

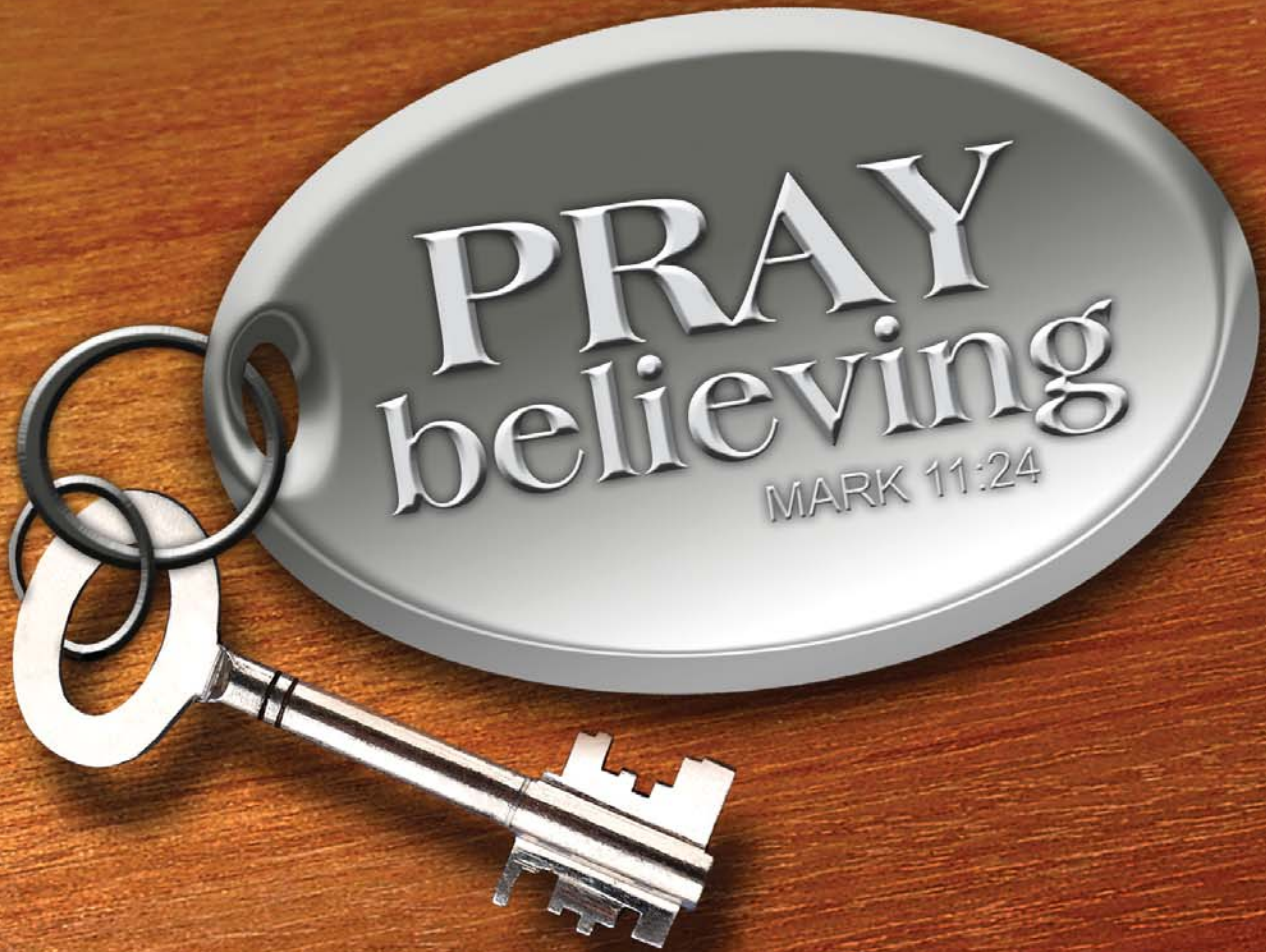
CALVARY NEWS

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Empowered to Pray

“Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; You shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, And make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; You shall rejoice in the LORD, And glory in the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 41:15-16).

Prayerlessness is not a weakness but a sin because the Bible teaches that believers ought to pray always. It does not say to pray when you have the time or are in trouble. You pray, because praying is more than bringing your needs, it includes worship and because God answers prayer.

Read the rest of Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam's article on Page 23.

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Sustaining the CCC Challenge


By Philemon Soon

Time really flies. It seems like yesterday that we were looking forward to seeing the commencement of earthworks at the Calvary Convention Centre (CCC) site at Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur. As 2008 begins, with the completion of the substructure, the CCC building project is now moving into its second phase of construction—the erection of the main building structure that will house the 5,000 seat auditorium and other convention, training and education facilities.

The vision of CCC is being realised, step by step, brick by brick and we thank and praise God for the way He has provided for all our needs.

We are thankful that Calvarites have risen to the challenge magnificently, responding generously in cash, in kind and giving of their time and talent, to ensure the success of various fund-raising projects during 2007. We had our Leap in Faith project, Share the Vision Sponsor a Brick, CCC Tee-Off 2007, the CCC Art Exhibition cum

Auction 2007 and many other projects initiated by the various Departments and Ministries of the Church, which Calvarites have overwhelmingly supported.

What is the challenge? We need to continue to share the vision, pray believing the Lord for the funds we need to complete the construction of the CCC, but more importantly, we will grow in faith and walk with the Lord. The Bible says, "With men *it is impossible*, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). 

The following have been appointed chairpersons and coordinators for the various working committees of the Calvary Convention Centre in 2008:

Chairpersons



Patrick Wong
Finance &
Administration



Han Joke Kwang
Steering &
Watch
(Technical)



Lawrence Mak
Human
Resources



**Philemon
Soon**
Communications
& Publicity



**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

Praise the Lord! At the end of November 2007, the substructure of the Calvary Convention Centre was completed!






21-Day Fast and Prayer

The Calvary Convention Centre Prayer Committee organised a **21-Day Fast and Prayer from 17 November to 7 December 2007**. Believing God has called us to something larger than our human planning, the Church united in fervent prayer and fasting to seek God earnestly for His will to be accomplished in our lives and in the Church.

We are expecting great things from the Lord as Calvarites are brought to a whole new level of discipline and consecration through participating in this 21-Day Fast and Prayer.

Look out for testimonies that will be published in the Calvary News! 

Lyndon d'Oliveiro, Chairperson of the CCC Prayer Committee, launching the 21-Day Fast and Prayer on Friday, 16 November 2007 at the Prayer Meeting.

Prayer at the CCC site



On 1 December 2007, at 7.30am, 52 Calvarites, stood at the CCC site praising God and praying that the CCC will contribute significantly to the expansion of God's kingdom.

