

CALVARY NEWS

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Doing Good: Sowing and Reaping

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches” (Galatians 6:6).

It cannot be denied that the teaching profession is important for the building of society and the church. Teachers are highly regarded and teaching is considered a noble profession. Our nation and schools need teachers. We need to pray that God will raise up many Christian teachers.

The passage in Galatians 6:6-10 refers to a student-teacher relationship. In

the church context, this relationship refers to the relationship between the believer and the pastor of the church or the church members and those whom the Lord has called to the fivefold ministry. Paul in

Ephesians 4:11-12 says: “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” The believers are the students and the ministers of God are called to teach and lead them. Unless this relationship is clearly understood, church splits, strife, a lack of loyalty and commitment will occur in the church.

Galatians 6:6-10 also deals with the responsibility of the student or believer to “do good” to the teacher or pastor. Doing good is an act of sowing. When you give tithes and give towards faith pledges, you are sowing finances.



When you give towards a faith pledge, you are sowing a seed that will germinate and bring forth a harvest. But finance is not the only thing you can sow. You can also sow deeds of kindness and goodness by being gentle, longsuffering, patient, loving and forgiving.

Paul exhorts the believer to share in all good things with him who teaches and to “do good” to all, especially to those who are in the household of faith.

How do you “do good” to the teacher, the one who helps you with your development, your growth and your ministry? Let me suggest five ways you can do it:

Be present when he teaches. Your presence is a great encouragement to

the one who is ministering.

Practise the lesson taught. Just like the school teacher who is thrilled when

he finds that all his students did well in their examinations, those who minister and teach you in church will also be greatly overjoyed and rewarded to hear testimonies of your victory over trials and temptations.

Testify to others the truths of the message. Be a witness. Share the good messages you hear each Sunday with those who need God.

Support the teacher. The giving of offerings and tithes is not the only way to do this. You need to pray for the pastors and church leaders. They need “prayer shields” (a term coined by Peter Wagner). Pray that God will anoint them, enable and

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Left to right
Front Row: Clarence Ng, Han Joke Kwang,
 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratham,
 Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam,
 Katherine Lee, Bernadette Foo
Back Row: Lee Tuck Heng, Edmund Read,
 Patrick Wong, Lawrence Mak, Lum Siew Heng



Introducing our Deacons and Auditors for 2003

On **Stewardship Day, 21 March 2003**, the members of the Church confirmed the ministry of **Han Joke Kwang, Patrick Wong Sing Fah and Bernadette Foo Fong Lian** as Deacons and Deaconess for a two-year term. **Lee Tuck Heng and Clarence Ng** were confirmed as Auditors for 2003.

At the Morning Worship Services at Calvary Church Damansara Heights on 23 March 2003, Senior Pastor installed the newly elected Deacons together with the remaining four, Katherine Lee, Lum Siew Heng, Lawrence Mak and Edmund Read who

are serving the second year of their term. The congregations of the Satellite Churches and that of the 5pm Service witnessed the installation via video.

Let us remember to support our Board of Deacons in prayer as they share the responsibilities with Senior Pastor! 🙏

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratham praying for the Deacons and Auditors



A happy bunch taking part in the ice-breaker



Enjoying a game



Left to right: Lawrence Mak, Philip Tan, Associate Pastor Richard Yun and Han Joke Kwang



Be Fruitful @ Work By Toh Yew Peng

“In the wake of the spate of events that saw the fall of international corporations, the call to uphold integrity and ethical work practices rings louder than ever. The challenge for working Christians is to be the light and salt of the earth.”

The above was the basis for 109 participants coming for the hi-tea talk, organised by the **L.I.G.H.T. and Young Professionals Life Groups**.

Associate Pastor Richard Yun was the moderator of the afternoon's

discussion. With a panel of three speakers of firm Christian standing, the discussion was done in a meaningful yet light-hearted manner.

Han Joke Kwang, Lawrence Mak and Philip Tan, all who have extensive experience in the working world, took turns to address the floor. They shared about issues affecting Christians at work today and how we ought to approach work from a biblical perspective.

This led to the emphasis of establishing Christian integrity at the workplace and the way we should always strive for excellence in all we do.

At the end of the dialogue, all three speakers stressed on the need to always turn to God for guidance and to abide in His Word and Spirit for strength and wisdom in order to be effective witnesses at work.

The day ended with fellowship among the participants and lively discussions over hi-tea served at the Calvary Refreshment Centre. Glory to God! 🙏



The Young Professionals LGs grow By Julie Tang



The YPLG led by Jason Sia



The YPLG led by Jason Tan

Less than a year ago, on 14 July 2002, the **Young Professional (YP) Life Groups (LG)** were installed. The two LGs, led by Jason Tan, and Jason Sia, seek to meet the spiritual, intellectual, social and recreational needs that are unique to the young working adults of Calvary Church.

The LGs were initiated to provide opportunities to develop and strengthen interpersonal relationships which enhance their lives at work, home and church.

The YP LGs gather for interesting and lively discussions on contemporary topics on God, work and current events affecting our lives. This serves to equip the YP to actively live out their faith in the world.

Since its inception, both LGs have experienced numerical growth, from an average monthly attendance of six to 12 persons respectively. We also saw five members taking the step of faith to be baptised in water in less than a year! Here is a testimony of one of them:



“ Having attended the Young Professionals Life Group, I have grown in my faith and walk with God.

Relevant issues were discussed and are approached from a Christian perspective. The LG members encourage me to be accountable.

When I have uncertainty regarding my faith, I have them to turn to, people who accept, understand and appreciate me for who I am.

Also, through the encouragement of my LG Leader, Jason Sia, I took a bold step of faith, (coming from a non-Christian family), to baptised in water in December last year. ”

Alicia Wan

(She is on the extreme left in Jason Sia's LG photo)

You too can find helpful and supportive relationships and be encouraged to be successful as a Christian in your work place.

