

# 2013

## april issue

PP5911/11/2012(041323) ISSUE 147

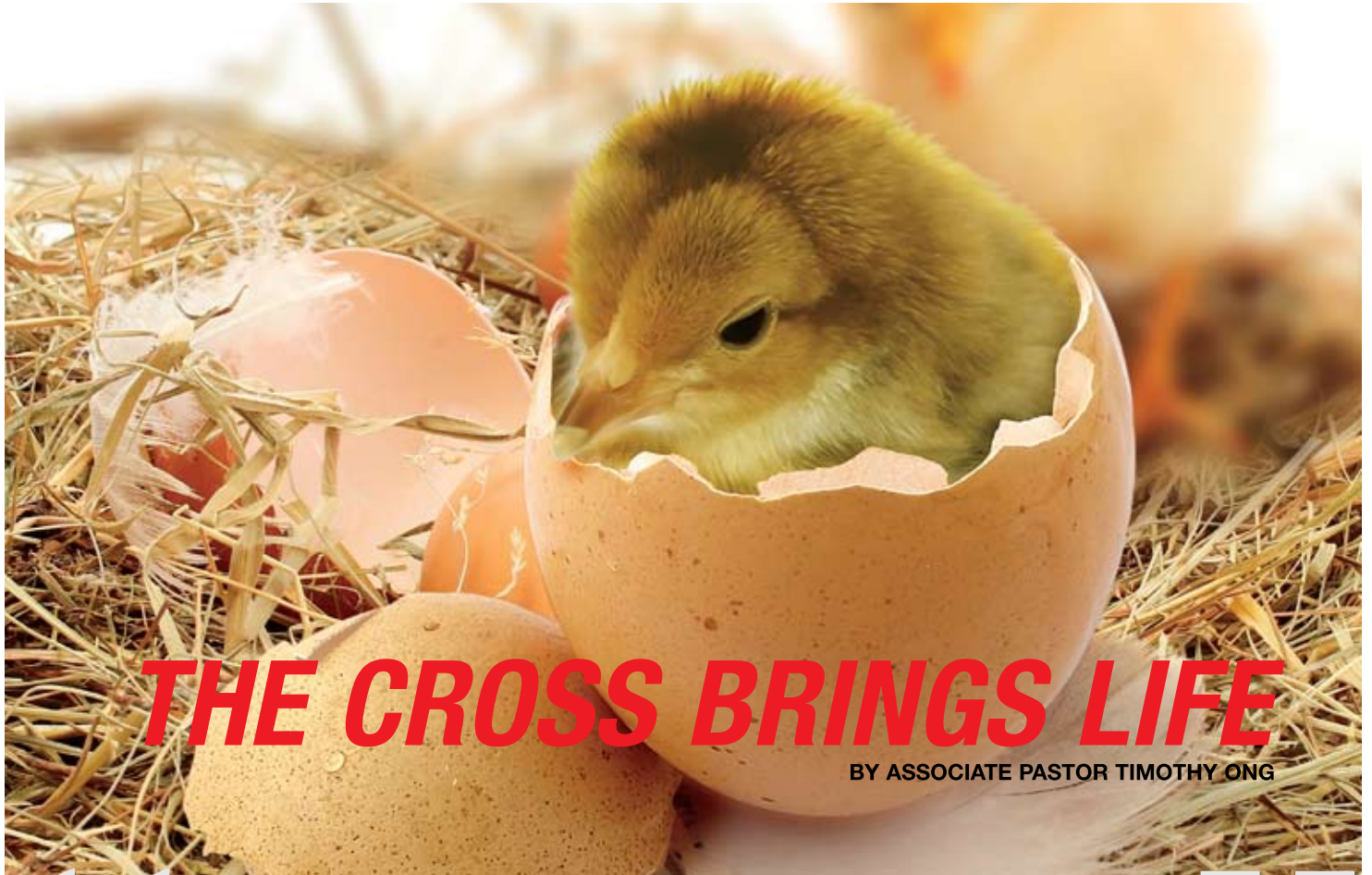
“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it” ( John 5:21).



**calvary**NEWS

a monthly publication of calvary church





# THE CROSS BRINGS LIFE

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR TIMOTHY ONG

**The eternal plan of God was that man can only be saved by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus on the cross. God in His great wisdom had already planned for the cross before the world was created.**

***“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:17-18).***

***“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2).***

**THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT THE JEWS AND GREEKS GREATLY MISUNDERSTOOD JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS.** The wisdom of man is finite, whereas the wisdom of God is infinite. Therefore man is incapable of understanding the purpose of the cross (message of the cross). The cross is therefore foolishness to the world. Who could have understood that the death of Jesus at the cross and resurrection brings salvation to all who believe in Him? But

God has given us revelation to learn the things of God

When Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers, it was the reign of the Roman Empire. The cross was the common method used to punish and bring to death wicked criminals. The cross then, spoke of shame and the total inability of man to help himself. Therefore, the doctrine that the cross gives life is in opposition to the rationale of the worldly –wise. The Bible says, **“Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength” (1 Corinthians 1:22-25).**

The Greeks here represent man's

desire and quest for wisdom and knowledge. The Greek historian, Herodotus said, “All Greeks are zealous for every kind of learning.” They were most willing to sit and listen, talk and debate with anyone who has anything different or novel to teach. However, Paul's message on the cross was not acceptable to them as it was utter foolishness. In our natural understanding and thinking, the cross is foolishness. The Bible says, **it is foolish to those who are perishing (1 Corinthians 1:18).** The foolishness of God is still wiser than the wisest man's wisdom. The cross is God's sacred wisdom.

The Jews represent man's desire for signs. **“The Pharisees and the teachers of the law said to Jesus, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” (Matthew 12:38).** The Bible says, **“As the crowds increased, Jesus said, ‘This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man**

**be to this generation'** (Luke 11:29-30). The Jews demanded to see Jesus perform miraculous signs as they expected their Messiah to come down from the cross, save Himself and free them from the Roman rule. The sign they were looking for, the assumption of secular power which they expected in the Messiah, did not appear in Christ. The doctrine that the Messiah was to be crucified was a stumbling block to the Jews. Offended and scandalized, the Jews rejected Jesus.