Breaking fast together




On 7 December 2007, the Calvarites who signed up to break fast together converged at the sanctuary at Damansara Heights at 6pm for worship before adjourning to the Prayer Tower foyer to fellowship over food. Senior Pastor concluded the 21-Day Fast and Prayer by praying for the Church at the Prayer Meeting held after the fellowship.

Water Baptism

Nineteen baptised in water!

Praise the Lord for the 19 individuals who followed the Lord in water baptism on 14 October 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):

Yeoh Joo Teong, Lim Siew Poh (Mrs Yeoh), Siew Lillian, Siew Tian Min, Kwang Kot Chin, Kwang Choong Leong, Chua Moy Loy, Marilyn C. Seddico

Middle Row:

Wendees Hoo See Ping, Soo Woon Yee, Robert Hue Voon, Lydia Pathmanathan, Falco Lee Lap Shin, Jason Ng Yan Yee, Yu Sang Sang (Mrs Ng)

Back Row:

Patrick Ng Teng Tong, Steven Ng Kiang Seng, Melissa Foong Lai Cheng

Not in picture:

David Tan Wei Qiang

Senior Associate Pastor
Petrina Guneratnam
giving the welcoming
address and declaring open
the "Journey to the Centre"
Art Exhibition
cum Auction 2007



Journey to the Centre

By Philemon Soon

CCC Art Exhibition cum Auction 2007

Organising an art exhibition cum auction in a relatively short time frame and expecting all its art pieces by up-and-coming Christian artists to be sold or auctioned off may seem a little ridiculous in the mind of the non-believer.

Yet when the CCC Fund Raising Committee together with CCC Events Committee, organisers of the CCC Art Exhibition cum Auction 2007, committed this fund raising project to God, the ridiculous happened.

Fifty-eight of the sixty art pieces put up for sale and auction were sold at the end of the three-day art exhibition cum auction, held at the Sime Darby Convention Centre from 26 to 28 October 2007. Guess what? The majority of the art pieces were sold at prices above their asking prices!

Close to RM 270,000 were raised from this event, whose theme "Journey to the Centre" speaks of one's life journey of self discovery that evokes a wide range of emotions. The proceeds will go towards the building of the Calvary Convention Centre.

The six artists who contributed their paintings and art pieces included Catherine Chew, Jessie Lim and Yeak Ping Lian, who is recognised internationally as autistic child savant, as well as Christopher

Chua, Nason Ponniah and Ken Duncan, an Australian panoramic landscape photographer.

Chairperson of the CCC Fund Raising Committee Jeannie Friis said: "Initially we were a bit concerned when not many turned up when the Open Auction started. But God is good! More people came in and momentum picked up during the second half of the Auction which saw many pieces sold, much beyond our expectations." All praise and glory to God! 🙏

Live music was provided by volunteers from the Music and Creative Arts Department as the potential customers viewed the art pieces



Senior Pastor Prince and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam (seated on the front row) enjoying a light moment together with the other attendees of the Auction



"Going, going, gone! Sold to the gentleman at the back" -Jeanette Alphonsus in her role as auctioneer for the event



The prize-winners with Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam (back row, fourth from left), Associate Pastor Christopher Lee (third from right), the organisers and judges

My Vision of Calvary Convention Centre

Children's Art Competition

By Lesley Ngai-Parker

On 24 November 2007, at 9.30am, 45 children from ages five to 13 and some parents were eagerly waiting for Children's Art Competition to start. The Calvary Convention Centre (CCC) Fund Raising Committee organised the art contest to help the young ones to have a greater awareness of the vision of the CCC.

Associate Pastor Christopher Lee, the Children's Pastor, prayed for the children before they were led to their respective rooms at the Education Block which were appropriately named for the occasion—Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Vincent Van Gogh. And away they went after receiving final instructions, all hunched up on the floors of the rooms, sketching and painting their inspirations.



1st Prize winners: From left, Jamie Guneratnam (5-6 years), Pang Kang Sin (7-9 years) and Hon Sir Neng (10-13 years)

The theme for the five to six year olds was "A special occasion in my life with my family at the Calvary Convention Centre", whilst the seven to nine year olds drew "An Activity with my friends at the Calvary Convention Centre". The pre-teens created a picture of "My special place at the Calvary Convention Centre".

As the children sketched and then painted, one could see their talents emerging. God has truly given

good gifts to them. They finished around 11am and the judges then went to work. Participants, parents and helpers enjoyed some refreshments before Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam gave away gift vouchers to every participant and to the winners of the three age groups. It was all in all a blessed morning. 🙏

Two participants taking a break to find out more about the CCC from the facilitators





"Sesungguhnya, Aku membuat engkau menjadi papan pengirik yang tajam dan baru, dengan gigi dua jajar; engkau akan mengirik gunung-gunung dan menghancurkannya, dan bukit-bukitpun akan kaubuat seperti sekam. Engkau akan menampi mereka, lalu angin akan menerbangkan mereka, dan badai akan menyerakkan mereka. Tetapi engkau ini akan bersorak-sorak di dalam TUHAN dan bermegah di dalam Yang Mahakudus, Allah Israel" (Yesaya 41:15-15).

Diberi Kuasa Untuk Berdoa

Oleh Pendita Senior Prince Guneratnam

Tidak berdoa bukannya satu kelemahan tetapi adalah satu dosa kerana Alkitab mengajar umat Kristian untuk selalu berdoa. Ia tidak berkata berdoa apabila kita mempunyai masa atau dalam kesusahan. Kamu berdoa, kerana doa merangkumi penyembahan, dan juga kerana Tuhan menjawab doa.

Nabi Yesaya mengisytiharkan bahawa Tuhan akan menjadikan kamu sebagai alat, "papan pengirik yang tajam dan baru, dengan gigi dua jajar" yang boleh mengirik dan menghancurkan gunung dan bukit dan menjadikan mereka seakan sekam. Papan pengirik ialah tukul yang besar. Tuhan akan memberi kamu kuasa untuk menjadi "papan pengirik yang tajam dan baru, dengan gigi dua jajar" dan "gunung" dalam hidup kamu—apa sekalipun yang menghalang kamu dan menyebabkan kamu kesakitan dan susah akan dijadikan seperti "sekam". "Angin" merujuk kepada Roh Kudus. Roh

Kudus akan membawa masalah kamu itu pergi dan menjauhkannya supaya kamu boleh hidup dalam kemenangan. Pada zaman dulu, apabila kamu menampi, kamu melontar bekas yang mengandungi gandum yang telah dibanting ke atas dan angin akan meniup sekam dan gandum yang baik jatuh ke atas bekas itu.

