

MAY/
JUNE

09

**THE EASTER STORY:
HE IS ALIVE!**

**GOD'S WILL
MY PRIORITY**

P06

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Tuesday: Men gather to pray



SALVATION BREAKTHROUGH... THROUGH PRAYER

By Associate Pastor Timothy Ong



Wednesday: Praying for the Easter Presentation



Submitting names of potential believers for prayer



This week of Prayer Emphasis from 1 to 7 March 2009 has been a show of dedication and commitment to prayer.

Various people set aside their time just to come out to the Church to pray. For example, 55 men braved the flash floods and found their way to pray on Tuesday night. They prayed over the various affairs of the Church they love. They prayed fervently as one body of men. Souls of people that are close to our hearts were lifted up before the God of salvation.

At Wednesday Morning Watch, 53 of us came and found a place close to the heart of God knowing that "...God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9, NIV). On the same evening, another 158 people came to the Church, bound by the common goal to pray for the Easter presentation. Worship was vibrant as we celebrated in the presence of Jesus the Risen King. Loud praises and declarations of faith were made before God as "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne...." We know that many souls will be saved.



Friday: The Church gathers to pray

Eighty-seven ladies came together on Thursday night and were touched by the sweet presence of God in their midst. The Word of the Lord encouraged them that God knows what they are going through and that He will grant them help. Tears of joy flowed freely and they left with a deep sense of confidence in the Lord.

The Church concluded the weeklong prayer emphasis by coming together on Friday, as a Church body. Two hundred and sixty seven of us came to minister to God and to be ministered by Him. Various ones were filled with the Holy Spirit

and refreshed and Life Group leaders ministered in prayer to individuals with needs. Placing our faith in the Word of God, we believe He will save many in this coming Easter presentation and in the coming months.

During this Prayer Emphasis Week, a total of 719 names of potential believers were brought before the Lord in anticipation of their salvation. The Prayer Tower Ministry intercessors will continue to bring these before the Lord and we look forward to hear that many of these have come know Christ! +



Thursday: Ladies gather to pray



Associate Pastor
Steven Kum

KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

By Carol Weller



In the first of two School of Christian Growth Open Sessions on Kingdom Stewardship held on 20 and 27 February 2009, Associate Pastor Steven Kum began by using the parable of the Good Samaritan with its three different perspectives towards possessions: the covetousness of the robber, the selfishness of the Priest and Levite and contrasted with the servanthood of the Samaritan.

He defined Christian stewardship as a way of living in which we recognise that everything belongs to God. Following Exodus 19:5, the first principle of stewardship is that God first takes us to Himself and then only will He entrust us with His blessings. Relationship with God is hence the basis of stewardship.

The concept of stewardship originates in creation where Adam and Eve were entrusted to enjoy, use and administer the Earth, which includes treating with dignity other individuals and all creation to the praise and glory of God. The meaning of the word 'steward' connotes an appointment to be the caretaker of a house and not to be its owner. Our attitude of stewardship covers our management of the environment, finances, material and spiritual gifts, our church (Titus 1:7) and even our families. It stems from a heart of worship and gives us liberty to enjoy all God has given without a spirit of possessiveness.

At the second session, Pastor Steven discussed stewardship as a Christian worldview. A worldview is the way we view life and it determines our decisions and values. It is both individual and communal. A biblical worldview is based on God being creator, owner and ruler of all and upon us being created in His image to be like Him.

He identified three major areas where we must exercise good stewardship and that is of our thought life, the environment and our artistic talents. We need to develop the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2). A Christian mind takes account of supernatural and eternal perspectives and has an awareness of evil and an affirmation of life, among other things. We have to study Scripture, practice spiritual disciplines and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in order to develop such a mind. We were also encouraged to develop God-given artistic talents like the visual, dramatic, musical or writing skills as it would enrich our worship and declaration of His truth. +

SALVATION BREAKTHROUGH... IN THE LIFE GROUPS

One of the many benefits of belonging to a Life Group (LG) is having prayer support for the salvation of our loved ones and friends. Undoubtedly, this is the most common prayer need among LG members, as LGs are evangelistic in nature.

Be encouraged by these three wonderful testimonies: -

MICHELLE TANG

from Happy Garden, KL LG

Besides learning God's Word during the LG meetings, we constantly pray for the needs of one another and the Church, as well as salvation of loved ones.

God answered our prayer by bringing salvation to my sister, Sharon! Late last year, she had a slipped disc and we prayed for her healing. I also asked my LG to pray for me to boldly reach out to my sister.

So I invited her to Church and she agreed to attend our Sunday Worship Service in February 2009. To my delight, she received Christ as her Saviour that day! Now, she is reading the Bible and I am encouraged by her growing desire to know more about her Lord Jesus Christ!



DOREEN KWAN

from Segambut, KL LG

As a mother, I was concerned about the salvation of my four children. In particular, my heart was heavy for my eldest son, Michael, aged 22, who has been facing many challenges in his life.

I shared this concern with my LG and they began to stand in the gap for Michael's salvation. Then, there came an opportunity to invite Michael to a special LG meeting. And he came last year.

He was touched by the video evangelistic message and gave his life to Jesus. Since then, Michael has been attending our Church. All glory belongs to God!



ANGELENE GOH

from Taman Sri Sinar LG

I praise and thank our Lord Jesus Christ for fulfilling His promises that when He saves us, He will also save our household, as promised in Acts 16:31. My family has been praying for our dad's salvation for decades. Time seems to be running out as he is in his eighties. We tried various means - CDs, VCDs and tracts, to share the gospel but he was just not interested.

When he was diagnosed with lung cancer last year, our LG again prayed fervently for my dad's salvation and healing. Through our perseverance in prayer and clinging to the promises of God, my dad accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour on 15 December 2008 through Assistant Pastor Carol Lim.

Thank God for His great mercy. My dad went through ten sessions of radiotherapy instead of surgery and chemotherapy due to his age. The most recent medical follow-up showed that his condition is stable!



Call the Pastoral Life Group Ministry at 03-77286000 ext 307 and 322 for more information. +

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

AWAKE, awake,
A strength, O Zion,
beautiful garments,
holy city: for henceforth
no more come into thee
cised and the ancient
2 Shake thyself from
and sit down,
thyself from the band
captive daughter of Zion.
3 For thus saith the
old yourselves for nought,
shall be redeemed with
4 For thus saith the
people, sent down
Egypt to sojourn in
syrian oppressed them
5 Now therefore, what
saith the Lord, that
taken away for nought,
over them make them
the Lord, and my name
every day is blasphemed.

