

# CALVARY NEWS

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## God-Conscious Living

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

John 17:14-16

**Jesus took time by pulling Himself away from the crowd and from His disciples to pray to His Father. He said, I have given them (His disciples) Your word;...They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17:14-16).**

**Jesus wants you, His disciples, to live a God-conscious and not world-conscious life-style.** What separates you from the world and makes you God-conscious? It is your obedience to the Word of God. While you are in the world and are subject to the conditions of the world, you are called to live a God-conscious lifestyle—obeying God because He abides in you. This is what gives you victory and success. This is what enables you to live believing and rejoicing.

The word "conscious" means "being made aware", "knowing with concern", "identifying" and "awake". The awakening to the consciousness of God comes when you are born again. Sin makes you world-conscious but Jesus makes you God-conscious. You

may look like everyone else on the outside now but you are a child of God. The Bible says, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). You can choose a world-conscious lifestyle or a God-conscious lifestyle.

How can you tell if you are living a world-conscious lifestyle? Firstly, if you are body-conscious, which is, dress me, feed me, please me and give me. "Self" is most important to you. Mankind began living a world-conscious lifestyle the moment Adam and Eve disobeyed God's Word (Genesis 3:8-11). Secondly, if you are materialistic, which is possession-conscious. You live to possess things. The Bible tells us that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). Thirdly, if you are devil-conscious. Everywhere you go, you look for devils and evil spirits. Jesus never looked for devils. If there were devils wherever He went, they fled from Him. When He confronted them, they fell at His feet saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God?" (Matthew 8:29).

Is it possible to live a God-conscious lifestyle? Jesus said, "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world but that You should keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15). If it were not possible for you to do so, then Jesus' prayer was in vain. Being God-conscious of your Father in heaven protects you from the evil one. This was one of Jesus' secrets of success. He always lived in the consciousness of His Father.

How can you become God-conscious? By faith! Faith takes you out from world-consciousness into God consciousness. For 12 years, the woman with an issue of blood did everything she could to be healed. She had spent all she had but was no better. She had wasted her resources as well as her strength. Then she heard about Jesus. Faith comes by hearing. She turned away from self-pity and pressed through the crowd and touched the hem of His garment. "When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment" (Mark 5:27).

Faith gives you hope and helps you to see God's power. When you come to Church, you hear God's Word and it causes faith to arise in your heart. Faith

*continued on page thirteen...*

# Calvary Church celebrates

By Audrey Kum  
13 May 2001

## Mother's Day



The Carpenter's Workshop children formed various choirs to sing a special song in honour of mothers at Calvary Church Damansara Heights as well as at the Satellite Churches



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam's greetings and prayers for the mothers attending our Worship Services and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam's message were communicated to our Satellite Church congregations via video.

**Mothers at Calvary Church were specially honoured on Mother's Day.** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam highlighted the importance of the roles they played in their homes and the Church and expressed his appreciation and concern for them. After praying for God to bless them, he called the Carpenter's Workshop children who were ready and waiting, to distribute souvenirs to the mothers present. A total of 931 souvenirs were distributed in our various services!

"A Mother's Pain, A Son's Prayer" was the title of Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam's message which was based on 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. Jabez's mother perceived that her son would be a pain in life so she named him Jabez, which means "pain"! Jabez did not want to be the cause of pain. With an excellent attitude, Jabez turned to God to change his destiny. He asked God to bless him, to enlarge his territory, to put His hand upon him and to keep him from evil. Pastor Petrina concluded that while things can start badly for a person, it can end extraordinarily well because of good attitudes and prayers. "Jabez," she said, "ended up being more honourable than his brothers, thus turning a mother's pain to a mother's pride through a son's prayer." 🙏

## Precious jewels

**It is always Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam's joy to dedicate babies to the Lord as it indicates the parents' desire for their children to be brought up in the ways of the Lord.**

On Mother's Day, 13 May 2001, this joy was multiplied as he proudly dedicated his granddaughter, Jamie Prince Guneratnam together with five other babies at the 10am Worship Service at Calvary Church Damansara Heights. He and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam prayed for the babies and their parents. 🙏

