

# CALVARY NEWS

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## Stress and Success

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

*"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?  
Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?  
Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?  
So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.  
Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?  
Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'  
For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.  
But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.  
Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble"  
(Matthew 6:25-34).*

**Stress and worry often accompany success. With progress and success, our cities have become more than concrete jungles. We get stuck in traffic jams that will make Job lose his patience! Our homes have become cages to keep out the undesirables. We are filled with anxiety, worry and tension. Stress dominates our lives. From the text above, Jesus says to us, "Stop worrying" (Matthew 6:25) and "Don't start to worry!" (Verse 34)**





# Delight...in Seeking Him

By Assistant Pastor Karen Seah

What a week of prayer! A total of 1,580 Calvarites, both adults and children, participated in the 24-hour prayer chain in conjunction with the Prayer Emphasis Week, from 18 to 24 March 2007. Many set aside days during the week to fast and believe God for personal as well as corporate victories and breakthroughs. They were later given the opportunity to contribute the amounts saved from fasting meals towards the building of the Calvary Convention Centre.

Prayer meetings for both the adults and children were held in Damansara Heights, Damansara Perdana, Cheras and Ampang from Tuesday to Thursday night. Overall, close to 1,400 people braved the daily rain and traffic jams to make their way to the prayer meetings in the various locations. Each night, they were rewarded with the rich presence of God that warmed their hearts and encouraged them in their prayers.

“Delight in Seeking Him” – the main thrust of the Prayer Emphasis Week, was to re-direct the focus and re-establish the goal in our prayer life. The goal is God Himself, not His blessings. The challenge therefore, is to delight in His presence, rather than His presents. What a blessed assurance it is to know that as we delight in Him, He will grant us the desires of our heart. While we

may not see the immediate results of our prayers, we can have a deep assurance that God, in His own perfect timing, will bring everything to pass in accordance with His perfect will for our lives and the Church. And He will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20)! 🙏

At Damansara Heights



At Damansara Perdana



At Ampang

At Cheras

Continued on facing page




## Deacons and Auditors



Left to right, **Front row:** Edward Rajasingam (Church Treasurer); Patrick Wong (Deacon for Administrative Affairs); Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam; Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam; Bernadette Foo (Church Secretary); Han Joke Kwang (Building and Financial Management/Church Business) **Back row:** Lee Tuck Heng (Church Auditor); Stephen Liu (Church Relations and Promotions); Lawrence Mak (Personnel and Human Resources); Lum Siew Heng (Hospitality/Special Functions); Chow Sang Hoe (Church Auditor)

# Introducing the 2007 Deacons and Auditors

On Sunday, 25 March 2007, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam thanked God for His faithfulness and blessings upon the Church. He appreciated all the Deacons and the Auditors for their willingness to serve.

He encouraged the Church to support them in prayer and to stand together in the unity of faith with the Board of Deacons so that they will be effective. He then led the congregations to pray for them and then subsequently prayed for the congregations that together, we will fulfill the call and purpose of Calvary Church to be a fountainhead church. Four out of our six congregations witnessed this via video. 



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam leading in prayer for the Deacons and Auditors



At Cheras

At Damansara Heights

At Damansara Perdana

At Ampang



# The fulfilment of being a Life Group Host

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” *Acts 5:42*

As the Early Church grew in numbers, homes were made available for the believers to meet. Owners of these homes were ready to welcome the people into their homes to fellowship and grow in the Lord and they were blessed. Today, three Life Group (LG) hosts share testimonies of the fulfilment of being a LG host by opening their homes and office. They all thank Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, the Pastors and the Church for giving them the opportunity to serve God in this manner.

## YP LG Host

### Leena Lim, Bangsar YP LG

Praise The Lord! God is good and He is good all the time! The year 2006 was an exciting year for me especially since I opened my home for LG meetings. I have been blessed by the LG meetings and made many new friends. I am so thankful to God that He understands me and knows my heart's desire. I have always wanted to serve Him in whatever capacity He wants me to. I have been attending Calvary Church since I was 12 years old. But due to my quiet and shy nature I was never bold enough to participate in any activities in Church.

When Assistant Pastor David Seah asked me to be a LG host for the Young Professionals, I was initially reluctant even though deep down in my heart I really wanted to serve God. Eventually, I agreed to make my home available every Saturday for LG. Knowing that being a LG host requires a lot of commitment and responsibility, I asked God for grace and strength. This is definitely God's open door for me to serve Him. After being a LG host for several months now, I have made a lot of new friends and we share our needs and pray for each other. Now I look forward to every Saturday afternoon for a time of worship and fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I believe that when we make ourselves available to serve God, He will work in us and through us in a very special way. I am so blessed to have a God who knows and cares for the needs of ordinary people like me.



Leena Lim (second from left) with her YP LG members

## Men's LG Host

### Lee Twen Goh, Tropicana Men's LG

Thank God for enabling me to be a blessing as a LG Host. When the LG meets, it helps me to reinforce the presence of God in my life and helps me to see the importance of fellowship among men. The testimonies shared by the men have impacted my own lifestyle. All these have strengthened my faith in Christ.



Lee Twen Goh (extreme left) with his Men's LG members and Associate Pastor Raymond Yong (extreme right)

As a LG Host, I am blessed by having the opportunity to build new friendship with Christian men. These friendships have helped me in my spiritual walk. As a businessman, I do not have many friends who are Christians. The men in the LG have been a great blessing to me as we share how God can help us to meet our daily challenges in the marketplace. Studying the Word together with them has helped me to understand and apply the Word in my life. It is easier to learn when we discuss and share our experiences with one another. My prayer life has also improved. As we spend time praying together, we learn from each other. I am now able to pray more confidently.

One of the ways in appreciating God's blessing upon my life is to open up my home to be used by God as a lighthouse in my community and as a blessing to others. Because of the positive influences and many blessings that my family and I have received by being a LG Host, I would also like to encourage you to allow your house or office to be used by God to reach out to others.

## Office LG Host

### Ng Eng Leong, Seri Kembangan Office LG

It is a privilege to be a host for our Office LG in Seri Kembangan. We meet fortnightly and praise God for an average attendance of 12 people. The topics shared cover the area of work ethics, finance, how to overcome temptation and other interesting topics that affect a working Christian who desires to follow Jesus in this corrupted and carnal world. I have been greatly blessed by these lessons. I have learned to know more about God's ways and realise



Ng Eng Leong (extreme left) with his Office LG members

that God wants to use our work to witness to many people in the market place. We must let God use us at every opportunity.

Being the host, I have learned about hospitality and how to be more approachable. I am glad that there are four to five staff from my office who attend regularly. The fact that we serve the same boss (God) creates better understanding and harmony amongst us. There is clearly an improvement in our company's performance and our bad debts have remained low. This LG helps to enhance the relationship between the staff as they help to prepare food and clean up. We have learnt to accept and forgive one another more freely. The Word of God has transformed our hearts and minds. Isaiah 55:11 says: "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

I wish to encourage everyone who is able to open his/her house or office, to do so. There is no greater joy than to see a group of people gather together to sing, worship, praise, testify, pray, evangelise and encourage one another at our own premises. It is an honour to serve as host and see the Holy Spirit bring changes to other people's lives. God specialises in using ordinary people to achieve His greater purpose. Our duty is to make ourselves available. There is great joy and fulfilment to be a part of God's plan and purpose.

**If you would like to be a LG Host,  
please call the  
Pastoral Care Department  
at 03-7728 6000  
ext 303, 307, 308.**

**We will be most delighted to hear from you.** 🙏

## Living It

# Baptism in water

By Ken Horn

**There are two ordinances, or special observances, commanded by the Scriptures—water baptism and Communion.**

All who repent and believe on Christ as Lord and Savior are to be baptized. Matthew 28:19, the commandment of Jesus for believers to be baptized, is the only formula He gave. Disciples are to be baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (N1V).