### THE CROSS IS GOD'S POWER UNTO SALVATION

Paul went ahead and preached a crucified Christ because the cross demonstrates God's power and wisdom. He said, **"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"** (1 Corinthians 1:17-18). Paul's resolve was, **"... to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified"** (1 Corinthians 2:2). The cross gives life when man comes to God in a position of weakness and humility, trusting in all God is and can be. And when you experience the power and wisdom of God, you cannot help but prostrate before Him and say, "You are God."

The wisdom of the cross is divine. It is more than a wise plan. It is the power of God unto salvation. You can be delivered and set free when you recognize and acknowledge that only God can help you. Confess your sin to Him and ask for His forgiveness. God's wisdom is such that unless man sees himself as he really is, bankrupt, he does not know how to appropriate all that God has in store for him, all of God's wonderful promises through the power of the cross. Christ crucified is God's way of restoring man to Himself.

The power of the cross saves us from sin and shame. Consider the pain and poverty in the world, sorrow, hatred, murder, depression, hopelessness, suicide, the list goes on and on. These are manifestations of the traits of satan and

are sin related. The believer is not exempt from the struggle with sin. Paul wrote honestly about his inward struggles. **"We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do"** (Romans 7:14-15). The law was not able to save us. **"For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh"** (Romans 8:3). The blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross did what the law cannot do. Hence Paul declared the power of the Gospel. **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes ..."** (Romans 1:16). Like Paul, we must depend totally on the power of God to give us the victory over sin. Believers must depend totally on the work of Christ for our salvation. We cannot earn it by our good behaviour.

The Bible teaches, **"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"** (Colossians 1:13-14). By Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection, there is salvation and deliverance for all who believe.

Jesus died and rose again. He has conquered death. And you can experience the resurrection power to live victoriously. Paul taught, **"For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus ... For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace"** (Romans 6: 9-11;14).

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is eternally powerful. The author of the book of Hebrew said, **"Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the**

**culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself"** (Hebrews 9:26). But when Jesus died, He only died ONCE and FOR ALL.

The eternal plan of God was that man can only be saved by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus on the cross. God in His great wisdom had already planned for the cross before the world was created. Jesus came to this earth and died on the cross at the divinely appointed time. Jesus, the perfect lamb of God died once for all who believe in Him. Those who will not believe perish. For them, the cross is foolishness. But for God, it is the power of God unto salvation.

We must come back to the cross again and again because the cross is where we receive hope, life, healing, reconciliation, purity of love, God's assurance of His presence and provision. The cross is where all of His promises are fulfilled, as the covenantal blood flows. ✚

All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.



# OPERATION SATURATION

## SATURATING CCC NEIGHBOURHOOD WITH GOOD NEWS! 40,000 homes receive invitations to Easter Musical & CCC

ON MARCH 16, OPERATION SATURATION KICKED OFF WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT AND THE PURPOSE OF REACHING HOMES WITHIN A FIVE KILOMETER RADIUS OF CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE (CCC).

Thank God for 333 Calvarites who participated in the tracting of the Easter handbills and CCC leaflets.

Right from the start, there was a great sense of camaraderie at all service locations. The sanctuaries were abuzz with expectation and a sense of unity. It was great to see team leaders touching base with their members and distributing them the materials for tracting.

After a time of briefing and prayers, they were flagged off. Each car carried the sticker, Heaven & Earth Rejoices CU @ CCC which provides publicity for our Easter musical. The areas covered were Old Klang Road, OUG, Sri Petaling, Kinrara, Puchong and Bukit Jalil.

Calvarites of all ages did the tracting with great enthusiasm. Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to be witnesses for Christ! They also got to know our neighbours in the CCC neighbourhood.

At the end of the exercise, all headed to the CCC for a time of celebration and fellowshiping over refreshments. Executive Pastor Peter Ong appreciated and acknowledged the leadership of our Senior Pastor who initiated this exercise, the diligent working team and generous sponsors for the CCC flyers, car stickers and refreshment.

There was a great sense of joy and jubilation, knowing that the CCC neighbourhood will never be the same again! ✚

Senior Pastor  
praying the Prayer of  
Blessing upon CCC  
all Calvarites



**From left to right:**

Top most row: Calvarites giving out tracts, Second row: Participants at all service locations waving the tracts, Third row: Briefing by team leaders, Tracting Insets: Flag off at respective locations by Senior Pastor, Pastor Peter Ong and Pastor David Seah





# A GREAT AND EFFECTIVE DOOR HAS BEEN OPENED

## A NEW ERA FOR CALVARY CHURCH BEGINS!

**PRAISE GOD THAT WE ARE FINALLY MOVING TO CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE (CCC)! AND FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME WE ARE HOSTING A CITY WIDE EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN IN OUR VERY OWN PREMISES!**

This marks a new era for Calvary Church. God has opened a great and effective door for us as we are wanting to reach more people for Jesus.

This also marks Calvary's 28th year of Christmas & Easter Evangelistic Project. Thus far we had 16 Christmas productions and 16 Easter musicals & Sunrise

Services held at Wisma MCA, Stadium Negara, Menara PGRM, Putra Stadium and National Hockey Stadium. The first one began in 1986 "The Singing Christmas Tree" in Dewan San Choon. And now for the very first time we are holding it in our very own premises. This is truly a great open door for reaching out for Calvary Church.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam's prayer for Calvarites is that we will recognise that God is wanting to move us from one level to another level. And we would take the stand to be a blessing to the community and nation. And that God will help us rise

up to the challenge and move us up to another level for God's glory.

