, they sold their houses and moved into Tabuan Jaya. By the grace of God, through fasting, praying and meditating and all that was necessary to declare the Lordship of Jesus in this vineyard, the then SFEC was offered two vacant shop lots at a reasonable price. Through sheer hard work, putting every little faith the small congregation had in God, God brought tears of joy to them when the church building was finally completed, standing majestically in the neighborhood in December 2008. Yes, the lighted neon of the Cross high above the roof, caught people's attention. Some curios came to see it and but continued to worship elsewhere. Others saw it, and decided that this is their permanent house of worship. The soft opening was on 25th December 2008, when the first Christmas service was held there. Bishop Made who laid the foundation stone of the church was the first priest who celebrated Christmas there.

On the 7th February 2009, Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church was officially declared open and on Sunday, 8th February, 2009, it was consecrated by the Bishop of Kuching, Rt. Revd. Datuk Bolly Lapok. That Sunday also saw Rev. Kenny Tan inducted as the first Priest-in-charge of Tabuan Jaya Parish.

There was so much excitement but no less apprehension, too. For months the Management Committee has been psyching members to get ready and move on. Members got themselves ready with some at the construction site almost every day wondering when the contractor would actually finish the work. Others began packing, listing the boxes and putting aside things that can go first. Some items were put on standby just in case the plan to move by Christmas, should fail. The plastic chairs were cleaned. Work parties were organized among the various Home Cells. Many came and cleaned the new church building. The new fittings also came in. So did the flowers and shrubs. These activities made the members even more excited. The choir was practicing every Saturday afternoon, under the watchful eyes and careful hands of Sis. Priscilla Chin, making sure everyone hit the correct note.

The apprehension! Can the contractor make it? Christmas is just round the corner and things are coming. Some came in members' vehicles and some came in lorries borrowed by members. At last the biggest lorry came with all the furniture and only the small, unnecessary items left behind at the old premises.

But our God is a faithful God. Members prayed and acted on the plans. Thus, by 25th December, 2009, with everything set, the choir took the stage and Bishop Made was there to celebrate the first Christmas ever. Hallelujah! It was a joy, it was victory, it was something you cannot actually describe. For more than ten years, at last, the vision to plant a church came to pass. That Christmas, members sang their Christmas carols with much vigor, seeing God's prophecy with their own eyes.

But there was another challenge! The Opening and Consecration Service is yet to come. There was much planning and this time, it involved Bishop Datuk Bolly himself. Bro. Dennis who was then still the

Chairman of the Management Committee worked together with Rev. Kenny Tan looking into every single details with Bishop Bolly. There was so much excitement this time, more so with Bishop Bolly, as each meeting with him, showed how excited he was. He began to visualize the opening and consecration events. The Organizing Committee checked every detail making sure nothing was left out. Rev. Nelson Ugas and other members from St. Faith's Church, Kenyalang Park were not left out. Some of them were pulled in to help.

So on 7th February 2009, when Bishop Bolly arrived that Saturday afternoon, he was brought around to see the building. When he came to the Main Hall, he was greeted by the tambourine girls. Already inside the Main Hall were Archdeacon Emeritus Michael Lim and Rev. Edmund Paleng. The crowd was made merrier with Canon James Wong and his wife Esther, Rev. George Tay and his wife Eunice. Priests from St. Thomas' Cathedral who helped out in the Chinese Ministry such as Rev. Kho Thong Meng, Rev. Louis Then, Rev. John Sim and others from St. Faith's, Kenyalang Park, were there. The worship team was led by Bro. Korno and as they sang "We walk this land", "Build Your Church, Lord" and "Dalam Yesus Kita Bersaudara", you could feel that atmosphere of victory, oneness, togetherness and joy in everyone's eyes. There were presentations by the children, the youth, the Chinese Ministry and choir. Before guests and members sat down for a celebration meal, tembusu trees were planted by Bishop Bolly, Rev. Nelson Ugas and Bro. Dennis Wee. And if ever you worship in this church and begin to wonder where that tree, hanging as a cross in the Main Sanctuary comes from, it is the tembusu tree from St. Faith's, Kenyalang Park, which marks as a bond between St. Faith Parish and Tabuan Jaya Parish.

On the 8th February 2009, Sunday Service was the Consecration of Tabuan Anglican Church and also the Induction of the Priest-in-charge. It was an elaborate event. It was very solemn and filled with traditions. A procession formed by the 30-odd pioneers, carried all the elements of sacraments, deeds, building plans and items for the altar and table. They walked around the building and gathered at the Main Entrance. The Bishop knocked on the door with his pastoral staff and the door was opened by the wardens. He blessed the Baptismal Font and went on to the front, unto the stage to bless the lectern, the table and altar. Towards the end of the service, Rev. Kenny Tan was inducted as the priest-in-charge of Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church. Once again, the members, guests and Bishop Bolly gathered for a celebration at the entrance of the church.

From 34 to about two hundred, the membership has grown steadily. They are worshippers from far and beyond Matang, Batu Kawa, UNIMAS Township and even Mile 13, Kuching-Serian Road, who have been faithfully worshipping there ever since. All one could do "is to lift up your hands and give glory to God".

Bro. Dennis Wee, the former Chairman of the Management Committee reminded members that work to achieve the vision is far from over. Bishop Bolly on the other hand reminded members that the seats in the church are not meant to be empty. The members are encouraged to bring in more people to church and to reach out to people in the neighborhood.

Indeed, this is just the beginning. We are reminded again and again that we are to fulfill the 'Great Commission'. Now, as the church continues on its journey to become a full-fledged Home Cell Church, members are expected to multiply into many more new cells bringing with them new members. Activities organized are geared towards that objective. Many more souls are to be harvested. We are reminded not to rest on our laurels but to move on, to walk the land, and together as one singing "all power, all honor, all glory, be unto God, forever and ever. Amen".

Subdeacon Lawrence Wah Onn
(Chairman, Organinsing Committee for Church Opening and Consecration)

THE OPENING

THE CONSECRATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

The Christian Education Ministry focuses on the nurturing and building up of believers through organizing teachings and trainings to meet the needs of the various ministries specifically as well as the congregation as a whole.

With God's guidance, CEM will continue to coordinate and to work together as a team with the various ministries to ensure that the plans and programmes are always in tandem with God's purpose for the church.

Survey Forms

To help facilitate and encourage learning opportunities in the congregation, survey forms with various topics listed out have been distributed to the congregation. From the feedback, it will provide us with information on the types of skills and knowledge as well as interest we could identify to benefit the church and its congregation. Some of the relevant topics from the survey forms could be used for our Sunday Service preaching themes.

Confirmation Class 2009

This year, the English and Chinese confirmation class started on 22.3.09 and ended on 18.10.09, covering a period of 29 weeks. The lessons which consisted of 28 topics were held once a week on Sundays from 11.30am to 12.30pm. The goals of the confirmation classes are to prepare the candidates to confirm their desire to be Christ's disciples; to deepen their faith in God; and to broaden their understanding of the Christian faith.

There were 20 candidates comprising 12 adults and 8 students in the English class, while the Chinese class consisted of 8 adults. Requirements for the candidates were punctuality and compulsory full attendance on all sessions. They were also required to attend the Sunday Church Service each week.

We rejoice and welcome the 19 newly baptized candidates that were baptized during the church camp on 29th August, 2009

at Santubong Resort. These candidates were also being confirmed on 25.10.09 during the Sunday Service by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Aeries Jingan. We, as a church sincerely welcome them into God's family.

We thank God for His continual guidance and blessings where the confirmation classes were conducted smoothly without any mishap. The church, deeply appreciates the commitment of all the teachers who had willingly sacrifice their time to teach the new member understands the meaning of being a spiritual Christian.

Next year the committees had in their plans to segregate the confirmation classes into Student Confirmation Class and Adult Confirmation Class. There are seven teachers who had willingly offered to help out with the teachings.

Christian Education Ministry will work together with the Home Cell Ministry to organize the Home Cell Leadership Training Course next year with the aim to expand the leadership base and also gearing towards effective cell church in 2010.

May the Lord continue to bless the works of our hands for His glory.

God Bless
Sis. Agnes Chew

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Thirteen years on, TJAC continues with the legacy of the pioneers, and undertakes numerous outreach programmes and activities in 2009 which are summarized below. Seeds were sown far and wide, and many have returned to His fold.