Apa yang dimaksudkan oleh Yesaya sebagai "papan pengirik" yang tajam dan baru, dengan gigi dua jajar, Paulus memanggilnya sebagai senjata peperangan rohani. Paulus berkata, **"Karena senjata kami dalam perjuangan bukanlah**

senjata duniawi, melainkan senjata yang diperlengkapi dengan kuasa Allah, yang sanggup untuk meruntuhkan benteng-benteng" (2 Korintus 10:4). Paulus mengajar murid rohaninya dengan berkata, **"Tugas ini kuberikan kepadamu, Timotius anakku, sesuai dengan apa yang telah dinubuatkan tentang dirimu, supaya dikuatkan oleh nubuat itu engkau memperjuangkan perjuangan yang baik dengan iman dan hati nurani yang murni. Beberapa orang telah menolak hati nuraninya yang murni itu, dan karena itu kandaslah iman mereka, di antaranya Himeneus dan**

Aleksander, yang telah kuserahkan kepada Iblis, supaya jera mereka menghujat” (1 Timotius 1:18-20).

Apakah itu papan pengirik dengan gigi dan merupakan senjata peperangan rohani? Saya percaya ianya adalah doa. Paulus memberitahu Timotius, **“Pertama-tama aku menasihatkan: Naikkanlah permohonan, doa syafaat dan ucapan syukur untuk semua orang” (1 Timotius 2:1).** Tuhan akan memberi kuasa kepada doa kamu. Apabila kamu berdoa dengan hati nurani yang murni dan dengan iman, kamu boleh mengirik gunung dan bukit. Terdapat beberapa jenis doa. Apabila kamu berbicara dengan Tuhan, kamu sedang berdoa. Apabila kamu membuat permintaan kepadaNya, kamu membuat rayuan dan permohonan untuk hidup kamu. Apabila kamu berdoa syafaat, kamu datang kepada Tuhan bagi pihak orang lain. Kamu berdiri antara jurang untuk mereka. Dan kamu boleh berdoa dengan mengucap syukur atau menyembah.

Apakah yang boleh dilakukan oleh doa? Seperti yang telah dikatakan, doa boleh meruntuhkan gunung dan bukit dan semuanya itu akan dibawa pergi oleh angin. Apakah jenis gunung yang berdiri di depan laluan kamu? Adakah ianya penderitaan fizikal-penyakit, halangan, krisis kewangan? Doa akan mengalihkan gunung itu. Ada kalanya, kamu mungkin perlu berpuasa seperti dalam hal dimana Yesus menyembuhkan seorang budak lelaki berpenyakit sawan babi. Maka Yesus berkata kepada mereka, **“Karena kamu kurang percaya. ‘Sebab Aku berkata kepadamu: Sesungguhnya sekiranya kamu mempunyai iman sebesar biji sesawi saja kamu dapat berkata kepada gunung ini: ‘Pindah dari tempat ini ke sana,’ —maka gunung ini akan pindah, dan takkan ada yang mustahil bagimu. Jenis ini tidak dapat diusir kecuali dengan berdoa dan berpuasa” (Matius 17:20-21).**

Doa akan menyebabkan Tuhan membuka sungai dan mata air dan membawa kesegaran. Ia akan memulihkan hidup yang tersepit. Jika kamu kekeringan rohani dan mendapati melayani Tuhan ialah sesuatu pekerjaan yang membebankan, nantikanlah hadiratnya, baca FirmanNya dan

berdoa dan kamu akan disegarkan. Alkitab berkata, **“Aku akan membuat sungai-sungai memancar di atas bukit-bukit yang gundul, dan membuat mata-mata air memual di tengah dataran; Aku akan membuat padang gurun menjadi telaga dan memancarkan air dari tanah kering” (Yesaya 41:18).**


Doa akan menyebabkan Tuhan membuat hutan dan gurun kembang dan berbuah. Alkitab berkata, **“Aku akan menanam pohon aras di padang gurun, pohon penaga, pohon murad dan pohon minyak; Aku akan menumbuhkan pohon sanobar di padang belantara dan pohon berangan serta pohon cemara di sampingnya, supaya semua orang melihat dan mengetahui, memperhatikan dan memahami, bahwa tangan TUHAN yang membuat semuanya ini dan Yang Mahakudus, Allah Israel, yang menciptakannya” (Yesaya 41:19-20).**

Alkitab memberikan kita beberapa contoh bagaimana Tuhan menjawab doa-doa umatNya. Hati Hana sungguh sedih kerana dia tidak boleh mengandung. Terdapat suatu stigma yang melekat kepada seseorang yang mandul ketika masa Hana. Kemudian Hana berdoa kepada Tuhan dalam rumah Tuhan. Alkitab berkata, **“Pada suatu kali, setelah mereka habis makan dan minum di Silo, berdirilah Hana, sedang imam Eli duduk di kursi dekat tiang pintu bait suci Tuhan, dan dengan hati pedih ia berdoa kepada Tuhan sambil menangis tersedu-sedu. Kemudian bernazarlah ia, katanya: ‘Tuhan semesta alam, jika sungguh-sungguh Engkau memperhatikan sengsara hamba-Mu ini dan mengingat kepadaku dan tidak melupakan hamba-Mu ini, tetapi memberikan kepada hamba-Mu ini seorang anak laki-laki, maka aku akan memberikan dia kepada Tuhan untuk seumur hidupnya dan pisau cukur tidak akan menyentuh kepalanya” (1 Samuel 1:9-11).** Hana membantingkan gunung dan bukitnya. Dia membuatnya sebagai olok-olok dan angin Roh Kudus pula melakukan pekerjaannya. Tuhan menjawab doanya. Hana mengandungkan ramai anak tetapi anak sulungnya adalah Nabi Samuel.

Satu lagi contoh ialah Yabes. Alkitab berkata, **“Yabes lebih dimuliakan dari pada saudara-**

saudaranya; nama Yabes itu diberi ibunya kepadanya sebab katanya: ‘Aku telah melahirkan dia dengan kesakitan.’ Yabes berseru kepada Allah Israel, katanya: ‘Kiranya Engkau memberkati aku berlimpah-limpah dan memperluas daerahku, dan kiranya tangan-Mu menyertai aku, dan melindungi aku dari pada malapetaka, sehingga kesakitan tidak menimpa aku!’ Dan Allah mengabulkan permintaannya itu” (1 Tawarikh 4:9-10). Adalah sia-sia sahaja jika tidak menjadi seorang Kristian yang berdoa.

Berdoa adalah untuk kebaikan kamu. Kamu bukan membantu Tuhan apabila kamu berdoa. Bila kamu berdoa dan percaya, kamu sedang mentaati Tuhan. Tuhan akan memperhatikan doa beriman kamu dan akan memberikan kamu kemenangan atas setiap halangan agar jalan kamu berhasil.

Di manakah kamu dalam perjalanan kamu dengan Tuhan? Adakah kamu menghadapi gunung-gunang dan bukit rimba? Adakah sungai-sungai dan mata air kamu tersumbat? Adakah kamu berada di dalam belantara? Apabila kamu berdoa, Tuhan akan memberi kamu kuasa atas doa kamu agar kamu boleh membantingkan gunung-gunung dan bukit-bukit kamu, membuka mata air yang tersumbat dan membuat kolam air dalam belantara. Kamu boleh mempunyai hidup yang sihat, berhasil dan saleh. Jadilah orang yang berdoa-orang yang boleh bersaksi akan kebesarannya bukan sahaja dengan kata-kata tetapi juga dalam perbuatan. 