If you have been working for less than 10 years, you are welcome to join us!

For more information concerning the YP LGs, please contact the **Pastoral Care Department** at **03-2099 7135** or pascare@calvary.org.my.

Men in action!


Mission accomplished by 6pm!



What happens when men pray? They just have to go into action and put legs to their prayers!

On 8 March 2003, 11 men from four different **Men's Life Groups (LGs)** met at our outreach, Calvary Praise Assembly, Bandar Puteri, Puchong, after prayer meetings at their respective LGs.

They split into two groups, one to build the platform for the sanctuary and the other to distribute tracts and invitations to an evangelistic meeting at the outreach on 15 March, at the flats and houses nearby.

It was a fruitful outing for both groups! The platform was completed and fifty-two attended the evangelistic meeting, eight of which came for the first time! Praise God for the four who received Christ! 



Armed with tracts and invitations

The Men's LGs meet at Calvary Church Damansara Heights every first Saturday of the month from 7.30 to 9am for prayer. Call 03-2099 7129 for more information about the Men's LGs.

The leaders raising their right hands to clasp the "purpose" of God and their left hands to represent the generation they must reach



Dr Alemu Beeftu illustrating a point using the "staff" provided by the hotel!



Calvary Church Leadership Conference

Leaders challenged to fulfil God's purpose for their generation

By Audrey Kum

When the leaders attending **Calvary Church's Leadership Conference** from 6 to 8 February 2003 heard that our speaker, Dr Alemu Beeftu, was from Ethiopia, many immediately imagined that he must somehow be connected to the Ethiopian eunuch we read about in the book of Acts! Over the three days of the Conference, we sensed Dr Beeftu's passion for developing committed leadership among Christians.

Dr Alemu Beeftu, founder and president of *Gospel of Glory*, was born on an isolated farm in central Ethiopia, the youngest of ten children. During the 1970s, when the communist government began persecuting the Ethiopian Church, the young Alemu earned both masters and doctoral degrees in the United States and worked diligently to provide leadership for Ethiopian Christians scattered around the world.

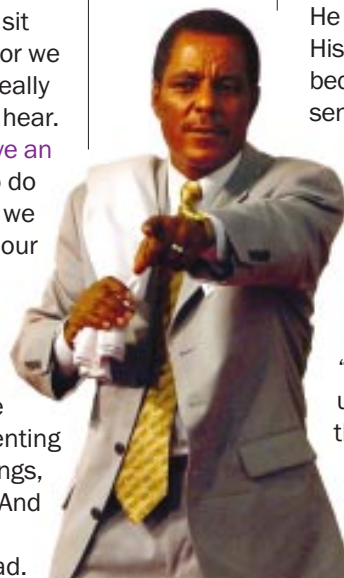
the Lord's day and in order to hear what our Lord is saying to us, we need to be in the Spirit. It was as if the Lord was making sure that we would not miss what He was going to say to us over the next few days. We could just sit through another conference or we could "be in the Spirit" and really hear what God wanted us to hear.

God desires that we have an impact on our generation. To do that, Dr Beeftu believes that we as leaders must first accept our calling. Then, we will see ourselves as God sees us and our lifestyles will correspond with our calling. We must accept the roles we are given, as priests, representing people before God and as kings, representing God to people. And we must have the heart of a father for those whom we lead.

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam and Associate Pastor Steven Kum warmly welcoming the leaders to the Conference



Dr Beeftu exhorting us to prepare for a season of change



Leadership is a relationship. Dr Beeftu used Jesus as an example of relational leadership. Jesus called the disciples to Him. He called them His friends and not His servants. They were with Him, becoming like Him and were later sent by Him to impact the world.

After accepting our calling to Jesus, we must accept our destiny, what God has set for us. Using Joseph as an example, Dr Beeftu pointed out that once we know our destiny, "everyone works for us to push us to our destiny"—whether they may be for us or against us. Our part is to love God, know our calling and God will work all things for good (Romans 8:28).



On Thursday evening, at the start of the Conference, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam thanked the leaders for making the effort to be present. As we prayed and worshipped God together, he encouraged us to leave our cares—work and others, behind and to seek the Lord so that we may receive from Jesus during this time we specially set aside.

Dr Alemu Beeftu's first Scripture reference was from Revelation 1:10. He emphasised over and over again that today is

Adult congregation welcomes

The children with Associate Pastor Richard Yun and their teacher, Yee Yuet Hoh



Sunday, 9 February 2003 was a memorable day for 42 Carpenter's Workshop (CW) children. They were officially welcomed to be a part of the adult congregation.



beyond the shadow of a doubt what we were born for? Dr Beeftu reinforced his point by having us all raise our right hands to clasp the “purpose” of God in our fists and then raise our left hands to represent the generation we must reach.

“Ministry,” according to Dr Beeftu, “is not just an activity where we are ‘busy’ for God. It is total obedience to the revealed will of God.” He warned against letting ministry be merely an activity with no impact. “Any activity,” he said, “that takes us away from God is never from God.”

On Friday evening, at the open session which included those who usually attended the School of Christian Growth and the Prayer Meeting, Dr Beeftu re-emphasised that ministry is not about us. We are not to work to impress but to work to impact. We do not have to compete with others when we obey the revealed



will of God. When we realise this, transformation occurs in us and we begin to reflect Jesus in our lives.

God has released His purpose to us and now is the time for us to reach our generation. We need to know God’s will for our lives and for those whom we lead. Are we like David who was recorded in Acts 13:36 as one who served God’s purpose in his own generation? Do we know

Dr Beeftu asked the leaders to take off their shoes to symbolise the letting go of the past



reward. **Moses took off his shoes.** He let go of the past—that of failure, fear, disappointment, rejection, the 40 years of life in the wilderness. **Moses dropped his staff** (Exodus 4:2-3)—his support, that which he used for self-protection, for leading his sheep. According to Dr Beeftu, it simply meant the season for using ministry is over. Ministry cannot be used to defend you. The old style of leadership is over.