There are situations recorded in the Bible, when God reveals His will supernaturally. However, too often, we make the exception the norm. God does not hide His will from us. In fact, He wants

Therefore, knowing the will of God is not the problem. The challenge is doing the will of God. The apostle Paul says, “I

Abraham knew the will of God although he was told to sacrifice Isaac, his only son on the mountain. It was a tough situation for Abraham as God had

senior pastor's message

promised to make him “the father of many nations”. Very often, God will put us to the test and our responsibility is to walk in obedience to His will. Abraham was ready to obey when God stopped him and provided a ram for the sacrifice. Abraham fulfilled God’s will by becoming the “father of many nations” with the help of God.

Jesus knew and understood the will of God for His life. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed for strength to do the will of God. Similarly, it is vital for us to realise that we need to draw strength from God to walk in obedience to His will.

The story of Gideon beautifully illustrates the challenges we face when we do God’s will. God was looking for a man to deliver Israel from the Midianites. It was God’s will that Gideon, though fearful and hiding from the Midianites, be the one chosen to deliver Israel. The Bible says, **“Now the Angel of the LORD came ... while...Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites”** (Judges 6:11). Gideon was doubtful why God chose him. He asked, **“O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house”** (Judges 6:15). He was full of doubts. Gideon said, **“O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites”** (Judges 6:13). Many believers are like Gideon at first, full of fears and doubts when God reveals His will and purposes to them. But later, he believed and obeyed God’s instructions and defeated the Midianites. **“Then Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon”** (Judges 8:28).

What can we learn from this? Firstly, when we know the will of God, we must have faith and obey God. It is God who gives us wisdom and power to prosper. **“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who**

gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day” (Deuteronomy 8:18). Secondly, God considers us like Gideon, a “mighty man of valor” (Judges 6:12). Paul says, **“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?...Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”** (Romans 8:31, 37). God has called us to be conquerors and overcomers because we are His children. The Bible says, **“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them,**

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ live in me...”

because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). Thirdly, when we do God’s will God’s way we will have no lack. God’s power and grace is more than sufficient.

Why does God choose imperfect and weak people to do His will? It is so that we will not glory in the flesh but only in the Lord. Paul says, **“That no flesh should glory in His presence...as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the LORD’** (1 Corinthians 1:29, 31). The Lord said to Gideon, **“The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me’”** (Judges 7:2). God reduced Gideon’s army of thirty-two thousand men to just three-hundred. The Lord said to Gideon, **“By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place”** (Judges 7:7). Three hundred men plus God will be more than sufficient to be successful! When Gideon won the battle, the people realised that it was God who enabled them and He was glorified.

God wants to declare His glory and grace through us so that we can win the world for Christ by our testimony and lifestyle. Therefore, make God’s will our priority.

There were three significant instruments that Gideon used in the battle against the Midianites. The Bible says, **“He put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers”** (Judges 7:16). The trumpet speaks of celebration, praise and worship. The trumpet is used to declare a message of praise and victory. If we use our mouths to declare and sing praises unto God, the enemy

cannot prevail because God dwells in the praises of His people. The empty pitcher speaks of a life that is empty of self but full of the Holy Spirit. **“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ... Be filled with the Spirit”** (Ephesians 5:17-18). We put much value on the pitcher which represents our carnal nature and are afraid to let it die. But unless it dies, we cannot experience the victorious life of Christ in us. Paul said, **“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”** (Galatians 2: 20). The torch speaks of a life that testifies of God’s salvation. The Bible exhorts us, **“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you”** (Isaiah 60:1).

Let us surrender our lives to God and make God’s will our priority, remembering that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us! ✚

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.



Clockwise from top left - Brenda Chin, Sara-Ann Yong and Jared Lee sharing their testimonies



CW COMMISSION DAY 2009

By Jared Lee

Sunday, 1 March 2009, was marked by a very special event involving 57 fourteen-year old Carpenter's Workshop (CW) graduates, as it was their CW Commission Day. Every year, on CW Commission Day, the CW graduates are officially recognised as adult-worshippers of Calvary Church.

The theme "Infinite Grace" was chosen to be the Commission Day theme (1 Timothy 1:14 - *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus*). It speaks of God's abundant grace upon each of the graduates throughout their growing up years in CW, and the years ahead.

Brenda Chin, Jared Lee and Sara-Ann Yong shared their testimonies of how God had blessed them and guided them through their years in CW. The graduates then pledged their commitment to join the adult congregation in worship, prayer, communion, giving and evangelism. This was followed by the congregation's response, led by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam in welcoming the graduates into the adults Worship Service. The congregation also pledged their commitment to encourage, support and guide the graduates in their growing relationship with God.

The graduates presented a song entitled "So Good To Me", that testified of God's goodness, grace and faithfulness upon their lives. Indeed it was truly God's infinite grace that had brought each of the graduates to this point in their young Christian lives. May they continue to grow strong in the Lord! ✚



BUILDING THE SPIRITUAL MAN

TO FACE TODAY'S CHALLENGES

By Carol Weller

On 15, 22 and 29 March 2009 we were blessed to have Rev. Margaret Seaward speak on "Building the Spiritual Man to Face Today's Challenges". Rev. Margaret comes from a long line of missionaries and preachers, and was born in China. Her son Rev. Rick was speaker at our last Missions Emphasis and her grandson Jeremy ministered to the youth at their camp in December 2008.

On the first Sunday evening, Rev. Margaret said that natural man would "relegate" God to a mere historical figure. God is a personal God and His presence is the only answer He gives to our every need. She preached from her main text of Psalm 84 where the psalmist enjoyed the dwelling place of God and yearned for His courts. We have to first recognise our need of Him as just reading the Bible is not enough. In John 6:63, it says that "it is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing." Our flesh has no power in spiritual realms. Samson was so blinded by fleshly things that he was not aware when the Spirit of God had left him. We are to "rebuild our altars" exhorted Rev. Margaret. We do this through submission of our wills, surrender of our lives and

sacrifice through self-denial.

