

CALVARY NEWS

A Bi-Monthly Publication Of Calvary Church

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Believing, Rejoice!

1 Peter 1:8

I Can Rejoice!

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

You can rejoice in the Lord **always**! Jesus says in John 15:11 that He has given you joy and His joy can remain and make your joy complete. Joy is that vivid emotion of pleasure, gladness and expression of happiness in all states. The biblical meaning of the joy that Jesus talks about is associated with life and strength (1 Thessalonians 3:8-9 and Nehemiah 8:10). The joy Jesus gives is powerful and makes you whole and strong.

There are three common reasons for the loss of joy. Firstly, adverse circumstances such as accidents, disasters, sicknesses and difficult situations bring sadness and sorrow. Secondly, people rob you of your joy by what they say or do not say and by what they do or do not do. Thirdly, covetousness for things can rob you of joy. By nature, humans are covetous. When you are unable to have or possess what you desire, you lose your joy. That is why the Bible tells us not to covet.

The apostle Paul is a beautiful example of how you do not have to let

circumstances, people and things rob you of your joy. Paul is also known as the Apostle of Joy. He wrote the book of Philippians, well known as the Epistle of Joy, while he was in prison, in adverse circumstances. It was the religious people and not ungodly individuals who put Paul in prison but he did not lose his joy. Paul knew what it was to lose earthly things. Yet he said, "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ" (Philippians 3:7). Paul mentions "joy" and "rejoice" at least 19 times in this book. What was Paul's secret? From the book of

Philippians, you will find that Paul had three mental attitudes that helped him to maintain his joy.

1. Paul was single-minded

Paul used words such as "mind", "remember" and "think" at least ten times in the book of Philippians. Your thought life is the key to your being joyful. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Paul's goal and purpose in life was Christ. He had no other nagging priorities. Paul said, "For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain"

continued on page fifteen...