Those who are baptized must be believers. There is no instance in the Bible of anyone being baptized who was too young to have made a commitment to Jesus. Being baptized after coming to know Him fulfills the reasons for baptism—a public testimony and identification with Christ by the baptismal candidate, in obedience to Christ.

A profession of faith must be made to demonstrate that true belief accompanies the act (Romans 10:9). Water baptism declares the candidates have died with Christ and been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

Water baptism is symbolic of:

- Identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:3,4).
- Death to self, and the new resurrection life (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:5-11; Colossians 2:12).
- Washing away of sins.
- A life now immersed in Jesus (Galatians 3:27).

Baptism by immersion in water (rather than pouring or sprinkling) best portrays death and resurrection. And it is the most consistent with the Greek word for baptism, which means "dip" or "immerse."

When should you be baptized? Immediately after salvation. (See Acts 8:35-38; 10:44-48; 16:33.)

If you have not been baptized in water since receiving Christ, contact your pastor and arrange to follow Christ in this ordinance of the church.

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

Today's Pentecostal Evangel,  
26 February 2006



# Tekanan dan Kejayaan

Oleh Pendita Senior Prince Guneratnam

*“Karena itu Aku berkata kepadamu: Janganlah kuatir akan hidupmu, akan apa yang hendak kamu makan atau minum, dan janganlah kuatir pula akan tubuhmu, akan apa yang hendak kamu pakai. Bukankah hidup itu lebih penting daripada makanan dan tubuh itu lebih penting daripada pakaian?”*

*Pandanglah burung-burung di langit, yang tidak menabur dan tidak menuai dan tidak mengumpulkan bekal dalam lumbung, namun diberi makan oleh Bapamu yang di Sorga. Bukankah kamu jauh melebihi burung-burung itu?*

*Siapakah di antara kamu yang karena kekuatirannya dapat menambahkan sehasta pada jalan hidupnya?*

*Dan mengapa kamu kuatir akan pakaian? Perhatikanlah bunga bakung di ladang, yang tumbuh tanpa bekerja dan tanpa memintal, namun Aku berkata kepadamu: Salomo dalam segala kemegahannya pun tidak berpakaian seindah salah satu dari bunga itu.*

*Jadi jika demikian TUHAN mendandani rumput di ladang, yang hari ini ada dan besok dibuang ke dalam api, tidakkah la akan terlebih lagi mendandani kamu, hai orang yang kurang percaya?*

*Sebab itu janganlah kamu kuatir dan berkata: Apakah yang akan kami makan? Apakah yang akan kami minum? Apakah yang akan kami pakai?*

*Semua itu dicari bangsa-bangsa yang tidak mengenal TUHAN. Akan tetapi Bapamu yang di Sorga tahu, bahwa kamu memerlukan semuanya itu.*

*Tetapi carilah dahulu Kerajaan TUHAN dan kebenaranNya, maka semuanya itu akan ditambahkan kepadamu.*

*Sebab itu janganlah kamu kuatir akan hari besok, karena hari besok mempunyai kesusahannya sendiri. Kesusahan sehari cukuplah untuk sehari” (Matius 6:25-34).*

**Tekanan dan kekhawatiran selalunya menemani kejayaan. Dengan perkembangan dan kejayaan, bandar-bandar kita telah menjadi seperti hutan konkrit. Kita tersangkut dalam kesesakan trafik yang boleh menyebabkan Ayub hilang kesabarannya! Rumah-rumah kita telah dijadikan seperti tempat kurungan agar orang lain tidak dapat mencerobohnya. Kita dikuasai oleh kecemasan, kekhawatiran dan ketegangan. Tekanan menguasai kehidupan kita. Dalam teks di atas, Yesus berkata kepada kita, “Janganlah khuatir” (Matius 6:25) dan “Janganlah mula khuatir!” (Ayat 34).**

Kekhawatiran selalunya datang pada masa kesusahan. Ia memusnahkan keupayaan dan kebolehan kamu. Ia adalah penyakit yang menyebabkan masalah jantung. Kekhawatiran bermakna kita miliki iman terhadap dosa. Ia boleh menguasai dan memusnahkan kamu kerana kamu lupa yang kamu telah diselamatkan dan dibebaskan daripada dosa. Kekhawatiran meyakinkan kamu yang bencana akan mengatasi kamu. Ia percaya dalam kegagalan dan keputusan.

Kekhawatiran datang apabila kamu membandingkan diri kamu dengan orang lain. Terimalah kenyataan bahawa terdapat orang lain yang lebih pintar, lebih cantik atau muda daripada kamu. Tiada siapa yang boleh menjadi kamu dan kamu tidak boleh menjadi orang lain. Kamu telah dicipta dalam keadaan menakjubkan oleh Tuhan. Alkitab berkata, “Memang kita tidak berani menggolongkan diri kepada atau membandingkan diri dengan orang-orang tertentu yang memujikan diri sendiri. Mereka mengukur dirinya dengan ukuran mereka sendiri dan membandingkan dirinya dengan diri mereka sendiri. Alangkah bodohnya mereka!” (2 Korintus 10:12).

Bersyukurlah dan hargailah Tuhan yang menciptakan kamu. Mintalah Tuhan supaya menunjukkan kamu siapa yang kamu boleh jadi dan apa yang kamu boleh lakukan untuk kemuliaanNya.

Terdapat perkara-perkara yang tertentu yang kamu boleh ubah dan yang lain kamu tidak boleh ubah. Misalnya, kamu tidak menghentikan proses usia. Ubahlah perkara-perkara yang kamu boleh ubah dan hentikan kekhawatiran mengenai perkara-perkara yang kamu tidak boleh ubah. Kekhawatiran tidak akan membantu kamu. Yesus mengajar, “**Siapakah di antara kamu yang kerana kekhawatirannya dapat menambahkan sehasta saja pada jalan hidupnya?**” (Matius 6:27). Daripada teks itu, Yesus menegaskan tiga perkara yang kamu tidak perlu khuatir: makanan, fesyen dan masa depan.

**Makanan:** Yesus berkata, “**Kerana itu Aku berkata kepadamu: Janganlah khuatir akan hidupmu, akan apa yang hendak kamu makan atau minum, dan janganlah khuatir pula akan tubuhmu, akan apa yang hendak kamu pakai. Bukankah hidup itu lebih penting daripada makanan dan tubuh itu lebih penting daripada pakaian?**” (Matius 6:25). Alkitab menunjukkan bahawa Tuhan adalah Pembekal. Bila Dia mencipta Adam dan Hawa, Dia mencipta sebuah taman untuk membekalkan makanan untuk dinikmati. Apabila Musa memimpin umat Israel keluar daripada Mesir, mereka mengambil masa selama empat puluh tahun untuk sampai ke tanah yang dijanjikan Tuhan. Apabila

mereka melalui belantara, mereka tidak merungut tentang ketiadaan makanan. Tidak ada orang yang mati kebuluran. Namun mereka merungut tentang manna yang berlebihan dan mereka inginkan daging. Maka Tuhan pun memberikan daging. Tuhan adalah Pembekal makanan! Ia memberi makan kepada lima ribu orang dengan lima ketul roti dan dua ekor ikan. Umat Kristen yang tahu, patuh dan percaya kepada Tuhan tidak perlu khuatir kerana mereka tahu Dia adalah Pemberi dan Pembekal. Bapa kamu tahu keperluan kamu. Namun ada lagi yang masih kekhawatiran.

Ada yang khuatirkan “musuh-musuh” yang bakal muncul kerana mereka memilih gaya hidup yang betul dan disebabkan oleh iman mereka. Tetapi digalakkan. Alkitab berkata, “**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).**

Ada yang khuatirkan kesihatan mereka. Mereka menanggukuhkan pemeriksaan kesihatan kerana takut mengetahui bahawa mereka akan mendapati penyakit yang teruk. Tabahkanlah hati. Alkitab berkata bahawa Tuhan adalah Penyembuh kamu (Keluaran 15:26).