Church, let's believe God to fill up CCC auditorium and see many souls responding to the altar to receive Christ and to make commitments of their lives to Jesus this Easter and beyond. +



# UNLEASHING HIS POWER AT THE LG SEMINAR

BY ESTHER WONG KAR MEI

**THE CALVARY LIFE GROUPS WERE TAKEN BY SPANISH STORM ON 20 -21 FEBRUARY 2013 AT THE LG SEMINAR WITH PASTOR MARIO VEGA.** Over 500 Calvarites were blessed at the two-day seminar held in Calvary Church Damansara Heights.

The seminar was themed “Unleashing The Power That Is At Work Within Us!” based on Ephesians 3:20. The attendees comprised Life Group leaders and members as well as potential leaders, each one believing in faith that God would move during the seminar.

Pastor Mario, with the help of his American interpreter Tony Coreas, shared about the Holy Spirit on the first night, basing his message on Luke 4:18-19. Just as Jesus Christ allowed the Holy Spirit to work in Him in his ministry, the Holy Spirit should be the frontline of the evangelistic

work. To illustrate his point, he talked about the current situation in China, where Christians are banned to meet in public so they meet underground in cell churches. They are guided by the Holy Spirit and are growing every day. Therefore, if cell churches are being led by the Holy Spirit, we should also allow the Holy Spirit to work in all aspects of our cell groups (knowledge, fellowship and evangelistic work) in order to grow healthily.

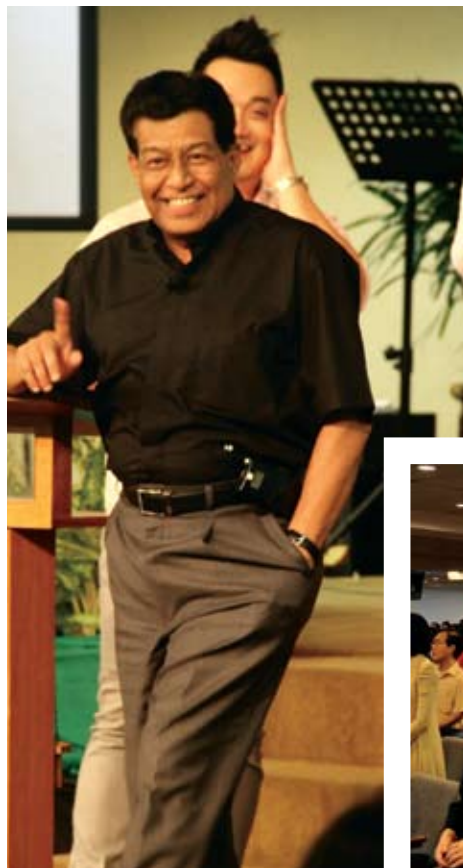
Over the two nights, Pastor Mario shared the marvellous testimony of the church he pastors, the Mission Cristiana Elim Church in El Salvador. From an initial congregation of 3,000, it grew to a congregation of 72,800 members and 7,000 cell groups within years of implementing the cell group strategy he had adapted from a large church in South Korea. The church's annual gatherings had grown so large and well-known, it even attracted the President

of El Salvador to pay them a visit one year. Pastor Mario describes the entire experience as “crazy”, but possible through the people who are passionate for God.

A personal passion for God, Pastor Mario articulated, is an important quality that gives us new strength to do things with excellence. He based this on the way Paul was so passionate about the church and serving God that he gave everything he had and did not expect anything from the church in return (2 Corinthians 12:15). Pastor Mario said, “The best we can do for Christ will never be an exaggeration. It will always be less than what He deserves,” and how true this is! Praise and thank God for using Pastor Mario to bless our congregation. +

*From left below:*

Pastor Mario expounding God's word, Senior Pastor addressing the participants, Pastor David praying fervently for LG ministry, Participants agreeing in prayer.





*Clockwise from top left:*  
Pastor Mario leading in prayer for our Senior Pastors, (inset) Pastor Mario teaching leaders, Pastor Peter, leaders and staff affirming our Senior Pastors

# LEADERS' MEETING WITH PASTOR MARIO

BY LESLIE ABRAHAM

**LEADERS EXHORTED TO KNOW THEIR ROLE IN MINISTRY AND TO SUPPORT OUR SENIOR PASTORS**

**AT THE SESSION WITH LEADERS ON 23 FEBRUARY, PASTOR MARIO VEGA SPOKE WITH CLARITY AND THE SIMPLICITY OF HIS EXPRESSION IS SUCH THAT HE WAS ABLE TO REACH OUT TO ALL PRESENT.**

Pastor Mario shared on 1 Samuel 14:6-14. Jonathan, King Saul's son wanted to conquer the garrison of the Philistines. Along with him was a faithful armour bearer. Jonathan was able to pull off a great victory and breakthrough for Israel with the help of his armour bearer who walked in synch with him and complemented him. "Do all that you have in mind," his armour-bearer said. "Go

ahead; I am with you heart and soul" (1 Samuel 14:7). From this biblical account Pastor Mario drew principles of church leadership. Jonathan represents the role of our Senior Pastor and we play our role as the armour bearer as we extend God's Kingdom. We are to support our Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam with all our heart and soul and affirm the work they are doing.

Pastor Mario shared he saw a vision of Calvary Church breaking through barriers and experiencing great growth. We will be surprised by multitudes coming to our church. Pastor Mario taught that it is not moving from one building to another that

will bring growth. What is vital is what happens within the church. God will bring a sense of unity and identity as we move to Calvary Convention Centre. When we are united God will anoint and bless us. And we can expect church growth to take place. Hallelujah!

