

CALVARY NEWS

A Bi-Monthly Publication Of Calvary Church

Issue No: 103

January-February 2007

PP 5911/1/2007

THE LORD

ISAIAH 58:13-14 **OUR**



Worship the Lord

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen” (Romans 1:20-25).

The Bible says that God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul ([Genesis 2:7](#)). Man is the highest and best of all God’s creation. Only man was created from both the heart and the hand of God. The rest of God’s creation came into being by the spoken Word.

Continued on page twenty-three...



Prince Guneratnam
Senior/Executive Pastor

Petrina Guneratnam
Senior Associate Pastor

Introducing the 2007 Heads of Departments/Ministries

Departments

Missions



**Associate Pastor
Peter Ong**

Pastoral Care



**Associate Pastor
Timothy Ong**

Music & Creative Arts
and Children



**Associate Pastor
Christopher Lee**

Youth and Education



**Associate Pastor
Steven Kum**

Church/Extended Ministries

Calvary Communication and
Church Administration



Jim Guneratnam

Calvary
Prayer Tower



Assistant Pastor Karen Seah

Calvary Life
Ministries



Pam Guneratnam

Calvary Education
Resource Centre



Katherine Lee

Calvaryland



**Assistant Pastor
Shereen Wong**

Calvary Evangelistic
Fellowship (Lunch-Hour)



**Associate Pastor
Richard Yun**

Calvary Press



**Assistant Pastor
Jerry Chow**



Model of the Calvary Convention Centre

New Year, new challenges for CCC

By Philemon Soon

What does 2007 bring for Calvary Convention Centre (CCC)? While much has been done in 2006, the New Year brings forth new and greater challenges as Calvary Church continues its fund-raising activities and prepares to break ground for the construction of the Calvary Convention Centre.

The following have been appointed chairpersons and coordinators for the various working committees for Calvary Convention Centre:

Chairpersons



Patrick Wong
Finance &
Administration



Han Joke Kwang
Watch
(Technical)



Lawrence Mak
Human
Resources



Philemon Soon
Publicity &
Communications



**Lyndon
d'Oliveiro**
Prayer



Jeannie Friis
Fund Raising



**Dato' A.
Nelson**
Tax
Contribution to
Building Fund

Coordinators



Veronica See
CCC Events



Samuel Sham
Donation in Kind



Lynette Chan
Landscape



Bernard Tan
Interior Design

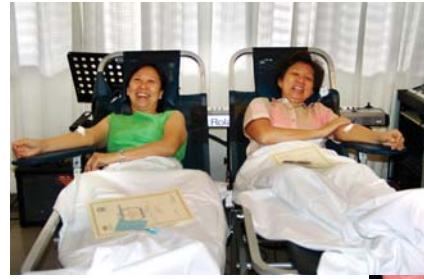
The various CCC working committees (who are appointed on a yearly basis) are currently working on their plans for 2007. Let us pray that God will give them wisdom, courage and understanding as they carry out their responsibilities in seeing to the success of the CCC building project. 🙏

Ladies' Thanksgiving Bazaar

By Assistant Pastor Karen Seah

On 3 December 2006, the ladies of the Church rounded up the year's activities with a Ladies' Thanksgiving Bazaar.

They took the opportunity to serve God through the skills He has given them and set up various stalls at the Calvary Refreshment Centre at Damansara Heights to sell delicious food and bazaar items. They received good response from those who attended the morning Worship Services as the food was quickly sold out! 🙏



A privilege to donate blood!

By Pastor Yow Kit Yen

"I faint when I see blood!" "I have a phobia about needles!" These are common comments when we approach individuals to donate blood. But praise God for the 83 men, women and youth between the ages of 18 to 60 who stepped forward to be a blessing to the community on 14 October 2006 at Calvary Church Damansara Heights.

It was the first time for many of the youth who donated. Some were fearful, pulling their friends along for courage and companionship, but when they had donated they were so glad and proud that they did it. They found that it was not that painful or scary and actually would want to do it again!

One pint of your blood and one hour of your time can help to save three lives. But sadly, the fast paced, stressful lifestyles that many lead have disqualified them from donating blood. Those with high or low blood pressure, diabetes, low haemoglobin level, who are above 60 years, or suffer from sicknesses, etc. do not have the privilege of giving others their life-giving blood.

That afternoon, the National Blood bank received 57 units of blood from us. If you are able to donate, look out for our next blood donation campaign and be a blessing! 🙏

Life Group (LG) Ministry

35 new Life Groups & 74 new leaders installed!

By Associate Pastor Richard Yun

Thank God for the numerical growth and for the dedication and ministry of all our LG Leaders and the members. In 2006, a total of 35 new LGs and 74 new leaders were installed into leadership.

We have heard of many testimonies of God's blessings in the lives of our leaders as they serve Him. Here are two testimonies:

ROBIN HOO: "I thank God for the multiplication of my LG. I feel so satisfied and fulfilled to see Wong Chee Weng assisting in leading the new LG in Taman Kencana, Cheras. The multiplication has motivated me to move forward in serving Him.

EVELYN CHAN: God has given me the opportunity to lead the International Life Group in Calvary Church Ampang. It encourages me to see believers from different countries and cultures coming together and becoming a blessing to one another."

We are looking out for YOU to join us. Call Pastoral Care at 03-77286000 ext. 307 & 308, and we will introduce you to a LG where you can belong and be blessed! 🙏



Left to right: Installation of new Life Group leaders on 3 September 2006; Introducing new Life Groups

Filipino Life Group (LG) Ministry

Filipino LGs hold Thanksgiving Celebration

By Kay Lim



Left to right: The Pastors with the attendees of the Thanksgiving Celebration; The Pastors and LG leaders with those who received awards

It was a day of celebration for 100 people, inclusive of Life Group (LG) members, their invited friends, former LG members from Brunei, Pastors and LG leaders who gathered together at Calvary Church Ampang, to rejoice and give thanks to God for His faithfulness and goodness.