Introducing the Heads of Departments/Ministries of Calvary Church

2001

DEPARTMENTS



Pastoral Care

Senior Associate Pastor
Petrina Guneratnam



Associate Pastor
Timothy Ong



Associate Pastor
Richard Yun



Assistant Pastor
Jerry Chow



Youth & Education

Associate Pastor
Steven Kum



Youth & Children

Assistant Pastor
Susan Tan



Missions

Associate Pastor
Peter Ong



Hospitality

Assistant Pastor
Raymond Yong



Music & Creative Arts

Christopher Lee



Membership

Kiang Teck Chin

CHURCH MINISTRIES



Calvary Prayer Tower

Chan Lee Peng



Calvary Social Ministry

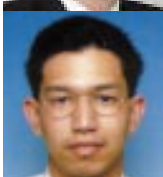
Yow Kit Yen

EXTENDED MINISTRIES



Asian Institute of Ministries

Associate Pastor
Steven Kum



Calvary Communication & Publications

Jim Guneratnam



Calvary Life Ministries

Pam Lee



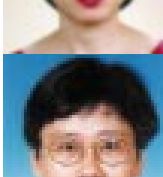
Calvary Church Press

Michael Eng



Calvary Book Corner

Monica Chang



Calvary Sunshine Home

Chew Siew Keng



Calvaryland

Winslow Wong

LANGUAGE MINISTRIES



Chinese

Associate Pastor
Timothy Ong



Filipino

Kay Lim



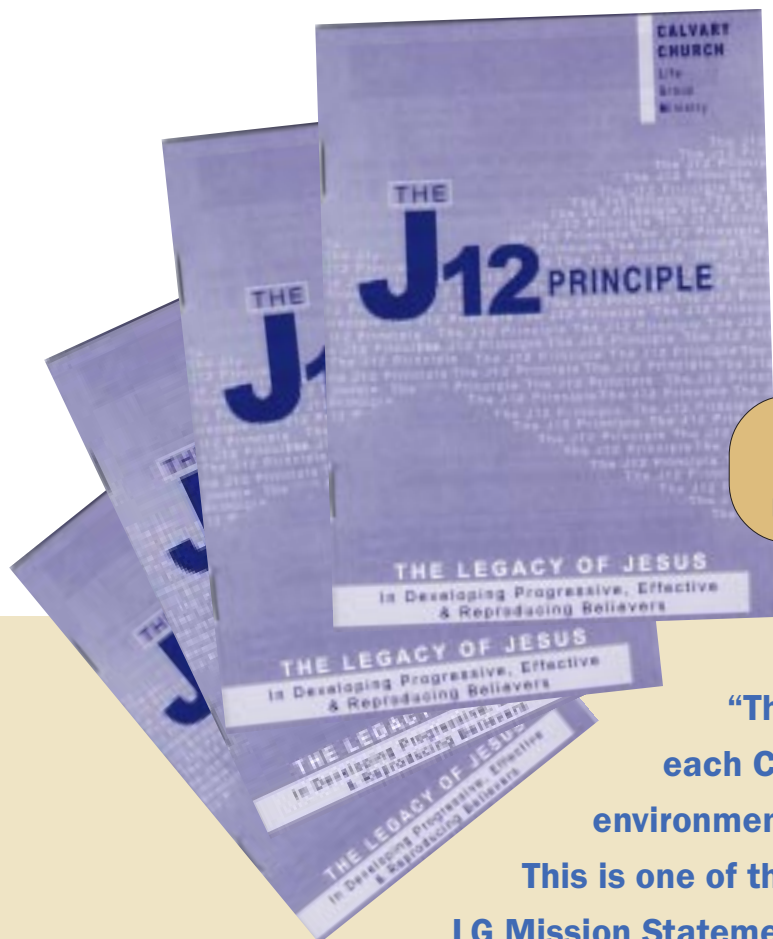
Japanese

Associate Pastor
Peter Ong



Bahasa Malaysia

David Seah



The Implementation of the J-12 Principle

By David Seah

“The Life Group (LG) Ministry aims to help each Church member mature in faith through an environment of personal care, concern and counsel.”

This is one of the statements found in the Calvary Church LG Mission Statement.

In line with this, the LG Ministry has implemented in each LG, **a powerful biblical principle of discipleship and growth, called the J-12 Principle**. This principle is based on the example of Jesus spending His life with 12 disciples and training them to be “reproducing believers”. J-12 therefore denotes Jesus and the training of His 12 disciples.

The J-12 Principle emphasises that:

- ◆ Effective evangelism in the LGs is about relationships.
- ◆ A sense of accountability and responsibility is the core motivation for outreach.
- ◆ An exemplary lifestyle is the key to impacting and influencing others.

The task of training and discipling new believers is no longer seen as the sole responsibility of a LG Leader. Every LG member to whom God has given a measure of influence plays a vital role in the growth and development of a new convert.

Here are two testimonies about the J-12 Principle:

“Praise God for the souls saved through the different LG members. They are now beginning to see the importance of discipling those whom they have reached.”

CAROL

“I have a working companion I meet every day. He seems to be interested in listening to the Word of God. Even though he is of a different faith, I am reaching out to him and subsequently hope to see him accept the Lord soon.”

ROBERT



For more information, kindly contact the
Pastoral Care Department at 03-254 6012 ext. 135.



Evangelistic Concert with HT Long

By Elaine Chen

On the evening of 14 October 2000, 208 Calvarites and friends were blessed by the golden voice of "Elvis Presley of Malaysia". Once an ardent fan of Elvis Presley, the King of Rock & Roll, HT Long had a miraculous and powerful encounter with the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, in 1989. Since then, he has dedicated his whole life to minister to the lost, using his God-given talent.

"Crying In The Chapel," "Somebody Bigger Than You & I" and "Honey In The Rock" were among the several beautiful songs that ministered to the hearts of both the young and old who were present.

HT Long testified about the power of God in healing his relationship with his brother whom he despised for many years for his Christian faith. Years of hatred and anger towards his brother were transformed into love and

appreciation, because the brother, who is now an Assemblies of God pastor, had been praying for his salvation. His testimony greatly encouraged the congregation to believe that God is able to heal broken relationships.

Praise God that through this evangelistic concert organised by the **L.I.G.H.T. Ministry**, ten individuals surrendered and rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ! 🙏



L.I.G.H.T.

Living In God's Holy Trust

Calling ALL single-adults to join us in our interesting programmes this year.

Look out for more information on our activities.

Christmas Party



One for the album

By James Lim



The Christmas Choir giving a preview of "The Christmas Invitation"

On 18 November 2000, the **Japanese Fellowship** of Calvary Church organised a special meeting with the purpose of inviting new visitors. For a change from previous years' evangelistic programmes, this year we decided to have a party. Our goal to win Japanese for Christ has not changed; we merely changed our approach. During the meal, we were able to get to know our eight visitors (of which four were Japanese).