Unless we let go like Moses, God cannot do much. Once we have let go, then we can pick up a new vision—the ability to see God, to see what God sees and to see as God sees it. We can respond to a change with a renewed purpose and we will be willing to accept a new power, anointing and authority. We will receive new strategy, a new pattern and a new passion.

Dr Beeftu concluded his sessions with us with a reminder to us to accept our calling and to serve with the Holy Spirit’s anointing in order to fulfil the purpose of God for our generation with impact. We must keep the fire burning (Leviticus 6:12)!

After a good lunch, we were back for the final session with Senior Pastor. He remarked that people do not like changes. He asked some thought-provoking questions such as, “When was the last time you did something for the first time?” and “Are you ready for a change if you are going to fulfil God’s call?” Using John Maxwell’s material on “The Challenge of Change”, he highlighted observations about the causes and results of change, the challenges faced, what leaders

need to do at such times and how to handle the transitions that accompany change.

Throughout the Conference, there was a sense that God is leading Calvary Church to something new. All messages at this Conference were timely. Senior Pastor concluded the Conference by reminding us to ask God for grace as He leads us to yet another level of faith. 🙏

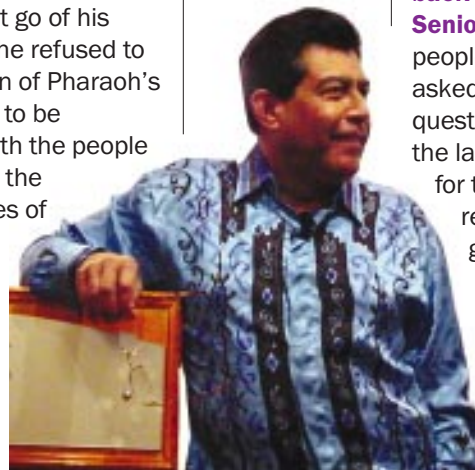


We must have the heart of God and the mind of Christ. Our minds must be renewed and controlled by the Holy Spirit and we must seek God for the revelation of His Word.

On the final morning of the Conference held at the Corus Hotel, referring to the account of Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-5), Dr Beeftu spoke of the need for a paradigm shift. This involves a letting go/dropping of things first before we can pick up anything else. **Moses left the pleasure of Egypt.** In Hebrews 11:24-26, Moses let go of his social status when he refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God, letting go of the privilege of pleasures of a luxurious lifestyle. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ greater than the treasures of Egypt because he was looking to his

The Conference was a great opportunity to communicate with the Lord

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam speaking to the leaders at the final session



42 CW graduates



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam leading the congregation in the welcome pledge

They presented a special song and also provided the musical accompaniment. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam led the congregation in a pledge to welcome them and then prayed for them. 🙏

Water Baptism and Communion: Two ordinances, three tenses

By Earl Creps

“The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.”

“The Lord’s Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26) and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26) and is enjoined on all believers “till He come!”

Biblical Christianity is surprisingly simple. When distilled to its essence, the teachings of Jesus involve virtually none of the ceremonies, rituals or other features usually associated with religions. Yet Jesus did leave us with ordinances, concrete ways of connecting with His person and with other believers. Water baptism and Communion are the two ordinances practiced by the Assemblies of God. Neither makes us a Christian, but both tell us what it means to be one.

Water baptism: buried and raised with Christ

While Jesus himself did not baptize anyone, He immediately delegated this responsibility to His followers (John 4:2) who continued the practice under His direction (Mathew 28:19) as a way of initiating new believers into the faith (Acts 2:41). For 2,000 years followers of Jesus have made three powerful statements in the act of water baptism—one past, one present and one future.

Past tense: I have chosen. At various times in history, misguided Christians have attempted to coerce others into baptism as a way of forcing them into their religion. These campaigns hardly accomplished Jesus’ original mission for the church to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19, NIV). Obviously, being a “disciple” is meant to come first, and that by free choice. An Ethiopian who came to faith by way of Philip’s witness asked him, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” (Acts 8:36).

This is the attitude that baptism represents: a desire to announce that I have chosen to follow Christ. The Assemblies of God endorses water baptism of those believers who are old enough to understand the experience. Understanding is needed in order to fulfill the biblical emphasis on voluntary choice and saving faith.

Present tense: I can identify. Baptism is a way of telling the world that I identify with Jesus in every respect. When a believer enters the water, he or she is being “buried with [Christ] in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead” (Colossians 2:12). In this sense, every baptism is a funeral for the old self, a way of saying

that sin and death no longer own me, “because anyone who has died has been freed from sin” (Romans 6:6,7). But it is much more. The grave could not hold Jesus any more than the water can hold us. At Christ’s return, the grave will be unable to hold us as well (Romans 8:11).

Christ’s death and resurrection are the great universals of the Christian faith, accessible to anyone who believes. Despite some differences in theology and method, all Christian traditions practice water baptism in some form, telling the world that their faith is not a set of beliefs, but a life lived out in Christ. The Assemblies of God practices water baptism by immersion to reinforce the symbolism of burial and resurrection and to reflect the practice as found in the New Testament.

Future tense: I will be faithful. Scripture records baptisms taking place in public settings. Since church buildings were not used until the third century A.D., the public nature of the ordinance most likely persisted for generations. Thus, to be baptized as a Christian in a largely pagan culture was to make a very public statement of total commitment to Christ, and to face the

consequences of that commitment.

Public baptism makes it impossible for Christians to practice a “secret” faith concealed from a possibly hostile world. A baptismal service, especially when accompanied by the new believer’s retelling of his or her spiritual journey, is a powerful witness to the risen Christ and a statement of commitment to the Savior that cannot be retracted. It is a way of saying that I have counted the cost and decided to serve God with all my heart (Luke 14:25-33).