As they sat in Service on 12 November 2006, listening to Associate Pastor Steven Kum's timely message, "When God is Silent" (Psalm 77:1.20), it brought great comfort, hope and a positive response of faith and trust to their hearts that God is still working in their lives. It was a call to not give up but continue to live by faith and not by sight. Besides spiritual 'life-giving' food, we also had a wide variety of sumptuous Filipino food that was prepared for the Thanksgiving celebration.

There was great excitement as

seventeen received recognition awards for completing ICI Courses. Wilma Lago completed the 30 Book Series of Christian Ministries. The members took turns to present two songs, a tambourine dance and a skit entitled "Love in Action". There was a display of beading by the Skill Enhancement Group. This was in line with the Church's theme of "Rise, Let Us Go" with our God-given talents and gifts.

Testimonies shared by LG members and Care Givers spoke of lives being transformed by the Word of God preached from the pulpit by all the

Pastors of Calvary Church and the encouragement, teaching, guidance, nurturing, prayers, love, care and concern given by the LG leaders. They were able to rise above their circumstances, look beyond their needs and take up the responsibilities and ownership of the Ministry.

Finally, Associate Pastor Richard Yun gave a word of exhortation to focus on God and give thanks to Him in all circumstances. Our hearts were indeed grateful to God and also to the Pastors who guided and encouraged us in our Filipino Life Group Ministry. 🙏

THE LORD

ISAIAH 58:13-14 OUR



Sembahlah Tuhan

Oleh Pendita Senior Prince Guneratnam

“Sebab apa yang tidak nampak daripada-Nya, yaitu kekuatan-Nya yang kekal dan keilahian-Nya, dapat nampak kepada pikiran dari karya-Nya sejak dunia diciptakan, sehingga mereka tidak dapat berdalih. Sebab sekalipun mereka mengenal Tuhan, mereka tidak memuliakan Dia sebagai Tuhan atau mengucap syukur kepada-Nya. Sebaliknya pikiran mereka menjadi sia-sia dan hati mereka yang bodoh menjadi gelap. Mereka berbuat seolah-olah mereka penuh hikmat, tetapi mereka telah menjadi bodoh. Mereka menggantikan kemuliaan Tuhan yang tidak fana dengan gambaran yang mirip dengan manusia yang fana, burung-burung, binatang-binatang yang berkaki empat atau binatang-binatang yang menjalar. Karena itu Tuhan menyerahkan mereka kepada keinginan hati mereka akan kecemaran, sehingga mereka saling mencemarkan tubuh mereka.

Sebab mereka menggantikan kebenaran Tuhan dengan dusta dan memuja dan menyembah makhluk dengan melupakan Penciptanya yang harus dipuji selama-lamanya, amin.” (Roma 1:20-25).

Alkitab mengatakan bahawa Tuhan membentuk manusia dari debu tanah dan menghembuskan nafas hidup ke dalam hidungnya, demikianlah manusia menjadi makhluk yang hidup ([Kejadian 2:7](#)). Manusia adalah ciptaan Tuhan yang tertinggi dan terbaik di antara ciptaanNya. Hanya manusia dicipta dari hati dan tangan Tuhan. Ciptaan Tuhan yang lain terjadi melalui firmanNya yang dilafazkan.

Manusia ada tiga tujuan terhadap Tuhan. Pertama, manusia mesti menyembah Tuhan. Alkitab berkata, **“Engkau harus menyembah Tuhan, dan hanya kepada Dia sajalah engkau berbakti!”**([Lukas 4:8](#)). Kedua, manusia harus ada persekutuan dengan Tuhan. Manusia dan Tuhan ada persekutuan dalam Taman Eden ([Kejadian 3:8-9](#)). Rasul Paulus menggambarkan persekutuan itu: **“Apakah hubungan bait Tuhan dengan berhala? Karena kita adalah bait dari Tuhan yang hidup menurut Firman Tuhan ini: ‘Aku akan diam bersama-sama dengan mereka dan hidup di tengah-tengah mereka, dan Aku akan menjadi Tuhan mereka, dan mereka akan menjadi umat-Ku.’”** ([2 Korintus 6:16](#)).

Ketiga, manusia harus memuliakan Tuhan dengan kehidupannya. Kamu harus hidup menyenangkan hati Tuhan serta memberi hormat dan puji

kepadaNya. Paulus berkata, **“Aku menjawab: Jika engkau makan atau jika engkau minum, atau jika engkau melakukan sesuatu yang lain, lakukanlah semuanya itu untuk kemuliaan Tuhan”** ([1 Korintus 10:31](#)) Dia juga berkata, **“Di dalam Kristuslah kami mendapat bagian yang dijanjikan—kami yang dari semula ditentukan untuk menerima bagian itu sesuai dengan maksud Tuhan, yang di dalam segala sesuatu bekerja menurut keputusan kehendak-Nya supaya kami, yang sebelumnya telah menaruh harapan pada Kristus, boleh menjadi puji-pujian bagi kemuliaan-Nya.”** ([Efesus 1:11-12](#)). Keutamaan dan cita-cita kehidupan kamu adalah untuk memuliakan Tuhan. Apabila kamu bertambah dalam memuliakan Tuhan, kamu akan mendapat kepenuhan hidup. Apabila saya tamat pengajian menengah saya dan memberitahu kawan-kawan

saya bahawa saya ingin menjadi seorang pendita, mereka rasa simpati dan sedih pada saya. Mereka fikir bahawa saya akan memiliki kehidupan yang susah kerana pada pemikiran mereka, saya tidak dapat melakukan banyak perkara yang mereka fikir adalah penting untuk suatu kehidupan yang dianggap memuaskan. Mereka tidak tahu bahawa kasih saya terhadap Tuhan telah menyebabkan saya tidak memiliki keinginan untuk idaman duniawi yang tidak membawa kepuasan dan kepenuhan yang berpanjangan. Kita semua mempunyai kekosongan dalam kehidupan kita. Hanya Tuhan yang dapat mengisi kekosongan itu untuk kamu hidup dengan berkelimpahan.