**Jamie Prince Guneratnam** ▶

Parents:  
Prince Guneratnam Jr  
& Amelia



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam praying for granddaughter, Jamie

**Adrian Chong Kai Yen**

Parents:  
Chris Chong & Mei Fong



# Mothers can hunt too!

13 May 2001 By Toh Yew Peng



At Elim bungalow



Assistant Pastor Susan Tan presenting a gift to the winners of the Hunt

**At the invitation of their daughters, 29 mothers bravely trooped to Elim bungalow to enrol themselves for a "Walk-A-Hunt" organised by the Missionette Sponsors in their honour as it was Mother's Day.**

The mothers were pleasantly surprised and pleased to receive beautifully wrapped doorgifts when they arrived. They were divided into teams with cheeky indigenous names like "Kindly Kelabits", "Bold Bidayuhs", "Delightful Dusuns" and "Marvellous Muruts". Quickly getting into the mood, the mothers were all excited and eager to participate while confidently leaving their daughters under the care of the older Missionette girls.

After a time of praise and worship, the Prims and Stars club gave a presentation. Assistant Pastor Susan Tan shared a devotion from Proverbs 31 and commended the mothers for their fun and adventurous spirit.

The mothers then made their way to Pusat Bandar Damansara where all the treasures were hidden. They were given one and a half hours to gather the answers and treasures but the organisers had underestimated the mothers. When they went to the designated meeting place an hour later, a few teams were already milling around restlessly, anxious to submit their answers and treasures!

The mothers were then directed to Restaurant Rasa Gourmet where they enjoyed the treat given to them. Two teams

with the most correct answers were awarded the first and second prizes. Token gifts were given to the first and the last teams to submit their answers and treasures. Presents were also given to the mothers with the most number of children and the mother who was the "Best Dressed" for the Hunt.

The event left the mothers grateful for the opportunity to know each other in the short and fun-filled time spent together. Praise God for mothers who can do anything in Christ Jesus! 🙌



The first team to submit their treasures and answers

## Hannah Marie Samuel

Parents:  
Samuel &  
Elizabeth Kuran



## Wong Qian Sen

Parents:  
Gary & Josephine Wong



## Ong Wei-Jen

Parents: David & Cheryl Ong



## Yeo Eu-Lynn

Parents:  
Jeffrey Yeo & Huee Leen



# LG leaders get together

By David Seah

**Life Group (LG) leaders came together on 19 May 2001 for a time of fellowship at the Elim bungalow. The purpose of the gathering was to share the good reports as well as solutions to areas of concern in relation to the “J-12 Principle”.**

After a time of worship led by Ngeow Zoo Gin, the LG leaders were encouraged by three testimonies on different aspects of the “J-12 Principle”.

**Alfred Choong** testified how he saw his family members coming to know Christ when he began to be consistent in praying for them in the LG meetings. He went to the extent of using a creative “prayer poster” where the LG members were encouraged to place the names of their loved ones who have yet to know Christ. It was when they were faithful in prayer that

they began to have a deep burden for those whom they prayed for. To-date, out of those names that were written at the beginning of this year, three persons have accepted the Lord!

**Christine Chong** shared the joy and the rewards of evangelism among those in her LG. Her LG members are now fervently reaching out as they have seen how she, their LG leader, has overcome the fear of witnessing and sharing the Gospel. Since the beginning of the year, four people have accepted Jesus through the witness of her LG members.

**Helen Read** concluded with the third testimony, sharing on her first-hand experience in discipling. Initially, she thought that discipling is a



Christine Chong sharing her testimony

difficult task but to her surprise, she found it rewarding. She may have to persevere but she sees growth and progress in those whom she is discipling.

Associate Pastor Timothy Ong reminded the leaders that the main focus of the



Alfred Choong's "prayer poster"

“J-12 Principle” is not the number “12” but the fulfilment the Great Commission which is evangelism and discipleship. The reason we are using “12” is because Jesus Himself disciplined 12 people and because of the significance of the number “12” in the Old Testament. Moreover, “12” is a good number to form a healthy, vibrant and dynamic group relationship.