On the second evening, Rev. Margaret continued on to verses 4 and 5 of Psalm 84, beginning by saying that we must abide in His presence where we cannot sin. As much as we know of His goodness, we are not to forget His severity against sin. Not everyone who goes to church is the planting of the Lord (Matthew 15:13). The righteous will bear fruit to a ripe old age. One key to remaining in His presence is to keep praising Him. Putting on "the garment of praise" as in Isaiah 61:3 will enable us to grow like "oaks of righteousness". In contrast, self pity, she said, was "the glue of hell", bringing many troubles upon us.

The message on the last Sunday was "The sign of revival is joy and rejoicing." "Joy," said Rev. Margaret, "is a requirement not an option in our Christian walk." Romans 14:17 and 18 states that



"the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." We need to be at peace with ourselves and self-hatred does not change the self. Joy comes in the "package of salvation" from God. Psalm 16:11 tells us that in God's presence "is fullness of joy." Joy is our spiritual armour and our strength. She warned us against serving God without joy which ultimately brings destruction. (Deuteronomy 28:47). We must maintain our joy in the Lord through fellowship, holiness and making God our focus daily.

At every Service many were uplifted, healed and revived in their faith as they responded at the altars. +

calvary convention centre (ccc)



Construction progress
as of March 2009

CCC SECRETARIAT

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6 BAPTISED IN WATER!

Praise the Lord, 6 individuals were baptised in water on 15 February 2009 at Damansara Heights!

We thank God for each one of them who, by this act of obedience, publicly declared their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. +

Left to right: James Ho Je Ren, Jenny Ho Seok Ling, Isaac Law Shek Xiang, Megan Lee Zehui, Joseph Lee Wai Mun, Mathew A/L Simon

THE EASTER STORY:

HE IS ALIVE!

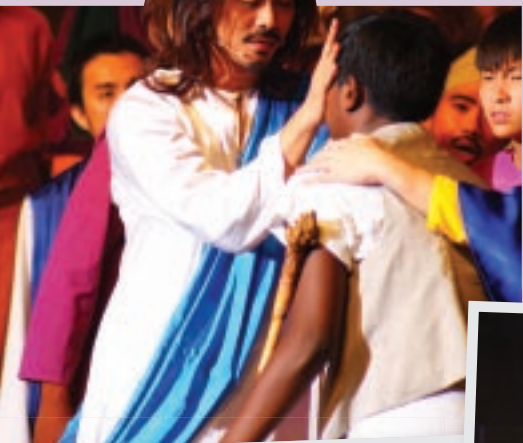
11, 12 AND 13 APRIL 2009 IN PUTRA STADIUM BUKIT JALIL



Cast and production
team of The Easter
Story: He Is Alive!

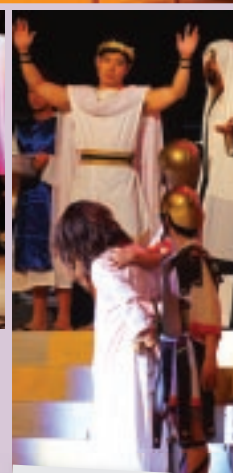


By Carol Weller. Photographs by David Tan, Lee Chun Chung, Peh Choon Wee & Robin Wong





Senior Pastor
Prince Guneratnam



Involvement: This year, the Calvary family once again came together to exercise our giftings, with God's anointing, to host the Easter evangelical presentation at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil. There were 35 children from the Children's Choir and 85 from the adults' choir. Forty-three dancers graced the performance and 26 performed in the drama. Praise God for the 15 who took part in this year's presentation for the first time. We are also grateful to God for the hundreds of faithful Calvarites who took on roles as ushers, altar workers, intercessors, stage construction and management crew, security personnel, first aiders, stall operators and so many others, on those three nights.

Spiritual Preparation: Weeks before, Calvarites were handing out handbills, going on prayer drives, and praying over name slips in preparation to bring the people of the city into a life-transforming experience of the risen Christ.

The Story: Our Easter Story this year has a real heavenly perspective. It begins in the courts of heaven as a kingly Jesus relinquishes His crown to come to earth. The recurring theme of the presentation is sung movingly: "Go change the world, our only hope is in a Saviour" and scene by scene takes us through the life of Jesus, first as Mary and Joseph and disciples are called and then as Jesus' ministry unfolds and culminates at the cross. At the crucifixion, the choir sings "Oh God, He's dying" reminding us that Jesus was no ordinary man. We are brought to heaven again where the angels ask if Jesus has been abandoned by the Father. In answer they sing triumphantly that death has lost its sting as the tombstone is moved and the angels declare that the Christ is risen! Satan is defeated. Go change the world!

The Set: Adding to the visual impact of this year's presentation was the use of a wide, 15 metre LED screen fronting a hill-





like set, featuring a host of angelic-choir overhead. Visuals on the LED screen blended the drama, dance, heavenly-choir and lights, into various portraitures - transporting audiences from one scene into another as the story unfolds.

The Message: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam ministered at the three services. On Good Friday, sensing the leading of the Holy Spirit, instead of sharing the message he had prepared, Senior Pastor gave the invitation for the people to respond to the powerful presentation that they had witness and accept the One who has died for their sins into their lives. On Saturday, Senior Pastor told us the biblical story of Barabbas who was the criminal awaiting a well deserved sentence of crucifixion for his crimes. Yet, it was Jesus whom the crowd chose to be crucified and for Barabbas to be set free. Jesus suffered

humiliation, persecution and death to save us even though He was innocent.

On Sunday, Senior Pastor illustrated the message of salvation and judgment by telling a story of a boy who was rescued from drowning. When the boy had grown up He committed a crime and was brought before a judge, who turned out to be his rescuer. He pleaded for mercy but to no avail as the judge said "before I was your savior, now I am your judge." There will be a time of judgment for all of us. Senior Pastor invited to people to accept God's gift of salvation and grace now while it was still available.

The Harvest: We truly rejoice that 10,540 people attended the three nights of the presentation. Eight hundred and five responded to the altar – amongst which, 447 came forward for salvation and rededication. +



easter morning service

EASTER

MORNING SERVICE

By Carol Weller. Photographs by David Tan,
Peh Choon Wee & Robin Wong.