The Japanese Fellowship exists to reach the Japanese community in the Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley area. As such, our Christmas celebration at the Elim Hall had three goals—to introduce the Japanese people to the Church, to introduce ourselves (the Japanese Fellowship) to the Japanese community and to introduce Jesus to the Japanese people. These boiled down to knowing Christ and making Him known. We praise God that at this meeting, one Japanese lady made her commitment to Christ by saying the sinner's prayer in response to the invitation given by Associate Pastor Richard Yun after his sermon.

Our sincere and warmest thanks to the organising team of our Japanese Fellowship, and to all who contributed to the success of this party. We know this party is a foretaste of a greater Party when we all get to heaven one day. 🙏



Women's Rally

By Patreen Wong

The **Women's Ministries of Calvary Church** organised a Women's Rally on 7 October 2000. Beginning at 3pm, the 367 women present worshipped the Lord together and then enjoyed a mime-dance by the Missionettes to the song "Thank You". While the offering was taken up, the Ladies' Ensemble performed the song "Little Is Much".

The speaker for the event was Mrs. Pat Argue, wife of Dr. Don Argue, President of Northwest College in Kirkland, Washington. Mrs. Argue, a mother of three, teaches at the college. Her talk centred on the theme "Jesus Lived The Word". In the beginning, God spoke the worlds into existence. "Logos" or the Word, is the outward expression of mind and will that rule the universe. The Word of God has power and Jesus is the Living Word.

Mrs. Argue shared testimonies of how Jesus, through the words of the Bible, had worked miracles in her sons' lives. During dark times, her sons had found solace, sustenance and wisdom from the Bible. "Miracles point to God," said Mrs. Argue. Jesus still speaks into our lives today.

Does Jesus understand women? Mrs. Argue said that the Bible is very applicable even to women and that many of today's problems are not

gender specific. While Jesus had a special compassion for women, His words are true and applicable whether one is a man or a woman. His Word is for everyone.

Those with specific needs put their faith in the Word of God and stepped forward for prayer.

The "Sale Of Seconds" afterwards, brought in funds to enable the Women's Ministries to be involved in and to support the ministries of the Church. 🙏

Carla Karst In Concert

7 November 2000

By Audrey Kum

From the moment Carla Karst took the mike to sing her first song, "Come On Into The House Of The Lord", the 365 present at the **Tuesday Ladies' Worship Service** (including some men who were there by special invitation!), knew they were in for a blessed time.

When Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam introduced Carla Karst, she highlighted Carla's warm and bubbly personality that she noticed when they first met. This was evident as Carla sang song after song—each with a powerful and beautifully clear voice.

With the familiar song, "Open Our Eyes, Lord", and others with meaningful lyrics, Carla led the congregation to close their physical eyes to focus on Jesus. In between songs, she shared her experience of Jesus' work in her life. Carla, who is from Tennessee, USA, has much reason to be a bitter, unforgiving person because of a messed-up marriage. However, she chose to release what she called the "junk" from her life and to place her trust and faith in the Lord. God turned her marriage around and opened doors of opportunity for her and her husband to serve Him through music. Together, they have made many albums for His glory. God is able to redeem and restore what Satan steals.

When the altar call was given, many left their seats to ask God for salvation, for a miracle and to remove "unwanted baggage" from their lives. 🙏



The **Tuesday Ladies' Worship Service**, held weekly at 10am at Calvary Church Damansara Heights, is specially tailored to meet the needs of women from various ethnic backgrounds. Nursery care is available.

Celebrate Christ At Christmas

For the third year in succession, the various premises of Calvary Church have been decorated to proclaim the message of Christ during the Christmas season.

The hard work of the ten teams involved this time, is clearly seen from the pictures below! Apart from the creation of visual beauty, the members of the teams can attest to the fact that much more has been created during the times spent working together—a spirit of unity and co-operation with the aim of glorifying God, a sense of belonging to the Calvary family, new friendships and a discovery of new talents and skills. The winning team can look

forward to receiving vouchers to attend the 2001 Family Camp free of charge! **Congratulations to everyone for a job well done!** 🙌



▲ FOYER 2

The **Missionette girls and Sponsors** showed various ways Christmas is celebrated—in the city; by the giving of gifts (children bearing gifts) and by spending time in prayer and reading of the Bible to remember and thank God for sending Jesus to be our Saviour. The Magi bearing gifts to celebrate the birth of the Christ child reminds us that the central focus of Christmas is Jesus!

ELIM ▶

If you look closely, you will find that the characters in this backdrop are made up of over 6,000 little water-proof paper ribbon stars! The **Chinese LG** took over a month to make them.