Sembah membentuk watak. Kamu akan mencorakkan kehidupan engkau mengikut sesiapa atau sesuatu yang kamu sembah. Perkataan “sembah” berasal dari perkataan lama Inggeris,

“bernilai” atau “berfaedah”. Apabila kamu menganggap “sesuatu benda” itu mempunyai nilai atau harga yang tinggi, kamu akan memberi kesetiaan dan hormat kepadanya. Ini melibatkan sembah. Kerana kamu sembah hanya apa yang kamu percaya mempunyai nilai dan hormat yang tertinggi, kamu rela menukar cara hidup kamu kepada apa yang kamu paling hargai. Kamu akan rasa suka dalam apa yang ‘tuhan’ kamu sukai dan menolak apa yang mereka tolak. Kamu akan amalkan cara kehidupan ‘tuhan’ yang kamu sembah dan menjadi seperti mereka. Alkitab berkata, **“Berhala-berhala mereka adalah perak dan emas, buatan tangan manusia, mempunyai mulut, tetapi tidak dapat berkata-kata, mempunyai mata, tetapi tidak dapat melihat, mempunyai telinga, tetapi tidak dapat mendengar, mempunyai hidung, tetapi tidak dapat mencium, mempunyai tangan, tetapi tidak dapat merabab-raba, mempunyai kaki, tetapi tidak dapat berjalan, dan tidak dapat memberi suara dengan kerongkongannya. Seperti itulah jadinya orang-orang yang membuatnya, dan semua orang yang percaya kepadanya.”** (Mazmur 115:4-8). Oleh itu, penyembahan adalah perkara yang serius kerana penyembahan menghasilkan keputusan.

Tuhan menjadikan kamu seorang penyembah and kamu mesti menyembah Tuhan yang benar dan hidup, tetapi jika kamu menyembah ‘tuhan-tuhan’ yang lain, kamu akan menyerupai apa yang kamu sembah. Jika tuhan-tuhan kamu membenarkan perbuatan kekejaman, kejahatan dan menggalakkan perbuatan membohong, rasuah dan tidak bermoral, kamu juga akan melakukannya. Ahli-ahli sejarah mengatakan bahawa masyarakat yang mengikuti penyembahan berhala terlibat dalam perbuatan yang keji dan jahat. Tuhan-tuhan utama kaum ‘Scythian’ yang telah menggulingkan kerajaan Rome, mengambil rupa ‘raja-raja wira’ yang kejam dan sukakan penumpahan darah. Mereka yang menyembah ‘tuhan-tuhan’ ini menjadi orang yang sukakan kekejaman, kesakitan dan penumpahan darah. Orang-orang Roma menyembah Venus, juga dikenali orang-orang Yunani sebagai Aphrodite, satu dewa nafsu. Perbuatan penyembahan yang dilakukan dalam menghormatinya adalah perbuatan tidak bermoral pada tahap terendah.

Oleh itu, jika kamu menyembah Tuhan yang benar dan hidup, Pencipta segala ciptaan, kamu akan menjadi

sepertiNya. Tuhan yang kamu sembah adalah Tuhan yang kamu akan menyerupai. Sebab itulah orang-orang Kristian dapat memaafkan orang lain, berpaling daripada kekejaman dan kejahatan, dan mengasihi kebenaran dan melakukan apa yang bersifat ketuhanan. Mereka dapat mengasihi dengan cara yang berbeza daripada kasih duniawi, iaitu nafsu. Paulus berkata, **“Sekarang muka kita tidak berselubung dan kita memantulkan kemuliaan Tuhan. Kemuliaan itu berasal daripada Tuhan, dan Tuhan itu Roh yang mengubah kita semua. Kita semakin menjadi seperti Dia dan semakin memiliki kemuliaanNya”** (2 Korintus 3:18). Tuhan, yang merupakan kasih sayang, akan dicerminkan dalam cara kehidupan kamu. Kita dipanggil untuk berfokus kepada apa yang mempunyai nilai yang benar dan kekal. Paulus berkata, **“Kamu sudah dihidupkan semula bersama-sama Kristus. Oleh itu kamu harus mengingini perkara-perkara yang di syurga, di tempat Kristus duduk di atas takhta di sebelah kanan Allah. Hendaklah kamu memusatkan fikiran kepada perkara-perkara di syurga, bukan kepada perkara-perkara di bumi”** (Kolose 3:1-2). Apabila kamu menyembah Yesus, kamu akan menjadi sepertiNya dan orang akan mengenaliNya di dalam kamu. Pengikut-pengikut di Antiokhia adalah yang pertama dipanggil orang-orang Kristian kerana mereka menyerupai Kristus Yesus (Kisah Rasul-Rasul 11:26). Kamu tidak boleh menyembah Tuhan yang benar dan tidak berubah. Bagaimana kamu menyembah menentukan sejauh mana kamu berubah.

Iblis tahu akan kuasa dalam penyembahan kamu. Dia tahu bahawa manusia dicipta untuk menyembah, oleh itu dia membawa tuhan-tuhan lain ke hadapan kamu untuk menipu kamu. Iblis adalah ‘pakar penipu’. Dia mahu kamu berfikir bahawa asalkan kamu bersifat alim, kamu akan sampai ke syurga kerana semua agama mengajar kamu berbuat baik dan ianya tidak penting sama ada kamu menyembah tuhan atau berhala. Tetapi ia adalah penting sekiranya apa yang berada di belakang tuhan atau ideologi/kepercayaan palsu itu ialah tuhan kamu dan kamu akan berkelakuan seperti pada suatu hari kelak.