Alpha 2009

Alpha Course drew over 100 invitees at the Alpha Dinner, and eventually about half persevered and finished the 3-months talks from 10th February to 23rd May. The Alpha Weekend was held in Camp Permai this time instead of Santubong Resort as in the past years. Several participants gave their testimonies on how the Lord had brought them and touched them at the course during the Celebration night which was attended by about 100 participants and guests. (See Alpha testimonies)

Community Programmes

Several community outreach programmes are also carried during the year.

Our School outreach team under, Sis. Madeline has over the years brought several students of Lodge School to know the Lord through the weekly Anglican Class. Many of the students have consequently brought their parents to know the Lord. Chloe Sim, 14, one of the Form 2 students gave the following testimony:

"Life is good, but it hasn't always been that way though. Like other young girls, I was bullied in class and abused with harsh words on a daily basis. Sometime, I just hated going to school, I hated myself for everything. It hurt and left marks on me – mostly on my soul.

When I was younger, I never attended church as my family was free-thinker then. I joined the Anglican Class at my school, and loved to attend the class where we sing songs of praise and worship and Bible teaching, and that is the only time I feel I can totally be myself.

Recently, I have been confirmed, and now commit myself to the church youth group. The encouragement and support of my family and church friends, together with God's Word, grace and love have helped in my struggling.

When I allowed God to take charge of my life, things began to change. I have to confront my fears and negativity accumulated over the years. "Philippians 4:7 'God will help you work through your negative thought and emotions, and give you the peace of mind which transcend all understanding'. I begin each day with seeking God's will in my life. I want to have peace with my past, my enemies, my bullies and most of all, myself. Indeed, I came to the revelation that I didn't have to 'do things' to obtain God's unconditional love and acceptance.

Looking back, I thank God for all the pain I went through. Because of that I am a new person! Who I am today is because of my Father up there in heaven watching and guiding me. So hey friends, hang on there and trust Him!"

Free English Tuition (FET) has benefitted many pupils, who sat for the UPSR last year. This is one of the community programmes, which we aim to help the needy, and through it to nurture God's love and knowledge of His existence to the community. See separate write-up on this activity.

Other community outreach programmes that TJAC runs include line dancing and praise dance, both of which are weekly exercise, that have drawn keen interest especially among the health conscious ladies. Men – come and keep a healthy temple for the Lord too!

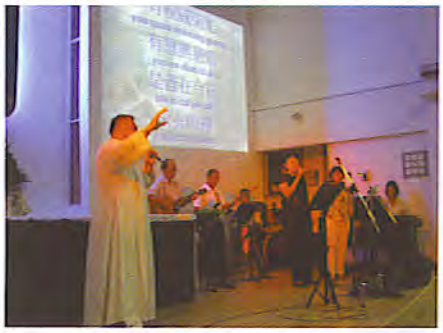
A Moon Cake Celebration Night was also organized by the Chinese Ministry on 2nd October, 2009, as a community-cultural programme to draw the community in the surrounding area to the church. The response was overwhelming as our guests were entertained to several items put up, including a sharing by Revd Kho Tong Meng on the celebration from the Christian perspective. Mooncakes were cut and shared while the children were given a lantern each to add to the evening's glamour.

Christmas caroling was taken care of by two combined home cell groups, to bring the joy of the Lord's birth to many families. The climax of the year was the Annual Christmas Dinner held on 18 December at Crown Tower. 50 over tables were snapped up as members brought their friends and relatives to the function, and everyone was thoroughly caught up in an early Christmas mood, with a great array of entertainment items including singing, skits, etc put up by our children, youth, choir and members.

Evangelistic Rally

A two-night rally was held on 17th to 18th July at the main sanctuary and conducted by Pastor Lawrence Seow from Singapore. Flyers were distributed to the surrounding community at Tabuan Heights, Tabuan Laru and Tabuan Dusun. Many lives were touched, and many responded to the altar call each night. Pastor Lawrence also conducted a workshop on evangelism on Saturday morning, and he also preached at the Sunday combined service.

Bro. Alex Tan



MUSIC MINISTRY

The year 2009 is both exciting and challenging for the music ministry. Since moving to the new premise - Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church, a lot of changes were encountered and the team is trying its best to adapt to the new environment. Furthermore, the music leaders, support singers, musicians and the sound crew were quite overwhelmed with the new sound equipment and system that has been purchased and installed in the new church.

Nevertheless, with the Almighty God's guidance the future of the music ministry will promise a tremendous change for the team. The Music Ministry would not sit at its laurel but to push ahead to face the new challenge with the expansion of the Church. As such the Music Ministry has in its plan the following activities to achieve its objective to become a well equipped music team and to enable us to serve the Lord better:

1. To train the music team in vocal especially the song leaders and support singers;

2. To train the song leaders on how to lead praise and worship;
3. To train sound crew members with relevant knowledge and skills in managing and utilizing the AV system;
4. To upgrade outdated and spoiled instruments with new ones.

It is hoped that with these activities continuously implemented, the church will have a strong, dynamic and effective music team and to be able to serve the English Service, Sunday School, Chinese Ministry, Youth Ministry, Prayer Meeting and also the Home Cell Ministry better.

Finally, as the church grows and expands, the music ministry may find it necessary to engage the service of a professional music director who can oversee and create improvement in the quality service of the music ministry.

With the blessing of our Almighty Lord, we will be able to see these plans materialize with the intention to serve the Lord even better.

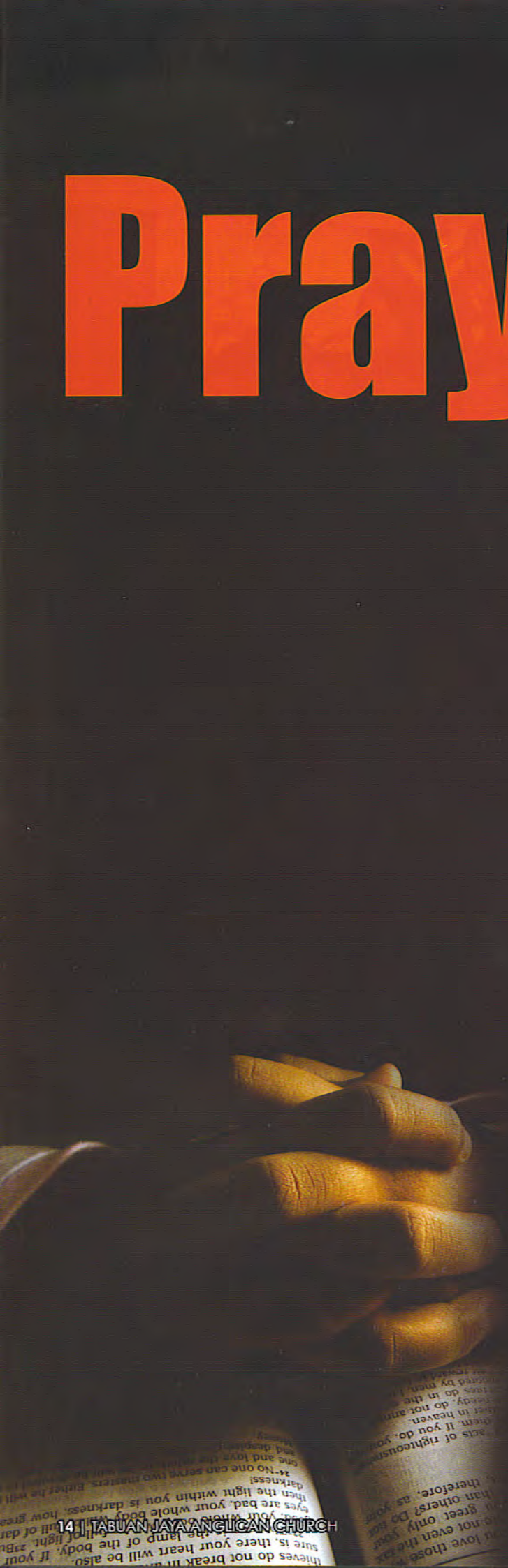
God Bless,

Bro. STANLEY CHUA

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry Committee members led by Bro. Bill Mowe, are Bro. Leong Kui Phin, and Sis. Rose Liu, Mary Sim and Julia Teo. Praise God for the members who faithfully continued to come weekly for the Wednesday corporate prayer meetings all these years. On the average, we have an attendance of about 26 to 35 members. We pray that TJAC will be a church that is to be a 'house of prayer', as Jesus declared in Mark11:17 – 'my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.' Every ministry must be prayed for and prayer must be a significant part of each ministry. Prayer is not left with just those with a heart of prayer. It works towards getting everyone involved in prayer for the church. Prayer is at the heart of everything the church does, to strengthen the life and ministry of the church. God's desire is for the church to be recognized as a house of prayer – a place that is a habitation for His presence and glory.

