



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

Vol. 31 No. 9
March 8th, 2015

SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

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.

Preparatory Hymn

Allan Ang

Prelude

Winnie Lim

Call to Worship

Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong

*Hymn

HOP 2 To God Be the Glory

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalm 68:1-10

Hymn

HOP 10 Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Choir Presentation

HOP 12 When All Thy Mercies, O My God

Scripture Reading

Numbers 22:13-22

Hymn

HOP 46 Our Great Saviour

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Andy Yu

Is It My Will Or God's Will?

*Hymn

HOP 409 Have Thine Own Way, Lord

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 3

*Congregation Standing



Theme for 2015: "WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD UNTO ALL PLEASING" (Colossians 1:10)

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WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDING PASTOR

My dear readers,

1. PRAYING DOES NOT COME NATURALLY

The natural man does not like to pray. To him it is tiresome, tasteless and tedious. He would rather lie comfortably in bed, or sit captive before the TV screen, or enjoy himself with the pleasure-mad world. Spending time in prayer is to him foolishness. God's Word says, *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (1 Cor 2:14). So it is with prayer.

Prayer is spiritual. It is a striving against the flesh, the *"natural man."* It is a constant and ongoing struggle. It is part of our Christian experience. We all know and agree that we ought to pray, but we fail to do so, and we fail miserably. Instead of praying we have wasted many hours in spiritually unprofitable pastimes. No wonder our spiritual progress is at a standstill. The Apostle Paul expressed this sense of failure thus: *"For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do ... when I would do good, evil is present with me"* (Rom 7:19, 21).

What, then, must we do? First, let us agree that we must pray, and pray in the Spirit. To be able to pray in Spirit and in truth we must confess our sin, this sin of prayerlessness, of worldliness, of yielding to self and the flesh. Pray for cleansing and forgiveness. We must repent in Spirit and in truth; *"a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise"* (Ps 51:17). Second, we must be prepared to pay the price, for true praying is costly. You must be willing to forfeit some sleep, leisure, unprofitable pastime – anything which draws you away from your communion with the Lord. Third, you must set a particular time (best in the morning before the day's busyness descends on you) and keep the holy appointment with God.

In Gethsemane our Lord prayed for us, with sweat *"as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground"* (Luke 22:44). To us He says, *"What,*

could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt 26:41).

2. PRAYER IS FOR THE HELPLESS

Two men went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee in his self-sufficiency made a speech before God. The publican in his deep consciousness of sin felt totally unworthy and helpless. He pleaded his case, *“God, be merciful to me a sinner”* (Luke 18:13). His prayer was answered, not the Pharisee’s, for God is not interested in oratory.

Prayer is for the helpless. It is something deeper than words. It is an attitude of heart and mind. It is our attitude toward God. God in heaven recognizes this true attitude of prayer and His heart is touched. It does not take the form of many words, least of all self-exalting eloquence. God is interested in our spiritual condition. If we have no need we are like the Laodicean Church which said, *“I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing”* (Rev 3:17). To the Lord, this sort of spiritual complacency is spiritual smugness of the worst sort. It is nauseating and disgusting.

The secret of true prayer is the admission of need. We must see our wretched and helpless condition. It is this that drives us on our knees to God. Our problem may be such that we do not know what to do or how to pray. Our mind may be clouded and perplexed, perhaps overwhelmed with sin or some personal problem. Men and circumstances have failed us. Our world has collapsed around us. There seems to be no hope or help in sight. In our desperate struggle our prayers seem to freeze on our lips.

But help is at hand, my friend. Let us be as the publican standing afar off, with head bowed and spirit broken, and cry out to God, *“God, be merciful to me a sinner.”* Our helplessness calls from our heart to the heart of God. It speaks more than any carefully cultured speech. God hears the very moment we are seized with helplessness, and He swiftly comes to our aid.

God helps the helpless, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. ASK IN MY NAME

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13). These words of our Lord specifically teach us how we should approach God in prayer. Every prayer must be sealed in the name of Jesus. Our entire prayer experience must derive its inspiration and authentication by the name of Jesus, the name *“which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil 2:9-11).

You ask, “Why must we pray only in the name of Jesus?” The simple answer is: our Lord Jesus alone reconciled us unto God (Rom 5:10-11; Eph 2:13-17). Without Christ we are without hope. We are strangers from the covenants of promise, enemies, far from God. *“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father”* (Eph 2:18). Jesus is our mediator, the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5). Apart from Jesus, we have no way to approach unto God (John 14:6). Therefore, all our prayers and petitions must be authorised by His blessed name.

Some troubled son finds it impossible to approach God in prayer. As he stands in the heavenly light, he is convicted by God’s holy Word. He sees his sins, his past wicked life, his filthy thoughts and immoral acts, his sin-blackened heart. To turn to God is a fearful thought. He feels a great barrier separating him from an angry God. The holy God will have nothing to do with such an unclean person as he is. To such a son, the name Jesus will give him a safe access to a holy God.