Associate Pastor Richard Yun had an interactive discussion with the leaders. They talked about how they overcame certain difficulties and challenges in their LGs. One Leader shared that in order to get to know their members better, they

invited the members for a simple meal at their home just before the LG meeting. This encouraged other LG leaders to follow suit in order to maximise the limited time they have to fellowship with and to get to know their LG members.

Fellowship and building relationships were also among the objectives that day. Before breaking for some refreshment, the LG leaders had some good laughs when they played the “ice-breaker”. Three LG leaders were given gifts for being the first three to complete the game. 🎁



Playing the “ice-breaker”[

## Looking for a Life Group to join?

Call the Pastoral Care Department at 03-255 260 ext 134 & 135 for more information!

# Thank you Jesus!

Only in eternity will we know the actual impact of our recent Easter presentation, "Rejoice...It's Easter" at Putra Stadium from 13-15 April 2001.

But we are excited by the many testimonies of those who were blessed by their involvement in serving Him and of answered prayers for many individuals to know and receive the love and salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following are just some testimonies to encourage your heart!

"I thank God that out of the five names that I submitted for prayer in the "Prayer Commitment For Souls" slip, three of them responded positively to the Easter invitation. My brother, whose name I submitted for prayer, called me and said that he would like to go with me to the stadium on Friday. He brought along his daughter and maid. That night, both he and his daughter responded to the altar call and said the sinner's prayer. I am just overwhelmed by how the Lord touched his life."

"Praise the Lord that my father accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour while we were rehearsing for the Easter presentation!"

"I was not able to make it for the Easter Worship Service for the past two years for some reason or other. This year, I determined to come with my family. During the worship, the Lord touched me in a very wonderful way and my tears started to flow. I must confess that it was one of the most embarrassing moments in my life because to me, real men don't cry. My children looked at me, wondering what was happening to their father. When Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam gave the altar call, I responded. Again, the Lord touched me and the tears started to flow. There and then, I made a commitment to the Lord to serve in a specific area of ministry in the Easter project next year."

"I had a terrible headache on the last night of the Easter presentation. I felt weak but decided to join the intercessors to pray anyway. Praise the Lord, I was totally healed by the end of the intercession."

"My wife and I have been praying for my brother for more than a year. He was once a youth leader but had backslided over the years and he has a non-Christian girlfriend. This year, we decided to invite him for the Easter presentation. Imagine our surprise when he walked into the Putra Stadium on the first night. Later, I asked him what he thought of the presentation but he was non-committal. God had something else in mind. On the third night, despite the rain, he rushed back from Ipoh to catch the resurrection scene. Praise the Lord that on that very night, my brother's girlfriend responded to the altar call for salvation."

"My student brought her over 80 years old grandmother to the presentation. She found it difficult to walk but she came anyway. All this while, she had never been open to the Gospel so it was a miracle that she came that night."

# A Hi-Tea for new believers

Calvary Church Ampang, Wisma Central

28 April 2001

Praise the Lord for the 41 new friends who attended the Hi-Tea gathering for those who responded to the altar calls at our recent Easter presentation!

Thirty-five leaders of the Church were present to meet and encourage each one of them. Associate Pastors Steven Kum, Peter Ong, Timothy Ong and Richard Yun warmly welcomed them in turn, each introducing various aspects of the Church to them. Praise God that someone who came along to the fellowship at the invitation of one of the "new believers", accepted Christ that afternoon! While enjoying the food, our leaders were able to get acquainted with them and invited each one to attend our Church Services and Life Group meetings.