Isaiah 66:1 – Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me?



What is Prayer?

Prayer is basically talking with God. It is simply expressing your heart and spending time with Him. It is not a one way activity, God speaks, we listen, we speak and God listens to our hearts. Prayer can be exciting, powerful and fulfilling.

Power Of Prayer - How powerful is it?

James 5:16-18 declares, "...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops." God most definitely listens to prayers, answers prayers, and moves in response to prayers.

Jesus taught, "...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20). 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 tells us, "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. They have divine power to demolish strongholds. The Bible urges us, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

The power of prayer is not the result of the person praying. Rather, the power resides in the God who is being prayed to. 1 John 5:14-15 tells us, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him God answers prayers that are in agreement with His will. His answers are not always yes, but are always in our best interest.

We cannot access powerful prayer by using "magic formulas." Our prayers being answered is not based on the eloquence of our prayers. We don't have to use certain words or phrases to get God to answer our prayers. In fact, Jesus rebukes those who pray using repetitions, "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:7-8). Prayer is communicating with God. All you have to do is ask God for His help. Psalm 107:28-30 reminds us, "Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

Come and join us each Wednesday to pray for our families, our church, our nation and the world!

Bro. Bill Mowe

CHILDREN MINISTRY

The Children Ministry's vision is to build a firm spiritual foundation for the children while providing them a safe haven to learn and play together. Its mission is:

- To teach children about Jesus and God's love;
- To encourage children to praise and worship God and to pray;
- To minister the Word of God through creative Bible story-telling, object lessons, puppetry and visuals;
- To develop respect and love amongst children through singing, games and craft time;
- To train children to follow routines, simple rules and instructions; and
- To reach out and connect with the children in the different communities through children's community programmes.

Above all, we are not doing ministry, we are doing lives!

In 2009, there was much excitement at the start of the year. We moved from Thompson's Corner to the new church premise of Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church. The Sunday School was given half of the floor space of the second floor of the church. Over the year, the ministry grew in the number of new children that came in. In February, Sis. Yeo Ngang Peng took over as the new Superintendent when Sis. Betty Wong stepped down, but the latter continues to be a teacher.

The highlights of the year had been the Easter Children's Rally on 11th April and the Children's Day Community Children's Gathering on 10th October, 2009. The Sunday School children, together with the youths also performed two items, one on Parent's Day in May and the other on Children's day in October during the Sunday services.

Our focus for 2010 and beyond would include a continual intake of new children and possibly the expansion of the Chinese children's class. We shall pray towards organizing a children's choir or concert, children's Bible Camp, tambourine dancers and a children's band. To prepare for expansion, we shall have to have teachers' training programme and to pray that more people shall come forward to be Sunday School helpers.

Deaconess Eleanor Goh &
Sis. Yeo Ngang Peng

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry caters for the spiritual needs and growth of the growing young people of the Church. We believe that through church activities/programs and Bible studies it will help our young people to build up strong relationship with God and with people. The word of God says; "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it".

The Youth Ministry has come a long way and has seen many changes in the leadership ever since the planting of the Church as an extension centre of St. Faith's Church in the early years of 1996. It was through prayers and vision of our spiritual leaders that the Youth Ministry came about with Sis. Mavis Lim and assisted by Bro. Joshua Voon helming the Ministry. It started with a handful of young children, mostly from members of the Church. Batch after batch of young people have been with the Youth Ministry and many have left for overseas to further their studies and some have returned back to serve in the Church. Praise God! Bro. Joshua Voon took over the leadership from Sis. Mavis Lim when she left for New Zealand in the late 90's, and in him we are indeed blessed for God has put a fatherly figure for the young people. He is a man who truly loves and is concerned over the spiritual life of the young people. The flames of God continue to burn brightly under his able leadership. He has since handed the baton over to Bro. Christopher in the early months of 2009 to move on to the pulpit Ministry. Bro. Eric Tan is currently the youth leader assisted by Bro. John Mark and Sis. Elaine Yong.

The current weekly activities of the youth include Common Bond Home cell meetings every Sunday and Youth Fellowship meetings on Saturdays. Youth camps are also part of their annual activities which is to build up their spiritual life and relationships among each other. This year the youth was involved in the Parish Sale of St. Faith's Church by putting up a stall selling burgers and hotdogs. During Easter, some of the youths joined the staff of Tadika St. Faith in their visitation to the Children's Ward at the General Hospital as part of their community work. The youths regularly joined youths from other denomination churches for fellowship and teaching.

During the last Leaders' Retreat, it has been decided that the Youth Ministry will consolidate its activities and to align the youth home cell with the church vision of becoming a cell church and at the same time to strengthen the youth leadership with multiplication in mind. The PCC has already agreed to employ a Youth Pastor to oversee the development of the Youth Ministry. Praise God! We are looking forward to a fruitful year ahead in 2010.

SHALOM!

Bro. Christopher Chan

Chinese Ministry

達萬堂華語部

蒙神的保守眷顾,达万堂稳健走过第一年,在这一年里,华语部逐步向各方事奉进展顺意.

主日崇拜

每周参于主日崇拜人数平均已达70位左右,其中有许多新朋友. 感谢神的恩典, 除了有本堂主理陈庆宜牧师外, 我们也继续领受到万德传牧师,黄绍安牧师,以及圣多玛座堂许统明牧师与邓奕生牧师主持主日崇拜与分享讯息. 当中还有田志贤会史, 张荣銮兄弟, 钟宝国兄弟及陈玉珍姐妹读经员. 我们诚心感谢他们的付出.

现在华语部有乐器音响科技设备, 使我们在圣乐和颂赞事奉方面也逐渐提升. 也感谢神继续差遣郑大威兄弟在每周末的教导和练唱. 现参于唱诗歌,弹司琴,玩吉打,当鼓手及音响操作的弟兄姐妹有22位. 至于读经的事奉也有20位左右.

很欣慰现在所有赞美敬拜的歌词也用电脑操作,谢谢卓培玉姐妹的精心设计. 也感谢陈巧玉姐妹, 陈玉珍姐妹和卓培玉姐妹的齐心合作,每星期编辑华语部周刊.

启发课程

参加今年3月至5月的启发课程共有十位弟兄姐妹, 其中包括有五位在课程后接受主的恩赐成为祂的子女.

学道班

感谢神的带领保守, 今年参加学道班的教友共有九位. 也感谢陈庆宜牧师, 吴瑞枝姐妹女会史, 陈惠明兄弟, 张荣銮兄弟, 钟宝国兄弟, 陈玉珍姐妹和罗晓梅姐妹每周轮流为这学道班的讲员. 在他们同心合力, 互相搭配事奉上, 现在这九位教友已在10月25日领受会督的坚振礼.

福音传道

感谢神的指引, 本堂华语部成功组办以下两项福音传道活动:-

(1) 赞美操

本座堂已在7月7日开始健身赞美操的活动, 每周星期四下午6点至7点由冯淑莹姐妹带领. 平均约有20多位弟兄姐妹参加这即能赞美神, 背诵经文, 也能锻链身体的运动.

(2) 中秋月夜

我们首次在10月2日晚上在本座堂举办的中秋夜聚会得蒙神的祝福, 前来参加聚会有超过200位亲朋戚友, 其中有不少是来自左隣右社的新朋友. 当晚很荣幸圣多玛座堂许统明牧师分享信息, 他除了介绍一些关于中秋节文化历史背景外, 更传讲创造宇宙万物的神是何等伟大.