The Assemblies of God follows the historic Christian practice of baptizing “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). In addition to being Jesus’ only instruction on the matter, this wording reflects the triune God’s total commitment to the believer. The Father’s love sent the Son to the cross. The Father and the Son sent the Spirit upon the church (Matthew 3:11; John 15:26).



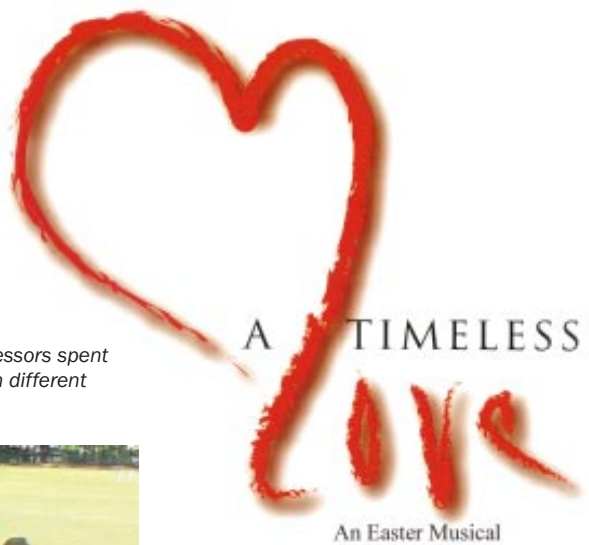
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Carpenter's Workshop teachers guiding the kids as they get involved in the work of God at their young age



Altar Workers, Ushers and Intercessors spent time in prayer as they gathered in different groups for their briefings



◆ Featuring The Singing Cross
◆ date: 18-19 April 2003
◆ time: 8pm
◆ venue: Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil

May God bless those who allowed us to place our posters in their business premises! ▼



All ready to give out the invitations to experience God's timeless love! ▲



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam joining one of the groups who went tracting one Saturday ▲



▲ Age does not matter when the heart desires to serve the Lord



▲ Senior Pastor praying for those involved in the Easter presentation in various ways at the Dedication Service at Putra Stadium on 16 April 2003

Calvarites share God's timeless love

By Audrey Kum

Armed with umbrellas and bathed in prayer, hundreds of Calvarites spent four Saturday afternoons prior to the Easter presentations, giving out close to 60,000 invitations (out of the 150,000 printed) to "A Timeless Love", our Easter musical. In the process, 14 people received Christ as Saviour! It was so good to see elderly grandparents and kids as young as four years getting involved in the distribution of the handbills.

Every year, during our Easter evangelistic thrust, the Church is abuzz with activity—people coming out for practices on Sundays and other specified days and closer to the presentation, for briefings and tracting sessions. It is a great time to get to know more people other than those in our usual congregations. New talents are discovered and new bonds of friendship are forged. Those who feel that they cannot dance because they have two left feet or that they cannot hold a tune or even play an instrument, found that there are many other ways to serve the Lord!

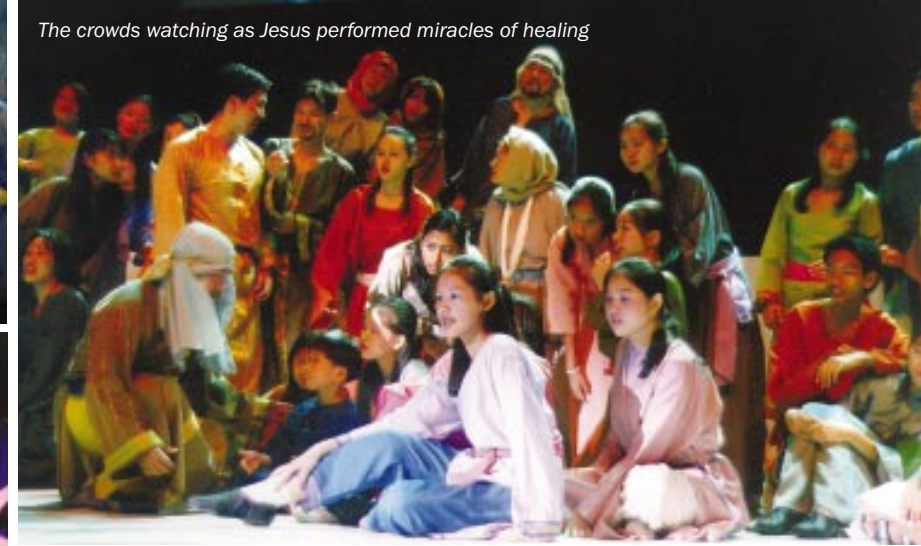
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Photographs by Bonnie Bautista and Audrey Kum

Associate Pastor Steven Kum and the Calvary Worship Team leading in worship

Celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem



The crowds watching as Jesus performed miracles of healing

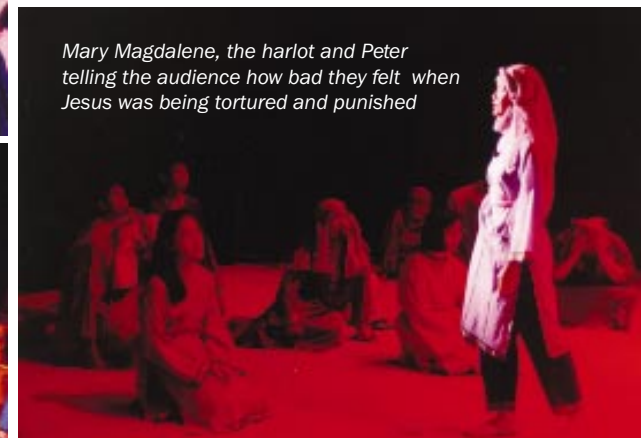
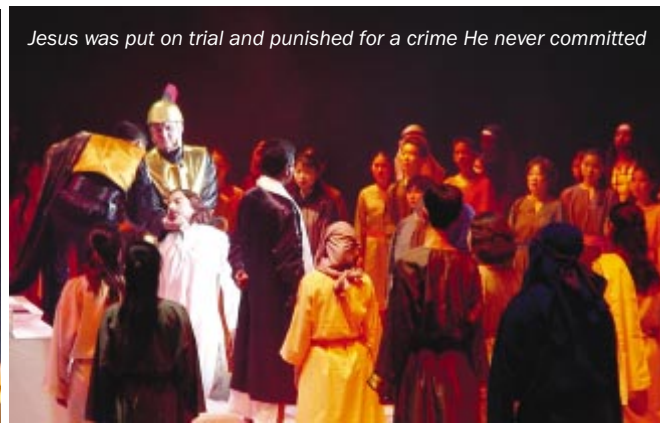