Tuhan bertindak dengan tegas sekali ke atas orang yang tidak menyembahNya seperti yang sepatutnya. Al-Kitab menyatakan, **“Jangan lupa akan tuhan kamu, dan jangan pergi ke tuhan-tuhan lain untuk menyembah dan**

mengabdikan kepada tuhan-tuhan itu. Aku memberi amaran kepada kamu hari ini bahawa jika kamu melakukannya juga, kamu pasti binasa” (Ulangan 8:19). Apabila Musa menaiki gunung untuk berkomunikasi dengan Tuhan dan mengambil masa yang lama untuk turun kembali, orang-orang Israel datang kepada Harun dan memintanya membuat tuhan-tuhan untuk mereka. Apabila Musa kembali dan menyoal Harun dia menjawab, **“Mereka berkata kepada aku, ‘Kami tidak tahu apa telah berlaku kepada si Musa, yang memimpin kami keluar dari Mesir. Oleh itu, buatlah satu tuhan bagi kami untuk memimpin kami.’ Aku menyuruh mereka memberikan perhiasan emas kepadaku, lalu orang yang mempunyai perhiasan menanggalkannya dan memberikan kepadaku. Aku mencampakkan perhiasan emas itu ke dalam api, lalu terbentuklah lembu ini!”** (Keluaran 32:23-24). Sebagai akibat penyembahan yang palsu, 3,000 orang telah mati (ayat 28). Tuhan amat tegas perihal penyembahan kerana ia membentuk dan menentukan perwatakan kamu. Takdir kamu bergantung kepada dia yang kamu sembah!

Penyembahan adalah berkaitan dengan pelayanan. Kamu akan melayani dia yang kamu sembah. Iblis menggoda Yesus dengan tawaran segala kekuasaan dan kegemilangan kerajaan-kerajaan di dunia jika Dia menyembahnya tetapi Yesus menjawab, **“Sembahlah Tuhanmu dan abdikan diri kepada Dia sahaja”** (Lukas 4:8). Melayani Tuhan bermaksud melakukan kehendak Tuhan dan memberi sukacita kepadaNya dan menjadikanNya Tuan dalam hidup kamu. Segala kewujudan kamu dan segala yang kamu ada adalah milikNya. Kamu mengakui Tuhan sebagai Pencipta kamu dan segalanya dimilikiNya!

Bertindak serius tentang penyembahan kerana ia membawa hasil. Kamu akan menjadi seperti ‘tuhan-tuhan’ yang kamu sembah. Kamu akan melayani mereka dan diperintah oleh mereka. Apabila kamu menyembah tuhan-tuhan yang lain, kamu akan menjadi hamba kepada dosa dan apabila kamu menyembah Tuhan Yesus Kristus, kamu akan menjadi pelayan kepada kebenaran dan mempunyai kepeuhan dalam hidup. Siapakah yang kamu sembah?

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



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam (third from left) praying at the start of the series of meetings



Rev. Margaret Seaward



The Choir and the Creative Arts Team leading us to worship the Lord with them



Miracles of God's love experienced

By Audrey Kum

The handbills given out weeks before "The Miracles of Love" special meetings to be held from 20 to 22 October 2006, announced Dr Bernard Blessing as the speaker. But on 20 October, right after the opening song, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam announced, after welcoming the people, that Dr Bernard was still in Ghana due to some flight complications!

While we did not get to hear Dr Bernard Blessing, God had prepared another blessing for His people. At very short notice, veteran speaker, Rev. Margaret Seaward flew over from Singapore. From the moment she began, we had first-hand experience of Romans 8:28, that God works all things together for our good. Sister Seaward said that the dance presentation of the song "Mercy Saw Me" by the Choir and the Creative Arts Team which clearly pointed out that we are in spiritual

warfare, confirmed the message that she had prepared for us on the power of the Name of Jesus.

That first night, basing her message on Psalm 9:6-10, Sister Seaward brought great encouragement to those facing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual oppression by the enemy because those who know the Lord's Name can put their trust in Him and He never forsakes those who seek Him (verse 10)!

Out of her rich experiences as a

missionary and minister of God's Word through the years, Sister Seaward, who is seventy-five, shared very personal testimonies that showed clearly that the Name of our Lord Jesus has the power to save, to deliver and to heal. God saved her wayward son who was into drugs and drink, miraculously healed her mother of breast cancer and delivered her sister from physical harm while they were in China.

On the second night, she spoke to another packed sanctuary. Sister

Come, Let's Party

Special programmes based on the theme, "Come, Let's Party", were held for the kids aged four to six, seven to nine and ten to 13 years, concurrently with the adult special meetings. The kids learnt biblical truths while having fun. Praise God for the 37 new visitors, the 14 kids who accepted Christ and the many who rededicated their lives to the Lord!

Seven to nine year olds decorating their meeting hall



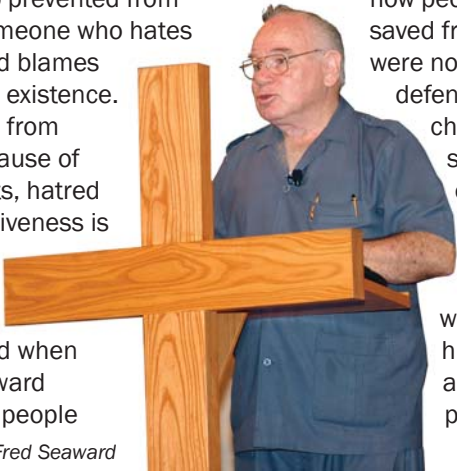
KidsCAT kids serving as Praise Singers



Having fun!