其他节目是由儿童组, 弟兄姐妹组

分别呈献，包括唱歌，舞蹈和赞美操．此外亦有茶点招待．感谢神赐于我们一个平安温馨的夜晚．

家庭小组

共有三组：(1) 黑门山组集会在星期日晚(每月各2次)，组长是陈玉珍姐妹，(2)何烈山组集会在星期二晚(每月各2次)，由钟宝国兄弟为组长，(3)摩利亚山组集会在星期五晚，组长是张荣銮兄弟，这三组総共人数约有36位左右．

华语主日学

感谢神继续带领我们华语主导的主日学．也感谢七位事奉的姐妹．她们每周轮流来帮助和训导17位主日学小朋友们，使他们不断在成长，更认识上帝．

家庭拜访

感谢神差遣我们主理陈庆宜牧师与吴瑞枝女会史各别到医院，家庭拜访，为许多身体欠佳，身心受困扰的教友们祷告与祝福．帮助他们在百般试炼中忍耐，坚固信心，使他们能感受到神的慈爱，平安和盼望．

展望将来

在我们对达万堂一年来充满喜乐，满怀敬谢神恩．同时我们也要展望将来．我们向父神祷告，祈望能蒙恩赐．

(1) 神能差遣全职的华语牧者与同工来督促，辅导华语部各方面事奉的进展．
(2) 牧养工作能有更完美的佈置与进行“灵命的成展”是华语部的坚定座标．“道的分享”是我们重要的操作．

(3) 建立与滋养一个有生气的环境以吸引并培训年青的教眾．
(4) 家庭拜访与家庭小组加以坚振以成为我们的支柱．

2009年执委

感谢神的拣选与使用以下华语部2009的执事同工们：-

顾问:	陈庆宜牧师
组长:	张荣銮兄弟
文书:	冯淑莹姐妹
圣乐组:	沉惜娇姐妹
牧养(关怀)组:	吴瑞枝女会史
基督教育:	张荣銮兄弟
福音传道:	冯淑莹姐妹
儿童组:	陈芝仙师母
祷告组:	陈惠明兄弟
家庭小组:	钟宝国兄弟
少青组:	何瑞德兄弟

冯淑莹姐妹
Sis. Margaret Fong

Pastoral Ministry

Tabuan Jaya Anglican Church is a Cell Church with many Home Cells and each Home Cell has a leader and one or two assistant leaders who nurture their members into spiritual maturity under the supervision of their Pastor, Rev. Kenny Tan. He visits these Home Cells according to their needs, advices will be given if necessary.

Pastoral work is mainly administered by Rev. Kenny Tan and Deaconess Eleanor Goh who pray and counsel to those who are troubled in their spirit, soul or body. Many mature brothers and sisters also assist in many ways like visiting and ministering to the sick and the bereaved, and the blessing of homes. All our home cell leaders and interns help to love and care to their home cell members through the deep connection amongst the leaders and members in the home cells.

In recent years, many people in the world are living in a time of uncertainty because of the flood, earthquake, typhoon, tsunami and economic downturn. However, it is important not to be worried, for the Lord is still in control and He will see to our needs. (Matthew 6: 25-34; Philippians 4:19). He is our Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who will provide. I believe that for us Christians, we should continue to walk in righteousness so that we will be saved from God's wrath through Jesus. He alone will sustain us and He alone will be there. Jesus did promise to be with us to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Since we have seen all the testing of the End Times around us, the church then needs a bit of realignment, just like the wheels of the car after realignment they will not bound and wear off very quickly. So it is the same for the church. As a church we need to be realigned so that we will not wear off too fast. Thus, activities which can strengthen and consolidate the Cell Group System will be encouraged, and vice versa. Moreover, with the fresh anointing from God and with His Word as a lamp to our feet, we will be able to move in the right direction and thus fulfilling His will for us.

In this computer age, we have the advantages of high technology. On the other hand we are facing the problems of having little contact with other people. Therefore, I believe that the Church needs to implement the concept of Cell Groups as mentioned in Acts 2: 42,44-47 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer..... ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people".

Hebrews 10: 25 tells us of the importance of meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing and so encourage one another – and all the more as they see the Day of the Lord approaching.

It is obvious that in the home cell, the Christians' spiritual, physical and emotional needs are met as they get together to minister to the Lord through worship, through the Word of God, and as they minister to one another through encouragement and prayer support. The Cell Group system is a 'less crisis' ministry for Church growth as the small cell groups form a good platform to care and minister to everyone's spiritual needs. When more and more of our Church members are mature in Christ and avail themselves to be trained up as Home Cell Leaders through the Cell Group System then the expansion of the leadership base will provide a firm foundation for greater Church growth. The Sunday Service is a time of getting together as a big family to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through worship.

So let us as a Family of God, arise and continue to build His Church and fulfill the Great Commission of reaching to the prebelievers in our community of Tabuan Jaya with the Gospel and reaching the unreachable through mission work.

Pastor Kenny Tan

From CONVENIENCE to COMMITMENT in the LORD

by Bro. Jerry Tan

My wife, Xenia, is a born Orthodox Christian who believes that children should be baptized at a tender age. Our first-born, Jerry Junior was baptized when he was 5 months old. In 2007, my younger son Leo approached 5 years and Xenia was angry with me for neglecting to make arrangements for Leo to be similarly baptized.

Being a non-Christian, to put things right I approached my brother, Tuan Siew to help make arrangement for Leo's baptism. He was delighted and told me it would be water baptism by immersion at Santubong. "How exciting it would be – just like in the movies", I thought. My wife was just as thrilled, but I was concerned that Leo might be too young to go into the sea and might be frightened. Suddenly, it just popped into my mind that I might as well get baptized with him, so that I could keep an eye on him. Tuan Siew made similar arrangements for my baptism and I could immediately see the joy in the eyes of my brother and that of my sister Joyce who happened to be also there. Only now could I understand what my baptism meant to them.

Leo and I were baptized on 1st September, 2007, and I started going to Sunday service at St. Faith's Extension Centre. I even bought a Bible but only managed to turn a few pages. After some attendances at the church, Bro.Dennis Wee invited me to join his home cell, Mount Zion and thereafter to join the Alpha Course, while I was still attending the confirmation class.

I am grateful to my home cell leader, Bro. Dennis, whose teaching on God's Word has helped shaped me and inspired me and also all members of Mount Zion HC, whose times of fellowship have helped me to change and be renewed. I also thank my friend, Bro. Henry Yeo, whose discussions over lunch sparked enthusiasm and encouragement in me.

The Lord opened my eyes and I began to put my trust in Him as Proverbs 3: 5-6 says "Trust in the Lord with all you heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight for you". I have exercised my faith and gone on a transformational journey, where I learn of God's greatness, forgiveness, mercy, grace and love. Thank you, Lord! Hallelujah!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family, especially my brother, Tuan Siew, my sister, Joyce and my late mother, and also her friends, Deaconess Eleanor and Sis. Madeline for their unceasing prayers for me. Lastly, I would like to thank my wife that because of her wish to have our two sons baptized, I can now stand before you to testify God's unfailing love for me and our family. The Lord must have had His own way in me. Praise the Lord! Thank you, Lord. Amen.

THE ALPHA COURSE

AND

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

by Bro. Ron J. Bunchol

The first few sessions of the Alpha Course were like a refresher course to me as a Christian as I would have learnt all these before either in the Sunday school in the past or in attending church services.

However, they were more like information that came in and out of my daily life as a so called Christian. The pressure of life took its toll on me and all that information lost its meaning.

With Alpha, the refresher course in the first few sessions brought new meaning – its like knowing your long lost friend once again, and acceptance to the fold where I once belonged.

The next few sessions were really adding the spirit to the fire – as they were inspiring and brought the meaning of Christian life to a whole new meaning. That's partly due to the weekend retreat at Camp Permai, where I experienced the Holy Spirit. I never thought that the Holy Spirit was alive. Previously to me, it was just part of the acknowledgement of the Holy Trinity but with the retreat, it brought alive the meaning of the Holy Spirit. It was a heart warming experience, something which I can never really tell in words. I felt blessed and glad that I was there to experience it for real.

The Alpha Course also gave me a new family of believers – those who have been pioneers in the Course, as well as the new 're-born' believers – brothers and sisters who can guide me in my daily search for Christ.

With Alpha, I have been given a second chance. It gave me hope that there is forgiveness for past sins and that I can carry the cross with the Lord at my side. There is renewed hope that in spite of all the past sins and all the obstacles that lie ahead, we should not lose sight of the heavenly reward that we will reap if we continue on the journey in Christ, believing and holding on to His love for us all.

