

CALVARY NEWS

A Bi-Monthly Publication Of Calvary Church

Issue No: 101

September-October 2006

PP 5911/1/2007



Dealing with the Unexpected

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn’” (Matthew 13:24-30).

Jesus loved to use parables when He taught Kingdom principles because they made the principles of the Kingdom of God easy to understand. In this parable, the sower sowed good seed of wheat and was surprised to discover that there were tares that sprouted with the wheat. Jesus told this parable to teach us how to deal with the unexpected “tares” that come into our lives.

You may be sowing good seeds—giving, praying and doing the will of God and yet experience hardship and face difficult and disastrous situations. The Bible says, an enemy—Satan or his agent, has sown seeds of evil imaginations and thoughts into your unsuspecting mind. The seeds will germinate and “tares” will appear together with the wheat. Problems can erupt and unpleasant circumstances can happen in the midst of the blessings or the favour of God upon your life.

This parable also teaches that you can be a child of God, and yet sometimes not act and behave as one. The kingdom principle of sowing and reaping is, whatever the seed, good or bad, you will reap according to the seed that is sown. God will not go against His principles. Let me highlight some truths about this principle.

First, no amount of praying or fasting will change the seed. If you sow wheat, you will reap wheat. If you sow an apple seed, you will not

get oranges. **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).** If it is an evil seed that produces sin, how do you deal with it? The grace of God is available for the Bible says, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)** and **“God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in**

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Father's Day

On Father's Day, 18 June 2006, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam told the fathers that Calvary Church is proud of them. They are important to the Kingdom of God and we want to stand with them and pray for them as they carry out their heavy responsibilities. The Church gave gifts to the fathers who attended the Services that day.



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam praying for the fathers

Living in the line of fire

By Audrey Kum

Rev. Chuck Brewster was our Father's Day speaker. He used to literally live in the line of fire in his work. For 23 years, he served as a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service. Over the years, he said he protected four Presidents and Vice-Presidents, ready to die for a politician he may not even have voted for!

Today, serving as the Men's Pastor at Brownsville Church, in Pensacola, Florida, he is willing to die for the King, his Lord and Saviour and is training others to do the same. Referring to Romans 12:1-2, he urged Calvarites to offer our lives as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

Carpenter's Workshop (CW) Choir singing, "Jump, Shout and Sing" at Damansara Perdana



Just as the Special Agents trained to face real situations, Rev Chuck stressed the importance for Christians to be trained likewise so that we will always be prepared for any sudden attack by the enemy (John 10:10). We need to be equipped physically, mentally and spiritually and have the Word of God in our hearts.

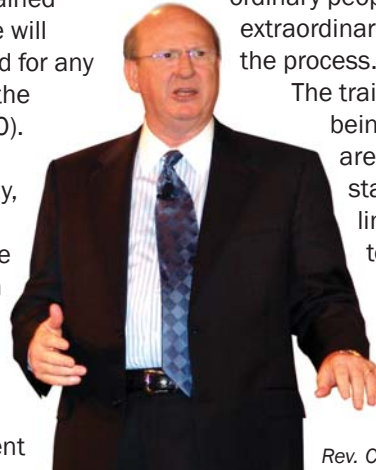
He recounted how within 30 days, two women tried to kill President Ford. It was only because the Special Agents were focused in their task to

protect him that he was saved. Christians too must be focused as this will bring success and God can turn ordinary people into extraordinary ones in the process.

The training and being focused are to help us stand in the line of fire to bring people to God.

Rev. Chuck spoke of

Rev. Chuck Brewster



a Special Olympics for handicapped children held at a stadium in Los Angeles. During a race for kids with Down's syndrome, one of them fell down. Wonderfully, the rest turned around to help that fallen kid and together, they reached the finish line.

This is what we must do for our loved ones and neighbours. Rev. Chuck urged everyone, especially fathers, to train and be equipped with the Word of God so that we can stand in the line of fire and bring others to the finish line!



CW Choir singing, "Jump, Shout and Sing" at Cheras

CW Choir singing, "Jump, Shout and Sing" at Damansara Heights



CW Choir singing, "Jump, Shout and Sing" at Ampang



Different Men's Ensembles sang, "Rise Up O Men of God" at the various Church locations

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam praying for those who responded at the altar



"This is how you do it..."



Bonding through fishing!

By Jim Guneratnam

Twenty one fathers and surrogate fathers together with their 34 children came out early Saturday morning for the Royal Rangers Father's Day fishing trip. This event was especially organised in conjunction with Father's Day to provide a unique experience for fathers and children to work together, interact and bond in an outdoor setting.

The day began with breakfast and devotion at Pusat Aktiviti Calvary before adjourning to the fishing pond in Damansara Perdana. After three hours of fishing, the day concluded with prizes for the teams with the largest fish. Both fathers and children had a great time and went home with the catch.

"...and look at what we caught!"



Special menu for Father's Day!

By Audrey Kum

On 18 June 2006, Father's Day, a special menu was served at the Calvary Refreshment Centre at Damansara Heights to honour fathers.

A group of mothers and ladies prepared waffles with syrup and ice cream, a set meal consisting of eggs, baked beans and sausages and bread, *curry laksa*, *hokkien* noodles, Sze Chuan noodles, noodles in soup and home-made *ang ku*, among others. The response was so good that almost all the food was already sold out before the 10.30am Worship Service was over!



Men's Life Group (LG) Ministry

A total of 212 men attended the Men's Seminar "Extra Ordinary Men" conducted by Rev. Chuck Brewster on 17 June 2006 at Calvary Church Damansara Perdana.

Extraordinary men— Champions for God

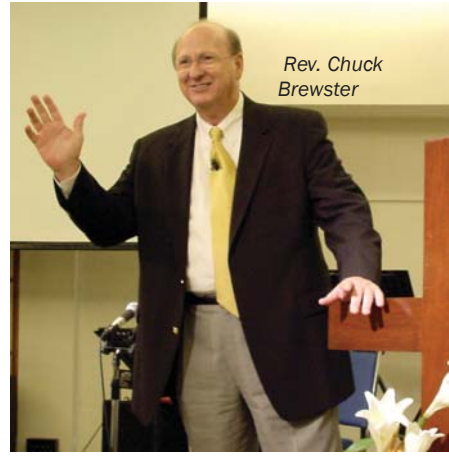
By Philip Chan

Rev. Brewster said that champions are "forceful men" of God who lay hold of His Kingdom. His account of how David and his mighty men caught a "champion's spirit" (1 Samuel 22:22 and 2 Samuel 23:8-23) caused us to ask ourselves, "Am I a Champion?"

Taking his thoughts from Matthew 8:23-27 and Matthew 14:22-33, he encouraged us to stay focused. He said, "If you focus, you will finish. If you focus on the finish, you will finish strong. If you finish strong, others will finish with you."

