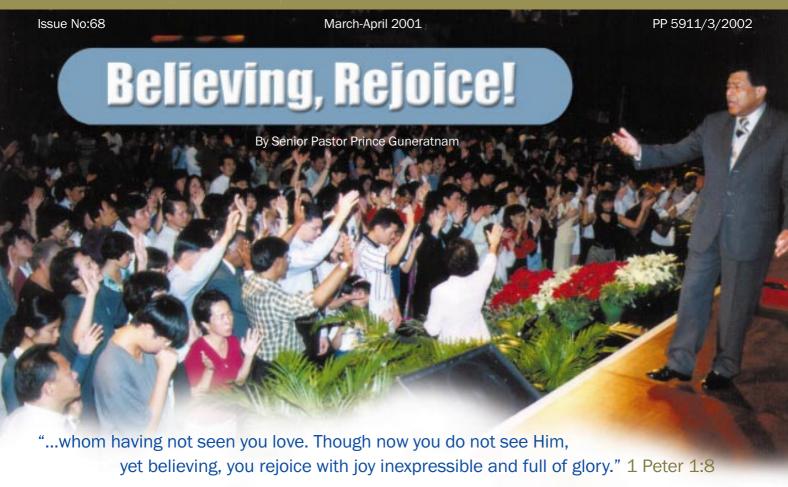
# CALVARYNEWS

A Bi-Monthly Publication Of Calvary Church



The early church was severely tested when faced with persecution and the apostle Peter was writing to the believers who were scattered abroad. encouraging them to believe and rejoice. Peter said, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13). God is challenging you to live by faith. He wants to enlarge your faith and therefore your faith will be tested. You can be tested in more ways than one and it does not necessarily have to be by persecution or

suffering. If you fully understand the basis for the joy that Peter talked about, you too can "believe" and "rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" however your faith is tested.

Peter explained that this joy starts when you accept Jesus as your Saviour. You are "begotten" (born again) by God's great mercy. By His grace, He gave you a Saviour, Jesus Christ, who died for your sin and through His resurrection, is alive today. A living Saviour is what demarcates your faith from other religious faith. Your salvation reserved for you in heaven, an inheritance that cannot be destroyed. This is the basis for your joy. You do not thank God for the cancer or the accident, but in that sickness and pain or

difficulty, you rejoice for who you are in Christ and what He has done for you in eternity. Your salvation is the best reason to reioice! "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade way, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God though faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5).

However, Peter recognised the frailty of the believers who were in the midst of persecutions. He encouraged them to rejoice

in spite of the testing and the trials, which were "for a little while". Peter said that the testing of their faith would show if their faith was genuine. "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:6-7). Your faith, like gold, when tried by fire, will be of greater worth and value. The testing of your faith will show if you are a genuine believer. The genuineness of your faith is more precious and valuable than the purest of gold. Faith

## **LG Ministry Updates**

Praise God for the five new LGs installed together with 11 newly appointed LG Leaders during the New Year's Eve Service on 31 December 2000. It was wonderful to be able to end the year with the installation. We thank the Lord for the growth that He has given. Below is the information concerning these five new LGs that are meeting from the beginning of this year.

### **HOME LIFE GROUP**

#### **VIVIA TEH**

1-8-2 Genting Court Condo PSN 1/50C Taman Setapak Indah Jaya Off Jalan Genting Kelang Setapak 53300 Kuala Lumpur **Tuesday, 8.30pm** 

### **HOME LIFE GROUP**

### NANCY CHEAH

17 Persiaran Syed Putra 4 Taman Persiaran Desa 50460 Kuala Lumpur **Monday, 8.30pm** 

### **HOME LIFE GROUP**

PHANG WAI

53 Jalan USJ 2/4F UEP Subang Jaya **Tuesday, 8.15pm** 

### **WOMEN'S LIFE GROUP**

### KATHLEEN WONG

6 Lorong Mengkudu SatuOff Ampang Hilir55000 Kuala Lumpur2nd and 4th Wednesday, 10am

### **WOMEN'S LIFE GROUP**

### PEGGY LOW AND VERONICA SEE

Ampang Satellite Church Lot 7.28 A, B & D, 7th Floor Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang 50450 Kuala Lumpur **1st and 3rd Monday, 6.30pm** 