▼ Praying for our friends



▲ Clockwise: Associate Pastors Steven Kum, Peter Ong, Richard Yun and Timothy Ong welcoming our new friends to Calvary Church

▲ Giving printed material introducing the activities of the Church

Getting to know one another over food! ▶

# The Missionettes testify to love

## Missionettes Coronation 2001

By Mabel Wong and Emilia Toh

**Saturday, 21 April 2001: It was the day for the crowning of 11 "Honour Stars". After months of preparations and rehearsals to get us ready and "perfect" for this day, Assistant Pastor Susan Tan and Sponsor Khaw Phoay Eng must have heaved a sigh of relief that it would soon be over! We must have driven them "crazy" with our teenage whims but they graciously guided us with wise counsel!**

The celebration began at 5pm with songs of worship led by Sponsor Rina Lee. The moment arrived for us to be presented and we were honoured to have our parents to introduce us as we walked in. Snapshots of us in our growing-up years were flashed on the screen as our parents testified about the goodness of God in our lives as well as theirs. It was rather funny to see our baby photos being projected for all to see but we noticed that our parents were beaming with pride and joy.

According to tradition, the "Honour Stars" are to express through various presentations, what we have learnt through the "Stairway of the Stars" programme. Our first presentation was a song entitled "Testify To Love" which was the theme of the coronation service. Most of us were Missionettes since we were six years old and we have learnt that to love one another is one of God's greatest commandments. We sang the song with all our hearts as we meant what we were singing. Four of us presented a violin instrumental that was a medley of four short songs. We capped-off our presentation with a self-choreographed dance to the song "Awesome God".

The audience was introduced to all the Clubs in the Missionettes programme. Each Club did a presentation. The

audience enjoyed the skit and song presented by the cute little Rainbows, Daisies and Prims Clubs, the tambourine and ribbon dance by the Friends Club and a hilarious skit complete with great sound effects, by the Girls Only Club.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam spoke about a little slave girl who pointed Naaman to prophet Elisha. Senior Pastor encouraged the parents to guide their daughters to honour and love God as it is the greatest virtue a girl can learn and the greatest gift a parent can give her.

The crowning ceremony finally arrived! The "Honour Stars" were once again ushered to the stage and we received the Bible pins and bracelets from our parents. Senior Associate Pastor

Petrina Guneratnam then crowned and put the cape on us before Pastor Susan awarded us with certificates. The ceremony was accompanied by songs presented by the Stars Club. Senior Pastor then gave the charge before he prayed for us.

The coronation service signalled the completion of the "Stairway of the Stars" programme. As we received the lighted candles from the Sponsors at the close of the ceremony, we felt proud to be a part of this great ministry and the memories of this special event will always remain with us.

Like any great Malaysian celebration, it would not be complete without food! Our parents threw a great dinner at the poolside restaurant on the 29th floor of Dynasty Hotel in celebration of our crowning as well as in thanksgiving to God and

all the Missionette Sponsors. We drew some stares and smiles as we trooped in, dressed in white gown complete with crown and cape, but we were oblivious because we felt so good. It was a fantastic night of food and fun.

The coronation ceremony is considered the climax of the "Stars" programme but we want to acknowledge that we have gained much, spiritually and emotionally, from our lessons because of the encouragement and dedication of Pastor Susan and all the Sponsors. We are grateful and thankful to them for blessing our lives and testifying to us with their love. Our gratitude and thanks go to our parents too for their continual encouragement and for driving us to Church and Missionettes faithfully each Sunday. Praise and glory to God!



▲ The Girls Only Club presenting their hilarious skit



▲ The Friends Club doing a tambourine dance



▲ Each "Honour Star" received the Bible pins and bracelets from their parents before being crowned and caped by Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam



◆ The "Honour Stars" displaying their varied talents—singing and playing the violin



◆ The Rainbows, Daisies and Prims presenting a song and skit



▲ Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam giving the charge before praying for the "Honour Stars"



▲ Senior Pastor & Pastor Petrina with granddaughter, "Honour Star" Azalea Lee



▲ Celebrating at Dynasty Hotel!