God bless!

GOD touched me through ALPHA

by Bro. Alvin Tan Han Chin

For 33 years of my married life, my wife who is a Christian has been encouraging me to be a Christian. I gave the excuse that I was a free thinker and so was not ready. In fact, I told her that I would be more sinful to be a Christian if I was not fully committed.

Actually, I had already some Bible knowledge during my school days at St. Teresa Primary School. In my adult life, I had to accompany my wife to church before, more to please her than anything else.

Last February, I decided to learn more about Christianity. So I went to the Anglican Church at Kenyalang Park, and there, I met a smartly-dressed man. I told him that I would prefer to register myself at the Tabuan Jaya church because it was nearer my home. He smiled and said that it was okay and I could join any church. A few days later, I went to the Tabuan Jaya church and there I met this same gentleman again – and later, I learned that his name was Reverend Kenny. I believe that this was no coincidence, but that God was leading me to Rev Kenny to bring me to his church. So, something was definitely happening to me; I believed it was the Holy Spirit working on me.

I subsequently enrolled in the Confirmation Class which was held weekly and began to make many friends in the church, which made me feel very much at home. My wife accompanied to the classes to encourage me!!

Then came the Alpha Course. As I attend the weekly sessions, I began to think of Jesus more and more. I even talked to Him often. It was a strange and wonderful feeling for me, and the sessions became more and more interesting each time. Then came the Alpha Weekend Away at Camp Permai. At first I could not join because of other commitments. But after giving it much thought that the occasion could be something special, since it was the climax of the Course, and after encouragement from my wife, I decided to forgo the other commitments and join the Alpha Weekend. When I told my leader, Bro. Joshua that God wanted me to go, he was very happy. Praise God, it was indeed something special for me at the weekend – I was touched by the Holy Spirit during the prayer that evening. Something in me was making me soft, and it was an incredible experience that was out of the ordinary. I was glad that I did not miss the weekend. I believe God has been with me all the while, in every step of the way in leading me to Him. God is always the greatest. Hallelujah! Amen!

The Life of

Operation Exodus

Don't spill that, Helen!

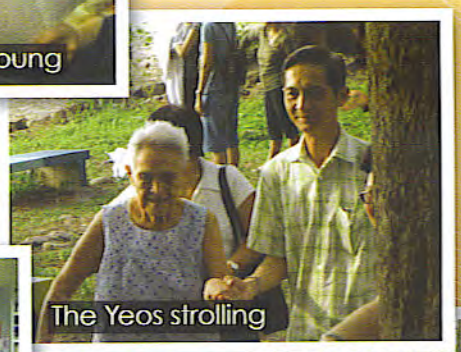
Let's sweat it out!

Let's dance!

Palm Sunday

Sob! But I enjoy church cleaning

Never too young



The Yeos strolling

Colouring competition

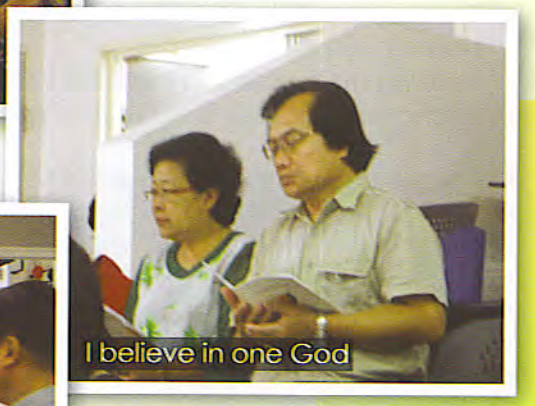
What are they discussing?

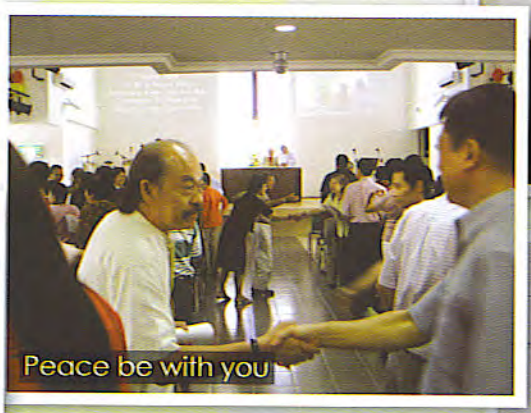
The Church

I can eat this much?

Feeding of the 5000

Caught you, Prof!


I believe in one God


Peace be with you

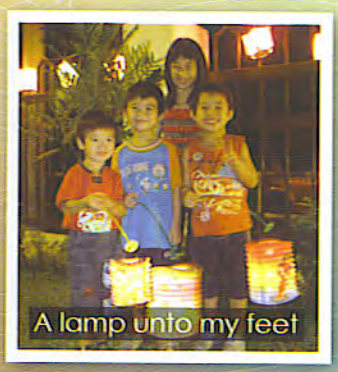
Kopi, tea or milo?

AGM 2009

First wedding at TJAC

First infant Baptism at TJAC

Confirmation Service


A lamp unto my feet

Home Cell Ministry

The objectives of the Home Cell Ministry are as follows:-

a) Incorporating Bible study, prayer, worship and evangelism into the home cells;
b) Administering God's love and care to one another in the home cells;
c) Building up relationship amongst members of home cells;
d) Building up leadership base for home cells and;
e) Launching into the Cell Church system

In line with the church theme for 2009 'To be a people who personally know God and are committed to make Him known to the community' the activities are organized aiming for the growth of the congregation and home cells not only in number but more so spiritually. Our church is gearing towards to become an effective Cell Church rather than just a church with home cells.

In preparation for moving towards becoming an effective Cell Church, more people are invited to join the home cells through awareness and programmes for the congregation to catch the Vision and Mission of the church, such as in the church bulletin and announcement by the emcees in the Sunday services. With the anticipation in the increase in the number of home cells through multiplications, more potential cell leaders are trained through mentoring and equipping so that they are ready to take over the new cell leadership when the expansion takes place.

Activities for 2009

1. Home Cell Ministry meets every month to plan the activities;
2. Every month, the Home Cell Ministry calls for a Combined Home Cell Leaders Meeting in order to discuss and plan for the activities for the home cells;
3. On 4-7th June 2009, a group of 12 leaders from our Church attended the 13th Malaysia Cell Church Conference in Damansara Utama Methodist Church, KL. The main theme was "Leadership & Growth in a Cell Church". More members will be attending in the years to come;
4. Leaders' Retreat on 3 October, 2009 with the theme 'Year of Fruitfulness'. The discussion centered around bearing more fruit for the Lord and contributing towards the vision of becoming an effective Cell Church.

Bro. Yong Sieng Hong

MOUNT ZION HOME CELL RETREAT DAMAI BEACH 19 – 21 SPETEMBER 2009 Theme: Living Cells In The Body Of Christ

Ever since its inception, Mount Zion Home cell members have had retreats at once or twice a year. We cannot copy what Jesus did with his perfect Home Cell of 12 members spending virtually all their time together but the retreat is the next best practical way of spending extended time together teaching, sharing, playing, praying, fellowshipping, eating, and sleeping together. One of the highlights of the retreat was a multimedia presentation of our members in their younger "hair" days – there was much fun and laughter trying to identify one another. There were 3 teaching sessions covering the following topics:

1. Living Cells: Characteristics & Significance;
2. Building Up People: "What's That In Your Hand?";
3. Living Cells: Towards Growth & Maturity.

A very pleasant surprise was in store for our members towards the end of our retreat – we were very blessed by the visit of Bishop of West Malaysia, Rt. Revd.Ng Moon Hing and his wife Siew Lan who came with our warden Bro.Goh Beng Hock and his wife. Bishop Ng shared briefly with our members his vision for West Malaysia after which there was a fulfilling time of prayer and ministry together.

Bro. Dennis Wee

Blood Donation Drive 2009

Praise the Lord! A very common community project as in a Blood Donation turned out to be a full church family affair, when organised on Saturday, 12th September 2009, at the Church's premise, from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

With the theme, "Love your neighbour as yourself", the Church provided one of the many opportunities for such a love to be demonstrated in the giving of blood which is for saving the lives of others, who are beyond one's circle of known and favourite people. In fact, one never knows who the benefactor is except the joy and satisfaction that he could help others in need, as a Christian, in living out his faith.