Seaward said that many people do not know that they can have their sins forgiven and have a new life that is free of guilt and condemnation and that God is able and willing to heal (Psalm 103:1-3). But there are many Christians who know this and yet are sick. She pointed out that this is because of separation on three levels: From God; from self and from others. Sin separates the Christian from God and prevents God from doing what He wants to do, that is to heal. God is also prevented from healing someone who hates himself and blames God for his existence. Separation from others because of anger, hurts, hatred and unforgiveness is another hindrance. The altar was packed when Sister Seaward invited the people

Rev. Fred Seaward



who were sick with incurable diseases to search their hearts and get right with God, themselves and with their fellow man. God, who loves us with an everlasting love, was then given the liberty to work His miracles of love.

Rev. Fred Seaward, husband of Sister Seaward brought the meetings to a close with a message on a very tragic word in the English language—"almost". He gave many examples of how people were almost saved from disaster but were not. Paul, in his defence against a charge of sedition had opportunity to speak before King Agrippa who said to him, "You almost persuade

me to become a Christian" (Acts 26:28). He urged us to respond to God's love to save us and to choose to live for Him and not be found without God when we enter eternity which can happen anytime without warning. It will be tragic if we ended up like King Agrippa who was almost persuaded to become a Christian but did not.

We thank God for the 24 who received Christ and the nine who rededicated their lives to the Lord over the three nights of meetings! 🙏

A powerful dance depicting the love of God reaching out to save and deliver us from the evil one



Anticlockwise: Rev. Margaret Seaward giving the altar call on the first night; Altar response on the second night; Responding to God's love on the third night at Damansara Perdana where the congregation saw a live transmission of the meeting held at Damansara Heights (top right)



Kids learning to work together while making their hotdogs!



The four to six year olds enjoying a singspiration

Ten to 13 year olds enjoying a game

Children are God's Work of Art

By Amelia Guneratnam

We recorded the highest attendance at Carpenter's Workshop this year on Children's Day, 8 October 2006! The 701 children enjoyed the programmes that were planned for them. They participated as greeters and ushers, worship leaders and gave special drama and song presentations and even piano recitals.

The Associate Pastors prayed for the children at the various Church locations and this made them feel special and valued as part of the Church. We thank God for the 29 new friends who joined us for the first time that day! 🙏

At Damansara Heights



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam prayed for the children at Damansara Heights

At Cheras



Associate Pastor Richard Yun prayed for the children at Cheras



At Damansara Perdana



Associate Pastor Christopher Lee prayed for the children at Damansara Perdana

At Ampang



Associate Pastor Richard Yun also prayed for the children at Ampang



Leading the congregation to sing Christmas carols



Photographs by Jonathan Kam and Audrey Kum



Calvary Worship Orchestra



"What can I give Him?"

"The Perfect Gift"

By Audrey Kum

Gift-exchange is very much a part of Christmas all over the world. On 24 December 2006, at the Putra Stadium at Bukit Jalil, the Calvary family from all the Church locations and their friends, totalling over 5,000, were reminded that Christmas is all about a God who loves the world so much that He sent us the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins. At this Christmas Worship Service, we also had opportunity to reflect on what we could give Him in return.

As we entered the 'sanctuary' for that day, our eyes were immediately drawn to the huge and brightly decorated gift boxes. This year, the emphasis was on family involvement. In addition to the Christmas Choir, about 21 entire families with children as young as seven years, took part as carollers during worship. We are grateful to God for the 336 people who committed themselves to practices from early November, to help lead us into an attitude of worship of

our Lord, through the presentation of "The Perfect Gift".

In his Christmas message, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam told us that when man fell into sin, God required sacrifices to be offered to atone for sins committed (Leviticus 5:14-15). When Jesus was born, the angels declared Him as One who will save us from our sins. Because Jesus was without sin, this made Him perfect to be the Saviour of mankind. We

cannot save ourselves. Paul says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Today, Jesus is in heaven as our advocate. He is praying for us to succeed and is preparing a place for us in heaven.

Those of us who have already received Jesus, God's perfect gift, rejoiced over this

good news. Jesus is coming back to receive us to Himself but there are still many who do not know of this perfect gift from God.

We, as a Church, have been blessed. What can we give Him in response to His great love? We can give Him our hearts and share Jesus with others and let them know that they too can receive God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ.



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam sharing the Christmas message (left) and giving the altar call (below)



Fellowship over breakfast

Breakfast was hosted by Life Groups from 8 to 9.30am on 24 December 2006 at the Putra Stadium before the Christmas Worship Service began at 10am. It was a great time to fellowship with Calvarites from the various Church locations! 🙌



Photographs by Jonathan Kam, Onny Maathai and Audrey Kum

“The Perfect Gift”

On 24 December 2006, the children watched the presentation of “The Perfect Gift” with the adults before adjourning to two separate venues at Putra Stadium. Both groups, three to six and seven to 12, enjoyed treasure hunts, other fun activities and fellowship over food! 🙌



Prayer Emphasis Week

Pray...He is more than able!

By Assistant Pastor Karen Seah

The overall theme of the final Prayer Emphasis Week of 2006, from 3 to 9 December, was "Pray.. He is more than able" (Ephesians 3:20).

On Monday to Thursday and on Saturday, the Church gathered together in Life Groups to pray along the sub-theme: "Pray...He is more than able to bless". Through the prayer journey based on the life of Jacob, they discovered principles that would enable them to live a life that is truly blessed by God.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Church began the day with God, seeking Him early in the morning at 7am, to be refreshed in His presence during the Morning Watch. They prayed in line with the sub-themes: "Pray...He is more than able to save" and "Pray...He is more than able to nurture", on the respective mornings.