▲ The "Honour Stars" with their proud parents and family members

## The "Honour Stars"

★ Allison Khoo ★ Andrea Cheah ★ Azalea Lee ★ Belinda Ong ★ Betty Liu ★ Cheryl Yong ★ Daniela Selvam ★ Emilia Toh ★ Mabel Wong ★ Ruth Hoo ★ Timmy Tan

# Youth Treasure-thon

26 May 2001 By Barry Wong



Some walked



Some walked and talked



Some jogged



Derek ran all the way!

**It was indeed a very exciting day for the youth of Calvary Church. This was our very first games event with a combination of a Motor Treasure Hunt and a Jogathon.** The day started off with about 120 youths assembling in Church for the event. The weather was excellent with the sun high above giving the right atmosphere for the event. After a time of praise and worship and a short briefing, the eager participants were flagged off by Associate Pastor Steven Kum.

Everyone rushed to their assigned cars and headed off in search of the answer to the first clue. Throughout the journey from Church to Desa Sri Hartamas and finally ending at Taman Tun Dr. Ismail, they were asked fairly easy questions and riddles. Some participants came up with rather amusing but wrong answers. The Motor Treasure Hunt ended at the Taman Tun Jogger's Trail where the race on foot began. The trail was not an easy one as it winds upwards and downwards amidst fresh greenery. It was certainly a test of fitness for everyone. Many just

took the opportunity to fellowship as they walked along the four kilometre trail.

The fastest time clocked for the race was 16 minutes. This was achieved by Derek Lim. The majority of them took about half an hour to forty-five minutes to complete the race. Many prizes were given out to the different categories of winners. Even Uncle Ronnie Wong was awarded a prize for being able to complete the course within the qualifying time. Everyone was tired after the race but thankful that they had such a enjoyable day! 🙏

## The Rangers conquer Gunung Tahan!



By Jim Guneratnam

**A team of 15 from the Royal Rangers comprising Team Leader, Commander David Peter, Associate Pastor Richard Yun, Senior Commander Jim Guneratnam, Commander Chin Yoke Yee, Commander Low Mai Keok, Commander Wong Horr Wai, Commander Isaac Matthews, Herman Ho, Derek Lim, Chuan Jo Hong, Benjamin Khoo, Tan Se-Ken, Justin Tiew, Victor Yong and Victor Yee successfully reached the summit of Gunung Tahan on 3 June 2001. The expedition took four days to cover 62 kilometres of jungle trekking and climbing over various terrain to reach the highest mountain in Peninsular Malaysia at 2,187 metres above sea level. Praise God for his protection, strength and blessing!** 🙏

## Kester gets gold!



**Kester Low was awarded the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA), the highest advancement in the Royal Rangers programme, during the opening ceremony of the 1st Central District Pow Wow on 26 May 2001.** To achieve this, Kester had to complete all his advancements, earn 19 advance merits, read the leaders manual, write a 500 word report and attend a national review board interview. Kester has been a Ranger since he was a Buckaroo and has been working on his GMA since he was in the Trailblazers. He is now serving as a Junior Commander. 🙏

# Children's Workshop Seminar

By Diana Soon

**A desire to learn innovative techniques to teach Calvary Nursery Care and Carpenter's Workshop children the truths of God effectively, was the motivating factor that brought 74 participants to the Children's Workers Seminar at Elim bungalow on 6 and 7 April 2001.**

Rewards were in store for the participants comprising mainly of Children's Ministry teachers, a handful of Life group leaders and parents as the one and a half day's training was not only informative but punctuated with laughter from start to finish.

Speaker, Rob George from Open Air Campaigners (OAC) Ministries, Australia, demonstrated through the use of many simple tricks, sketchboard drawing and object lessons, that, Bible lessons can be an enjoyable time for both teachers and children. Many found his pointer and ideas "eye-openers", judging from the "oohs", "aahs" and "Wa-ahs". His "trump trick" was the



Rob George



Participants eager to learn all they can

art of quick-board sketching done with extra large poster chalks.

One main rule stressed in this seminar that was vital in children Christian education was: "If you need to make anything boring, make it the games or whatever activity, never make the Bible boring." In jest, Rob quoted a "fictitious" scripture: "It is a sin to make the Bible boring." Book of Rob, Chapter 1, verse 1.