At the end of the session, Executive Pastor Peter Ong encouraged us to demonstrate our affirmation to our Senior Pastors. There was a strong outpouring of emotions as we expressed our encouragement, appreciation, love and support for them. This was an indication of the move of Holy Spirit in our midst. +



*Left:* Senior Pastor closing in prayer on Friday Missions Emphasis, (inset) choir in praise and worship  
*Below from left:* Congregation enjoying the skit, Playing the role of a missions-minded business woman and secretary, A joyful born again maid

# EMPOWERED TO PRAY, GIVE AND GO

BY PASTOR CAROL LIM

## GOD GIVES CLEAR DIRECTIONS FOR CALVARITES TO MOVE FORWARD IN DOING MISSIONS



**OVER THE MISSIONS WEEKEND 22-24 FEBRUARY 2013, PASTOR MARIO VEGA'S SERMONS (INTERPRETED FROM SPANISH BY PASTOR TONY COREAS) GREATLY DEEPENED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MISSIONS AND STIRRED OUR FAITH. WE WERE CERTAINLY EMPOWERED TO PRAY, GIVE AND GO.**

On Friday, Pastor Mario Vega taught that God has spoken and is always speaking to us. There was such a wonderful sense that God was desiring to speak to us to reach many for Him. We learnt that the lost coin (Luke 1:5) is valuable although it is lost. It is the same for those who are far away from God. They

cannot experience true satisfaction until they meet God. They lead meaningless lives, no matter how important they may be in the world. Jesus came to seek them. We are to be like Jesus and to reach out to the lost. At the close of the meeting, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam led in prayer that we would all commit to reach out.

On Missions Sunday, Calvarites responded by making our Faith Promise (FP) pledge for February to December 2013. We were blessed by the encouraging missions report by our Missions Director, Associate Pastor Steven Kum on how God enabled us to fulfill our missions pledge for the previous year and how it was put to good

use, locally and internationally.

Pastor Mario preached on Jesus as the missionary model. Jesus was compassionate to the crowds (Matthew 9:36-38). He likened them to sheep without a shepherd. Likewise, we are to be sensitive to those who are in need and have no one to go to for help. We are to take action and responsibility to see the Great Commission accomplished. The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. We are to pray to the Lord of the harvest for workers to be sent. The needs are plentiful and our resources limited, but we are to continue to faithfully give so that the work of missions gets done.



Senior Pastor then reminded us what a faith pledge is. We were reminded that God is our provision and not our resource. We must look beyond our own resources and trust God to provide the amount we are pledging in faith. FP pledges do not raise funds only, but also raise our faith in Almighty God.

Another highlight of the missions weekend included an enjoyable skit on Friday night. Entitled, "Empowered To Do the Extraordinary", four characters (a businesswoman, student, maid and socialite) depicted the change in their values and lifestyles after they received a passion for missions.

The children's missions programme was held concurrently with the adults' services on Friday and Sunday. The theme for the Kids Missions was "Empowered Kidz" on Friday night and they were taught the importance of depending on the power of the Holy Spirit in their prayer life. On Sunday the theme was "Empowered to be a Witness". The lesson was on the life of Apostle Peter and the kids were challenged to commit themselves to God to be empowered to pray, give and be a witness to their friends and relatives who do not know Jesus. The kids were excited

by the challenge to make their faith promise pledges too.

Praise and thank God for His direction and empowering over the Missions weekend. May we be passionate and committed to be used by the Lord of the harvest to bring in the harvest of souls. +

Praying for Faith Promise partners symbolized by laying hands on FP cards at DH (top), Cheras (Left) & DP

# AND GO



Kids waving their FP cards at Cheras (left) DP (middle), DH



# STRATEGIC MISSIONS SESSION FOR YOUTHS

BY ESTHER WONG KAR MEI

## CALVARY YOUTHS CHALLENGED AND EMPOWERED TO BE SALT AND LIGHT



Good team work between Pastor Mario and Pastor Tony



AIM students showing the difference when sharing the Gospel with the Holy Spirit's anointing



Pastor Steven praying and encouraging the youths at altar

### CALVARY YOUTHS AND YOUNG ADULTS (CYA)'S MISSIONS SESSION KICKED OFF WITH AN ENERGETIC TIME OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP.

Following was a skit by the Asian Institute of Ministries (AIM) students who highlighted the importance of the guidance by the Holy Spirit when evangelizing. Their free-spirited humour tickled the audience and prepared us for the testimony of Esther Wong and Hon Sir Neng on how they have been blessed by AIM thus far.

Tabitha Ong, CYA co-ordinator, taught us how to sing "All About You" in Spanish (Mi

Vida Eres Tu), which delighted Pastor Mario Vega and interpreter, Pastor Tony Coreas.

Pastor Mario shared on Romans 15:18-25, showing how Paul planned to spread the Gospel by concentrating on strategic locations in his day, Jerusalem, Rome and Spain, all gateways to huge populations. If we penetrate the Gospel in today's major cities, there will be an overflow of the influence of the Gospel to more people. We are to communicate a positive message of love, peace, and truth.

In closing, Associate Pastor Steven Kum prayed for the youths and exhorted them to excel in their desired fields of vocations and in so doing, glorify God and be the salt and light in the market place. The youths were also encouraged to fill out a card with five names of people they wanted to reach out to and pray for.

Praise God for instilling in us youths a wonderful sense of our God-given potential to impact lives as we commit ourselves to be sensitive to our Lord's leading and to walk in faith and obedience. +

## SIXTEEN BAPTIZED IN WATER

Praise the Lord, **16 INDIVIDUALS** were baptized in water at the 10.30am worship service on 10 March 2013 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.



# 欢乐华人新年团契聚会

## A JOYOUS CHINESE NEW YEAR FELLOWSHIP SERVICE

**THERE WAS MUCH JOY, FUN AND GOOD WILL AT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR (CNY) FELLOWSHIP SERVICE HELD ON 10 MARCH AT THE PUSAT AKTIVITI CALVARY CHERAS (PACC) FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT A NEARBY RESTAURANT.**

Praise God many Calvarites invited friends and relatives who are potential believers for the service. There were 258 in attendance with 60 visitors.

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam opened in prayer and Senior Pastor's message resonated well with all in attendance. We were encouraged to be like Peter and John in Acts 3:1-11 and reach out to potential believers.