Ada yang khuatirkan kehidupan. Tetapi kamu boleh mempunyai

kehidupan yang memuaskan dan berkelimpahan. Yesus berkata, **“Pencuri datang hanya untuk mencuri, membunuh dan membinasakan; Aku datang, supaya mereka mempunyai hidup, dan mempunyainya dalam segala kelimpahan”** (Yohanes 10:10).

Ada yang khuatirkan maut. Yesus berkata, **“Aku adalah Alfa dan Omega, Yang Awal dan Yang Akhir...dan Yang Hidup, Aku telah mati, namun lihatlah, Aku hidup sampai selama-lamanya dan Aku memegang segala kunci maut dan kerajaan maut”** (Wahyu 1:8, 18). Kamu tidak perlu takutkan pada maut kerana Dia memegang segala kunci maut. Paulus berkata, **“Hai maut di manakah kemenanganmu? Hai maut, di manakah sengatmu? Sengat maut ialah dosa dan kuasa dosa ialah hukum Taurat. Tetapi syukur kepada Tuhan yang telah memberikan kepada kita kemenangan oleh Yesus Kristus, Tuhan kita. Kerana itu, saudara-saudaraku yang kekasih, berdirilah teguh, jangan goyah, dan giatlah selalu dalam pekerjaan Tuhan! Sebab kamu tahu, bahawa dalam persekutuan dengan Tuhan jerit payahmu tidak sia-sia”** (1 Korintus 15:55-58). Yesus tidak pernah gagal! Dia adalah Tuhan yang setia. Dialah sumber semua kejayaan dan kehidupan.

**Fesyen:** Kata Yesus **“Dan mengapa kamu kuatir akan pakaian? Perhatikanlah bunga bakung di ladang, yang tumbuh tanpa bekerja dan tanpa memintal, namun Aku berkata kepadamu: Salomo dalam segala kemegahannya pun tidak berpakaian seindah salah satu dari bunga itu. Jadi jika demikian TUHAN mendandani rumput di ladang, yang hari ini ada dan besok dibuang ke dalam api, tidakkah ia akan terlebih lagi mendandani kamu, hai orang yang kurang percaya?”** (Matius 6:28-30)

Begitu mengherankan bagaimana dunia memberi begitu banyak perhatian kepada rupa badan. Terdapat, “pusat-pusat kecantikan” untuk membaikpulih, mendandan, membentuk dan mengurus badan dan juga untuk mewarnakan rambut kamu! Tidak kira bagaimana kamu cuba melawan sifat semulajadi tubuh badan kamu, kamu pasti tidak akan menang! Badan kamu dicipta dari debu tanah dan ia akan kembali ke tanah pada satu hari nanti. Alkitab berkata, **“Lalu TUHAN membentuk tubuh manusia dari debu tanah dan menghembuskan nafas hidup ke dalam hidungnya. Maka manusia itupunhiduplah”** (Kejadian 2:7). Tidak kira sama ada kamu memakai pakaian yang cantik ataupun menjaga badan kamu, ia akan kembali ke tempat asalnya. Yesus tidak mengajar kamu untuk berpakaian

selekeh atau kotor. Ia hanya mengatakan bahawa kamu tidak patut bimbang tentang perkara-perkara tersebut. Bapa kamu tahu keperluan kamu. Dialah yang mendandani bunga bakung. Dialah yang mencipta pelbagai jenis bunga yang cantik dan memberi mereka warna yang cantik.

Bila tumpuan hidup kamu adalah terhadap penjagaan tubuh badan kamu serta rupa luaran, kamu telah hilang tujuan kamu dicipta. Tuhan telah mencipta kamu untuk tujuan yang lebih besar. Rasul Petrus berkata, **“Perhiasanmu janganlah secara lahiriah, yaitu dengan mengepang-ngepang rambut, memakai perhiasan emas atau dengan mengenakan pakaian yang indah-indah, tetapi perhiasanmu ialah manusia batiniah yang tersembunyi dengan perhiasan yang tidak binasa yang berasal dari roh yang lemah lembut dan tenteram, yang sangat berharga di mata TUHAN”** (1 Petrus 3:3-4).

**Masa depan:** Yesus berkata, **“Sebab itu janganlah kamu kuatir akan hari besok, karena hari besok mempunyai kesusahannya sendiri. Kesusahan sehari cukuplah untuk sehari”** (Matius 6:34). Kenapa? Sebab kamu mempunyai Bapa yang tahu keperluan kamu. Yesus berkata, **“Pandanglah burung-burung di langit, yang tidak menabur dan tidak menuai dan tidak mengumpulkan bekal dalam lumbung, namun diberi makan oleh Bapamu yang di Sorga. Bukankah kamu jauh melebihi burung-burung itu?...Dan mengapa kamu kuatir akan pakaian? Perhatikanlah bunga bakung di ladang, yang tumbuh tanpa bekerja dan tanpa memintal...Jadi jika demikian TUHAN mendandani rumput di ladang, yang hari ini ada dan besok dibuang ke dalam api, tidakkah ia akan terlebih lagi mendandani kamu, hai orang yang kurang percaya?”** (Matius 6:26, 28, 30) Bukankah kamu lebih bernilai daripada burung-burung, bunga bakung dan rumput? Oleh kerana itu, percaya dan sandarkan iman kamu pada TUHAN Bapa kamu.

Jangan bimbang tentang apa yang kamu akan makan, minum atau

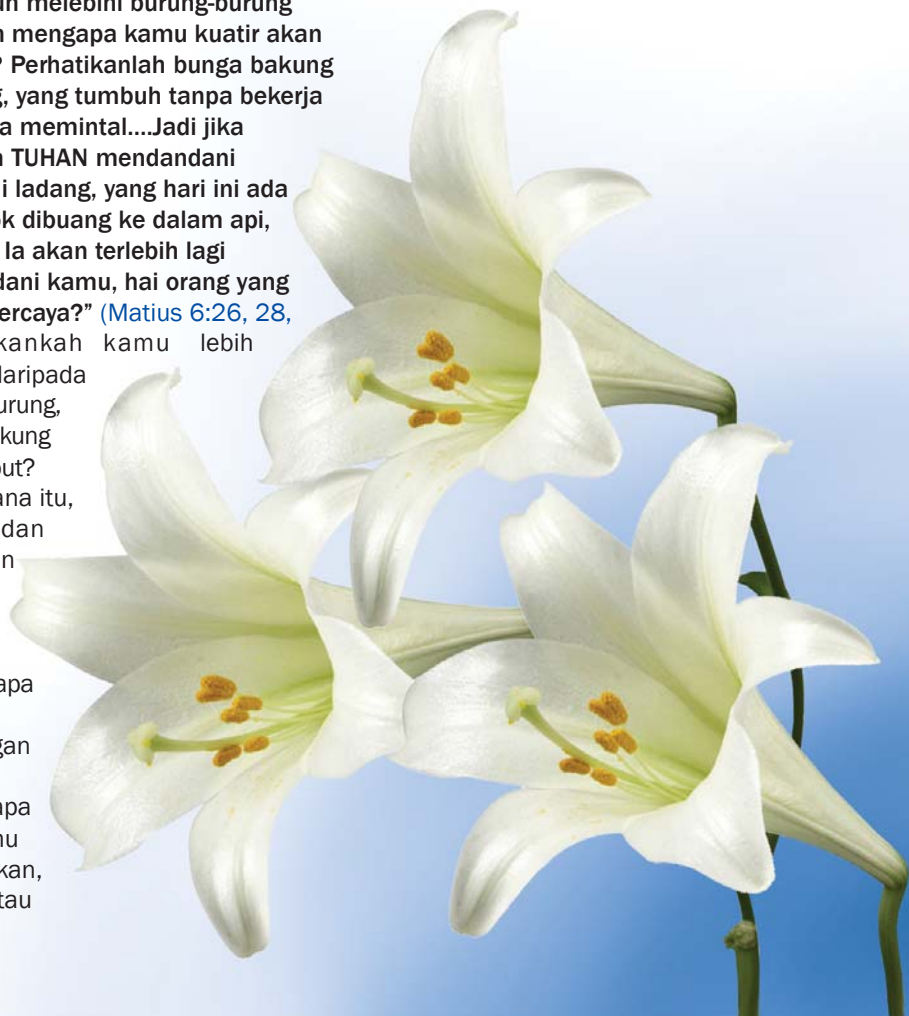
pakai atau masa depan kamu. Bapa kamu di Syurga, tahu kesemua kehendak mu. Tetapi carilah dahulu Kerajaan TUHAN dan kebenarannya, maka semuanya itu akan ditambahkan kepadamu (Matius 6:33). Hiduplah dengan benar, dan menyenangkan TUHAN dan carilah dahulu KerajaanNya. Orang yang benar akan berkuasa. Yesus telah menyucikan and mengampuni kamu. Dosa tiada kuasa lagi atas hidup kamu. Kasih karunia dicurahkan kepada kamu dan memimpin kamu ke tempat yang benar.