Senior Pastor
Prince Guneratnam


On Easter morning, the whole Church congregation including those from the Satellites, met together at the stadium for a combined Worship Service. The Service began with a special number celebrating the resurrection of Jesus with choir and dance. Senior Pastor shared from the Scripture reading for that morning taken from Luke 24:36 – 53. When Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection, He assured them of peace and gave them proofs that He had risen in the flesh. He explained the Scriptures to them and commissioned them

that repentance and remission of sin be preached to all. Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to empower them.

The commission is applicable to us today, Senior Pastor exhorted us to go preach and live a witnessing lifestyle, along with a lifestyle of worship and of assembling together as believers.

Concurrently, the children aged four to six were treated to a puppet show and those from seven to eleven watched a skit by some of the youth, both with the theme “Jesus is alive!” +





KEHENDAK TUHAN, KEUTAMAAN SAYA

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“Segala perkara dapat kutanggung di dalam Dia yang memberi kekuatan kepadaku” (Filipi 4:13).

Ada orang mempunyai konsep yang salah tentang mengetahui kehendak Tuhan. Mereka fikir Tuhan hanya menunjukkan kehendakNya dengan kuasa luarbiasa sama seperti apabila Dia bercakap kepada Musa melalui semak duri yang menyala. Ada yang berfikir Tuhan menyembunyikan kehendakNya dan kita perlu membuat pelbagai aktiviti rohani untuk mencari kehendak Tuhan. Dan ada orang berfikir kehendak Tuhan adalah satu misteri yang hanya dinyatakan jika kita memenuhi jangkauanNya.

Terdapat situasi-situasi yang direkodkan dalam Alkitab, apabila Tuhan menyerlahkan kehendakNya dengan kuasa luarbiasa. Walau bagaimanapun, sering kali, kita membuat pengecualian ini sebagai satu kebiasaan. Tuhan tidak menyembunyikan kehendakNya daripada kita. Sebaliknya, Dia mahu kita untuk mengetahuinya. Semasa saya sedang membesar, tidak sukar untuk saya mengetahui kehendak bapa saya. Setiap kali, saya duduk di meja makan atau dalam kereta bapa saya, dia akan mencari cara untuk memberitahu kehendaknya untuk hidup saya. Semasa membesar, saya tidak pernah mengejar dia merata tempat atau merayu dia untuk memberitahu apa kehendaknya

untuk saya. Dia sentiasa bersedia untuk memberitahu saya. Ini adalah sama seperti Bapa di syurga. Jadikanlah Tuhan sebagai Bapa kamu di syurga dengan mempercayai bahawa Yesus Kristus adalah Tuhan dan Juruselamat kamu. Alkitab berkata, **“Semua orang, yang dipimpin Roh Tuhan, adalah anak Tuhan”** (Roma 8:14).

Maka itu, mengetahui kehendak Tuhan bukan satu masalah. Cabarannya ialah melakukan kehendak Tuhan. Rasul Paulus berkata, **“Segala perkara dapat kutanggung di dalam Dia yang memberi kekuatan kepadaku”** (Filipi 4:13). Paulus mengetahui kehendak Tuhan dan memahami apa yang Tuhan ingin dia lakukan dan ingin dia menjadi. Dia juga berkata, **“Aku tahu apa itu kekurangan dan aku tahu apa itu kelimpahan. Dalam segala hal dan dalam segala perkara tidak ada sesuatu yang merupakan rahasia bagiku; baik dalam hal kenyang, maupun dalam hal kelaparan, baik dalam hal kelimpahan maupun dalam hal kekurangan”** (Filipi 4:12). Dia mengatakan dia bisa menjadi apapun yang Tuhan inginnya untuk menjadi kerana Kristus menguatkan dia.

Abraham mengetahui kehendak Tuhan walaupun dia disuruh untuk mengorbankan Ishak, satu-satunya anak lelakinya di atas gunung. Ini merupakan

satu situasi yang sukar untuk Abraham kerana Tuhan telah menjanji menjadikan dia sebagai “bapa sejumlah besar bangsa”. Sering kali, Tuhan akan menempatkan kita untuk diuji dan tanggungjawab kita ialah berjalan dalam ketaatan menurut kehendakNya. Abraham sudah bersedia untuk mentaati apabila Tuhan menghentikannya dan menyediakan domba jantan untuk korban itu. Abraham memenuhi kehendak Tuhan dengan menjadi “bapa sejumlah besar bangsa” dengan pertolongan Tuhan.

Yesus mengetahui dan mengerti kehendak Bapa untuk hidupNya. Di dalam Taman Getsemani, Dia berdoa untuk kekuatan untuk melakukan kehendak Bapa. Sama seperti itu, adalah penting untuk kita menyedari bahawa kita perlu mendapat kekuatan dari Tuhan untuk berjalan dalam ketaatan menurut kehendakNya.

Cerita tentang Gideon begitu indah menggambarkan cabaran yang kita lalui apabila kita melakukan kehendak Tuhan. Tuhan mencari seseorang untuk membebaskan Israel daripada orang-orang Midian. Sememangnya kehendak Tuhan untuk Gideon, walaupun ketakutan dan bersembunyi daripada orang-orang Midian, dia merupakan seorang yang telah dipilih untuk membebaskan Israel. Alkitab berkata, **“Kemudian datanglah Malaikat TUHAN ...sementara...Gideon mengirak gandum dalam tempat pemerasan anggur agar tersembunyi bagi orang Midian”** (Hakim-hakim 6:11). Gideon ragu-ragu kenapa Tuhan memilihnya. Dia bertanya, **“Ah Tuhanku, dengan apakah akan kuselamatkan orang Israel? Ketahuilah, kaumku adalah yang paling kecil di antara suku Manasye dan akupun seorang yang paling muda di antara kaum keluargaku”** (Hakim-hakim 6:15). Dia penuh dengan keraguan. Gideon berkata, **“Ah, tuanku, jika TUHAN menyertai kami, mengapa semuanya ini menimpa kami? Di manakah segala perbuatan-perbuatan-Nya yang ajaib yang diceritakan oleh nenek moyang kepada kami, ketika mereka berkata: Bukankah TUHAN telah menuntun kita keluar dari Mesir? Tetapi sekarang TUHAN membuang kami dan menyerahkan kami ke**