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

Equipping LG members



Throughout the Bible, God searches for leaders. “The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and appointed him leader of his people” (1 Samuel 13:14, NIV). Our Life Group (LG) Leaders are committed to identifying and nurturing people (members) to ensure the growth of the LG ministry.

From left-standing: Beh Eng Heng, Wong Chee Weng, Lee Wai Kin, Alex Tan; sitting: Michelle Lew, Grace Lum, Ong Yen Yen and Jenny Lee

Committed LG members are invited to attend the LG Leadership course which is designed to provide training in practical leadership skills as well as grounding in the biblical principles underlying the LG Ministry. Three of the latest batch of eight trainees (pictured above) tell us how they have benefited from the training.

A new spiritual milestone

ALEX TAN says: “When I was invited to participate in the LG Leadership Training, I sensed that God was marking a new spiritual milestone in my life. I am grateful to the Lord for an opportunity to be better equipped to serve Him and be a blessing to others, especially when I think of how God has blessed me.

I have gained much by attending the training classes. The content of the classes range from the spiritual to the very practical. They have been both educational and inspiring. I learnt about the varied aspects of a LG Leader and heard wonderful testimonies of how many have been blessed in doing God’s work.”

Clearing doubts and gaining confidence

ONG YEN YEN says: “I am currently a Ladies LG host and my desire is to serve and fulfil God’s plans and purposes for my life. After praying, I decided to embark on this course.

I learnt to love and care for LG members, Church friends and our own families. I was reminded that I need to spend quality time with God no matter how busy I may be. I also discovered that everybody needs support and encouragement. I also realised the importance of seeking God’s empowerment in our prayer life and to be guided by the Holy Spirit each day.

Truly, God is good. All my initial doubts have been totally erased. God has a plan and purpose for me and my part is trust and obey Him. I thank God for the opportunity to go for this training.”

Putting into practice what is imparted

JENNY LEE says: “I count it a blessing to be able to attend the LG Leadership Training. Although I have been attending LG meetings for the past decade, I did not realise that so much more is needed from a LG Leader, apart from sharing the Word of God.

I now have a better understanding of the role of a LG Leader and how to be an effective one. One of the qualities of a good LG leader is selflessness and compassion. The most important thing I learnt is that I must have a relationship with God and to be grounded in His Word as the Word of God is “a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” The lesson on “Effective LG Visitation” taught me the importance of visitation where we can show love and care to people in times of need. I took heed of this principle and recently visited a LG member who was hospitalised. It was a fruitful visitation and I was able to encourage and pray for her.”

Thank God for these individuals and their commitment to serve. God will honour their desire to be a blessing.

You too can influence lives for God. Join a LG or open your home for LG.

Call the Pastoral Care Department at 03-7728 6000 ext 307/308 or e-mail pascare@calvary.org.my. 



Clockwise: Enjoying a sumptuous lunch with Filipino food; Giving thanks to God in worship; The recipients of recognition awards for completing ICI courses with Rev. Ng Kok Kee, Julia Teh and Kay Lim (far right)

Giving thanks Kay Lim

Filipino Combined Life Group Annual Thanksgiving Celebration


The Thanksgiving Celebration was held in Calvary Damansara Heights on Sunday 25 November 2007. Associate Pastor Timothy Ong led the Group in opening prayer, giving thanks to God for bringing all the Filipino LG members together to attend the special occasion.

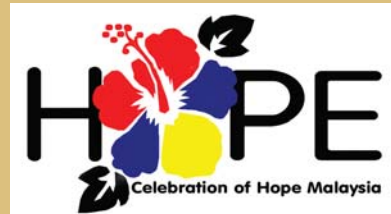
After a sumptuous lunch of Filipino food, the group of 80 adjourned to the Berean Hall for a time of thanksgiving to God. Annabelle Cubelo thanked God for being a God of salvation and protection for her and her family in the Philippines. Eventia Cheong was grateful to God for answering her prayers. God provided her husband with a good job and worked a miracle by providing them with a daughter after nine years of marriage. He also healed her relationship with her in-laws. Normita Orea received a miracle healing and she did not need to undergo surgery. Nena Mijares thanked God for healing her mother and brother and Esper Mendoza thanked God for being a faithful Provider for her spiritually and financially.

A testimony in skit was also presented. Entitled "Love in Action", it portrayed how the conviction of the Holy Spirit while listening to a sermon at a special meeting brought about the reconciliation of friendship between Cristina de Leon and Mary

Jane Abad. God is indeed very real in our lives!


We were blessed to have Rev. Ng Kok Kee, his wife, Mee Yoke and Julie Teh who is the Coordinator of ICI, at the celebration. As the National Director of ICI, Rev. Ng Kok Kee commended the group for taking the ICI correspondent courses which will benefit their spiritual and personal growth. Rev. Ng presented recognition awards to ten recipients (Divina Coy, Erma Belocura, Evencia Cheong, Gina Cosalan, Liza Ng, Marilyn Respecio, Maritess Paclita, Michelle Anjella Gaviola, Normita Orea and Susan Kirby) who completed the courses on Great Questions of Life and Life of Christ. Jay Ryan Paul was also recognised for completing the 'My Faith' class.

Associate Pastor Richard Yun closed the celebration with a word of exhortation and prayer. Grateful for the many blessings from the Lord, the celebration concluded with congregation singing, "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart", to the Lord. 



The Celebration of Hope Malaysia (COHM) is an initiative of the Malaysian Church in collaboration with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, to reach out to the community with the love of Jesus.

This project is based on the biblical model of "Friends of Matthew", where Matthew invited his friends to his house for a meal while listening to Jesus. Our Church participated in the COHM from 1 to 9 December 2007. A total of 354 hosts were involved.

Look out for testimonies in the next issue of the Calvary News! 

Bahasa Malaysia Ministry



Clockwise: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam – a keen participant!; Enjoying a light moment; The Workshop Trainers answering questions



A workshop every believer ought to attend By Linda Pang

Recognising the need to equip our Church members with the correct Bahasa Malaysia (BM) biblical terminology, the BM Ministry of Calvary Church organised the first BM Biblical Terminology Workshop on Saturday, 6 October 2007 at Damansara Perdana.

The objective of the workshop was to train participants to effectively share their salvation testimony in BM.

The 52 participants, consisting of Pastors and lay leaders, were refreshed in their command of BM biblical terminology. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam was one of the keen participants present!

Besides the four trainers, there were eight other facilitators who

guided the participants through simple exercises and in the translation of personal testimonies.

At the end the workshop, there was much laughter as each participant applied the knowledge they learnt by sharing with another fellow participant in BM! The participants definitely benefited from the workshop.