At altar time, there was a good response for prayers for salvation and other needs. Praise and thank God for 10 salvations and six rededications.

We had a good finale, fellowshiping over food. All praise and glory to God for a blessed time. ✚



华人新年团契聚会于三月十日，在蕉赖卫星教会（PACC）举办，大家充满欣喜欢乐聚集一堂。会后大家在附近的餐馆享用午餐。

赞美神，许多加略山会众邀请了未信主的朋友和亲戚来参加聚会。出席者有258人，其中60位是访客。

PETRINA GUNERATNAM副主任牧师为聚会作开始的祈祷和主任牧师的信息与出席者产生美好的共鸣。我们受鼓励要像在使徒行传3:1-11里的彼得和约翰一样，要与潜在的信徒接触和分享耶稣。



在坛前呼召的时候，有许多人回应救恩和其他需要的祈祷。赞美感谢神有十个人信主得救和六个人重新奉献。最后，我们一起享用美味佳肴和有美好的团契作为结束。我们为这蒙福的时间将一切赞美和荣耀归给神。✚



**Front row, left to right:**

Ong Poh Seng, Koh Jen Nie, Ashley Yap Sue Zheng, Maria Kyla B. Saccal, Earl Kyle Michael B. Saccal, Esther Tan Woon Li

**Middle row, left to right:**

Yap Jat Kuen, Anna Ng Bee Yee, Lorraine Yap Zheng Yie, Gracia Teh Kean Ling, Kam Mom

**Back Row (left to right):**

Ruth Muniama a/p Segaran, Yap Yee Kiew, Vincee Yeoh Soo Phing, Donna Yeoh Soo Thing, Lee Han Yee

- 1 Responding for prayers at the altar.  
回应坛前祈祷
- 2 Sister Petrina greeting the congregation.  
Petrina 师母欢迎会众
- 3 A special number by a joyful team  
一个喜乐的团队献诗
- 4 Fellowshiping over lunch  
享用午餐和享受团契



# SALIB MEMBAWA KEHIDUPAN

OLEH PENDITA BERSEKUTU TIMOTHY ONG

**Rancangan abadi Tuhan adalah manusia hanya boleh diselamatkan oleh pengorbanan Anak-Nya, Yesus di atas salib. Tuhan dalam kebijaksanaanNya yang besar telah merencanakan untuk salib sebelum dunia dicipta.**

***“Sebab Kristus mengutus aku bukan untuk membaptis, tetapi untuk memberitakan Injil; dan itupun bukan dengan hikmat perkataan, supaya salib Kristus jangan menjadi sia-sia. Sebab pemberitaan tentang salib memang adalah kebodohan bagi mereka yang akan binasa, tetapi bagi kita yang diselamatkan pemberitaan itu adalah kekuatan Tuhan” (1 Korintus 1:17-18). “Sebab aku telah memutuskan untuk tidak mengetahui apa-apa di antara kamu selain Yesus Kristus, yaitu Dia yang disalibkan” (1 Korintus 2:2).***

## **ALKITAB MEMBERITAHU KITA BAHAWA ORANG-ORANG YAHUDI DAN YUNANI BANYAK SALAH FAHAM TENTANG KEMATIAN YESUS DI ATAS SALIB.**

Kebijaksanaan manusia adalah terbatas, manakala kebijaksanaan Tuhan adalah tidak terbatas. Oleh itu manusia tidak mampu memahami tujuan salib (mesej salib). Salib adalah kebodohan kepada dunia. Siapa yang dapat mengerti bahawa kematian Yesus di salib dan kebangkitan membawa penyelamatan kepada semua yang percaya kepada-Nya? Tetapi Tuhan telah memberikan kita wahyu untuk belajar kebendaan Tuhan.

Apabila Paulus menulis kepada orang

percaya di Korintus, ia adalah sewaktu pemerintahan Empayar Roma. Salib adalah kaedah biasa yang digunakan untuk menghukum dan membawa kepada kematian penjenayah jahat. Salib itu, membawa maksud malu dan ketidakupayaan manusia untuk membantu dirinya. Oleh itu, doktrin bahawa salib memberikan kehidupan menentang sama sekali rasional bijaksana -duniawi. Alkitab mengatakan, **“Orang-orang Yahudi menghendaki tanda dan orang-orang Yunani mencari hikmat, tetapi kami memberitakan Kristus yang disalibkan: untuk orang-orang Yahudi suatu batu sandungan dan untuk orang-orang bukan Yahudi suatu kebodohan, tetapi untuk mereka yang dipanggil, baik orang Yahudi, maupun orang bukan Yahudi, Kristus adalah kekuatan Tuhan dan hikmat Tuhan. Sebab yang bodoh dari Tuhan lebih besar hikmatnya dari pada manusia dan yang lemah dari Tuhan lebih kuat dari pada manusia” (1 Korintus 1:22-25).**

Orang Yunani di sini mewakili keinginan manusia dan usaha untuk kebijaksanaan dan pengetahuan. Sejarahwan Yunani, Herodus berkata, “Semua Yunani adalah bersemangat untuk setiap jenis pembelajaran.” Mereka adalah yang paling

bersedia untuk duduk dan mendengar, bercakap dan berdebat dengan sesiapa sahaja yang mempunyai apa-apa yang berbeza atau novel untuk mengajar. Walau bagaimanapun, mesej Paulus di atas salib tidak boleh diterima oleh mereka kerana ia adalah pertuturan kebodohan. Dalam pengertian dan pemikiran semula jadi kita, salib adalah kebodohan. Alkitab mengatakan, **ia adalah bodoh untuk orang-orang yang binasa (1 Korintus 1:18).** Kebodohan Tuhan masih lebih bijak daripada kebijaksanaan manusia yang paling bijak. Salib adalah kebijaksanaan suci Tuhan.