At the end of the training session, the participants eagerly bought many of the affordable OAC Ministries for their personal teaching resource library. Results of an evaluation of the seminar by the participants revealed that many were blessed by the teaching. 🙏

## The Surprise Winner

### Children's Evangelistic Meeting

Three hundred and twenty-one children, their friends, parents and teachers, gathered at the Church sanctuary on the afternoon of 7 April 2001 for the Children's Evangelistic Meeting.

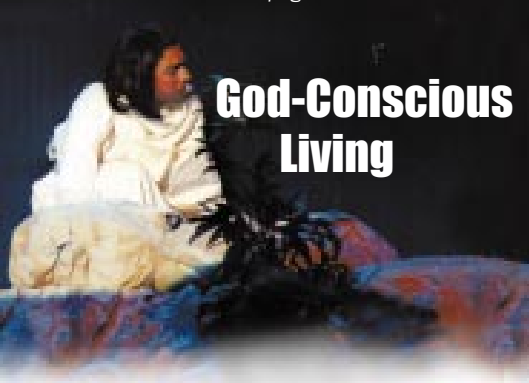
After Assistant Pastor Susan Tan welcomed everyone and prayed for God's blessings, the event started off with a dance by the Carpenter's Workshop (CW) girls followed by lively singspiration led by Ong Meng Foong. While the offering was being taken up, The CW Choir present a song entitled "Only One".

Rob George, the invited speaker, came on stage and his appearance was greeted with extra enthusiasm as many of the children had seen him in action during the previous Friday Children's prayer meeting. He started his presentation with two tricks that stumped the children so much that an unusual hush filled the sanctuary. Having caught their attention, he told the story about Jesus and the criminal, Barabbas, and how Jesus took his place on the cross and Barabbas became a free man. He went on to share that Jesus overcame death and because He arose again, He became the "Surprise Winner"! He told the children that Jesus' death and resurrection was to set them free from sins.

During his narration, Rob sketched the picture of Calvary. He then gave the altar call and 63 children responded. Fifty-four received salvation and nine rededicated their lives. Pastor Susan prayed for the children. A total of 49 new visitors were noted to be present that afternoon. 🙏







## God-Conscious Living

brings you into a consciousness of what God says He can do and it gives you hope. If you do not have faith, you have fear. Fear sees your problems as bigger than God. But faith sees God bigger than your problems and that God is able to help you. You need faith when you cannot see and when you are tempted and in trouble. Fear would have kept the woman back but faith caused her to press through the crowds in her sickness to get near Jesus to receive her healing.

**You can live a God-conscious lifestyle.** There are twelve biblical facts that you need to know and believe:

**1. You are born again.** You need a born-again experience to live a God-conscious lifestyle. You cannot do it by positive thinking or by trying to improve yourself. That is why Jesus told Nicodemus, as religious as he was, he could not enter the kingdom of God unless he was born again. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (John 3:5-7). When you are born again, there is a new walk and a new name is given to you apart from your existing name. This new name is characteristic of your life in Christ. In Antioch, the disciples were called Christians because their behaviour reminded the unbelievers or the people outside the church, of Jesus Christ. Would people call you "Christian" because of your lifestyle?

**2. God is your Father.** Fear is the spirit of the world but because you have received the spirit of adoption, you have God as your Father, just like Jesus. "For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:15-16).

**3. You are clothed by His power.** "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall

be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is more than speaking in tongues. A spirit filled person cannot help but be a witness. An outcome of receiving the Holy Spirit is witnessing. The Bible does not teach you to witness only if you feel like it or if there is a possibility but it clearly states that "you shall be witnesses"! Have you won a soul to Jesus since you were born again?

**4. You eat His flesh and drink His blood.** This is symbolic. When you eat the bread and drink the wine, you are demonstrating that you have the life of Christ in you. "When He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take eat, this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner, He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me'" (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

**5. You wear His armour.** In the Christian life, you battle against principalities and powers. To withstand their attacks, you must depend on His strength and every piece of His armour. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).