Before the workshop ended, Assistant Pastor David Seah, advisor to the event, exhorted the participants to immediately apply what they have learnt. Associate Pastor Timothy Ong then prayed for the participants that the Holy Spirit will equip them with the right words to effectively share their testimonies. "Segala kemuliaan bagi Tuhan!" 🙏

L.I.G.H.T. Life Groups



Missionary Pooshani



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam praying for those who responded to the invitation for prayer

A purposeful Single Ladies' Tea Fellowship By Gan Hua May

On a warm and breezy Saturday afternoon on 3 November, 2007, 52 ladies gathered at Damansara Heights for a time of fellowship over tea and light refreshments, with our Missionary Pooshani who was back from Sudan. This event was organised by the L.I.G.H.T. (Singles) Life Groups.

In line with the theme, "Single-minded Devotion", Dee Peng, who is currently working with Calvary Life Ministries (CLM), shared how she took the step of faith when she decided to leave her secular job and trusted God to use her administrative skills in the Church.

Missionary Pooshani then shared that her spiritual growth began when she was willing to surrender herself to

God and when she desired more of Him. Instead of waiting for the Lord to call, she asked, "What would you have me do, Lord?" God then opened doors for her to serve. She has found great fulfilment in serving and to this day she is constantly encouraged by how God is working through her in Yei, Sudan.

After being reminded of God's provision and faithfulness regardless

of circumstances, the ladies present were challenged to serve and be available to God's calling. Seven ladies responded to the invitation for prayer by Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam and 18 others indicated that they were either willing to go for short term mission trips, know more about working full time in Church or serve in a ministry. Indeed it was a purposeful fellowship. 🙏



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



Believing God for a miracle



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam giving the altar call



Altar Workers assisting those who responded to the altar calls

Jesus—the Joy of Christmas By Audrey Kum

This year's Christmas presentation, "The Joy of Christmas", struck a chord in the hearts of the thousands who came to the Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, over three nights from 22 to 24 December 2007.


The audience could identify with the gaiety of the celebration of Christmas when they saw the exuberant dancing and enjoyed the great singing. The well-written script and the excellent acting of the main characters, the busy Bill, the single mother Mary and the mysterious Scrooge-like character, Victoria, helped us to see how easily we can let busyness, fear, loneliness, helplessness, poverty and even man-made laws rob our hearts of the joy of Christmas. But praise God, we can rejoice because we have Jesus Christ as our Saviour. The angel of the Lord declared during the first Christmas, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, over the three nights, based his messages on this



Totally engrossed in the presentation

declaration. He emphasised that Christmas is about Jesus. Jesus brings joy because He is the Saviour of those who are guilty of sin because He forgives sin. Jesus takes away fear and brings hope and joy to those without hope, those who are sickly and are facing hardship and to those who have had something that has died within them. With Jesus in our hearts, we can have joy.

Each night, as individuals gave their hearts to Jesus and looked to Him to be their source of joy, there was great rejoicing in heaven and among the Calvarites who joined hands and hearts to bring this message of hope to the people of Kuala Lumpur and beyond. Indeed, "Christmas isn't Christmas, till it happens in your heart..." 

More on "The Joy of Christmas" overleaf

Mary introducing Bill to her mother and daughter, Jennifer



Mary with Bill at his apartment working on Christmas Eve! Bill has no time for Christmas.



Bill thinks Vicky is a joke put up by the people at his office!



Vicky sprinkling Bill with "sparkles" to make the journey they will take a little easier.



The angels announcing the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, to the shepherds



The Wise Men and shepherds pay homage to the baby Jesus



The Lord and Lady of the house celebrating Christmas in medieval England



At an orphanage during the time of Dickens



At a church sanctuary in London, circa 1657, when Christmas was outlawed

"On This Chri-sa-mus Day"



Left in Mary's apartment by Vicky (and unseen), Bill finally understands the heart of Christmas and realises how cold his heart has been

A city sidewalk on Christmas Eve



An orphan singing "I had a dream of Christmas... that my world was changed..."



Vicky, giving up on Bill, tells him that it is a cold indifferent heart that won't stay open to that Child in the manger that will kill Christmas.



The Worship Leaders join in the finale



The Joy of Christmas By Audrey Kum


Calvary Church celebrated Christmas as a family on Sunday morning, 23 December 2007, at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, beginning with breakfast at 8am. By 10am, the Stadium was reverberating with strains of the well loved Christmas carols as we sang our hearts out in worship of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We were thoroughly blessed by the refreshing KidsCAT presentation entitled, "Christmas in Reverse" that was accompanied by live music. After the presentation, the four to nine year olds left for their own programme.

Next, we were touched by a beautiful duet and dance, "Breath of Heaven", depicting Mary and Joseph's anxiety of the load they were going to bear with the birth of the Christ child and their cry to God to help them through.

This prepared our hearts to receive Senior Pastor Prince

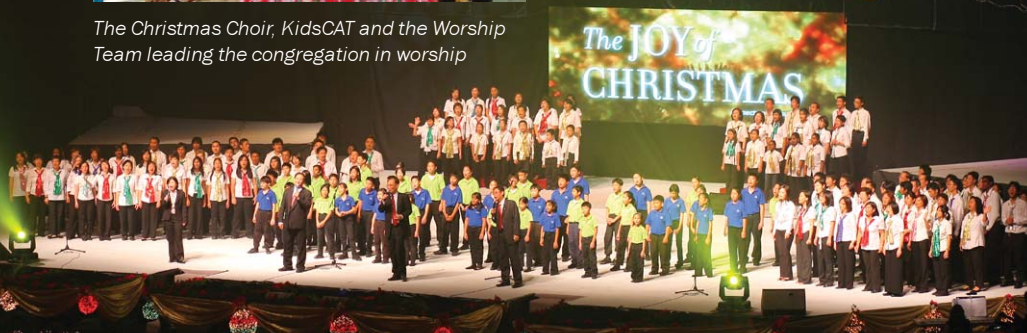
Guneratnam's Christmas message based on Mary's song, the *Magnificat*. Mary was singing about her God. Mary's conception of Christ brought her joy and from her song we learn that God is mighty, holy, merciful, sovereign and that He will help His people.

Senior Pastor concluded his message with an invitation for us to trust Jesus for the impossible. All over the stadium, hands reached out to the Lord in faith, believing God to work miracles in our lives. 

Left, from top: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam and Associate Pastor Steven Kum greeting and fellowshiping with the Calvarites who came for the breakfast



The Christmas Choir, KidsCAT and the Worship Team leading the congregation in worship



"Breath of Heaven"



Malachi aged hundreds of years before our very eyes!



Marvelling at the baby Jesus



Dancing in celebration



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



"Christmas in Reverse" finale



The thousands that came for the Service

Children's Evangelistic Meeting



Associate Pastor Steven Kum

Christmas done in reverse!