Rev. Brewster ended with a challenge to the men of Calvary Church to live lives of impact. Many responded by making a pledge to be a "Champion" for God's Kingdom—staying focused on our Source and to be "Real Men" for Him. 🙏

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam introducing the speaker



Rev. Chuck Brewster



Living successfully

By Associate Pastor Raymond Yong

On 1 July 2006, a Saturday afternoon, 207 men gathered at the Bangsar Seafood Garden for the Men's Evangelistic Luncheon which was organised by the Men's Life Groups.

The afternoon lunch programme began with a welcome by Associate Pastor Raymond Yong. After an icebreaker, Dato' Sri Ram Sarma, a Calvarite and also a businessman, shared how God has blessed him, his family and business. He shared that one of the keys to his success is prayer. He has a family that prays and it is through prayer, the challenges in life and business are overcome and victory seen.

Our speaker, Dr Willy Josep Chandra shared how God dealt with his life and marriage. He emphasised the importance of the family unit and how that contributes to the success of a man.

At the conclusion of Dr Josep's testimony, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam invited the men to respond for prayer for needs in their life. More than 50 came forward. Six men invited Jesus into their lives as personal Saviour and Lord.

The luncheon concluded with a prayer of blessing by Associate Pastor Timothy Ong. Many gave good feedback that it was a well spent afternoon spiritually, physically and socially. All glory to God! 🙏

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam introducing the speaker



Dr Willy Josep Chandra



Sister Ratna Indrawati, Dr Willy Josep Chandra's wife, ministering in song



Dato' Sri Ram Sarma



Responding for prayer

“LG—A place where I belong”

By John Leong

The Life Group (LG) is a place where people are nurtured and disciplined. Many have experienced the benefits of the LG. John Leong has found the LG to be where he truly belongs. Here is an excerpt of his testimony when he was transferring his church membership:



John Leong (third from left) with his LG members

“Isolation breeds deceitfulness. I have come to realise that it is easy to fool myself into thinking I am mature if there is no one to challenge me. Real maturity shows up in relationships. As a young boy, I used to believe that prayer and working hard alone was enough. As an adult I realised it is not enough, I need God’s Word to nourish me spiritually. So I embarked a life of reading the Bible. From the Bible, I learned that even in a perfect, sinless environment of Eden, God said, “It is not

good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18 NIV). The Bible says, “So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others (Romans 12:5 NIV). So we need to hang out with people.

During my career development, I hung out a lot with ambitious business people, but fortunately for me, most of them are godly Christian entrepreneurs. I got to know them through the LG. If not for their encouragement and corrections, I would have

probably slipped into the ways of the world. My wife and I are also blessed through the fellowship with the parents in our LG. We have learnt about parenting from a biblical perspective. Through these, our children have grown too.

Prayer alone is not enough. Reading the Bible alone is not enough. Going to Church alone is not enough. We are called to belong, not just to believe. For me, the LG is a place to belong. There are seven other benefits I have experienced in the LG:


- LG moves me out from self-centred isolation.
- LG helps me to develop spiritual muscles. The real life interactive biblical lessons taught here are very practical. Through them, we learn that instead of asking God “Why me?” we ask “What do You want me to learn?”
- LG teaches us to live with other Christians, maturing one another and growing together.

● LG identifies us as a genuine believer. I cannot claim to be following Christ if I am not committed to any group of disciples.

● LG keeps me from backsliding, preventing the isolation that breeds deception and complacency with God.

● LG teaches me not to give up on God, for God does not give up on me. I learn to grow up and trust God better.

● In LG I am constantly reminded that God-confidence is better than self-confidence. I trust God to use circumstances in my life and the LG to develop my character.

I started as a Church attendee, now I am a Church Member. The difference is commitment. In the LG, there is commitment and nourishment, both physically and spiritually. It is a place where my family and I belong.” 

You too can experience similar blessings like John.

All you need to do is to call Pastoral Care at 03-7728 6000 ext. 307 & 308, and we will introduce you to a LG where you can truly belong.


Water Baptism

Fourteen baptised in water!



From left: Front Row: Shawn Chan, Benjamin Ying, Evelyn Siew, Michelle Lim, Nicole Chew, Kerby Ng, Joshua Soon and Isaac Cheah
Back Row: Ong Ah Ngia, Lakshmy A. Arumugam, Ebere Chijioke, Chong Khong Yew, Selena Kwan and Hazel Khor

Praise the Lord for the 14 individuals who followed the Lord in water baptism on 11 June 2006!

By their obedience, they declared their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, Lord and Master. 



Menguruskan Perkara Yang Tidak Dijangkakan

Oleh Pendita Senior Prince Guneratnam

“Yesus membentangkan suatu perumpamaan lain lagi kepada mereka, kata-Nya: ‘Hal Kerajaan Sorga itu seumpama orang yang menaburkan benih yang baik di ladangnya. Tetapi pada waktu semua orang tidur, datanglah musuhnya menaburkan benih lalang di antara gandum itu, lalu pergi. Ketika gandum itu tumbuh dan mulai berbulir, nampak jugalah lalang itu. Maka datanglah hamba-hamba tuan ladang itu kepadanya dan berkata: “Tuan, bukankah benih baik, yang tuan taburkan di ladang tuan? Dari manakah lalang itu?” Jawab tuan itu: “Seorang musuh yang melakukannya.” Lalu berkatalah hamba-hamba itu kepadanya: “Jadi maukah tuan supaya kami pergi mencabut lalang itu?” Tetapi ia berkata: “Jangan, sebab mungkin gandum itu ikut tercabut pada waktu kamu mencabut lalang itu. Biarkanlah keduanya tumbuh bersama sampai waktu menuai. Pada waktu itu aku akan berkata kepada para penuai: ‘Kumpulkanlah dahulu lalang itu dan ikatlah berberkas-berkas untuk dibakar; kemudian kumpulkanlah gandum itu ke dalam lumbungku’”” (Matius 13:24-30).

Yesus suka menggunakan cerita perumpamaan apabila Dia mengajar prinsip Kerajaan Tuhan kerana cerita perumpamaan membuatkan prinsip Kerajaan Tuhan senang untuk difahami. Dalam perumpamaan ini, pekerja menabur benih gandum yang baik dan terkejut apabila mendapati terdapat lalang-lalang yang tumbuh bersama gandum. Yesus memberitahu cerita perumpamaan ini untuk mengajar kita bagaimana menangani ‘lalang’ yang tidak dijangka datang dalam hidup kita.

Kamu mungkin sedang menanam biji benih yang baik—memberi, berdoa dan melakukan kehendak Tuhan namun masih mengalami kesukaran dan menghadapi situasi yang dahsyat. Alkitab memberitahu, bahawa seorang musuh—Syaitan atau ejennya, telah menabur benih imajinasi dan fikiran yang jahat ke dalam fikiran tanpa curiga. Benih-benih itu akan tumbuh dan “lalang-lalang” akan kelihatan bersama dengan gandum. Masalah boleh muncul mendadak dan situasi yang tidak baik boleh berlaku di kala kamu mengalami berkat Tuhan dan kehidupanmu dalam naunganNya.

