

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

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1 Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father
And to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen. Amen.

2 Doxology

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures
here below;
Praise Him above,
ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and
Holy Ghost, Amen.

3 The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and
keep you, The Lord lift His
countenance upon you,
and give you peace,
And give you peace.
The Lord make His face
to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you,
be gracious, the Lord be
gracious, gracious unto
you. Amen.

SUNDAY WORSHIP COMBINED SERVICE

Preparatory Hymn Joel Wong

Prelude Ruth Wong

Call to Worship Dn Adrian Cheng/Joel Wong

*Hymn **HOP 88** All Glory, Laud and Honour

*Invocation/Gloria Patri¹

Responsive Reading Psalm 41:1-13

Hymn **HOP 252** Higher Ground

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology²/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Numbers 10:1-10

Hymn **HOP 290** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pr Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng

Responding Together

*Hymn **HOP 301** Sound the Battle Cry!

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You³

*Congregation Standing

¹ & ² RHC Front Inner Cover

³ RHC Back Inner Cover

Theme for 2014: "SHEW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED YOU" (1 Peter 2:9b)



A Warm Welcome from BPCWA to one and all. May God richly bless you as you join us today in worshipping the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Please join us at Fellowship Tea after the Worship Service.

My dear readers,

1. Support for same-sex marriage is increasing faster than ever before

(The Washington Post, by Andrew Flores, March 14, 2014)

In the past months, there have been two pivotal U.S. Supreme Court cases and numerous lawsuits in several states by same-sex couples seeking marriage recognition. The recognition of marriage for same-sex couples for federal purposes is now in effect. Thus, it's a good time to take stock of public opinion about same-sex marriage. My analysis of recent polls generates three key findings:

It is much safer to say that a majority of the public approves of same-sex marriage.

Below are the 2013-2014 polls on same-sex marriage (compiled from PollingReport.com). There are some polls reporting an estimate below 50 percent, indicating that there is still some uncertainty depending on the source of the poll. However, for every one poll that reports less than majority support, there are five polls that report majority support. There is not much evidence that the Supreme Court's June 2013 decisions produced a major shift in approval. Before the decision, an average of 52 percent supported same-sex marriage. After the decision, 54 percent did.

2. Gay marriage

The trend toward giving homosexuals full marriage rights is gaining momentum

(Economics, Nov 17th, 2012)

That said, in 78 countries—mostly in the Muslim world, Africa and other developing states—gay sex is still a crime, punishable by long prison terms and even death. Opposition against gay marriage remains fierce, particularly from churches, conservatives and some politicians. Rick Santorum, a former Republican presidential candidate, has described the legalisation of gay marriage as “a turning-point in American history”, saying it would do more to destroy the church and the family than any other

movement. Others have gone further, talking of a “slippery slope” leading to a generalised acceptance of incest, bestiality, paedophilia and other horrors.

But attitudes are changing—and fast. Fifty years ago homosexuality itself was still a crime throughout most of the world. Britain decriminalised it only in 1967 and it was not until 2003 that America’s Supreme Court struck down the remaining sodomy laws in 14 states. Now, across most of the West, polls show a majority of public opinion in favour of equality for gays, including allowing them to marry and adopt children. Ten years ago two-thirds of Americans were opposed to gay marriage; now more than half, including most Catholics, are in favour. Similar trends can be seen in other Western countries.

Why this rapid shift, which has taken even many activists by surprise? It is partly generational. Younger people, brought up in a more tolerant age, simply cannot understand what all the fuss is about. But it is also a result of changing behaviour among gays themselves. As homophobic laws have fallen, so more homosexuals have come out. And as their straight neighbours see them leading normal happy family lives—including bringing up children—without the world falling apart, they become more widely accepted.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists have also changed their tactics, getting better organised, raising funds, and going out to educate people. In this month’s elections in America the gay-rights movement spent \$33m promoting gay marriage in the four states where it was on the ballot—three times the amount their opponents were able to drum up, and a complete reversal of the situation in the 2008 elections.