Paulus berkata, **“Sebab, jika oleh dosa satu orang, maut telah berkuasa oleh satu orang itu, maka lebih benar lagi mereka, yang telah menerima kelimpahan kasih karunia dan anugerah kebenaran, akan hidup dan berkuasa oleh karena satu orang itu, yaitu Yesus Kristus”** (Roma 5:17).

Jika anda mahukan kejayaan tanpa tekanan, ikutlah ajaran Yesus.

Jangan bimbang. Kamu lebih bernilai daripada yang lain yang telah dicipta. Sandarkan iman kamu pada Tuhan! Hiduplah dengan benar, carilah dahulu Kerajaan Tuhan dan sandarkan iman kamu pada Tuhan untuk segala keperluan kamu—Makanan, Fesyen and Masa Depan! 🙏

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





## Good Friday Services



The Sanctuary Choir (left) presenting "Your Grace Still Amazes Me" and the Youth Ensemble 1 (below) presenting "He Opened Wide the Gates of Life" at Damansara Heights



# Why did Jesus have to die?

By Audrey Kum

For the first time in the history of Calvary Church, Good Friday Services were held simultaneously at all our Church locations. On 6 April 2007, at 8pm, the congregations, together with the children who had their own programmes, met at Damansara Heights, Damansara Perdana, Cheras and Ampang, to remember Jesus' death on the cross.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, at Damansara Heights, mentioned that all the speakers would be sharing the same message entitled, "Why did Jesus have to die?" While each speaker may have elaborated on different aspects, all gave three main reasons.


Firstly, the righteousness of God demands that sin must be punished. Jesus who was sinless, was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. If He did not die, then each of us must pay the penalty as the Bibles says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Secondly, when man committed sin, man came under the curse of sin resulting in sickness, poverty, bondage of immoral lifestyles, etc. The Bible in Galatians 3:13 tells us that Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us by dying on the cross. Jesus had to die in order to set us free from the curse of sin.

Finally, Jesus had to die

to remove the sting of death and to give us the victory over death that separates man from God (1 Corinthians 15:55-58).

The altars were full at the end of the Services as the Pastors invited us to respond in gratitude to God's amazing love. As the people acknowledged the work of Jesus on the cross, they were set free from the

bondage of sin and looked forward to living the victorious life that Jesus gives to those who accept Him as Saviour and Lord. 

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



The Worship Nursery as well as the sanctuary was full



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam giving the altar call after preaching at Damansara Heights

## The kids learn that Jesus died but is now

At Damansara Heights







The Adult Ensemble and the Youth Ensemble 2 presenting the same songs at Damansara Perdana

The Worship Team Ensemble (above) and the Youth Ensemble 3 (left) presenting the same songs at Ampang and Cheras respectively



Associate Pastor Peter Ong giving the altar call after preaching at Cheras



Associate Pastor Richard Yun giving the altar call after preaching at Ampang



Associate Pastor Steven Kum giving the altar call after preaching at Damansara Perdana



alive!

At Cheras



At Damansara Perdana



At Ampang





# Jesus lives!

By Audrey Kum

*"Arise, My Love! Arise, My Love! The grave no longer has a hold on You. No more death's sting, And no more suffering, Arise, arise!" Jesus lives!*



Praise the Lord that after Good Friday, there is Easter Sunday! Jesus died but rose again on the third day. The Calvary Church family once again gathered at the National Hockey Stadium at Bukit Jalil to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

On 8 April 2007, as early as 5am, the Stadium was already abuzz with the sounds of busy Calvarites getting ready for the Service. Counters had to be set up to prepare for the breakfast that would be served after the Service. Children and adults came early to prepare for their music, drama and dance presentations.

At 6.30am, the Service began with the strains of "Arise My Love" filling the

Stadium. As the Easter Choir sang, the Creative Arts Team (Drama), enacted through mime, the scene where the women found Jesus alive at the "tomb", ending with the disciples joining them as they worshipped the risen Lord, surrounded by joyous "angels" celebrating in a dance.

They were then joined by the children as they called us to worship with "Let All

Heaven Rejoice", which was sung and danced to live music accompaniment. The sky was still dark as the congregation sang praises to our Lord.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam thanked the people for making the effort to attend the early morning Service. He also appreciated all those involved in the preparation and the many weeks of practices for the event. He said that God wants to empower His people to live successful lives and this can only happen through faith which comes from the hearing of the Word of God. He then proceeded to share his Easter message where he spoke on the significance of the resurrection.

The resurrection showed God's

approval of His Son's sacrifice. It also speaks of Christ's victory over sin, hell and the grave. It confirms that sin no longer has power to reign over us because Jesus has set us free. No one can condemn us and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:33-35). We are forgiven and more than conquerors through Christ! Finally, the resurrection gives hope to all who die in the Lord and those who live at His coming. There was a time of worship and believing God for His victory in our lives and to be filled with His Hope.

With joy and gratitude in our hearts, we adjourned for breakfast and enjoyed fellowship with friends from the various Satellite Church locations. 🙏



"Let All Heaven Rejoice"



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam





## Royal Rangers 25th Anniversary Kinabalu Expedition

By Lam Kah Leong

The Royal Rangers organised an expedition from 20 to 23 February 2007, to climb to the summit of Mount Kinabalu, in conjunction with our Royal Rangers 25th Anniversary celebrations. Seventy-five Royal Rangers, family members and Calvarites (aged nine to 62!) including our Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, our Chaplain, Associate Pastor Steven Kum and Associate Pastor Richard Yun participated in the expedition.



The team at Kota Kinabalu airport



On 20 February, the participants woke up very early to catch the flight to Kota Kinabalu. As they gathered at the airport before boarding the plane, you could feel the excitement, the fear

and the anxiety of most of the participants because this was the first time many were trying to conquer the highest mountain in South East Asia.

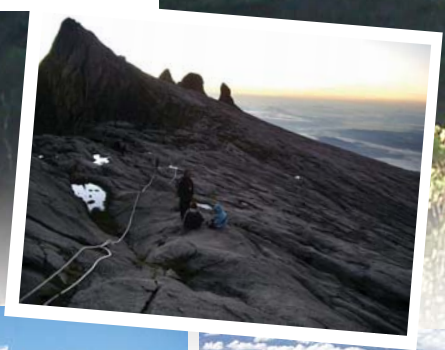
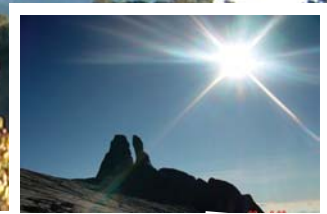
When we reached Kota Kinabalu, we had lunch before travelling by bus to the Kinabalu Park Headquarters (HQ). After a two-hour journey to the Park HQ, the participants were assigned their rooms and they had the whole day to themselves to enjoy the coolness of the air and to see the view of the summit that they were going to conquer. Associate Pastor Richard Yun shared a devotion to inspire and encourage the participants for the climb ahead after our buffet dinner. There was a final briefing from the Park guides and the team leaders followed by prayer by Senior Pastor







Associate Pastor Richard Yun,  
Senior Commander Jim Guneratnam and  
Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam at the summit



Laban Rata

before we returned to our rooms. Senior Associate Pastor Petrina



At the HQ, we took a bus back to Kota Kinabalu to spend the night. We had a very delicious seafood dinner. Certificates were given



Guneratnam was also there to support us on our expedition.