Cerita perumpamaan ini juga mengajar bahawa kamu boleh menjadi anak Tuhan, dan pada masa yang sama juga tidak bertindak dan berkelakuan seperti anak Tuhan. Prinsip menabur dan menuai dalam Kerajaan Tuhan ialah, apa juga benihnya, baik atau

buruk, kamu akan menuai menurut benih yang ditabur. Tuhan tidak akan bekerja bertentangan dengan prinsipNya. Benarkan saya menunjukkan beberapa kebenaran tentang prinsip ini.

Pertama, tiada jumlah doa ataupun puasa yang akan mengubah benih itu. Jika kamu menabur gandum, kamu akan menuai gandum. Jika kamu menabur benih epal, kamu tidak akan menuai oren. **“Jangan sesat! Tuhan tidak membiarkan diri-Nya dipermainkan. Karena apa yang ditabur orang, itu juga yang akan dituainya” (Galatia 6:7).** Jika ia merupakan benih kejahatan yang menghasilkan dosa, bagaimana kamu akan menanganinya? Rahmat Tuhan tersedia kerana Alkitab mengatakan **“Jika kita mengaku dosa kita, maka Ia adalah setia dan adil, sehingga Ia akan mengampuni segala dosa kita dan menyucikan kita dari**

segala kejahatan” (Yohanes 1:9) dan “Dan Tuhan sanggup melimpahkan segala kasih karunia kepada kamu, supaya kamu senantiasa berkecukupan di dalam segala sesuatu dan malah berkelebihan di dalam pelbagai kebajikan” (2 Korintus 9:8).

Kedua, berkat dan kutukan datang daripada benih-benih. Benih baik datang daripada Tuhan dan benih kejahatan datang daripada Syaitan, musuh kita. Tuhan memberkati kamu dengan memberi benih kepada kamu. Melalui benih, kamu mendapat tuaian dan tuaian ialah satu berkat. Apabila kamu meminta tuaian daripada Tuhan, Dia memberi kamu satu benih. Jangan memandang rendah akan benih itu. Benih itu ialah janji Tuhan, Firman Tuhan. Tuhan memberi kamu FirmanNya. Bahagianmu ialah melakukan dengan ketaatan kepada Firman Tuhan. Mentaati Firman Tuhan

akan membawa tuaian. Benih-benih itu mungkin tidak nampak banyak. Tetapi ia memerlukan iman untuk mempercayai bahawa benih itu ada keupayaan dan kuasa untuk menghasil. Itulah sebab Paulus berkata, **“sebab hidup kami ini adalah hidup karena percaya, bukan karena melihat”** (2 Korintus 5:7).

Ketiga, tuaian tidak akan datang tanpa tanaman. Jika kamu tidak suka apa yang kamu tuai, tukar apa yang kamu tabur. Kamu menuai apa yang kamu tanam. Jika kamu mahu menerima kasih, kebaikan dan pengampunan, tanamlah satu benih kasih, kebaikan dan pengampunan. Jika kamu mahukan sahabat, tanamlah benih persahabatan dan kamu akan menuai apa yang kamu tanam. Ini adalah prinsip Kerajaan Tuhan. Berilah dan kamu akan diberi (Lukas 6:38).

Ini ialah prinsip Kerajaan Tuhan yang tidak dapat berubah. Ia tidak boleh ditukar. Jika kamu rela dan taat, maka kamu akan memakan hasil baik dari negeri itu (Yesaya 1:19). Berkat datang apabila kamu telah menanam benih yang baik—dengan mentaati Firman Tuhan. **“Segala berkat ini akan datang kepadamu dan menjadi bagianmu, jika engkau mendengarkan suara TUHANmu”** (Ulangan 28:2).

Keempat, apabila segalanya sedang berjalan dengan lancar, lalang boleh muncul dengan tidak diduga. Hamba-hamba dalam cerita perumpamaan itu bertanya tuan ladang itu: **“Tuan, bukankah benih baik, yang tuan taburkan di ladang tuan? Dari manakah lalang itu?”** (Matius 13:27). Yesus jelas dengan jawapannya: **“Jawab tuan itu, ‘Seorang musuh yang melakukannya’...”** (Matius 13:28). Semasa semua orang tidur, musuh datang dan menaburkan benih lalang di antara gandum itu (ayat 25). Musuh itu memahami prinsip menabur dan menuai. Dia menaburkan benih yang buruk dan ia menghasilkan lalang. Musuh itu hanya menaburkan lalang dalam ladang di mana benih yang baik telah ditanamkan dan bukan dalam ladangnya sendiri. Yesus pernah berkata, **“Pencuri datang hanya untuk mencuri dan membunuh dan membinasakan; Aku datang, supaya mereka mempunyai hidup dan mempunyainya dalam segala kelimpahan”** (Yohanes 10:10).

Apabila benih-benih lalang ditaburkan, ia tidak disedari. Ia hanya muncul apabila hampir masa untuk menuai. **“Ketika gandum itu tumbuh dan mulai berbulir, nampak jugalah**


lalang itu” (Matius 13:26). Itulah sebabnya orang-orang Kristen yang percayakan Alkitab serta dipenuhi dengan Roh Kudus terkejut bahawa mereka berupaya melakukan perkara yang tidak sepatutnya dilakukan oleh orang Kristen. Musuh itu sudah menaburkan pengaruh-pengaruh duniawi dalam pemikiran dan hati mereka apabila mereka tidak berwaspada, melalui aktiviti menonton rancangan-rancangan televisyen yang nampaknya tidak membahayakan dan dipandang dari sudut luaran tidak kelihatan seperti boleh menjatuhkan iman kita dan juga cara-cara lain yang sebegitu rupa. Kemudian apabila suatu peluang muncul untuk mereka melakukan kesalahan, tanpa disedari, mereka mendapati bahawa mereka berkelakuan dan berperangai dengan tidak saleh.

Hamba-hamba itu bertanya, **“Jadi maukah tuan supaya kami pergi mencabut lalang itu?”** (Matius 13:28). Tuan ladang itu berkata, **“Jangan, sebab mungkin gandum itu ikut tercabut pada waktu kamu mencabut lalang itu. Biarkanlah keduanya tumbuh bersama sampai waktu menuai. Pada waktu itu aku akan berkata kepada para penuai: ‘Kumpulkanlah dahulu lalang itu dan ikatlah berberkas-berkas untuk dibakar; kemudian kumpulkanlah gandum itu ke dalam lumbungku’”** (Matius 13:29-30). Hamba-hamba itu mahu mencabut lalang-lalang itu. Berwaspadalah terhadap penyelesaian segera. Ia mungkin suatu perkara yang betul untuk dilakukan tetapi perkara betul yang dilakukan pada masa yang salah boleh membinasakan. Kamu boleh melakukan dengan betul tetapi menjadi salah disebabkan masa yang tidak sesuai.