On Friday, the Church met at Damansara Heights and through a video clip entitled, "The Battle is Real", were inspired by testimonies of believers who are undaunted in their task of sharing the Gospel despite strong opposition. The sub-theme that night, "Pray...He is more than able to empower", was reinforced when the sanctuary lights were turned off and only a lighted cross illuminated the darkness. The sanctuary slowly lighted up as the Life Group leaders and members who encircled the congregation, shone their torches into

the darkness. This was to illustrate the truth that the Holy Spirit can empower the Church to bring the light of Jesus to a darkened world. Deacon Han Joke Kwang led in prayer for Calvary Church to be a light that shines in our nation and beyond, through the Calvary Convention Centre, as the lights came on progressively in the sanctuary.

The week of prayer greatly encouraged the Church to remember that we pray to a God who is not only more than able, but more than willing to help us live victoriously for Him! 🙏

Assistant Pastor Karen Seah calling the people to be a light that shines in the darkness of our world



Associate Pastor Timothy Ong leading the congregation to pray for the children to impact their generation and the future generations for the glory of God

Royal Rangers

Adventure & Expedition Rangers Campout

By Jim Gunerartnam

Twenty six Rangers and leaders from the Adventure (12 to 14 years) and Expedition (15 to 17 years) Rangers Outposts went on a Campout from 30 November to 2 December 2006 at Hulu Tamu, Selangor. The Rangers were able to put into practice their camping skills, experience God's creation and have fun working and worshipping together. 🙏



Associate Pastor Christopher Lee welcoming everyone



Beginning the programme with lively singing

Kids totally engrossed



The cast look in amazement at Sophia Spaghetti's long contract



A Star is born!

By Hazel Yeo

On Saturday, 2 December 2006, an enthusiastic team of KidsCAT (Kids Creative Arts Team) children ended five months of artistic and spiritual training with a humorously engaging musical, "A Star is Born". We thank God that in the midst of the training, many children rededicated their lives to Jesus and 14 were filled with the Holy Spirit.

The day of the musical was filled with a total of 541 children, proud parents, grandparents, relatives and friends as they watched the 70 KidsCAT kids perform the 40-minute Christmas-themed musical.

In this musical, its director, Mr. Spielman, together with the children, teaches a wannabe "star" Sophia Spaghetti how to "get down" in humility before God. By the end of the musical,

the children, and even Sophia herself, agreed that the true star of the production is Jesus Christ.

The speaker, Quek Lee Siu, further enforced this theme of Jesus and humility. When the altar call was given at the end of the presentation, 60 children responded for salvation. Another 11 children responded for rededication. Praise the Lord for the harvest of souls!

"A Star is Born" was indeed the result of the hard work of many faithful trainers, teachers, parents and children responding like the characters, Paige and Mary, the mother of Jesus, who said, "I am the Lord's servant, and if this is how I can serve, of course I will."

All glory and honour to Jesus! 🙏

The choir praying for the kids who responded at the altar



Quek Lee Siu, the speaker, inviting the children to invite Jesus into their hearts



Helping the children who responded to the altar call





Mr Spielman hears how Sophia can still get to be a star...



...literally!



Hospitality Ministry gives thanks

By Associate Pastor Raymond Yong

On 25 November 2006, Ushers and Visitors' Lounge greeters from all Church locations gathered at the Antioch Bungalow for the Hospitality Fellowship.



Senior Pastor
Prince
Guneratnam

After light refreshments, everyone adjourned to the Antioch Hall for the remaining programme. Associate Pastor Raymond Yong expressed his appreciation of their presence and their involvement in the Hospitality Ministry. Daniel Loke led us to worship and praise the Lord.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam reminded us of the importance of our ministry as Ushers and Visitors' Lounge greeters. We work as a team with the Pastors to ensure that the Services run smoothly. He also expressed his appreciation of our involvement. In turn, we showed our appreciation of him and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam by presenting them with a fruit basket.

We enjoyed a video about etiquette. For example, we saw how to give a



proper and good handshake. We were eager to apply all that we learnt. Many were surprised when another video was shown—one showing how the congregation viewed our Ministry. Praise the Lord that the overall feedback was that we are helpful, hospitable and have pleasant smiles! This greatly encouraged us.

Cheong Peng Kim, Christina Ngo and Tham Wai Mun shared why they are involved in the Hospitality Ministry and how their involvement has blessed and enriched their lives. We concluded our Fellowship praying for the Ministry and the personnel and giving thanks to God for a blessed time together. 🙏

Water Baptism

Twenty baptised in water!

Praise the Lord for the 20 individuals who followed the Lord in water baptism on 15 October 2006!

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



Front Row (left to right)

Kelly Kok Pei Jing,
Eileen Lau Pak Ling,
Winnie Lai Kai Pong,
Lee Wai Ying,
Liau Nyoon Yin,
Joshua Ying Ming Ren,
Lai Huey Feng,
Liew Thian Loon

Middle Row

Sally Kok Pei Mern,
Lim Li-Ann,
Renee Kuan Geok Kheng,
Susan Ng Su Sim,
Jane Lee Ean Ni,
Lim Sue Ann

Back Row

Roger Kok Chung Hua,
Jonathan Kam Chee Mun,
Robert Chow Kow,
Douglas Lai Kok Heng,
Moses Lai Meng Woon,
Christie Law Swee Lin

“Going from Struggles to Strength”

By Audrey Kum



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam


The School of Christian Growth (SCG), which is the education arm of the Church, organised a series of open sessions entitled, “Going from Struggles to Strength” that lasted for three consecutive Friday evenings, beginning from 17 December 2006. Students, ranging from youth to senior citizens, congregated at the sanctuary at Damansara Heights for the sessions taught by our Senior Pastor, Prince Guneratnam.