Helen Read (right) with Linda, her first disciple

# **J-12 Principle Bears Fruit**

### A Principle of Evangelism and Discipleship

By David Seah

Forty-four new souls have been saved since the implementation of the J-12 Principle in the **Life Groups** (LGs). It is certainly something that we can rejoice about as we continue to believe the Word of God and put it into practice.

Many of the soul winners have already started discipling these new believers. One of our LG Leaders, Helen Read, earns the distinction of being the very first to complete discipling a new believer. It was quite a feat for Helen as Linda is her very first disciple.

The discipleship lessons provided by the Life Group Ministry made the discipling process even easier. Helen also resorted to additional visual aids for "difficult" lessons like Water Baptism and Baptism of the Holy Spirit. God worked in a marvellous way for Linda—she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit a few days before Helen taught this lesson. Linda was able to pray in tongues although she did not know what it was about until Helen explained it to her.

"I have enjoyed guiding Linda in these lessons and we had wonderful moments sharing and praying together," Helen enthused. "I praise God for giving me Linda as a disciple. She is receptive and keen to learn." Linda is now ready to start "My Faith" classes before being baptised in water. No wonder, Helen is looking forward to her next disciple!

You too can be actively involved in evangelism and discipleship. When you faithfully attend a LG, the LG Leader will be able to share the J-12 Principle with you. You will be provided with resources and material to be an effective soul winner and discipler for the Lord Jesus.

Do you long to belong to a fellowship group?

Do you want to visit a LG

but are not sure which one to attend?

You can contact the Pastoral Care Department at 03-254 6012 ext. 135 (David Seah) or ext. 134 (Yip Wai Leng) for more information concerning the LG Ministry.

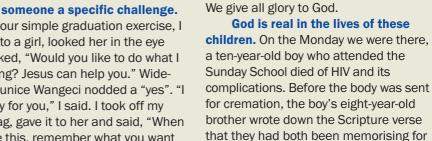


Tay Poh Gaik and I went on a missions trip to Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2000. The trip was spiritually uplifting and reminded us over and over again of God's faithfulness to His children.

**Eight years ago, Calvary Church** sent Tony and Christine Phang as missionaries to Nairobi. Kenva. They "sowed" in the Harvester's Institute of Ministries (HIM)—a Bible School for lay people. Today, many of the graduates are pastoring churches.

Lucy Njenga, supervisor of the programme for street children that Calvary Church helps to sponsor, was one of their pioneer students. She is now an ordained pastor and a recognised and licensed social worker for her community. Her husband was an unbeliever when

Before the end of the workshop, I prayed and asked the Lord to lead me to give someone a specific challenge. During our simple graduation exercise, I turned to a girl, looked her in the eye and asked, "Would you like to do what I am doing? Jesus can help you." Wideeyed, Eunice Wangeci nodded a "yes". "I will pray for you," I said. I took off my nametag, gave it to her and said, "When you see this, remember what you want God to do for you." Later on, I found out that she was a Dormitory Monitor-God had led me to the right person.



Sunday, and placed it in his hand because it was the most precious thing he wanted his brother to take to heaven.

brand new in Jesus. It was touching to see the change in their countenance.

God never changes and He is faithful. On a previous trip to Nairobi in 1997, the Lord protected us during the pre-election riots. It was only on our last day there that we read of the blood baths. This time, the university students caused a riot on the Wednesday that we decided to stay back in church for a Cell Group meeting, Apparently, the police and army were called in and people were warned to stay away from certain roads. When we returned to Tony and Christine's home after the meeting, we did notice that the place was quieter than normal but it was only after the workshop had been completed on Friday night that we heard what had happened on Wednesday. "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

My life has been impacted by this trip. The street children are a vivid reminder of how far God has brought me. Many years ago, I too, had a bleak future-the product of an underprivileged family. God sent someone to invest in my life and to teach me to put my trust in Jesus. I am where I am today because God is real, unchangeable and faithful.