Benih yang buruk (lalang) tidak boleh menjejaskan kamu, jika kamu memilih untuk tidak mentaati apa yang ia cadangkan dan kamu melakukan apa yang Tuhan katakan pada kamu. Kamu tidak perlu mentaati Iblis, musuh itu, kerana kamu boleh bergantung pada rahmatNya dan pada Roh Kudus. Selagi kamu berada dalam dunia ini, kamu akan dicobai tetapi **“Percubaan-percubaan yang kamu alami ialah percubaan-percubaan biasa, yang tidak melebihi kekuatan manusia. Sebab Tuhan setia dan kerana itu Ia tidak akan membiarkan kamu dicubai melampaui kekuatanmu. Pada waktu kamu dicubai Ia akan memberikan kepadamu jalan keluar, sehingga kamu dapat menanggungnya”** (1 Korintus 10:13). Tuhan mampu menyediakan

jalan keluar dan kamu boleh menjadi garam dan terang dunia.

Akhirnya, suatu hari akan datang apabila Yesus akan kembali dan menguruskan musuh itu sekaligus dan untuk selamanya. Dia membenarkan lalang-lalang itu tinggal untuk mengajar kamu jalanNya. Apabila Musa meminta Firaun melepaskan umat-umat Tuhan untuk mengadakan perayaan bagiNya di padang gurun, hati Firaun menjadi keras supaya umat-umat Tuhan akan mengenali Tuhan mereka. Seperti Musa, apabila kamu tetap teruskan perjalanan meskipun terdapat halangan-halangan, kamu akan mengenali Tuhan, bahawa Dia adalah baik. Lalang-lalang yang tinggal adalah untuk kebaikan kamu, untuk menjadikan kamu seorang yang lebih baik. Tuhan menggunakan lalang-lalang itu untuk membentuk sifat baru yang Dia telah berikan pada kamu apabila kamu telah lahir baru.

Bagaimana kamu menangani apa yang tidak dijangka? Hidup beriman dan menurut rahmatNya. Ketahuilah bahawa **“Kamu berasal dari Tuhan, anak-anakku, dan kamu telah mengalahkan nabi-nabi palsu itu; sebab Roh yang ada di dalam kamu lebih besar daripada roh yang ada di dalam dunia”** (1 Yohanes 4:4). Tuhan berkata, **“Diamlah dan ketahuilah, bahawa Akulah Tuhan!”** (Mazmur 46:10). 

Untuk maklumat lanjut tentang Pelayanan Bahasa Malaysia, sila hubungi 03-7728 2694 sambungan 307.

Calvary Convention Centre (CCC)

Have a whale of a time at the Calvary Carnival '06!

By Philemon Soon

Calvary Church is organising its first ever Calvary Carnival '06 to raise funds for the building of the Calvary Convention Centre (CCC). It will be a day of fun and games and mouth-watering food fare for your entire family and friends.

This carnival will be held at the Bukit Jalil Golf and Country Resort, in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur. This event will provide all Calvarites an opportunity to showcase their God-given culinary talents and creativity, or just do their part to man the food and games stalls and serve the visitors. This will enable Calvarites to do something else apart from their generous financial contributions to CCC through the Bite Size giving.

Chairman of the CCC Fund Raising Committee, Au Weng Sang, says, "The Calvary Carnival '06 is not just to raise funds for the CCC. It is also a time for the Calvary family to rally together to support the CCC, to have lots of fun through the various games stalls and to savour the culinary skills of Calvarites."

The Calvary Carnival '06 will be similar to our Family Day and will be open to the public. We hope the Calvary family will reach out to the public and be a good testimony. Every Calvarite can be

involved—serving at the games or food stalls, serving as grounds and security personnel, selling tickets or just being an enthusiastic participant!

The various Church Ministries and Departments like the Life Groups: Home, Men's, Women's, L.I.G.H.T. & Young Professionals, Golden Eagles, the Youth, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, etc will be devising exciting activities for visitors to the carnival.

Tickets for the games stall or to purchase food and drinks are in booklets of RM20 per booklet. We hope everybody will take a number of booklets to sell to their relatives, friends and colleagues.



"Calvary Carnival '06"
A Fund raising event for Calvary Convention Centre

16th September 2006
(Saturday) 9.00am-5.00pm

Bukit Jalil Golf & Country Resort,
Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur

A Day of Fun and Food for the Whole Family....

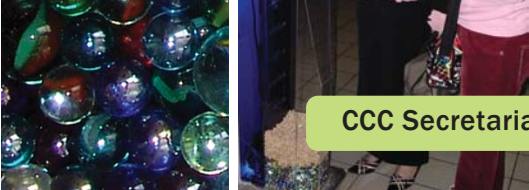
Food Stalls **Bazaar Sales**

Game Stalls

"For more information, please call 2095 9659
or email to calcc@calvary.org.my

Event organised by
Calvary Church (Assemblies of God)
2 Jalan Damansara Endah, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur. <http://www.calvary.org.my>
Senior Pastor Rev. Datuk Prince Gumeratnam

**So keep your Saturday,
16 September 2006, free and
have a blast at the Calvary
Carnival '06!** 🏰



Your prayers count!

By Assistant Pastor Karen Seah and Lyndon d'Oliveiro

At the Prayer Meeting on Friday, 2 June 2006, Jeannie Friis, the CCC Prayer Committee Chairman, introduced another prayer project called, "Your Prayer(s) Count." You can participate by putting in a seed into the acrylic containers located at the Church foyer and the Satellite locations each time you pray for CCC.

The seeds are made available at counters each Friday Prayer Meeting and Sunday Worship Service.

Each time we drop a seed or more into the container, we are saying: "I have prayed and I am taking ownership of this vision. I will do whatever I can to see this vision fulfilled." It is our way of saying to one another, "We are in this mammoth project together. Our joint efforts matter in making this vision a reality." Last but not least, we are saying to God, "Lord, we are partners with You in the work of Your kingdom. You are faithful and You will enable us as a Church to fulfil what You have called us to do."

What does the container represent? It is a visual illustration of the many prayers that have been offered for CCC, without which the project will not be blessed by God. It is a reminder of the potential growth of a mustard seed that speaks of small beginnings but will one day produce great results. The multi-coloured marbles at the bottom of the container are designed to create a rainbow effect. The rainbow reminds and assures us that God who makes promises is a Promise Keeper.

Have you prayed for our Calvary Convention Centre lately? Then remember to put your seed(s) into the container! 🏰

Bahasa Malaysia Evangelistic Meeting

Encouraged and renewed!