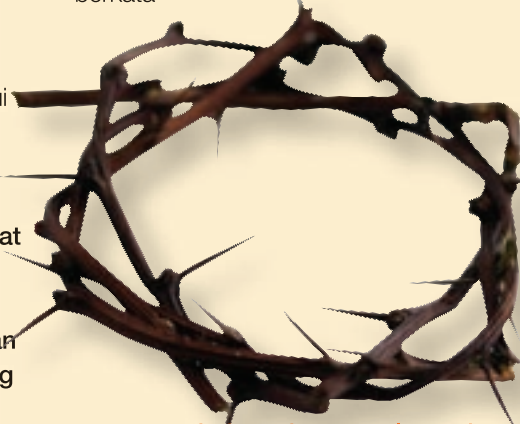
dalam cengkeraman orang Midian”

(Hakim-hakim 6:13). Ramai umat Kristian adalah seperti Gideon pada mulanya, penuh dengan ketakutan dan keraguan apabila Tuhan menunjukkan kehendak dan tujuanNya kepada mereka. Tetapi kemudian, dia percaya dan mentaati perintah Tuhan dan mengalahkan orang-orang Midian. **“Demikianlah orang Midian tunduk kepada orang Israel dan tidak dapat menegakkan kepalanya lagi; maka amanlah negeri itu empat puluh tahun lamanya pada zaman Gideon”** (Hakim-hakim 8:28).

Apa yang dapat kita belajar dari ini? Pertama sekali, apabila kita mengetahui kehendak Tuhan, kita mesti ada iman dan mentaati Tuhan. Tuhanlah yang memberi kita hikmat dan kuasa untuk berhasil. **“Tetapi haruslah engkau ingat kepada TUHAN, sebab Dialah yang memberikan kepadamu kekuatan untuk memperoleh kekayaan, dengan maksud meneguhkan perjanjian yang**

lebih daripada mencukupi.

Kenapakah Tuhan memilih orang yang lemah dan tidak sempurna untuk melakukan kehendakNya? Ini kerana kita tidak akan mengandalkan jasmani tetapi hanya mengandalkan Tuhan. Paulus berkata, **“supaya jangan ada seorang manusiapun yang memegahkan diri di hadapan Tuhan... Karena itu seperti ada tertulis: “Barangsiapa yang bermegah, hendaklah ia bermegah di dalam Tuhan”** (1 Korintus 1:29, 31). Tuhan berkata



“Namun aku hidup, tetapi bukan lagi aku sendiri yang hidup, melainkan Kristus yang hidup di dalam aku...”

diikrarkan-Nya dengan sumpah kepada nenek moyangmu, seperti sekarang ini” (Ulangan 8:18). Kedua, Tuhan menganggap kita seperti Gideon, seorang “pahlawan yang gagah berani” (Hakim-hakim 6:12). Paulus berkata, **“Sebab itu apakah yang akan kita katakan tentang semuanya itu? Jika TUHAN di pihak kita, siapakah yang akan melawan kita?... Tetapi dalam semuanya itu kita lebih dari pada orang-orang yang menang, oleh Dia yang telah mengasihi kita”** (Roma 8:31, 37). Tuhan telah memanggil kita untuk menjadi penakluk dan pemenang kerana kita adalah anakNya. 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 dari pada roh yang ada di dalam dunia.”** (1 Yohanes 4:4). Ketiga, apabila kita melakukan kehendak Tuhan dengan caraNya kita tidak akan ada kekurangan. Kuasa dan rahmatNya adalah

kepada Gideon, **“Terlalu banyak rakyat yang bersama-sama dengan engkau itu dari pada yang Kuhendaki untuk menyerahkan orang Midian ke dalam tangan mereka, jangan-jangan orang Israel memegahkan diri terhadap Aku, sambil berkata: Tanganku sendirilah yang menyelamatkan aku”** (Hakim-hakim 7:2). Tuhan mengurangkan tentera Gideon daripada tiga puluh dua ribu orang kepada hanya tiga ratus. Tuhan berkata kepada Gideon, **“Dengan ketiga ratus orang yang menghirup itu akan Kuselamatkan kamu: Aku akan menyerahkan orang Midian ke dalam tanganmu; tetapi yang lain dari rakyat itu semuanya boleh pergi, masing-masing ke tempat kediamannya”** (Hakim-hakim 7:7). Tiga ratus orang bersama Tuhan adalah lebih daripada mencukupi untuk berjaya! Apabila Gideon menang dalam peperangan, orang menyadari bahawa adalah Tuhan yang memampukan

mereka dan Dia dimuliakan. Tuhan mahu mengisytiharkan kemuliaan dan rahmatNya melalui kita supaya kita boleh memenangi dunia untuk Kristus melalui kesaksian dan cara hidup kita. Maka itu, jadikanlah kehendak Tuhan, keutamaan kita.

Terdapat tiga alat bermakna yang Gideon gunakan dalam peperangan menentang orang-orang Midian. Alkitab berkata, **“...diberikannya sangkakala dan buyung kosong dengan suluh di dalam buyung itu”** (Hakim-Hakim 7:16). Sangkakala melambangkan pesta, pujian dan sembah. Sangkakala digunakan untuk mengisytiharkan berita pujian dan kemenangan. Jika kita menggunakan mulut untuk mengisytiharkan dan menyanyi pujian kepada Tuhan, musuh tidak akan menang kerana Tuhan bertakhta di atas pujian umatNya. Buyung yang kosong itu bercakap tentang kehidupan yang mengosongkan diri tetapi penuh dengan Roh Kudus. **“Sebab itu janganlah kamu bodoh, tetapi usahakanlah supaya kamu mengerti kehendak Tuhan. Dan janganlah kamu mabuk oleh anggur, karena anggur menimbulkan hawa nafsu, tetapi hendaklah kamu penuh dengan Roh,”** (Efesus 5:17-18). Kita meletakkan terlalu banyak nilai ke atas buyung yang melambangkan sifat duniawi kita dan takut untuk membiarkan ia mati. Tetapi jika ia tidak mati, kita tidak boleh mengalami kemenangan kehidupan Kristus dalam hidup kita. Paulus berkata, **“Namun aku hidup, tetapi bukan lagi aku sendiri yang hidup, melainkan Kristus yang hidup di dalam aku. Dan hidupku yang kuhidupi sekarang di dalam daging, adalah hidup oleh iman dalam Anak Tuhan yang telah mengasihi aku dan menyerahkan diri-Nya untuk aku”** (Galatia 2:20). Suluh menyatakan tentang kehidupan yang menyaksikan keselamatan Tuhan. Alkitab mendorong kita, **“Bangkitlah, menjadi teranglah, sebab terangmu datang, dan kemuliaan TUHAN terbit atasmu”** (Yesaya 60:1).