The next morning, all the participants got ready their things for the hike and at 8am, they were at the Timpohan Gate, ready to start the journey up to Laban Rata where they would rest for the night before the hike up to the summit. It took some of the participants only four hours to reach Laban Rata and eventually everybody made it safely.

At 2am, the next morning, everybody was up and those who were

climbing to the summit were ready. Some found the journey up very physically demanding because of the lack of sleep and the steep gradient of the slope. Some turned back because of the strain and altitude sickness but 48 members made it to the top of the mountain to watch the sunrise. The scenery was breathtaking and those with cameras took plenty of pictures.

Senior Pastor made it to the top and everyone wanted to be photographed with him at the summit. We were all glowing with joy and gratitude to God that He had helped us to reach the top. After taking pictures and absorbing the amazing creation of our Lord, we headed back down to the Park HQ.

out to all the participants who climbed the mountain. After that, the group had a short time of testimonies to share their experiences and how God had blessed them tremendously. We had a very enjoyable night with the fellowship among friends.

The next morning, we went for a little shopping spree to buy souvenirs and then headed back to the airport for the flight back to Kuala Lumpur. All glory and honour to God! 🙏





## Royal Rangers

# Overwhelming response to Toys Sale!

By Jim Guneratnam

*"How about this one, mummy?"*



The Men's Life Groups chipped in to buy toys to bless the children at the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital Paediatric Ward



In conjunction with our 25th Anniversary, the Royal Rangers planned a Toys Roundup and Sale to provide an opportunity for our children to participate in contributing towards the building of the Calvary Convention Centre (CCC).

In December 2006, we encouraged our Rangers and the CW children to contribute at least one of the toys they received as Christmas presents towards the Toy Roundup. With a goal of 1,000 toys, counters were open after Christmas to collect the new toys.

We thank God for all the children who contributed their toys. In addition, we also received 52 cartons of Mattel toys. Praise God we were able to reach our goal with over 1,000 toys. A Toys Sale was organised on Saturday and Sunday, 3 and 4 March 2007. The week before the sale, the Rangers went out to distribute leaflets in Damansara, Bangsar and Sri Hartamas to announce the sale that was opened to the public on Saturday.

God answered our prayers and rewarded our efforts as we saw many

## And the gift goes on...

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam challenged the congregation to support the Toys Sale by buying toys for the needy, especially those who lost everything during the recent flood. Reminding us of our Missions efforts in adopting the village of Yap Tau Sah in Kluang, Johor, she encouraged us to buy the toys so that we can give them to the children of this village on our follow-up visit. A counter was set up during the Toys Sale to receive these toys.



All that was left for sale on Sunday!

come out for the sale on Saturday. It was also an opportunity to promote our Ministry, especially to the many non-churched people who came out that day. With wonderful weather and a good turn out, we were able to reach our goal of RM10,000 by the time the sale ended on Sunday. God is truly faithful and blesses us more than we can expect or imagine.

That Sunday, we received a note from Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam that an additional RM10,000 was contributed to the Toys Sale because of the encouragement and challenge she gave to the congregation the Sunday before the sale (Please see below).

All the proceeds from the sale will go towards the Royal Rangers 25th Anniversary Fund. This total fund,



Young salesman

accumulated from the various events planned in conjunction with our 25th Anniversary, will be presented to the CCC Building Fund at our 25th Anniversary dinner in August.

Look out for the many more exciting events we have planned this year. For more information, visit us at [www.calvary.org.my/rr](http://www.calvary.org.my/rr).

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam receiving little William Lim's gift of love to the poor





## Water Baptism

# Twelve baptised in water!

Praise the Lord for the 12 individuals who followed the Lord in water baptism on 11 February 2007! By their obedience, they declared their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, Lord and Master. 🙏



Front Row (From left): Raymond Ow, Joel Ow, Karen Karn, Chin Wen-Ly, Melissa Liz Samuel, Salby Ng, Paul Amritpal Singh  
Back (From left): Tally Low, Vernon Lai, Chin Irwin, Chin Kir-Ly, Helen Sim

## Carpenter's Workshop (CW)

# Carpenter's Workshop Children commissioned

By Quek Lee Siu

On Sunday morning, 4 March 2007, at the 10.30am Worship Service at Damansara Heights, 70 boys and girls, having been recommended by Associate Pastor Christopher Lee, the Children's Ministry Pastor, and their teachers, were commissioned to join the adult Worship Services of the Church.

Senior Pastor prince Guneratnam praying for the children



Brenda Wong giving her testimony



The congregation praying for the children

The children providing the musical accompaniment

Brenda Wong, representing the CW graduates, shared a testimony on how the CW had blessed her in her walk with God. The children then pledged their commitment to the Lord by joining the adults in their Worship Services. They also pledged to participate in worship, prayer, communion, giving and

evangelism. The adult congregation responded by welcoming them as part of the adult congregation and prayed and believed God with them in all their commitments. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam prayed a powerful prayer of blessing for them as they moved on to a new level of faith in their lives.


The children presented their graduation song, "From the Inside Out".



Two months before, they began practising and rehearsing the song that they chose because it speaks of their hearts' desire to allow God to consume them from the inside out as they move on from the Children's Church to the adult Worship Services.

We thank God for all the Children's Ministry workers who have impacted the lives of our children in so many different ways. 🙏