By Koay Bee Cheng

On 1 December 2007, KidsCAT presented the Christmas story backwards—differently from the traditional way! Instead of ending with the Nativity, “Christmas in Reverse” started at the manger then “rewound” to give details on the events leading to the first Christmas.

The musical, presented at Damansara Heights in lively and exuberant drama, songs and dance, explored the importance

and role of each of the characters in the Nativity story. This presentation was the result of faithful trainers, teachers, parents and children.

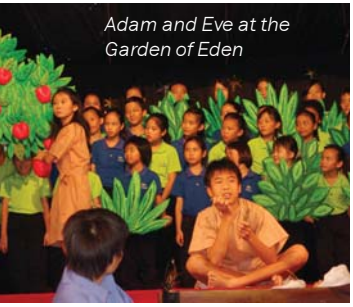
A total of 651 people comprising proud parents, grandparents,

relatives and friends, came to watch the 93 KidsCAT kids perform the 35-minute Christmas-themed musical. There were 119 kids who were first-time visitors to our Church.

Jesus' love was explained in a fresh and exciting way by Associate Pastor Steven Kum. Praise the Lord for the 103 children who responded for the first time to the altar call as well the 27 others who rededicated their lives to the Lord!

All come and worship Jesus!

The prophets singing, "We told you, God loves you, how He will forgive you..."



Adam and Eve at the Garden of Eden



Noah and his family



Associate Pastor Christopher Lee giving the altar call.



Delight in Receiving His Blessings

By Audrey Kum

–“If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.” John 14:14

The final Prayer Emphasis Week of the year 2007 was held from 18 to 24 November.

The emphasis was on personal prayer on Monday and family prayer on Thursday, while we had corporate prayer at Damansara Heights, Damansara Perdana and Ampang on Tuesday and Wednesday. Children’s Prayer Meetings were held concurrently at these locations.

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam leading in prayer at Damansara Heights



At Damansara Perdana



At Ampang



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam praying for the congregation on Friday (above). Families praying together (below).

On Friday night, the whole family including the children, congregated at Damansara Heights. Over the three nights, those who came were encouraged to be good stewards whom God could entrust with His blessings.

It was our prayer that we align our work with God’s purpose so that we can experience His blessings. We also prayed that we would set our priorities correctly so that Christ will be the Lord in every area of our lives. 🙏

“God gives the best stuff....Enjoy!”

By Jeannie Low

Adult intercessors (right) praying for the kids at Damansara Heights



At Ampang

At Damansara Perdana

At Damansara Heights

The children had their own version of the Prayer Emphasis theme–“God gives the best stuff....Enjoy!”

Over the two nights, at the various Church locations where the adults were also meeting,

they prayed for one another in small groups and listened intently to the testimonies by the youths and adult intercessors who were specially invited to speak to them. They were very responsive and learnt to use prayer journals, writing down things they were thankful for, their prayer

requests and their thoughts to God.

They learnt that God has all the power. Therefore, He can answer any prayer they pray according to His will—even if it seems impossible! 🙏

Hell was not made for man

Dr Reinhard
Bonnke

By Carol Weller

On 7 October 2007, a record 1,715 people packed the 5pm Worship Service at Damansara Heights to overflowing, to hear evangelist Dr Reinhard Bonnke!



At the sanctuary



At the Worship Nursery

Dr Reinhard Bonnke, who heads the evangelistic organisation, "Christ for All Nations", has a burning desire to see hell empty and heaven full. Millions have received salvation through his ministry. Beginning with 10,000 in Africa, in 1974, the numbers at his Evangelistic Rallies soon grew to the millions and to date, has reached 1.93 million at a single rally! He challenged us to think in terms that "God has no maximum" (in numbers), and that "hell was not made for man."

Dr. Bonnke said that it cost God nothing to create the world, but our salvation has cost Him everything. Luke tell us: "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Dr. Bonnke exhorted us not to wait for a direct 'call' from God before we served Him. Isaiah, the prophet was not called but overheard the Father asking the Son, "Whom shall I send?" and he responded "Here am I, send me." The call to the church is to save people.

The factor that distinguishes Christianity from other religions is



At the Church foyer




At the Education Block

that our God is a seeker of persons. In Genesis 3:9, God cries out to Adam, "Where are you?" knowing that he and Eve had sinned and "had an agenda of independence from God". Even so, God clothed them and gave them a future. Like Adam and Eve, many are lost spiritually. Some are lost and do not even know it and are enjoying themselves. God is seeking those who are lost in sin.

In Hosea 11:8, God's compassion prevents Him from rejecting Ephraim even after God is greatly angered by his sin. "How can I give you up, Ephraim...My heart churns within Me". God cannot stop seeking us. Dr Bonnke said, "Heathens carry their idols but the God of Israel carried His people and

He will carry us too." Israel was not chosen because it was the greatest nation, but because of God's love (Deuteronomy 7:7). So great is God's love for us that at the cross, no voice came from the Father to Jesus saying, "I cannot give You up." God gave up Jesus so that He need not give us up.

Dr Bonnke concluded his message by emphasising that God's love provides an open invitation to sinners. We enter into a covenant relationship with Him when we believe and accept Jesus. If we just have "only two legs or a piece of an ear" to hear and respond to God, the Shepherd will save us (Amos 3:12). We cannot keep the Good News to ourselves. 



We at Calvary Church believe in being good stewards of all that God has put in our care. The following interview taken from The Pentecostal Evangel (tpe) September 9, 2007, will give an insight into being good stewards of God's creation.

Conversation: Tri Robinson

Creation stewardship



It's not often an environmental lobbying group invites an evangelical pastor to be the keynote speaker at its conference. Earlier this year, the Idaho Conservation League extended such an invitation to Tri Robinson, author of *Saving God's Green Earth: Rediscovering the Church's Responsibility to Environmental Stewardship* and founding pastor of Vineyard Boise (Idaho) Church. Recently, Robinson spoke to Assistant Editor Jennifer McClure about environmental stewardship and the Christian's responsibility to it.

tpe: What does environmental stewardship mean?

ROBINSON: Stewardship is taking responsibility for the things God has called us to do, one of which is to care for creation. With "environmental stewardship," we take the commission in Genesis to care for the creation and become responsible to do that. God has given us dominion over the earth to use it, not to abuse it.

tpe: What exactly does the Bible say about such stewardship?

ROBINSON: In Genesis 9, God promises He won't flood the earth again. Several times God says, "This covenant is between Me and you and every living creature on earth." In Genesis 9:3, He says, "Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything" (NIV). In verse 5, God goes on to say He's going to hold us accountable for how we use His provisions. Key to this discussion is the message of the sanctity of life. Clearly from Genesis 9:6 we see God is pro-life. He values all life.

tpe: What does the Bible have to say about God being revealed through creation?