God’s light shines through. The penitent sinner begins to see what the name of Jesus means. With joy and gratitude he enters into the presence of God. There, in the name of Jesus, his prayer is heard and accepted. Jesus! His name will be our song of praise through all eternity!

Yours faithfully in the Saviour’s Service,
Dr SH Tow

MISSION TRIP

Dear mission trip participants,

A short mission trip is always beneficial for church members, both for the recipients in the mission church and the participants from the visiting church. It is a time when new acquaintances are made and old friendships are fostered and rekindled. But most importantly, people get to see the missionaries and mission field/s they are supporting as well as to contribute to their work through preaching, teaching, encouragement and fellowship.

Most Christians would gladly support mission trips with their prayers and giving, but hardly by going. There are varying reasons for this though; age and physical restrictions, family constraints, parental objections, financial difficulties, work constriction and most sadly, apathy. A short mission trip can enlighten the minds of the people to have a better understanding of missions and the mission field itself.

As much as we would acknowledge the advantages of mission trips, we must also be mindful of the difficulties, obstacles and things that may hinder and ruin the trip. I would like to share with you some of these considerations which have since become my prayer items.

I. The Tedious Task of Planning

Organizing a mission trip is a tremendously tedious task, from applying for travel visas, securing flight itineraries, making arrangements for accommodations, food and transportations, to the preparation of messages and programmes. Extra care has to be taken to ensure safety precaution for the participants and be prepared for any contingency. Please pray for the organizers and support their efforts to make the mission trip a blessed experience for everyone.

II. The Language Barrier

In Myanmar, the official language is Burmese but the vernacular of our Myanmar brethren is Chin (because most of them trace their roots to the Chin State). In Cebu, the locals would speak in Cebuano but the official language taught in schools is Tagalog, nonetheless the majority would be able to communicate in English. Most of us would not be able to speak and understand Burmese, Chin, Cebuano and Tagalog. As such, communication can be a daunting task and even a simple form of greeting one another can be most challenging. Sometimes miscommunication may arise. In this regard we truly praise and thank God for providing brethren to assist us with this language barrier; in Myanmar we have

Rev Biak and Preacher Lian Uk, in Cebu we have Rev Reggor, Elder Eliezer, Elder Richard Tiu and Preacher Edsel. All of them can speak excellent English and needless to say, their own lingua franca. Please feel free to refer to them.

III. The Testimony of the Participant

Personal Devotion – The spiritual aspect in a mission trip can never be over-emphasized. Prayerfully, every participant must remember that **this is a mission trip and not a time of holidaying**. While there may be time allocated for visiting different places of interest to understand the Myanmar and Cebu cultures, yet the emphasis should always be spiritual. We must not simply rely on the group devotions and camp messages alone during the mission activities. Time and again we have been reminded not to neglect our own personal time of prayer and the meditation of God’s Word, how much more during the church mission trip?

Willingness to help – There are some people who have this misconception that the only duty in the mission trip is to win souls, so they ignorantly refuse to participate in all forms of menial work, like helping to load baggage into coaches, setting up chairs and tables, preparing and distributing the food, etc. Oftentimes, our unwillingness to help can be interpreted as arrogance which can be a great hindrance to the Christian testimony. Firstly, it is a false notion to think that performing menial works will distract us from our primary task of winning souls for Christ. Secondly, not everyone is called to be a preacher. But even preachers must be willing to help and participate in the physical aspects of the ministries.

Be careful of words – Given the differences in language and culture, things maybe run differently in the mission churches. We must not make any unwarranted comment to the local believers, especially those things that may hurt their sentiments. Do not simply jump to conclusions when you notice things are administered differently. If you notice something is wrong, you should always approach the pastor or the leader of the mission trip. Always be patient and careful in order to avoid making discouraging and erroneous judgment.

Resolving disagreements – It is inevitable that disagreements may sometimes arise amongst mission team members, and they should seek the advice of the mission leader. Normally, leaders of mission trips are experienced and matured Christians. It will be far better to prayerfully cooperate and resolve our differences than to be dissident in the mission team. All kinds of murmuring and complains will affect the unity and effectiveness of the group.

IV. Financial Difficulties

In Myanmar a total of about 90 participants will be attending the Myanmar

Family Camp which will be held at City Golf Resort, from 22nd to 24th April 2015. In Cebu a total of about 100 participants will be attending the Cebu Family Camp which will be held at _____, from 29th April to 1 May 2015.

What makes the Mission's Family Camps so significant is that not everyone is able to attend as much as they would desire to. For example, though the Myanmar brethren are very excited to attend the camp, however, there are certain constraints, especially for the Ngalti brethren because it will be extremely difficult for them to come down to Yangon (eight days of travelling), to find accommodation before and after the camp, and the primary difficulty is financial. Living in the mountains, most Ngaltians rely largely on farming for their income. Being humble peasants, the majority of them have never even been to Yangon in their lifetime, and to be able to attend this most sought after family camp at the same time would be a great blessing and experience for them. Just to finance a child for the Family Camp would probably cost the parents about 180, 000 Kyats, equivalent to A\$200, which is way beyond their means. With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible (cf. Mark 10:27)

Indeed, the Lord has blessed us so abundantly that few of us would ever have to worry about the financial aspect of attending a camp. But this is not the case with our Burmese brethren. Perhaps, it is time that we rise up, support and bless these brethren that they may be able to attend the camp and be greatly encouraged in their hearts. As the Bible says, *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).* Last year, we did a collection throughout our Mission Month to support our missionaries. This year, we will continue this cheerful giving in our Mission Month in February. The entire mission collection will be designated to help our Burmese brethren to attend the Family Camp.

