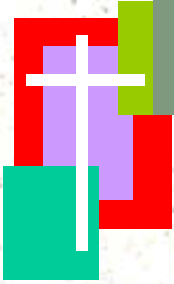


Christian Message



KLANG CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume No. XXI Issue No.50

December 12, 2010

Facing our appointed time

By Steven Chan

This past week, we mourned the passing of our beloved Sis Jasmine Kuek Chiew Ping, the 39 year old wife of our bro Ong Eng Seong, brother of bro Ong Eng Boon. She succumbed to soft tissue sarcomas, a rare cancer: apparently less than 1% of all new cancer cases in the USA. She leaves behind her two young children and her husband. We continue to pray for the family that they may be comforted during this very painful time. Though having put on Christ only recently, on 26th Oct, 2010, her faith in the Lord was strong as she embraced the comfort of the Scriptures and the hope offered by our Lord in the gospel, the good news for mankind.

As we reflect on her passing at a relatively young age, we are reminded of what the Bible has to say on the subject of death and the life hereafter.

In Heb 9:26-28, the Bible declares: "now, once at the end of the ages, He (i.e.



Jasmine Kuek Chiew Ping

Christ) has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

The Bible says that "it is appointed for men to die once". This is an appointment that no man can escape with the exception of two men in the Old Testament (i.e. Enoch – Heb 11:5 & Elijah – 2 Kings 2:11) and those who are alive at the time when Christ comes again (1 Thess 4:17). For the majority of us, we will have to face our appointment with death eventually.

So, what does the Bible say about Christians facing death? Death is not the end for Christians. In Heb 2:14, the Bible says: "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the

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God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away (Rev 21:4-5)

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power of death, that is, the devil”. Christ took the form of man (Phil 2:5-11) and died on the cross that through His resurrection from the dead, He demonstrated His power in overcoming death and offers all of us the hope of the resurrection (Acts 2:24;) 2 Tim 1:10: “Our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” 1 Peter 1:3-4: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” As the apostle Paul said in Acts 24:15: “I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.” For Christians, there is the hope of the resurrection when Christ comes again (1 Cor 15:50-58).

Does it matter that one accepts the offer of the gospel just a couple of days or months or a short while before death? It is important to understand that our salvation is not based on how much we have done for God in this life; the only requirement is whether we have obeyed the gospel by believing in Jesus as the Son of God (Heb 5:9), having repented from our past sins, confessed Jesus as Lord of our lives, buried with Him in baptism for the forgiveness

of our sins (Acts 2:38) and then continuing to live by faith in Him in the remaining days of our lives (Rev 2:10; Rom 1:17). The Bible tells us that we are saved by God’s grace and not because of the good works that we do; our salvation is a GIFT from God: Eph 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” The teaching of Jesus in Matt 20 affirms that it does not matter whether one started working for the Lord very early or late – God will still grant us the same promise of eternal life (2 Tim 4:8). The thief on the cross who only requested for God’s favour while hanging on the cross was assured by Jesus that he would be with Him in paradise: “And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

When one prepares to face the transition of death into the next phase of life, it is comforting to remember the following assurances from God’s Word as recorded in Psalms 23: “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk

through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparedst a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.” Our Lord said that at the death of Lazarus, he “was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom.”(Luke 16:22).

We have the assurance from God’s Word that we will not walk alone through the valley of the shadow of death; God’s angels will carry us to Abraham’s bosom. Oh what great comfort this promise should bring to all of us! In that place, “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Rev 21:4-5). Jesus assures us: “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.

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By Steven Chan



The Success that is from God

We seek for success in all that we do and yet sometimes we fail to achieve the success that we hoped for. Why is that the case? Could it be because we fail to heed God's instructions? Let's consider what the Bible says about the success that is from God.

1. In Psa 127:1, the Bible declares: "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" It highlights the fact that we need God's blessings for all that we do. So, the Psalmist urges us: "Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." (Psa 37:5). In Luke 5:4-6, we read the interesting account about Simon and his effort to be successful in catching fish. "When Jesus had stopped speaking He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking." This incident shows that when the Lord instructs us and we obey Him, success is assured regardless of our past experiences and

what others may say – for with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27).