Orang-orang Yahudi mewakili keinginan manusia untuk tanda-tanda. “Pada waktu itu berkatalah beberapa ahli Taurat dan orang Farisi kepada Yesus: **“Guru, kami ingin melihat suatu tanda daripada-Mu” (Matius 12:38).** Al-Kitab berkata, **“Ketika orang banyak mengerumuni-Nya, berkatalah Yesus: “Angkatan ini adalah angkatan yang jahat. Mereka menghendaki suatu tanda, tetapi kepada mereka tidak akan diberikan tanda selain tanda nabi Yunus. Sebab seperti Yunus menjadi tanda untuk orang-orang Niniwe, demikian pulalah Anak Manusia akan menjadi tanda untuk angkatan ini”**

(Lukas 11:29-30). Orang-orang Yahudi menuntut untuk melihat Mesias melakukan tanda-tanda ajaib, kerana mereka menjangkakan Juruselamat mereka turun dari salib, menyelamatkan diri-Nya dan membebaskan mereka daripada pemerintahan Roma. Tanda yang mereka sedang cari, andaian kuasa dunia yang mereka harapkan dalam Juruselamat, tidak muncul dalam Kristus. Doktrin bahawa Juruselamat akan disalib adalah penghalang kepada Yahudi. Tersinggung dan memalukan, orang Yahudi menolak Yesus.

Salib ialah Kuasa Tuhan kepada Penyelamatan Paulus tanpa takut mengajar bahawa Kristus disalib kerana salib menunjukkan kuasa dan kebijaksanaan Tuhan. Dia berkata, **“Sebab Kristus mengutus aku bukan untuk membaptis, tetapi untuk memberitakan Injil; dan itupun bukan dengan hikmat perkataan, supaya salib Kristus jangan menjadi sia-sia. Sebab pemberitaan tentang salib memang adalah kebodohan bagi mereka yang akan binasa, tetapi bagi kita yang diselamatkan pemberitaan itu adalah kekuatan Tuhan”** (1 Korintus 1:17-18). Keazaman Paulus ialah, **“...tidak mengetahui apa-apa di antara kamu selain Yesus Kristus, iaitu Dia yang disalibkan”** (1 Korintus 2:2). “Salib memberikan nyawa apabila seseorang datang kepada Tuhan dalam kedudukan yang lemah dan merendah diri, mempercayai dalam semua tentang Tuhan dan Dia mampu. Dan apabila kamu mengalami kuasa dan kebijaksanaan Tuhan, kamu tidak boleh membantu tetapi sujud kepada-Nya dan berkata, “Engkau adalah Tuhan!”

Kebijaksanaan salib adalah ilahi. Ia adalah lebih daripada rancangan yang bijak. Ia adalah kuasa Tuhan kepada penyelamatan. Kamu boleh dibebaskan apabila kamu menyedari dan mengakui bahawa Tuhan sahaja yang boleh menolong kamu. Mengaku dosa kamu kepada Tuhan dan meminta pengampunan-Nya. Kebijaksanaan Tuhan adalah seperti begini melainkan jika manusia melihat dirinya bahawa dia benar-benar adalah bankrap, dia tidak tahu bagaimana untuk menyesuaikan semua yang Tuhan ada untuk dia, semua janji-

janji indah Tuhan melalui kuasa salib. Kristus disalib adalah cara Tuhan mengembalikan manusia kepada diriNya.

Kuasa salib menyelamatkan kita daripada dosa dan malu. Pertimbangkan kesakitan dan kemiskinan di dunia, kesedihan, kebencian, pembunuhan, kemurungan, kekecewaan, bunuh diri, dan senarai ini akan berterusan. Ini adalah manifestasi sifat-sifat syaitan dan berkaitan dengan dosa. Orang percaya tidak terkecuali daripada pergumulan dengan dosa. Paulus menulis dengan jujur tentang pergumulan dalam dirinya. **“Sebab kita tahu, bahwa hukum Taurat adalah rohani, tetapi aku bersifat daging, terjual di bawah kuasa dosa. Sebab apa yang aku perbuat, aku tidak tahu. Karena bukan apa yang aku kehendaki yang aku perbuat, tetapi apa yang aku benci, itulah yang aku perbuat”** (Roma 7:14-15). Taurat tidak dapat menyelamatkan kita. **“Sebab apa yang tidak mungkin dilakukan hukum Taurat karena tak berdaya oleh daging, telah dilakukan oleh Tuhan. Dengan jalan mengutus Anak-Nya sendiri dalam daging, yang serupa dengan daging yang dikuasai dosa karena dosa, Ia telah menjatuhkan hukuman atas dosa di dalam daging”** (Roma 8:3). Darah Yesus Kristus yang mengalir dari atas salib melakukan apa yang hukum tidak boleh lakukan. Oleh itu Paulus mengisytiharkan kuasa Injil. **“Sebab aku mempunyai keyakinan yang kokoh dalam Injil, karena Injil adalah kekuatan Tuhan yang menyelamatkan setiap orang yang percaya, ....”** (Roma 1:16). Seperti Paulus, kita mesti bersandar sepenuhnya pada kuasa Tuhan untuk memberi kita kemenangan ke atas dosa. Orang percaya, kita mesti bersandar sepenuhnya pada karya Kristus untuk keselamatan kita. Kita tidak boleh mendapatkannya melalui tingkah laku baik kita.

Al-kitab mengajar, **“Ia telah melepaskan kita dari kuasa kegelapan dan memindahkan kita ke dalam Kerajaan Anak-Nya yang kekasih; di dalam Dia kita memiliki penebusan kita, yaitu pengampunan dosa”** (Kolose 1:13-14). Dengan kematian Yesus di atas salib dan kebangkitan-Nya, ada keselamatan dan pembebasan untuk semua orang percaya.