With love in Christ, Pastor Paul

Mission Month Collection – If the Lord has set this burden in your heart to give, if you wish to encourage our brethren from First BPC, Ngalti BPC and New Dagon BPC, you can designate your love gifts to “Missions.” This *Mission Month Collection* will run through the month of March, and thereafter the funds will be prayerfully and dutifully used to help our Myanmar brethren to attend the Family Camp.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Re-dedication Sunday:** For those serving in any capacity in church, next Sunday will be a time for us to rededicate ourselves together to the Lord for another year of service. Please prepare your hearts and also pray about the coming year of service.
- 2. Seniors' Fellowship Outing:** This coming Saturday (14 March) at 10:30am at Point Walter. Rev Joseph will be speaking. The meeting will be followed by lunch, so please bring along a dish to share. All are cordially welcome. Passenger pick-up from church to the picnic spot is available for the seniors, please be at church by 10am. For those who are driving, maps are available at the foyer.
- 4. Church 29th Anniversary:** This year, BPCWA will be celebrating her 29th Anniversary on the 5th of April. A thanksgiving dinner has been organised at North Lake BBQ Chinese Restaurant, 406 North Lake Road, Bibra Lake. The cost is \$25 per adult, children 4 to 10 years old \$10. Registration opens today after the worship service at the fellowship hall. Please register early with Sister Yisan or Victoria.

5. Myanmar and Cebu Mission and Church Camp Trips:

Myanmar : 20th to 26 April (the cost is \$530 excluding airfares)

Cebu: 27th to 3rd of May (the cost is \$450 excluding airfares)

If anyone interested or considering to join these mission trips organised by Bethel BPC, please contact Elder James Wong (0438392242) as soon as possible.

6. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for the University Outreaches and Friday's Gospel meeting
- New friends and families joining our Church
- Preaching and teaching ministries of the Church
- Spiritual growth and greater desire to please God
- A strong, faithful and united Session and Church.
- Combined Mission trips with Bethel BP Church in April
- Rebuilding of Nehemiah House
- God's leading and timing to restarting the Mandarin worship service once a month.
- Those who are spiritually discouraged or physically unwell.
- Security in and around the Church and homes.

SERVICE DUTY	8/3 COMBINED	15/3 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Andy Yu	Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong	Elder James Wong/Kong Vui Yip
Prep Hymns	Allan Ang	Kenny Tan
Musician	Winnie Lim	Lydia Pui
Welcomers	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Andy Ho, Lisa Ho, Lily Liow
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Eddie Foo, *Albert Ho, Adrian Ng, Allan Ang, Kong Vui Yip, Dn Adrian Cheng	*Allen Liew, *Edward Ee, Alex Luu, Kenny Tan, Eugene Leong, Dn Stephen Chia
Ushers	Adrian Ng, Audrey Liow, Camilia Sin	Edward Ee, Yi Jye Chieng, Yi Mey Tan
P.A. System	Caleb Cheng	Albert Ho
Kitchen Duties	Lee Fung Fong, Andy Ho, Margaret Ng, Christine Chia	Lilian Cheo, Irene Yap, Yi Jye Chieng, Valerie Wan, Edward Ee
JSS Singspiration	Valerie/Yi Jye	Yung Tsing/Allan
Toddler Class Assistant	Victoria/An Ning	Yi Mey/Mary
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Edward Ee (Karen Ee)	Rev Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)
South Perth	Hall A: Mark Heath Hall B: Jason Tey	Hall A: Andy Yu Hall B: Elder James Wong
Bayswater	Caleb Cheng	Mark Heath

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	10/3	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Dn Joel Wong, Angeline Yong
Wednesday	11/3	7:30pm	FEBC Night Class: Life of Christ
Friday	13/3	7:30pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Saturday	14/3	10:30am	Seniors' Fellowship
Sunday	15/3	8.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English & Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00am	Combined Sunday Worship Service/Rededication Sunday
		12pm	Mandarin Choir
		12:15pm	Church Van Depart
		2:00pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30pm	Nursing Home: Ben Ritcher Lodge – 480 Guildford Road, Bayswater

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (1/3)

Attendance: 210 (Combined-172; JSS-38); Prayer Meeting: 52
Offerings in Total: \$5149.75

General Fund: \$5149.75 (#3880-\$400.50; #3881-\$181;
#3882-Library-\$65)

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

SHORTER CATECHISM: What is forbidden in the fourth commandment? The fourth Commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations. (Nehe 13:15-22; Isa 58:13-14; Amo 8:4-6).