Mari kita menyerahkan kehidupan kita kepada Tuhan dan menjadikan kehendak Tuhan, keutamaan kita, dengan mengingatkan bahawa kita boleh melakukan segala sesuatu melalui Kristus yang menguatkan kita! +

神的旨意， 我的優先

文：古納南主任牧師

「我靠著那加給我力量的，凡事都能做」(腓4:13)。

有些人對認識神的旨意有錯誤的概念。他們認為神只以超自然的方式啟示他的旨意就像當他從荊棘裏火焰中向摩西說話一樣。有些人認為神隱藏他的旨意，我們必須有屬靈操練的技巧才能尋著神的旨意。又有些人以為神的旨意是奧秘的，只有在我們符合他的期望時才啟示給我們。

聖經記載有些情況神是以超自然方式啟示他的旨意。然而，我們常常把例外當作是規範。神不對我們隱藏他的旨意。其實，他要我們知道。在我成長中，我從來沒有困難知道我父親對我的意願。有時候當我在餐桌上或是在我父親的車裡，他會找方法表達他對我今生的願望。我從來不用到處追問他或求他告訴我他要我長大後成為怎樣的人。他永遠樂意讓我知道。我們的天父也是如此。相信耶穌基督為你生命的主宰和救主，讓神成為你的天父。聖經上說，「因為凡被神的靈引導的，都是神的兒子」(羅8:14)。

因此，知道神的旨意不是問題。目前的挑戰是去遵行神的旨意。使徒保羅說，「我靠著那加給我力量的，凡事都能做」(腓4:13)。保羅知道神的旨意和明白神要他成為何等的人和去行的事。他也說，「我知道怎樣處卑賤，也知道怎樣處豐富；或飽足，或飢餓；或有餘，或缺乏，隨事隨在，我都得了秘訣」(腓4:12)。他說到他能夠成為任何神所要的人，因為基督加力量給他。

亞伯拉罕知道神的旨意，儘管他被告知要在山上獻他的獨生兒子以撒為祭。這對

亞伯拉罕來說是艱難的情況，因為神曾經應許他使他作「多國的父」。神經常考驗我們，我們的責任是要順服他的旨意而行。亞伯拉罕樂意順服，而神阻止他並為他預備好一隻公羊為祭物。靠著神的幫助，亞伯拉罕實現了神的旨意成為「多國的父」。

耶穌知道和明白神對他一生的旨意。在客西馬尼園中他祈求力量遵行神的旨意。同樣地，至關重要的是我們要知道我們需要向神支取力量來遵行和順服他的旨意。

基甸的事跡正好說明了當我們遵行神的旨意所面臨的挑戰。神在尋找一人能把以色列人從米甸人的手裡拯救出來。雖然基甸害怕和躲避著米甸人，神的旨意是要他成為被神揀選拯救以色列的人。聖經上說，「耶和華的使者到了俄弗拉，...基甸正在酒醉那裏打麥子，為要防備米甸人」(士6:11)。基甸對神的揀選感到疑惑。他問，「主啊，我有何能拯救以色列人呢？我家在瑪拿西支派中是至貧窮的。我在我父家是至微小的」(士6:15)。他充滿了疑惑。基甸說，「主啊，耶和華若與我們同在，我們何至遭遇這一切事呢？我們的列祖不是向我們說『耶和華領我們從埃及上來』嗎？他那樣奇妙的作為在那裏呢？現在他卻丟棄我們，將我們交在米甸人手裏」(士6:13)。許多的信徒好像基甸一樣，起初充滿了懼怕和疑惑，當神向他們啟示他的旨意和目的時。但是，後來，他相信和順服了神的指示而打敗了米甸人。「這樣，米甸人被以色列人制伏了，不敢再抬頭。基甸還在的日子，國中太平四十年」

(士8:28)。

我們能夠從這裡學到什麼功課？第一，當我們知道神的旨意，我們必須要有信心和順服神。因神賜給我們智慧和能力成功。「你要記念耶和華你的神，因為得貨財的力量是他給你的，為要堅定他向你列祖起誓所立的約，像今日一樣」(申8:18)。第二，神視我們如基甸，是「大能的勇士」(士6:12)。保羅說，「既是這樣，還有甚麼說的呢？神若幫助我們，誰能敵擋我們呢？...然而，靠著愛我們的主，在這一切的事上已經得勝有餘了」(羅8:31,37)。神呼召我們作得勝者因為我們是他的兒女。聖經上說，「小子們哪，你們是屬神的，並且勝了他們；因為那在你們裏面的，比那在世界上的更大」(約壹4:4)。第三，當我們以神的方式遵行神的旨意，我們必不至缺乏。神的能力和恩典是足夠有餘。

神為什麼揀選不完全和軟弱的人來遵行他的旨意呢？這樣我們就不能誇口肉體，只有指著主誇口。保羅說，「使一切有血氣的，在神面前一個也不能自誇。...如經上所記：『誇口的，當指著主誇口。』」(林前1:29,31)。耶和華對基甸說，「跟隨你的人過多，我不能將米甸人交在他們手中，免得以色列人向我誇大，說：『是我們自己的手救了我們。』」(士7:2)。神把基甸的軍隊從三萬二千人減低至三百人。耶和華對基甸說，「我要用這舔水的三百人拯救你們，將米甸人交在你手中；其餘的人都可以各歸各處去」(士7:7)。三百人加上神就足夠戰勝有餘。在基甸得勝後，以色列人明白這是神幫助他們，而神也得著榮耀。神要藉著我們宣告他的榮耀和恩