ROBINSON: Romans 1:20 says, "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." We have the assurance of God's existence because He has revealed himself

through His creation. Therefore, every Christian should be concerned about the creation because it's a revelation of God, and it's a means to the unsaved world.

tpe: Has God used nature to reveal himself to you?

ROBINSON: Every time I've had a major revelation of God or He has asked me to do something specific it has been in the context of the wilderness. God the Father became real to me when I was 16 years old standing on the side of a mountain watching the sun set — I knew He existed. One night when I was walking in the moonlight on a mountain, God revealed to me the reality of Christ. I was also filled with the Holy Spirit out in the mountains by myself.

tpe: Would you say Christians have more reason to be stewards of the environment than non-Christians?

ROBINSON: I would. We are the ones who were actually commissioned to do something about it. When we come to Christ, we become other-centered. We love our neighbor. Therefore, we start to care about things that are hurting our neighbor. Misuse of the environment is causing people to suffer all over the world, especially in developing nations and in Third World countries where polluted waters are killing people. This should be an awakening point to the Church.

tpe: Your involvement in environmental stewardship has opened doors to reach a new audience with the gospel.

ROBINSON: I didn't expect it, but this has given me access to an audience I never dreamed I'd be speaking to. Our church has been growing as a result of it. It's been one of our most powerful points of evangelism.

tpe: When speaking to secular environmental groups, how do you share your faith?

ROBINSON: I tell them why I'm passionate about the environment. I open Genesis 9, and they go, "That's in the Bible?" All of a sudden, they're interested in the Bible.

One thing that has really helped me is when I tell them, "If I see something that is very obviously ecologically wrong to do, I feel it's morally wrong." Most environmentalists would say, "Yes, you're right. It's morally wrong." So I say, "If it's a moral issue, it's a heart issue. As a Christian, I'm in the business of morality and heart issues."

Only when we change the hearts of people can the morality of people change so they see the creation as precious to God. That's why I believe the Church is the hope for the environment and the care of the earth.

tpe: Have you been accused of worshipping nature?

ROBINSON: That's one of the great criticisms, but it's a false fear. It's not going to happen. It's obvious this is all about the Creator and about being obedient to the Creator. We don't do this because of Mother Earth, but because the earth belongs to Father God.

Continued on facing page

Q: How should belief in end-times prophecy affect Christians' involvement in environmental stewardship?

ROBINSON: In Matthew 24, Jesus gives the dissertation on the end times. Then in Matthew 25 He gives the Parable of the Talents. To me, it's a picture of God saying, "I'm going away for a while, and I'm not going to announce when I'm coming back. But while I'm gone I'm giving you this stuff — My stuff — and I want you to care for it." So it gives you a whole different perspective on those parables because we do have responsibility right up until the Second Coming.

Q: In what ways are you personally involved in environmental stewardship?

ROBINSON: My wife and I are selling our large home and moving into a small, more self-sustaining home with solar power. I'm driving a smaller car and recycling. I've really tried to make some changes in my life and in the church.

Q: How can a church be involved in environmental stewardship?

ROBINSON: A church can produce printed material on recycled paper, put recycle bins in the church, and recycle ink cartridges and cell phones. We raised about \$10,000 recycling cell phones.

One new thing our church is going to do is use coffee cups made out of corn. They're biodegradable. We're going to compost all our coffee cups and use them in our community garden where we grow about 13,000 pounds of fresh vegetables a year for the homeless and the poor. Generally the food pantries just give dry food and canned food, but in season we can give fresh vegetables and produce. It gives people a lot of opportunities to be involved in the ministry. People love it. 🌱

Calvary Social Ministry



Benjamin Toh receiving moral support from friends



Associate Pastor Steven Kum getting his blood tested. There were 29 who came but could not donate for various reasons!

Rachael Wong donating her first bag of blood on her 21st birthday!

Sixty-one "life savers" By Pastor Yow Kit Yen

We thank God for the 61 who donated blood to the National Blood Centre of Malaysia on 6 October 2007 and became "life savers"! Watch out for our next blood donation drive. You too can be a "life saver". 🌱

Ladies' Thanksgiving Bazaar




Busy bazaar!

By Assistant Pastor Karen Seah

The Calvary Refreshment Centre (CRC) was a buzz of activity on 9 December 2007 as the ladies came together as early as 7am to prepare special breakfast and set up stalls for bazaar and gift items. What a wonderful way to end the year!

The ladies sought to be a blessing by putting their gifts, resources and talents to good use and they were very much blessed by the response of the Calvarites who packed the place. The different stalls were well-patronised. What a joy and encouragement it was for the ladies to serve together! 🌱

Sunday Services

Damansara Heights (DH) 8am • 10.30am	Ampang/DH 10.30am/5pm	Cheras 9am	Damansara Perdana 10.30am
 <p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>6 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>13 Rev. David Mohan</p> <p>20 Associate Pastor Peter Ong</p> <p>27 Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam</p> <p>JANUARY</p>	<p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>Rev. David Mohan</p> <p>Assistant Pastor David Seah</p> <p>Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam</p>	<p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>Rev. David Mohan</p> <p>Associate Pastor Richard Yun</p> <p>Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam</p>	<p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>Rev. David Mohan</p> <p>Associate Pastor Richard Yun</p> <p>Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam</p>
<p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>3 Associate Pastor Steven Kum</p> <p>10 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>17 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>24 Associate Pastor Richard Yun</p> <p>FEBRUARY</p>	<p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>Associate Pastor Timothy Ong</p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p><i>Water Baptism</i></p> <p>Associate Pastor Peter Ong/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Associate Pastor Peter Ong</p>	<p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>Associate Pastor Peter Ong</p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>Assistant Pastor David Seah</p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p>	<p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>Associate Pastor Peter Ong</p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p> <p>Assistant Pastor David Seah</p> <p>Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam</p>

Start the year right! Don't miss these events!

11-13 January 2008



PRAY BELIEVING
MY RESPONSIBILITY
 FOR THE HARVEST *MATTHEW 9:37-38*

11-12 January 2008

Faith & Prayer Seminar

Friday, 7.30pm & Saturday, 3pm
 at Damansara Heights

Expect to experience an explosion
 of faith and a richer prayer life!

The Speaker, Rev. David Mohan

is a man with great anointing who knows that the harvest is our **RESPONSIBILITY**. From a humble beginning, his church grew from 7 people to 26,000. Solid faith and relentless prayers were, and are, the keys for spiritual growth. Rev. Mohan is the General Superintendent of All India Assemblies of God, World Assemblies of God Southern Asia representative and chairman of the National Prayer and Church Planting initiative and is on the board of directors of Church Growth International.