▲ BEREAN

The **KL LG's** two large hand-painted backdrops show angel Gabriel telling the shepherds of the birth of Jesus the Saviour, in the city of David, and the shepherds responding in faith to what they heard when they went to the stable where He lay, to worship Him.



▲ BETHLEHEM

The **Cheras LG** collected about 30 kilogrammes of *lalang* (long grass) and dried them to make the thatched roof of the stable! The models in the Nativity scene were made of *papier mâché*.

Stage Management Workshop

By Patreen Wong

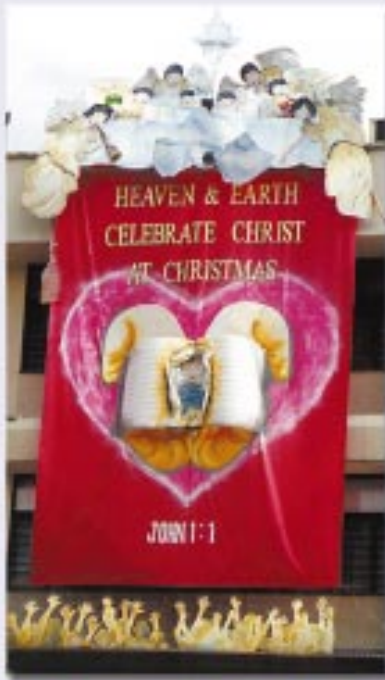
Lee Jia Ping was trained at the Cambridge Arts Theatre; and having crewed with more than 26 professional touring shows, has many years of experience behind her. She was invited by the Music and Creative Arts Department to hold a Stage Management Workshop at Calvary Church from 10am to 6pm on 11 and 18 November 2000. Fourteen attended the workshop.

The workshop's purpose was two-fold; to equip those currently involved in the Christmas Production to be more efficient and to raise up a core-group of stage managers for use in future productions. 🙌



Lee Jia Ping





FOYER 3

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word became flesh..." The **Men's LG** wanted to show the love and compassion of God who offered His only Son to the world. And how are we to know this Living Word? By hearing the Word of God that needs to be preached to everyone. This banner can be seen from as far as the Pusat Bandar Damansara especially at night!



JERUSALEM

The L.I.G.H.T. team's message is that Christmas is celebrated globally. Indeed there is joy in the world because Jesus has come!



CAPERNAUM

The **Ampang LG's** backdrop clearly emphasises to the passers-by that Christ is reason for our celebration at Christmas.



ANTIOCH

The **PJ LG** encourages us to sing to the Lord to celebrate Jesus' birth. Numerous angels (dressed-up dolls) hover over the Bethlehem skyline while a creatively modelled Nativity scene gives us a close-up view of what happened about 2000 years ago.



BETHEL

The **Youth** of Calvary Church came up with a unique Nativity scene—Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the wise man and the shepherd were made of newspaper stuffed into wire frames and covered by plastic!



FOYER 1

The **Golden Eagles'** (our senior citizens) effort portrays the peaceful night when Christ was born.

Lighting Workshop

By Christopher Lee

On Thursday, 9 November 2000, from 7.30-9.30pm, the Music and Creative Arts Department conducted a Lighting Workshop. Jim Guneratnam, Daniel Wee, Daniel Cheong and Kenneth Hiew taught the ten who attended, the rudiments of lighting.



This was the initial training to prepare the participants to help in the lighting during our Christmas and Easter productions. Those interested to serve will continue to develop their skills through their involvement in the production rehearsals and presentations. 🎭



"Welcome, everyone! You're invited to a celebration!"

"...Join the celebration, accept His invitation. Jesus is saving a place for you!"



By Audrey Kum

Photographs by Bonnie Bautista and Kenneth Hiew

We are often reminded that Christmas is about giving and not receiving. But Calvary Church's presentation of "The Christmas Invitation" gave us another perspective to consider. Maybe, Christmas is more about receiving than we realise.

The central message of the musical-drama was that the Heavenly Father invites us to celebrate because He offers mankind salvation. The 100-strong choir, the 40-member drama cast, the 50-voice children's choir, the 35 dancers and the 42-piece orchestra beautifully extended God's invitation to us to come just as we are to receive His gift, Christ the King and to receive not just eternal life but a life of victory over sin. The invitation was to come as we are, not after we have tried to change ourselves. "Christmas offers hope of a new birth and new beginnings—if you'll just come," said one of the two narrators.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam's message spoke of another invitation issued by God—this time to a Marriage Supper when Jesus comes again. "Sin separated man from God but God's gift, Jesus, can bring you back to God," he said. By receiving God's Son Whom He gave on Christmas Day, by faith, we can be with Him in heaven. God has issued the invitation. We have the choice to accept or reject it. Those who reject this invitation will not have a chance to taste His supper but those who accept will have God's gift of life. Praise God for those who responded, "Just as I am...O Lamb of God, I come! I come!" 🌟



God required from Mary, a child-like faith and from Joseph, a belief in a heavenly promise



"Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed!"