Jesus is coming. Even if He tarries, I will be going to meet him eventually. My desire is to be where He wants me to be, do what He wants me to do because that is what counts for eternity. 🗥



she was in HIM. He is now a believer and her partner in God's work. Lucy oversees, the feeding of 126 street children, the schooling of 420 orphans and underprivileged children, and looks after the 66 orphans staying in dormitories.

In the 12 days that Poh Gaik and I were there, the Lord enabled us to successfully conduct a five-day **Domestic Skills Workshop for 17 street** children and three teachers, teach in two adult Bible study classes and share in a Leadership Seminar for lay leaders. We also visited a home for abandoned HIV positive children and the dormitories built by Calvary Church for the orphans. Poh Gaik and I are fully aware that we were never alone in what the Lord encouraged us to set out to accomplish and we are grateful for all the support that Calvary Church has given us.

### God further honoured our efforts.

Even before the Workshop was completed, a businesswoman approached Lucy to make arrangements to hire one of the trained girls as soon as was feasible. She had sat in on the first day of training and was impressed.

God also used the Workshop to heal girls who had been hurt from sexual abuse. In African culture, sex education and awareness is taboo. Lucy wanted us to deal with the topic and to encourage the children to speak out so that we can help them. The children were encouraged to write down the questions that they were too embarrassed to ask. The slips of paper came in so fast that I had a tough time answering them all. After that, we prayed with the children and assured them that when Jesus cleanses, everything is washed away and they are



By Andrew Peter

The Choir and ensembles presenting special songs nightly

Dr. Alton Garrison, Pastor of First Assembly, North Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, shared a timely message, especially in view of the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ and the challenge given by our Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam for our 21st Century Vision. We, the children of God are challenged to be involved in building the kingdom of God instead of sitting complacently, warming our pews.



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam inviting the people to open their hearts to receive the

Word Dr. Garrison was every bit as entertaining and humorous as described in the handbill inviting us to attend the meetings. The three nights of meetings saw almost the entire congregation responding to the altar calls either to rededicate their lives or to receive a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit.

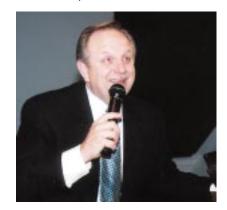
On the first night, Dr. Garrison challenged the congregation to fight their fear as fear paralysed, controlled and enslaved them. He drew on Psalm 91:13 to give an analogy of three common types of fears—the lion, symbolising undisguised fear, the adder, symbolising unexpected fear and the dragon, symbolising unfounded

### Dr. Garrison then gave five ways to break free from these fears:

- Choose faith over fear.
- Focus on God for your strength.
- Develop a desire that motivates you.
- Focus on the things you can
- When fears return, run to God.

On the second night, Dr. Garrison differentiated between hope and faith. He said that if faith was the stick of dynamite, hope was the fuse that lit it. Satan uses three main ways to destroy our hope. He makes us:

- React to what we see.
- Question God's promises.
- Think it is up to us to fulfil God's promises.





Dr. Alton Garrison—anointed, articulate speaker and talented musician!



The people indicating their desire to receive the Lord's deliverance from their fears

In order to develop and restore our hope in Christ, we have to realise that:

- **1.** God is the source of hope.
- **2.** Faith is the substance of hope.
- 3. The Holy Spirit is the supplier of hope.

**Dr. Garrison wrapped up the** meetings on the last night by sharing 15 benefits of having an enemy. He also revealed four strategies of Satan and how to battle them.

- **1.** Satan is a deceiver. He lies to make us ignorant of God's Word. Our defence against this attack is the inspired Word of God.
- Satan is a destroyer. He attacks our body to make us impatient with God's will. Our defence against this attack is the imparted grace of God.
- Satan is a dominator. He dominates our will to make us proud and independent of God. Our defence against this attack is the indwelling Spirit of God.