By Linda Pang



Dr Willy Josep Chandra



Ministry at the altar

Sister Ratna Indrawati (left) ministered in song

On 2 July 2006, 87 people were blessed by the meeting, organised by the Bahasa Malaysia (BM) LGs at the sanctuary of Calvary Church, Damansara Heights.

The guest speaker was Dr Willy Josep Chandra who spoke at the Men's Evangelistic Meeting a day before. He was accompanied by his wife, Sister Ratna Indrawati, who sang several of her self composed songs in Mandarin and the Indonesian language.

Dr Josep reminded the people of the importance of being a Christian who continues to grow spiritually in the Lord.

He stressed that pressure and problems are meant to propel the believers to success and growth. And in the process, the believers' faith is strengthened.

He also challenged the congregation to live lives consecrated to the Lord and be people of integrity. Our lives become profitable and many around us will be impacted by our lifestyle and be added into God's

Kingdom.

At the end of the meeting, three individuals accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord and 11 others rededicated their lives.

The congregation left encouraged with a renewed passion to live for Him. *Puji Tuhan!*

Lunch-Hour Evangelistic Fellowship

Be like Jesus at our workplace

By Chong Chee Seng

The Calvary Lunch Hour Evangelistic Fellowship held at Wisma Central had Rev. Benny Ferguson as their speaker for their evangelistic meeting held on 30 June 2006.

There were 65 attendees on that day and praise God for the one salvation and eight new visitors for the meeting. Rev. Ferguson spoke on the importance of "Others" in our workplace as well as in our life.

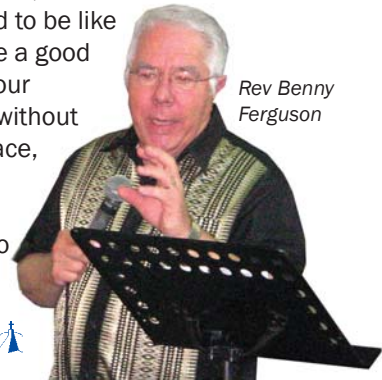
God has commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves and we should evaluate how we are responding to the needs of the people around us in the workplace and not wait to react.

He also pointed out that happiness is external and joy is internal. From the

acronym of "JOY", which stands for "Jesus", "Others" and "You", we are to always put God first, others second and self last. We will be a good testimony and everyone can find immense joy if we are truly able to put others first, holding to the principle of "do unto others what we want others do unto us."

Jesus was a good listener. In John 4, Jesus found time for a Samaritan woman that Jews would normally try to avoid talking to. Through the Samaritan woman's testimony of Jesus' response

to her needs, many Samaritans believed in Jesus. Thus, we are encouraged to be like Jesus, to be a good listener at our workplace without regard to race, status or position to reach out to the people at our workplace.



Rev Benny Ferguson



“What will the King say...?”

By Bernice Narayanan

On Faith Promise Sunday, 2 July 2006, Calvary Missions News Network presented Calvary Church’s commitment to the exciting work of missions. Associate Pastor Peter Ong, our Missions Director, said that Calvarites were a conduit for God’s work and this was evidenced in the missions report.

Rev. Benny Ferguson



Senior Pastor leading in prayer for the Faith Promise partners




The testimonies from our commitment in Sudan, Kenya, Canada and in Malaysia itself were overwhelming. Furthermore, our missions involvement with “global Gospel partnerships” in India, China and other nations will continue to bring the message of hope to the lost. Associate Pastor Peter reminded us that God’s work done God’s way will never lack.

Just before Rev. Benny Ferguson, our speaker for Faith Promise Sunday shared, Senior Pastor encouraged us to rise up and seize the opportunities God was giving us. He reminded us that Faith Promise is a promise by faith to give. It is not something we have but believing what God can do through us. It is not just about giving money but raising the level of faith in believers to

have an experience with God. And as we learn to exercise our faith with our finances, we can exercise our faith in all areas. Faith Promise is stretching ourselves beyond and outside our ability.

Rev. Benny Ferguson further reiterated Senior Pastor’s words to us when he said that Faith Promise is the gateway to God’s holistic blessings in our lives. The wider we open the door through our giving, the wider the door is for the Lord to give back into our lives in every way. We need to reach beyond sight and into the realm of impossibility. We must let the Holy Spirit lead us in our giving, believing that when He guides, He provides. Not only will we be blessed individually but also as a Church.

In bringing the message of Jesus Christ to the lost by our Faith Promise giving, many people will have their names called in heaven in the presence of God. What benefit would the shed blood of Jesus be for those who have not heard it? The blood of Jesus is exclusive, it is singular and is the only way to heaven. Mankind is really lost. If the Gospel is hid, then it is hid from them who are lost.

What will the King say, asked Rev. Benny, when we have been given the message and we rush to the lost of the world to set them free? What will the King say if we wait or are distracted from doing what He has commissioned us to do? 

We thank God for your faith partnership.

If you missed participating in the Faith Promise, you may still do so by using the brown envelopes.

Young partners in faith...

Praise the Lord that children too can be partners in giving by faith, to spread the Good News to others!



The CW kids at Ampang...

...at Cheras...

... at Damansara Perdana...



...at Damansara Heights



There is one true God

By Ken Horn

Assemblies of God fundamental truth no. 2 says: "WE BELIEVE ... There is only One True God—revealed in three persons ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity)."

There are six basic biblical steps to understanding the Trinity:

1. There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4).
2. The Father is God (2 Peter 1:17).
3. The Son is God (John 8:58).
4. The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3,4).
5. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct individuals (John 14:26).
6. Therefore, there are three persons in the one Godhead. Since the Trinity is completely unique, no analogy really fits.

But attempts have been made.

One of the best is the three dimensions of space—length, width and height. All coincide in the same place, yet are distinct.

The New Testament concept of the Trinity enlarges the concept of God found in the Old Testament, and makes certain Old Testament passages more understandable. For example, some 2,500 times, the word for God is Elohim, plural, instead of El, singular. There are plural pronouns used to describe the one God: "Let us make man" (Genesis 1:26); "Man is become as one of us" (Genesis 3:22); "Remember thy Creator[s]" (Ecclesiastes 12:1); "Rejoice in his Maker[s]" (Psalm 149:2).

And, in Matthew 28:19, Jesus gives practical instructions to believers on living this doctrine: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (NKJV). The word for "name" is singular, yet represents three Persons.

The Christian worships, witnesses and teaches about a triune God—one God in three persons.

Based on one of 16 foundational truths of the Assemblies of God.

Today's Pentecostal Evangel,
January 15, 2006



“As You Are” Concert 2006

by Adrian Lee

It was 5pm. The stage had been set. The sound and lights were in place. The participants had rehearsed. One more time we came together and prayed that God would move mightily in the youth evangelistic concert themed “As You Are” that was about to begin in two and a half hours.