2. Consider the example of Nehemiah: When Nehemiah saw the ruins of Jerusalem after having been captured by the Babylonians in 586 BC, he spoke to those who were with him in Neh 2:17-18: "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."

a. Nehemiah's decision to re-build Jerusalem was done with God's blessings. He sought God's help from the very beginning. When he first heard that "the wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire", he "sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; he was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And he said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You... O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant,

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Our Visitors and Visiting Brethren



VISITORS

November 26, 2010

- Ong Jae Wen (Friend of Tan Ern Shern)
- Christopher Sia (Koay Chuan Lek)
- Serene Ng (Yew Chong)
- Emily Yap
- Esther Yap

November 28, 2010, Sunday

- Ong Jae Wen (Ern Shern)
- Serene Ng (Yew Chong)
- Dr & Mrs Cheong Weng Hoon (Koay Chuan Lek)
- Christopher Sia (Koay Chuan Lek)

December 03, 2010

- Christopher Sia (Koay Chuan Lek)

- Emily Yap
- Esther Yap

December 05, 2010

- Ong Jae Wen (Ern Shern)
- Michael Ng
- Emily Yap
- Esther Yap

VISITING BRETHREN

November 28, 2010

- Ivan Wan
- Amy Lee (Perth, Australia)
- Lim Yee Ann (Australia)
- Lim Yee Ann (Australia)



Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)

Services This Week (December 12, 2010)

Combined Bible Class

Lesson: How to get to Heaven?
Teacher: Ron Gilbert

Worship

Lesson: Barriers to Heaven
Preacher: Ron Gilbert

Floral Display Quay Yam Kem

Helpers

Communion: Khoo Yen Nee & Margaret Khoo

Statistics for week December 03 - 05, 2010

Friday Bible Class Attendance	-	55
Sunday Bible Class	- 56	
Sunday School		
Teachers	- 11	
Students	- 21	88
Sunday English Worship	- 78	
Children in attendance	- 26	
Mandarin Worship	- 16	
TOTAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	-	120

Services Next Week (December 19, 2010)

Bible Class

Lesson: Are You A Disciple of Jesus?
Teacher: Rick Kirk

Youth Bible Class

Lesson: Being Sober Minded
Teacher: Joel Kirk

Worship

Lesson: Shining Though Love
Preacher: Richard Lim

Floral Display Quay Yam Suan

Helpers

Communion: Khoo Saw Choo & Connie Kirk



Speak where the Bible speaks. Be silent where the Bible is silent.

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The Klang Church of Christ seeks to glorify its Founder and Head, Jesus Christ (Matt 16:18; Col 1:18), by proclaiming salvation on the same terms stated by Jesus in Mark 16:16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved".

Having been born again (John 3:3-5) through baptism in water (Titus 3:5; Eph 5:26; 1 Pet 3:21; Rom 6:3-5), we acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus, that "Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God" (Gal 2:20). Thus, like the apostle Paul we can say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

We appeal to all believers to be united in love as desired by the Lord (John 17:20-23; 13:34,35) and that all may "speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among us, but that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Cor 1:10).

Denominationalism does not feature in God's plan. We urge all to leave denominationalism and to be united in One Body (Eph 2:15-17) on the basis of what the Bible says (and to leave aside the teachings and traditions that are man-made as these are the cause of division among believers). "The churches of Christ greet you". (Rom 16:16)

We're on the web. Visit us at <http://www.klangchurchofchrist.org>

Visit the Youth Blogsite at
<http://youths-kcoc.blogspot.com>

Visit the Sunday School Blogsite at
www.ahadschool.blogspot.com

CONDOLENCES



We extend our deepest condolences to the family of bro Ong Eng Seong on the passing of his wife, sis Jasmine, on December 7, 2010.

Our condolences also to the family of sis Yeo Mee Eng who lost her father on December 11, 2010.

Please pray for the families at this time of bereavement.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Bro Yeow Chin Keong**, who is scheduled to undergo an operation on December 13, 2010 at the Subang Jaya Medical Centre.
- **Bro Charles Bishop**, former missionary in Klang, who is scheduled to have surgery on his back in January to have several vertebrae fused together.
- **Bro Guss Eoff** - for good health.