Exhibits were put up, especially by the Free English Tuition and the Children Ministry. One boy, by the name of Walter aged 8 was personally brought along to see the exhibits and including the musical instrument on the stage, before joining the Children's Colouring competition, where he emerged second in his category. It was reported later by the father that he wanted to come and join the Sunday school.

The Lord has granted a good weather, too. Several members from the respective Home Cells came enthusiastically to help out and bringing along 'finger food' that was well above the needs. Others included 'sio bee', apples, 'pau' and fried macaroni sponsored by friends and well wishers.

There were 77 who came and registered on the day, out of which 47 (14 ladies) successfully donated their blood; 26 deferred and probably 4 left because of the long queue. There were only five beds for bleeding and one doctor in attendance - that caused a delay. There were a few first-timers, of course, including those with phobia to needle.

Many people were willing to donate but due to age or other factors, could not do so. However, there is one piece of good news, though, the those over sixty in age could still donate if there is a letter from a doctor certifying that they are in good health to donate.

The Bishop of Kuching, the Right Revd. Datuk Bolly Lapok graced the occasion. He was shown around, meeting church members and blood donors. A reporter from the local daily came to cover the event and she too donated her blood. The spokesman of the Blood Bank commented, " It is very good and with that kind of response, the drive could be organised more often". He extended his complements and thanks on behalf of the Blood Bank.

Yes, it will be organized again. In fact, it is very likely that this Community project shall be an annual affair. So come TYT's birthdays in September, the Church will be organsing it again and again. Make a date with us, next year onwards.

The Organising Committee, under the chairmanship of brother Poh Kwang takes this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to all concerned and involved for contributing to the success of this Drive. Alleluia.

Bro. Mathew Ong &
Bro. Tan Poh Kwang

FREE ENGLISH TUITION

In September 2008, the first group of children from the Free English Tuition class sat for the UPSR examination. Eight out of fourteen of them managed to secure Grade B, which is quite an achievement as most were considered very weak in the language and could neither read nor write simple sentences when they first joined.

We give thanks to and praise God for a fruitful year and also to all the teachers for their hard work, time and commitment.

Here are some testimonies from the pupils about the tuition:

Petrus Pakar (SK Tabuan Jaya) : Before I knew TJAC, I always obtained C and D in my exams. I thank the church management to allow me to join the tution at this centre. On the first day, I was happy to make many new friends. I also set a target in my heart to get better marks than before. Now I am totally changed. I managed to get B in my UPSR. I have improved much in my English subject. Thank you to TJAC.

Bob Chai Chuan Hui (SJK Stampin) : I am glad that I make many friends and I learn many new things, especially in English. I am happy to be here. Thank you TJAC.

2009 is a great year for us when we moved to this new church premise. Many children registered for the Primary 5 and Primary 6 tuition classes, and many parents participated in the Parents-Teachers gatherings as well as joining in our church activities. We pray for God's continued guidance and strength to be with us for the years to come.

Sis. Teresa Chung

GOD'S LOVE FOR ME

by Justin Yeo

My name is Justin Yeo and I am 14 years old this year.

In early June, a particularly good sermon about forgiving one another just like how God has forgiven us made me wonder how I could apply that to my life.

One Thursday that month, while playing basketball I suddenly felt something whack me on my neck. I was shot by an arrow on my neck! It hurt as I swallowed my saliva and my vision became blurred. I was on the floor begging God for forgiveness and help because I thought my life was ending. People around me were praying – people who were new Christians had tears down their cheeks as they asked God for help. At that time, I could feel that God was telling us that everything was going to be okay. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor and vomiting blood. People were shouting for help and helping me to get into a car. All I wanted to do at that moment was to faint as I didn't want to go through the pain. Questions started to pop in my head. Why? What happen? Who did it? How can this happen? Then I suddenly realized that this was not a curse that God had put on me, it was God's answer to my prayer to help me apply forgiveness in my life. Even though I didn't know who the shooter was, I knew that I had to forgive him no matter how bad the situation was. So silently I prayed to God to teach me how to forgive the person who had done this to me.

They brought me to the operating theatre, where I was put to sleep. When I woke up I found myself in some room, where I tried to move but couldn't. Then I remembered about the incident. There were so many wires and tubes on me, which were very annoying and painful. I tried to sleep, but couldn't as I vomited every half an hour. By morning, the doctor came to visit me and told me he had to leave a tube in my nose for feeding for 10 days.

During the first few days, the hospital was packed with people visiting me. I was touched as it showed they really loved and cared for me. I thanked the Lord every night for the people who came to visit me. My parents and brother took turns to look after me on weekdays, and the youths on weekends. I feel really grateful that they would sacrifice their time and energy to take care of me. The nurses and doctors too were very kind and gentle. All these made my eyes open to know how people can be really kind inside.

It was explained to me by the doctor that the arrow pierced through my throat but didn't hit my vital parts, and I believe it was indeed a miracle. Had it hit 1 cm a little back, it would hit my veins and I would instantly die. If it was 2 cm lower, it would have hit my vocal chord and I would never be able to talk again for the rest of my life. If it was a little on the top, it would hit my spinal cord and I would be paralyzed for the rest of my life.

After that day, I really treasured life, and thanked God – He is our protector in so many different ways. I thanked God that He had also taught me how to forgive. So I really hope that all of us will learn how to forgive one another as He has forgiven us.

My Deep Longing to Worship the True God

by Nani Wijaya

My name is Nani Wijaya, I am 31 years old and was born into a Buddhist family. Each time I worshipped at the temple, I did not feel 'connected', and there was always an emptiness in my life, and there was no improvement in my life.

There was a deep longing in my heart to worship the true God with whom I could share my problems with. But, alas, I had no idea at all where and how to find Him. So the only way for me was to start to pray to Him to reveal to me how to find Him.

One day I had a strange dream that I was going back to the temple to worship and came face to face with the idol, 'Dewi Kuan Ing' and as I prayed to her she suddenly came alive and started to shake her head three times. I believed that it was God's revelation to me not to worship her anymore.

One week later, I had another dream in which I was standing in the middle of a field, where there were multitudes of people in helmets, swords and shields, riding on black horses and attacking one another in a battle. There was darkness all around, and I could only see the silhouettes of the people under the moonlight. In response to my scream to God for help, suddenly, a white horse appeared and stopped in front of me, communicating with me in the spirit, 'Come and sit on my back'. Without hesitation, I climbed on its back and held on to its neck as it sped off into the darkness. While trying to keep my balance, I was wondering to myself, how the horse could find its way in the pitch darkness without running over anything. It amazed me greatly that the horse could read my thoughts, as it answered, 'Don't worry, I can see my way in the dark that you cannot see'. The horse then stopped after a while in front of a building. In the building, I could see a gathering of people who were singing joyfully and clapping their hands in front of a big screen. I didn't know what kind of place that was, so I turned to the horse and asked him, but it was gone. That was when I woke up from the dream.

A few days later, I went to an aquarium shop. The owner invited me to attend a meeting where he said miracles were taking place – the sick were healed and even the people in wheel chairs could walk again. I was curious and excited about the place and decided to follow him. When I reached the place, I was astonished to see that it was exactly the same building that I saw in my dream. The building was a church.

As I listened to the preaching, my heart felt the overwhelming peace of God. I knew then that this was the place that I had been searching for, and that I had finally met the true God that I had been seeking. I am also grateful to God for filling me with the Holy Spirit and empowering me to live a meaningful and fruitful life.

'Thank you, Lord Jesus, for guiding me through the dream to find You as true God, and that you have received me as Your child. Grant me the strength and patience to control my emotions, so that I can always focus on You and Your love for me. May I bring Your joy, peace and love to those who are lonely and unloved, and who are lost without You. Amen.'

My Amazing Experience with the ALMIGHTY GOD

by Sis. Winnie Liao

In early 1970, I was diagnosed with chronic end stage kidney failure. The doctor said that I needed to have an operation on my left wrist to create a 'fistula' in order to facilitate haemodialysis that would involve a thrice weekly treatment of 4 hours each, to purify my blood, or alternatively, to get a kidney transplant so that I can live.