Over the three lessons, Senior Pastor left us with valuable insights. In the first place, he established that the Bible tells us that man is born into trouble (Job 5:7). We live in an imperfect world where our old nature wants to rule. Demons also seek to rob, steal and destroy us. It is no wonder that we face many struggles in life but there is a way out. We must not despair because, “Troubles prepare us for a prepared place,” said Senior Pastor. He taught us that the more we know God, the better we are able to get out of trouble.

He gave us three clear steps to follow, illustrating his points with biblical and other examples, if we wanted to go from struggles to strength. The first step: We must expose ourselves to God’s revelation through His Word so that our eyes of understanding might be opened (Luke 24:45; Ephesians 1:18). When that happens, we can go to the second step: We can then make sound decisions. Senior Pastor introduced the concept of making “destiny decisions” upon receiving spiritual guidance or revelation. These decisions have an expiry date and must be made within God’s timing. He likened it to the proverb:

“Strike when the iron is hot.” When David faced a conflict with the Amalekites over Ziklag (1 Samuel 30), he sought wisdom and revelation from the Lord (verse 8). When he received revelation and direction from God, he made a “destiny decision” to immediately obey the Lord’s direction to pursue his enemies. This resulted in his recovering all that he had lost! Senior Pastor said that God has also given us five natural senses and the ability to use them in our decision making.

Finally, during the third lesson, he gave us the third step. Making the right decision based on God’s revelation, calls for a willingness to change or be transformed. Transformation has to do with the mind (Romans 12:1-2). This requires preparation and is a process during which the mind will fight what the heart has decided. To win the battle of the mind, Senior Pastor urged us to feed the new man with the Word of God and to strengthen it with the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Senior Pastor concluded these powerful sessions with a warning for us not to procrastinate in taking these steps if we want to go from our struggles to strength. 



The fall of humanity

By Ken Horn

This doctrine is usually called the fall of man. Man was created good and upright. God said, “Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26). So the nature that God planted in Adam and Eve was like God’s own. And, like God, Adam and Eve had free will—the ability to choose how to live.

At one crucial point, they both decided to disobey God by partaking of what had been denied them (Genesis 3:6). This introduced physical and spiritual death, or separation from God, into the human race (Romans 5:12).

It was this bad decision that necessitated the coming of Jesus Christ to live, die and be resurrected so that man could be forgiven and receive eternal life. Every human being stands in need of the forgiveness that comes from repenting and receiving Jesus Christ, not because of Adam and Eve’s sin, but because every other human being has also been given the capacity to make choices ... and everyone chooses to sin (Romans 3:23).

Forgiveness of sin—the sin nature and a lifetime of sin—is granted when an individual first comes to Christ for salvation. But even believers continue to exhibit this human tendency to sin. So those who are saved must daily search their hearts and come again to Christ for forgiveness of specific sins—bad choices that controvert God’s will.



If you don’t know Jesus, make the decision to come to Him today. If you do know Him, remember to let the Holy Spirit search your heart daily, then confess to the Lord any sins that have been revealed.

The bad news: Man has fallen. The good news: Jesus raises the fallen.

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

Today’s Pentecostal Evangel,
February 12, 2006

Sunday Services

Damansara Heights (DH) 8am • 10.30am		Ampang/DH 10.30am 5pm	Cheras 9am	Damansara Perdana 10.30am
	<i>Communion</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	<i>Communion</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	<i>Communion</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	<i>Communion</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
	7 14 21 28 Rev. Dr. James Davis	Rev. Dr. James Davis	Rev. Dr. James Davis	Rev. Dr. James Davis
	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Richard Yun/ Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Peter Ong
	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Assistant Pastor David Seah	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
JANUARY				

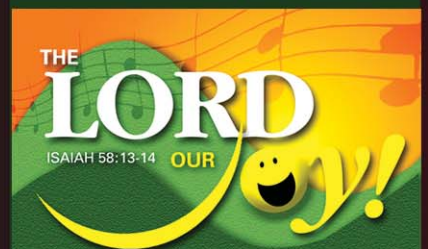
	<i>Communion</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	<i>Communion</i> Associate Pastor Peter Ong/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	<i>Communion</i> Associate Pastor Richard Yun	<i>Communion</i> Associate Pastor Richard Yun
	4 11 18 25 Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Assistant Pastor David Seah	Assistant Pastor David Seah
	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Assistant Pastor David Seah/ <i>Water Baptism</i> Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Assistant Pastor David Seah/ Combined with Morning Worship Services at DH and Ampang	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
FEBRUARY				

Begin the Year with God

Wednesday to Friday 10-12 January 2007 7.30pm
Damansara Heights

"If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed" Proverbs 29:18

FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY 14 January 2007



Rev. Dr. James O. Davis will provide straight forward biblical solutions to your challenging, contemporary situations, focusing your joy in the Lord rather than circumstances. He ministers to more than 100,000 people yearly and is the president of the Global Pastors' Network.

Damansara Heights 8am, 10.30am, 5pm,
Cheras 9am, Damansara Perdana & Ampang 10.30am

January

Chinese Fellowship Sunday 5pm

- 28** Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
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: What on earth am I doing here?