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



Precious Jewels

Ten “precious jewels” were brought to the 5pm Worship Service at Calvary Church Damansara Heights on 29 October 2000 to be dedicated to the Lord.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam prayed for the babies and the parents, who, by this act of dedication, chose to declare that they wanted to bring up their children in the ways of God.



Gabriel Loh Matienzo



Jessica Ching Ai Lyn



Daniel Edwin Marsden



Esther Grace Lim Jing Ming



Jurrien Leong Hau Xiong

The babies dedicated were:

Daniel Edwin Marsden

Parents:
Edwin & Mary Marsden

Gabriel Loh Matienzo

Parents:
Glenn & Angela Matienzo

Jessica Ching Ai Lyn

Parents:
Ching Kok Hin & Chua May Ling

Rachel Ko Mei-Yin

Parents:
Ko Weng Fatt & Yong Sau Chan

Joshua Lee

Parents:
Lawrence & Joanne Lee

Jurrien Leong Hau Xiong

Parents:
Jervis & Michelle Leong

Esther Grace Lim Jing Ming

Parents:
CT Lim & Ann Wong

Ashley Mok Su Anne

Parents:
Moses & Audrey Mok

Samuel Lam Yao Zhung

Parents:
Jeffrey Lam & Su Su

Michaela Ae Yi Mikiko Lim

Parents:
James & Makiko Lim



Rachel Ko Mei-Yin



Samuel Lam Yao Zhung



Ashley Mok Su Anne



Joshua Lee



Michaela Ae Yi Mikiko Lim

Envisioning Calvaryland Reaching Out In Love

By Emilia Toh

On Saturday, 11 November 2000, 19 of us from the 13-year-old **Carpenter's Workshop (CW)** class, CW2J, visited Calvaryland in Sungai Pelek. Assistant Pastor Susan Tan, Administrative Manager of Calvaryland, Winslow Wong and CW Teachers Yee Yuet Hoh and Patricia Yem, accompanied us.

The trip was to help us, as Faith Promise partners, identify the grass root needs of Calvaryland and to encourage us to be faithful not only in giving but as prayer partners, to see Calvaryland established.

Winslow Wong showed us the ten-acre site on which Calvaryland will be



developed. He shared the vision of Calvaryland, its purpose and mission and told us how we could be partners in making this happen whether by praying for or serving in Calvaryland. Seeing the vast land before us helped us better understand Calvaryland's aim of reaching out in love.

As illustrated in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, love must be shown through action, not merely words! CW2J is grateful for the privilege of being a part of the great ministry of Calvaryland. We pray that many people will support Calvaryland! 🙏

Strengthening Relationships

By Mabel Wong



From 12-14 November 2000, the 13-year old **Carpenter's Workshop (CW)** class, CW2J, had a graduation retreat to Peace Haven, Genting Highlands. A total of 34 students, three teachers, one pastor and the Youth Co-ordinator attended. The retreat was geared at motivating us to be involved in Youth ministries. We were also encouraged to strengthen our relationships with one another and to minister to others through friendship.



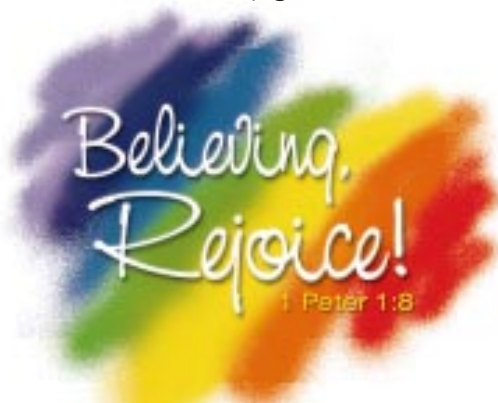
On the first night, Adrian Lee, who is our Church Youth Co-ordinator, shared a devotion on the race that Christians are supposed to run. The next morning, at our Praise and Worship session, Teacher Lee Choon Kong talked about dreams and shared how God called him into full-time ministry.