The Children's Choir



The Last Supper Jesus shared with His disciples before Judas betrayed Him with a kiss

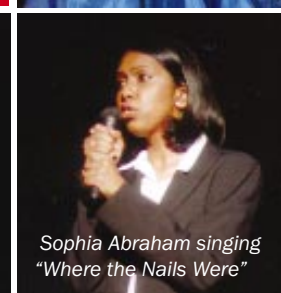
Jesus was put on trial and punished for a crime He never committed



Mary Magdalene, the harlot and Peter telling the audience how bad they felt when Jesus was being tortured and punished

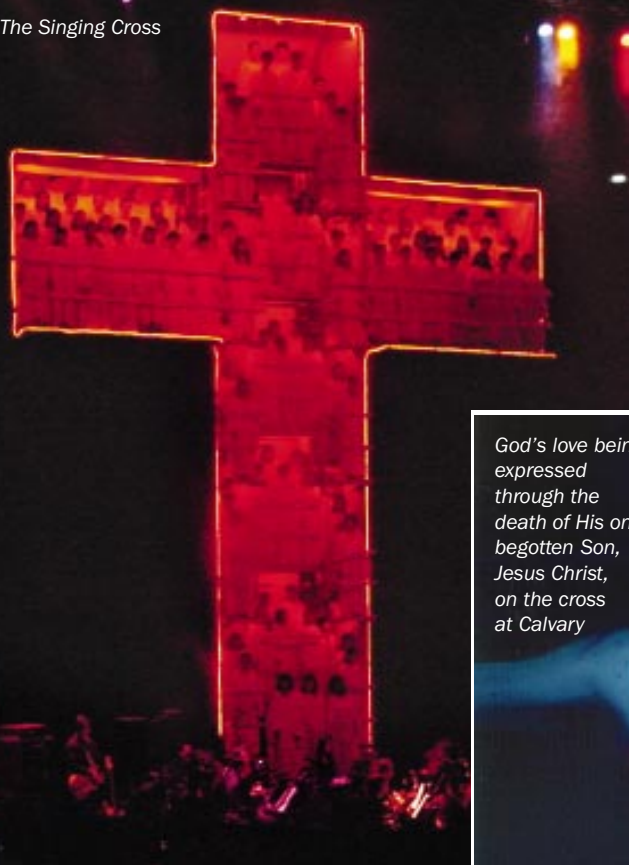


Corina Tan singing "Via Dolorosa"



Sophia Abraham singing "Where the Nails Were"

The Singing Cross



God's love being expressed through the death of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross at Calvary

The first thing that probably caught the eyes of those who attended the two nights of presentations was probably the 40-foot vertical cross! For the first time, many in the 160-voice Adult Choir experienced what it was like to have someone stand so closely above them! They and the 70-strong Creative Arts Team, the 50-voice Children's Choir, the 50-piece Orchestra, the Stage Management team and everyone who served in one way or another, were rewarded for their labour of love as over 300 people responded at the altar for salvation, rededication and other needs over the two nights.

From a random survey taken at the entrances to the stadium, it was clear that the most effective way to invite people to the event was through personal invitations to families and friends.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam told the audience, who had by then

witnessed the extent of God's love through the music and drama, that His love is not affected by the passage of time. God loved the world so much that He gave His only

Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay the penalty of sin which is death. Jesus came so that we could be born again.

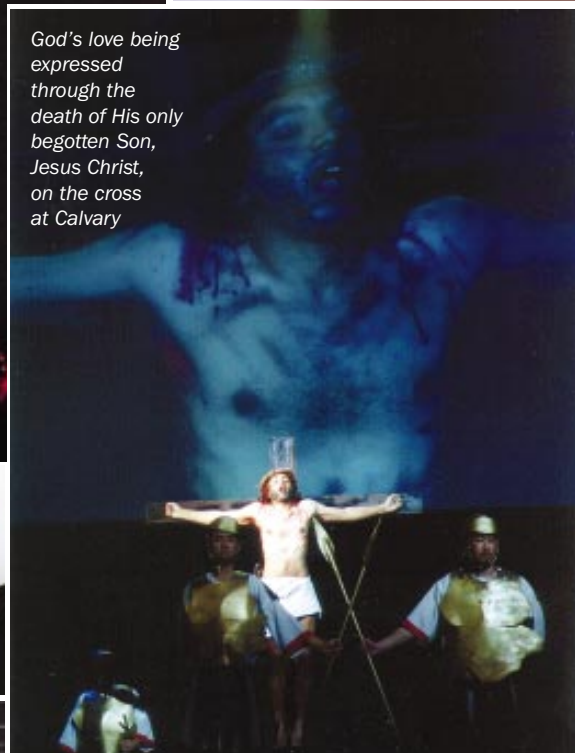


By believing and accepting Jesus as our sin-bearer, we can experience new birth and a life of victory over sin.

