

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ



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December 14th, 2014

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

Allan Ang

Prelude

Winnie Lim

Call to Worship

Elder James Wong/Dn Joel Wong

*Hymn

HOP 1 O Worship the King

*Invocation/Gloria Patri¹

Responsive Reading

Psalm 57

Holy Communion

[James, Joseph, Michael, Stephen, Adrian, Joel]

Hymn

HOP 96 Lead Me to Calvary

HOP 91 Rock of Ages

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology²/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:6-9

Hymn

HOP 262 Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Paul Cheng/Kong Vui Yip

The Purpose of Trials

*Hymn

HOP 287 Be Still, My Soul

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You³

¹ 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. Christmas foreshadowed in Eden

God's people should always try and read God's Word with God-given eyesight. Today let us adopt a "God's view" of Christmas. What is Christmas? Is it not the time of the year when we remember Christ's first advent (or coming) to earth? While the event dates back 2,000 years it was nevertheless conceived in the mind of God from before the foundation of the world as "GOD'S GRAND PLAN FOR MAN'S REDEMPTION." This plan was announced soon after the Fall of man and even before Adam and Eve were driven out of Eden.

In Genesis 3 we see Christmas announced in the Garden, as a declaration of war between God and Satan. To the serpent (Satan) which had plunged the human race into destruction through disobedience, the Lord God pronounced sentence: "Thou art cursed above all cattle ... And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (vv 14-15). In the Garden, the Lord God announced that the "seed of woman" would bruise or crush the head of the serpent (meaning: destroy the power of Satan). Who was this "seed of woman"?

How marvellous a prophecy did God make concerning His own Son who should come to earth through a virgin's womb (Isa 7:14), as "seed of woman" and not of man – a prophecy made some 4,000 years before the event. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law ..." (Gal 4:4-5).

Christmas means the lifting of the curse befallen mankind since the Fall, so that "... the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Rom 8:22). Christ, the seed of woman, has come. The decisive victory over the serpent was sealed at Calvary. At

Christmas, we think of Paradise lost and Paradise regained, of Eden's tragedy and Calvary's victory.

2. Have a holy Christmas!

For believers the commemoration of our Lord's first coming to earth must be a spiritually uplifting and holy event. It should be a time of communicating to the unbelieving world the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. Every church should seize the opportunity for Gospel outreach. Every home too should make a serious effort to share the gospel with neighbours and friends.

Is this how you plan to spend this Christmas? Or are you merely going along with the world, joining in a dizzy round of senseless merry-making and meaningless celebrations? The unbelieving world sees Christmas as a golden time for boosting income by Christmas sales, Christmas shows and Christmas parties. Christmastide has become the major commercial event of the year.

Here is an interesting report from England: Before the advent of Christmas carols, the celebration of Christmas had become so worldly, depraved and rowdy that it was unsafe to venture on to the streets and other big cities. Things became so bad that the Government had to ban Christmas celebrations by an Act of Parliament!

The people of England had forgotten the real meaning of Christmas. They had all but banished Christ from Christmas and desecrated the day with senseless and wanton revellings, drunkenness, debauchery and depravity. Decent people found it safer to remain indoors while riotous activities continued outside. The situation became so shameful that in 1644 a law was passed making it illegal to commemorate Christmas in any way whatsoever! Imagine the disgrace it must have caused the name of Jesus.

What can we do as believers to ensure the sanctity of our Christmas? We can do something both in church and at home. Let us invite unsaved friends and relatives to a Praise Service where they may hear

the Gospel, some maybe for the first time. The same can be done at home.

Our faith must make us different from the world. It must make us effective witnesses for the Lord. Will you help your Pastor and Elders to make this a blessed holy Christmas? Let us honour our Lord at Christmas!

Have a blessed Holy Christmas!

God bless all readers.

*Yours faithfully in the Saviour's Service,
Dr SH Tow*

TESTIMONIAL FOR CHIENG YEW JINN, BPCWA

It gives me greatest pleasure to write this testimonial for Chieng Yew Jinn. I had heard several years ago from Elder Koh Kim Hiang of Sydney BPC how Yew Jinn's character and devotion at Sydney BPC had made a great and favourable impression.

I rejoice with BPCWA that Yew Jinn has decided to enter the ministry by joining / training at the Far Eastern Bible College. Let us remember Brother Yew Jinn in our prayers, that the Lord may use him mightily in the days ahead as a soldier of the Cross.

God bless. – *Dr SH Tow, Supervisory Pastor, BPCWA*

TESTIMONY OF CALLING

In 2006, I began my first year university study in Perth. It was in the same year that I became a Christian through BPCWA. In July 2007, I had to relocate to Sydney to continue my course. During the days in Sydney, the Lord put in my heart an increasing desire for His Truth. And so, I made every effort to participate in all the Bible study classes in Sydney BP church. I also helped bringing some university students to church every Sunday and the University Fellowship.

Upon my final semester of my course in July 2010, just as typical overseas students do, I needed to consider with regards to Australian permanent residency, job seeking, and where to settle down. By then, I was already working part-time as an intern at an engineering consultant firm. While waiting upon the result, the Word of God in Mark 8:36-37 convicted my heart, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” I also remembered the prayer of the Apostle Paul, “Lord, What wilt thou have me to do in my life?” During this period of decision making, a few godly Christians in the church asked me if I have ever considered entering into full-time ministry, or rather has the Lord called me into full-time service. I had no certain answer for it. However, one sister encouraged me, “don’t leave this out of your prayer”.

At the same time, my father had been asking me to return to Perth to look after my siblings who were still studying. The Word of God in 1 Tim 5:8 convicted my heart, “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” If I could be very active at church, yet being negligent of my duty at home, that would not glorify God. And so, I packed and left for Perth. The Lord was faithful and gracious to provide me with a job within a short period and later on I also obtained my permanent residency through my employer. Few years later, the Lord also provided a house for our family.