典,以致我們能夠以我們的見證和生活方式贏取世人歸向基督。因此,讓神的旨意成為我們的優先。

基甸在與米甸人爭戰時使用了三件重要的工具。聖經上說,「於是基甸將三百人分作三隊,把角和空瓶交在各人手裏(瓶內都藏著火把)」(士7:16)。號角是代表慶祝,讚美和敬拜。號角是用來宣告讚美和勝利的信息。如果我們用我們的口來宣告和歌頌讚美神,敵人就不能得勝因為神是居住在他子民的讚美中間。空瓶是代表倒空自己,卻被聖靈充滿的生命。「不要作糊塗人,要明白主的旨意如何。...乃要被聖靈充滿」(弗5:17-18)。我們很重視這代表我們肉體的空瓶和害怕讓他死去。但是除非他死去,我們不能夠經歷基督在我們裡面的勝利生命。保羅說,「我已經與基督同釘十字架,現在活著的不再是我,乃是基督在我裏面活著;並且我如今在肉身活著,是因信神的兒子而活;他是愛我,為我捨己」(加2:20)。火把是代表見證神救恩的生命。聖經上說,「興起,發光!因為你的光已經來到!耶和華的榮耀發現照耀你」(賽60:1)。

讓我們獻上我們的生命給神,讓神的旨意成為我們的優先,謹記我靠著那加給我力量的,凡事都能做! +

以上經文是採用中文聖經和合本

五月份

中文聚會

与家庭营联合

日期: 1-6-09 - 4-6-09

六月份

中文聚會

日期: 28-6-09

講員: 古師母

時間: 下午五點正

地點: 伯特利樓

申請浸禮及會籍課程

日期: 20-6-09(星期六)

時間: 下午一點四十五分

浸禮聚會

日期: 21-6-09(星期日)

時間: 下午五點正

地點: 大堂

報名截止日期: 3-5-09

THE BAHASA MALAYSIA (BM) TERMINOLOGY WORKSHOP

by Felisa Foo



Henry Wee



The BM Ministry organised their second BM Biblical Terminology Workshop on Saturday, 14 March 2009 at Damansara Perdana. The first workshop was held in 2007.

As BM is the mother tongue of 55 percent of the 27 million population in Malaysia, there is a vast opportunity to reach those who converse in this language. Recognising the great potential to utilise this language to expand God's Kingdom, 23 Calvarites responded to be equipped with the ability to use correct biblical terminology as a tool to share their faith in BM.



The workshop started with an introduction by one of the trainers, Henry Wee, who later proceeded to get the participants acquainted with 50 common biblical terms. The participants were then asked to translate their salvation testimony from English to BM using the terms that were taught. Experienced BM facilitators were seen helping the participants through this exercise.

One of the participants from the previous BM workshop, Rachel Wong, testified how the workshop she attended two years ago benefited her. It helped in her interfaith dialogue at her place of study and enabled her to communicate better to her BM speaking friends. In addition, she is now involved in the BM Ministry as one of the translators.

Associate Pastor David Seah, in his pastoral exhortation, concluded the workshop by reminding the participants to offer to God to use that which is in their hands. Little can indeed become much, when our abilities are placed in the Master's hands.

Overall, the participants benefited much from the workshop. Some of them have also expressed the desire to be involved in the BM Ministry.

Puji Tuhan! +

	DAMANSARA HEIGHTS (DH) 8am + 10.30am	AMPANG/ DH 10.30am/5pm	CHERAS 9am	DAMANSARA PERDANA 10.30am
may *3	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Richard Yun/ Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor Steven Kum
10	MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam			
17	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam 	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
24	Associate Pastor David Seah	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
31	Rev. Dikran Salbashian 	Rev. Dikran Salbashian	Rev. Dikran Salbashian	Rev. Dikran Salbashian
june *7	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong/ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Associate Pastor Richard Yun
14	Associate Pastor Steven Kum	Associate Pastor David Seah	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
21	FATHER'S DAY SERVICE Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam			
28	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong	Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam/ Associate Pastor Richard Yun	Associate Pastor Peter Ong	Associate Pastor Peter Ong

* communion

BAHASA MALAYSIA FELLOWSHIP

Sunday | 12.30pm

31 MAY 2009

speaker ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID SEAH
venue BETHEL HALL

28 JUNE 2009

speaker ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID SEAH
venue BETHEL HALL

Water Baptism & Membership

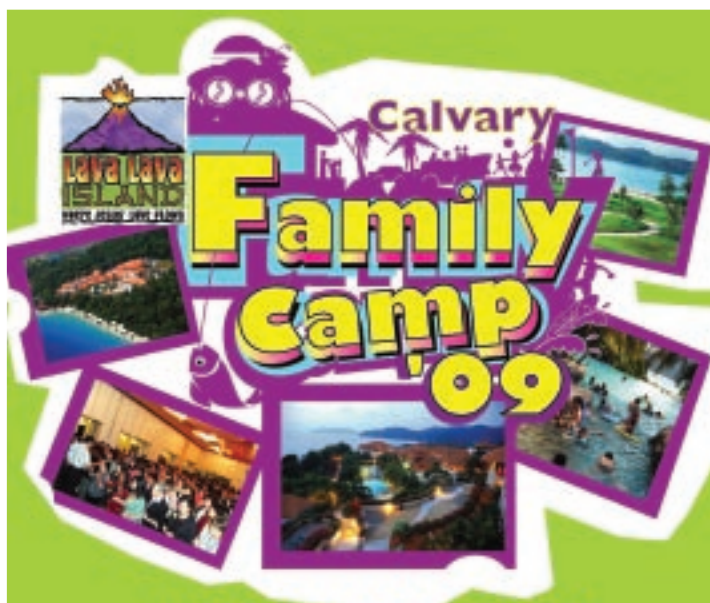
WATER BAPTISM/ MEMBERSHIP CLASS

date 20 JUNE 2009, SATURDAY
time 1.45PM

WATER BAPTISM SERVICE

date 21 JUNE 2009, SUNDAY
time 5PM

Closing Date for submission of forms: **4 MAY 2009, SUNDAY**



Calvary Church Family Camp 2009!

date 1-4 JUNE 2009
speaker SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE
 GUNERATNAM
 REV. DIKRAN SALBASHIAN
 REV. DANIEL CHOO
venue SWISS GARDEN RESORT,
 DAMAI LAUT, LUMUT



Rev. Dikran
Salbashian

KIDS CAMP 2009



Calling all CW
kids. Join us
at LAVA LAVA
island "where
Jesus love flows"

Happening concurrently with
Calvary Church Family Camp 2009

date 1-4 JUNE 2009
venue Swiss Garden Resort, Damai Laut, Lumut

CHINESE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday | 5pm

31 MAY 2009

**Combined with the
Church Family Camp**

Sign up for the Calvary
Church Family Camp 2009!

speaker REV. DANIEL CHOO

venue SWISS GARDEN RESORT, DAMAI LAUT, LUMUT



Rev. Daniel
Choo

28 JUNE 2009

speaker SENIOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR
 PETRINA GUNERATNAM

venue BETHEL HALL

* Bring your Chinese-speaking family and friends.