At the age of 28, I was shocked and devastated. Seeking a second opinion at Mount E Specialist Centre led to confirmation of the diagnosis. The fistula operation was done in Singapore. On 23 July, when I had my first dialysis treatment, the side effects were unbearable and I not only vomited constantly, but also suffered deafness, and was also in semi-conscious state. I was so sick that my caring mother thought that I would die there. God is good, I survived and returned home. He also provided my loving sister, Linda to assist me in the dialysis.

For 17 years, often during my hours of despair, I would seek God to arrange for me for someone, somewhere, somehow, to donate one of his or her kidneys to me. God's glorious strength had kept me strong to wait and to trust on Him completely. The turning point of my life came when the Consultant Nephrologist at the Sarawak General Hospital on 10 May 2006 informed me that there was a donor kidney waiting for me in Hospital Besar Kuala Lumpur. Wow! The most precious gift from **GOD - a Kidney!**

I was transplanted on 12 May 2006 at 12:00 am, an operation which lasted 5½ hours. My new kidney was attached to my bladder. The length of the operation was 13 inches and they sewed me up with 30 large black metal staples and 8 stitches. I was unconscious for 2 days only. When I woke up, I cried out joyfully as I saw urine flowing slowly but surely through the catheter into the urine box. GOD had restored my health and made me whole again, and Jesus had transformed me and set me free.

On the tenth day of my operation, my body began to bloat. My tummy went up to 40 inches with legs the size of an elephant's. I thought I would surely die and prayed to GOD and begged HIM to let me live so that I might go home to Kuching to see my mother again. GOD in His unfailing love and mercy answered my prayers. I knew He had granted me a second chance to live again as within a week all the swellings were gone.

The LORD had changed my life and given me a new lease of life and let me live after my kidney transplant. For without this disease, I would not have experienced GOD's love and power first hand. "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you" (Job 42:5).

During and after the operation, the congregation of St. Faith's Church and people from other churches including everyone who knew me also prayed fervently to GOD for my quick recovery. Thank you for all your prayers, my wound is completely healed. Hallelujah! Thanks Be To GOD.

Today, over 3 years after the Kidney Transplant, I am a walking testimony of God's miracle. For I believe that if not for His great love, grace and mercy for me, where will I be today? I will continue to thank GOD everyday of my life for everything that He had done for me until He calls me home. Praise the Lord. Amen.

上帝确实爱我

我出身於一个非基督徒的家庭,从小非常排斥基督教,也从来不给自己机会认识我们的上帝及了解基督的真理. 但是,尽管我如此拒绝上帝,上帝仍然爱我,仍然多次在我生命中呼召我.

2005 那年,我那刚硬的心开始也终于被上帝的爱和大能所感动. 我开始给自己机会去认识及了解基督教,也开始去教会. 然而,那时候我去的那间教会非常严格,我在承受不了家庭小组所带给我的压力的情况下选择离开那教会. 结果,我渐渐的忘记祷告和读圣经. 感觉上,我跟上帝之间的关系已经逐渐疏远了. 半年后,春玉姐妹邀请我来这间教会. 刚来时我是在英语部,但是因为当时没有什么认识的朋友在这教会里,所以过了一段时间,我就没继续来教会了,也少祷告了. 然而,上帝依然没有放弃我,上帝的眼睛也一直没离开过我,他一直都与我同在.

在一个炎热的中午,当我准备回家的时候,就在我进车正准备开动引擎的那一刻,一个匪徒开了我的车门,然后坐进我的车,抢走了我的手提包. 这突其而来的事件,让我当时感到非常惊惶及恐慌,但却又非常无奈. 当想到又要从新申请身份证及驾驶执照时,我就非常沮丧. 春玉姐妹晓得这事之后就安慰我,并告诉我她要为我祷告,要我一定要带着信心来与她一起祷告. 果然,在祷告的十五分钟后,奇迹就出现了,就有一人按照我手提包里的文件得着我的手提电话号码而打电话给我, 他告诉我他在路边的水沟里看到我的手提包. 我当时又惊又喜,又被这位万能的上帝为我所作的一切而感动. 我感谢上帝的看顾与保守. 当我被抢而作出反抗的时刻,我不但没有受到丝毫伤害,还竟然如此轻而易举的得回所有的重要物件(除了钱之外).

这件事让我领悟到上帝与我之间其实只是相差了一个祷告的距离. 钱财虽然遗失了,但是我找回了我对上帝的信心. 我曾经远离了他,可是他却没有遗弃我,他一直都守在我身边. 上帝鉴察了我,他确确实实让我经历到他的真,看到他的爱与大能,我怎能不说:“上帝啊,你竟然如此爱我,你何其伟大,你如此的万能,我何等的蒙福!” (诗篇139:5-6)你在我前后围绕着我,你的手按在我身上. 这样的奇妙是我不能理解的,这样的高超是我不能达到的.

过后,我开始来华语部. 我记得第一次到华语部时,丽侬姐妹非常的热诚,并邀请我参加诗歌唱团. 我毫不犹豫就答应了,并开始事奉上帝. 接着也参加了由玉珍姐妹所带领的黑门山小组. 黑门山小组不但没有让我感到压力,反而让我看到弟兄姐妹们和睦共处的一面. 感觉上,弟兄姐妹们都非常随和及友善,个个具有爱心,常常互相关心与勉励,而且和和气气的在一起共同切磋及学习.

天父,我感谢你的慈爱与恩典,感谢你应允我的祷告,感谢你让我生命改变,感谢你坚固我,感谢你赐给我平安与喜乐. 我把荣耀归给你,我们的真神. 哈利路亚!

卓培玉 稿
Sis. Michelle Toh

WHOSE PORTRAIT IS THIS ?

It is an interesting fact that different people viewing the same object may end up with different perceptions of what they saw and this is often the source of differing opinions giving rise at times to conflicts among one another. Isaiah 6:9b sums it well when it speaks of a people "... *be ever seeing but never perceiving.*" The problem lies not with our eyesight but within our hearts. Jesus said, "For judgement I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." (John 9:39). Jesus was not referring to physical blindness but spiritual blindness. A valuable lesson in dealing with this is found in the way Jesus dealt with the fault-finding Pharisees in their encounter in Matthew 22:15 – 22.

The Portrait On The Coin

The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with a trick question, "Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" in Mat.22:17b. It was a lose-lose situation. If Jesus had answered "Yes", they would use that to accuse Him of being a traitorous Jew, if He had answered "No", then the Pharisees would use that to report Him of instigating rebellion against the Roman government. Instead Jesus responded by asking them to show Him the coin and asked, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscriptions?" (Mat.22:20b). When they answered "Caesar's", Jesus said "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's"(Mat.22:21b). What did Jesus mean? It all boils down to images. What image do we see when we look at others? Do our eyes see Caesar or God? Both should be given their rightful dues but the bottom line is the ability to know the difference.

If Caesar's image on the coin represents the authority, the secular Government of the day, what is the image of the Pharisee questioners? Obviously they do not bear the image of Caesar although from their authoritative stance one could easily mistake them for "Caesars". Did Jesus see them as enemies or troublemakers or at best, fault-finders? How about His disciples? How about us? What images do we present to the world? What portraits do we see in our fellowmen in daily encounters with them?

Genesis 1:26 – 27 tells us that we are all (no exception) made in God's image. This does not mean that we all look like God because it is not our physical appearances that matter. Our portraits represent the essence inside each of our hearts and is manifested in our lives through our attitudes, values, priorities, relationships etc.. We are not made in the image of Caesar but in the image of God and thus each of us are wired with the essence of godly values. What godly values? How can we see them if we ourselves have not seen God? Christians believe that God is not invisible but that His presence has been revealed to us in the person of His one and only son Jesus Christ who lived among us more than 2000 years ago. Jesus said "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14: 9b). Are we able to see the image of God in Jesus and in our fellow brothers and sisters in the world?

Let God Be God

The world places unduly high dividends on our external appearances. Since time immemorial, humans have spent a disproportionate amount of their time, energy and money to improve their external image. The wide array of hair blends and styles, plastic surgeries, human pin cushions, tattoos, multi-coloured contact lenses etc represent statements that many are not satisfied with the image that God gave them, that they can improve on God's handicraft. This display of our ego, our self-centredness have led many to make huge statues of themselves, some others print giant sized self-portraits to adorn their homes or offices. Compare this with the servanthood humility of Jesus. What portraits are they demonstrating, Caesar's or God's?