During the time in Perth, I was also able to serve in the Chinese Young People’s Group (CYPG), Sunday worship service interpretation, preaching Gospel messages at old folk’s home ministry and other areas of service. With the offering of the FEBC online courses, I began to take up one or two courses every semester.

Though life seemed to go on very smoothly, however I knew in my heart that my direction was deviating from the Lord’s will for my life. I had no real interest in my work and I could not imagine myself

continuing in this for the next 10 years. The same desire for the full-time service which I had since the days in Sydney was becoming irrepresible. However I was afraid that it was just my self-assumed emotion and feeling. Like young Samuel, I did not know how one could recognise and confirm whether this is the Lord's calling. Once, I was reading the Bible Witness Magazine on the topic of God's Call into full-time ministry, I learned about the biblical way to determine God's call into full-time ministry. The biblical criteria of the external calling and internal calling seemed to be evident in my life. However, I was still unsure whether this is the will of God.

The struggle continued in my heart. Until one night, the Lord encouraged me in Ps 112:7 "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD." I knew I had to fix my heart and submit to the Lord. After all it is only my reasonable service, as compared to what He has done to save me. I knew that the biblical criteria and evidence were clear in my life. It would be my disobedience to the Lord if I were to deny or ignore them.

I am thankful to the Lord for His guidance and calling in my life. 1 Thess 5:24, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." It is not going to be an easy road, so I pray that the Lord will keep me faithful unto death in my calling.

Yew Jinn

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Church Theme for 2015:** Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing (Colossians 1:10).
- 2. Welcome:** We warmly welcome Rev Paul Cheng from Bethel BPC, Melbourne in our midst this morning. He will be travelling back to Melbourne this afternoon.
- 3. Men's Fellowship and Ladies' Fellowship:** Dinner will be at 6pm tonight. At 7:15pm, Pr Joseph Poon will be speaking to the men

upstairs on the topic “The Wise Man” and Sister Sharon will be speaking to the ladies in the main sanctuary on “The Hands of a Virtuous Woman”. All are encouraged to attend.

4. **Holy Matrimony:** Congratulations to Kenny and Yi Mey Tan on their wedding yesterday. May God bless their lives together.
5. **Brother Yew Jinn:** The testimony on his calling is published as an insert in today’s weekly.

Send-off: As Brother Yew Jinn will be leaving on 31st of December to study in FEBC, there is a send-off gathering for him on 28th of December after the worship service. All are welcome.

6. **Church Christmas Combined Fellowship:** will be held this Friday the 19th of December at 7:30 pm. Please invite your friends and family members to come for this gospel meeting. Invitation cards are available at the foyer table. All are welcome.

7. **Thank God for:**

- The ministry of Rev Paul Cheng at BPCWA over these few days.
- A blessed church combined fellowship last Friday.

8. **Pray for:**

- The church will worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
- Our leaders will serve humbly as godly examples to all (1 Peter 5:2-3).
- Rebuilding of Nehemiah’s Place.
- God’s leading and perfect timing to restart the Mandarin Worship Service.
- Those who are sick and unwell. May God heal and strengthen them during this time.
- Security in and around the church.

Service Duty	(14/12) Combined-Holy Communion	(21/12) Combined
Speaker	Rev Paul Cheng/Kong Vui Yip	Pr Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader	Elder James Wong/Dn Joel Wong	Mark Heath/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Allan Ang	Dn Joel Wong
Musician	Winnie Lim	Sharon Poon
Welcomers	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Dn Michael Lee, Irene Lee, Lily Liow
Offering Stewards ☆To Help Count Offering	☆ Eddie Foo, ☆ Albert Ho, Joel Wong, Adrian Ng, Allan Ang, Allen Liew	☆ Edward Ee, ☆ Alex Luu, Eugene Leong, Dn Michael Lee, Dn Stephen Chia, Kenny Chia
Ushers	Joel Wong, Audrey Liow	Edward Ee, Grace Cheo
P.A. System	Caleb Cheng	Albert Ho
Kitchen Duties	Lilian Yong, Julia Sun, Edward Ee, Lily Liow, Mew Yung Tsing	Lee Fung Fong, Andy Ho, Barry Palm, Christine Chia, Margaret Ng
JSS Singspiration	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Karen Ee/Ruth Wong
Toddler Class Assistant	Mary Ling/Victoria Lew	Ellainne Cheng/Lee Lee Yong
Van Drivers	Eugene Leong (0401155386) / Allan Ang (0433032709)	
Old Folks' Home Ministry		
Subiaco	Edward Ee (Karen Ee)	Pr Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)
South Perth	Hall A: Yew Jinn Chieng Hall B: Caleb Cheng	Hall A: Mark Heath Hall B: Allan Ang
Bayswater	Elder James Wong	Allan Ang

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	16/12	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting: By Faith Pr Joseph Poon, Elder James Wong, Karen Ee
Wednesday	17/12	7:30pm	FEBC Night Class: Bible and Science, Names of God
Friday	19/12	10:00am	English Mother's Bible Study Group
		7:30pm	Church Christmas Combined Fellowship
Sunday	21/12	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, South Perth Onslow Gardens (Nursing Home) – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30pm	Ben Ritcher Lodge (Nursing Home) – 480 Guildford Road, Bayswater

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (7/12)

Attendance: 226 (Combined-190; JSS-36); Prayer Meeting: 45

Offerings in Total: \$9551.20

General Fund: \$9551.20 (#3855-\$1000; #3856-\$1700; #3857-\$1800; #3858-\$226; #3859-\$56.90)

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

SHORTER CATECHISM: Which is the second commandment? The second commandment is, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments* (Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10).