It was raining but it did not dampen the spirits of the youth that were eager to see their friends get saved. When the concert began at 7.45pm, only half the hall was full but soon, more and more came. At the last count, we had 1,500 youths and adults who were present at the concert.

The youth sang with all their hearts, bringing a message of hope and freedom in Christ to those who were there. There were also special dances and a multimedia presentation to enhance what was being communicated that day. Using the story of the prodigal son taken from Luke 15, Adrian Lee shared that

God accepts us as we are and we do not have to first “clean up our act” before coming to Him.

Associate Pastor Steven Kum gave the altar call and

encouraged the audience to respond to the Lord. There were 150 who rededicated their lives and 71 first-time decisions for Christ. Praise God! It was definitely the work of the Holy Spirit and the prayer of the saints.

The participants were exhausted at the end but nevertheless thankful that there were able to play a significant role in bringing the Gospel to their generation in a contemporary approach. Calvary Youth would like to thank all those who have helped in one way or another in this concert. All glory be to God! 🙏



Adrian Lee welcoming the “prodigal son”



Missionettes

Meeting gentle giants!

By Yap Sze Foong
and Adelene Yem

**“Eeeuw, it is hairy!”
“I wanna ride the big one”
“The baby is sooo. . .cute.
What long hair it has!”**


Monkeys?
Gibbons? No,
elephants! Forty-
eight
Missionettes
from the Prims,
Stars and
Friends Club
together with 12
Sponsors,
fathers and
helpers went for
a day's outing to the Kuala
Gandah Elephant
Conservation Centre at
Lancang, Pahang on 31
May 2006.

The only one of its kind
in Malaysia, the Centre is
committed to protect the
elephants, a
critically
endangered
species and
provide a
sanctuary for
homeless
elephants.

Early in the
morning, we had
a worship
session before
Assistant Pastor Karen Seah shared a short devotion. The
journey to Lancang took approximately two hours. Upon
reaching Kuala Gandah, we had an early lunch before
watching a short video clip on elephant conservation.

The programme at the Elephant Sanctuary began at 2pm
with the elephants' feeding. We fed the chained elephants
with papayas, water melons, bananas and other local fruits. It
was interesting to watch the elephants using their rough and
slithery trunks to grasp the fruits before putting them into
their mouths.

Next, we had the elephant rides. It was quite an experience
sitting on top of a big, gentle giant. The highlight of the day
was the bathing session with one of the older elephants. The girls
from the Friends Club had the opportunity to ride the elephant
into the nearby Teris River where it suddenly rolled over and
threw them into the river. Splash!! It was wet but fun.




Indeed, it was a memorable close encounter with one of
the largest mammals on earth. It also warms our heart to
think that if God cares so much for these elephants that are
well-taken care of, how much more does He care for us, His
creation made in His own image. 



Praise God for the great response to the Lord as Associate Pastor Steven Kum (above) gave the altar calls



Sunday Services

Damansara Heights (DH) 8am • 10.30am		Ampang/(DH) 10.30am 5pm		Cheras 9am	Damansara Perdana 10.30am
<i>Communion</i>		<i>Communion</i>		<i>Communion</i>	<i>Communion</i>
	3 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Peter Ong/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam		Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
	10 Rev. Howard Cummings	Rev. Howard Cummings/ Margaret Rodgers		Rev. Howard Cummings	Rev. Howard Cummings
	17 Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Richard Yun		Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
	24 Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Associate Pastor Peter Ong		Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Steven Kum
SEPTEMBER					

	1 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	<i>Communion</i> Associate Pastor Timothy Ong/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	<i>Communion</i> Associate Pastor Richard Yun	<i>Communion</i> Associate Pastor Richard Yun
	8 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Assistant Pastor David Seah/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
	15 Associate Pastor Richard Yun	<i>Water Baptism</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Peter Ong
	22 Dr Bernard Blessing	Dr Bernard Blessing	Dr Bernard Blessing	Dr Bernard Blessing
	29 Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
OCTOBER				

Don't miss the Evangelistic Revival Meetings with

Dr Bernard Blessing

“Rise let us go...declare His love”

20-22 October 2006 (Friday-Sunday)

at Calvary Church Damansara Heights

7.30pm on Friday

5pm on Saturday & Sunday



September

Christ's Ambassadors Saturday 2.30pm

Theme: Character Construction

- 2** A Real Character or Real Character
- 9** Stop Digging in the Dump
- 16** "Off-Balance" Believers
- 23** Keep Your Hands on the Steering Wheel
- 30** Youth Celebration

College Students' Ministry Saturday 2.30pm

Theme: Life's Issues

- 2** Anger and Violence-Twin Terrors
- 9** Disappointment-God's Appointment?
- 16** Lying-Destructive Deceit
- 23** Intimacy-Wholesome Connections
- 30** Youth Celebration

Bahasa Malaysia Fellowship Sunday 12.30pm

- 24** Speaker: Assistant Pastor David Seah
Venue: Bethel Hall

WATER BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

Water Baptism/Membership Class

Saturday | **14 October 2006** | 2pm

Water Baptism Service

Sunday | **15 October 2006** | 5pm

Closing Date for submission of forms:

Sunday | **3 September 2006**

October

Chinese Fellowship Sunday 5pm

- 29** Speaker: Rev. Chow Chee Keong
Venue: Bethel Hall
- *** *Bring your Chinese-speaking family and friends. They will enjoy the warm fellowship and food. Call Chua Ken Tee at 03-7727 3948 ext. 320 for more information.*

Christ's Ambassadors Saturday 2.30pm

Theme: Illustrated Sermons

- 7** Looking into the Locker of Our Lives
- 14** Hurdles to Heaven
- 21** Combined with Bernard Blessing
Revival Evangelistic Meeting (5pm)
- 28** Youth Celebration

College Students' Ministry Saturday 2.30pm

Theme: Life's Issues

- 7** Forgiveness-Hearts Set Free
- 14** Contentment-Hearts at Rest
- 21** Combined with Bernard Blessing
Revival Evangelistic Meeting (5pm)
- 28** Youth Celebration

Bahasa Malaysia Fellowship Sunday 12.30pm

- 29** Speaker: Assistant Pastor David Seah
Venue: Bethel Hall

Chinese Evangelistic Meetings



Rev Daniel Choo is the Senior Pastor of Peace Charis AOG. His passion is to win souls. He is also involved in social concern works such as teaching in drug rehabilitation centres and counselling parents with delinquent children. He was a former drug addict and through his powerful testimony of God's transformation in his life, many have been brought to know Jesus.