At the same time, the churches, most of which regard gay sex as a sin, are losing some of their influence. A recent survey of Americans’ religious beliefs by the Pew Research Centre showed one in five adults saying they had no religious affiliation—double the proportion 20 years ago. Three-quarters of these so-called “Nones” support gay marriage. In another study, 42% of Britons described themselves as atheists or agnostics—three times as many as in the early 1960s. In France only 7% of

Catholics continue to attend mass at least once a week; 58%, including three-quarters of those aged under 35, never go.

In America, where Barack Obama recently became the first president to endorse gay marriage, Gene Robinson, the Anglican Church's first openly gay bishop, talks of a "sea change" taking place. The 1996 federal Defence of Marriage Act (DOMA), restricting marriage to the union between a man and woman, has increasingly been coming under legal challenge, with two federal appeals courts holding it to be unconstitutional. On November 30th the Supreme Court may take up one of several gay-marriage cases before it. If, as activists hope, it decides in their favour, the ruling could prove as much of a watershed for gay-rights as the court's landmark sodomy decision in 2003.

Whatever happens, activists will push on. They have never been happy with being fobbed off with civil unions. Like most straight couples, they want the stability, security and dignity brought by marriage. As Jonathan Rauch, a gay American author wrote in his book on gay wedlock, the essence of marriage is not sex or children or even self-fulfillment, but rather a lifelong commitment, recognised and supported by society, by two people to "have and to hold...for better for worse...till death us do part." Not all gay couples will want to marry, anymore than all straight couples do, but they do at least want the option.

3. To have and to hold

For the first time in America, three states voted on November 6th to allow gay couples to wed—ending a succession of electoral defeats for the measure in 32 states. A fourth state rejected a proposed ban. In Catholic France the new Socialist government has just approved a bill to permit same-sex marriage. New Zealand is preparing to pass similar legislation next year. Governments in England and Scotland have also pledged to do so soon. And in Spain a gay-marriage law passed seven years ago has finally been given a seal of approval by the Constitutional Court.

Just a dozen years after the Netherlands became the world's first country to legalise gay nuptials, the global trend toward giving homosexuals full marriage rights seems to have gained unstoppable momentum. Same-sex

marriage is now legal nationwide in 11 countries, including Argentina and South Africa... In Mexico it is allowed in the capital. In America nine states along with the capital have legalised it, mostly as a result of court challenges. (*Parts of articles with pictures cut for lack of space, apologies.*)

Yours faithfully in the Saviour's Service,

Dr SH Tow

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Triennial Church Session Election:** will be held in September. The nomination forms are now available at the foyer table. Members who wish to nominate a candidate are urged to study the Constitution, in particular article 6 on the Principle and Practice of Biblical Separation, and article 13, Election to the Church Session. Please return the completed nomination form to Elder James Wong no later than the 17th of August.
- 2. City Evangelism:** Today we will be going to the city for street evangelism. Participants please meet in the upper fellowship hall at 1:45pm for a short briefing and conclude with a debriefing at Church at 5pm. Please pray for the participants and those that receive the Gospel today.
- 3. Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) Reports:** Fellowship groups and ministry leaders are requested to start preparing the ACM report for this year's Annual Congregation Meeting and submit them to Deacon Adrian Cheng by 17th August 2014.
- 4. Fellowship Lunch:** today after the Worship Service, all are welcome to join.
- 5. Seniors' Fellowship:** this coming Saturday, 2nd August, 10.30am at Bro Yew Jinn's house (11 McLernon Place, South Lake WA 6164). All are warmly welcome to join us. Pr Joseph will be speaking. Please bring a dish to share. For more information, please see Allan Ang (0433032709) or Lilian Yong (0422856397).

6. BPCWA Mandarin Family Camp: will be from the 30th of September to the 2nd of October at Orchard Glory Farm Resort. Our camp speaker is Rev Peter Wong, Pastor of Brunei Reform Church who was trained at the London Metropolitan Tabernacle Seminary. We would like to encourage all who can understand mandarin to come and join us in learning God's Word and to have fellowship with one another. There will also be a children's program running concurrently during the messages. Registration will open next Sunday. Please pray and prepare your heart to come.