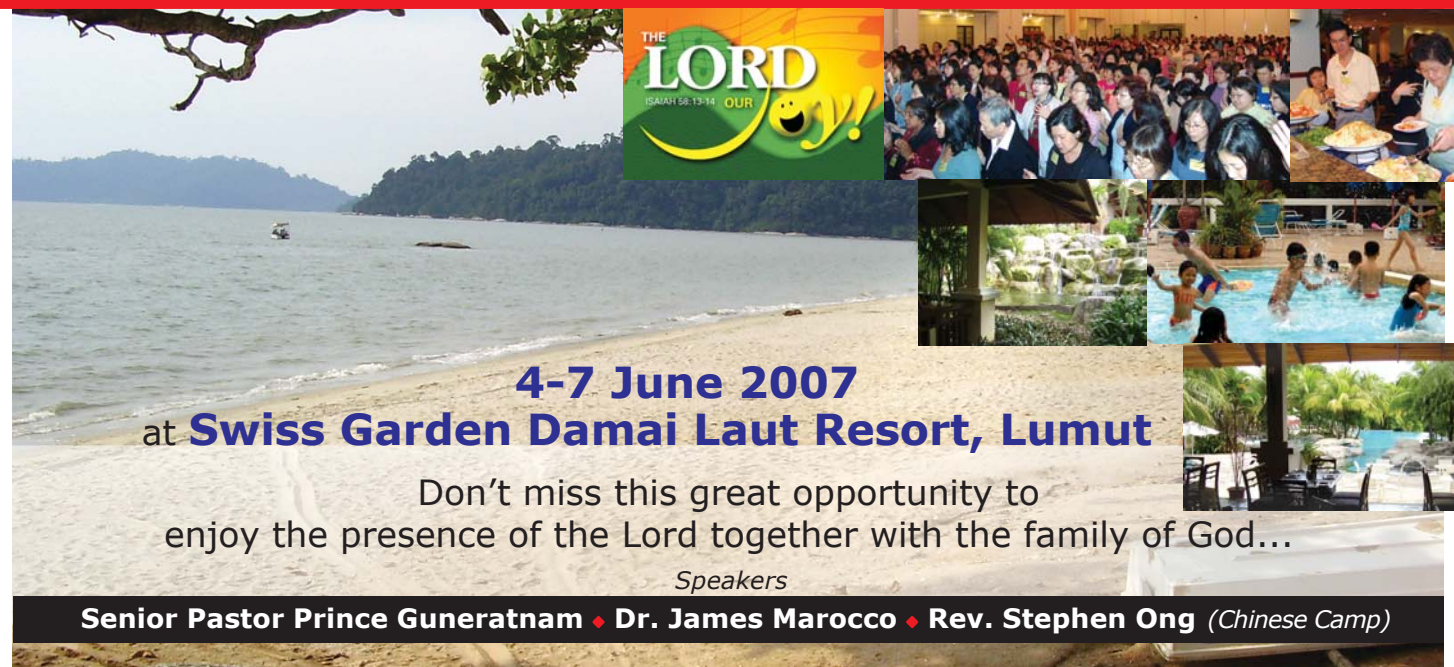



# Sunday Services

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>
<b>6</b> Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Steven Kum
<b>13</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> Pam Lee	Pam Lee	Pam Lee	Pam Lee
 <b>20</b> Rev. Dr. Robert Lim	Rev. Dr. Robert Lim	Rev. Dr. Robert Lim	Rev. Dr. Robert Lim
<b>27</b> Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Assistant Pastor David Seah	Assistant Pastor David Seah
<b>MAY</b>			

 <b>3</b> <i>Communion</i> Dr. James Marocco	<i>Communion</i> Dr. James Marocco	<i>Communion</i> Dr. James Marocco	<i>Communion</i> Dr. James Marocco
 <b>10</b> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Peter Ong/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Associate Pastor Richard Yun
<b>17</b> <i>Father's Day</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
<b>24</b> Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	<i>Water Baptism</i> Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
<b>JUNE</b>			

It's time to sign up for the **Calvary Family Camp!**





**4-7 June 2007**  
at **Swiss Garden Damai Laut Resort, Lumut**

Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy the presence of the Lord together with the family of God...

*Speakers*  
**Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam ♦ Dr. James Marocco ♦ Rev. Stephen Ong (Chinese Camp)**

# May

## Chinese Fellowship

**27** Combined with Family Camp

## Christ's Ambassadors Saturday 2.30pm

**Theme: What's that inside you?**

- 5** Junk
- 12** Religiosity
- 19** Suffering
- 26** Youth Celebration

## College Students' Ministry Saturday 2.30pm

**Theme: The Believer at War**

- 5** The Enemy Profiled (1 Peter 5:8)
- 12** The Battlefield Identified (Romans 12:2)
- 19** The Enemy's Strategies (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- 26** Youth Celebration

## Bahasa Malaysia Fellowship Sunday 12.30pm

**27** Speaker: Assistant Pastor David Seah  
Venue: Bethel Hall

## WATER BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

### Water Baptism/Membership Class

Saturday | **23 June 2007** | 2pm

### Water Baptism Service

Sunday | **24 June 2007** | 5pm

**Closing Date for submission of forms:**  
Sunday | **13 May 2007**

# June

## Chinese Fellowship Sunday 5pm

**24** Speaker: Chua Ken Tee  
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: A bombardment of sorts**

- 2** Materialism
- 9** Media
- 16** Moodiness
- 23** Youth Celebration  
-A Challenge from Senior Pastor
- 30** Mayhem

## College Students' Ministry Saturday 2.30pm

**Theme: The Believer at War**

- 2** The Battle: What is at Stake (Luke 22:31)
- 9** The Believer's Defence (Ephesians 6:11)
- 16** The Weapons of Our Warfare (2 Corinthians 10:4)
- 23** Youth Celebration  
-A Challenge from Senior Pastor
- 30** The Final Victory (2 Timothy 4:7)

## Bahasa Malaysia Fellowship Sunday 12.30pm

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

## Kids Camp 2007



[ Grab your gear, and get ready to immerse yourself in the amazing underwater world of a... ]

## Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure

*Where kids dive deeper into their faith*

Special Children's Speaker **Masako Selvaratnam**

**Non-stop fun for kids between the ages of 4 to 9.**

**Fully interactive excitement especially for pre-teens between the ages of 10 to 13.**





From front page

Worry always comes at a bad time. It destroys your abilities and capabilities. It is the disease that causes heart problems. Worry is having faith in sin. It can dominate and destroy you because you forget that you have been saved and delivered from sin. Worry assures you that disaster is going to overtake you. It believes in defeat and despair.

Worry comes when you compare yourself with others. Accept the fact there will always be people who are more intelligent, better looking or younger than you! Nobody can be you and you cannot be somebody else. You have been fearfully and wonderfully made by God. The Bible says, **“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise”** (2 Corinthians 10:12). Be thankful and appreciate God for making you who you are. Ask God to show you who you can be and what you can do for His glory.

There are certain things that you can change and others that you cannot. For example, you cannot stop the aging process! Change the things that you can and stop worrying about the things that you cannot change. Worrying is not going to help you. Jesus teaches, **“Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”** (Matthew 6:27). From the text, Jesus highlights three areas that you should not worry about: food, fashion and the future.

**Food:** Jesus says, **“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”** (Matthew 6:25) Scripture shows that God is a provider. When He created Adam and Eve, He made a garden to provide food for them to enjoy. When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, it took them forty years to arrive at the Promised Land. When they went through the wilderness, they never complained of not having food. Nobody died of starvation. Their complaint was that they had too much manna and they wanted meat. And God gave them meat. God is in the food business! He fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. Believers who know, obey and trust God need not worry because they know that He is the supplier and provider. Your Father knows your needs. Yet some still have worries.

Some worry about “enemies” they make because they choose a righteous lifestyle and because of their faith. But be encouraged. The Bible says, **“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).

Some worry about their health. They

## Stress and Success



put off going for medical check-ups for fear of finding out that they have some dreadful disease. Take courage. The Bible says that the Lord is your healer (Exodus 15:26).

Some worry about life. But you can have a satisfying and abundant life where you live life to the fullest! Jesus says, **“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).

Some worry about death. Jesus says, **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last...I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death”** (Revelation 1:11, 18). You do not need to be afraid of death because He has the keys of Hades and of death. Paul says, **“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”** The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”** (1 Corinthians 15:55-58). Jesus never fails! He is a faithful God. He is the source of all success and life.

**Fashion:** Jesus says, **“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”** (Matthew 6:28-30)

It is amazing how body conscious the world is becoming. There are “body shops” to feed, relax, shape, dress and groom your body or even colour your hair! But no matter how you try to fool “Mother Nature”, you cannot fool “Father Time”! Your body was made from this earth and it will go back to the earth. The Bible says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”** (Genesis 2:7). No

matter how well you dress or take care of your body, it is going to go back to where it came from. Jesus is not teaching you to be sloppy, careless or dirty. He is simply saying that you are not to worry about these things. Your Father knows your needs. He is the One who clothes the lilies. He created varieties of beautiful flowers and gave them attractive colours.

When you live a life that is centred on caring for and focusing on your body and its outward appearance, you have missed the reason for your being. God has called you for a higher purpose. The apostle Peter says, **“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God”** (1 Peter 3:3-4).

**Future:** Jesus says, **“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”** (Matthew 6:34). Why? Because you have a Father who knows your needs. Jesus says, **“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?...So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin....Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”** (Matthew 6:26, 28, 30) Are you not more valuable than the birds, the lilies and grass? Therefore, have faith in God your Father!