January

Chinese Fellowship **Sunday** 5pm

- 27** 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: Gimme God I

- 5** Avoiding God
12 Youth Prayer Revival
(Combined with Church Prayer Seminar)
19 Slapped
26 Youth Celebration

College Students' Ministry **Saturday** 2.30pm

Theme: Plugged into God's Frequency I

- 5** Getting Connected—Successful Log-ins
12 Youth Prayer Revival
(Combined with Church Prayer Seminar)
19 Staying Connected—Good Systems Administration
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 | **16 February 2008** | 1.45pm

Water Baptism Service

Sunday | **17 February 2008** | 5pm

Closing Date for submission of forms:

Sunday | **6 January 2008**

February

Chinese Fellowship **Sunday** 5pm

- 24** 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: Gimme God II

- 2** The Plunge
9 The River
16 Duelling Agenda
23 Youth Celebration

College Students' Ministry **Saturday** 2.30pm

Theme: Plugged into God's Frequency II

- 2** Unstable Connections—Trouble Shooting
9 Shared Resources—Hooked to a Network
16 Corrupted data—Scan and Reboot
24 Youth Celebration

Bahasa Malaysia Fellowship **Sunday** 12.30pm

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

11 January 2008

Children's Prayer Revival

Friday, 7.30pm at Damansara Heights

Sing and play session, story time, fun learning activities and food fellowship—everything to help a kid grow in the Lord! Parents, bring your kids out!



13 January 2008

Faith Promise Sunday

At regular Service times
at all Church locations

“If you want to see the miraculous in your life, you have to develop a faith life. You have to look to God and His promises. That is where you get faith!”

Rev. David Mohan

The prophet Isaiah declares that God will make you into an instrument, “a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth”, that can thresh the mountains and the hills and make them like chaff. A sledge is a large hammer. God will empower you to become that “threshing sledge with sharp teeth” and the “mountains” in your life—whatever hinders you and causes you pain and hardship will be reduced to “chaff”. The “wind” speaks of the Holy Spirit. He will carry them away and remove them so that you may live in victory. In the old days, when you winnow, you flip a tray of beaten grain into the air and the wind will blow the chaff away leaving the good grain to fall back into the tray.

What Isaiah refers to as a “threshing sledge” with sharp teeth, the apostle Paul calls a weapon of warfare. Paul says, **“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4).** Paul teaches his young son in the Lord by saying, **“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme” (1 Timothy 1:18-20).**

What is this threshing sledge with teeth and is a weapon of warfare? I believe it is prayer. Paul tells Timothy, **“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1).** God will empower your prayer. When you pray with good conscience and with faith, you can thresh the mountains and the hills. There are different types of prayers. When you talk to God, you are praying. When you make supplications, you make petitions and requests for your life. When you make intercession, you come before God on behalf of others. You stand in the gap for them. And you can pray with thanksgiving or worship.

What will prayer do? As mentioned, prayer will beat the mountains and the hills and they will be carried away by the winds. What mountain stands in your path? Is it a

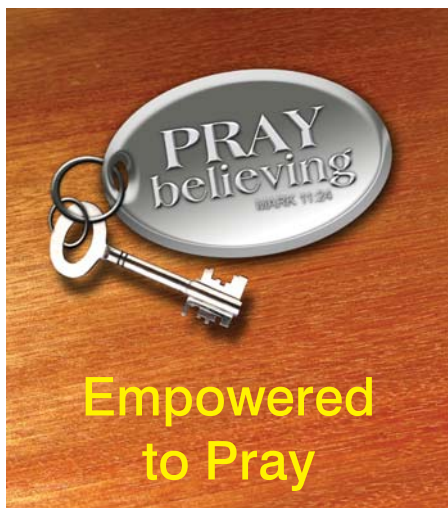
physical affliction—a sickness or disease, a hindrance, a financial crisis? Prayer will move that mountain. There are times you may also need to fast as in the case when Jesus healed an epileptic boy. **“So Jesus said to them,**

‘Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting’” (Matthew 17:20-21).

Prayer will cause God to open up rivers and fountains and bring refreshing. It will unplug lives that are clogged up. If you are spiritually dry and find serving God a drudgery, wait in His presence, read the Word and pray and you will be refreshed. The Bible says, **“I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land springs of water” (Isaiah 41:18).**

Prayer will cause God to make the wilderness and the desert blossom and be fruitful. The Bible says, **“I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine And the box tree together That they may see and know, And consider and understand together, That the hand of the LORD has done this, And the Holy One of Israel has created it” (Isaiah 41:19-20).**

The Bible gives us examples of God answering the prayers of His people. Hannah’s heart was grieved because she was not able to bear a child. There was a stigma attached to someone who was barren during Hannah’s time. Hannah then prayed to the Lord in His tabernacle. The Bible says, **“So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the**




doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. Then she made a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget

Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head” (1 Samuel 1:9-11).

Hannah threshed her mountain and her hill. She made it as chaff and the wind of the Holy Spirit did its work. God answered her prayers. Hannah bore many children but her first born was the prophet Samuel.

Another example is Jabez. The Bible says, **“Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, ‘Because I bore him in pain.’ And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, ‘Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!’ So God granted him what he requested” (1 Chronicles 4:9-10).** It is futile not to be a praying believer.

Prayer is for your benefit. You are not doing God a favour when you pray. When you pray believing, you are obeying God. God will honour your prayer of faith and will give you victory over every obstacle to prosper your way.

Where are you in your walk with the Lord? Are you facing mountains and hills? Are your rivers and fountains clogged up? Are you in the wilderness? When you pray, God will empower your prayer so that you can thresh your mountains and hills, unplug the fountains and make pools of water in the wilderness. You can live a healthy, prosperous and godly life. Be a people of prayer—a people who can testify of His greatness not only by words but by deeds.  *All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.*

Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam
and our Church Staff wish you

A Blessed 2008!



From left | Front row: Assoc. Pastor Steven Kum, Assoc. Pastor Peter Ong, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Assoc. Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, Assoc. Pastor Timothy Ong, Assoc. Pastor Richard Yun, 2nd row: Assoc. Pastor Christopher Lee, Pam Lee, Jim Guneratnam, Amelia Guneratnam, Assoc. Pastor Raymond Yong, Yong Pui Ling, 3rd Row: Audrey Kum, Asst. Pastor Karen Seah, Asst. Pastor David Seah, Asst. Pastor Jerry Chow, Asst. Pastor Shereen Wong, Carol Lim, 4th row: Chua Ken Tee, Christopher Ling, Adrian Lee, Yong Chee Weng, Yong Lee Siu, Hazel Yeo, 5th row: Sharon Loh, Yip Wai Leng, Josephine Tay, Pastor Yow Kit Yen, Alice Lee, Angela Aw, Ho Swee Mei, 6th row: Ngeow Mei Fong, Elaine Cheong, Rita Ho, Tan Choon King, Yee Yuet Hoh, Evelyn Chan, Eng Foong Ling, 7th row: Catherine Lim, Jonathan, Eleazar Tan, Chin Yoke Yee, Lawrence Lim, Maniarasan Rajanyam, 8th row: Paul Lourdes, Phang Wai Marudu, Robert Ang, Jeannie Low (not in picture)



CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)

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