Call Assistant Pastor Chua Ken Tee at 03-7728 6000
ext. 320 for more information.

YOUTH: may

ON THE EDGE

Spiritual life.. What is it all about? Is it just about
reading your Bible, or praying an hour or 2 every day..
There's gotta be more to it than just that.... Come and
discover the power, the exhilaration in living a life that
is spiritually attuned.. It's living life on the edge!

YOUTH: june



"Don't you just need to be a good person to go to
heaven? Why do Christians think their way is the only
way? How do we know the Bible is true anyway? If
God is a God of love, why does He send people to
hell? This series answers these questions and gives us
the basis for Christianity."

**COME AND JOIN CALVARY YOUTH
 EVERY SATURDAY AT 3PM AT
 DAMANSARA HEIGHTS TO FIND OUT MORE!**



FATHER & SON by Paul Ranga BACKPACKING EXPEDITION

From the 16 to 18 March 2009, the Royal Rangers organised a Father and Son Backpacking Expedition to the Endau Rompin National Park in Johor. Seven courageous fathers and eight equally courageous sons (one of the fathers had two sons) braved the rigours of three days of hiking and camping in the wilderness of one of Malaysia's few remaining pristine rainforests that has existed undisturbed for millions of years. Accompanied by Commanders Jim Guneratnam, David Peter, Kester Low and Sasha, we left Church at six on Monday morning for what was to be a truly remarkable experience.

Our theme was "Walking with the Lord" taken from 2 Kings 20:3. Fathers and sons drew strength from the verse as we trekked through steep and narrow jungle paths, crossed fast moving rivers, suffered leeches and put up with wet (very!) weather day and night. Even though the hikes were long and the backpacks heavy, it was a time of fun together for the Rangers and their fathers. It was an opportunity to make new friends and strengthen old ones. Being completely cut off from civilisation, we cooked our own food and bathed in lakes and rivers, some even taking late night dips in the cold waters. Fathers and sons had a rare chance to be out in the open and share private devotion together.

Thanks to the training we had before the trip which helped to shape us up, it turned out to be an uneventful, safe and enjoyable adventure. In fact, after we returned to Calvary on Wednesday evening and were going back to our own homes, we were already asking if the Royal Rangers would organise more similar trips! +





Philip Yong sharing his testimony



ROYAL RANGERS GRADUATION & AWARDS CEREMONY

by Kester Low

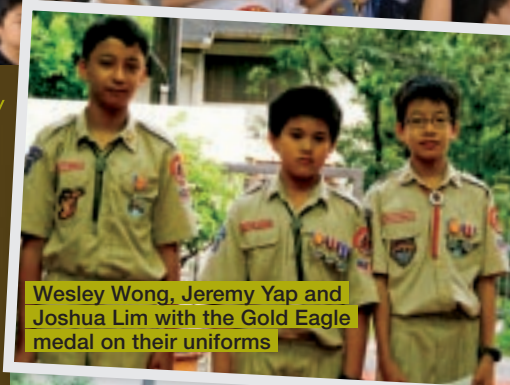
5 April 2009 at Calvary Refreshment Centre: The Royal Rangers conducted a ceremony for the graduation of Rangers being promoted to the next age group. This has and always will be an exciting occasion as the Rangers will now be introduced to a new set of advancements and adventure. Marking the graduation, the Rangers were introduced to their new Commanders of their new age groups – who were all there eager to greet and welcome every graduating Ranger.

In conjunction with the graduation, we were also witnesses to the recognition of three Discovery Rangers who worked diligently to achieve the highest award in the Discovery Rangers programme - the Gold Eagle. Wesley Wong, Joshua Lim and

Jeremy Yap were the first in our Outpost (KL#1) to achieve this medal. We rejoice with them!

Along the way, a rally of entertaining, humorous and memorable skits and presentations livened the rainy day. Outpost Council Chairman, Jim Guneratnam shared devotion and Philip Yong, father of Adventure Ranger William Yong, shared a testimony of his experience in the recent Father & Son Backpacking Expedition.

The ceremony ended with refreshments as we watched a slideshow of the Ranger Kids' Nite Out, the Father & Son Backpacking Expedition to Endau Rompin and an announcement of the upcoming National Camporama. We were blessed and inspired for the new year. +



Wesley Wong, Jeremy Yap and Joshua Lim with the Gold Eagle medal on their uniforms



RANGER KIDS' NITE OUT

The Ranger Kids recently had their annual Nite Out on 13 and 14 March 2009. On the second day, after having spent a night at the Jerusalem bungalow in Calvary Church, the Rangers went for a day trip to Calvaryland in Sungai Pelek. They had the opportunity to visit and fellowship with the residents there, as well as had fun at the beach in Bagan Lalang. +





Front row (left to right) Associate Pastor Timothy Ong, Associate Pastor Peter Ong, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, Assistant Pastor Chua Ken Tee, Sharon Loh **Back row (left to right)** Associate Pastor Raymond Yong, Associate Pastor David Seah, Associate Pastor Steven Kum, Associate Pastor Richard Yun, Pam Lee, Associate Pastor Christopher Lee

Senior Executive Pastor
SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE
GUNERATNAM

Senior Associate Pastor
PASTOR PETRINA GUNERATNAM

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Executive Pastor
ASSOCIATE PASTOR PETER ONG

Church Missions
ASSOCIATE PASTOR STEVEN KUM

Pastoral Life Groups
ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID SEAH

Outreach Missions
ASSOCIATE PASTOR RICHARD YUN

Chinese
ASSISTANT PASTOR CHUA KEN TEE

Evangelism & Discipleship
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TIMOTHY ONG

Youth
PAM LEE

Music & Creative Arts
ASSOCIATE PASTOR CHRISTOPHER LEE

Children
ASSOCIATE PASTOR CHRISTOPHER LEE

**Social Concern/Church Public
Relations**
ASSOCIATE PASTOR RAYMOND YONG

Church Hospitality
SHARON LOH



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