Blessing on Earth

speaker **Rev. Daniel Choo**

date **22-24 September 2006** (Friday-Sunday)

venue **Pusat Aktiviti Calvary Damansara Perdana**

time **8pm on Friday**

5pm on Saturday & Sunday

The meetings will be in Cantonese (no translation into Mandarin)



應付料想不到的事情

文：古納南主任牧師

「耶穌又設個比喻對他們說：“天國好像人撒好種在田裡，及至人睡覺的時候，有仇敵來，將稗子撒在麥子裡就走了。到長苗吐穗的時候，稗子也顯出來。田主的僕人來告訴他說：‘主啊，你不是撒好種在田裡嗎？從哪裡來的稗子呢？’主人說：‘這是仇敵做的。’僕人說：‘你要我們去薅出來嗎？’主人說：‘不必，恐怕薅稗子，連麥子也拔出來。容這兩樣一齊長，等著收割。當收割的時候，我要對收割的人說：先將稗子薅出來，捆成捆，留著燒；惟有麥子要收在倉裡。’”」（太13:24-30）

因為比喻使上帝的國原則容易了解，所以當耶穌教訓上帝的國原則的時候，祂愛使用比喻。在這一比喻中，播種麥子的好種子的播種者驚訝地發現有稗子與麥子一起發芽。耶穌說這一個比喻是要教導我們該如何處理那進入我們的生命中料想不到的“稗子”。

你可能播種好的種子—施舍，祈禱和遵行上帝的旨意，然而還會經歷艱難，而且面對困難和損失慘重的情形。聖經上說，有一個仇敵—撒旦或牠的差役，已經播種邪惡的想像和想法的種子進入你沒有疑心的思想中。種子將會發芽和“稗子”將會連同麥子一起出現。問題和不愉快的境遇能在上帝的祝福或眷顧之中發生在你的生活里。

這一個比喻也教導說你可能是一位神的兒女，可是仍然有時在行為表現上與所信的不相稱。上帝國播種和收割的原則是，任何的種子，好或者壞的，你將依照所播種的種子從而有所收割。上帝將不會與祂的原則相違。讓我強調關於這項原則的一些真理。

首先，沒有任何數量的祈禱或禁食將會改變種子。如果你播種麥子，你將會收割麥子。如果你播種蘋果的種子，你將不會收穫橙子。「不要自欺，神是輕慢不得的。人種的是甚麼，收的也是甚麼」（加6:7）。如果它是犯罪的邪惡種子，你如何處理它呢？我們有上帝的恩典，因為聖經上說，「我們若認自己的罪，神是信實的，是公義的，必要赦免我們的罪，洗淨我們一切的不義；」（約壹1:9）及「神能將各樣的恩惠多多地加給你們，使你們凡事常常充足，能多行各樣善事。」（林後9:8）

第二，祝福和咒語是從種子而來。好的種子來自上帝和壞的種子來自撒旦，我們的仇敵。上帝給你種子來賜福你。藉著種子，你獲得收割和收割即是祝福。當你為收割向上帝祈求時，祂賜給你一粒種子。不要鄙視這種子。這種子是上帝的應許，上帝的道。上帝給你祂的話語。你的責任是遵從上帝的話語。順從上帝的話語會帶來收割。這種子看來不是很多。但是它需要信心相信這種子有潛能和能力生產。那是保羅為何說，「因我們行事為人憑著信心，不是憑著眼見」（林後5:7）。

第三，沒有種植就不會有收割。如果你不喜

歡你所收割的，那麼改變你所播種的。你收割你所種的。如果你想要獲得愛，仁慈和寬恕，那麼就種植愛，仁慈和寬恕的種子。如果你想要交朋友，種植友誼的種子和你將收割你所栽種的。它是上帝國的原則。當你給人的時候，就必有給你們的（路加6:38）。這是不變的上帝國原則。它是不能改變的。如果你是甘心服從，你必吃地上的美物（賽1:19）。祝福必因你所栽種的好種子臨到你身上一服從上帝的話語。「你若聽從耶和華你神的話，這以下的福必追隨你，臨到你身上」（申命記28:2）。

第四，當一切事情順利時，“稗子”能在料想不到之下到來。田主的僕人在比喻中求問主人說：「主啊，你不是撒好種在田裡嗎？從哪裡來的稗子呢？」（太13:27）耶穌清楚地回答他：「這是仇敵做的…」」（太13:28）。當播種的人睡覺時，仇敵來到並播種稗子在麥子中間（25節）。仇敵瞭解播種和收割的原則。牠播種壞的種子和它結出了稗子。仇敵僅僅在哪種好種子的田中播種稗子，而不在牠自己的田中。耶穌說，「盜賊來，無非要偷竊、殺害、毀壞；我來了，是要叫人得生命，並且得的更豐盛」（約10:10）。

當稗子被撒播的時候，它沒被注意。當收割將臨的時候，它才出現。「到長苗吐穗的時候，稗子也顯出來。」（太13:26）。那些有聖經信仰，被聖靈充滿的基督徒會感到驚奇為何他們竟然會做得出不虔誠的事情。那仇敵在他們不警惕的時候，透過所觀賞的那些不十分明顯和似乎無害的電視節目，和其他類似的手法，已經把世俗的影響播種入他們的腦海和心思中。然後當有機會犯錯的時候，在沒有防範之下，他們就發現自己有不虔誠的行為和舉止。

仆人間，「你要我們去薅出來嗎？」（太13:28）。主人說：「不必，恐怕薅稗子，連麥子也拔出來。容這兩樣一齊長，等著收割。當收割的時候，我要對收割的人說：先將稗子薅出來，捆成捆，留著燒；惟有麥子要收在倉裡。」（太13:29-30）。僕人想要把稗子薅出來。當心權宜之計。你可能做正確的事，但是正確的事能因進行的時間不適宜，而造成悲慘的結局。你可能做正確的事，但是因時間的選擇不適而犯錯。

邪惡的種子（稗子）不能影響你，假如你選擇不服從它建議你去做的事，而去做上帝告訴你的事。你不必服從仇敵—魔鬼，因為你能依賴上帝的恩典和聖靈。只要你在這世界居住，你將會被誘惑但是「你們所遇見的試探，無非是人所能受的。神是信實的，必不叫你們受試探過於所能受的。在受試探的時候，總要給你們開一條出路，叫你們能忍受得住」（林前10:13）。上帝是能夠給你開一條出路和你能作這個世界的鹽和光。

最後，有一天耶穌將來和永遠地解決這仇敵。祂允許稗子的保留為要教導你祂的道路。當摩西要求法老王讓上帝的子民去，

在曠野向上帝守節時，法老王的心卻變為剛硬使到上帝的子民能夠認識他們的上帝。好像摩西一樣，當你不管障礙，繼續保持同一方向前進時，你將認識上帝，祂是美善的。稗子的存留是為你的好處，使你變為更好的人。上帝使用它們來造就祂所賜給你重生的新本性。