Do not worry about what you will eat, drink or wear or worry about your future. Your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33). Live a righteous life that pleases God and seek first His kingdom. It is the righteous who will reign. Christ has cleansed and forgiven you. Sin no longer dominates your life. Grace reigns and brings you to a place of righteousness. Paul says, **“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ”** (Romans 5:17).

If you want success without stress, follow the teachings of Jesus. Don’t worry. You are more valuable than anything created. Put your faith in God! Live righteously, seek first God’s kingdom and put your faith in God for all your needs—Food, Fashion of Future! 🙏

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Bible.



# “Ang Pow Service”

By Evelyn Chan

The Lunch-Hour Evangelistic Fellowship held its “Ang Pow Service” on 2 March 2007, at 1pm at Wisma Central. Invitational handbills were distributed and announcements were made and 60 people came.


In line with the Chinese New Year, we presented a Chinese Song entitled “Le Man Huai” (“Full of Gladness”). We thank God at the end of the Service, four newcomers accepted Jesus Christ into their hearts! Caroline Pitchaymuthu and Callie Ng who invited them, give thanks to God:

“ I witnessed to Wei Hong early this year about Jesus since he was frequently ill and absent from work. I believe it was God’s timing when I received the invitation for the “Ang Pow Service” at the Lunch Hour Evangelistic Fellowship. I took the opportunity to invite Wei Hong. My colleague Marianne also witnessed to Wei Hong and another colleague, Leong, and invited them to come as well. They agreed to come and joined us for the Service. They were open to the Gospel and Associate Pastor Richard Yun prayed the sinner’s prayer with them. I really thank God for His grace and mercy. I pray that God will continually open more doors for us to reach out to people around the KLCC area. ”

Caroline Pitchaymuthu

“ When I saw the announcement on the “Ang Pow Service” at the Lunch Hour Evangelistic Fellowship, I thought I would like to take this opportunity to invite some of my friends who work around KLCC area. I called one of my lunch ‘kaki’, Green, and to my amazement, she accepted my invitation. She also asked her sister, Choy Nee, and two other friends, Amy and KK, to come along as they usually meet up for lunch every Friday. It was perfect that our Fellowship was also on a Friday. After the brief worship and sharing session, I introduced them to Associate Pastor Richard Yun, the Church workers and some of the regular worshippers. Before they left, Pastor Richard took the opportunity to lead my friends, Green and KK in the sinner’s prayer. Amy, who is a Christian, is now attending our Ampang Satellite Church. I give all praises and glory to our Lord, Jesus Christ! ”

Callie Ng

If you work in the vicinity of  
Wisma Central and KLCC,  
do join us from 1pm to 2pm at the  
**Lunch-Hour Evangelistic Fellowship \***  
every **Wednesday and Friday**,  
and for the  
**Prayer Fellowship \***  
every **Thursday**. 



\* We meet at Lot 7.28 A-D, 7th Floor, Wisma Central, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 03-2166 1007



**CALVARY CHURCH** (Assemblies of God)

CHRIST-CENTRED · EVANGELICAL · MISSIONARY

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Being large has its place. Large does not necessarily mean expensive or extravagant. You need to be large to have presence and impact. We live in a physical world that goes by what you see and perceive. If you are small, the world does not look at you. People perceive you as an insignificant group. But when you are large and strong, the world will definitely sit up and take notice of your success.

Size matters in this secular world. You need to have size to make an impression. If you are small, it is more difficult to make an impact. I believe that the church should be seen and heard. The bigger and the stronger the voice, the greater will be the impact. As for trends, I don't follow trends.

Consider Mary Magdalene who broke an alabaster jar of perfume to anoint Jesus. There were those who murmured about the sheer amount of money that Mary wasted that could have been given to the poor. Jesus responded ".... you will always have the poor". The poor should not hinder us from doing what is needful.

Our congregation of close to 4,000 people is currently giving more than RM 3.6 million for missions annually. Just imagine, if we have a 5,000 or 10,000-strong congregation - how much more money we can raise and how many more churches we will be able to build or support and how much more we can give to missions.

Our increased size will bring with it the ability and capability to do greater things. Imagine its effect and impact.

Many now already remark, "Oh! You are from Calvary-Wow! That's a big

church!" And then add, "A church that is so active!" Some people make it sound so sinful to worship in a big church. The fact is that people are attracted to a successful church.

**Q: Every vision starts with a dream to achieve something. What does the Church hope to achieve with this CCC vision and how would the community in general and the Christian community in particular benefit when CCC becomes functional?**

**A:** Jesus says when you have light; do not put it under the bushel. Put it on a candlestick and place it on a high place so that everybody can see. Let it shine. To me, the Church is the lighthouse of the Lord. It should not be hidden in some obscure corner but be prominent wherever they are. Look at the others in Malaysia. The first thing they build in any development is a mosque, as this is the place where people go for their spiritual nourishment. That is how prominent a church should be. If the church is large and prominent, it offers blessings, hope and salvation to the community. You don't hide such a positive influence.

It is not by chance that we bought the land in Bukit Jalil. We did not realise the significance of the location until later when we found out that it is in an international zone. To me, it is an indication of God's hand upon us to be in a strategic location for His glory.

There are some people who think the distinct features presented in the CCC design (ie - the wings of the cherubim, the rainbow design and the fountain), are frivolous or extravagant and a waste of money. I see the distinct features as communicating significant spiritual truths.

In conceptualising the CCC, we told the architect that the building must have significance and impart a spiritual message to the masses. The architect came

up with features like the winged roof, a rainbow and a fountain. The wings of the roof speaks of cherubim in the presence of God; the rainbow that runs from one end of the building to the other speaks of God's promises and that He is a Promise Keeper, while the fountain represents a fountainhead church, a church where the gospel of Jesus flows out to reach the lost and to bless the people.

These features set us apart from the secular world and will become a talking point for people interested to find out its significance and meaning.

**Q: What do you think is God's word to the Church as we enter a new and more challenging phase of fund-raising for the CCC?**

**A:** We are all human and we go through feelings of anxiety, stress and fear when we are faced with challenges which seem humanly impossible such as the CCC project. That's why God has given us his Word - The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalms 119:105).

This year, the theme for our Church is found in Isaiah 58:13-14. "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

When we delight in the Lord and honour His Sabbath, we will find joy in the Lord, ride on the heights of the Lord, and will feast on our inheritance. In other words, as we obey the Lord and draw strength and joy from our relationship with Him, we can certainly expect to enjoy His abundant provision in every way. 🙏



Praise God that the ground has been broken! Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam (with tie) with our architects and contractor at the CCC site



## Calvary Convention Centre (CCC)

# From Senior Pastor's heart

**It has been three years since Calvary Church launched the Calvary Convention Centre (CCC) Building Fund to raise RM100 million for the building of the six-storey high Institute and Convention Centre. The Church started with a "Mustard Seed Faith Pledge", the first of many fund-raising projects designed to raise RM35 million, the minimum amount which the Church had set as a target to raise before it would commence physical construction of the CCC. Today, we thank the Lord that the Church has a total sum of RM37.5 million, surpassing its target for construction works to commence at the Bukit Jalil site. This marks a major transition for the development of CCC—from concept design on paper to actual physical construction work. It has taken three long years of praying, planning and hard work to reach this stage.**

Through it all, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam has been deeply involved in the conceptualisation and planning of the CCC. As spiritual leader of the Church, he bears an awesome responsibility in ensuring that this vision is fully understood and embraced by the Church. He also has to ensure that its development is carried out with the proper planning and financing, a task that is both heavy and highly demanding.

Calvary News felt it was an opportune time to ask Senior Pastor to refresh us on our vision, his thoughts on CCC, and God's word to the Church as the project enters a new and even more challenging phase of development that will result in its physical completion within the next 30 months. Philemon Soon, who is also Chairperson of the CCC Communications and Publicity Committee, in his interview with Senior Pastor, gives us glimpse of what is in Senior Pastor's heart.