Inter-congregational
Youth Development Programme

Just a cup of water



Date: 20-23 Dec 2010
 Venue: Star Fresh Agro Park,
 Negri Sembilan
 Fee: RM280.00
(incl. Meals & Lodging)
 Age: 12—23 years
 Contact: Kay Yeow, Klang

and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man" (Neh 1:3-11)"

- b. It began with his confession of sins and then a request for God to listen to his prayer and for God to prosper him in his plan. The Psalmist says: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear." (Psa 66:18) Our sins separate us from God so that He will not hear our prayers (Isa 59:1,2). So it is important that we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness from the Lord so that our prayers will be heard.
 - c. When faced with those who sought to discourage him, Nehemiah replied: "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build" (Neh 2:20). That's the proper approach: We need always to ask: "Will God prosper us in this thing that we seek to do?" If so, then "we His servants will arise and build!"
 - d. Even though God will prosper them, the people still needed to have "a mind to work" (Neh 4:6). "Lazy people stay at home; they say a lion might get them if they go outside" (Prov 22:13, GNB). Lazy or slothful people cannot expect God's blessings. The Bible says: "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat..." for such would be walking in "a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies" (2 Thess 3:10-11). So, those who pray for God's blessings but refuse to go out and work cannot reasonably expect God to bless them with success.
3. In order to have God's blessings, we need to pray with motives that will glorify and honour God. Some pray but do not receive. The Bible provides the answer in James 4:3: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." Our motivation for wanting God's blessings should be re-examined. Is it merely to spend it on our pleasures? It is not uncommon to hear some say: 'I want to be a millionaire by 30 years old so that I can then say to myself: "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry" (Luke 12:19) or financial independence and freedom from work.' Is that the attitude that Christians should have?

Let's consider what the Bible says about why we need to be gainfully employed:-

- a. That we may provide for ourselves and for our own family: 1 Tim 5:8: "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." This providing for the family is:-
 - not only downwards (i.e. for our children)

- but upwards (for our parents) as well as
- for all our relatives or family members who are in need: in 1 Tim 5:16: "If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows."

One commentator, Albert Barnes, observes thus: "Nothing can be more unreasonable than to leave those who are properly dependent on us to be supported by others, when we are able to maintain them ourselves". Family members should not contravene their God-given responsibility of caring for their own, by passing that responsibility to others, such as the church.

- b. Probably as part of (a) above, we also engage in gainful employment so that we may also save some money for our children: 2 Cor 12:14: "For the children ought not to lay up (save up) for the parents, but the parents for the children." In case children think that they have no responsibility towards their parents, consider the 4th commandment: "For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God"-- then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition." (Matt 15:4-6). God requires us to honour our parents – and that involves more than just saying "I love you" or "I honour you"; it requires us to take care of them and to provide for them when they are old and/or in distress – including monetarily. We cannot possibly get out of this God-given responsibility towards our parents by arguing that we have given our funds or efforts toward serving God. To fail in this responsibility is "to deny the faith and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim 5:8)
- c. So that we can share with those are in need: Eph 4:28: "let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need." God expects us to always remember the poor and needy (James 1:27). Prov 14:31: "He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy." Prov 19:17: "He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given." 1 John 3:17-18: "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth".

Paul summed it up very clearly in Acts 20:34-35: "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Brethren, what is our motivation for gainful employment? Is it 100% self-centred? Should we not consider what we can do for the needy, for the Cause of Christ, as well as for the support of full-time gospel preachers?

4. We need to have God’s Word as our daily guide and His Word must guide our steps. In Joshua 1:8-9, after the death of the great leader, Moses, God assured Joshua of how he will have success: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Although spoken to Joshua, the principle is equally applicable to us today as was also stated in Psalms 1:1-3: “Blessed is the man (whose)... delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

OUR ULTIMATE SUCCESS IS TO HEAR HIM SAY: “WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”

5. We need to acknowledge that “the blessing of the LORD makes one rich”(Prov 10:22) and the Israelites were reminded always to “remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth” (Deut 8:18). Isa 48:17: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go." James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights."

In striving for success, one should remember what the Lord taught in Luke 12:15: “And He said to them, "Take heed and

beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Ultimate success as defined by God is not the abundance of our possessions. In 1 Tim 6:7-12; 17-19, the apostle Paul wrote thus: “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

Hence, the ultimate success that we need to strive for (and which would be given by our Lord) is to “fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life”(1 Tim 6:12). Mark 8:36 -37: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Whether we are blessed with many abilities or few, our ultimate success is to hear Him say: 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (Matt 25:21-22,23). Our Lord says: “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”.(Rev 2:10)

Editor’s Note: This article was held over from Issue No. 49 - December 5, 2010

Facing our appointed time

No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:1-6)

All of us will meet again at the coming of our Lord: “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an

archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”(1 Thess 4:13-18)