你如何應付料想不到的事情？要憑信心而行和仰賴祂的恩典。知道「小子們哪，你們是屬神的，並且勝了他們，因為那在你們裡面的，比那在世界上的更大」（約壹4:4）。上帝說，「你們要休息，要知道我是神！」（詩46:10）。🙏

（以上經文是採用中文聖經和合本）

九月份

中文佈道會

主題：福臨到人間

講員：周國堅牧師

日期與時間：

22-9-06（五），晚上 8 點正

23-9-06（六），下午 5 點正

24-9-06（日），下午 5 點正

地點：Pusat Aktiviti Calvary

Damansara Perdana

加略山嘉年華會 06

日期：16-9-06

時間：上午九點正至下午五點正

地點：Bukit Jalil Golf & Country

Resort, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur

十月份

中文聚會

日期：29-10-06

時間：下午五點正

地點：伯特利樓

講員：周志強牧師

佈道復興特會

主題：起來，我們走吧…

去宣揚祂的愛

講員：Dr Bernard Blessing

日期：20-10-06—22-10-06

時間：晚上七點三十分

申請浸禮及會籍

課程

日期：14-10-06（星期六）

時間：下午二點正

浸禮聚會

日期：15-10-06（星期日）

時間：下午五點正

地點：大堂

報名截止日期：3-9-06

all things, may have an abundance for every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Second, blessings and curses come by seeds. Good seeds come from God and bad seeds come from Satan, our enemy. God blesses you by giving you seeds. Through seeds, you get a harvest and a harvest is a blessing.

When you ask God for a harvest, He gives you a seed. Do not despise the seed. The seed is God’s promise, the Word of God. God gives you His Word. Your part is to act in obedience to God’s Word. Obedience to God’s Word will bring a harvest. The seed may not look much. But it takes faith to believe that the seed has the potential and power to produce. That is why Paul says, **“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).**

Third, a harvest does not come without planting. If you do not like what you are reaping, change what you sow. You reap what you plant. If you want to receive love, kindness and forgiveness, plant a seed of love, kindness and forgiveness. If you want friends, plant a seed of friendship and you will reap what you plant. It is a Kingdom principle. When you give it shall be given to you (Luke 6:38). This is a Kingdom principle that is immutable. It cannot be changed. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land (Isaiah 1:19). Blessings come when you have planted good seed—by obeying God’s Word. **“And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 28:2).**

Fourth, when everything is going well, “tares” can come unexpectedly. The servants in the parable asked the owner: **“Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?” (Matthew 13:27).** Jesus was clear with His answer: **“He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this’...” (Matthew 13:28).** While the men slept, the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat (v 25). The



Dealing with the Unexpected

enemy understood the principle of sowing and reaping. He sowed bad seed and it produced tares. The enemy only sows tares in fields where good seed have been planted and not in his own fields. Jesus said, **“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).**

When the tares were sown, it was not noticed. It showed up when it was about harvest time. **“But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared” (Matthew 13:26).** That is why Bible-believing, Spirit-filled Christians are surprised that they are capable of doing ungodly things. The enemy has sown worldly influences into their minds and hearts while they were not alert, through watching television programmes that are subtle and seem harmless, and other similar means. Then when an opportunity arises for them to do wrong, unsuspecting, they find themselves acting and behaving in an ungodly manner.

The servants asked, **“Do you want us then to go and gather them up” (Matthew 13:28).** The owner said, **“No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn’” (Matthew 13:29-30).** The servants wanted to pull out the tares. Beware of quick fixes. It may be the right thing to do but the right thing done at the wrong time can be disastrous.

You may do right but be wrong because of the timing.

The evil seed (tares) cannot affect you if you choose not to obey what it suggests and you do what God says to you. You do not have to obey the Devil, the enemy, because you can depend on His grace and the Holy Spirit. As

long as you live in this world, you will be tempted but **“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).** God is able to make a way of escape and you can be the salt and the light of the world.

Finally, there is coming a day when Jesus will come and take care of the enemy once and for all. He is allowing the tares to remain to teach you His ways. When Moses asked Pharaoh to let God’s people go to hold a feast for Him in the wilderness, his heart was hardened so that God’s people would know their God. Like Moses, when you stay on course in spite of the obstacles, you will know God, that He is good. The tares remain for your benefit, to make you a better person. God uses them to develop the new nature that He has given you when you were born-again.

How do you deal with the unexpected? Live by faith and by His grace. Know that **“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).** God says, **“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).** 🙏

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Bible.

Sacred Parenting

By Lesley Ngai-Parker

It was about 1.30 pm when the rain started. It very quickly became a torrential downpour, but those who braved the storm and came to the Pusat Aktiviti Calvary in Damansara Perdana for the Sacred Parenting Seminar by Dr. Gary L. Thomas on Saturday, 22 July 2006, were greatly blessed.

Gary spoke passionately from a unique perspective on parenting. It was not a seminar about parenting skills and how to be a better listening parent or how to have better conversations with one's child. Rather, Gary spoke about how as parents we ought to sanctify ourselves first through our relationships with God before we might consider "purifying" (changing) our children from their selfish or rude ways.

Gary drew his teaching from 2 Corinthians 7:1: "Dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God". Though this verse is not referring specifically to parenting, it made a lot of sense that we ought to purify ourselves in our relationship with God so that we might "preach" the Gospel of Jesus Christ to first our family and then friends or neighbours, remembering that our family relationships might well be the only testimony some of our neighbours would ever "hear".

Gary talked about how God so often uses our children to shape our relationship with Him.

Instead of being mortified by our children's rebellion or embarrassed by our daughter's dressing or our son's negative attitude, perhaps God might just want us to be changed through those painful moments to have the character of Christ.

Do we pray only if it means we do not have to sacrifice extra 30 minutes of sleep? Do we listen to our child's stories only if we were not too tired from the day's endless meetings? Do we give to God



Gary Thomas




Time was given for the attendees to consider how God could be using the difficult behaviour of the children in their lives to teach them to be more Christ-like

God could be using that son or daughter to teach us patience, compassion or perseverance which is vital to our spiritual growth and development. Our children give us the opportunity to grow in our Christ-likeness.

In the second half of the seminar, Gary challenged us with the concept of sacrifice.

only after paying for all our wants? Unless sacrifice costs us, it is not sacrifice. Giving that costs us nothing is not sacrifice. David, the man after God's heart, refused the offer of a free threshing floor to build an altar and free animals to sacrifice to God: "But the king replied to Araunah, 'No, I insist on

paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing'" (2 Samuel 24:24).

The parent-child relationship is crucial in teaching us to make sacrifices. Perhaps there is no other earthly relationship that teaches us more about Christ-like sacrifice that the relationship we have with our children. When we learn to sacrifice for our children, we can then learn to sacrifice for God. And if one has not known how to sacrifice, one cannot fully grasp the reality and significance of the cross. 



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Printed by Calvary Church Press
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