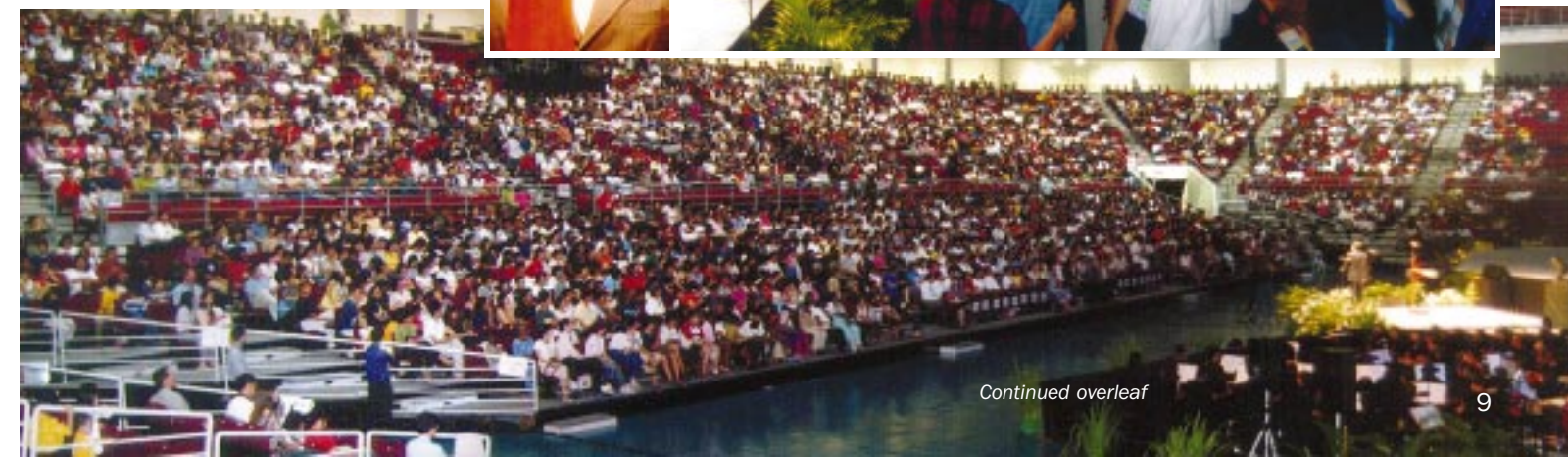
We praise God for His matchless and timeless love and for the great privilege He has given to us at Calvary Church to share this love to our city and beyond!



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam (bottom left) shared the message of God's love and prayed for those who responded for salvation



Associate Pastor Christopher Lee conducting the orchestra and Ngeow Mei Fong conducting the Singing Cross



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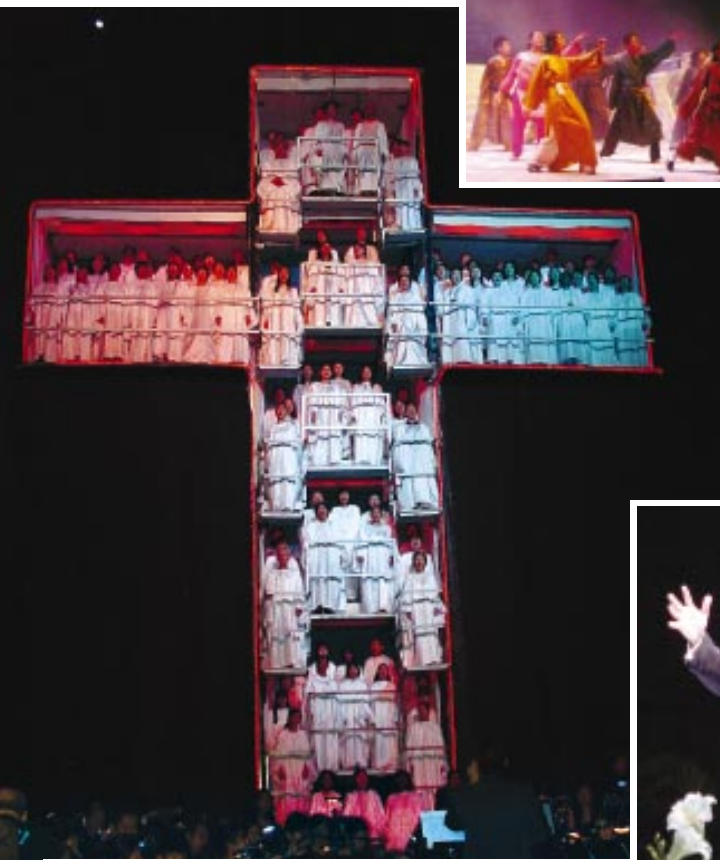


Bryan Mak singing "Emmas"



Jesus has a meal with two men He met while they were on their way to Emmaus

Christ the Lord is risen today!



Christ the Lord is risen today!

The Calvary family gathered together at the Putra Stadium for the Combined Easter Morning Worship Service at 10am to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Senior Pastor sharing the Easter message



The Children's Choir singing "He's Not here"



In his Easter message, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam used the example of Mary Magdalene to exhort us to allow gratitude to Jesus to make us His faithful and loyal followers, always supportive of His work. He challenged us to "do something for the risen Lord". "A Timeless Love" Project Coordinator, Associate Pastor Richrd Yun, thanked everyone involved in the Easter Project, highlighting the Committee, their supportive families and Senior Pastor and Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam for their constant guidance and encouragement.



Communion: the Lord's table

Some Christian traditions refer to Communion as the "Eucharist," however, the wording used is much less important than the recognition that "the Lord's supper" (1 Corinthians 11:20) takes place at "the Lord's table" (1 Corinthians 10:21). The original language here is quite emphatic; this experience belongs to God.

Jesus modeled the Communion moment at a Passover meal that would eventually be called the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-28). The common label is incorrect. This was really the first supper, the beginning of two millennia of believers celebrating Christ's presence among them. Three truths present themselves every time we meet with the Lord around His table.

Past tense: a table of history. The Lord's table recognizes the historical reality of Jesus' sacrifice. Of the bread, Jesus said, "This is My body which is broken for you." Of the cup, He said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood" (1 Corinthians 11:24,25, NKJV). Rather than being a hollow ritual about Christ, the Lord's Supper commemorates what He has actually done for our forgiveness and reconciliation with the Father.