**4.** Satan is the accuser. He accuses our hearts and conscience to bring indictment upon us. Our defence against this attack is the interceding Son of God.

It is important for us as Christians to realise that we have an effective weapon to defend against each and every one of Satan's attacks. Even when we do not seem to be gaining any ground, we must always remember that Satan is fighting a battle that he has already lost, one that Jesus has already won. 🔥

# FAITH PROMISE RENEWAL

Sunday, 14 January 2001

The finale to the 2001 Missions and Revival meetings came as a challenging Faith Promise Sunday. Dr. Alton Garrison exhorted the Calvary congregations—Damansara Heights, Bandar Utama, Cheras and Ampang, to become Faith Promise partners to reach a lost world. The world is hurting but we have a hope in Christ and we can help.



The Pastors, Deacons, Missions Committee and Dr. Alton Garrison praying for the Faith Promise partners

As Dr. Garrison put it, the world is starving for what we, as Christians, have in abundance. We have the answers to the world's questions and it is our obligation to share them with the world. He encouraged the congregations by saying that if we took care of what was on God's heart, He would take care of what was on ours. God will honour the seeds that we sow by giving us a great harvest.

We thank God for the 2,830 who made Faith Promise pledges for the months of January through

# The CW Children Learn To Give Cheerfully



Praise God for the 606 Carpenter's Worskshop (CW) children who participated in the Faith Promise Renewal. At Calvary Church Damansara Heights as well as at the Satellite Churches, the children were encouraged to give cheerfully towards missions. Various guest speakers were invited to help the children realise that they too can give that others may know Jesus. 🔥

# **The Missions Director "Walks on Water"!**

First, it was falling backwards in slow motion into a swimming pool. Next, it was breaking through a "brick wall". This time, Associate Pastor Peter Ong, the Missions Director, "walked on water" because the Church exceeded the Faith Promise target for December 2000! This feat was videotaped and shown to all the congregations.

Praise God for His faithfulness in providing and for everyone who gave in faith!



Associate Pastor Richard Yun declares the VBS officially open

As early as 7.30am on the morning of 4 December 2000, the chatter of excited voices, laughter and activity filled the premises of Calvary Church—the event— Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2000!

**VBS 2000** 

By Diana Koh



The younger ones enjoyed the puppets





In the presence of the Children's Ministry Pastor, Assistant Pastor Susan Tan. 610 children, parents and 170 teachers and volunteers, Associate Pastor Richard Yun burst balloons to declare VBS 2000-"It's A Party-Celebrating God's Gift" officially open. The Church's sanctuary was gaily decorated to reflect a "party" concept, complete with crepe streamers, ample balloons hung high up on the sanctuary walls, gigantic colourfully wrapped mock presents and ribbons.

Celebrating God's Gi

The highlights of the opening ceremony included a dance by the VBS 2000 Praise Dancers, a fivemember placard team

# carrying the acronym— **P.A.R.T.Y.:**

### PRAISE!

Celebrating salvation— Salvation is God's gift to me!

### ACCEPTANCE!

Celebrating together—
I can be in God's family!
RELATIONSHIP!

Celebrating my friendships— I can tell my friends about Jesus!

### TOMORROW!

Celebrating my new home a mansion in heaven! YOU!

Celebrating who I am in Christ— God has great plans for you and me!, a flag parade team comprising children from the Royal Rangers and Missionettes and of course, the appearance of Bobo—the clown. After all, no party celebration is quite complete without a clown, right?

From 4 to 8 December 2000, the children aged 4 to 13 years old enjoyed a myriad of activities from excursions to The Mines Wonderland, Desa Water Park and Police Museum to Bible lessons, workbook exercises, handcraft and games. To the delight of many, Bobo made impromptu surprise appearances at worship sessions, in the classrooms, during meals and at outings.

The children learned the meaning of the acronym—P.A.R.T.Y. through all the various classroom activities.