**Q: It must have been a long and difficult journey in the past three years, just to plan, design the architectural master plan, secure the necessary approvals and raise the required one-third amount necessary to begin construction of the CCC. How do you feel now that these have been achieved and what are some lessons learnt along the way?**

**A:** Anything that is of value and of significance does not happen overnight. The time taken to plan for CCC and the struggles and obstacles we have faced only go to show the significance of the project. The process of waiting is not necessarily negative. It has allowed us to reflect and be grateful for the grace of God and also to grow in patience and understanding.

Although the CCC project started in earnest in 2003, the quest to build a 5,000 seating church started as early as the mid-80s. In reality, it has been a 20 year journey to where we are today. Therefore, the three years to get the CCC project off the ground is not a long time.

I have never questioned why it did not happen much earlier. In fact, the longer it took, the more determined I became to take up the challenge of building the CCC. Faith and obedience must go together. Just saying I believe is not sufficient. In waiting, I felt that I was obeying the Lord so the delays did not discourage me. James says, "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works. Can faith save him?" (James 2:14). "Works of faith" means obeying and doing His Will.

**Q: Were there any doubts or fears that the Church would be unable to secure the necessary approvals or raise this "one-third of construction cost" target before construction can begin?**

**A:** Personally, I had no fears. However, as I began to share the vision of CCC with the Church, some expressed their concerns about the project. Their feedback made me a little fearful. On my own, I had no doubts and felt no fear.

**Q: What was some of the feedback you received?**

**A:** When we were deciding as to when to begin ground breaking, I said: "Let's target for one-third of the total amount (of RM100 million), and believe God to provide before we start to break ground". At that point in time in 2005, we had little more than six million ringgit in our Building Fund. The one-third target meant that we had to raise at least RM 29 million before we

could proceed with actual construction. You could have heard a pin drop in the silence. It was some time before anyone said anything. We broke ground in February 2007.

We must always have hope in anything we do. My hope comes from

*Continued overleaf*



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



my faith in God. Hebrews 11:2, 3 says, "Faith is the substance for things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it, the elders obtained a good testimony." I never felt it cannot be done. My faith in God gave me hope. I have never felt hopeless - not toward the CCC.

**Q: There remains, of course, the two-thirds of construction cost that the Church needs to raise. Are you confident that this will be achieved? How are the funds to be raised and what is the time frame you expect the balance of funds to be raised?**

**A:** Yes, I am confident. I would not have embarked on the project if there were any fears or doubts that it would not be achieved. I believe God has given wisdom and understanding to the Deacons and the Church leaders who are working together with me in planning and executing the various decisions made. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:11, "I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths". Wisdom from God will help us build the CCC.

We have also been greatly blessed through the sacrifice of the people. The people have been wonderful in giving generously to the CCC Building Fund. I do not believe their sacrifices will make them poorer. Rather, I strongly believe God will bless and prosper all who gave generously and joyfully to the CCC as it is "more blessed to give than to receive".

That is why I always encourage and appreciate the people in my sermons. God can use anyone and everyone. In Isaiah 45:2-3, God says: "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron.

I will give you treasures of darkness and

hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel."

Crooked places, gates of bronze and bars of iron speak of challenges that can defeat you or enable you to experience God's power and victory.

I am very comforted knowing that God goes before me because it means He already knows where the crooked paths, the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places are. God says He will straighten the crooked places, break the gates of bronze and bars of iron and He will give us the treasures of darkness.

The "treasures of darkness" do not refer to sin or wickedness but rather treasures that have yet to be retrieved as they are still hidden (in the dark).

I believe the term "hidden riches of secret places" refers to many individuals—people whom we do not know yet—who will be used by God to bless the CCC. Hence, do not be surprised when "strangers" will drop by suddenly to deliver a financial gift to the CCC.

Why is God doing this? One purpose is that we may know Him better. Through the establishing of the CCC, we will see God as we have never seen before—His power, His glory and His revelations.

The building of the CCC is therefore not just the raising of a physical structure it is a spiritual journey for

many of us to get to know God better. Through this, we will become stronger in our faith and will be able to trust God for all our needs and individual challenges. We should seize this opportunity to know Him as this will strengthen us and make us bolder and stronger in our faith.



**Q: You have often remarked that this is a "once in a lifetime opportunity" for Calvarites to be involved in a building project of this size and to be greatly blessed by God. Can you elaborate further on this statement?**

**A:** Very few churches (evangelical) are being built or have been built in the last ten years. The last time we built a church (the present Calvary Church in Damansara Heights, Kuala Lumpur) was in the mid 60's. The probability of us building another church, apart from CCC, is remote. This is a great opportunity for us all to do something for God. I am seizing my opportunity and taking advantage of the privilege that God is giving me to do something for Him.

**Q: Apart from the "normal" involvement of giving sacrificially, praying and participating in CCC fund-raising projects, what are the other areas where Calvarites or non-Calvarites can be involved?**

**A:** There are many ways and means where we can involve others, particularly our friends and neighbours. For example, the Calvary Carnival '06 provided an opportunity for the public to be involved and to be introduced to the Church and our activities.

The Malaysian Government has also granted tax relief on all donations to the CCC up to 2008. This is another means by which God has made it possible for others to be involved in CCC, and in the process, get to know the Church and Him better. Calvarites should encourage their business associates and friends to take advantage of this tax-relief.

Proverbs 13:22 says "The wealth of the ungodly is stored up for the righteous ..." I believe non-believers who do not know God will be moved to give to the CCC. In Exodus, the children of Israel took along much gold, silver and other things of value when they went out of Egypt. The Egyptians who were their masters gave it to them. The Bible tells us that when the Israelites left Egypt, the favour of God was upon them. The gold and silver given to them by the Egyptians was later used to build the tabernacle.

I also envision God moving the hearts of private corporations and people outside our Church to respond positively to CCC Building Fund. For instance, one of our contractors gave a RM 75, 000 donation to the CCC. This may be one of "treasures in darkness and secret places" that the Bible speaks of.

We do not know exactly all the ways God will provide for us, but we can believe and stand on His promises to do so. All we have to do is to obey and walk according to His will. God uses unexpected sources! Those you most expected to give may not be the ones giving. Instead, it is those whom you least expect - they are they ones who will give.

I feel very blessed that the fund-raising is not left in the hands of the Church Deacons and leaders or myself. I am so glad to see that the fund-raising challenge is taken up by our lay leaders and ordinary worshippers in the Church. It is so gratifying and encouraging to know that God is raising ordinary people to take up the challenge.

It is also interesting to note that whenever God wanted His people to give, He looked for those who had needs, for example, the widow in Zarephath, and the boy with five loaves and two fishes. Why? I can see three reasons. Firstly, it is to bless them in their need; secondly, it is to confound the wise: "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty, and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are" (1 Corinthians 1:27-28) and thirdly, to ensure that "that no flesh will

glory in His presence" (1 Corinthians 1:29).

**Q: What is the rationale for building such a big convention centre when the amount to be raised for its construction (RM100 million) can be used to build ten smaller churches. Also, there appears to be a trend worldwide to build smaller churches to reach a greater number of people. Calvary Church seems to be doing the opposite. Why?**

**A:** If you have five worshippers, and you build a space for 100—to me it can be said that you are not being realistic. But when you have a congregation close to 4,000, it is not unrealistic to plan for an auditorium that can seat 5,000 people. We could have built a 10,000 seat auditorium to cater for its future growth, but that would cost us a lot more money. Instead, we save money by planning to offer two services to accommodate 10,000 people. Currently, the Church conducts six services in four locations every Sunday. But the important thing is that each church should respond to God's leading as to its size.

The 5,000 seat auditorium is considered small, given that God can grow the congregation exponentially. A church in India is currently being built to seat 55,000. Is that being extravagant or unrealistic?

There is no size too small or too big for God's work. With God, everything is meant to multiply and replenish. We see this in creation.

*Continued overleaf*

Model of the Calvary Convention Centre