In 1 Samuel 16:7b, the Lord said to Samuel, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." If the making of man in God's image mean the imputing of His essence and nature in humanity, how is it that such godly values are scarcely seen in us? The crux of the matter really is our heart condition. There would be some who are not content to be in God's image because they feel deprived of too many of the carnal goodies that the

world offers, so they "adjust" those godly values to suit their preferred lifestyles. They look for loopholes in the teachings of the faith or try to justify what they are doing often with "God will understand" or "I'm not ready yet, I'll come back to God later". There are others who try to create God to suit their image by twisting God's Word out of context and perverting or diluting its true intended meaning. Some of us will just not let God be God!

The Great Commandments

In creating humans, God, in His divine wisdom, allowed us a free will to choose the directions we want to go in our lives. Unfortunately, this freedom has been often liberally misinterpreted to mean that anything goes. The Bible tells us that each of us are carefully crafted by God for a specific purpose in life and if we, in the exercise of our free will, go the wrong way, then God as our potter will adjust the shape of the pot he is moulding (Jer.18:1-10). In our journey in life God's (potter's) hands will continue to shape us towards what He intends for us. Are we willing to be pliable clay in His hands? The essence of this trust in our God is an expression of our obedience to His first great commandment to us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30). This fulfillment of this pre-requisite will move us to acknowledge others around us as also being made in the image of God and enable us towards fulfilling the second great commandment to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31). If we are able to see and accept God's image in these two perspectives we are on the way towards a right relationship firstly with our Creator and secondly towards our fellow humans. But who is our neighbour? Is the person who disagreed with us still our neighbour? In the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke10:30 – 37, would we consider the man who was robbed and wounded on the roadside our neighbour? The priest and the Levite did not because they saw the victim as an inconvenience, they failed to see the image of God on him but the Samaritan did! In our marathon journey in life, we are sometimes able to see and recognize our neighbour in the marketplace, on the road, in the work place etc. However, more often than not, we miss that opportunity as did the priest and the Levite. Christians can make a distinct difference and touch the world around them if we can be more and more like the ultimate human model seen in Jesus Christ. When He was hung, humiliated, dying a cruel and unjust death on the cross, He did not complain about the injustices meted out to Him nor did He cry out for vengeance, instead He said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Jesus recognized His image even in His tormentors and executioners.

Be Perfect

God's original creation plan for humans to be perfect like Him still stand (Matthew 5:48). We have not yet arrived but God's promise is that if we believe and in perseverance "press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12 – 14), it will be fulfilled. What is the prize? The prize is to live in eternity in heaven with our Creator but this cannot take place until we are restored back to the perfect state that God originally intended because man in their present sinful, fallen state cannot inherit the things of God. The promise is that at the second coming of our Lord Jesus, we will all be changed, the perishable will be clothed with the imperishable and the earthly man will "bear the likeness of the man from heaven."(1 Corinthians 15:48 – 49, 53 – 54).

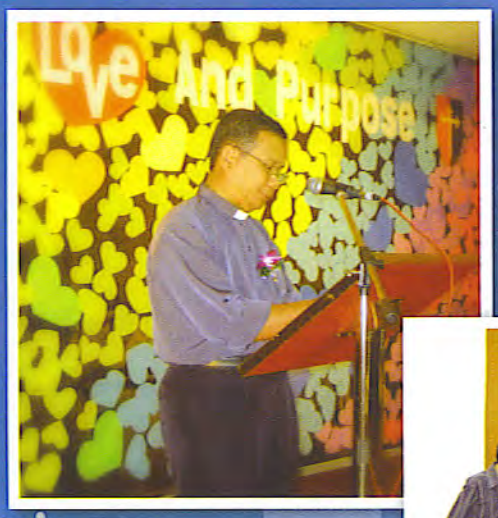
Man have continually tried to fill an innate void by searching for something greater than himself to worship. In the process he has created gods from images, objects, animals or other human idols (film/ pop/ sports stars) to worship, giving birth to the religions of the world. Christianity is the only religion where the God worshipped is not created by man; on the contrary, God created man and revealed Himself to them in the person of His Son Jesus so that they may know Him and worship Him. Thus, we must also portray God's image in our lives because Christ in us is the hope of glory for love, world peace and true unity.

Bro. Dennis Wee

Church Camp 2009

Church Camp - Baptism 2009

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2009



The Lighter Side of Church Life

Announcements From Church Bulletins – Your Slip is Showing!

Don't let worry kill you -- let the church help.

Thursday night – Pot-bless supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

The service will close with "Little Drops of Water." One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The preacher will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth With Joy."

Please welcome Pastor Don, a caring individual who loves hurting people.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The Wisdom Of Children

You can't fool the kids in Sunday school, they are way too smart...

'If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?' I asked the children in my Sunday school class.

'NO!' all the children answered.

'If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?'

Again the answer was,' NO!'

'Well, 'I continued, 'then how can I get to heaven?'
A five-year-old boy shouted, 'You gotta be dead!'

Child's Speak

A mother was teaching her three-year-old The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, the child repeated it after the mother. Then one night the child was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride to the carefully enunciated words, right up to the end. 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some e-mail'.

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A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' His son asked, 'What happened to the flea?'

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After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!'

Where's Flora?

The ninety-five year old woman at the nursing home received a visit from one of her fellow church members. 'How are you feeling, Flora?' the visitor asked. 'Oh,' said the lady, 'I'm just worried sick!' 'What are you worried about, dear?' her friend asked. 'You look like you're in good health. They are taking care of you, aren't they?' 'Yes, they are taking very good care of me.' 'Are you in any pain?' she asked. 'No, I have never had a pain in my life.' 'Well, what are you worried about?' her friend asked again. The lady leaned back in her rocking chair and slowly explained her major worry. 'Every close friend I ever had has already died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went.'

Don't Pray, Pray!

Ah Tu climbs to the top of Mount Singgai to talk to God.

Looking up, he asks the Lord. "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A minute."

Ah Tu asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A penny."

Ah Tu asks, "Can I have a penny?" The Lord replies, "In a minute."

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2009 - 2011

Seated L-R:
Bro. Robert Chang, Sis. Angela Tan, Bro. Alex Tan, Rev. Kenny Tan (Chairman), Deaconess Eleanor Goh, Sis. Agnes Chew

Standing L-R:
Bro. Christopher Chan, Bro. Eric Tan, Bro. William Yeo, Bro. Geoffrey Teo, Bro. John Cheong, Bro. John Chow, Subdeacon Lawrence Wah Onn, Bro. Bill Mowe, Bro. Stanley Chua, Bro. Goh Beng Hock (not in photo)

CHURCH WORKERS

Sis. Helen Chan

Sis. Mariam Janggak

Bro. Mathew Ong

Bro. Daniel Tan

TABUAN JAYA ANGLICAN CHURCH

Home Cells	Home Cell Leader	Telephone Contact
Antioch	Alex	019-8871842
Bethel	Leung	019-8769144
Bethlehem	Agnes	019-8171334
Cana	Bill	016-8952643
Canaan	Martin	016-8507718
Common Bond	Eric	016-8005808
Emmaus	Joshua	019-8278221
Eden	Kevin	012-8926871
Galilee	Clarence	013-8111025
Hermon (Chinese)	Helen	013-8010770
Horeb (Chinese)	John	019-8485928
Jabez	Anson	019-8867140
Judah	Madeline	014-3933524
Mt. Moriah (Chinese)	Geoffrey	016-8886612
Mt. Zion	Dennis	013-8203989
Mt. of Olives	Margaret	019-8899265
Philippi	SD Lawrence	013-8168248

Worship Services

Sunday Service	9.00am
Chinese Service	9.00am
Sunday School	9.00am
Teen Ambassadors	12.00 pm
Youth Fellowship	12.00 pm

Weekly Activities

Prayer Meeting	7.45 pm – 9.00 pm (every Wednesday)
Line Dancing	6.30 pm – 8.30 pm (every Thursday)
Free English Tuition	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm (every Saturday except Public Holidays)
Praise Dance	6.00 pm – 7.00 pm (every Thursday)

Church Office hours

Mondays to Fridays	8.30 am to 5.00 pm
Saturdays	8.30 am to 1.00 pm
Sundays and Public Holidays	Off days

Contact information

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Christmas Is GOD's Love

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