In water baptism, we individually identify with Christ's death and resurrection. But at the Lord's table, the entire community focuses on the Cross and the empty tomb. In this act, the history of redemption is affirmed by the congregation, and the congregation is affirmed by the Agent of that history. As Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Corinthians 11:24,25). Assemblies of God churches serve Communion frequently in order to bond the congregation together around the central reality of Christianity: the Cross.

Present tense: a table of accountability. One purpose of the Communion experience is to call participants to a moment of accountability before the Lord. Paul addressed the church at Corinth on this issue. The congregation was fractured by competing loyalties and was displaying grotesque moral and relational failures. Even the regular fellowship meals, and the following

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Communion services, were coming to resemble the feasts held in local pagan temples (1 Corinthians 11:18-22).

The Corinthians needed to "examine" themselves: "For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Corinthians 11:29, NIV). This injunction means that the blessing of Communion is not only neutralized, but reversed, when the Lord's table (and the sacrifice and community it represents) is treated with disrespect. There is no benefit in the bread and cup for Christians who choose to live in flagrant disobedience before coming to the table.

Assemblies of God churches tend to take a sober attitude while serving Communion, providing opportunity for members to consider the quality of their lives and make things right with God and with others.

Future tense: a table of prophecy.

Communion is temporary. One day the ordinance will be replaced permanently by fellowship among Christ and His people in eternity (Revelation 19:9). Jesus spoke of this when He told the Twelve at their final Passover meal, "I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29).

Every time the church celebrates Communion, then, we "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). Coming to the Lord's table is a way of recognizing that the future will not be an endless extension of the present. Christ is coming for His church. The bread and the cup foreshadow the real Last Supper, the one that will never end.

Ordinances are visible representations of invisible realities. We are water baptized to signify our entry into the kingdom of God through identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. We come to the Lord's table to remember the present reality of the Cross, to make our lives accountable to God, and to look forward to Christ's return. As we participate in the ordinances, we connect both to God and to His people. 🙏

Earl Creps, D.Min., Ph.D., is director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo. This is a fifth in a series of eight monthly articles on the 16 Foundational Truths of the Assemblies of God, written by faculty of Assemblies of God Theological Seminary for the Pentecostal Evangel.

Life can sometimes be ...

**DEPRESSING
HURTING
LONELY
CONFUSING**



Whatever your crisis,
RAINBOW CENTRE

offers you
HELP and HOPE.
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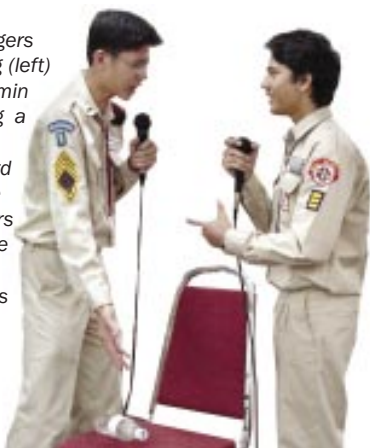
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The Royal Rangers and Missionettes go on a recruiting mission!

Royal Rangers Victor Yong (left) and Benjamin Khoo using a skit as a springboard to promote the Rangers programme to the Carpenter's Workshop (CW) children at Elim hall



A potential recruit?



Carmen Chong (left) and Yap Sze Foong testifying to the same CW children of how they have learnt much and been blessed by the Missionettes programme



The Church has special programmes for children aged 3 to 17 years. The **Missionettes** is a uniformed group for girls aged 3 to 17 years and boys aged 3 to 4 years while the **Royal Rangers** is a uniformed group for boys aged 5 to 17 years. Both meet at 5pm on Sunday evenings at Damansara Heights.

On two consecutive Sundays, 16 and 23 March 2003, the Missionettes and Royal Rangers promoted their programmes in a variety of ways. If you are interested but missed signing up, contact Jim Guneratnam at 03-2099 7125.

Take advantage of these two great, fun and exciting programmes! 🦋



Trying out some of the fun things the Rangers do

The Rangers are taught campcraft skills

Jim Guneratnam thanking the volunteers

Communication Ministry thanks their faithful volunteers

By Audrey Kum

They are at the various church locations before the rest of the congregation. They set up the audiovisual equipment and ensure that the sound system works. They make sure the words on the screen appear at the direction of the worship leader and that the announcements and the sermon outlines appear at the appropriate times. They tape the events and make the recordings available at the end of each Service or later depending on the event. Who are these people?

On Saturday, 15 March 2003, a fellowship held at Elim bungalow was organised to thank them, these faithful volunteers who serve in the **Calvary Communication Ministry** week after week. Jim Guneratnam, who heads the Ministry, thanked them for their service and reminded them of the vital role they play in contributing to the smooth running of each Service. They have done

their work well when the congregation is not distracted from worshipping God by jumbled lyrics, blank screens and when the music and the Word are clearly heard without interference through the sound system!

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam encouraged them to persevere as this is a service that is done in the background and is not often noticed. He encouraged



Getting to know one another through the ice-breaker

Missionettes Awards Celebration

Missionettes "Shine for Jesus"

By Gloria Teng



Senior Associate
Pastor Petrina
Guneratnam

Katherine Lee

The event started at 5pm on 15 March 2003 with the Missionette girls marching into the sanctuary singing enthusiastically, "We are Missionettes for Jesus". Sponsor Low Mei Leong and the Girls Only team led the congregation in a time of worship.

Deaconess Katherine Lee, a former Missionette Sponsor later shared a devotion and challenged the girls to always live in the light and shine for Jesus in the world of darkness.

Seven Honour Stars and one Honour Prim presented a light-hearted but meaningful skit entitled "The Three Trees," a message to remind us how we ought to always trust and acknowledge God, for He has a plan for our lives and will make our paths straight.