Many took home with them a better knowledge of a loving God and how through the gift of the person of Jesus, they receive other gifts from God such as salvation, acceptance, a relationship, eternal life and a special plan for each of them. They were also taught why it was important to share Jesus with their friends and how to do it.

For the teachers and volunteers, it proved a hectic and tiring week but a rewarding one. Their hearts were warmed to see the lives of children touched during daily altar calls, during the worship sessions at the sanctuary and in the classrooms. At the end of the five days, a total of 220 children accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour while











The children worshipping the Lord together, praying to the One who is the reason for the celebration



428 rededicated their lives. One hundred and twenty-seven children received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, 17 were baptised by immersion in water and 32 were healed of different ailments. Praise the Lord!

The closing ceremony was as exciting as the opening one. Special highlights of the occasion were the video showing the different events and activities held throughout the week and the presentation of prizes to the winners of the handcraft competition and beststudents in the various age categories by Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam. Parents were present to witness this special occasion too.

VBS 2000 began with a celebration and likewise, ended on the same note. After the closing ceremony, the children trooped back to class for an hour of more food, fun, games and laughter with their teachers and friends. 1



At Desa Water Park



With Bobo the clown



Singing the theme song.



One of the 17 who were baptised in water



Receiving an award from Sr. Assoc. Pastor Petrina



Some of the 170 teachers and volunteers who worked very hard!







in Jesus is the way to succeed when you are tested. You will be shielded by God's power through faith. "...taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6:16). God wants you to have genuine and not fake faith.

What is faith? Faith believes what it does not see. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony" (Hebrews 11:1-2). The substance of your faith is the Word of God. If you believe that God said it or it is a promise of God, your faith has substance. Faith has the eye to see and imagine what the Word of God says. Have faith in God who is able to do what He says He can do.

The children of Israel had the Word of God but they still failed to enter the Promised Land. Why? Israel knew the promises of God but they lacked the faith that would make them rejoice. They murmured, criticised and complained when difficulties arose. "...but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it" (Hebrews 4:2). Many Christians are like the children of

Israel. Their problem is not a lack of the knowledge of the Word but a lack of faith.

God is calling you to a life of faith and rejoicing regardless of the circumstances that you go through. Be a dreamer. Have great imagination but let the Word of God be the foundation of that dream. You cannot see God, yet you believe Him. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him because faith tells you that He is there. So rejoice with joy inexpressible, full of glory just as Peter encouraged in 1 Peter 1:8. Your joy does not depend on circumstances, things or on what happens. Your joy is based on faith in what God has said. And when you see it in faith, you rejoice! Others may call you a fool, but you rejoice because you believe. Your joy is the expression of your faith in a great God! Were Joseph's dreams fulfilled? Was Joshua victorious? Their successes were based on faith. They believed what God said to them and they were victors and not victims.

### You need faith in three areas:

### 1. When You Cannot See.

Noah had never seen rain but he obeyed God's instructions to build an ark. Noah's work of faith saved him and

his household. "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Hebrews 11:7). "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

### 2. When You Are Tempted.

Temptation occurs when God withdraws His presence and all you have is His Word. Adam and Eve had God's Word but God was not there when Satan came. Satan tempted them on what God said. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. Jesus knew who He was but Satan tempted Jesus on His identity. Jesus quoted the Word of God, "It is written..." in the face of temptation. He had faith and the Word. Your faith and belief in what God said will help you overcome temptation. The Bible says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

### 3. When You Face Trials, Tribulations And Troubles.

Your security is "believe and rejoice". Paul, while in prison, said, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). You rejoice regardless of the circumstances. You rejoice because of your salvation, God's love and what God has promised you. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:1-5).

Get a hold of God's promises. Start moving in faith and rejoice! Your believing and rejoicing will bring you many victories. Jesus is coming for this kind of believer, one whose head is lifted up, who has faith in God and God's Word!

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.