**6. You have His gifts.** You are gifted when you are filled with the Holy Spirit who gives you the gifts you should have (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). If you do not use them, they lie dormant in you. That is why Paul encourages believers to "stir up" these gifts. "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands" (2 Timothy 1:6). They are in you. Be aware of what your gifts are and use them.

**7. You bear His fruits.** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control..." (Galatians 5:22-23). You do not need to struggle over this and work on growing the fruits one by one. The Spirit will give you the fruits as you learn to yield to Him. The more you yield, the more the fruit becomes evident. They are not a result of your efforts. If you can produce the fruits on your own, then you do not need Jesus. When you embrace Jesus and yield to His Holy Spirit, you will become more like Him and will exhibit Christ's character.

**8. You are like Him in character not in appearance.** Your Christian life is a process of becoming more and more like Christ. This process will be completed when you see Christ face to

face. "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

**9. You have the same Holy Spirit to help you.** "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him or knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:15-18). When Jesus went away, He sent another Helper, Advocate or paraclete. The meaning of the word "another" here is very different from the common usage of the word. Here, it means "of the same kind".

**10. You have a heavenly language.** The English language or any other known language you know is limited when you are praising God. You can get weary and tired of speaking in these languages. God has given you another language to talk to Him. "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries" (1 Corinthians 14:2).

**11. You have His mind.** Like Christ, you should have God's perspective. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

**12. You inhabit the world with His fragrance.** The fragrance of Jesus is very inviting for it has His personality. An evil spirit has an evil fragrance. You bear Jesus' fragrance as you have His character and the same Father as He does. "For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones" (Ephesians 5:30).

**How can you live a God-conscious lifestyle?** Be a worshipper. Worship is not just praising God with songs in Church. Your whole life is to be a worship to Him. When you are driving, cooking, working in the office, using the office telephone or stationery, do as Jesus would. Practice the presence of God. Be conscious of God in everything you do. Be aware that God is with you. God dwells in your praises and He is enthroned in all that you do as a worship unto Him. "But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3). "Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before His presence with singing" (Psalm 100:2).

*All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.*

# Intercessors' Prayer Retreat

By Karen Seah

6-7 May 2001

“...We'll be blessed because we came!” The lyrics of the song certainly echoed the expectations of the intercessors as they headed for Selesa Hillhomes and Golf Resort. With a sense of excitement, 38 intercessors went for the first overnight prayer retreat ever organised by the **Prayer Tower Ministry**. The theme, “A Heart Yielded To God” set the tone for the entire retreat.



During the first session that evening, the worship and meditation on passages of Scripture pertaining to the theme paved the way for the sharing of the Word by Chan Lee Peng, the Prayer Tower Coordinator. It was a time of soul searching. What kind of heart does God desire? As a prayer warrior, do I have a pure, undivided, broken and contrite heart? Is my ministry as an intercessor flowing out of a heart that is

totally yielded to God? Recognising how deceitful the heart can be (Jeremiah 17:9), all we could do was cry out to the Lord to purify our hearts and make us ready to do His will.

A video on “The Role of An Intercessor In The Local Church” by Ted Haggard was shown the next morning. We were reminded that as intercessors, we are to protect, strengthen and edify the Church. Pastor Haggard also stressed the

importance of living a consistent godly life in order to earn the right to be heard, that is, if God should choose us as His mouthpiece. We concluded with prayer for our Church and Pastors. Some shared testimonies and then it was time to break fast!

After lunch, most of us felt sorry that it was time for us to leave. It was a short retreat but we knew that God had done something in our lives. We may not know its full impact now but for

what we do know, we give thanks to God. We praise Him for speaking to us concerning aspects of our lives that need to be dealt with. We thank Him that many of us met as strangers but left as friends with a oneness in the Spirit brought about by a common bond viz our calling as intercessors. We left as we came, with a song ringing in our ears, “Refiner’s fire, my heart’s one desire is to be holy; set apart for You my Master, ready to do Your will.” 🙏



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