The six graduating Friends presented a song entitled "Amazing Grace", reminding us of God's amazing love. Parents, Julie Yap and Steven Mooi both shared testimonies of how their daughters, Yap Sze Foong and Rachel Mooi respectively, have benefited and

The Stars and Friends



grown in the Lord through the Missionettes programme.

The graduating ceremony was the highlight of the day. This year, six Daisies, one Prim, seven Stars and six Friends received the Honour Award. Co-ordinator Catherine Lim charged the Honour Stars and Honour Friends and challenged them to continually shine for Jesus. A hundred and forty-four girls were recognised for achieving at least one badge. There were some who earned the maximum ten badges that could be earned in one year!

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam later prayed for all the girls that God's favour will continue to be upon them. She also commended all

the parents for their "Spiritual Investment" in their daughters through the Missionettes.

The programme ended with the girls singing the Missionettes' song. Everyone who attended the ceremony left with a special door gift sponsored by the parents of the Honour Girls. The girls put in a lot of practice and effort to prepare for this much-awaited day. We praise and thank God for a smooth-flowing ceremony. Indeed, we will continue to shine for Jesus, just as our song says: "We are Missionettes for Jesus...fully committed to doing right with a pure heart, boldly shining our light!" 🙏



Joshua
Reubendra (left)
shared a
testimony
thanking God
for the
opportunity to
serve in the
Communication
Ministry

them to have a passion for their work, always seeking for new and better ways to do it. He appreciated their dedication, exhorted them to continue in their good work and prayed for them.

Associate Pastor Peter Ong gave thanks for the food and those present took the opportunity to get to know each other better over light refreshments. 🙏

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam challenging the volunteers



encourage them. You may hear negative things being said about them. Do you pray for them and ask God to encourage them to press on serving? Or do you pick up the telephone and ask your friends, "Have you heard the latest?" Your pastors and teachers need your prayers.



Bring others with you to learn and be blessed like you. As you are blessed at each meeting and your needs are met, invite those who also need such blessings to the meeting. Everyone has a God-given ministry. Everyone should be involved and committed to doing something for the kingdom of God because "God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues" (1 Corinthians 12:28).

Why "do good" to the teacher?

There are two very strong reasons:

Firstly, you "do good" to the teacher because God cannot be mocked. Galatians 6:7 says: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." Do not be deceived, led astray into thinking that you can take what God says lightly or find fault with what God has said. The Scripture declares clearly that a man will sow what he reaps. It is an immutable law.

If you sow, you will reap. You will reap what you sow. If you sow lies, you will be lied to. If you cheat, someone will cheat you. If you are kind, gentle and loving, the law of sowing and reaping says you will reap the same. You will reap more than what you sow. When the seed you sow grows into a big tree, it will

bear fruit and you will have many more seeds. Sowing has to do with giving. When you give to God, it will come back overflowing. You cannot out-give God. But if you sow bad deeds, you will reap bad deeds in abundance.

Whatever you sow towards your teacher, you reap.

You will bear the judgement of your behaviour. For example, if you do not learn and practise the truths taught about the lust of the flesh, you will be overtaken by the flesh. You will seek worldly possessions, position and power, strive against others, behave immorally and become a slave to your desires. The way of the flesh is death. "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).

However, if you learn and practise the truths taught, God's life is in you. "For he who sows to the flesh will reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Galatians 6:8). The fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness [and] self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). If you need love, sow love. If you need forgiveness, forgive. Do to others what you want others to do to you (Matthew 7:12).

Secondly, you "do good" to the teacher because you will reap in due season. Galatians 6:9 says: "And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." The student and the teacher will both reap when the time comes.

Sowing is hard work. You can get weary. You can be tempted to give up when you see more tempting alternatives. You can give in to pressure because of persecution and criticism.

But sowers, do not be discouraged because you will reap in due season. The Bible in 1 Corinthians 15:58 exhorts:

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Continue in the things that you have learned. Do not be weakened in your commitment and dedication. "But you must continue in the things that you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them" (2 Timothy 3:14).

Guard your minds. Reject all negative thoughts about giving up. Do not allow your mind to think in the flesh or like the world. The Bible in 1 Peter 1:13 says: "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

When do you "do good" to the teacher? At every opportunity! "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are in the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). We are living in opportune times. Take advantage of the opportunities to do good—to a hurting family member, neighbour, colleague. Sow deeds of kindness to members of the church family, the household of faith, which includes your teachers and also to unbelievers. The Bible in Hebrews 13:16 says: "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased." However, take heed of James 4:17: "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

Be a sowing Christian. You can sow not only in finances but in deeds as well. Sow towards your teachers. Sow towards those in the household of faith. Sow towards the unbelievers and you will reap God's blessings. "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness" (Psalm 37:3). 🕊️

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version



Calvary Caring Ministry Coordinator Yow Kit Yen (second from left) was there to assist the GEs



Our GEs can be identified by the tags they wore

Golden Eagles check out *A'Famosa* By Richard Lee

Thank God for giving us leisure—a wonderful gift of time for the **Golden Eagles** (GEs) to enjoy the beauty of nature, the surroundings and the animal kingdom that God has created.



Associate Pastor Timothy Ong (second from left) accompanied the GEs



The Elephant Show

On 22 March 2003, two busloads of GEs left Calvary Church Damansara Heights at 8.30am and headed for *A'Famosa* in Malacca, about two hours drive away. Among the 88 GEs who went, many were over 70 years, two were 79 and one brave lady, Sum Yoke Lin will be 80 this year! These GEs can really walk! They geared up with caps and hats and used umbrellas as walking sticks! The way they walked from one animal show to the next was amazing. It was evidently because of God's grace and strength that none of them asked for a wheel chair!

We enjoyed the Bird Show, the Elephant Show, the Wild Wild West Show and the Multi Animal Show. For the Safari Adventure, we sat in a truck that looked like a cage where we safely observed the animals roaming freely around us. We thank the Lord and the team that organised the outing for such a great, enjoyable and memorable trip! 🦋



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