7. Thank God for:

- A blessed Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting last Sunday evening.
- Blessing William and Dianne Maranan with a baby girl, named Isabella last Tuesday. Both mother and baby are doing well..

8. To Pray for:

- Kong Vui, Ka Yii Yip and family, may God be gracious and comfort the bereaved family on the passing of their aunt to be with the Lord last Tuesday.
- That God will raise up spiritual people to serve in the Church Session.
- City Evangelism this afternoon. Pray for individual spiritual and physical protection and a receptive heart for the non-believers when they receive gospel tracts or when hearing the gospel.
- Seniors' Fellowship this coming Saturday morning.
- Preparation of the Mandarin Family Camp, spiritual wisdom for the committee members, and pray for camp speaker Rev Peter Wong.
- Those who are sick and weak. May God continue to give them strength and comfort during this time.
- Safety in and around the church.

Service Duty	(27/7) Combined-Fellowship Lunch	(3/8) Combined
Speaker	Pr Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pr Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader	Dn Adrian Cheng/Joel YY Wong	Dn Michael Lee/Joel YY Wong
Prep Hymns	Joel YY Wong	Claude Yiu
Musician	Ruth Wong	Lydia Pui
Welcomers	Terry Chong, Lydia Chong, Julia Sun	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Bernard Clarke
Offering Stewards ☆ To Help Count Offering	☆ Terry Chong, ☆ Allen Liew, Elder James Wong,, Caleb Cheng, Yi Choong Liew, Dn Stephen Chia	☆ Jonathan Woo, ☆ Claude Yiu, Kenny Chia, Mark Heath, Dn Stephen Chia, Edward Ee
Ushers	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng	Kenny Chia, Ruth Wong
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Adrian Ng
Kitchen Duties	Lilian Yong, Julia Sun, Edward Ee, Lily Liow, Mew Yung Tsing	Yi Min Chieng, Yi San Chieng, Victoria Lew
JSS Singspiration	Karen Ee/Allan Ang	Camilia Sin/Yi Jye Chieng
Toddler Class Assistant	Victoria Lew/Lydia Chong	Lee Lee Yong/Ellainne Cheng
Van Drivers	Eugene Leong (0401155386) / Allan Ang (0433032709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Robert Wong (Karen Ee)	Mark Heath (Karen Ee)
South Perth	Hall A: Mark Heath Hall B: Allan Ang	Hall A: Yew Jinn Chieng Hall B: Allan Ang
Bayswater	Barry Palm	Kenny Tan

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	29/7	10:00am	Mandarin Bible Study – 22 Stuart Court, Bateman
		7:30pm	Prayer Meeting: Hosea Pr Joseph Poon/Joel YY Wong, Dn Adrian Cheng, Audrey Liow
Wednesday	30/7	7:30pm	FEBC Night Class: Calvin's Institute
Friday	1/8	10:00am	English Mothers' Bible Study
		7:30pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Saturday	2/8	10:30am	Seniors' Fellowship
Sunday	3/8	8.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/ English & Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00am	Combined Sunday Worship Service
		12:15pm	Church Van Depart
		2:00pm	Concorde (Nursing Home) – 25 Anstey Street, <i>South Perth</i> Onslow Gardens (Nursing Home) – 39 Hamersley Road, <i>Subiaco</i>
		3:30pm	Ben Ritcher Lodge (Nursing Home) – 480 Guildford Road, <i>Bayswater</i>

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (20/7)

Attendance: 257 (Combined-229; JSS-28); Prayer Meeting: 52

Offerings in Total: \$9594.10

General Fund: \$9594.10 (#3809-Library-\$15; #3810-Library-\$80; #3811-Camp Fees-\$40)

Mission Fund: (10% of General Fund is set aside for missions)

SHORTER CATECHISM: How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ? The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us (Rom 10:17; 1 Cor 2:12-16; Eph 2:8; Phil 1:29), and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling (John 15:5; 1 Cor 1:9; Eph 3:17).