After presenting skits on given parables, we were blessed by Assistant Pastor Susan Tan's devotion on the

"Three 'B's"—Baton, Butterfly and Bird" and committed ourselves to God that He might work in our lives and through our ministries next year. Teacher Patricia Yem's devotion on the last day of the retreat was on parents. The Holy Spirit touched us and we learnt a lot.

We had a really fun and meaningful time at Peace Haven. 🙏





(Philippians 1:21). He was single-minded! Everything that Paul did was related to God's call and purpose for his life. He was in chains in the Philippian jail for Christ. He bore the marks of Christ in his body when he was beaten and went through hardships. Still Paul rejoiced! Nothing could steal his joy. You too can have this joy if you are totally surrendered and committed to Jesus but you will lose out if you are double-minded (James 1:8).

2. He was submissive

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3, NIV). Paul learnt to be submissive from Jesus. He understood that Jesus became a servant and was always submissive to the will of the Father. Paul said, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus; who, being in very nature God...made

himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant" (Philippians 2:5-7, NIV). Jesus, being God, with all power and authority, was willing to suffer and die on the cross to pay for your sins. Jesus' example is the ultimate picture of submission. Paul too, was humble and submissive. When you have this attitude, nobody can take your joy away.

Being submissive is not being inferior. In a husband and wife relationship, the wife is to be submissive to her husband but she is not inferior to him. At some Christian weddings, the groom is reminded of the manner in which God created Eve. God did not use a bone from Adam's head that she might rule over him; nor from his feet that she might be trampled by him but from his side that she might be his equal and from under his arm that she might receive his protection. Jesus said, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11, NIV). Therefore, do not be afraid to be submissive and humble because God exalts the humble.

3. Finally, Paul had a sound mind—he was secure in Christ

There is no safe place in this world. Your only safe place is in Christ. Paul was secure in Christ. It is having Jesus in your heart that gives you true security. You can have this security if you have God's power and God's provision. In

Philippians 4:13, Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Jesus Christ was Paul's source of power. God's provision took away his fear and anxiety. "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). If you learn from Paul and look to God as your provider for all your needs, you can rejoice in Jesus no matter what comes your way.

When you worry, you lose your joy. Worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair. You are moving but going nowhere. Worrying is thinking wrongly and it affects your behaviour. Paul says in Philippians 4:7 (NIV) that, "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." You need to have a mind that is rooted in Christ and kept by the peace of God to guard you against wrong thinking. Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them;...Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;...even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 6:26-29). Jesus says you are of more value than the birds and the lilies. Knowing this, you too can confess as Paul did: "I can rejoice!" 🏆

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

18th Council of Achievement

By Jim Guneratnam



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam presenting Certificates of Achievement to Adrian Chew, Andrew Yem and Alexander Lee, her grandson



The Pioneers taking a bow after their skit



Buckaroos presenting a skit

On 7 October 2000, more than 260 parents and friends gathered at Calvary Church to honour the **Royal Rangers** for their achievements. Seventy-five Rangers received awards and one Commander, Councilman Samuel Sham, received the Leader's Medal of Achievement. **Royal Rangers—Developing the total boy for Christ!** 🏆

The Calvary Church Staff

wishes you all

A Blessed 2001!

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you!



LEFT TO RIGHT

- ROW 1** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Assoc. Pastor Petrina Guneratnam
2 Assoc. Pastor Peter Ong, Assoc. Pastor Steven Kum, Assoc. Pastor Richard Yun, Assoc. Pastor Timothy Ong
3 Asst. Pastor Raymond Yong, Cheong Pui Ling, Asst. Pastor Jerry Chow, Asst. Pastor Susan Tan, Jim Guneratnam, Amelia Guneratnam
4 Pam Lee, Christopher Lee, Chan Lee Peng, David Seah, Vivia Teh, Adrian Lee, Raelene Chuah
5 Yow Kit Yen, Chew Siew Keng, Lee Foong Ling, Phang Wai, Sharon Loh, Rina Lee, Carol Lim, Audrey Kum
6 Sally Tan, Dolly Chye, Jonathan, Michael Eng, Angela Aw, Yip Wai Leng, Winslow Wong, Daniel Wee, Alice Ang
7 Ho Swee Mei, Josephine Tay, Chua Ken Tee, Stephanie Foong, Alice Lee, Robert Ang, Soon Yuen Ling, Hazel Yeo
8 Andrew Peter, Daniel Cheong, Ngeow Mei Fong, Maniarasan Rajanyam, Paul Lourdes, Monica Chang



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(Assemblies of God)

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