Yesus mati dan bangkit semula. Dia telah menakluki kematian. Dan kamu boleh mengalami kemenangan kuasa kebangkitan hidup. Paulus mengajar, **“Karena kita tahu, bahwa Kristus, sesudah Ia bangkit dari antara orang mati, tidak mati lagi: maut tidak berkuasa lagi atas Dia. Sebab kematian-Nya adalah kematian terhadap dosa, satu kali dan untuk selama-lamanya, dan kehidupan-Nya adalah kehidupan bagi Tuhan. Demikianlah hendaknya kamu memandangnya: bahwa kamu telah mati bagi dosa, tetapi kamu hidup bagi Tuhan dalam Kristus Yesus. Sebab kamu tidak akan dikuasai lagi oleh dosa, karena kamu tidak berada di bawah hukum Taurat, tetapi di bawah kasih karunia”** (Roma 6: 9-11;14). Pengorbanan Yesus di atas salib adalah selama-lamanya berkuasa. Pengarang buku Ibrani berkata, **“Sebab jika demikian Ia harus berulang-ulang menderita sejak dunia ini dijadikan. Tetapi sekarang Ia hanya satu kali saja menyatakan diri-Nya, pada zaman akhir untuk menghapuskan dosa oleh korban-Nya”** (Ibrani 9:26). Tetapi apabila Yesus mati, Dia hanya mati SEKALI dan UNTUK SEMUA.

Rancangan abadi Tuhan adalah manusia hanya boleh diselamatkan oleh pengorbanan Anak-Nya, Yesus di atas salib. Tuhan dalam kebijaksanaan-Nya yang besar telah merencanakan untuk salib sebelum dunia dicipta. Yesus datang ke bumi ini dan mati di atas salib pada masa ilahi yang dirancang. Yesus, domba sempurna Tuhan mati sekali untuk semua yang percaya kepada-Nya. Mereka yang tidak akan percaya akan binasa. Bagi mereka, salib adalah kebodohan. Tetapi untuk Tuhan, ia adalah kuasa Tuhan kepada penyelamatan. Kita mesti kembali kepada salib semula kerana salib adalah di mana kita menerima harapan, kehidupan, penyembuhan, perdamaian, kasih yang suci, jaminan Tuhan tentang kehadiran dan peruntukan-Nya. Salib di mana semua janji-janji-Nya dipenuhi, sebagai aliran darah perjanjian.

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dari Versi Terjemahan Baru. +

# 十字架带来生命

文：翁有富副牧师

「基督差遣我，原不是为施洗，乃是为传福音，并不用智慧的言语，免得基督的十字架落了空。因为十字架的道理，在那灭亡的人为愚拙；在我们得救的人，却为神的大能」（林前1:17-18）。

「因为我曾定了主意，在你们中间不知道别的，只知道耶稣基督并他钉十字架」（林前2:2）

圣经告诉我们犹太人和希腊人巨大误解了耶稣在十字架上的死。人的智慧有限，反之神的智慧是无限的。因此人是不能理解十字架的目的（十字架的信息）。十字架因此对世人愚拙的。谁能够理解耶稣在十字架上的死和复活能给我们所有相信祂的人带来拯救？但是神已给了我们启示来认识关于神的事。

当保罗写信给哥林多的信徒时，那是罗马帝国的统治时期。十字架是常用来惩罚邪恶的罪犯和执行死刑的方法。在这一方面，十字架是指耻辱和人完全的无能帮助自己。因此十字架带来生命的教义是与世俗有智慧的人的基本原理相反。圣经上说：「**犹太人是求神迹，希腊人是求智慧，我们却是传钉在十字架的基督，在犹太人为绊脚石，在外邦人为愚拙；但在那蒙召的，无论是犹太人、希腊人，基督总为神的能力，神的智慧。因神的愚拙总比人智慧，神的软弱总比人强壮**」（林前1:22-25）。

希腊人在这里代表人类对智慧和知识的渴望与追求。希腊的历史学家，HERODUS说：「所有的希腊人都是热心于每一种学习」。他们是最愿意坐下来听，交谈和与任何有什么不同或新的思想的人辩论。然而，保罗关于十字架的信息是他们所不能接受的，因为它是完全的愚拙。在我们的天然的理解和思考，十字架是愚拙的。圣经上说，对那些灭亡的人，这是愚拙的（林前1:18）。神的愚拙仍然比最聪明的人的智慧更聪明。十字架是神的神圣智慧。

犹太人代表人类对神迹的渴望。「当时，有几个文士和法利赛人对耶稣说：『夫子，我们愿意你显个神迹给我们看。』」（太12:38）。圣经上说，「当众人聚集的时候，耶稣开讲说：『**这世代是一个邪恶的世代。他们求看神迹，除了约拿的神迹以外，再没有神迹给他们看。约拿怎样为尼尼微人成了神迹，人子也要照样为这世代的人成了神迹**』（路11:29-30）。犹太人要求见耶稣行神迹，因为他们期望他们的弥赛亚从十字架上下来，救他自己，并释放他们脱离罗马人的

统治。他们正在寻找的神迹，夺取世俗的权力，这是他们对弥赛亚的期望，并没有出现在基督里。弥赛亚要被钉死在十字架上的教义是犹太人的绊脚石。受冒犯和诽谤，犹太人拒绝了耶稣。

十字架是神拯救的大能

保罗定意宣扬钉十字架的基督，因为十字架显明了神的大能和智慧。他说：「基督差遣我，原不是为施洗，乃是为传福音，并不用智慧的言语，免得基督的十字架落了空。因为十字架的道理，在那灭亡的人为愚拙；在我们得救的人，却为神的大能」（林前1:17-18）。保罗的决心是，「**…在你们中间不知道别的，只知道耶稣基督并他钉十字架**」（林前2:2）。当人以软弱和谦卑的地位来到神的面前，信靠神的所是和所能时，十字架就赋予生命。当你经历到神的能力和智慧时，你不得不俯伏在祂面前，并说：「你是神。」十字架的智慧是神圣的。它不仅是一个明智的计划。它是神拯救的大能。当你认识到和承认唯有神可以帮助你时，你可以被释放并得自由。向祂承认你的罪，并祈求祂的赦免。神的智慧是这样的，除非人按他自己的本相看自己，亦即破产，他是不知道如何领受神为他安排的一切，所有神藉着十字架的能力的奇妙应许。基督钉十字架是神恢复人与祂和好的方式。