- 6** It all begins with God
- 13** **Youth Revival Meeting**
- 20** What drives your life?
- 27** **Youth Celebration**

College Students' Ministry Saturday 2.30pm

Theme: "Knowing God"

- 6** Knowing Him: "The Starting point"
- 13** **Youth Revival Meeting**
- 20** "The Sovereign God"
- 27** **Youth Celebration**

Bahasa Malaysia Fellowship Sunday 12.30pm

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

WATER BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

Water Baptism/Membership Class

Saturday | **24 February 2007** | 2pm

Water Baptism Service

Sunday | **25 February 2007** | 5pm

Closing Date for submission of forms:

Sunday | **14 January 2007**

February

Chinese Fellowship Sunday 5pm

- 25** Speaker: Senior Associate Pastor
Petrina Guneratnam
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: How we grow

- 3** Transformed by Truth
- 10** Transformed by Trouble
- 17** Transformed by Temptation
- 24** **Youth Celebration**

College Students' Ministry Saturday 2.30pm

Theme: "Knowing God"

- 3** "The Almighty God"
- 10** "The God of Love"
- 17** "The All Wise God"
- 24** **Youth Celebration**

Bahasa Malaysia Fellowship Sunday 12.30pm

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

KIDS

Wednesday to Friday
10-12 January 2007 7.30pm
Damansara Heights

Hey parents!! Get your kids to begin the year with God to have a great year at home, at school & at play. There will be special fun-filled activities planned for kids ages 4 - 13!



YOUTH

Saturday 13 January 2007 3pm
Damansara Heights

Begin the year right to enjoy great success in 2007. Meet with God in a worship concert. Joyful are those whose footsteps are directed by the Lord.

Rev. Dr. James O. Davis will be speaking.



Worship the Lord

Man has a three-fold purpose towards God. First, man is to worship God. The Bible says, **“Worship the Lord your God and serve him only”** (Luke 4:8). Second, man is to fellowship with God. Man and God had fellowship in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8-9). The apostle Paul describes this fellowship: **“What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people’”** (2 Corinthians 6:16).

Third, man is to glorify God with his life. You are to live to please God and to bring honour and praise to Him. Paul says, **“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”** (1 Corinthians 10:31). He also said, **“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory”** (Ephesians 1:11-12, NKJV). The priority and the ambition of your life should be to glorify God. The more you live to glorify God, the more you will find fulfilment in life. When I completed my secondary schooling and told my friends that I wanted to be a preacher, they pitied me or felt sorry for me. They thought that I would have a miserable life because I would not be able to do many things that they considered necessary to have a fulfilled life. They did not know that my love for God took away worldly desires that did not bring lasting satisfaction and fulfilment in life. We all have a God-shaped vacuum in our life. Only God can fill it for you to live the fullest of life that anybody can live.

Worship shapes character. You will pattern your life after whoever or whatever you worship. The word “worship” is from an old English word, “worth” or “worthwhile”. When you consider a “certain thing” to be of great worth or value, you will give it your allegiance, honour and respect. This involves worship. Because you worship only what you believe is of supreme value or honour, you are willing to change your lifestyle to that which you value most. You will take pleasure in what your “gods” take pleasure in and reject what they reject. You will practise the lifestyle of the “gods” you worship and become like them. The Bible says, **“But their idols are silver and gold,**

made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them” (Psalm 115:4-8). Worship is therefore a serious matter because worship brings results.

God made you a worshipper and you are to worship the true and living God, but if you are worshipping some other “gods”, you will become like the one you worship. If your gods approve acts of cruelty, wickedness and permit lies, corruption and immorality, you will also practise them. Historians tell us that societies that indulged in idolatry were involved in vile and evil practices. The chief gods of the Scythians who overthrew Rome, took the form of cruel, blood-thirsty “hero kings”. Those who worshipped them became people that took delight in violence, pain and the shedding of blood. The Romans worshipped Venus, also known to the Greeks as Aphrodite, the goddess of lust and pleasure. Acts of worship done in her honour were of the lowest level of immorality.

Therefore, when you worship the true and living God, the Creator of all creation, you will become like Him. The God you worship, is the God you will take after. That is why Christians can forgive, turn from wickedness and evil, and love the truth and do what is godly. They are able to love in a way that is different from worldly love, which is lust. Paul says, **“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit”** (2 Corinthians 3:18). God, who is love, will be reflected in your lifestyle. We are called to set our eyes on what has true and lasting value. Paul says, “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-2). When you worship Jesus, you will become like Him and people will recognise Him in you. The believers at Antioch were first called Christians because they resembled Jesus Christ (Acts 11:26). You cannot worship the true God and not change. How you worship determines to what degree you change.

Satan knows the power of your

worship. He knows that man is made to worship therefore he brings other gods before you to deceive you. Satan is the “master deceiver”. He wants you to think that as long as you are religious, you can make it to heaven because all religions teach you to do good and it does not matter if you worship an idol. But it does matter because the one behind that idol or that false ideology or creed is your god and you will behave like him eventually.

God dealt very severely with people who did not worship Him like they should. The Bible says, **“If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed”** (Deuteronomy 8:19). When Moses went up to the mountain to communicate with God and took a long time to come down, the people came to Aaron and asked him to make gods for them. When Moses came down he questioned Aaron and he replied, **“They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”** (Exodus 32:23-24). As a result of false worship, 3,000 people died (verse 28). God is serious about worship because it moulds and shapes your character. Your destiny depends on the one you worship!

Worship is related to serving. You will serve the one you worship. Satan tempted Jesus with an offer of all the authority and splendour of the kingdoms of the world if He worshipped him but Jesus answered, **“Worship the Lord your God and serve him only”** (Luke 4:8). Serving God means doing God’s will and pleasing Him and making Him the Master of your life. Everything you are and everything you have is His. You recognise God as your Creator and all things belong to Him!

Be serious about worship because it brings results. You become like the “gods” you worship. You will serve them and be ruled by them. When you worship other gods, you will become a servant to sin and when you worship the Lord Jesus Christ, you will become a servant to righteousness and have fulfilment in life. Who are you worshipping? 🙏

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

Senior Pastor Prince & Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam
& all our Church & Extended Ministry Staff wish you

A Blessed 2007!



CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)

CHRIST-CENTRED · EVANGELICAL · MISSIONARY

2, Jalan Damansara Endah, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel: 03-7728 6000 email@calvary.org.my

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Printed by Calvary Church Press

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