# Pray

for **all the Committees**, for God's wisdom and strength as they carry out their responsibilities

for effective publicity so that the wonderful message

of God's love will be communicated to our city and beyond

for the choir, the dancers, the dramatists, musicians, technical crew,

**etc.** to be strengthened spiritually and physically so that they can be effective vessels for the Lord

for the altar workers, the ushers, security personnel

God's rich anointing upon our Senior Pastor

as he brings God's message of love and salvation

## Get involved!

We need ushers, altar workers, security personnel, technical, electrical and construction teams, teams to go tracting, financial support and everyone to pray.

Sign up and be a part of the Great Commission!

It is usually quiet at 7am in Calvary Church, but on 27 December 2000, the place was filled with chattering youth, laughter and the reminders of concerned parents. After prayer, 135 of us hit the road to our campsite, packed in two buses, one van and six cars.



# TReaSuRe in Jars of Clay

YOUTH CAMP 27-29 December 2000 at Lutheran Centre, Port Dickson

By Gwenda Soh

The theme for our Youth Camp this year, was "Treasure In Jars Of Clay" (2 Corinthians 4:7). It was aimed at helping the youths to know the Treasure (Jesus) within them and to let Him shine. Our camp speaker, Associate Pastor Richard Yun, shared from his heart and challenged the young people to always "stay free" in Christ and through Christ.

Pastor Richard began by stressing that a victorious Christian life is not lived in a cycle of "sin, confess, sin, confess, sin, confess....", but is life as a victor, set free by the Truth of Jesus (1 John 8:23). Subsequently, he shared on the three sources of temptation (Ephesians 2:1-3), which are: the course of this world, Satan and the lust of the flesh. He also shared on the six areas we need to give attention to in order to "stay free". They are:

- 1 Saying "no" to things that are spiritually wrong (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).
- 2 Choosing the truth (Psalm 32:2).
- 3 Forgiving others.
- 4 Dealing with rebellion and submitting to authorities over us.
- 5 Dealing with pride as it was the downfall of Satan and many others.
- 6 Dealing with sin that is still in our lives.

Throughout the camp, there was a very evident presence of God which caused the young people to get into worship, yearn for the Word and yield to the Spirit. Three people accepted Jesus as Saviour, 11 were baptised in the Holy Spirit and 22 young people responded to the call to full-time ministry of which six answered this call for the first time.

Every person had an encounter with God. During worship sessions, many campers felt Spirited worship sessions!

convictions while others were drawn to lay themselves before God at His altar—some crying, some laughing, some falling under the power of the Holy Spirit. Their sins, their problems, their hurts and most importantly their hearts were surrendered to God. Indeed, God does wonders and always works in unexpected ways.

The theme song of the camp was "Two hands, one heart, one life, to offer You...". This really was the cry of the camp leaders and coordinators. As Associate Pastor Steven Kum said, "...two hands of service to Jesus, one heart of worship to God the Father and one life for the Spirit to use...that's all God wants from us."

We also saw much of the young people's creativity in almost every activity in the camp. The icebreakers brought forth group names like "Tung Ku Kai Keok" (mushroom chicken feet) and "KL Zhi Bao Kai" (KL paper-wrapped chicken or as someone put it, chicken served in an envelope). Then, during the games at the beach, the young people showed that they were sporting and tough. They had to use almost every faculty of their body including their toes.

Generous parents also blessed us by contributing to give us a sumptuous meal. Led by Uncle Ronnie Wong and Uncle Sam Ho, a group of young people helped to barbecue 30 chickens. A big thank you to all parents who contributed!

Calvary Youth Camp 2000 has left quite a mark in every camper's life. Physically, we came back tanned and weary, but beyond that, we came back knowing Jesus, the Treasure within us and the need to consistently let Him shine. We hope that the youths' encounter with God in camp will spur them to seek the same encounter with Jesus daily, all the days of their lives.

Laying all at the altar to the Lord....







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Printed by
Calvary Church Press
37, Jalan 8/152
Taman Perindustrian OUG
Batu 6, Off Jalan Puchong
58200 Kuala Lumpur.