十字架的大能把我们从罪恶和耻辱里救出来。细想在世界上的痛苦和贫穷，悲伤，仇恨，谋杀，抑郁，绝望，自杀，这样的例子不胜枚举。这是撒旦的特性的显示，是与罪有关的。信徒是不能免除与罪的斗争。保罗诚实地写道他内心的斗争。「**我们原晓得律法是属乎灵的，但我是属乎肉体的，是已经卖给罪了。因为我所做的，我自己不明白；我所愿意的，我并不做；我所恨恶的，我倒去做**」（罗7:14-15）。律法是不能够拯救我们。「**律法既因肉体软弱，有所不能行的，神就差遣自己的儿子，成为罪身的形状，作了赎罪祭，在肉体中定了罪案**」（罗8:3）。耶稣基督在十字架上流下的宝血，成就了律法不能做的。因此，保罗宣告福音的大能。「**我不以福音为耻；这福音本是神的大能，要救一切相信的，…**」（罗1:16）。像保罗一样，我们必须完全依靠神给我们战胜罪恶的能力。信徒必须完全依靠基督为我们救恩所成就的工作。我们不能以我们的好行为来赚得。

圣经教导，「**他救了我们脱离黑暗的权势，把我们迁到他爱子的国里；我们在爱子里得蒙救赎，罪过得以赦免**」（西1:13-14）。藉

神的永恒计划是人只能藉著祂的儿子，耶稣在十字架上的牺牲而得救。神以祂极大的智慧在创立世界以前已定下十字架的计划。

著耶稣在十字架上的死和他的复活，所有相信的人将得拯救和释放。

耶稣死而复活。他已经征服了死亡。你可以经历到复活的大能过得胜的生活。保罗教导说：「**因为知道基督既从死里复活，就不再死，死也不再作他的主了。他死是向罪死了，只有一次；他活是向神活着。这样，你们向罪也当看自己是死的；向神在基督耶稣里，却当看自己是活的…罪必不能作你们的主；因你们不在律法之下，乃在恩典之下。**」（罗6:9-11; 14）。

耶稣在十字架上的牺牲是永恒的大有能力。希伯来书的作者说，「**如果这样，他从创世以来，就必多次受苦了。但如今在这末世显现一次，把自己献为祭，好除掉罪。**」（来9:26）。但是当耶稣受死，他只有死一次。神的永恒计划是人只能藉著祂的儿子，耶稣在十字架上的牺牲而得救。神以祂极大的智慧在创立世界以前已定下十字架的计划。耶稣来到这个世界，在神所定的时间死在十字架上。耶稣，神完美的羔羊，为所有相信祂的人，只有死一次。那些不相信的人会灭亡。对他们来说，十字架是愚拙的。但是，对上帝它是神拯救的大能。

我们必须一次又一次地回到在十字架来，因为十字架是我们得到盼望，生命，医治，和好，纯洁的爱，神的同在和供应的保证。十字架是祂所有的应许实现的地方，当立约的血流出来。

以上经文是采用中文圣经和合本。

## 中文聚会

主题：让我们长大成熟  
讲员：PETRINA GUNERATNAM  
副主任牧师  
日期：28-4-13（日）  
时间：早上十一点  
地点：加略山会议中心（CCC）

## 申请浸礼及会籍

✠ 浸礼及会籍课程  
日期：8-6-13（六）  
时间：下午一点  
✠ 浸礼聚会  
日期：8-6-13（六）  
时间：下午五点  
地点：加略山教会（大堂）  
报名截止日期：28-4-13（日）



1 + 2



3



4



5



6



7



8

# Eight babies dedicated to the Lord!

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam dedicated eight babies to the Lord on 3 March 2012 at the 10.30am Worship Service at Damansara Heights. He together with Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam then prayed for the parents that they will bring up children in the nurture and ways of the Lord Jesus Christ.



- 1 & 2 Amani & Kobagize Mayage with twins, Mathea Tuishime Amani Mayage & Michelle Yumwema
- 3 Christopher Lim & Ng Sun Jian with baby Austin Lim Beng Li
- 4 How Chin Kwan & Wong Meng Way with baby Chloe How En Yee
- 5 Shellon Tham Yip Cheong (hidden) & Mary Chong Yen Lai with baby Tham Bing Xin

- 6 George & Cecile Moukoko with baby Rose Victoria Moukoko
- 7 Heng Jun Kit (hidden) & Soo Jen Li with baby Hannah Heng Yen Mei
- 8 Alexander Tan & Elizabeth Yong Wei Li with baby Victoria Tan Pei Ling

# INTRODUCING THE 2013 MINISTRY TEAM



## SENIOR PASTORS

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam  
and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina  
Guneratnam

## EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Associate Pastor Peter Ong

## EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Jim Guneratnam

## CHURCH MINISTRY PASTORS

### MISSIONS

Associate Pastor Steven Kum  
**Church Missions (Extended Ministries  
& Outreaches)**  
Associate Pastor Richard Yun

## PASTORAL MINISTRY

Associate Pastor David Seah

Associate Pastor Timothy Ong

## MUSIC & CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY

Associate Pastor Christopher Lee

## CHILDREN MINISTRY

Pastor Susan Tan

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Associate Pastor Karen Seah

## SOCIAL CONCERN & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Associate Pastor Raymond Yong

## MINISTRY COORDINATORS

### CHINESE MINISTRY

Donna Yee

Chua Ken Tee

### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Tabitha Ong

Jason Sia

Timothy Yee

### MINISTERIAL STAFF

Pastor Carol Lim

Lee Foong Ling

Carol Weller



## CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)

CHRIST-CENTRED | EVANGELICAL | MISSIONARY

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

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

[www.calvary.org.my](http://www.calvary.org.my)